

Boffa Miskell



Action on recreation

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news



Editorial:

Design and art – creative synergy?

Without doubt, artworks can enrich public places in myriad ways. Yet, context is everything, and one must ask, 'How well integrated is the art with its setting? To what extent does it inspire people to respond to the unique quality of each place?'

In my view, opportunities to optimise artistic expression will be lost if the commissioned artists work in isolation from the design professionals responsible for designing the public spaces where the artworks are to be located.

Collaboration between artists and landscape architects can be a mutually beneficial relationship with considerable synergies. Landscape architects, too, bring to projects a creative energy and they understand the social, cultural and economic dimensions of public realm design that can, critically, affect the success of public spaces and the appreciation of artworks within them. For instance, functional siting considerations can attract people to gather, linger and interact with the artwork, the surrounding spaces and businesses.

At Boffa Miskell our landscape architects have an excellent track record of collaborating with artists, both in establishing the brief and

in developing the artwork within its public context. Examples include the Auckland Harbour Bridge Trestle Series by Catherine Griffiths and St Patrick's Square sculptures by Stephen Woodward and Mary Louise Brown.

However this is not to say every public space should be designed for art. Public artworks need to be carefully thought through in terms of the wider contextual curation, the purpose of the piece and the opportunity that the artwork brings to that place.

Landscape architecture is underpinned by functional training but also, fundamentally, creativity. In designing places that people register as being 'special' we bring what I would describe as 'design with artistic merit' – design that fosters social, cultural, economic as well as creative richness in the public realm.



Michael Hawes, Auckland Design Leader

Boffa Miskell NEWS

summer²⁰¹³

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COVER: Bridge over the Parahiku Stream: designed by Boffa Miskell as part of the La Rosa Reserve Stream Daylighting Project, for Auckland Council Stormwater Projects. Zinc spray and coated steel frame with accoya timber deck.

ILLUSTRATIONS: P4, left graphic by Design Tribe Architects.

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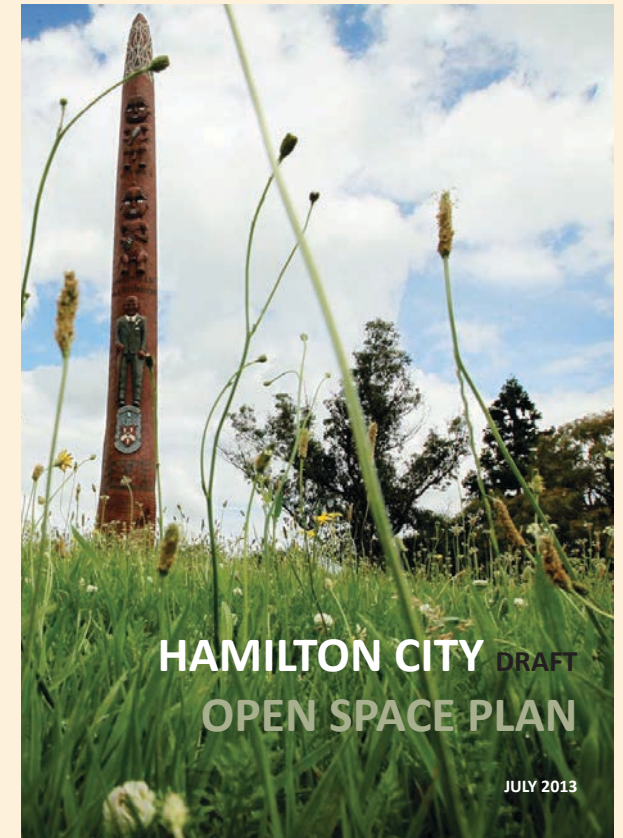
Being active

Parks, reserves and recreational facilities are widely recognised for enabling people to be active, maintain good health and enjoy their leisure time. Yet, these places are under pressure to meet increasingly complex demands.

Hamilton Open Space Plan

Communities are often impatient to have their demands met for parks and sportsgrounds services but it's worth taking time to think strategically before investing in on-the-ground development. Hamilton City Council, for instance, now has a clear strategy in its draft 2013 Open Space Plan, which Boffa Miskell helped to write.

