



□ The \$12m Ngai Tuhoe build — Te Tii is under way at Ruatahuna and will have two main buildings connected by a canopy creating an inviting semi-outdoor space. On one side, the tribal office stands as the engine room for Ruatahuna. The other main building within Te Tii is the store and café.

Ngai Tuhoe's \$12m project to begin

A THIRD major building project since Ngai Tuhoe settled with the Crown in 2014 is about to begin in Ruatahuna.

The first was Te Kura Whare in Taneatua, which was recently certified as the first Living Building in the world outside the United States, and late last year Te Kura Whenua at Waikaremoana opened at Home Bay.

The \$12 million community hub at Ruatahuna, Te Tii, is intended to revitalise the village and community according to the Ngai Tuhoe website.

Te Tii will invite manuhiri (visitors) to experience a Tuhoe way of life in Ruatahuna and be introduced to Te Urewera with four accommodation chalets.

The new facility will accommodate a general store, the tribal office, cafe, petrol station, chalets, radio station, laundry, a covered marketplace, playground, community garden and an archive room designed to withstand fire in the time it would take for a Wairoa fire appliance to reach the site.

The project aims to inject new life into the village and uplift the community.

Work on laying the foundation for the project was delayed following the Cyclone Debbie deluge in the autumn which took away access when

slips and washouts closed the SH38 western approach for two months.

Tuhoe Manawaru Tribal general manager Iharaira (Max) Temara said they were initially set to pour foundations and floors the same week that Debbie hit.

"The foundation, which will use a revolutionary cement, is a big deal for us, it reflects the community's aspirations for change and the change has to begin from the ground up. More importantly, seeing the work commence signals that we are no longer just talking — this is going to happen."

Energy will be generated by solar panels and rainwater collected for use while waste water will be treated on site at the new hub development. Storage for the collected rainwater will include an underground tank beneath the terrace in front of the buildings and twin header tanks located on a ridge to east of site.

Rainwater is only expected to supply approximately 60 percent of the total estimated demand, so a connection to mains supply is provided to ensure continuity.

The roof will have a continuous layer of high-density insulation, laid on a metal base deck, with a metal top skin combines to create a warm roof.