



**LESSONS LEARNED FROM PHYSICAL MODELLING AND  
OPOTIKI HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT WITH HANBAR UNITS**

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**UNSW**  
Water Research  
Laboratory



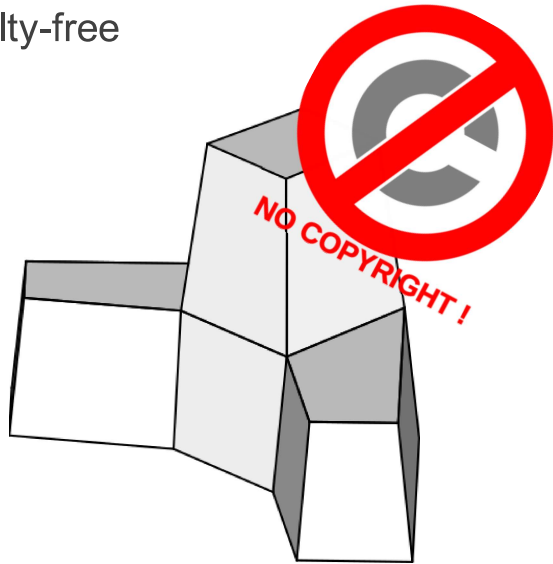
**Tonkin+Taylor**



**UNSW**  
SYDNEY

# What are Hanbars?

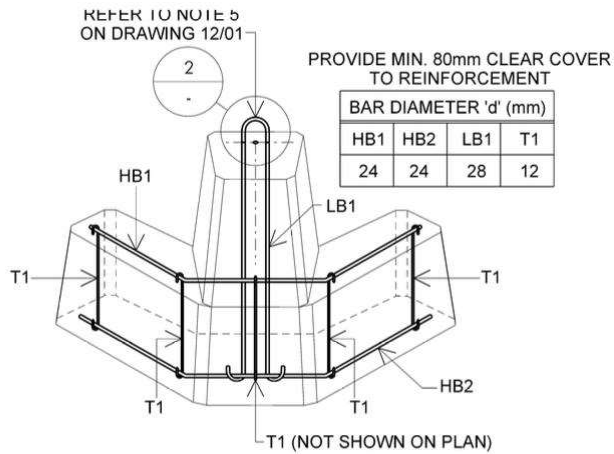
- Three-legged unit developed in the mid-1970s by NSW Public Works Department
- Peter **HAN**ley, George **BAR**boutis
- Royalty-free





# What are Hanbars?

- Thick three legs (2 wings + 1 chimney)
- High structural strength
- Large range of size/mass (from 2 t up to 28 t)



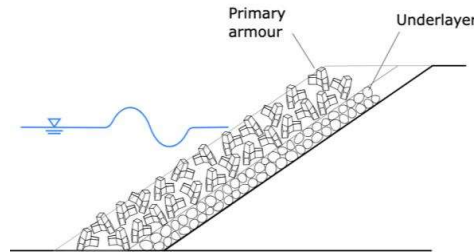
# What are Hanbars?

- Simple to manufacture
  - Open-ended single draw mould
  - 1/10 taper on all sides + flat base
  - Short casting time = high production rate
  - Lifting hook



