

# ‘Te Paerangi Ataata – Sky Song’

The horizon connects us, defying time and space.  
For here, in this ancient place, we are standing together.  
All the way south. We are connected.

Ahakoā te tāwhiti, kua tūhonongia a tāua e te pae nei.  
I tēnei wāhi onamata, e tū ana a tāua inaianeī.  
Ki te tai tonga rā āno, kua tūhonongia a tāua.



## Design Vision

Touching lightly on the sacred clearing above Taurarua Judge's Bay and reflecting it's setting through it's mirror-like finish *'Te Paerangi Ataata; Sky Song'* projects boldly outward to the horizon and connects us to a different time and place through the concept of the shared sky.

We look to the sky, and that sky is connected to the sky over Antarctica. Night and day. The families waited and looked out to the sky, the lost departed into the sky and their adventure was in the sky.

Our concept revolves around the experience of the visitor as they approach and venture along the walkway to the horizon, and as the story of what happened on that tragic day unfolds.

The Design Brief called for the "memorial to express the sense of adventure, exploration and enjoyment that the passengers on the flight would have felt, and evoke the beauty and grandeur of Antarctica". The Key Outcomes states "that the design is to be a bold and visionary experience".

### This is the Sky Song experience:

As you approach through the trees towards the clearing, the curving *Snowdrift Wall* invites you in to participate. It draws you gently inward, and onto the walkway toward the horizon, evoking the sense of adventure and granting you a glimpse of the excitement and exhilaration they must have all felt and enjoyed.

Along the way, a song, *'Te Paerangi Ataata'*, is inscribed in the curving form, and myriads of snowflakes cut out of the stainless steel wall create delicate snowdrift patterns. Each snowflake represents a life lost and is unique to the individual.

Your gaze is lifted up to the sky as you pass between two walls; the *Ice Wall* and *Snowdrift Wall* together echo the cold and majestic light and forms of Antarctica.

You reach the apex where all is sky and light, and you send the words you carry in your heart out across the ocean to the horizon to the sky, and the place where they were taken.

A whakatauki is inscribed on the glass balustrade;

**Seek out the distant horizons and pull them closer. Hold steadfast to the ones you have already attained.**

***Ko te pae tawhiti whaia kia tata, ko te pae tata whakamaua kia tina***

Alongside you on the end of the *Ice Wall* is the Erebus Narrative, as well as the acknowledgment of Operation Overdue. As you pause at the apex to reflect on the tragedy, you can hear a faint audible sound which, if you press your ear against the last panel on the *Ice Wall*, is the ancient murmurings and sounds of Antarctica, anchoring the *Ice Wall* to that other, remote, and wondrous place.

After this moment of reflection you turn, and start the inward journey back along the commemorative *Ice Wall*, to the land, back towards the giant pohutukawa tree beyond. The names of all those who were lost are now revealed standing tall before you. You trace their names in the steel.

The movement out to the horizon, openness and the sky represents the journey and adventurous spirit of the crew and passengers towards the unknown and the future. **A celebration of life.**

The movement back to the land represents the memory of those who lost their lives in the tragic event and were taken too soon.

**Hence future and past. Adventure and tragedy.**

*'Te Paerangi Ataata; Sky Song'* is deliberately set away from the existing perimeter trees, and provides large areas of grass around and adjacent to the Memorial. This allows both for quiet enjoyment of the tranquility of the setting, and as space to host large numbers of people for special events relating to the Memorial.



Mock-up of snowflake gift taonga

