

# **Te Kanohi O Te Manu**

## *The Eye of The Bird*

*A vision of nature that shares nature's vision*

*Te Kanohi O Te Manu* is a steel sculpture of a native bird, featuring a viewing platform within its head and a slide within its body that exits across its tail. It is a proposal for an interactive play sculpture for the Hobsonville Point Coastal Park that encourages an awareness of the wildlife who call it their habitat and home.

### THE BIRD

The species of bird selected is the Pied Shag. It is also known as pied cormorant, kāruhiruhi, kawau, yellow-faced cormorant, and large pied shag.

It is native to the wetlands / estuary environment of New Zealand and specifically to the Hobsonville Point Coastal Park.

The natural movements of this bird, as it rests along the shoreline, include a powerfully iconic, beautiful pose as it turns its head looking outwards. It has strong legs with broad flippers which are often crossed when standing, providing a good structural base for the work. Its long back and tail feathers are the perfect angle for a slide.

### THE VIEW

Standing almost ten metres in height the platform at the top of the work will offer a view equal to that of a three story building.

It will give the public a “birds eye view” of their journey along the walkway. They can enjoy the vision of the past and present, seeing where they came from and where they are yet to go.

### THE SLIDE

A timeless and universal icon of play, the slide offers a primal experience of fun and adventure. It perfectly integrates and compliments the natural form and structural materials of the work.

*Te Kanohi Te Manu* has a journey, a narrative of its own that engages the public from a distance and rewards them for their curiosity. It encourages interaction as an interruption providing an exciting moment of mata that gives a valid and fun “cause for pause”.

The public are able to view the work from within the environment and then view the environment from within the work.

We envisage the following moments being common narrative that people would share on experiencing the work...

## **TIME LINE OF EXPERIENCE**

### **FIRST CATCHES THE EYE**

Enjoying the coastal walkway you come around the point and across the bay, just above the coastline. You see a tall shining form. Its metallic surface catches the Auckland sun and glints like a shiny pebble against the tree line behind. You realise that the structure stands along the walkway and that soon your paths will cross. You are filled with a sense of anticipation for this new distraction on your journey...

### **CURIOSITY**

Approaching the structure you become more curious as to what it is. Suddenly your children recognise it as a giant bird. There is a sense of excitement as your walking party draws closer and your children's joy and enthusiasm enhance your compulsion to approach and engage.

### **EXPLORATION**

The children now want to run ahead. They see other children sliding out of the giant bird across its shiny tail feather. You arrive at the majestic sculpture and begin to appreciate the craftsmanship and obvious skill used to create it. On closer inspection you find a stairwell within the sculpture and, whilst holding your child's hand, you begin to climb up into its body...

### **INTERACTION AND PLAY**

From the viewing platform within the head of the giant bird your party shares the vision of the walkway and the ocean. The beauty of the environment, combined with the recognition of previous landmarks, provide a purposeful moment of reflective contemplation and satisfying achievement. You share this with the children, answering their questions and pointing out where you came from on your journey and where you are still to go...

You then climb down from the viewing platform and slide down the back of the bird in a safe enclosed slide that has you arrive again at the giant birds feet, exhilarated. Your children are begging to have another turn....

## MEMORY: THE LASTING VISION

*Te Kanohi Te Manu* will offer a moment of mata - a moment of vision - that is powerfully cross-cultural and intergenerational. This work is not just about the moments that we experience individually but the moments that we share together. It celebrates the moments that we take away and hold within in our hearts and minds as treasured memories. These will become memories that bond us with our loved ones and our land for a lifetime.

## CONCLUDING COMMENTS

*Te Kanohi Te Manu* will be an experience that will live on in “the minds eye” as a wonderful story that can be told and retold, lived and relived, as all good memories yearn to be.

As well as sharing the experience by word of mouth, the camera lens has become “the eye of the people” in our contemporary society. It is the medium that will capture and share the narrative of *Te Kanohi Te Manu* across the world. The iconic form of the giant shining bird is a strongly branded image of New Zealand and also the Hobsonville area, giving a subtle, artistic nod to its history and the giant metal birds that once were there...









9.50

3.00