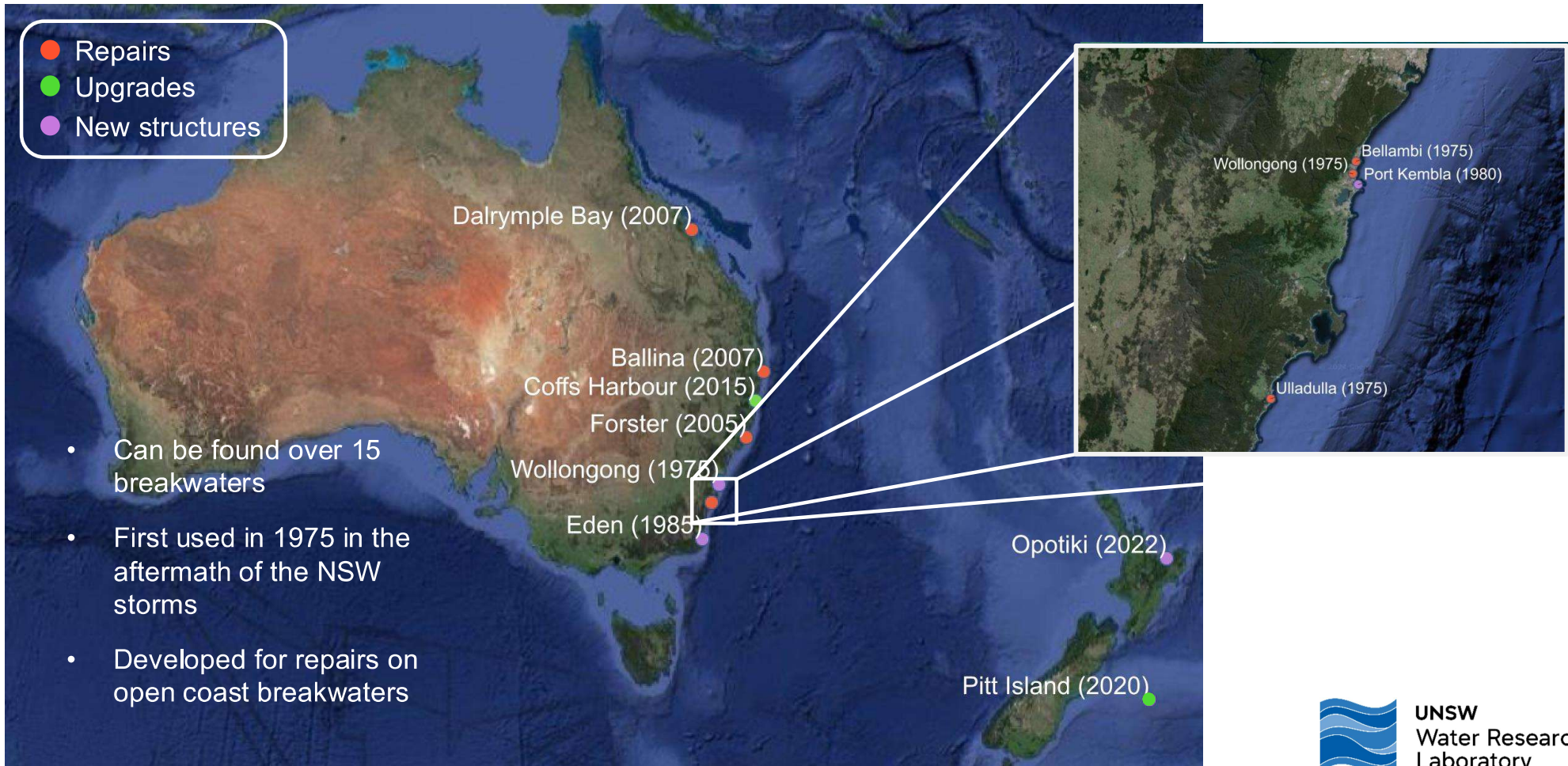
# What are Hanbars?

- Random double layer placement
- Placement has been dictated by armour unit construction method
- Lifting hooks cast into the top leg of the armour unit, so that units were always picked up by the top leg, and placed with flat base down first
- Double layer (60% of the units in the bottom layer, remaining 40% in the top layer)





## A brief history of Hanbar structures – Repairs in the 70s





# A brief history of Hanbar structures – New structures in the 80s

- Repairs
- Upgrades
- New structures

Wellington (1975) Bellambi (1975)

Ulladulla (1975)

Ballina (2007)  
Coffs Harbour (2015)



early 80s



# A brief history of Hanbar structures – Upgrades in the 2000s

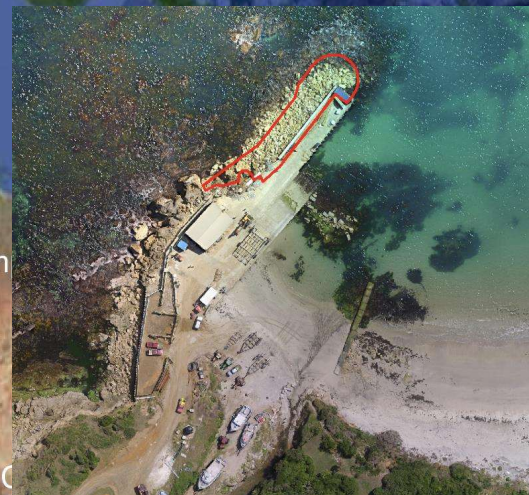
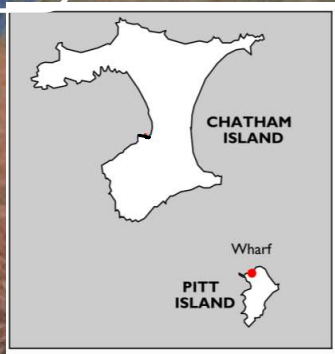
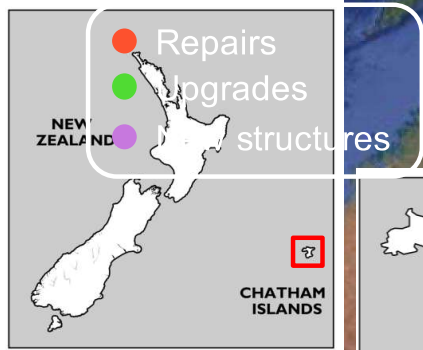
- Repairs
- Upgrades
- New structures



