



WAITANGI REGIONAL PARK  
WAITANGI ESTUARY ENHANCEMENT VISION DOCUMENT  
WEAVING HISTORIES

Tangaroa a mua, tāngata ki muri • If Tangaroa is abundant, the people will thrive



*Waitangi Regional Park is a waharoa for Heretaunga*

*It represents the convergence of many things:*

*The landing point of Takitimu waka for Ngati Kahungunu, the coming together of fresh and salt water, mana whenua and missionary William Colenso.*

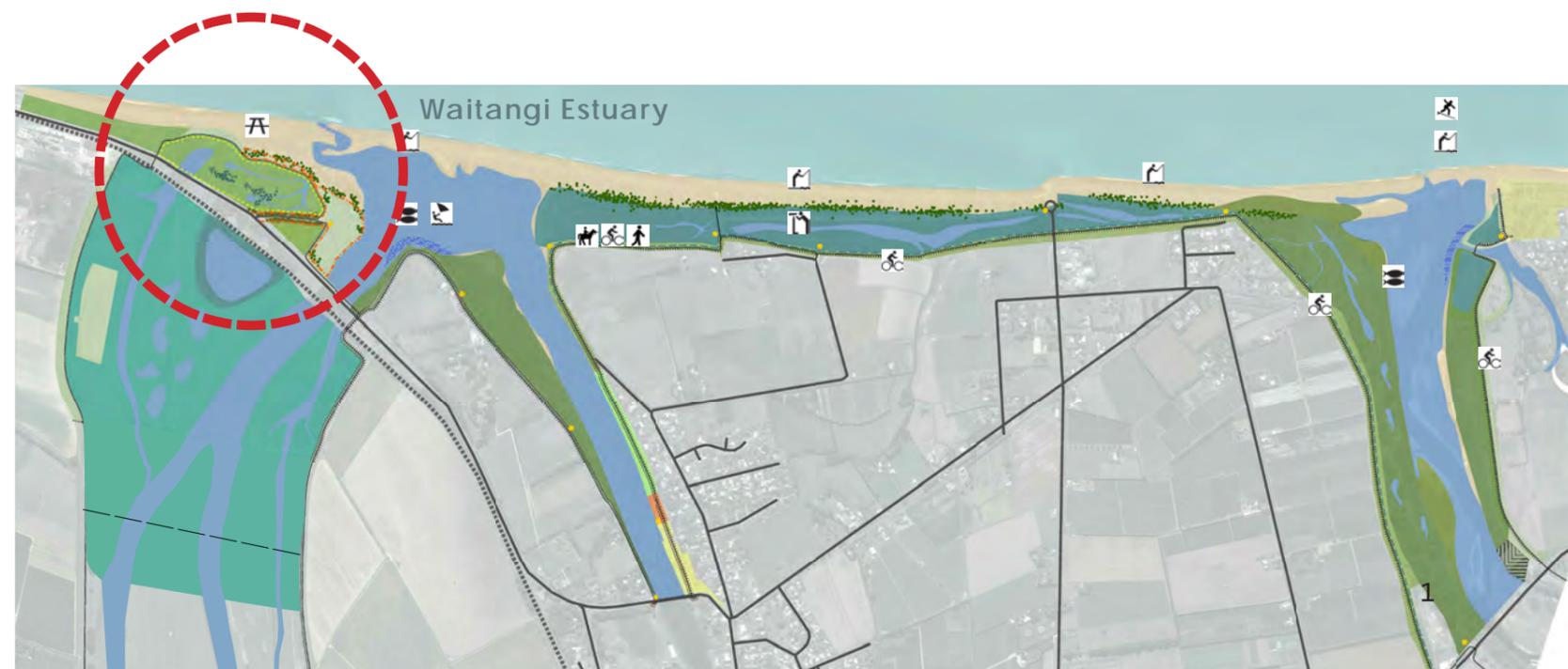
## Waitangi Regional Park

### Waitangi Estuary Enhancement Vision Statement

The vision for the estuary is to improve ecological function and re-establish the lost narrative between post-colonisation Maori and Pakeha who called these shores home and to have a significant ecological & historical site that is used respectfully. Currently this park is severed by flooding stop banks, SH2 and the railway line and suffers from inappropriate use.

