

New 'living' visitor centre at the lake is taking shape

LAKE Waikaremoana's living building Te Wharehou o Waikaremoana is due to open in December.

Situated at Home Bay, the wharehou will cater for manuhiri visiting Te Urewera and house staff from the Waikaremoana Tribal Authority. It is expected to cost about \$6 million and be open just before Christmas.

Te Urewera Board trustee and one of three directors in the Waikaremoana Tribal Authority, Lorna Taylor, said the building design and concept came from ancestral history, the landscape and the environment they live in.

Te Wharehou o Waikaremoana embraces living building principles in

its design and build. Its contoured roof will collect rainwater, which will spiral down chains and flow over rocks and landscaping in front of the deck.

Decorative whakairo are embossed on concrete panels at each end of the deck representing Tuhoe hapu — Te Whanau Pani, Nati Hinekura, Nati Tawhaki, Tamakaimoana, Te Urewera and the Tuhoe ancestor, Te Umuariki.

The wharehou will accommodate staff from the Waikaremoana Tribal Authority and its Manuhiri Team, whare taona, wanana, a café and retail space.

Demolition of the former Aniwanuiwa visitor centre, which began early last month, is nearing completion.



□ Last month the contour roof of Te Wharehou o Waikaremoana was up and the front verandah was taking shape.

□ Inset, the view from the new visitor centre verandah this week.