

**ŌTARA SCORPIONS RUGBY LEAGUE AND SPORTS CLUB
SCORPIONS FOR LIFE MURAL PROJECT 2021-22**

ŌTARA SCORPIONS RUGBY LEAGUE embarked on creative mural project collaborating with local artists. These murals will enhance the new multisports complex and reflect the community of Otago.

2021 -2022 Mural Project Key Team

Ōtara Scorpions Executive Committee:

The Ōtara Scorpions Rugby League and Sports Club are a volunteer-based sports club. The Rugby League Club are in their 51st year as a much-loved community hub with a long-term intergenerational membership.

The Executive team play a significant role as kaitiaki for this new building as representatives for its large membership base.

Tagaloa Willie Maea, former Chair of Ōtara Scorpions Rugby League (2012-2020) currently GM for the complex (2021). His leadership and that of the Ōtara Scorpions Executive Committee are key to the success of this project.

Their knowledge of the local community, history of the Ōtara clubrooms and insights into the development of the Multisports Complex provide values and guidance for this project.



Tagaloa Willie Maea

GM, Chair Ōtara Sports and Community Complex



Uunu Ma'atautia

Chair, Ōtara Scorpions Rugby League Executive Committee

Co-Ordinator, Scorpions Tag



Ella Stowers

Secretary, Ōtara Scorpions Rugby League Executive Committee

Module Co-Ordinator
Scorpions Tag



Dawn Sione

Treasurer, Ōtara Scorpions Rugby League

Chair/Finances
Scorpions Tag



Andy Pereira

Senior Club Captain, Ōtara Scorpions Rugby League

Co-Ordinator, Scorpions Tag

Sue Johnson

Junior Club Captain - Ōtara Scorpions Rugby League

With the unforeseen impact of the COVID 19 pandemic in New Zealand; including the community of Ōtara, major disruptions were caused to all Club activities. However, the Ōtara Scorpions Rugby League and Sports Club have responded quickly to this crisis by establishing a partnership with Southseas Healthcare and serving as a pop-up Covid Vaccination Centre in Ōtara.

Ōtara Scorpions Membership:

In 2021, the Ōtara Scorpions registered in 29 grades with the Auckland Rugby League Competition from Under 7s to Masters Grades. The strength of the Junior Club ensures succession and longevity of the Club and the on-going development of Rugby League in Ōtara.



Community-led values:

The Executive Committee provided feedback and guidance on the values and expectations of the project.

Q.1

"The big need is to visually connect the new complex with the local community"

"I think it is a great opportunity to visually instill our community identity, manaakitanga and whanaungatanga. Also, an opportunity to include Mana Whenua contribution and not just call them when we *need* them"

"The project will fulfil a Physical, Spiritual, emotional, whānau and whenua purpose"

what
Need
will the project
fulfil?

"As an executive member, for me, I hope that it will portray the diversity of our community and club to our visitors, members, family and especially our children. I'd like it to tell the story of our past, present, and future."

"A mix of the architectural design and our own blend of cultural and sporting artwork"

Q.2

“that the artwork is of a high level of professionalism that lifts the value of the new complex visually”

“that it will uplift our community with a sense of belonging, a gift, taonga, that will be beneficial for generations to come”

“All Parties involved in this project are on the same page and happy with the final decision”

what is your expectation of this project?

“...to incorporate all the cultures that make up our vibrant Community and acknowledging Tangata Whenua”

“there’s always a bit of a difference between expectations and what really happens. Nothing wrong with that at all, however if they treat this project with passion, then the expectation will be met”

“...I want the “WOW” factor that are brings, something that inspires our members to want to be part of what the facility is offering i.e., sports, community etc”

Q.3

“...that everyone feels welcome. Creating an atmosphere that makes people feel connected of all groups and ages”

“Meet the timelines set by the Project and within budget”

“We hope it will produce a relaxing, open environment where they will feel safe and inspire our community”

what is the Priority Goal?