The objectives for this project are:

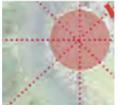
- to reconnect both sides of site, physically, spiritually and culturally, reconnecting the stories of place;
- to educate the public about environmental needs as well as stories of Maori and Pakeha, including Ngati Kahungunu and William Colenso footprints;
- to provide information for the natural landscape, including estuaries, mahinga kai practices and habitats for species; and
- To recreate wetland and indigenous vegetative habitats appropriate for the site that improve ecological function.







## Key

-  Habitat enhancement zones
-  Mahinga kai zones
-  Proposed parklands (both native and exotic species linking to Colenso's love of botany)
-  Natural vegetation enhancement to draw bird life back into these areas
-  Navigational points of celestial compass identified and enhanced through vegetation corridors and views towards compass
-  Open outward views
-  Primary arterial cycle / pedestrian route
-  Secondary cycle and pedestrian network
-  Pedestrian only network (horseshoe connection)
-  Vehicle Movement
-  Central nodes
-  Key parking area including prominent fishing nodes
-  Site access nodes
-  Bird hides / viewing platform allows pedestrians to appreciate native flora and fauna

## Analysis Plan

Initially it was important to take stock of site and consider development areas / nodes as well as habitats for enhancement. Potential development areas included:

**Celestial Compass Site** - Set at high elevation to provide outward views and connect voyagers to the eastern horizon (as done while traversing the moana) and raise structure above floodplain.

**William Colenso Memorial Site** - This includes both an abstracted Whare structure developed out of pou-whenua, pou-tahu, pou-tokomanawa, pou-tuarongo and wayfinding pou designed to educate users of the interactions between Maori and Missionaries. The site design also incorporates planting below the memorial to reflect Colenso's love of botany and his contributions to botany in New Zealand, Aotearoa despite his chequered history.

**Site entrance** - To make it apparent from the SH2 that Waitangi Regional Park is a destination rather than something to drive past. This includes wayfinding signage to slow traffic and a long shoulder to allow easy access into site from the 100kph zone.

**Fishing** - Provide managed access for fishermen to the ocean and estuary mouth (through Waitangi Regional Park, especially the primary arrival area) for whitebaiting, fishing kahawai, mullet etc allowing the practice of Mahinga kai to continue on site.

**Ecology / natural environment** - Enhance the natural environment of Waitangi Regional Park through revegetative plantings, bank stabilisations, water filtrations to create habitat for native flora and fauna. This includes bird species such as Bittern, Kotuku, Pied Stilt and other Napier based shore birds, and aquatic species such as Inanga.

The following concept illustrates these woven histories and explores opportunities for their enhancement.

# Waitangi Estuary Concept Plan



## Key

-  Site entrance, prominent fishermen access to estuary mouth
-  Visitor parking
-  Proposed Celestial Compass / linking to navigation
-  William Colenso Memorial Site
-  Pedestrian access only to Horseshoe Wetland
-  Beach access. Important access point for fishermen. Restricts 4x4
-  Proposed Botanical Parklands - native / exotics selected to reflect Colenso's love of Botany
-  Proposed planting Horseshoe Wetland
-  Viewsheds developed along each axis of the compass and continue through site to visually connect the Celestial Compass with the wider site context. This is seen north - south, east - west orientations etc
-  Proposed cycle bridge adjacent to existing vehicular crossing
-  Kirs Jensen memorial - viewing platform / seating (to be enhanced in consultation)
-  Proposed seating made of materials that were readily available during the colonial New Zealand era
-  Proposed pou whenua create wayfinding along points of the compass connecting site
-  Proposed mixed level planting suitable for wetland / estuarine environment
-  Ti Kouka trees link to Hawke's Bay landscape
-  Swathes of low lying species
-  Rock found on site used to reinforce stop-bank linking to prevalent materials of site and to prevent 4x4 vehicles from driving along coast
-  Existing planting clusters to retain including Ngaio and Ti kouka



## Concept Plan

This plan represents the vision for the Waitangi Estuary within Waitangi Regional Park. A holistic approach of re-vegetation is proposed as well as a focus on key activity nodes to draw people into the site. It was important to ensure key nodes talk to each other and link through visual permeability and cycle / pedestrian (discovery trail) connections.

