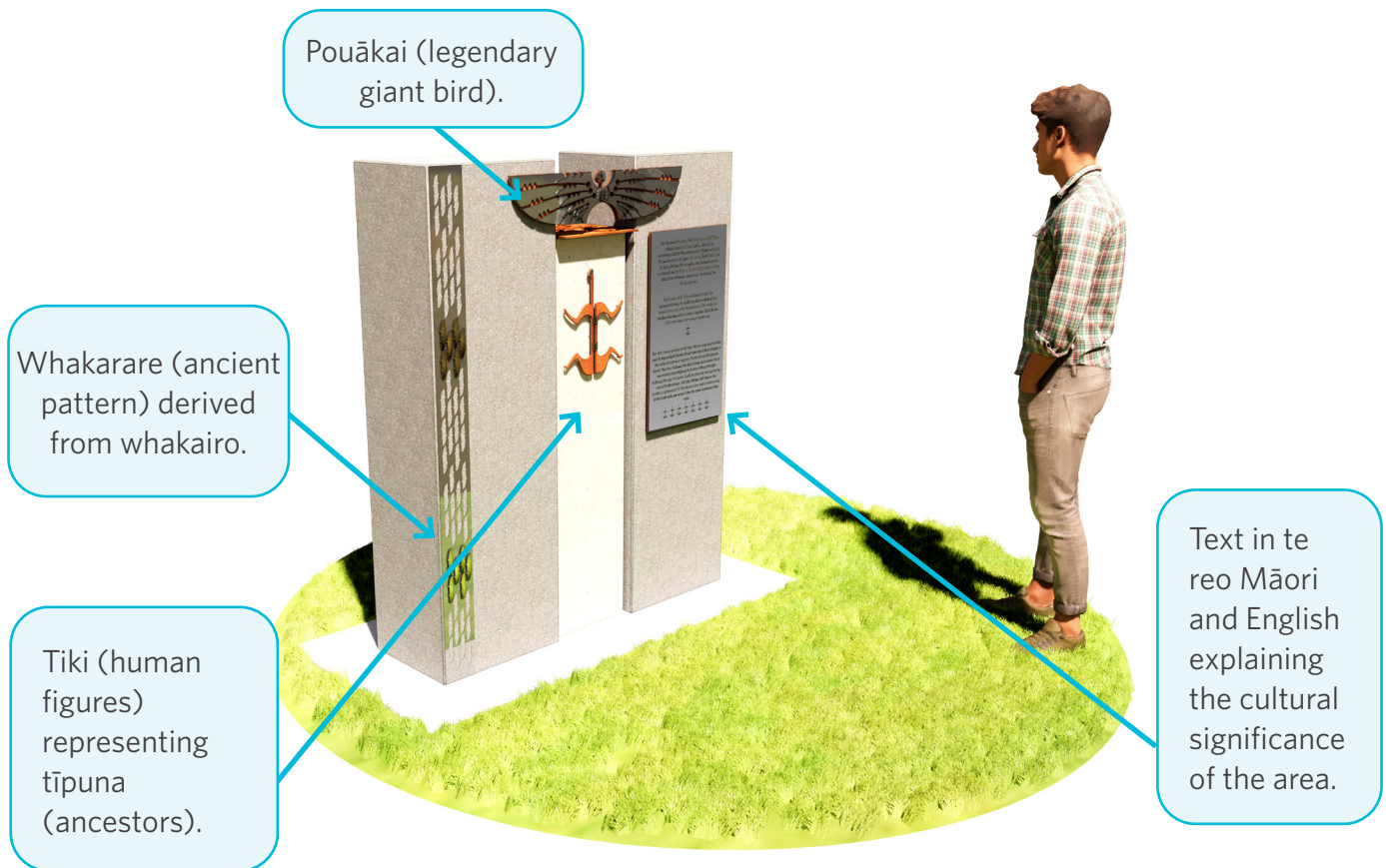


8

Mackenzie Basin – artwork at Burkes Pass

The mahi toi (artwork) has been designed by Ngāi Tahu artist Ross Hemera with advice from Moeraki, Waihao and Arowhenua rūnanga.

Read on below to find out the meaning behind the mahi toi and what it represents.



The mahi toi represents the rich history of this area and pays homage to the tīpuna (ancestors) that came before. At Burkes Pass, a wall panel artwork has been installed. More artwork can be found at Tewera's Corner further along SH8.

The mahi toi are all stylistically linked and are made of the same materials. A key feature is the contemporary interpretations of Māori rock art.

These ancient sites are mostly found in the South Island, particularly in South Canterbury and the Waitaki district.

The tiki (human figure) and the Pouākai (legendary giant bird) are key features. Birds are thought to live in the realm between the spiritual realm and the earth and act as messengers.

The imagery used has been derived from ana whakairo rock art.



About the wider project

This artwork was installed as part of the SH8, SH79, SH80 Mackenzie Basin pull-over areas project that aims to help accommodate the increasing number of self-driving visitors to the area by giving them safe spaces to pull over and appreciate the world-renowned alpine and lake vistas.

Around 9 locations along State Highways 8, 79 and 80 have benefited from safety and access improvements. These include increasing capacity at existing rest areas, new rest areas at scenic locations, upgrading existing rest areas, better signage, directional arrows, safety information for tourists (such as 'Traffic behind you? Let it pass' signs), intersection improvements, road widening and passing opportunities.

We worked with iwi, the Mackenzie District Council and Te Manahuna Ki Uta/Destination Mackenzie Group to prioritise key areas for improvements.