

RED-SEAT PLAZA TO BE OPENED NEXT MONTH

By PETER ALLEN

Sydney's new Martin Place Plaza is to be officially opened on September 1.

The Lord Mayor, Alderman McDermott, is expected to perform the opening ceremony, although details are still being worked out.

Among suggestions for the opening ceremony are several which followed a "Sun-Herald" appeal.

One has been from a well-known playwright who has offered to write an allegorical play to mark the occasion.

The plaza, between George and Pitt Streets, is the first inner-city area to be handed over from traffic to pedestrians.

Delighted

The transformation has been going on for several months under the direction of a firm of town-planners, Clarke Gazzard Planners Pty Ltd, whom the City Council commissioned to design the plaza.

A principal in the firm, Mr D. Gazzard, announced this week the plaza would be ready for the September 1 opening.

The old road surface is being covered with huge pink-coloured granite slabs.



Specially designed seats for the plaza are now being made by Comeng Fibreglass Industries of Granville.

The 252 seats, contoured to fit the body and manufactured of concrete covered with fibreglass, will be arranged back-to-back in semi-circles of 18.

Mr Gazzard said the seats would be marooned to blend with the paving stones.

The entire plaza is costing about \$400,000.

Chairman of the City Council's plaza committee, Alderman Leo Port, said this week he was delighted by the public interest in the project.

He had received scores of letters and phone calls about the plaza.

Alderman Port said he was now examining suggestions for the official opening.

Suggestions had ranged from carpeting the entire plaza with flowers to printing a souvenir leaflet.

Alderman Port has already ruled out the idea of a mardi gras type celebration because of the Cenotaph in Martin Place.

● Picture shows an artist's impression of the completed Martin Place Plaza.

\$1,000 GIFT

Nowra police have given a record \$1,000 to charity following their annual ball on Friday.

A police spokesman said the ball usually raised about \$600.

This year's charity is the children's ward at Shoalhaven District Hospital.