



**CHANGEOUT:** Renaming the former Waitomo Cultural and Arts Centre to the Les Munro Centre is complete. Once renovations are finished, the centre will be officially reopened by Mr Munro's family in April.

# New name now up on civic centre

THE ongoing refurbishment of the Les Munro Centre in Te Kuiti is on track to be officially re-opened in April 2015.

The change of name from the Waitomo Cultural and Arts Centre to the Les Munro Centre, has been confirmed by the Waitomo District Council as a memorial to the late mayor who died in August.

Signage on the building was changed on Tuesday.

Work is also due to begin on the kitchen and bar area, with new painting and decorating of the kitchen's walls, ceilings and floor, an upgrade of the benches and re-lining of the cleaning room.

The kitchen's toilet is also being renovated.

Minor work to the kitchen hood will also be undertaken to allow additional equipment to be added at a later date.

The bar area will be brightened up with replacement lighting and alarms installed.

**NO TENDERS**

No local tenders were submitted for the upgrade and the work is being carried out at a cost of \$114,994 by PJ McCarthy Construction from

Hamilton who have indicated they will use local subcontractors.

Waitomo mayor Brian Hanna says the kitchen is at least 30 years old and is not coping with modern day demands.

"The demand for the centre as a wedding venue has also been the catalyst for further upgrades to the courtyard with decking being lifted to the same level as the centre's floor, eliminating trip hazards.

"This area is expected to be used as the focal point for ceremonies."

The tender process is underway for the redevelopment of the courtyard and grassed area, with work expected to be underway in early 2016.

"Still to come in the New Year is upgrading of the foyer and toilet areas," says Mr Hanna.

**REOPENING CEREMONY**

He says Mr Munro's family has indicated their wish to return his ashes in April to be interned alongside his late wife Betty in the Te Kuiti Cemetery.

"Council's plan is to have a commemorative photographic display at that time detailing the life of Mr Munro and have the family officially reopen the centre."



**O FOR OFFICIAL:** Kenedy Strachan (22) of Otorohanga's Detech Engineering puts the last letter on the new signage of the former Waitomo Cultural and Arts Centre. It now bears the name of the past mayor, Les Munro, who died in August. Other signage was completed by Signs Alone of Te Kuiti.

## 2016 ENROLMENTS ACCEPTED NOW











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