“Consultation with Mana Whenua and the Ngāti Ōtara Marae so Māori history can be incorporated e.g. to outline which Tribe Ōtara belongs to and who the Chief was here. Would be good knowledge for all our Community to know, the whakapapa of Ōtara”

“Something the Ōtara community can be proud of...”

“to give this facility a makeover so it doesn’t look like just a flash looking building but a home – a home of our community... The old building looked like a toilet block. The committee that took over around 2011/12 had it painted etc., and it no longer looked like a toilet block – it gave it a homely look...that’s what I’d like to see again”

Ōtara Scorpions for Life Mural Project Co-Ordinator:



In 2021, the Exec. Committee acquired former Club Secretary (2012-2014) now local artist Lokapeta Magele-Suamasi to manage the **Scorpions for Life Mural Project 2021-2022**. Lokapeta managed two previous mural projects: *Scorpions For Life* (2012) for the *South Auckland Pacific Arts Summit* and the *Vern Wilson Mural Project* (2013). This alleviates the added workload to Exec. Members and eliminates disruption to *Club business-as-usual* activities i.e., Rugby League (Winter) Tag Football (Summer). The committee is updated by regular Milestone and Progress reports.



Ōtara Scorpions 'Old Boys' representatives:

To assist with consultation on murals for new player changing rooms, the project has two representatives as key co-ordinators of online hui (due to COVID) to get feedback from ex-Scorpion players i.e., Masters teams



Lauina Matautia
Ōtara Scorpions
Masters
'Silverbacks'



Timo Makoare -
Ōtara Scorpions
Masters,
Scorpion Riders

The Brief:

- (i) Each group has been invited to submit 2x names of ex-players to be included in mural portraiture inside new changing rooms
- (ii) All names will be submitted in a combined [ZOOM] Hui, where discussion will take place on selection and finalised for the mural project team.

Reps were given the Kaupapa of the murals in changing rooms:

- To remember/honour late/living Ōtara Scorpions who were the faces of Mana in iconic moments of Scorpions history
- A 'sacred' space for our players and coaches
- An uplifting and inspiring space of Mana
- A place to help players prepare mentally before a game
- **Game Days:** A taonga – only used on game days by Ōtara Scorpions teams
- **Exceptions:** A space only opened on request / bookings to protect the murals and Mana of the space but to be shared with all (members, whānau, community, school groups, artist groups, visiting dignitaries) accompanied or hosted by venue staff / Club hosts





Background information:

In 2021, the new Ngāti Ōtara multisports complex was opened for the community of Ōtara. The building is also a long awaited taonga for the Ōtara Scorpions Rugby League Club members who are primary leaseholders for the building.



The architects: *Pacific Environments* have collaborated with Ngāi Tai Ki Tāmaki artist Tessa Harris to incorporate contemporary Māori artworks into the design.

The building design has a visually strong narrative honouring Mana Whenua Rangatira Tara te Irirangi. These include homage to Te Puke ō Tara in the metal sculptural maunga above the main entrance and engraved reeds in the exterior concrete facade.



*Ōtara Scorpions
colours: Red,
White, and Blue*

The Ōtara Scorpions Rugby League Club is now in its 51st year of operation.

We will be incorporating artworks that are reflective of our Pāsifika community and cultures in a few murals inside the building.

We have titled this project 'Scorpions for Life 2021-22' and are excited to engage with local artists to complete this work.



Potential surfaces:

There are a few surfaces inside the multisports complex that are blank and grey. These surfaces are prominent and exude a modern and industrial aesthetic.

This has provided us with an opportunity to collaborate with local artists to create murals to creatively realise our ideas through colourful and cultural artwork.



