

# Eye catching retaining wall a shared path highlight

A special feature of the St Leonards to Port Chalmers shared path due to open by the end of 2022, will be the retaining wall that will carry the path through the SH88 Roseneath cutting.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency regularly looks for opportunities with its projects to integrate where practical the artwork and creative expression of local iwi, with the Roseneath cutting retaining wall panels a good example. At this site a retaining wall stretching the length of two rugby fields showcases local iwi artwork.

A challenge for the project team was finding a way to safely separate shared path users and highway traffic at a very narrow section of SH88 at Roseneath. The solution was to build a two-and-a-half metre high retaining wall to support the existing embankment and provide room for the shared path to sit on top of it. This left an almost 200m long concrete panel retaining wall, which the project team felt offered a blank canvas to showcase some of Dunedin's artistic talent.

Waka Kotahi engaged local Artist Simon Kaan who has strong local iwi connections to the area to develop these works. By working with Simon, the local Runanga, nearby communities, plus Waka Kotahi's transport partners, retaining wall panels that visually tell the story of a guardian Taniwha known as Matamata were developed. He appears in many iwi traditions in the South Island stretching from eastern Southland north to Marlborough. Legend has it that Matamata formed the Otago Harbour.

Project Manager Jason Forbes said Waka Kotahi isn't in the art business and that urban design requirements for this project were the catalyst for creating the Roseneath Cutting retaining wall panel artwork. Another factor was the long-term management of the retaining wall. Anecdotal evidence suggests incorporating quality artwork into retaining wall facades such as this one, helps prevent them becoming targets for vandals.



One of the first retaining wall panels complete with local artwork is lowered into position at the Roseneath cutting.



The first of nearly 130 retaining wall panels that will be placed by April/early May at Roseneath to support the new Dunedin to Port Chalmers shared path.