



## Resource Card

### *Coastal Cannibals*

*Ngahua Harrison, The Cave, 2022, digital colour print. Courtesy of the artist*

**City  
Gallery  
Wellington**  
Te Whare Toi

Part of  
experience  
**Wellington**  
wellington-museums-trust

Principal Funder  
**Absolutely Positively  
Wellington City Council**  
Me Heke ki Pōneke

 **Foundation**

Civic Square, 101 Wakefield Street  
Wellington 6140, New Zealand  
T: +64 4 913 9029  
E: [citygalleryeducation@experiencewellington.org.nz](mailto:citygalleryeducation@experiencewellington.org.nz)

[citygallery.org.nz](http://citygallery.org.nz)

City Gallery Wellington's  
Education Service is  
supported by the Ministry  
of Education's LEOTO fund.

  
**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**  
Te Tihiko o te Mātauranga

## Resource Card

# Coastal Cannibals

## About the artist

Dr Ngahuia Harrison (Ngātiwai, Ngāti Pūkenga, Ngāti Kahu o Torongare) works with analogue, digital photography, and moving image. Her research-driven practice is embedded in the specificities of place and *mana-i-te-whenua*, and often draws out the political and cultural complexities of the sites she pictures.

## About the Exhibition

*Coastal Cannibals* is a major suite of work made in and around Whangārei Te Rerenga Parāoa, the gathering place of whales or chiefs, renamed as Whangārei Harbour. Harrison's research for this project focused on the impact of government legislation on the Whangārei Harbour, predominately through the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act of 2011. Turning her lens to sites of heavy industry and land privatisation, she pictures the ongoing impact that colonisation, government legislation and private development have had upon the land, water and people.

## Understand | big ideas

Ākonga explore visual ideas, and ideas about Aotearoa New Zealand's histories, in response to Ngahuia Harrison's practice.

- Government legislation has resulted in changes to the use of coastal environments. For iwi Māori, this has made customary life difficult or impossible on their tribal land.
- While coastal Aotearoa | te takutai can provide recreational space, it is also rich in resources that are contested by colonial and indigenous interests.
- There are many parallels to discover between Wellington and Whangārei Harbours' history of reclamation, settlement and industrialisation.

## Know | art in context

Ākonga can inquire about the purposes, value, and context of Ngahuia Harrison's work.

- Ngahuia Harrison's hapū does not have carving on their marae to hold historical narrative, but instead, they use photography
- By using her camera to shoot from the shore, she asserts Ngātiwai's position as mana whenua in Whangārei.

## Do | practical knowledge

Ākonga develop practical knowledge as they:

- Develop alternative, camera-less photography skills.

- Use materials from the land to make art that connects them to coastlines.
- Distil elements of images to communicate meaning.
- Use critical inquiry, evidence, and conversation to build shared understandings of artworks.

## Before your visit

- Have your ākonga discuss different ways that Māori and tauīwi groups have accessed and used public, private and Māori land.
- Investigate the [WAI 145](#) claim to learn more about Wellington coastlines, including Whairepo lagoon near City Gallery Wellington.
- Find examples from your school's local history of where Māori and Crown interests in the coastline have intersected or clashed.

## During your visit

Ākonga share their own experiences of using the coastline around Wellington and learn about the changing nature of Wellington Harbour. They are guided through *Coastal Cannibals* using hands-on activities and critical discussion before making their own place-based contact prints with a twist. The visit ends at Whairepo lagoon, where ākonga make connections between their artworks and place.



*A pīpi shell picturing the city behind Whairepo Lagoon*

## After your visit

Ngahuia Harrison provides a great example of photography's power to carry iwi narratives. If you are able, visit a coastal site near your school to learn about its resources and history. Have students take images from [mollusca.co.nz](http://mollusca.co.nz) to the beach so that they can identify any species of molluscs which are harvested, what they do for the health of the biome of the area and how the coastline's development may have impacted on this resource. Consider the ways in which the coastal environment nurtures and holds significance for iwi Māori.