

# Waikaremoana build wins national award

TE KURA Whenua, the visitor centre and "living building" project developed by Ngai Tuhoe and designed by Tennent and Brown Architects has won a national architecture award.

The Ted McCoy Award for Education was presented to Te Kura Whenua representatives at the New Zealand Architecture Awards dinner at Auckland's Viaduct Events Centre on Friday.

It was one of 51 projects shortlisted in New Zealand's leading architecture awards programme this year and one of the 22 winners announced at the awards night.

Buildings in locations from the Bay of Islands to Queenstown were shortlisted in the 2017 New Zealand Architecture Awards, and visited by a jury led by Arrowtown architect Louise Wright and Auckland architects Lance Herbst and Jack McKinney, and Brisbane-based architect Kerry Clare.

Architects on the jury said: "Te Kura Whenua is the product of a holistic process in which sensitive design and considered siting are complemented by a strong commitment to sustainable principles.

"The building is an impressive expression of Ngai Tuhoe's identification with their land and its history, and an excellent medium for the transmission of knowledge about a place and its people to visitors from around the world."

Waikaremoana Tribal Authority general manager Waikare Kruger said after the living building at Opourau Bay was shortlisted for the New Zealand Architecture Awards in August, that Waikaremoana Tribal was thrilled to once again have a Tuhoe presence at Lake Waikaremoana through the new



□ The winner of the Ted McCoy Award for Education architecture Te Kura Whenua impressed the awards' jury who described it as "an impressive expression of Ngai Tuhoe's identification with their land and its history".

build, Te Kura Whenua — Paradise.

"Almost all who see the build are drawn to it — from there it usually leads to a chat about Tuhoe and Te Urewera.

"Since we moved into the build back in January, it's withstood three severe weather systems — including snow.

"Over the next year, our team is taking the time to learn how the build functions.

"We're also planning how we can

enhance the space with displays, events, and workshops for our marae-hapu community."

Buildings in the categories of housing, commercial, education and public architecture were considered for signature awards named for four influential New Zealand architects: Sir Ian Athfield, Sir Miles Warren, Ted McCoy and John Scott.

The building was finished in December 2016.

The late John Scott-designed and New Zealand Heritage-listed Aniwaniwa Visitor Centre was closed in 2008.

It was demolished by the Department of Conservation last year.

Significant elements from that building were incorporated into Te Kura Whenua.