Activity nodes are between the William Colenso Memorial and Botanical Parklands, the Celestial Compass. These themes represent the coming together of Maori and Pakeha missionaries during the tumultuous colonisation period. Colenso was the first missionary to move south from the Far North and made efforts to engage with mana whenua. It is important to recognise his contribution to the area and New Zealand, Aotearoa as a whole on site. This includes notions from his time as a printer in Russell, printing pamphlets as well as the first translated bible for Maori, furthering the missionaries reach.

Waka landings along this coastline were prominent and reflected the importance of passage over water for Maori and Pakeha alike. The proposed Celestial Compass further reflects the Waitangi Estuary as an important navigation location. The Waka Experience Charitable Trust have shown interest in using the proposed compass for practice and education before voyages. This proposal is similar to the Doubtless Bay Case Study, illustrated on page 13, however we propose a hard surface base to make the compass available in all weather and mitigate erosion due to its elevation.

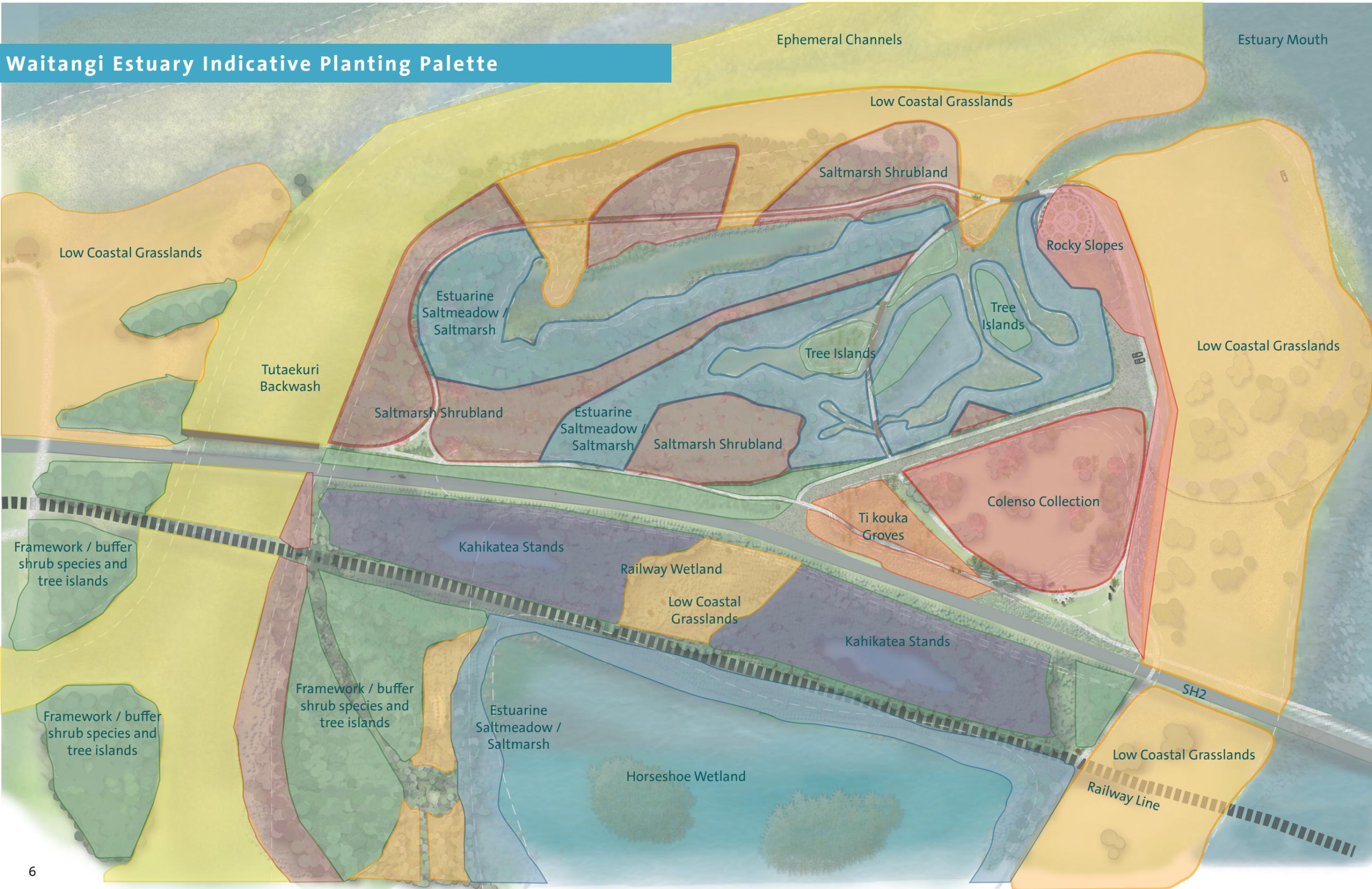
Overall, this concept plan weaves together the historical and contemporary needs of the people of this area, including providing beach access to users such as fishermen to create a landscape that reflects the unique identity of this place and accommodate its users.