A particular challenge in Hamilton is how to provide the appropriate quantity and quality of open space for a growing population in a finite land area. Mapping the different types of open space is essential to carrying out an audit of supply versus need.



HAMILTON CITY DRAFT
OPEN SPACE PLAN

JULY 2013

in recreation

“We know, through our recent work, that open space and recreation managers are facing numerous challenges arising from changes in community and sporting code demographics, as well as rising expectations of services,” says Boffa Miskell landscape architect and Wellington Design Leader, Marc Tomes. “These challenges require innovative solutions at all levels – in planning, design and in implementation.”

Solutions increasingly involve flexible, multiple use of facilities with associated economic and user benefits. However, intensified use can result in more pressure on the physical environment and the need to manage user group relationships more closely.

Understanding those relationships is a fundamental starting point, with careful thought required as to who should be consulted and how to involve people in the planning and design process in ways that will work for each community and project.

The complex and constantly evolving nature of the parks and recreation scene is brought to light for Boffa Miskell people through both project work and participation in the New Zealand Recreation Association and the multi-national Parks Forum. Boffa Miskell invests significantly in keeping up with research into user behaviour and benefits of open space, as well as trends in legislation changes, best practice design and technical product

development. Nevertheless Marc says there are areas where specific specialist knowledge is required, such as for sport code and recreation needs analysis or for recreation and play product supply.

“As with other complex projects, it's important to get the right people working together to enable the best possible outcome for the project and the community.”

Some examples of the wide-ranging projects Boffa Miskell undertakes in this sector are illustrated below. Read also about the Cornwall Park master plan (p.6).



▲ Park Island, Napier Master Plan

Regional sports complex master plan

By engaging sub-consultants Global Leisure Group to undertake a comprehensive user needs analysis at Park Island sportsground in Napier, Boffa Miskell obtained information crucial to master planning the 68-hectare park.

The Napier City Council commissioned the recently approved master plan to ensure the 30-year-old regional sports hub would continue to meet the demands of a growing and diversifying sporting community. The plan is designed for long-term staged implementation of the proposed spatial reorganisation, redevelopment and more sustainable club sharing of facilities.



Community plans its active zone

Recently Boffa Miskell has been helping the Manawatu District Council consult with the Feilding community on developing a new active zone which would include a new distinctive skate park facility suitable for all ages and skill levels. We helped facilitate a series of workshops, which led to describing the community's aspirations in a draft concept plan. The concept may evolve further and will require further specialist input but in the meantime, it will be used for planning implementation, including budgeting and fundraising. Importantly, the community is, and will continue to be, engaged in the process.



New regional park

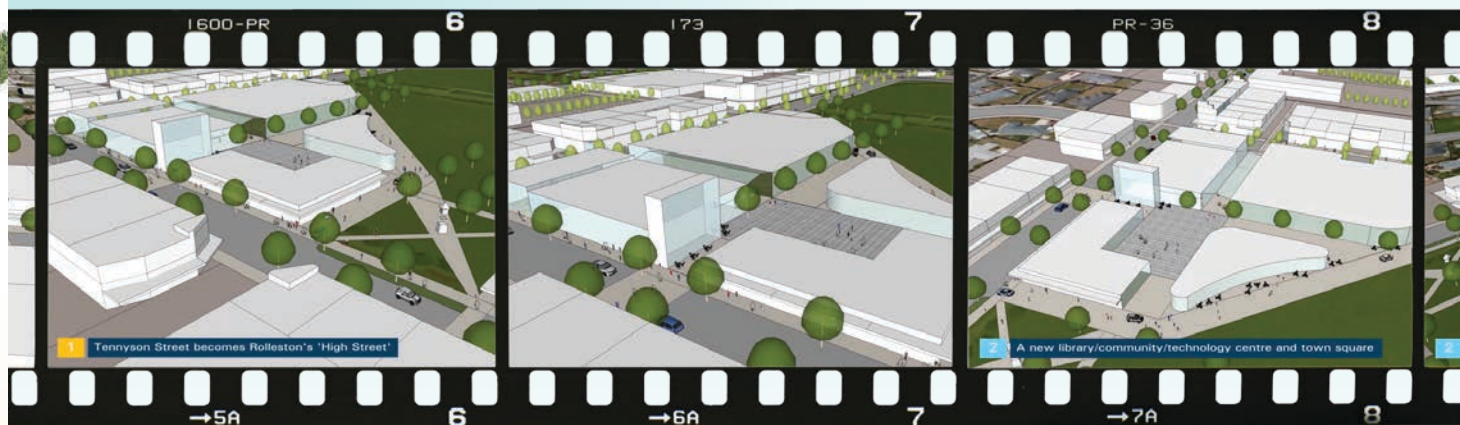
The 1650-hectare TECT All Terrain Park between Tauranga and Rotorua caters for diverse activities including mountain biking, horse riding, motor sports, shooting and walking.

