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Mackenzie Basin – artwork at Tewera's Corner

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

The mahi toi pays homage to the rich history of this area and the tīpuna (ancestors) that came before.

At Tewera's Corner, a 14-metre high pou and a wall panel have been installed. Another artwork has also been installed at Burkes Pass.

A key aspect is the contemporary interpretations of Maori rock art – these ancient sites are mostly found in the South Island, particularly in South Canterbury and the Waitaki district.

The mahi toi imagery includes the tiki (human figure) as well as the Pouākai (legendary giant bird). Birds are thought to live in the realm between the spirit realm and the earth and act as messengers.

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

The wall panel can be found to the left of the pou at Tewera's Corner and the imagery used conveys the same meaning.

Pouākai (legendary giant bird).

Tiki (human figures) symbolising tīpuna (ancestors). These 3 have been named Te Kahui Tipua, Te Kahui Roko and Te Kahui Takata. They represent the genealogical connection that iwi make between the ancient ancestors down to people today.

The hulls of the Uruaou and Ārai-te-uru waka (canoe) that carried people to the South Island from Hawaiki.



