

Taumanu Reserve

Coastal Park



OVERVIEW

Taumanu Reserve is a new coastal park, created over the period between 2011 – 2015 as part of the Onehunga Foreshore Restoration Project.

The project re-establishes access to an inner Manukau coastal environment, and restores amenity that was lost to the community of Onehunga through the establishment of SH20 in the 1970's.

Taumanu comprises a 6.8ha park formed on reclaimed coastal land, and provides 1.4km of new coastline with sandy and gravel beaches, a boat ramp and turning bay, picnic areas, and open space. Walking and cycling paths extend through the park and traverse SH20 across a feature gateway bridge to the existing Onehunga Bay Reserve.

Taumanu has been sensitively designed to fit within both cultural and physical landscapes, and has been recognised nationally and internationally for its design response.



Taumanu Reserve restores amenity and coastal access to the area.

KEY PROJECT INFORMATION

PROJECT TYPE

COASTAL PARK AND BRIDGE

AREA

68,000M²

ROHE / LOCATION

**ONEHUNGA
TĀMAKI MAKĀURAU**

YEAR COMPLETED

2015

PROJECT DURATION

6 YEARS

PRICE BAND

\$28 MILLION

CLIENT/DEVELOPER

**AUCKLAND COUNCIL
NEW ZEALAND TRANSPORT AGENCY**

MANA WHENUA INVOLVED IN PROJECT

**TE ĀKITAI WAIOHUA
NGĀTI TE ATA WAIOHUA
NGĀTI TAMAHOHO
NGĀTI WHĀTUA ŌRĀKEI
TE KAWERAU A MAKI**

PROJECT MANAGER

BECA

ENGINEERING DESIGN

TONKIN AND TAYLOR, AECOM

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

ISTHMUS

MAIN CONTRACTOR

FULTON HOGAN

MANA WHENUA ARTISTS

**BERNARD MAKOARE (NGĀTI WHĀTUA KI
KAIPARA)
TED NGATAKI (NGĀTI TAMAHOHO)**

PROJECT AWARDS

**WORLD ARCHITECTURE NEWS – TRANSPORT
AWARD WINNER 2016 (TAUMANU BRIDGE)
NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTS – NZILA AWARD OF
EXCELLENCE - TE KARANGA O TE TUI (MĀORI
DESIGN EXCELLENCE) 2017**

PROJECT SUMMARY

As part of the SH20 upgrade works which commenced in 2011, a public design competition was held to design and construct a new coastal park, and to provide a new pedestrian connection from Onehunga, over SH20, to the Manukau Harbour foreshore.

The nature of the project procurement did not provide opportunity for meaningful engagement with Mana Whenua, and this was one of a number of issues that referred the project to the Environment Court for mediation of issues. These matters were resolved through mediation and resource consents were granted with a number of conditions, including conditions relating specifically to Mana Whenua involvement.

The implemented design has created a new coastal park that reflects inner Manukau Harbour natural coastal character. It promotes public access to the coast, introduces large areas of public open space, and provides enhanced pedestrian and cycle facilities connecting Taumanu to the wider landscape.

The name Taumanu (literally reclamation) was gifted to the project by the five iwi who have been involved in this project:

- Te Akitai Waiohua
- Ngāti Te Ata Waiohua
- Ngāti Tamaoho
- Ngāti Whātua
- Te Kawerau o Maki



Taumanu has provided much needed public amenity, and a vital connection back to the foreshore that was severed by the construction of SH20.

MANA WHENUA ENGAGEMENT

The nature of the procurement process for this project meant that Mana Whenua were not involved in the initial concept design process.

During the resource consent process Mana Whenua collectively made a submission, and appealed the consent decision to the Environment Court. The two key issues that were raised by Mana Whenua were; disappointment at the lack of opportunity for design input; and environmental concerns over the prospect of further reclamation of land.

As a result of the Environment Court mediation, the consent application was granted subject to conditions.

Foremost was the requirement for the formation of a Kaitiaki Working Group made up of Mana Whenua representatives, who would collaborate on the following:

- Detailed design – identification of cultural representation
- Construction – cultural monitoring
- Post project completion – to identify and implement appropriate measures to involve Mana Whenua



A Mana Whenua Kaitiaki Working Group was formed to discuss and agree upon matters of significance to Mana Whenua.

MANA WHENUA ENGAGEMENT

A formal process of engagement between Mana Whenua and the design team was then undertaken. These discussions proved fruitful in identifying local narratives, including the importance of the Manukau Harbour and the connection of this area to the portages around Ōtāhuhu.

Mana Whenua artists were appointed by the design team and the Kaitiaki Working Group. These artists brought another layer of detailed local knowledge and identity into the design.

Mana Whenua provided the name Taumanu for the park. Taumanu speaks of the reconnection of people to Te Mānukanuka o Hoturoa enabled by the development, as well as commemorating the act of reclamation itself.



Engagement with Mana Whenua provided the design and construction teams with an understanding of cultural values.

