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LGOIMA

When releasing responses to previous LGOIMA requests, names and contact details of individual requestors will be withheld to protect their privacy.

Information requested by the media, lobby groups, public sector organisations and MPs will always be published, while information specific to an individual or their property will not generally be published.

Request from:	Private Individual
Information requested:	WDC Cenotaph application to lotteries
Response by:	Te Aroha Cook, Acting Chief Executive

24 May 2024

Via Email:

Dear Private Individual

Official information request for information from the WDC Cenotaph application to lotteries

I refer to your official information request dated 26 April 2024 for information from the WDC application to lotteries for Cenotaph work.

The information you requested is enclosed.

Some information has been redacted as it is out of scope of your request.

There is no charge in supplying this information to you.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Council has adopted a Proactive Release Policy and accordingly may publish LGOIMA responses on the Council Website at <https://www.westlanddc.govt.nz/lgoima-responses>. The collection and use of personal information by the Westland District Council is regulated by the Privacy Act 2020. Westland District Council's Privacy Statement is available on our website [here](#)

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Mary-anne Bell, Business Analyst at LGOIMA@westlanddc.govt.nz, 03 756 9091.

Sincerely,

Te Arohanui Cook | Acting Chief Executive

TC/MB

REQUEST DETAILS

Find information on Lottery Environment and Heritage, including funding priorities at Community Matters - Lottery Environment and Heritage

What do you want funding for?

Westland District Council would like funding to carry out repairs to the Hokitika Cenotaph.

The background of the Hokitika Cenotaph, this was erected to the memory of the districts service people at the conclusion of WW1 and includes a roll of honour of those who served and lost their lives in the course of the WW1 engagement.

The Cenotaph consists of a concrete base with a granite column listing the roll of honour.

The concrete base supports 4 ornate marble columns which support a dome style roof.

During a programme funded by PGF to clean the Cenotaph contractors reported that the structure had become unstable and possibly at risk of collapsing.

Health and Safety was immediately implemented and local stakeholders and community were informed.

Fortunately scaffolding had been erected around the structure for cleaning purposes and that scaffolding was

strengthened to brace it and prevent sideways movement.

The columns and dome-style roof were inspected by an Engineer and he declared the structure dangerous and at risk of falling over. Stone masons were also called into inspect the structure at that point.

An initial site report was then completed by the engineer.

The Hokitika cenotaph was dismantled under the supervision of the Monumental Masons and it has been removed to safe placement at Liddell Contracting facility at Greymouth.

Funding is required for: Earthquake strengthening, repairs, refurbishment, and re-instatement of the Hokitika Cenotaph

John Mackenzie's Engineers report is being prepared to address the stability issues and to carry out earthquake strengthening.

What community need do you propose to meet?

The Hokitika Cenotaph was erected in 1919 and was paid for by local subscriptions and donations, and constructed from Italian marble. Since 1919 it has been the gathering place for ANZAC day services, and every year for the commemoration of Armistice Day.

The Hokitika Cenotaph is situated in Cass Square which is a large grassed area with plenty of room for those attending the services. The 168 names of individuals from local families who died in WW1 are inscribed on the Cenotaph and so it is an important link for people: wanting to pay their respects, seeking family history, and for the town to annually commemorate Armistice Day and ANZAC Day.

The Hokitika Cenotaph provides a focal point for the annual ANZAC commemorations which locally have grown in numbers and importance over the years. It is the gathering place for the main dawn parade for the District. During the 2015 – 2018 commemorative years RSA members placed 186 crosses fanning out from the Cenotaph to represent the 186 men and women who served their district and country named on the Cenotaph columns. These crosses are put out for the Armistice Day commemoration and attract a lot of local and visitor interest.

In consulting with community groups and organisations many narratives have come forward to reinforce the importance of this cenotaph, and the social and military history of many of our community members and families that are acknowledged on the cenotaph columns.