Waitangi Regional Park site visit 2015



# Waitangi Estuary Indicative Planting Palette



## Indicative species lists

### Low Coastal Grasslands

Oioi (*Apodasmia similis*)  
 Hinarepe (*Austrofestuca littoralis*)  
 Knobby club rush, wiwi (*Isolepis nodosa*)  
 Sand tussock (*Poa Billardierei*)  
 Meadow grass (*Poa cita*)



### Framework /buffer shrub species and tree islands

Mikimiki (*Coprosma propinqua*)  
 Taupata (*Coprosma repens*)  
 Ti kouka (*Cordyline australis*)  
 Karaka (*Corynocarpus laevigatus*)  
 Akeake (*Dodonaea viscosa*)  
 Puka (*Griselinia lucida*)  
 Northern rata (*Metrosideros robusta*)\*  
 Tororaro (*Muehlenbeckia astonii*) +  
 Ngaio (*Myoporum laetum*)  
 Akiraho (*Olearia paniculata*)  
 Coastal tree daisy (*Olearia solandri*)  
 Tauhinu (*Ozothamnus leptophyllus*)  
 Harakeke (*Phormium tenax*)  
 Karo (*Pittosporum crassifolium*) +  
 Poroporo (*Solanum aviculare*)



\* Potential to trial. + Naturalised nearby but not native to HB

### Saltmarsh Shrubland

Taupata (*Coprosma repens*)\*  
 Coastal Tree Daisy (*Olearia solandri*)\*  
 Harakeke (*Phormium tenax*)\*  
 Saltmarsh ribbonwood (*Plagianthus divaricatus*)



\* Landward of ribbonwood

### Estuarine Saltmeadow / Saltmarsh

Oioi (*Apodasmia similis*)  
 Marsh club rush (*Bolboshoenus fluviatilis*)  
 Sea sedge (*Carex litorosa*)\*  
 Bachelor's button (*Cotula coronopifolia*)  
 Wiwi, Sea rush (*Juncus maritimus*)  
 Kuawa (*Schoenoplectus validus*)

\* At risk species. In groups to outcompete.



### Dry Channels

Hinarepe, Sand Tussock (*Austrofestuca littoralis*)  
 Mikimiki (*Coprosma propinqua*)  
 Knobby club rush, wiwi (*Isolepis nodosa*)  
 Manuka (*Leptospermum scoparium*)\*  
 Pohuehue (*Muehlenbeckia complexa*)  
 Ngaio (*Myoporum laetum*)\*  
 Coastal shrub daisy (*Olearia solandri*)\*  
 Meadow grass (*Poa cita*)  
 Harakeke (*Phormium tenax*)

\* Assumes infrequent (less than 5 year) flood flows



### Ti kouka Groves

Hinapere, Sand tussock (*Austrofestuca littoralis*)  
 Taupata (*Coprosma repens*)  
 Ti kouka (*Cordyline australis*)  
 Tororaro (*Muehlenbeckia astonii*)  
 Harakeke (*Phormium tenax* spp.)



### Diverse rocky slope

Scattered amongst rock:  
 Native celery (*Apium prostratum*)  
 Hinapere, Sand tussock (*Austrofestuca littoralis*)  
 Shore binweed (*Calystegia soldanella*)  
 Sand coprosma (*Coprosma acerosa*)  
 Horokaka, NZ Ice Plant (*Disphyma australe*)

\* Recommend diverse planting to see what takes hold and then support these by propagating.



