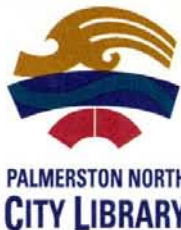




Living room
of the city



Monro Memorial



1970



2008

Location: Massey University, Palmerston North

The Monro memorial was officially opened on the 20th May 1970 by representatives of Massey University, the Monro family, the New Zealand Rugby Union and the Manawatu Rugby Union. The NZRFU contributed \$1,350 towards the memorial. The memorial is situated on the Monro Hill overlooking Massey and is dedicated to the memory of Mr Charles John Monro (1851-1933) who is credited with starting the game of rugby in New Zealand. After returning from his education at Christ's College, Finchley, in London, Monro taught the members of the Nelson Football Club the new game. They adopted the code in 1870 and on 14 May 1870 Nelson College played Nelson Club – the first interclub rugby union football match to be played in New Zealand.

Monro moved to Palmerston North in 1887 and bought land on the rise opposite the present day main entrance to Massey University. The family homestead 'Craiglockhart' was built there and in 1943 was sold to Massey Agricultural College (now Massey University) and became a student hostel which is still in use today.

For more information about the Monro memorial see the following:

New Zealand and Pacific Zone – 2nd Floor:

Photographs: Palmerston North City Library Photo Collection

Monuments: Mo 3

Newspaper Articles: Newspaper Index

Manawatu Standard card and computer index: 'Monro memorial'

Ian Matheson City Archives – Ground Floor:

CA: Monro Family

Research File: A175/223 Monro Memorial

Other Sources:

The New Zealand Rugby Museum, based in Palmerston North, has memorabilia relating to C J Monro and his connections to rugby in New Zealand as well as some material relating to the memorial.

www.rugbymuseum.co.nz

Other references and resources on the Monro memorial may be found in the New Zealand and Pacific Islands and Archives Zones of the Library.

Palmerston North Local History Brochure: Monuments, No. 8

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