

Kaitiakitanga and Collaboration: Interpreting Nature and Culture in Auckland Zoo's Te Wao Nui



Background

Background text describing the context of the project, including the location and the significance of the Te Wao Nui area.

Te Wao Nui

Text describing the Te Wao Nui area, its history, and its importance to the local community.

Interpretation

Text describing the interpretation process, including the role of the community and the importance of cultural values.

Process

Text describing the process of the project, including the role of the community and the importance of cultural values.

The Challenge

Text describing the challenges faced during the project, including the need for collaboration and the importance of cultural values.

The Approach

Text describing the approach taken during the project, including the use of traditional knowledge and the importance of cultural values.

What's Next?

Text describing the future plans for the project, including the need for ongoing collaboration and the importance of cultural values.

Conclusion

Text describing the conclusion of the project, including the importance of collaboration and the role of the community.

Final Thoughts

Text describing the final thoughts on the project, including the importance of collaboration and the role of the community.

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- **Over 10 years planning**
- **Largest development (land and budget) in Zoo's history**
- **Celebration of in situ and ex situ NZ conservation work**
- **Flora > Fauna > Conservation**



Background

- **Over 100 native plant species**
- **Over 60 native animal species**
- **Six distinct habitats:**
 - The Coast - Takutai; The Islands - Moutere Rāhui;**
 - The Wetlands - Ngā Repo; The Night - Te Pō; The Forest -**
 - Te Wao Nui a Tāne; The High Country - Whenua Waotū**



Te Wao Nui

- **'Nature taking over'**
- **Art and object seen as key part of the story and the story telling**
- **Existing preconceptions about Maori culture due to project length and early consultants**
- **The Zoo wanted to challenge these, and be challenged**



Interpretation



- **Ngati Whatua involved throughout**
- **Interpretation consultants engaged**
- **Tuwao 'artists' brought on board**



Process



- **Where does culture fit in a Zoo exhibit?**
- **How does culture fit in a Zoo exhibit?**



The Challenge

- **Connections between all living things and conservation at the heart of the Zoo**
- **A future where people value wildlife, and species are safe from extinction**
- **Kaitiakitanga as a uniting concept**



The Approach



- **Kereru v. Kukupa**
- **Kaitiaki**
- **Stories through art**



What came next



- **Three key things; time, time and time!**
- **Policies and frameworks beneficial**



Learnings



- **Set our goals (what's our central story/interp goals, how will collaboration help us achieve them?)**
- **Start talking (discussions more important than briefs)**
- **Identify collaborative goals (be honest about what success looks like)**
- **Stand our ground (remember our goals)**
- **Stay open (there's a reason why we're collaborating)**
- **Set up a relationship (keep talking, challenging, growing)**
- **Say it loud (believe in your process, stand by your results)**



Next time...