MANA WHENUA LANDSCAPE

The Manukau Harbour is important within the cultural landscapes of the Mana Whenua groups; Ngāti Te Ata Waiohū; Ngāti Tamaoho; Te Ākitai Waiohū; Te Kawerau ā Maki; and Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei. At various times across the centuries each of these groups have occupied this area, and each group has specific sites of significance and narratives relating to the harbour.

All iwi who whakapapa to the Tainui waka also maintain whakapapa relationships with the Manukau. One traditional name for the Manukau is Te Mānukanuka o Hoturoa, referencing the unease of Tainui's captain whilst the waka was navigating the unsettled waters of this moana.

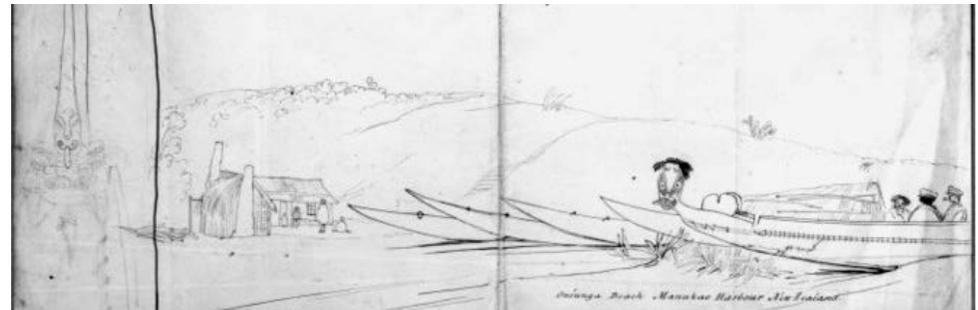
Onehunga was a highly strategic location controlling access to Māngere Inlet and to the Ōtāhuhu portages, the first truly national pieces of transport infrastructure. The area features numerous Mana Whenua sites, and narratives alluding to Māori occupation and the traditional importance of this location.

Onehunga was a staging point for waka conveying produce to the early settlement of Auckland from the Waikato region, and a native hostel was established near the foreshore in Onehunga to manaaki (offer hospitality) to these crews. The site is immediately adjacent to the tuff ring Te Hōpua a Rangi, which functioned previously as tauranga waka (landing point) for those waka and their crews.

The project site features sightlines to Te Pane o Mataoho (Māngere Mountain) and Maungakiekie (One Tree Hill), which lend their mana to this location. The elevation provided by Taumanu bridge provides great views to both of these maunga and the Manukau and Tāmaki landscape.



Mana Whenua cultural landscape.



'Onehunga Beach, Manukau Harbour, New Zealand.' (1843) Ink drawing by Edward Ashworth, Alexander Turnbull Collection, A-208-001.

MAHI TOI CREATIVE FEATURES

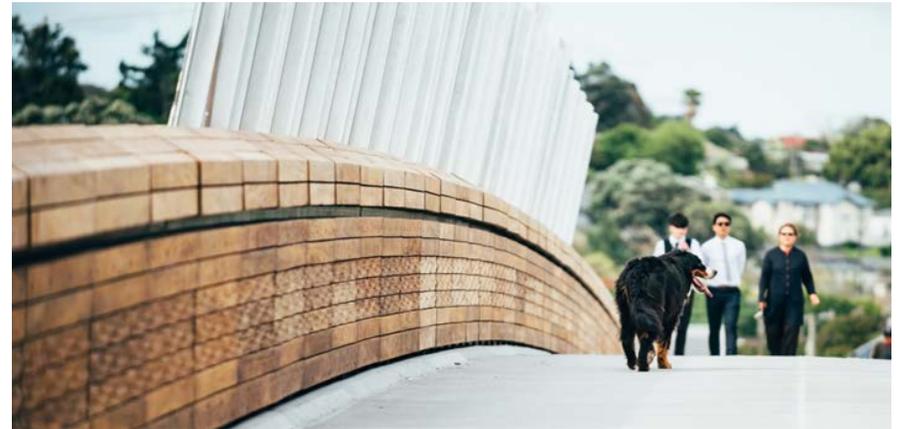
Working with Mana Whenua enabled the design team to incorporate more of a sense of local identity into detailed design. A decision was made to seek expressions of interest from Mana Whenua artists which expressed more universal Māori values, as opposed to seeking iwi or hapū specific responses.

Appointment of artists to express these values was the first task undertaken by the Kaitiaki Working Group, with Bernard Makoare and Ted Ngataki being the artists selected to create artworks.

Artist and carver Bernard Makoare (Ngāti Whatua o Kaipara) identified that a conceptual and cultural appreciation of ‘Tangaroa’ would be “essential as the location insists that the relationship of land and sea is respected”.

This Tangaroa kaupapa translated into the use of an Unaunahi carving pattern machined into the bridge internal balustrade and on the internal face of the pier upstands. The unaunahi carving pattern is inspired by fish scales and is widely applied in whakairo (carving). For Taumanu, use of the pattern relates to the ruffled nature of the waters of Manukau at full tide, the forms of the mudflats/sand at low tide, and also the historic fisheries of this area which were traditionally harvested and celebrated at particular points within the Maramataka Māori (Māori calendar)

Bernard’s work also symbolises the principle of manaakitanga in terms of reflecting the ability to provide local delicacy foods for the provision of manaaki to visiting groups.