The regional park is being developed jointly by Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council, who engaged Boffa Miskell to prepare the master plan for the park's central arrival and activity hub. Boffa Miskell also designed the entry and information signs, developed a park signage design manual and designed the activity shelters for the various park hubs, including pro bono assistance to the mountain bike user group to develop their activity hub.

- ▼ The proposed Learning Centre, adjacent to Te One Marae: potential for a multi-use education and community hub.



- ▼ The movie 'flies' viewers around the proposed town centre, showing different perspectives, as here of the proposed library/community/technology centre.



A Chatham Islanders' solution

When asked to carry out a feasibility study for developing a learning centre and housing on the Chatham Islands, Boffa Miskell and Design Tribe Architects knew that creative thinking would be required.

"Governance, funding arrangements, and the climate on the Chatham Islands differ from the rest of New Zealand, so the island community has to drive and manage its own solutions," Boffa Miskell planner, Stuart Bracey explains.

It was on this basis that the WhareKauri Māori Committee, Hā o Te Ora o Wharekauri Trust and Ngāti Mutunga o Wharekauri Iwi Trust commissioned the study, aimed at introducing tertiary education to the islands and meeting unsatisfied housing demand.

The project team recommended the learning centre be developed at the Te One Marae site to reinforce an existing education hub there, support the redevelopment of the rundown marae building and encourage the marae's multi-use for all islanders.

A 'Chatham Islander' house design was conceptualised to enable suitable, affordable housing to be built at the recommended site. Funding will be a key objective, however, as banks are reluctant to finance mortgages on the islands.

Next is to confirm the funding paths and all islanders' approval of the proposals, before proceeding with delivery model agreements.

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Master plan on screen

An animated fly-through movie, depicting proposed development of the rapidly growing town of Rolleston, has helped spark community interest in planning for the future.

Boffa Miskell made the short movie from 3-D imagery it had created whilst developing draft 20-year master plans of the Rolleston town centre and nearby Foster Recreation Park for the Selwyn District Council.

The Council had recognised that master planning was urgently needed to ensure Rolleston's development would keep pace with rapid population growth. The district's population had already increased significantly after the Canterbury earthquakes with an influx of former Christchurch residents and is predicted to more than double over the next 30 years.

"Big changes will be needed to provide for commercial and employment activities as well as public recreation and community facilities," says Boffa Miskell urban designer, Jane Rennie. "Changes of that magnitude can be hard to comprehend, and we saw a need to help people visualise the proposals so they could participate meaningfully in planning the future form of their town."

The movie, which was used during public consultation in September and October and uploaded onto the Council's website had a big impact and has been extremely useful in obtaining informed feedback for the Council.

The community's feedback will be reviewed and the two master plans finalised over the summer. The master plans will provide the framework for the staged implementation of key projects in coming years.

The town centre will be developed around a new main shopping street, flanked by a new library/community/technology centre, town square and enhanced public reserve. A new commercial office area is also planned, together with improved transport connections across the expanding town and to nearby State Highway 1.