### Kahikatea stands

Kahikatea (*Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*)



### Colenso Collection

Close associations:

*Colensoa physaloides*:

Densely branched shrub up to 1 x 1 m similar to gooseberry, with purple flowers. Coastal / lowland forest. Often along stream sides, in half-shade. Fast growing

**Only genus named after Colenso – potentially once widespread on mainland but now an at risk declining species**

*Brachyglottis greyi*:

Hardy where it is warm and dry, in coastal areas. Sprawling bushes of highly attractive foliage. Greyish foliage, brilliant yellow daisy-flowers

**From Colenso wanderings in the Wairarapa - Cape Palliser, now a favourite horticultural plant in gardens. At risk species**

*Carmichaelia nana*:

Dwarf, spreading shrub, 20-60 mm tall, 0.5 m wide. Lowland to alpine. Inhabiting stable but alluvial river beds, moraines, shingle slopes

**Dwarf species of NZ broom Central North Island discovery. At risk declining species**

*Olearia colensoi* var. *colensoi*:

Bushy leathery shrub forming impenetrable thickets

**Not threatened – may be at risk from high temperatures as occurs only in the south on the coast**

Other species of note include:

*Phormium tenax* spp:

Including cultivars such as Kauhanganaroa, Takaiapu, Tapoto and Te Mata, all Hawkes Bay cultivars

**To include *Phormium colensoi* (now *cookianum*) Strong association with weaving cultures, Colenso would also sometimes use woven harakeke baskets to hold specimens during his trips with Maori guides**

*Clianthus puniceus*:

Attractive Kaka beak. Cliffs and stream sides, subject to sun but with cool roots. Rapid growing and short-lived. Avoid goats and cattle

**Threatened nationally critical. Restricted to East coast of north island**

*Pomaderris apetala* subsp. *Maritime*:

4m shrub with yellow flowers. Favours windshorn coastal forest and scrub

**2012 - Threatened - Nationally critical. Naturalised around Napier**

# Cross Section 1



Location Map



**A** William Colenso Botanical Parkland with vegetation selected to reflect his interest in botany and discoveries in the 1900s

Soft grassy slope

+4m Arrival area to Waitangi Regional Park. Vehicular access into site, carparking, seating

