YOUR NEWS, YOUR VIEWS MATOMOQUEUUS Feature Inside

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Centre to carry Les' name

LES Munro's legacy as district mayor and a war hero will live on forever in Waitomo.

Following his death on August 4, Waitomo District Council has unanimously decided to honour the 96-year-old's memory by officially renaming the Waitomo Community Cultural and Arts Centre – The Les Munro Centre.

Mayor Brian Hanna says it is a fitting tribute to the man, who despite his heroics as a Royal Air Force Squadron Leader and one of the 'Dambusters' during World War II, said establishing the King St East civic centre in 1980, was one of his proudest achievements.

"I think it is really quite appropriate [to rename the building] given Les' contribution to the Waitomo community and, in particular, the building of the civic centre itself," says Mr Hanna.

"He pulled it all together when he was mayor and it is one of his proudest achievements.

"I think it will be a fantastic memorial to Les who contributed a huge amount not only to our district, but to the entire country as well."

FAMILY'S BLESSING

Before a memorial service at the

civic centre in Te Kuiti on August 14, Mr Hanna suggested the renaming idea to Mr Munro's family who gave it their blessing.

He announced the decision during his speech at the memorial service.

"People have asked me what we as a district are going to do for Les' memory," he said.

"As we gather here in the Waitomo Cultural and Arts Centre, the answer became obvious.

"This building was built under Les' watch and it was something he was very proud of. It is one of the district's greatest assets and is the envy of many other districts.

"So it gives me great pleasure, with the blessing of the Munro family, to announce the renaming of this building The Les Munro Centre."

The renaming was made official at a council meeting last week.

Changing the name on the outside of the building is expected to take place by the end of the year followed by the unveiling of a commemorative plaque on Mr Munro's birthday on April 5.

Mr Hanna says the council is also considering naming the auditorium, foyer and supper room inside The Les Munro Centre after other prominent Waitomo people.

Plots to increase

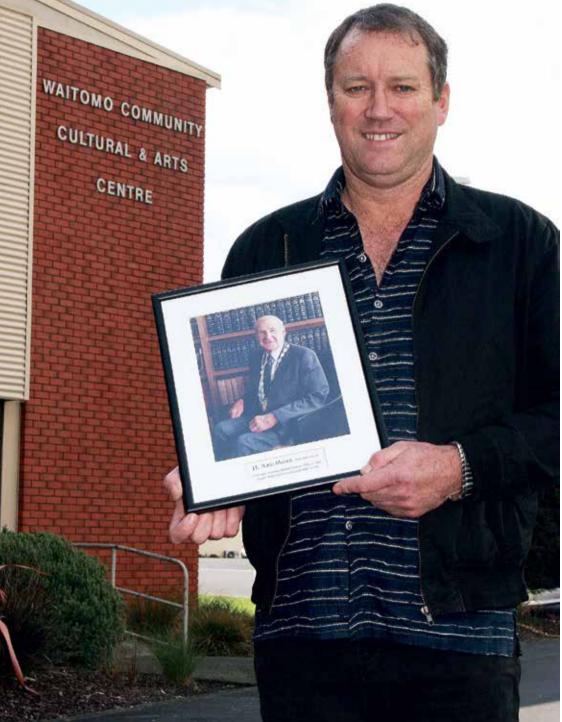
THE lifespan of Kawhia's cemetery will soon be extended by up to 20 years.

A 520sqm extension to the current 2.7ha site is currently underway which will add 105 plots to the existing 450.

The decision to extend the Lake Rd cemetery was approved by the Kawhia Community Board in March last year as there were only five remaining plots at the time.

The first of four new berms (concrete rows) comprising 32 plots was completed on July 1 at a cost of \$30,000 with the rest of the extension including legalisation, to be completed by December.

The Kawhia Cemetery averages six burials per year.



FOR LES: Waitomo mayor Brian Hanna and his fellow councillors unanimously decided last week to officially rename the Waitomo Community Cultural and Arts Centre – The Les Munro Centre.

This week's Super Specials!



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