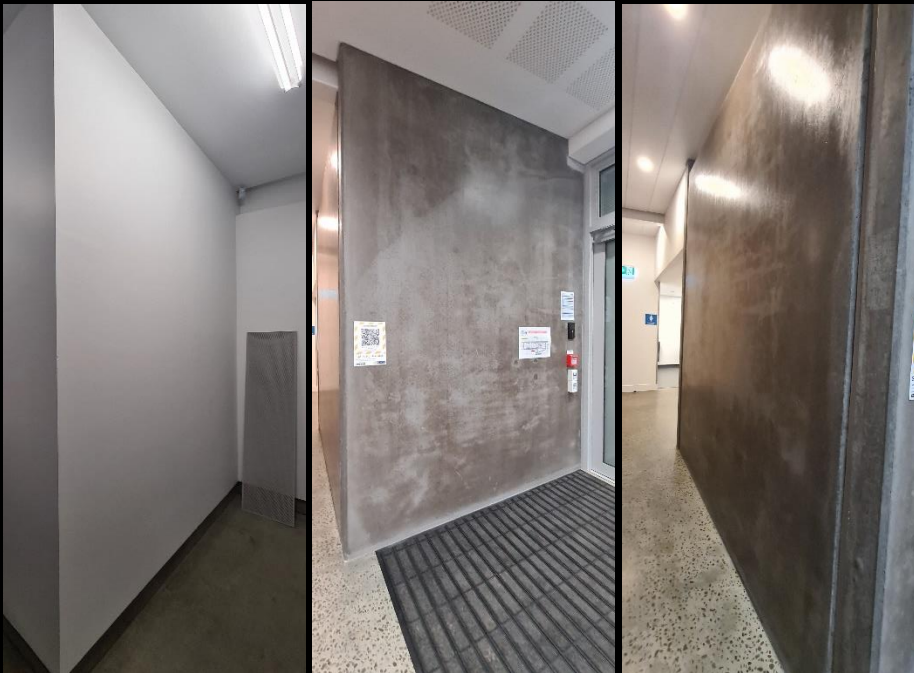
Restoring Kaupapa:

...it doesn't feel the same. It doesn't look 'like us'...

Various members and residents have commented that although the space is beautiful – it does not feel as welcoming as the 'older building.

We believe this is because the design aesthetic is minimalist.

..." it's like a soup with no flavour?!..."





KEY DESIGN themes + influences:

Ōtara Scorpions

There are two main themes for this creative mural project.

The first is the story of the Ōtara Scorpions Rugby League Club.

The first transformation will be paint internal areas where the branding is most important. e.g., Team changing rooms.

We believe, the 'locker rooms/changing rooms' are the 'sacred' space for our players and coaches and also we believe the [late] Ōtara players that will be painted would prefer their faces inside the locker rooms.

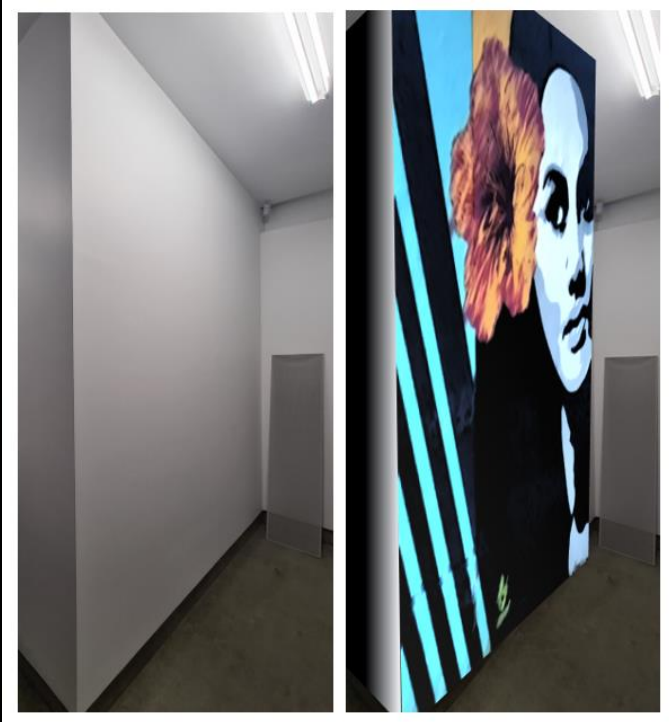
These locker rooms are only used on game days by Ōtara Scorpions teams and will only be opened on request, for mural viewing e.g. for the mural blessing, tours, special viewing.