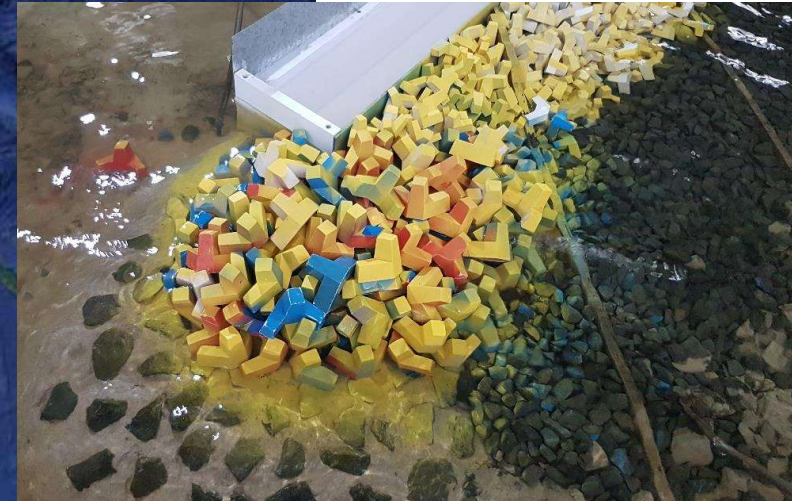
- Used for upgrade works on key NSW coastal protection structures



# A brief history of Hanbar structures – First NZ works in 2020s



Forster (2005)  
Wollongong (1975)

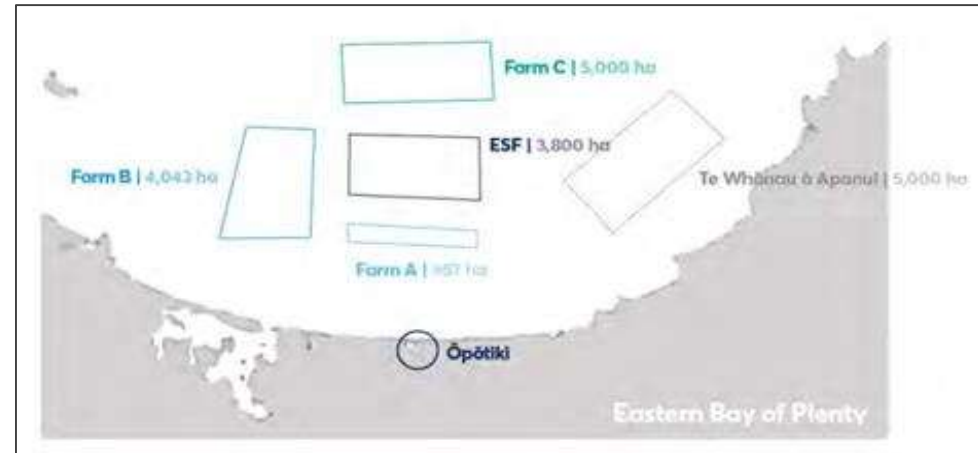


Pitt Island (2015)  
Scale 1:40





# Opotiki Harbour Development project





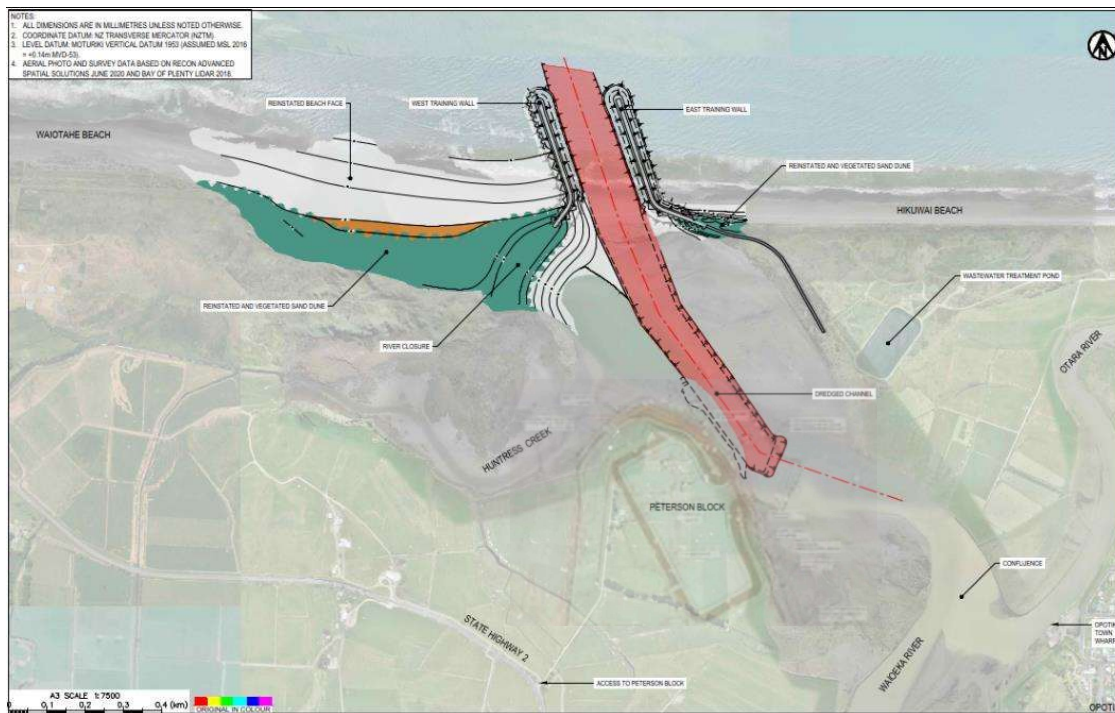
# Opotiki Harbour Development project

## Background



# Opotiki Harbour Development project

## Te Ara Moana a Toi ( “a pathway to the sea”)



- Twin 400m training wall armoured with hanbar units (2T to 15T)
- 120m wide dredged navigation channel to -3m CD.
- >600,000 m<sup>3</sup> of intertidal and subtidal dredging
- 20 ha of constructed beach, foredune and mid dune to close the existing river mouth