Cycle network

Soft slope up to celestial compass

33m - Celestial Compass / navigational site, including wayfinding pou

Stop bank

Cycle network

Stop bank

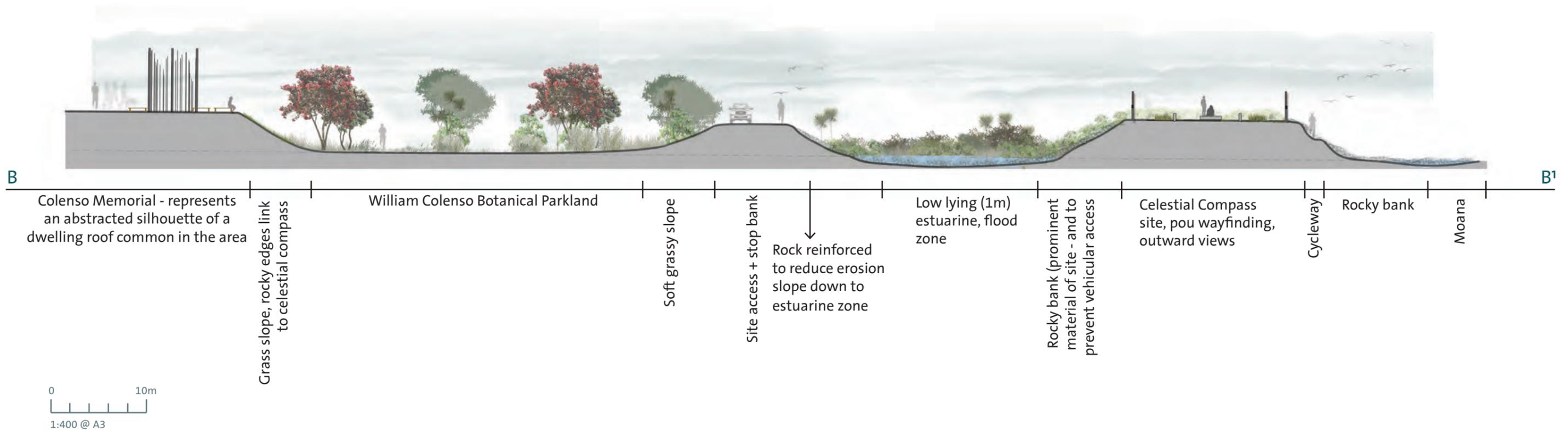
Low lying coastal zone **A'**

0 7.5m  
1:250 @ A3

# Cross Section 2



Location Map



# Indicative simulation



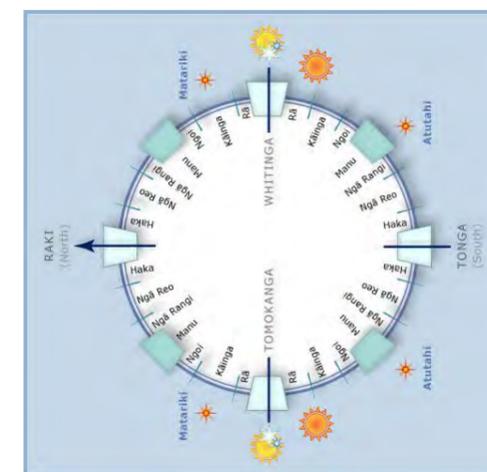
Artist impression only.  
Pou design to be confirmed.

# Celestial Compass Site



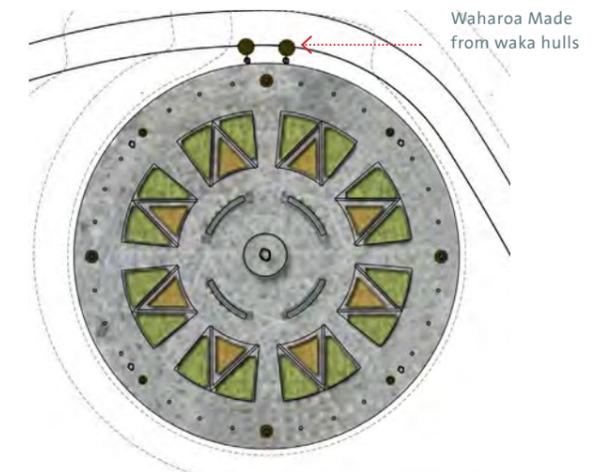
## Key

1. Coastal grass
2. Celestial compass designed to reflect the site as an important navigational landscape with the arrival of waka, including takitimu, and William Colenso, missionary
3. Low lying bank stabilizing planting between compass and carpark.
4. Proposed carpark, including room for bus turn around
5. Grassy slope offering outlook towards William Colenso Botanical Parkland and Memorial
6. Cycleway connection
7. Mixed level stabilisation planting along bank. Generally low lying / shrub to offer outward views towards moana
8. Temporal estuarine zone. Rocky surface to allow filtration and accommodate flooding events
9. Mixed level habitat islands. Native species including Ngaio, Harakeke and Grass species
10. Boardwalks connecting habitat islands to wider circulation network and offering the user different perspectives and environments as they pass through site
11. Proposed pedestrian / cycleway connecting estuarine environment with wider site context - Limestone surface used to match with existing cycleways



**Te Kapehu Whetū - The Maori Star Compass**

Rāwiri Taonui. 'Canoe navigation - Ocean voyaging', *Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand*, updated 15-Nov-12 URL: <http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/diagram/2222/maori-star-compass>



Proposed design of Celestial Compass. Input appreciated from Mana Whenua Ngati Kahungunu. Approx 33m dia. 32 carved poles, ranging in height from 1.7-2.5m, at the responsibility Te Matau a Māui Voyaging Trust / iwi

