WHAT IT WILL LOOK LIKE

TOP: Artist impression of restored Victoria Square.

BOTTOM: Artist impression of the new ‘Turanga Waik’ punt shop.

WHAT
Many of the surfaces and structures in Victoria Square were damaged during the Canterbury earthquakes, and were already close to the end of their life.

This project will restore the square and make it safer and more accessible.

The restoration design creates new links with nearby features like the Promenade, and includes new elements that better reflect shared Māori and European heritage and the Treaty relationship.

WHY
Victoria Square has always been an important place for people. It has been used as a place to gather, exchange, have a voice, to rest and for events like the Buskers Festival and the Chinese Lantern Festival. This project will improve the square’s usability for the public and restore the assets so they can last another generation.

WHEN

WHERE
Victoria Square sits between the corner of Armagh and Colombo Streets and the Avon/Ōtākaro River.

WHO
The development of the restoration plan was overseen by a Community Reference Group following a public feedback process carried out in collaboration with project partners: Christchurch City Council, Mataatua Charitable Trust on behalf of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, and the Christchurch Earthquake Recovery Authority/Ōtākaro Limited.

BOWKER FOUNTAIN
The historic Bowker Fountain was bequeathed to the city but has not been working fully for many decades. The project will fully restore this magnificent fountain, and light display alongside the historic features of the former Market Square.

ACCESSIBILITY
Christchurch is being redeveloped to have an accessible central city. This project will improve the way people of all ages and abilities move around and through Victoria Square — an approach known as Universal Design.

Minor works will improve access for those with limited mobility. These works include:
- regrading of ramps up to the Hamish Hay Bridge (8)
- reduced reliance on steps to access areas
- alignment of paths with new pedestrian movement routes on surrounding streets
- removal of ‘pinch-points’ on paths

PUNT STOP
A new punt stop (‘Turanga Waik’) will be installed opposite the Town Hall. This will provide a place for small watercraft to tie up and allow public access to and from the water. This structure will be integrated with the surrounding landscape, and will respect the square’s character. The deck will also provide an ecological benefit to the river, providing shade on its edge, helping to encourage aquatic species to live underneath.
**Ngā Whāriki Manaaki**

'Woven Mats of Welcome'

'Ngā Whāriki Manaaki' are a series of thirteen creatively designed weaving patterns featuring within te papa Ōtākaro, the Avon River Precinct. Collectively, the Whāriki are a core element of the Art Trail, 'Art by the river', positioned within the river promenade. Each Whāriki is an arrangement of natural stone pavers of varying shades and colours. In sequence, they reference the pōwhiri process of welcome for all peoples visiting Christchurch and support the guiding principle of the rebuild for Ngāi Tūāhuriri, 'Kia Atawhai ki te Iwi', care for your people.

Kia tau tonu rā ngā manaakitanga i ngā wā katoa.

May Manaaki form the basis all that we do all of the time.

M. Flutey-Henare and R. Parata

The Whāriki are designed by expert weavers Reihana Parata, Queens Service Medal, and Morehu Flutey-Henare, Master of Applied Indigenous Knowledge, with technical support from Wayne Youle, Bachelor of Design.

Whāriki = woven mats utilising traditional raranga weaving techniques. These weaving designs have been adapted onto stone pavers.

Pōwhiri = welcome ceremony

Ngā Pou Riri e Iwa – The nine tall trees which made up the Ngāi Tahu claim.

This Whāriki for Ngāi Tahu, represents the unsettled grievances regarding the eight land purchase agreements between Ngāi Tahu and the Crown, with the ninth grievance being the loss of mahinga kai or food gathering places and resources. The lower design represents the nine tall trees and the middle pattern, Tūhura, 'brings to light' these topics. The top pattern, Whakaaro tahi, carries the meaning "that everyone be of one heart and one mind".

Tai Waiora – Water resources, wai or water to drink, wai for good health.

Water sustains all living things. Mahaanui tidal coastal waters surround Canterbury. Mahaanui directs the flow of incoming and outgoing waters and it is imperative that we keep the waterways clean to ensure wellbeing for all living things. The design depicts differing waters intermingling and merging together.

Mahinga Kai – Customary practice of gathering food and resources

This Whāriki depicts our customary rights of gathering and harvesting natural and cultivated foods and other resources from the land and waterways. We offer manaaki or share with others our hospitality by offering visitors delicacies from this area. These designs symbolise edible delicacies such as manu or birds, ferns, vegetation and fish.

Whatakai ka kī, Whatahuanga ka hora.
a full storehouse; a bevy of allies

t. M. Lenihan

The obligations on the home people to look after guests are sustained by reserves of local delicacies, leading to new alliances and strengthened relationships.

**The Art Trail**

Victoria Square will be home to several new pieces of landscape art as part of the new Art Trail which is planned for the central city section of the Ōtākaro/Avon River.

Ngā Whāriki Manaaki – Woven mats of welcome (6)

Three of a total of thirteen whāriki manaaki, or ‘welcome mats’, will be built from various coloured paving stones in the style of a woven mat and placed around the Square. These are integrated with the pathways and, as a whole, the series of whāriki tell the story of the pōwhiri process, welcoming visitors to Christchurch and supporting the guiding principle of the rebuild for Ngāi Tuhuriri, “Kia Atawhai ki te Iwi,” care for your people.

The Literary Trail (13)

The Literary Trail is a series of ‘text sculptures’ which will feature along the length of the Art Trail. The purpose of these works is to celebrate and explore Christchurch’s rich heritage as a literary city, and to illuminate the histories of the river and the city. Each work will feature a selected quotation drawn from poetry, fiction, children’s literature, seepaha, waiata, literary nonfiction and reportage. There are two text sculptures to be included in the Square, one by well-known Christchurch author Fiona Farrell and the other by Ngāi Tahu Tūrama, Taurorua.

Victoria Square Narratives (18)

Victoria Square Narratives is a visual representation of the cultural concepts of Mahinga Kai (traditional food and other natural resources, the places where they are obtained and associated cultural practices). The work will feature depictions of native and exotic flora and mātauranga Ngāi Tuhuriri. The narratives will be etched into the low stone wall that defines the northern boundary of the space around the Queen Victoria Statue.

Mana Motuhake (19)

Mana Motuhake is conceived as the city’s principal tribute to Te Tiriti o Waitangi (the Treaty of Waitangi) signatories for Ngāi Tahu. This will be done in a way that establishes the mana of these signatories as well as the mana of the Treaty partnership itself and by extension will tauoko (support) the achievements and memory of Queen Victoria. Design concepts are being developed now by a panel of artists.

The ‘signatory trees’ are to be relocated with the native planting area just downstream.