# Opotiki Harbour Development

- Modelling at scale of 1:40.5
- WRL 3D basin 30 m by 20 m with 3D concrete bathymetry (dredged channel)
- Staged approach:
  - Stage 1 - Wave processes
  - Stage 2 - 2D modelling of key sections of the training wall trunks
  - Stage 3 - Quasi-3D modelling of the breakwater head

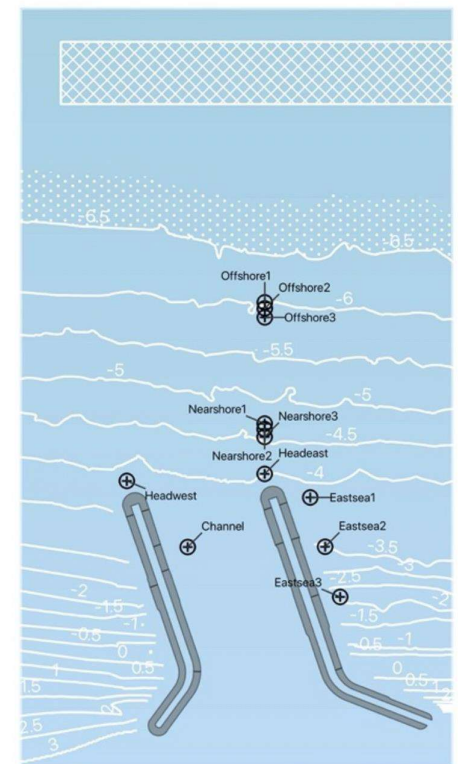
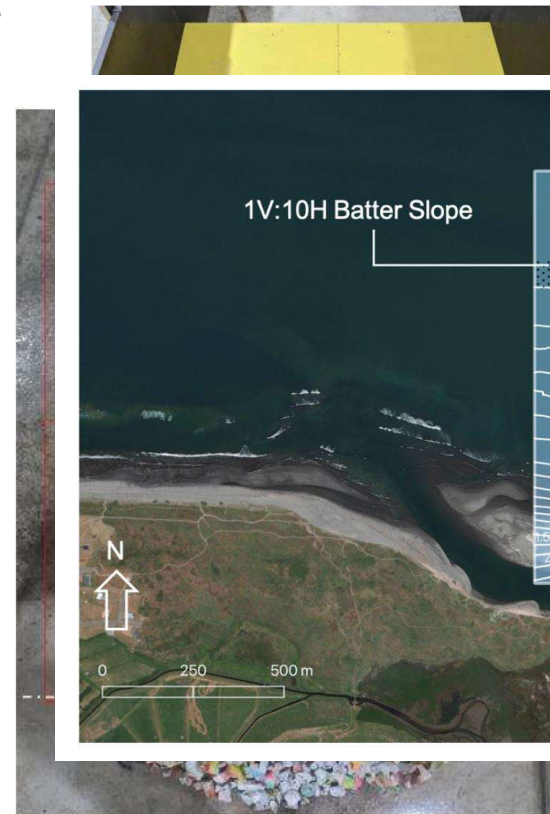


Figure 4.8 Q3D model configuration

# Opotiki Harbour Development

- Modelling at scale of 1:40.5
- WRL 3D basin 30 m by 20 m with 3D concrete bathymetry (dredged channel)
- Staged approach:
  - Stage 1 - Wave processes
  - Stage 2 - 2D modelling of key sections of the training wall trunks
  - Stage 3 - Quasi-3D modelling of the breakwater head
  - Stage 4 - Full 3D modelling of complete structures