## William Colenso Memorial Site



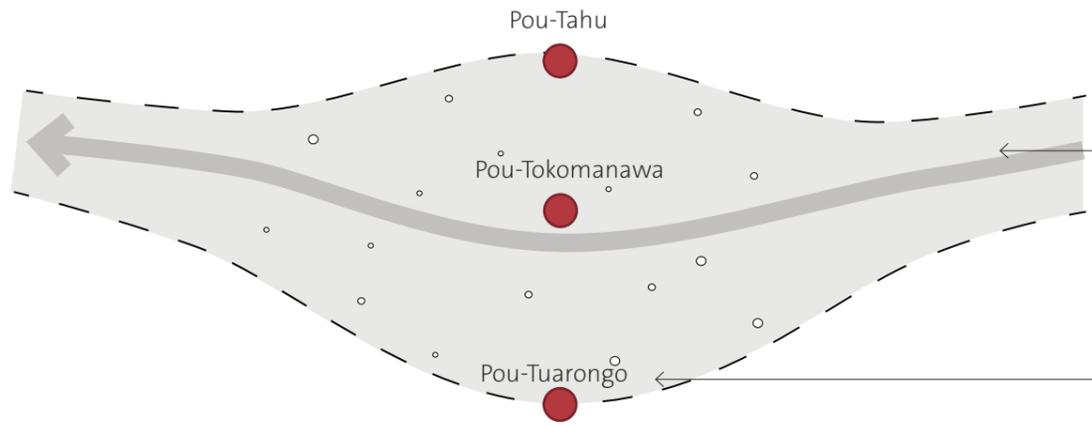
### Key

1. Mown grass parkland
2. Specimen clusters within parkland representing William Colenso and his botanical interests ( both native and exotic species to reflect English roots and New Zealand)
3. Proposed post and rail fence separating pastoral land from vehicles
4. Rock reinforced stop bank made from locally sourced materials
5. Primary cycle arterial route
6. Secondary cycle / pedestrian link. Provides pause through Colenso Memorial
7. William Colenso Memorial. Abstracted structure made from linear pou. Connects visually to Celestial Compass on the other side of the stop bank. Design represents materials available to both Maori and Pakeha at the time Colenso settled this area.
8. Low lying swaths of grasses, mono species.
9. Railway Wetland plantings. Mixed level mass plantings, predominantly Kahikatea stands
10. Pedestrian access under SH2 to Horseshoe Wetland and bird hides

### Abstracted Structure

The following page depicts possible spatial arrangement for Pou, forming the silhouette of whare from different elevations. Further design exploration can be undertaken after discussion with council and stakeholders.

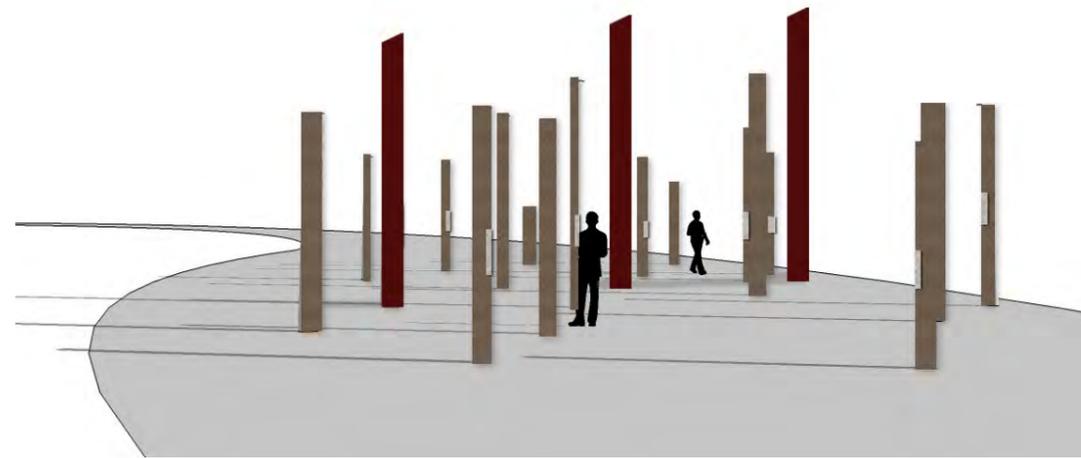
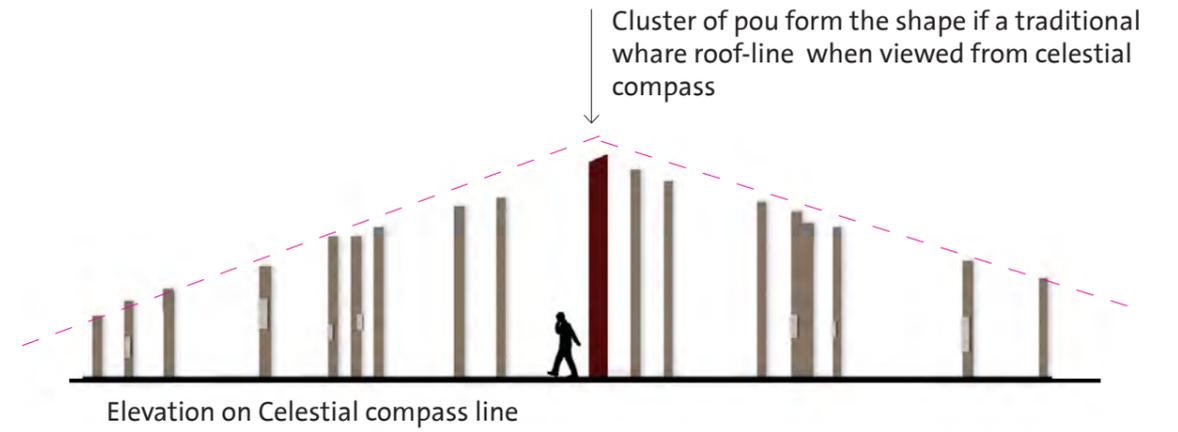
# Abstracted Structure views



