



Mackenzie Basin – new cultural artwork

The mahi toi (artwork) has been created with cultural concepts and advice given by Moeraki, Waihao and Arowhenua rūnanga.

There is a strong desire by mana whenua to share the ancient and modern narratives associated with the Mackenzie Country. The artwork was created by Ngai Tahu artist and designer Ross Hemera. He was asked to participate in the project because of his whakapapa links and previous work in the area.

Kā Tiritiri o te Moana (Southern Alps – Dog Kennel Corner)

The design of the mahi toi (artwork) represents mihimihi (a welcome) to Kā Tiritiri o te Moana (the Southern Alps), Aoraki (Mt Cook), and Te Manahuna (Mackenzie Country). It references the area's links to the traditions of Rākaihautū, a founding ancestor of the South Island, and Āriteuru, one of the large waka (canoe) that travelled from Hawaiki.

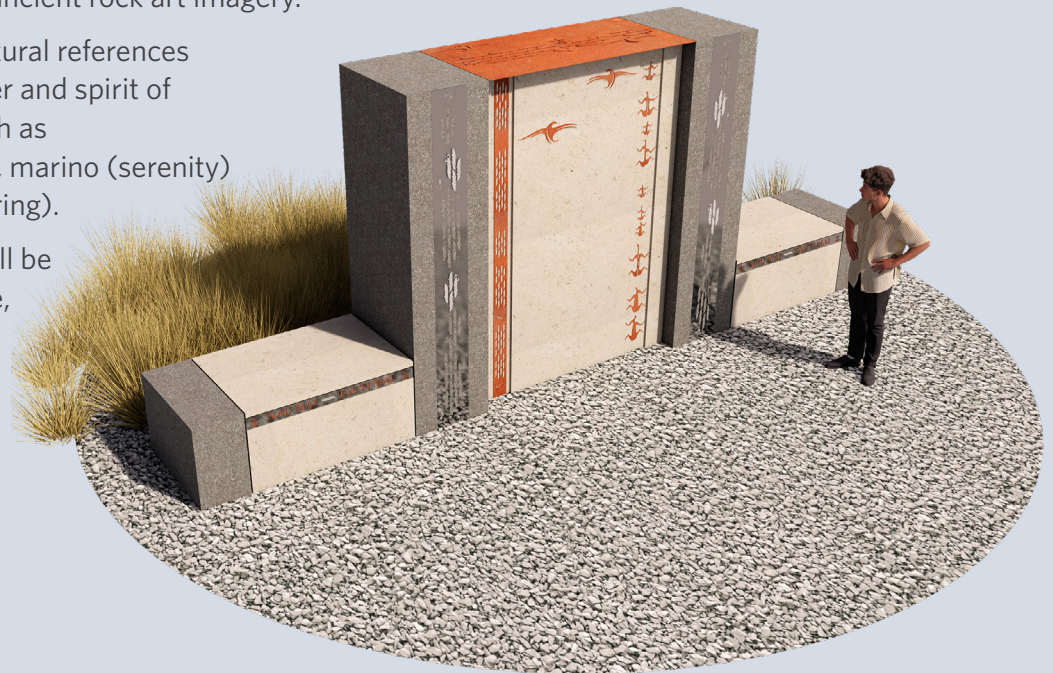


There are three components of the mahi toi including a large pou and several smaller pou forms featuring contemporary rock art interpretations of the Pouākai (giant bird), kuri (dog figure), whakarare (ancient movement pattern), and ngutu manaia (water creature).

The third component, a wall panel, will also be installed near the pou featuring a welcome in te reo that is supplemented by ancient rock art imagery.

The mahi toi includes cultural references aligning with the character and spirit of Kā Tiritiri o te Moana such as Hū (silence and stillness), marino (serenity) and marutuna (awe inspiring).

The three components will be made from Oamaru stone, concrete and metal.



Te Kopi o te Ōpihi (Burkes Pass)

The mahi toi (artwork) tells the story of Te Kopi o te Ōpihi (Burkes Pass) being a stopping place and gateway to Te Manahuna, Takapō, and Aoraki. It also makes reference to it being a place to acknowledge tipuna (ancestors) and the area's ancient trails and history of mahika kai (food gathering).

The mahi toi itself incorporates a wall panel form with an information plaque including an explanation text in te reo and English. It features contemporary interpretations of Māori rock art depicting figures such as the Pouākai, tiki and whakarare.

The artwork will be made from Oamaru stone, concrete and metal to ensure stylistic continuity between the two sites.