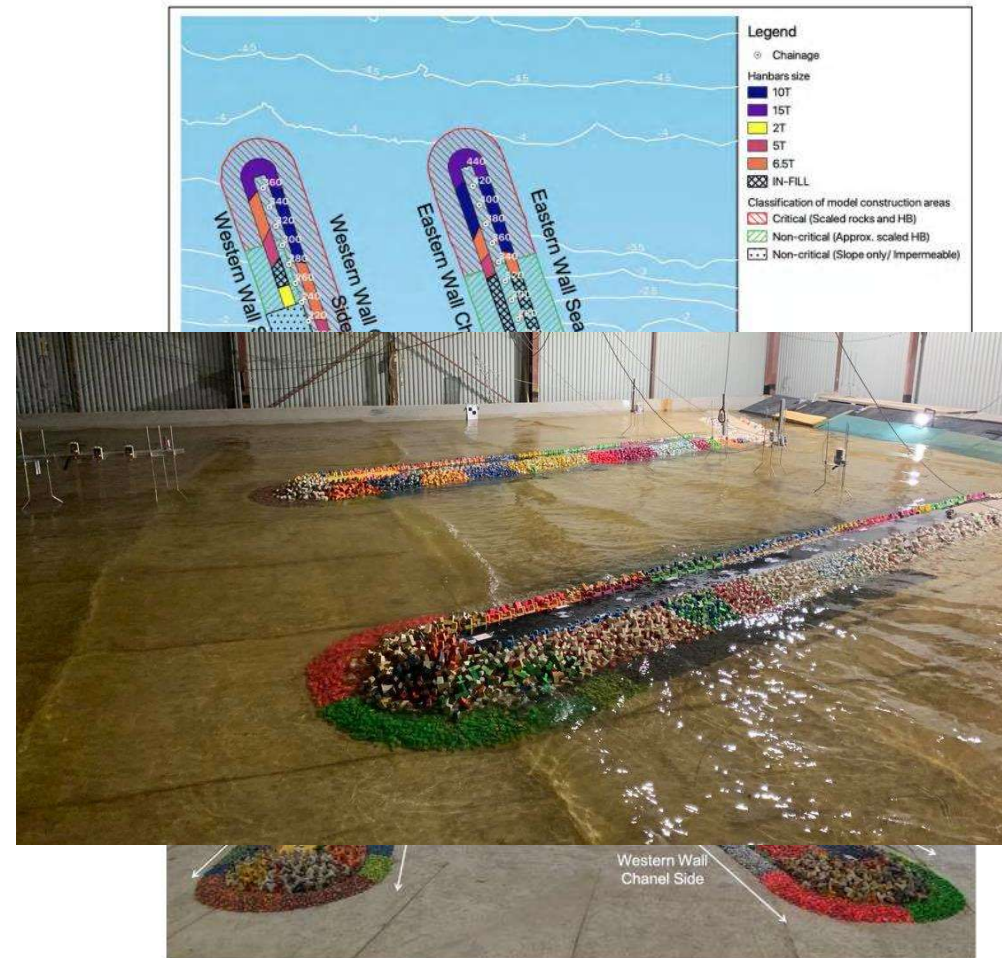


Figure 4.13 3D model overview

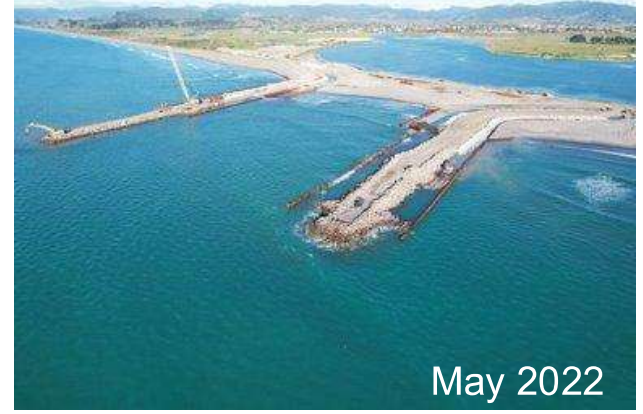


# Opotiki Harbour Development project - Construction Phase





# Opotiki Harbour Development





# Opotiki Harbour Development

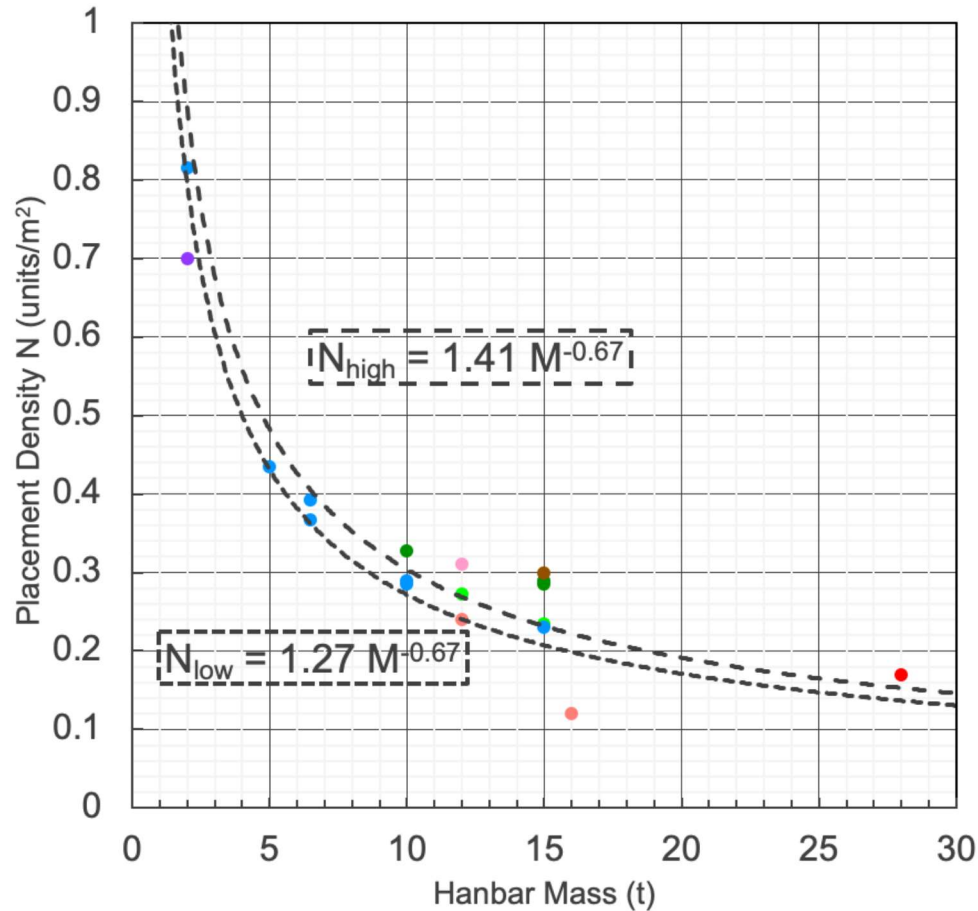


October 2020



November 2023

