



**DEAD END:** A huge swell swept away more than 300sqm of land at the end of Point Rd in Mokau last week. Pictured is Point Rd in June 2013 (left) and what remained after the tidal surge (right). PHOTOS SUPPLIED

## Sea claims part of Mokau road

NEARLY 300sqm of Point Rd in Mokau was swallowed by the Tasman Sea last week.

Overnight on August 11, a choppy 2m swell combined with a 3.9m high tide hammered at the road where locals and visitors park their cars to access the beach.

Nearby baches also came under threat of the tidal surge, however, the addition of rocks by landowners to a seaside wall the week before prevented any structural loss.

### DAMAGE ASSESSED

Mayor Brian Hanna and other Waitomo

District Council (WDC) representatives visited the site on Thursday to assess the damage.

“The end of Point Rd, where our turnaround is, is completely gone,” says Mr Hanna.

“A lot of land has also been lost from the turnaround towards the river mouth because unfortunately that area of the coast is very exposed to the sea and during stormy weather it just gets pummelled.

“That particular area was unprotected because we’d never had a problem there before so basically the sea has come in from

a different direction and taken a big chunk of sand out.”

He says investigations are now underway as to how WDC can rebuild the turnaround area under the Resource Management Act’s emergency works.

### NATURAL EVENT

Mr Hanna says landowners have been “amazingly resilient” throughout.

“A lot of them realise that this is nature and erosion is a natural event and they can only protect so much for so long.

“All we can do as a council is assess our

options regarding the road and we only do that when it has been affected by stormy weather. At the end of the day we are committed to protecting our asset and providing the public with access to the beach.”

Coastal erosion is an ongoing issue for Mokau landowners and every year, more and more of the seaside community disappears into the sea.

During a 3.7m king tide in May last year, nearly 20m of land at Mokau’s Seaview Holiday Park camping ground fell into the sea when 5m high “tsunami like” waves gouged out its seaward bank.

## Gallery opens

ALL Black brothers Stan and Sir Colin Meads from Te Kuiti were honoured by Waitete Rugby Club on Sunday for their contribution to local and international rugby.

The Meads Gallery featuring 12 giant photographs of the brothers during their playing days was officially opened by the All Black duo in front of more than 60 people in the club’s carpark.

Stan unveiled a plaque acknowledging the history of the club, while Sir Colin planted a tree as part of the nationwide Living Legends project.

Guest speakers included Waitomo

mayor Brian Hanna, Waitete club representatives Max Lamb and Jason Church and Living Legends project manager Devon McLean.

Waitete secretary and event organiser Neil Macrae says the gallery opening was a huge success.

“I was very pleased with how the ceremony went. The reaction from the crowd was great and there were many congratulatory messages on the day. I think the gallery is a fitting tribute to Stan and Colin, but it also acknowledges past and present Waitete members who have made the club what it is today.”



**TREE’S TREE:** Sir Colin Meads from Te Kuiti and Living Legends project manager Devon McLean planted a totara tree in honour of the All Black great at the launch of the Meads Gallery at the Waitete Rugby Club on Sunday. PHOTO SUPPLIED

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