

TOKOMARU BAY

1986

VF- PBEC EAST COAST  
GM 11/11/86 History

## COASTLINE

### Move long way off

RUMOURS of a move for Tokomaru Bay's Post Office are the usual jump ahead of the play. The Post Office is studying the long-term future of its operation in the township and ways to reduce overheads in a building that is too big.

Any final decision on the future of the bay's services is a long way off and Gisborne postmaster Garth Ramsden says it would be widely publicised and input sought from the public the Post Office serves.

But he believes change is inevitable to keep costs down. If the public wants a service, it has to be used.

The Tokomaru Bay branch employs three. It is a building protected by the Historic Places Trust but is

also expensive to maintain.

It is a bigger building than the Post Office needs, expensive to heat and requiring considerable upkeep. There is also a postmaster's residence attached.

Mr Ramsden says he has to consider ways of reducing overheads. In the long term new premises may have to be sought but although the trading trend suggests this now, any decision could be a long way off.

He can confirm that the options will not include total closure of the Post Office or a move to an agency.

But a reduction in some of the extra agency work done by Tokomaru Bay staff could mean the staff will be smaller in

future and be housed in smaller premises.

While Tokomaru Bay is a problem of cost, the Tikitiki Post Office issue is one of need for new premises.

Earlier this year Mr Ramsden met with Tikitiki residents to explain that the removal or reduction of services was not an option there. But alternatives to rebuilding or repairing the old Post Office are still being examined.

The final decision was left with the Post Office in Wellington and it is still under study by the policy makers. The condition of the old building and a \$100,000-plus replacement cost, make a shift into alternative premises an option that must be explored to improve working conditions.



Tokomaru Bay's historic Post Office . . . too big and costly to operate, but rumours of closure are untrue.