Three women are named on the columns, notably Nurse Mabel Elizabeth Jamieson who was one of the ten nurses who died when the 'Marquette' was torpedoed in the Aegean Sea on 23 October 1915. Sister Jamieson served four years at Westland Hospital before serving in the WW1 nursing contingent.

When the restoration is complete, an unveiling event is proposed where Hokitika Westland RSA, Te Rūnanga o Mākaawhio, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Waewae, the Mason and Tootell whanau feel that the contribution of Private Luggy Mason of the 5th Maori Contingent can be acknowledged and have his name added to the roll of the fallen on the Cenotaph Column. This Hokitika service member was recently identified by whanau as having arrived back from the theatre of war, died of injuries in Christchurch hospital and was buried in Christchurch. After research the descendants from the Mason and Tootell whanau contacted Hokitika Westland RSA that whanau had identified Private Mason's resting place and would like the opportunity for Private Luggy Mason to be formally recognised at the Hokitika Cenotaph.

How will you address the need?

Westland District Council would like to have the cenotaph refurbished and repaired as well as strengthened against earthquake damage so that the residents can continue to have this iconic monument as a part of our lived history which links to so many local families. Westland District Council support the Four Well Beings and see this project supporting cultural wellbeing reflecting a shared custom and an event in history that many families identify with – "We Will Remember Them".

Council support Westland RSA with the Mason and Tootell whanau in their desire to have an unveiling event where Private Luggy Mason's name can be unveiled and acknowledged.

