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# Stratford clock tower

A Daily News Advertising Feature

## First clock tower up in 1924

THE first clocktower in Stratford was built in 1924, following the decision to replace the original 1896 post office. A new building to house the post office incorporated the towns first clock tower was constructed in Broadway.

Outpied by VideoExy, the post office clocktower became a significant land-mark. The clockfaces, mechanism and bells were installed in memory of local residents who had fallen in the Boer war. This original clocktower stood for more than 40 years before the post office was relocated to the present Miranda Street site.

was relocated to the present Miranda Street site.

The post office vacated the building in the mid-50s (the new PO opened in 1963) and the RSA used the old building with the Miranda Street clubrooms with the Miranda Street clubrooms. By late 1967 the old clecktower was deemed an earthquake risk and was demolished in 1968.

The clock was replaced in 1969 with the structure which stood until this year and which is now surrounded by the middle of the control of the cont

A new electric unit was fitted and the riginal clockfaces, the mechanism and



JUST A SECOND: Stratford Engineering's Geoff Grierson checks the Stratford clock tower's electric mechanism. He rebuilt the timepiece 10 years ago and suggested using the original 1924 faces, seen in background, in this new tow

office closed, were eventually installed in the bell tower located in the Miranda brown between the bell tower located in the Miranda brown brown of the first for the tower to be modified, the Street capara, Tinut was exceed in 1881 as part of the Stratford 1978 central project.

The latest step in the story of the work of the first floor of the tower is the original dock mechanism from 1924.

The faces used in the latest clocktower are from that original tower as well, when the first floor of the tower is the original dock mechanism from 1924.

Made in Wellington, the movement is clocktower.

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## Mainstreet committee began plans

STRATFORD's Mainstreet committee which was set up in 1992 was the group that established the plans that led to the clocktower construction. "We,must acknowledge the effort that they pix in to establish an overall concept for the town," said Stratford District Council general manager Kemp Broughton.

cept for the town, said Strattor Dis-rete Council general manager Kemp.

"When the committee headed by Bar-ry Smith was established, they met with the businesses and the wider commun-ty to gauge the feelings of the district and the direction the Strattord peace wanted the towns development to go.

"A group of hardworking dedicated people have signs a number of years planning the towns beautification and the Mainstreet committee always saw the clockfower redesign as a central fo-"Their vision is to be commended be-



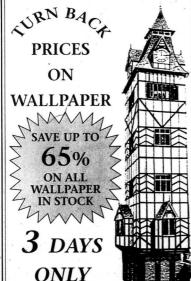


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GAS CENTRE

# Stratford's new clock tower

## Looking IV a clocktower lean?

USE of the IIII symbol on the clockface of the new tower in Stratford has drawn comment in the town.

Although the rest of the numerals indicating the hour marks are traditional Roman numerals, the 'Four O'Clock' hour mark is indicated by the IIII

of the cowns list consolwer, sar terry
The clock and mechanism were installed as a memorial and to change
the component would have
the component



So 4 whatever reason and IV its\_historic significance, the clockface will IIII.ever remain as it is.

Mr Perry had to the warry. When the light hand is not he twelve and the little hand is halfway between the III and the V, then it is four o'clock.\*

The second aspect of the tower to attract comment is its supposed lean away from the vertical – the leaning tower of Stratford?

No way, says Stratford-District Council operations manager Wally Bullen.

'It's an optical illusion and even that is only apparent from the northern side

of the tower from the start of the commercial district. Viewed from further north and the start of the commercial district. The start of the start o

was just part of the construc-tion process.

"After all it was 90 degrees out and lying on its side when it first arrived in town.
But seriously, the tower was only about 30 millimetres out over the full 20-metre height when first botted in place and by the time the structure was finally locked into position, the tower was within a couple of millimetres of \$500.000.

ertical," he said.

Still, it is an interesting illusion and
o doubt the town will field comments
or years to come as visitors are deceived

for years to come as visitors are deceived by the optical illusion.

An interesting footnote from Wally Bullen is that the previous tower had a 150-millimetre taper and that was never noticed by the local residents.



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ABOVE: Jones and Sandford foreman Les King with a smoothing ouch on stairway, BELOW: 1924 edition (left) and 1960s replacen





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