

Rugby gallery opens Sunday

A LARGER than life photo gallery honouring Waitete Rugby Club's All Black legends Stan and Sir Colin Meads will be officially opened to the public on Sunday.

The Meads Gallery featuring 12 giant photos of the brothers during their playing days stands tall in a section of the club's carpark that has been specially landscaped for easy viewing.

The gallery was originally erected on Rora St in 2011 when Te Kuiti was renamed 'Meadsville' during the Rugby World Cup.

Established by Te Kuiti Development Inc, the group donated the pictures to the rugby club when they were removed from the main street.

Coinciding with the opening, Sir Colin will also plant a totara tree in the centre of the gallery as part of the nationwide Living Legends project.

Living Legends is a community conservation project set up in 2011 to celebrate and leave a legacy of New Zealand's hosting of the Rugby World Cup.

There are 17 planting projects throughout NZ including King Country, with each dedicated to a regional 'Rugby Legend'.

Along with Sir Colin and Waitete Rugby Club representatives, Living Legends project manager Devon McLean and Waitomo mayor Brian Hanna will also take part in the gallery's opening.

PUBLIC GALLERY

Although it is located at the Waitete Rd club, secretary Neil Macrae says the gallery has been re-established for all to see.

"We could easily have put the photos and Living Legends tree anywhere inside the grounds, but we wanted to make it a community project that everyone can enjoy at any time of the day.

"And once the tree is planted it will be the only permanent structure in honour of 'Pinetree' Meads.

"I'm sure one day they'll build a statue of the man but until then his tree and the Meads Gallery is it."

Two plaques will also be unveiled



WALK OF FAME: Waitete Rugby Club secretary Neil Macrae has been busy preparing the Meads Gallery for its official opening on Sunday.

on Sunday – one dedicated to Sir Colin by Living Legends and one acknowledging the history of the Waitete Rugby Club. Macrae says the gallery landscape was completed thanks to donations from

Omya New Zealand Ltd (metal), RH Tregoweth Ltd (timber) and help from the Waitomo District Council, club and community volunteers.

The opening ceremony begins at 1pm.

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