The 42 hectare Foster Recreation Park will be developed as a focal recreation area for the entire district, with multiple indoor and outdoor sporting facilities; play, walking and cycling opportunities; and venues for events.

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Seeing the cultural landscape

When Auckland Transport consulted iwi at the outset of planning its proposed \$40 million Dominion Road upgrade, a collaborative design process evolved that saw the area's rich cultural heritage woven into the project design.

Five iwi – Te Akitai, Ngāti Tamaoho, Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki, Ngāti Maru and Ngāti Whātua – came together and agreed an approach to inform the project design. The iwi, together with a group of Māori specialists in stormwater, vegetation and cultural design (Malcolm Paterson, Charmaine Wiapo, Hana Maihi and Lucie Rutherford), then worked with the Boffa Miskell urban design and landscape architecture project team.

"We spent a lot of time together, walking the site and in workshops, to develop a shared understanding and set of ideas that could give form, convey meaning and show respect to the Māori features, stories and values of the site and surrounding landscape," recalls Boffa Miskell landscape architect and Auckland Design Leader, Michael Hawes.

"The outcome was a cultural landscape plan."

Boffa Miskell developed site-wide design strategies under the three themes iwi had identified at their hui: maunga and the surrounding landscape, vegetation, and water.



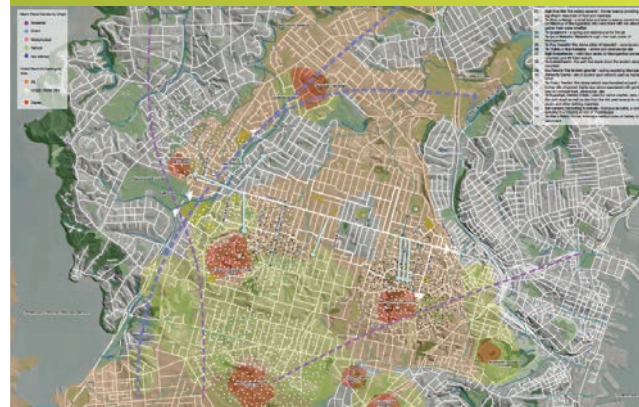
To demonstrate how the strategies could be implemented, conceptual 'cultural footprint' designs were also developed for key places such as the three main villages along Dominion Road, bus interchanges, side streets, parks and thresholds. Traditional designs and stories are referenced in many design elements, and ideas for acknowledging and enhancing the underlying natural environment developed through proposed stream daylighting and widening, stormwater treatment projects, stream restoration and urban wetlands.

Off-road initiatives connecting schools and reserves along the proposed cycleway that will parallel Dominion Road provide opportunities for community engagement in planting for food forests, stormwater quality, habitat and cultural harvest.

Malcolm Paterson, Manager of the Heritage and Resource Management unit for Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei says the project was "a wonderful and enjoyable collaboration of iwi with Boffa Miskell and Auckland Transport that empowered mana whenua and sets an exemplar for future engagement."

