

# New treasure at Lake Waikaremoana

**Sue Russell**

An impressive beautifully crafted architecturally designed and thoroughly appropriate new addition to the resources of Tuhoe hapu will soon open its doors on the shores of Lake Waikaremoana.

Work on Te Wharehou O Waikaremoana began December 2015 and the \$6.5 million build being undertaken by construction company Arrow International, will take 12 months to complete.

According to tribal delegate Lorna Taylor planning is starting to get underway for the necessary blessings and subsequent celebrations when the big day arrives on December 23.

“We will have a special ceremony, when our Kaumatua bless the building.

“This will mean visitors can be received inside and the building’s life has begun. Tuhoe are excited and are preparing to be host to approximately 3000 manuhiri ,” Lorna explains.

Te Wharehou will be home to the Waikaremoana Tribal Authority offices and will also act as a learning/sharing resource as well as a place where Tuhoe taonga (resources/treasures) can be experienced.

The project is just one of five tribal priorities which have arisen since Tuhoe reached settlement with the Crown in 2013.

Lorna’s daughter, Oriwia Taylor who carries the roles of project coordinator and tribal authority financial administrator and communicator agrees with her mother’s sentiments.

She says there is renewed interest from within the tribal organisations leadership to connect with and encourage ideas from younger Iwi members, the ranatahi.

“Our role in the office is to encourage the ranatahi such as teenagers to express their opinions.

“We then try to activate them by involving the ranatahi as much as possible.”

Planning for Te Wharehou began over two years ago with lots of discussion with stakeholders, including Rangatahi (youth) to gain their input as to what they thought the building should be used for.



**Te Wharehou will be home to the Waikaremoana Tribal Authority offices and will also act as a learning/sharing resource.**

“We wanted to follow the philosophies of the Living Building Challenge, which were applied to Tuhoe’s Kura Whare in Taneatua,” says Oriwia.

She says the inspiration for the building’s design was drawn from “our ancestors, our history, our songs, stories, and the beautiful environment of

Lake Waikaremoana and its surrounds.”

“Ko au ko Waikaremoana, ko Waikaremoana ko au. I am Waikaremoana and Waikaremoana is me”

“The architects have really tried to capture how we as a people feel about the environment.

“When you look at the building from a distance it

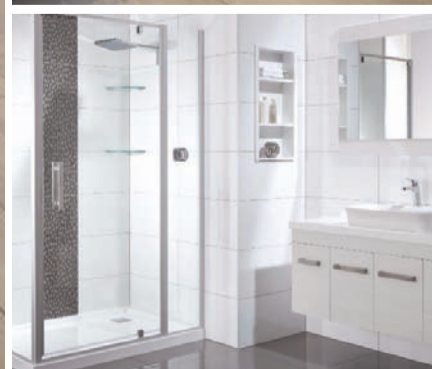
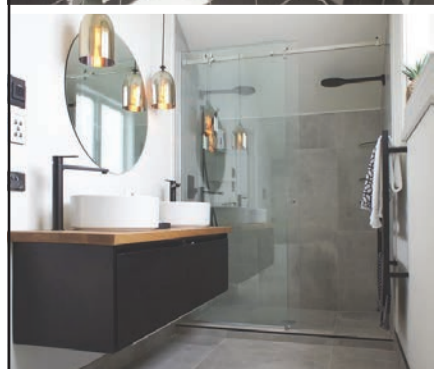
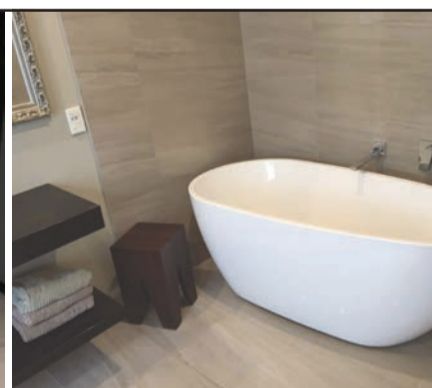
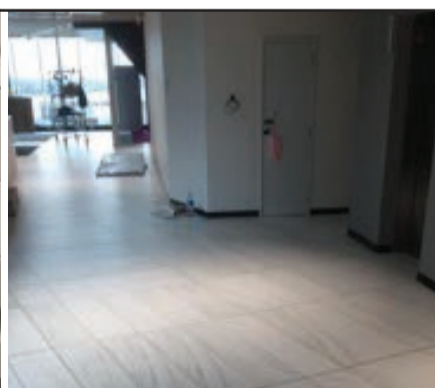
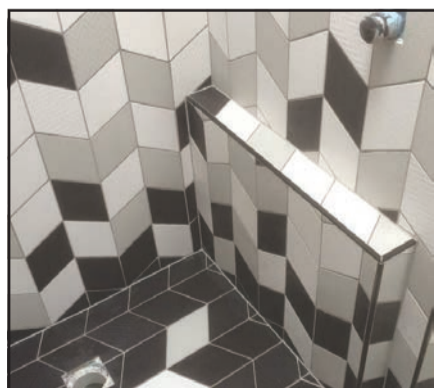
fits in to the landscape with its shape, flow and the large amount of timber used throughout.”

When asked to describe the standout features of the 40 metre long curved building Oriwia says the colour steel roof with its concave shape is beautiful.

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## Techlam has the answer

Techlam NZ produces a range of glulam timber products including portals, beams, bridges and laminated posts out of its impressive 6000 M2 production facility in Levin.

Sales Manager for the past four years, Nathan Simmons, describes the company's range of glulam products as outstanding, and their uses practically limitless especially when applied to architecturally inspired iconic builds, such as Te Wharehou at Lake Waikaremoana, the new upgrade and extension at Wellington International Airport and Queenstown's six-star Matakauri Lodge.