The unaunahi carving pattern on the internal balustrades of the bridge is inspired by fish scales, Bernard Makoare (Ngāti Whatua o Kaipara).



The gateway bridge at night.

MAHI TOI CREATIVE FEATURES

Carver Ted Ngataki (Ngāti Tamaoho) was appointed to create a wayfinding pou. This non-traditional vertical artwork stands approximately 2m tall and comprises a series of carved timber panels.

This standalone artwork allows visitors to navigate Taumanu and the surrounding landscape from a Māori perspective, celebrating the layers of mana whenua that reach out from this location.

As well as drawing from traditional histories provided by Mana Whenua, the artwork incorporates modern elements from the direct landscape such as the transmission pylons and State Highway, also speaking to the reclamation process which created Taumanu.

The final position of the wayfinding Pou was robustly discussed with both the Artist and Mana Whenua, in the end being positioned to best fit the overall design of Taumanu.

Inspired by the regular engagement with Mana Whenua the design team looked for additional opportunities to increase the degree of “Aotearoaness” in the design. Included in these design outcomes are subtle interventions such as :

- The perforations within the concrete bridge piers which have been designed to evoke the form of punga (traditional anchor stones);
- On the leeward side of the bridge, the cladding integrates with the steel truss to form an abstraction of the wind-blown flax that once grew on the coast and the baskets, nets, ropes and trade that made life possible there.
- The exposed basalt aggregate panels that define the bridge embankments reference the local volcanic crater Te Hōpua a Rangī.



Wayfinding pou carved by Mana Whenua artist, Ted Ngataki (Ngāti Tamaoho)

TAIAO RESTORING MAURI

Taumanu's design restores a coastal edge heavily impacted by the development of SH20. The design was based on studies of the original coastline and its natural character, form and function. This has resulted in a more resilient shoreline, that meets the natural dynamics of this highly active coastal environment. Taumanu adopts natural systems including beaches and coastal planting as a soft-engineering approach to the management of tidal and storm flows.

Extensive planting of native species serve both to provide amenity, and boost local ecology. The land and wetland plantings also provide habitat for a range of native fauna that disappeared when the original coastal edge was lost to SH20.

The sandy beaches on the site and rocky headlands provide habitats for shore birds such as Tuturiwhatu (Dotterel), Torea (Oystercatcher) and Poaka (Pied Stilt), and the headlands provide roosting sites for Kawau (Black Shag) and Karoro (Black Backed Gull).

Another traditional name for the Manukau Harbour is 'he manu kau noa iho' - 'only birds'. This name relates to kōrero dating to the original crossing of Tainui waka over the Ōtāhuhu portage, when the crew realised that what they had initially thought to be human voices were the cries of the multitudes of seabirds feeding on the edge of the moana.

The presence of the human element is also a key component of Mauri. The restored connection to the Manukau and the coastal edge importantly provides facilities and amenity that bring the public to this place, to relax, to be active and to enjoy a formerly lost part of Auckland. Equally, Taumanu provides ample opportunity for Mana Whenua to engage with their physical and cultural landscapes and affirm their connection to this place.



The restored coastal environment and native planting once again provides habitat for shore birds and native fauna that disappeared when SH20 was constructed.



The restored connection to the Manukau and the coastal edge provides amenity that bring people back too, reaffirming the connection to place.

LESSONS LEARNT

Mana Whenua Engagement

A much greater degree of early engagement with Mana Whenua by the project team and client would have enabled stronger working relationships. It would have achieved greater efficiency in reaching agreements on issues significant to Mana Whenua, in particular concerns over reclamation and environmental remediation.

This oversight meant it was necessary for the entire project team to invest time and resource to developing the necessary relationships with Mana Whenua after the initial concept had been done. This resulted in delays to the resource consenting and ultimately to the build programme, which incurred additional cost.

The value of informed and experienced local designers

The design team for Taumanu Reserve contains a number of very senior designers with significant experience within Tāmaki Makaurau.

This meant that despite the lack of early engagement, the design team had enough experience and foresight to allow space in their initial concept design to accommodate input from Mana Whenua.

The design team were able to work with broader Māori environmental values and weave these into the conceptual design for Taumanu Reserve from the outset, which were strengthened following engagement from Mana Whenua. Incorporating Mana Whenua narratives and history gave the design a richness and sense of place that otherwise may not have been fully developed.



Earlier engagement with Mana Whenua would have enabled stronger working relationships and greater efficiency



The Auckland Design Manual is a fantastic free resource that's been created to help you through your design concept and development phase. It's a practical guide that sits alongside the Unitary Plan. If the Unitary Plan is your rule book, think of the Design Manual as your how to guide - helping you to visualise what you can build in Auckland.

The Design Manual will help you to avoid expensive mistakes by giving you the information you need up front, so that you are well-informed and know how to ask the right questions.

The Design Manual can support you at the following key stages in your development process:

- Inspiration for what you could build on your site
- Understanding the rules
- Writing your brief
- Developing a design
- Hiring your design and build team

Go to aucklanddesignmanual.co.nz to find out more