CONTACT: Michael Hawes michael.hawes@boffamiskell.co.nz

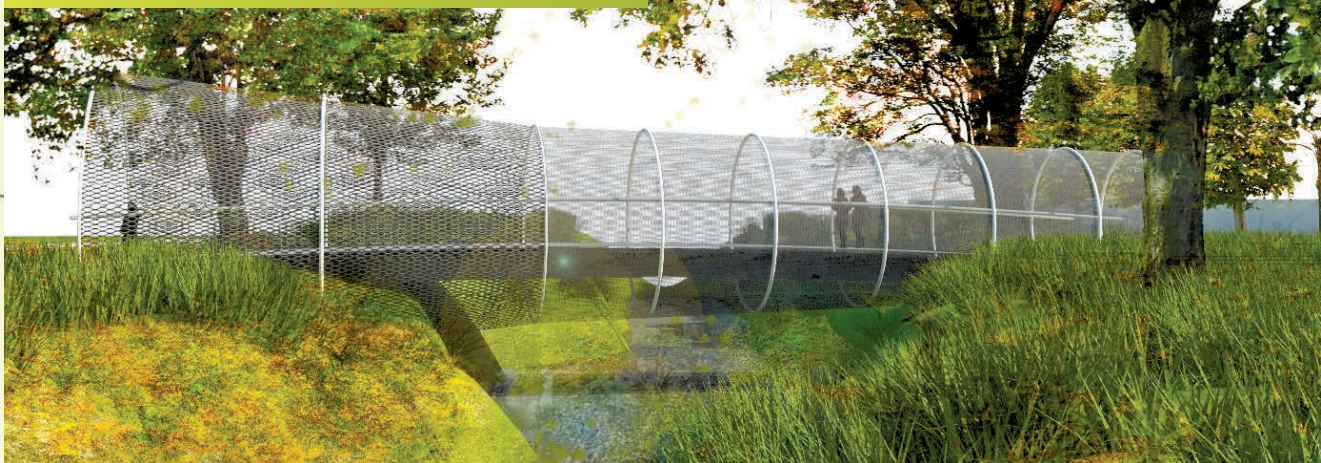
▼ Places important to iwi in and around Dominion Road were identified to understand the cultural landscape context.



▼ Mt Roskill design concept: design cues for each village draw on relationships to nearby maunga and food gathering areas as well as whāriki (woven mat) designs.



▼ The proposed pedestrian and cycle bridge over Te Auaunga/Oakleigh Creek evokes the form of a traditional hīnaki or eel pot (left).



▼ Cornwall Park occupies the flanks of Maungakiekie, the One Tree Hill Domain. The two Parks are integrally related as one landscape.

Cornwall Park 100-year master plan

Boffa Miskell's landscape architects and ecologists are delighted to be working in collaboration with Nelson Byrd Woltz, the American based landscape architecture firm, on a 100-year master plan of Cornwall Park, Auckland.

As the local project partner, Boffa Miskell brings more than 30 years' experience in advising the Cornwall Park Trust Board on the park's development and management.

Rachel de Lambert, Director::Design at Boffa Miskell, and project leader for the Boffa Miskell team, says Cornwall Park is already regarded as a great urban open space in world terms. Fundamental to the 100-year vision will be recognition of the park's unique landscape history – the original park design, dating back to 1902, as well as cultivation/farming, Māori and settler values.

The plan will need to enable future Trust Boards to make essential design and maintenance decisions as circumstances change, while still being true to the long-term vision. Urban ecology and public education will be brought to the project to facilitate long-term sustainability and public appreciation.

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Rebuilding Christchurch

Boffa Miskell is pleased to be involved with earthquake recovery projects aimed at restoring amenity, attractions and places of community to greater Christchurch.

Te Papa Otakaro/Avon River Precinct

We have accepted an invitation from Opus International Consultants to join its design team for the Te Papa Otakaro/Avon River Precinct, an anchor project within the Christchurch Central City Recovery Plan.

John Potter, a Boffa Miskell Associate Director and landscape architect, has joined the project design leadership group, providing design overview across the full project, while Nik Kneale is leading the Boffa Miskell design team responsible for the development and delivery of designs for Market (Victoria) Square – a key space associated with the river within Christchurch's CBD and a place of significance to Te Runanga o Ngāi Tahu.

Albion Square, Lyttelton

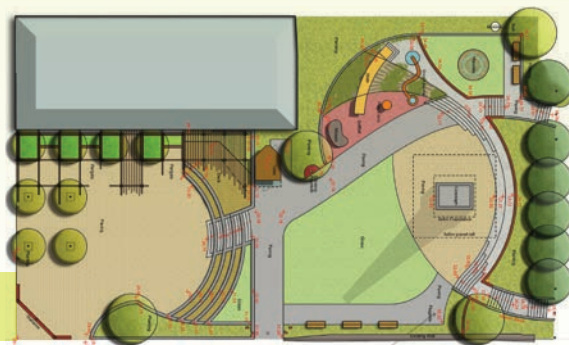
Our Christchurch design team is assisting Christchurch City Council with the design and construction supervision of Albion Square, Lyttelton's new town square.