The second transformation will include painting exterior surfaces of the building in a deep scarlet red on brand with club colours.

The colours of the rugby league club are synonymous with local Ōtarians representing pride, resilience and courage when facing other rugby league clubs outside of Ōtara.

The Ōtara Scorpions Rugby League Club clubrooms have been a hub for the local community where youth and whanau have felt welcome for the past fifty years.

The feeling of belonging for Ōtarians is an important driver for this project.



KEY DESIGN themes + influences:

Pāsifika Peoples

The second theme is to celebrate Pāsifika Peoples.

The Pāsifika narrative and history of the Ōtara community is one that is steeped in early settlement and migration in the 60s-70s. Pioneering Pāsifika families converged on Ōtara simultaneously with many Māori arriving as part of the urban drift into the community.

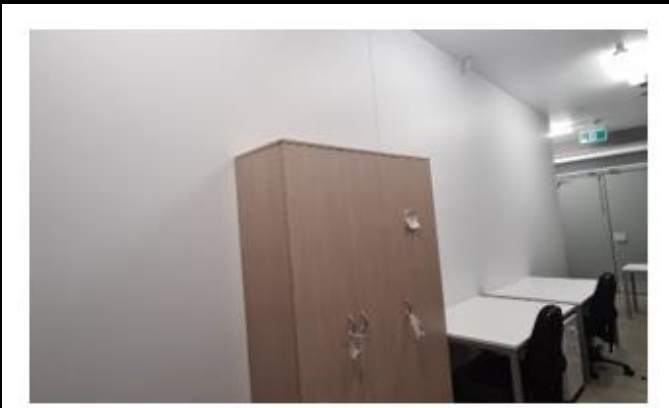
This Māori/Pāsifika story in Ōtara is important in NZ history. Ōtara was and is a stronghold for cultural provenance for the diaspora of urban Polynesian settlement in Aotearoa. Today, many Ōtarians are of mixed Māori/Pāsifika heritage.

This new generation of young people take pride in their Moana/Oceanic heritage.

The architects have completed their collaboration with Māori artists and designers adorning the building with beautiful contemporary artworks.

With Creative New Zealand funding, we are now able to incorporate Pacific artworks to add to the building design and aesthetic.

Photos: Artworks are generic images.



Scorpions for Life 2012

Ōtara have worked successfully with local artists in the community in the past. In 2012, we successfully applied for Creative Arts funding and were able to run an artist-led mural project for the previous building.

We would like to acquire local artists again including the neighbouring art department of Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate to collaborate in this project.

We believe these local artworks will encourage visitation to the complex by educators, students, art groups, tourists and cultural and heritage followers.

To continuously celebrate these artworks and architecture - there is future potential to participate in heritage and arts festival opportunities.



Additional Funding needed:

A funding application to the Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board will be submitted in the next funding round opening February 2022.

Ideas for future discussion:

1. External roof (South): Solar lights for top part of sculpture/mountain to be visible at night
2. External: Signage - either new one installed and designed by artist or vinyl redesign and replacement of current sign
3. Scorpions branded interior items i.e., Reception area, Main Hall, Furniture for Sports Bar Transition during Rugby League season
4. Prominent Ngāti Ōtara entrance signage designed by local artists
5. Ngāti Ōtara precinct Pou carved by local artists representing the following whare:
 1. Ngāti Ōtara Marae
 2. Ōtara Scorpions
 3. Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate School
 4. Hillary House Leadership Centre