# Placement density (double layer 60/40)



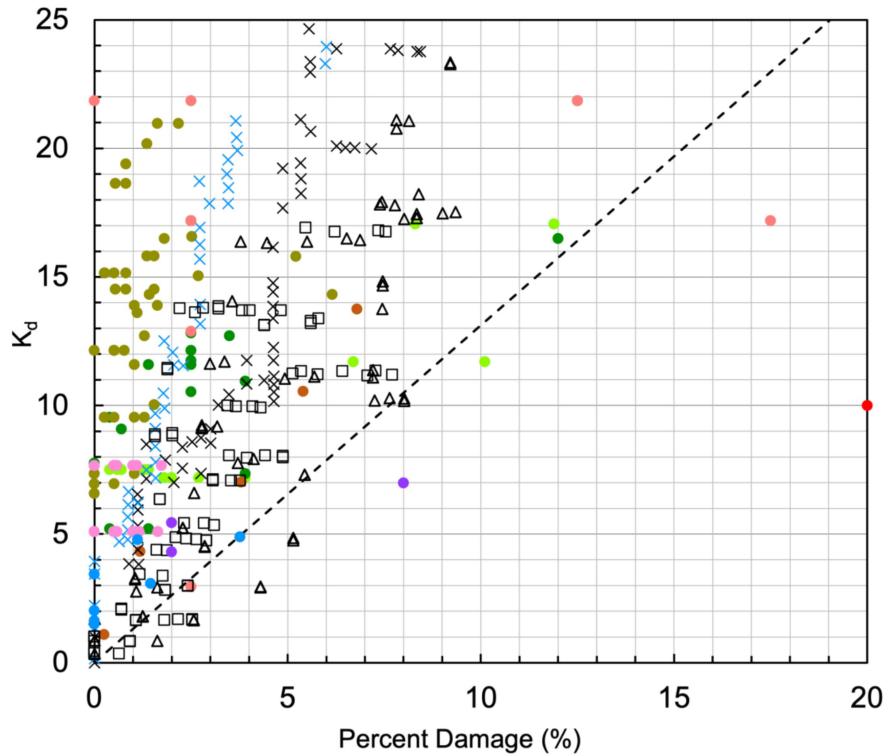
$$N = k_p M^{-2/3}$$

where

- $M$  is the mass of the considered Hanbar unit
- $N$  is the number of units per  $m^2$  of breakwater slope used during double layer placement
- $k_p$  is the packing density coefficient



