



WAREA HERO: Pat Sole (left), the only Warea war veteran still alive, has his name on a memorial plaque that was relocated to Cape Egmont boat club yesterday. RSA Okato sub-branch secretary Monty Julian (centre) and president Ivor Ellis helped organise yesterday's ceremony.

Photo: MIKE SCOTT

Cape Egmont boat club now looks after memorial plaque

By MICHELLE SUTTON

PAT SOLE was literally the last man standing in Cape Egmont yesterday.

Mr Sole was the district's only war veteran who was still alive and present at a ceremony to relocate a memorial flag-pole and plaque from Warea School.

Residents concerned that the memorial war plaque would be lost with the closure of the school last year relocated it to the Cape Egmont boat club yesterday.

Dozens of men from the Warea district, who fought in World War I and II, were listed on the plaque and their names were read out in a public ceremony. But Mr Sole was the only person from the plaque present.

"It's a wonderful, unique opportunity to see my name and be allowed to see it there," Mr Sole said.

The only other survivor from the plaque was his cousin M. P. Sole, who now lived in Kaitaia.

However, Father Francis Garty said there was no chance the war veterans would be forgotten.

"What's taken place in the last 15 years I don't know, but there's been a great trend towards Anzac Day," he said.

"You only had to be at Okato this morning to realise it means a lot to a lot of people."

About 50 people attended the afternoon ceremony at the boat club, where the names of war veterans from Pungarehu were also read out.