

PROJECT UPDATE
January 2019

Giving back: Samuel Marsden Memorial Church in Matauri Bay

When John McGee saw the particleboard floor in the Samuel Marsden Memorial Church, he offered to donate some tōtara trees from his farm to replace the floor. John's family has a connection to the small rural church - his grandfather's wife lies at rest there.

Tōtara timber from John's Kaeo farm was gifted, along with Scion and the Tōtara Industry Pilot project who also contributed to the installation costs. The new floor was installed in November 2018 and completes extensive restoration of the church that included replacing the roof and outside cladding in 2015.

A thanksgiving service was conducted by the Whangaroa Anglican Pastorate on Sunday 27th January 2019. The service was attended by the church's congregation, Hon Shane Jones Minister of Forestry and Regional Development, Hon Kelvin Davis Minister of Māori Crown Relations, members of the TIP Steering Group, the Matauri Bay community and media.

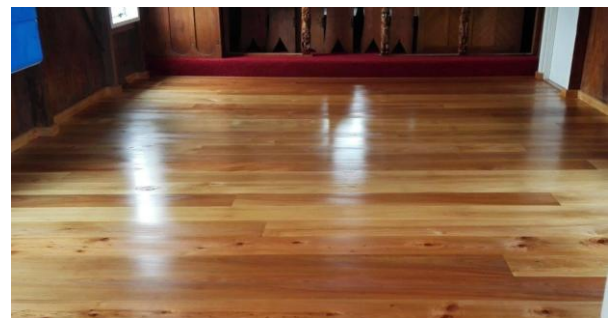
The new floor acknowledges the historic relationships between people and native timber in Northland.



Samuel Marsden Memorial Church in Matauri Bay



Particleboard floor that was replaced



New tōtara timber floor

Photos: Paul Quinlan

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