# Damage coefficient $K_d$

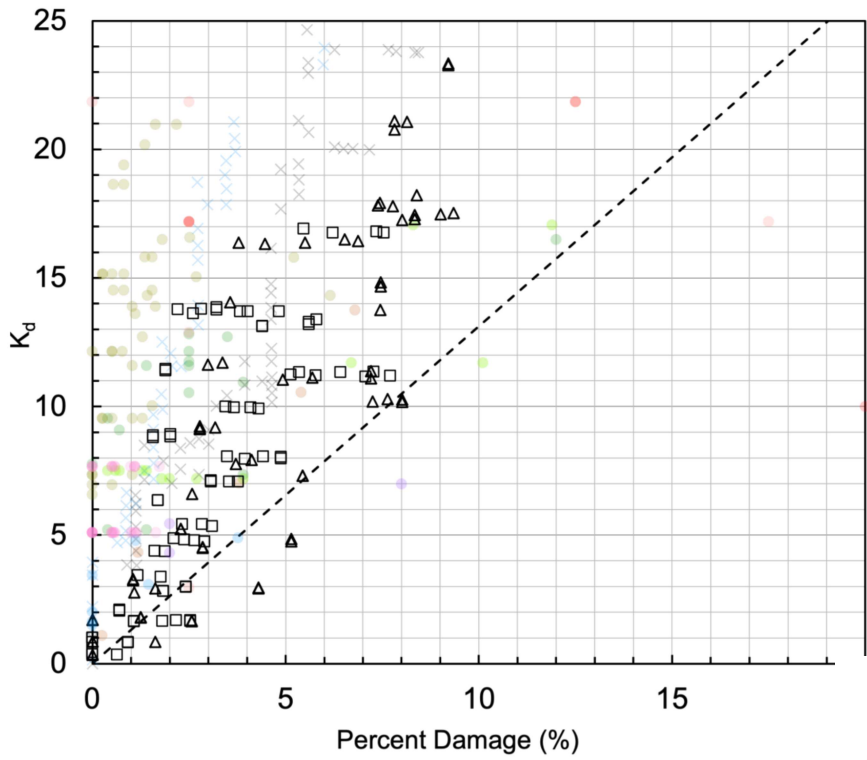


$$M = \frac{\rho_c H^3}{K_d \Delta^3 \cot \alpha}$$

where

- $M$  mass of Harbar unit
- $H$  incident significant wave height
- $\alpha$  structure slope
- $\rho_c$  concrete density
- $\Delta$  relative submerged density
- $K_d$  Hudson damage coefficient

# Applied research – High-density concrete



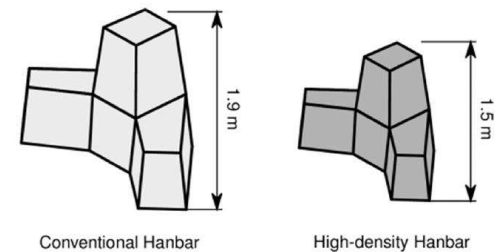
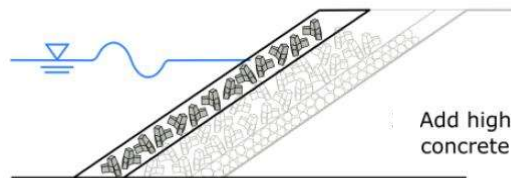
- Port Kembla (1979)
- Eden (1981)
- Eden (1984)
- Ballina (1997)
- Coffs Harbour East (1999)
- × Blacka et al. Upright (2005)
- × Blacka et al. Interlocking (2005)
- Forster (2004)
- Coffs Harbour North (2015)
- △ Howe and Cox SG=2.35 (2017)
- Howe and Cox SG=2.8 (2017)
- Pitt Island (2018)
- Opotiki (2021)



Figure 5. High-density Hanbar breakwater model with 0% damage (left), and 11% damage (right).

	Conventional	High density
Mass <sup>1</sup> (t)	8.0	4.2
Height <sup>1</sup> (m)	1.9	1.5
Density <sup>1</sup> (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	2350	2800
Design wave height <sup>2</sup> (m)	4.3	4.3

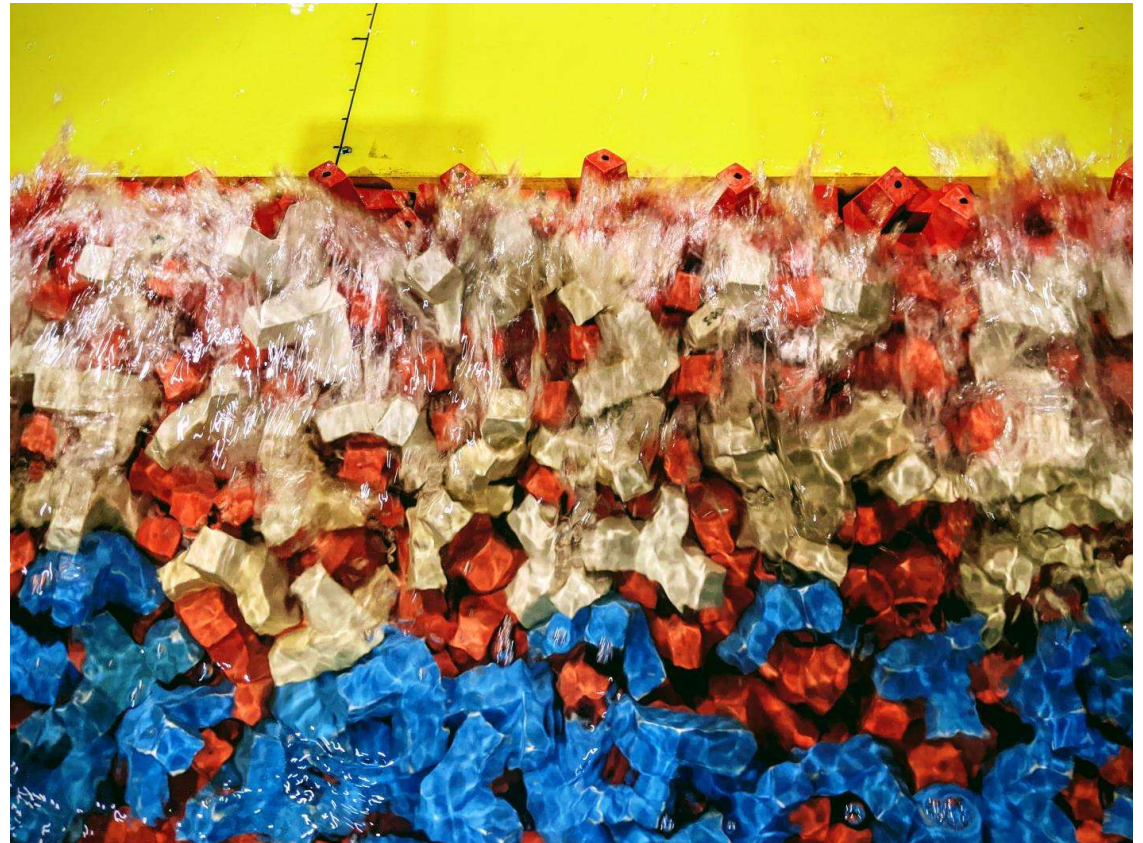
1. Measurements in prototype scale.  
2. Calculated using Hudson's equation.





