



Title: “Pouwhenua, *Pukekura*”

Description: Pouwhenua (carved pole) at Taiāroa Head Albatross Centre

Photographer: Tim Heath

Where, when: Albatross Centre, Pukekura, Taiāroa Head, Otago Peninsula, April 2013.

Sustainability? Following a long gestation period, ‘Pukekura Pa’ Taiaroa Head Albatross Centre was designed and opened. There were many people involved. The design was intended to fit into the physical and cultural landscapes with a minimum of excavation and disturbance. This was achieved by selecting materials that had colours empathetic to the landscape. The new building was located on an existing building platform – the 1897 military barracks site and the built form is simple and made up of serialised gabled roofs. When viewed from the ground, the actual scale of the development is concealed.

Beneath the gables is a plan shaped like a cruciform – one gable is directed to the Pacific Ocean, others to Otago Peninsula, the historic headland and Otago Harbour. The rimu ceilings intersect like the crossing in a church.

Some years later, Māori occupation of Pukekura Pa was formally recognised with the installation of a *Pouwhenua* (carved pole) at the crossing point of the gables. Pouwhenua mark territorial boundaries or places of significance.

With the insertion of the pou by the mana whenua, the building felt complete. I believe that sustainability is about place. With a knowledge of the physical and cultural landscapes we learn to prepare for the future.

Photo notes: A montage of photographs taken by cellphone.

Digital specs: 2,662 x 1,878 pixels (5 MP).

Key words: Albatross, Visitor Centre, Pukekura, Taiāroa Head, place, pouwhenua, carving, community, Tim Heath, Aotearoa, New Zealand, Ecosystems Photography, Sustainability.

Price: \$100 (incl. GST) for use of the digital image.

Visit www.ecosystemsphotography/sales for details & to order, and to get a quote if you want a high-quality print.

Donation: The price is made up of a \$100 donation to a sustainability organisation or project of your choice, or otherwise for Te Rūnanga o Otakou.

I recommend that the donation goes to the Rūnanga because they are *manawhenua*, they created the Pouwhenua, and they manaaki visitors to their marae near the Albatross Centre. The team there contribute social services and *kaitiakitanga* (environmental guardianship).

Image Ref: TH#001 (Please refer to this reference in orders and correspondence).

Tim Heath

24 November 2021.