

Te Ara o Te Whai – Mangawhai Shared Path | PHASE 2

About the concept design and artwork

Te Uri o Hau environs group worked with Kaipara District Council staff, Resilio Design Studio, and the Mangawhai wayfinding group to integrate and reflect Māori design principles on the boardwalk section of shared path.

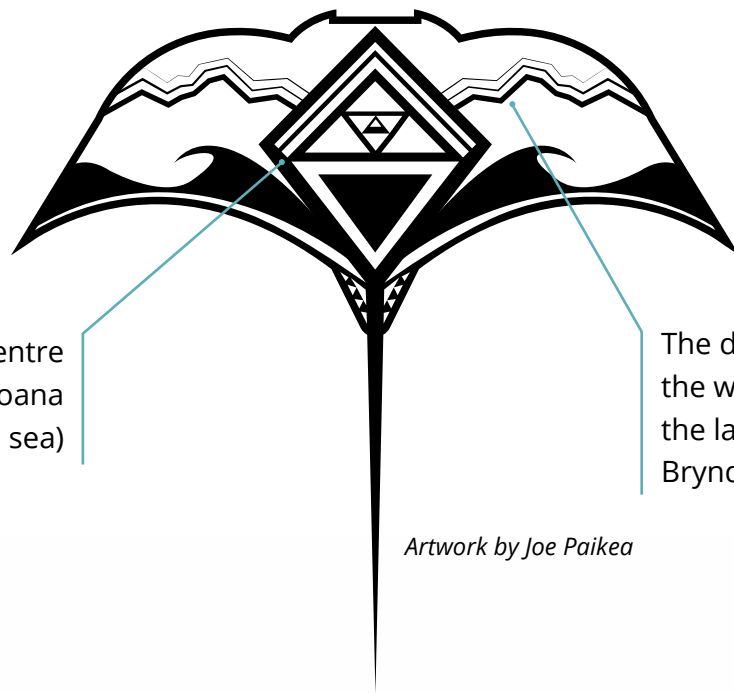
Kotahitanga | Together as one

The unique position of the boardwalk represents the joining of the two Mangawhai areas, the Village and the Heads.

A te reo Māori name – Te Ara o Te Whai – has been gifted by Te Uri o Hau for this section of the shared path. The name Te Ara o Te Whai has three dimensions or reference points – The pathway of the stingray; the pathway of the Chief; and the pathway of pursuit. The name also extends to encompass the Backbay boardwalk (built by the Mangawhai Trackies).

The concept of te whai (the stingray) is overarching. At the northern entrance of the boardwalk, a tohu te whai (stencil of a stingray) is engraved in the path. The artwork is by a local artist, Joe Paikea.

The overall design of the stencil incorporates and reflects the interconnectedness of the environment through ki uta ki tai – from the mountains to the sea. This is a traditional concept acknowledging the need to look after the whole environment.



The tāniko design in the centre is a representation of Aramoana (pathway to the sea)

The designs across the top of the whai (stingray) represent the land in the form of the Brynderwyn ranges

Artwork by Joe Paikea

Elsewhere, the movement of the whai (stingray) is seen in the undulation of the balustrade around the fishing platform.



Artwork by Resilio Studio

Many elements of the boardwalk reflect the mahinga kai (natural resources) of Mangawhai, especially from the estuary environment the boardwalk traverses. As well as whai (stingray), pātiki (flounder) and pārore are seen in the boardwalk design.

The fishing platform, located in the middle of the boardwalk over Tara Creek takes on the fin shape from the ika (fish) species found in the estuary.



The smaller balusters also symbolise the spines of the various ika (fish) species. Schools of ika (fish) are engraved as recessed crosses along the boardwalk. The names of fish are anodised into parts of the boardwalk.

At the southern side a pou representing te upoko o te ika (head of the fish) will be carved and installed at a later date.

Mai i te Upoko o te Ika, ki te Hiku o te Ika – from the head of the fish to the tail of the fish.

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