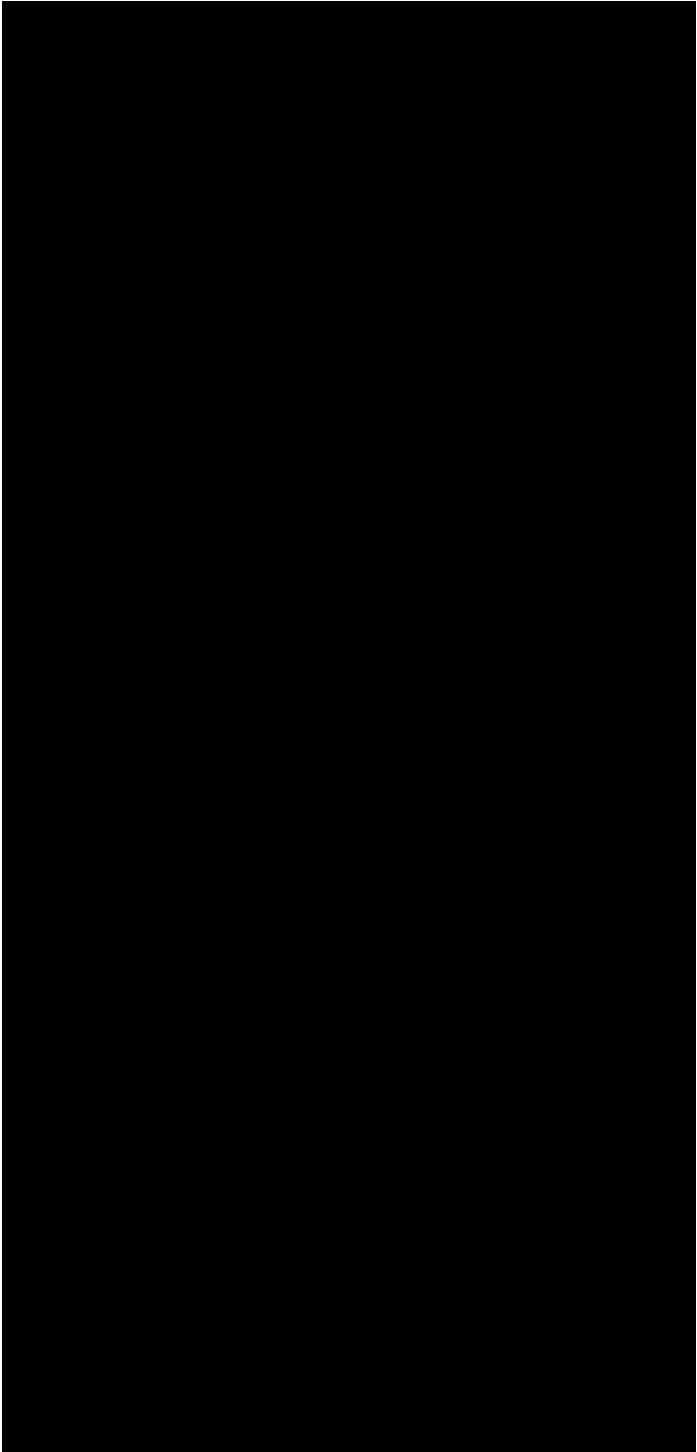
PROJECT DETAILS

Project name title:	Hokitika Cenotaph Refurbishment and Earthquake Strengthening Project		
What is the project start date?		15/11/2021	
What is the project end date?		25/4/2022	

NGĀ HUA/OUTCOMES

What are the expected benefits/outcomes?

Once the Hokitika Cenotaph has been repaired and strengthened against earthquakes it will be reinstated at the same exact location to stand over the granite column when it has been since 1919. The entire community can continue to gather, commemorate, and pay their respects as they have for the last 100 years. The Hokitika Cenotaph will be restored and hopefully last another century and be able to continue as a focal point for annual ANZAC Day, and Armistice Day commemorations. The Westland RSA and the community support an unveiling event for the restored Hokitika Cenotaph, and the acknowledgement of Private Luggy Mason on the column.



How do you know this is needed?

This project of work is needed and essential due to the deteriorated condition of the Hokitika Cenotaph which was termed a dangerous risk to the public. It is also needed to ensure that Hokitika and the greater Westland District do not lose this important historic landmark which was constructed by the people of Westland shortly after WW1. Earthquake strengthening is directly related to Hokitika geographical position, and a need to take all precautions for public safety.

The research, published in the Nature Geoscience journal in April 2021, proved there was a way to forecast future Alpine Fault ruptures. 'There is now a 75 per cent chance a large earthquake will happen along the Alpine Fault in the next 50 years, according to the research. We also see that it has an 82 per cent chance that it's going to be another one of these multi-section, very long ruptures that have a magnitude in excess of eight'.

How will you show you have achieved it?

The Cenotaph will be restored to Cass Square, and an unveiling ceremony held for the community.

How do you know the community supports your project? (e.g. What community consultation has taken place and is the project supported by local hapu and iwi?):

Letters of support for the project have been received from the following groups, individuals, and organisations:

Mayor Bruce Smith – Westland District Council
Jim Butzbach – President, Hokitika Westland RSA
Francois Tumahai Chairman Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae
Paul Madgwick Kaiwhakahaere Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio
Kararaina Te Ira – Museum Director, Hokitika Museum
David Verrall – Chair, Heritage Hokitika

Support letters have been received from Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae and Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio.

What community participation/collaboration will be involved?

The Westland community have been fully informed through local newspaper reports on the condition of the Hokitika Cenotaph and the prompt action taken to ensure the safety of the public.

The physical programme of work being of a specialist nature there is very little involvement by the community.

Westland District Council have committed to keep Hokitika Westland RSA fully informed of the progress in this project.

Once the project is complete the Westland District Council Community Development Advisor will work with RSA, Rūnanga, and interested whānau and groups to have a community unveiling and re-dedication of the Hokitika Cenotaph.

How does your request align with the purpose or priorities of this fund?

The Hokitika Cenotaph Refurbishment and Earthquake Strengthening Project is about the restoration of an historic structure that commemorate the huge sacrifice and contribution that New Zealand made to the Empire and its allies in WW1, the cenotaph is of vital significance to our national and local history.

Hokitika Cenotaph Refurbishment and Earthquake Strengthening Project will protect and conserve the Cenotaph for another 100 years or longer for future generations to attend ANZAC Day parades and commemoration services.

By having the Cenotaph returned to where it belongs it will keep links to the heritage of the local area open.