Leave the Port to rust in peace

HERITAGE MATTERS

TIM LLOYD

COMEDIAN Bryan Dawe was a highly critical guest of his Port Adelaide home town for the Port Festival, which ends this weekend.

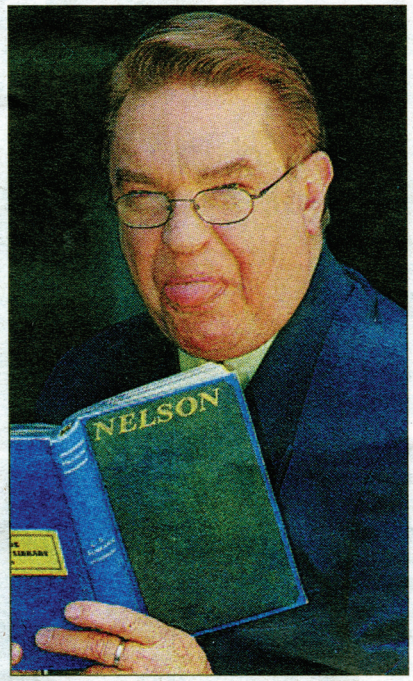
He delivered a broadside at the developments that have taken over the place since he was last there four years ago.

At the opening last weekend of *Rust,* an exhibition about the corrosion of culture in Port Adelaide, Dawe made a passing reference to the other half of his comedy duo, New Zealander John Clarke.

"As a Kiwi might say, the Port should be allowed to rust in peace," the boy from Birkenhead remarked.

Dawe said rather than witnessing the destruction of the character of Port Adelaide, South Australia should be arguing about how best to preserve the Port's history, cultural diversity, beauty and character.

"Who knows, if we did that, the Port could be somewhere people came to visit simply because it was Port Adelaide, not Wally's Waterworld, or the World's Largest Ferret, which if they had their way, I am sure they would be constructing.



OUTSPOKEN: Bryan Dawe

"The question we should be asking is: What makes the Government think they have the right to do this on the community's behalf? This town has never been theirs to give away, yet they have given it away.

"The Government has no right, nor does it have the mandate, to dismantle, to hide, or destroy the culture of Port Adelaide.

"From the outset, the wishes of the community were ignored and, as a further contempt of the public, the Government banked on the punters down here not voting against them."

Dawe said it was symptomatic of a general decline of decency of Labor governments, not just in South Australia, but also nationally.

"That a Labor government would join forces with property developers to sell the Port down the river, as it were, defies belief," he said.

Dawe said his six uncles who worked on the wharf, and his father who worked at Hart's Mill, and their wives who ran the homes, would all turn in their graves at the desecration of the Port.