Identified as a key project in Lyttelton's masterplan, Albion Square will be located on the previous site of the Albion Hotel and Borough Council offices; a site currently used by the community as a gathering place with transitional artworks and community gardens.

When completed, the square will provide Lyttelton's community with a permanent place to gather, share and celebrate and will feature community art projects, play opportunities, performance space and the relocated war memorial cenotaph.

Designs are due to be completed by the end of the year, with construction to commence early in 2014.

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Albion Square concept plan. ►

In Brief

Fish Lane, Wynyard Quarter

A concept plan to enhance and enliven Fish Lane on Auckland's waterfront is currently being developed by Boffa Miskell for Kiwi Income Property Limited, following analysis of opportunities for the lane to be better activated as a public space.

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No barrier to fish at Long Bay

Boffa Miskell ecologists, recently surveying fish populations in the Awaruku Stream for Auckland Council, were pleased to find juvenile fish, including eels, banded kokopu, common bully, and the threatened redfin bully and inanga species in the stream's mid and upper reaches.

These findings indicate that a stormwater management weir and wetland, constructed three years ago in the stream catchment by Long Bay Communities Limited, is no obstacle to migrating fish. (See also *Boffa Miskell NEWS* 22.)

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▲ Banded Kokopu.

Strategic advisor – Māori appointed in Christchurch

Boffa Miskell's Christchurch office has recently welcomed Craig Pauling to the position of Kaiarataki – Te Hihiri / Strategic Advisor – Māori.



Craig Pauling

Craig has over 12 years' experience in environmental management and policy, strategy and research. He has worked for Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu in a number of roles including fisheries negotiation, environmental policy and research, environmental advice, programme leader – environment, and as a project manager for freshwater strategy.

Craig has recently completed an 18-month secondment from Ngāi Tahu to the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority as a Senior Advisor for the recovery strategy and planning team, where he worked on the recently completed Natural Environment Recovery Programme. He is looking forward to providing a broad range of strategic, policy, and cultural training and advisory services to our clients.

Sculpture in the gardens

Rachel de Lambert is one of three curators (with Alexa Johnson and Richard Mathieson) of the recently opened 'Sculpture in the Gardens' show at Auckland Botanic Gardens. Boffa Miskell donates Rachel's time to support the free exhibition, which will be open until February 16th 2013.



Rachel de Lambert

Update from China

Ever since our Shanghai Project office was opened in 2010, the number and size of its projects has continually grown.

To accommodate this growth, the Project Office relocated earlier this year to a larger office space in the Luwan district of Shanghai, on the edge of the former French Concession area. The new space provides improved staff amenities and room for further growth.

▼ Passers-by try for a hole-in-one on the putting green that temporarily transformed one parking space.



Parking day

On 20 September, passers-by on Auckland's Victoria Street West were intrigued to see two parking spaces transformed into temporary green public space.

A team of Unitec students, supported by Boffa Miskell and Jasmax, had commandeered the spaces in response to a call from the Auckland branch of the New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects to mark World Parking Day. Originating in San Francisco, the objective of the event is to make the public more aware of opportunities to reclaim open space in cities for public use.

Boffa Miskell and Jasmax held workshops to help the students plan the event and design the temporary installations. Despite patchy weather, the unexpected urban play-scapes generated much public interest and interaction with passers-by.



Website gets a refresh

The refreshed Boffa Miskell website now brings together more information about the wide range of projects we have been involved with, our consultants and what we can help our clients achieve. It will be regularly updated with projects, news and insights. We will also be launching a Chinese version for our Shanghai-based practice.

To explore, go to www.boffamiskell.co.nz

In conference

'Aquatic Science at the Interface' conference of the New Zealand Freshwater Sciences Society, New Zealand Marine Sciences Society and Australian Society for Fish Biology, August, Hamilton.

A number of the Boffa Miskell ecologists who attended this conference were actively involved. **Marcus Girvan** and **Sharon De Luca** chaired conference sessions, and Marcus also gave a paper entitled 'Challenges with Aquatic Weed Control: an Operational Perspective', on the issues he had encountered in managing hornwort and *Lagarosiphon* in New Zealand's lakes.

