New Computer Is Worth $500,000

A computer worth nearly $500,000 was delivered to Computer Bureau, Ltd, Christchurch, yesterday, and is expected to be in use next week.

The new machine, an ICL-1902A, is a replacement for the bureau's present ICL-1902 which is to be transferred to the Wellington bureau established last year. The new machine has about twice the capacity of the old one but is only slightly larger.

The front window of the bureau's premises in Chester Street was removed for the 11 units of the computer to be lifted in by forklift truck. Large doors had been provided at the rear of the premises when they were built but telephone equipment installed since had blocked the access.

The delivery consisted of 16 crates, the heaviest weighing 31cwt, although nearly half of this weight was packing. The total weight, including packing, was nearly eight tons.

The old computer was shut off while the new machine was being lifted into the building as the computer room is normally dust-proof and air-conditioned.

The assistant manager of the bureau (Mr D. P. Page) said the new computer was probably the largest in the South Island. He said the bureau was doing work for about 50 firms and organisations and at present the computer was working 140 hours a week.

The old computer was installed towards the end of 1966 and cost about $240,000. Both it and the new one are

Both it and the new one are leased from International Computers (New Zealand), Ltd.

Computer Bureau, Ltd was formed in Christchurch in August, 1965. The Wellington bureau was formed as an associate company last year.

An ICL-1902 computer has been ordered for an associate Hamilton company which will also have a document reader. This will transfer the contents of documents to magnetic tapes from which the computer will work, eliminating the manual preparation of data.

All the training of systems analysts and programmers is done in Christchurch and later this year the staff is expected to reach more than 70.

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Using This Item

Acknowledgements