"Glulam products bring significant benefits to large-scale projects demanding high-end quality consistently. They are also often the most cost-effective solution," Nathan says.

Compared with other material commonly used in construction, such as concrete and steel, glulam timber manufacture uses less energy causing a significantly smaller environmental footprint.

As is the case with Te Wharehou at Lake Waikaremoana the large-scale use of timber combined with the curved wall and mono-pitched raking curved roof contour gives the building a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

"We were able to prefabricate the main portal frame roof structures at the factory, stain each section and deliver it on site to assemble, guaranteeing an efficient and cost-effective building process for the Waikaremoana Tribal Authority who commissioned the project," Nathan says.

Techlam NZ was also commissioned on behalf of principal Hawkins Construction to manufacture large 'X' shaped structural columns and ceiling beams on the extensions to the South West pier of Wellington Airport.

"Wellington airport show-cases an impressive

use of timber and given this country's proud forestry heritage its use on this scale seems fitting. While glulam timber is aesthetically pleasing it is increasingly being seen as an appropriate structural element."

Techlam NZ is currently supplying beams for an impressive 52m pedestrian Bridge in two sections.

Given the size of the bridge beams, the process has really shown the team work in the plant, with one whole 70 metre bay in the factory devoted to the production of the bridge components.

When Business North spoke with Nathan early August, completion of the beams was two or three weeks away.

"We have New Zealand's largest dedicated glulam manufacturing plant and this project is a great example of just what we can construct inside it."

Nathan says the company is on a continual growth path. He says that a core strength of Techlam's capability lies in the ability to shift two dimensional paper-based designs to three-dimensional form.

"Our mechanical presses can be arranged to make custom and often complex curved shapes."

Techlam NZ began operating in 1992 and from humble beginnings, producing curved archways has in the past two decades in particular evolved capability in relation to the changing needs of architects for use of timber in structurally and as statements in high-end design.

Examples of Techlam NZ's design solutions grace buildings throughout New Zealand, in the South Pacific and Australia.

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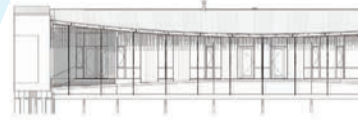
The building fits in to the landscape with its shape, flow and the large amount of timber used.



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Delighted to work with  
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on this special project

*A very impressive location for this  
Living Building Challenge*



## New treasure at Waikaremoana

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“Then there is the way chains will be bound around the polls coming down from the roof, so when it rains, the water from the roof will stream down these chains like waterfalls. It will be like the building is alive and part of nature when this happens,” says Oriwia.

Leading in from the front entrance on the right-hand end of the building will be the Wananga area where Lorna explains space will be given for visitors to ask questions about Tuhoe and the lake environment they hold stewardship over.

A large fire will counter the harsh winters the area is often subjected to.

“There will be a visitors area and retail space where bookings can be made and information about the various walks obtained.”

Te Wharehou O Waikaremoana is located next to the popular holiday park at the first entry point to the lake.

“Te Wharehou signals hope in the future and the change to bring that future to our people.

“It also signals a new relationship between Tuhoe and the outside community. Our chance to share with the world who we are,” Oriwia says.

A facebook page established in 2015 is already connecting Tuhoe from near and far to the project and its significance to Tuhoe.

“The pictures have reached well over 2000 people.

“It’s been a way of keeping them engaged in the builds activities and I am sure we will see many arrive from near or far to be part of the celebrations just before Christmas.”



*Proud contributors to, and  
landscape architects for,  
Te Wharehou o Waikaremoana.*



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## Piling specialist to the fore

On the shores of beautiful Lake Waikaremoana, Lattey Civil and Precast Ltd had its work cut out inserting screw piles nine metres deep and anchoring them into the sandstone beneath, for a building being constructed under the principles of the Living Building Challenge, which intends to produce examples of the highest level of environmental performance possible.

Lattey Civil and Precast has the experience and equipment to do all types of piling whether it’s driven, bored, sheet, or screwed, and is one of only a small number of contractors in New Zealand offering a full design and build screw piling service.

With 12 years of screw piling experience, Lattey Civil and Precast places a particular emphasis on specific initial design at tender stage, allowing it to provide fixed price quotations in most cases and remove cost escalation risks that have historically been a negative feature of the screw pile industry.

Te Wharehou o Waikaremoana, the new visitors centre, complete with ticketing, interpretation, café and kitchen, administration, retail, and wananga space, has been created by Ngai Tuhoe and the Department of Conservation, to serve visitors to Lake Waikaremoana and the Great Walk tracing 44km of its shoreline.

The project was undertaken using the principles of the Living Building and Community Challenge, a ground breaking

approach to sustainability which provides a framework for achieving energy, water, and waste neutral buildings.

It implemented maximum prefabrication to mitigate the risks and costs of building remotely, and where possible, used locally sourced materials and labour.

“A significant part of the project cost was in the piling, to ensure the building has a hundred-year life span and is able to survive a major earthquake” says Lattey civil construction director Mark Donnelly.

“There was also a lot of money spent on mitigating any environmental risk, because we had to prevent any run off from the building site into the lake. We used a lot of drainage and safety silt fences to make sure nothing got into the lake, even in heavy rain.”

Lattey Civil and Precast also completed the foundations, site works, roading, and at Lattey Civil and Precast’s yard in Hastings, made the six 15 ton precast concrete pou panels which support the draping roof of the building.

These were then transported to site and craned into place. They are reflective of Onepoto Bay’s massive limestone slabs and as carved pou representing the hapu and tipuna of Ngai Tuhoe.

Ngai Tuhoe worked closely with Lattey Civil and Precast, providing advice about the surrounding environment to help the company protect it as much as possible.



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