In a poster, **Tanya Blakely** and **Barbara Risi**, explained how the Duck Creek realignment in Whitby, Porirua, allows for a 20m flood plain while supporting a high abundance of native fish. **Vaughan Keesing** presented a paper on the catch data gathered from the project, which is part of ongoing research he is involved in.



▲ Ecologists Rachel Turner and Vaughan Keesing transferring macrophytes to the new Duck Creek channel. Read more in *New Zealand Freshwater Sciences Society Newsletter*, No. 52, August 2013, p.45.

'The Coast: Rough Around the Edges' New Zealand Coastal Society conference, November 2013, Hokitika. Boffa Miskell landscape planners, **Yvonne Pfluger** and **James Bentley**, presented a paper at this conference, which hosted cross-disciplinary contributions from a broad range of practitioners with interest and expertise in New Zealand's coastal environment. Yvonne's and James' paper, entitled 'Natural character assessment of the coastal environment under the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010', was about work on developing a robust natural character assessment methodology, which has been applied in several territorial studies recently.



Treetop reading

How do visitors, 20 metres aloft on the new West Coast Treetop Walk near Hokitika, understand what they're seeing?

...by reading Boffa Miskell-designed interpretation panels commissioned by walkway operator, Canopy101.

The walkway comprises 450 metres of steel platform suspended in the rainforest canopy and a viewing tower rising to 40 metres that opens up panoramic views to nearby Lake Mahinapua and the Southern Alps. Opened in December 2012, the walkway is proving a popular tourist attraction and boost to the Hokitika economy.

Boffa Miskell was first involved in 2011, providing ecological assessment services for the resource consent application.

Later, we brought together landscape planning, ecology and graphic design skills to conceptualise, research, write and design

▼ One of the interpretation panels, more of which can be seen in detail online at treetopsnz.com.



▼ A visitor reads about fantails, a bird she would be likely to see in the temperate rainforest below.



the interpretation panels. The panels explain the geological origins of the West Coast landscape, the rainforest flora and fauna, and the human history of exploration and settlement on the West Coast.

"The challenge was to simplify the wealth of information available into engaging stories that would enrich visitors' experience and understanding," explains Boffa Miskell ecologist, Tanya Blakely.

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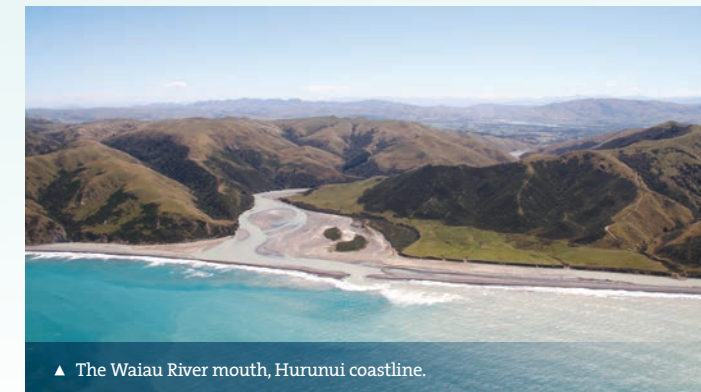
Hurunui coastal environment study

Boffa Miskell landscape planner, Yvonne Pfluger, is currently meeting with landowners in the Hurunui District, Canterbury, to discuss with them the findings of the landscape study she completed for the Hurunui District Council.

In commissioning the "Hurunui District Important Natural Landscapes" report, the Council particularly required information and guidance on natural character and landscape issues in the coastal environment, mindful of its need to fulfil the requirements of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (2010). It also sought advice on a possible review of natural features and landscapes already identified in its district plan.

The assessment report, which is available in draft form on the Council's website, will be finalised following public consultation and used to inform the Council's district plan review, with which Boffa Miskell planner, Stephanie Styles, is assisting.

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▲ The Waiau River mouth, Hurunui coastline.



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