Path widens at cluster of pou, an informal path is created through the pou

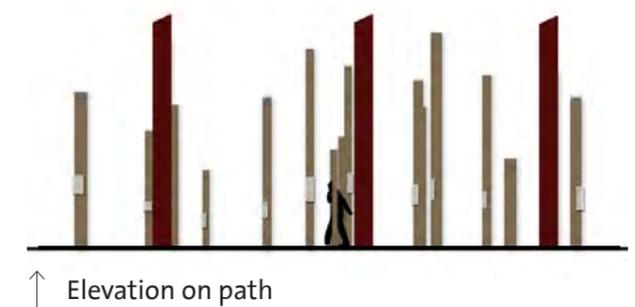
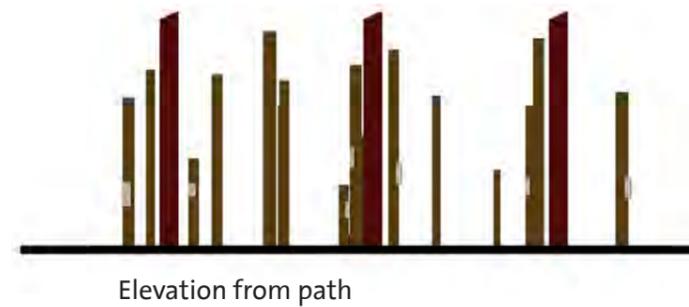
Main pou in this instillation represent central pou in meeting houses and will be the tallest points with smaller pou lower to form a roof outline

Plan



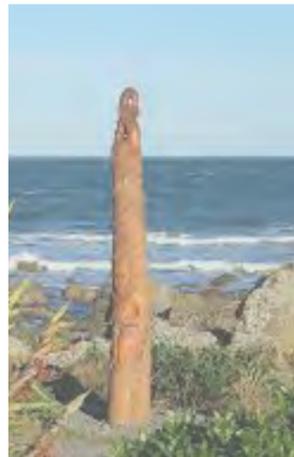
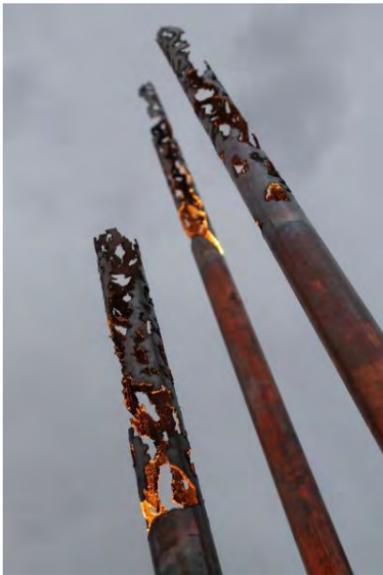
Cluster of pou provide a sense of shelter and enclosure

Perspective



Repetition of element references  
Colenso's influence in the printing industry in New Zealand

# Design Detail Precedents



POU WHENUA / WAYFINDING

BOLLARDS

ENTRANCE



## Doubtless Bay Case Study



Images Source: P. Smith, Waka Experience, Te Matau a Māui Voyaging Trust

Designed to aid navigational practices on land, these pou are representative of traditional Maori practice and tikanga for navigation. The location of pou allows you to see stars rising on the eastern horizon, an important aspect for navigation.

There are also opportunities to teach younger generations of these protocols through educational days for schools and community groups

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