# Hanbars

- Robust and simple concrete unit
- Proven multi-function unit (repairs/upgrades/new structures)
- 2 t to 28 t
- Royalty-free
- Expanding knowledge base through 50 years of physical modelling and 15 projects
- Model units available from 30 g to 230 g
- Actively research and developed by UNSW

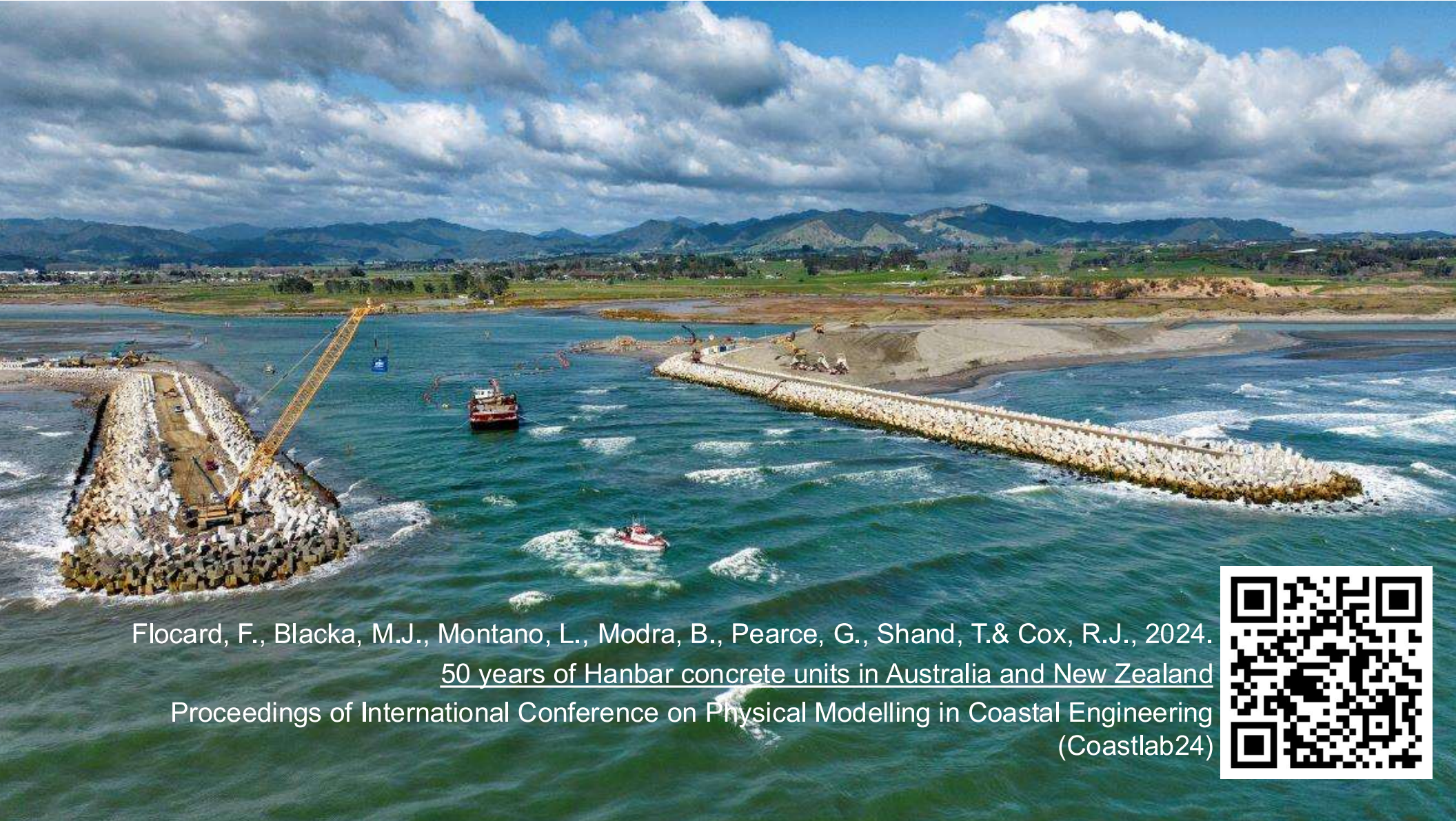


## Session 7A

### High-Density Coastal Armour Units for Managing Increased Risk With Climate Change

*R. Cox, B. Modra, F. Flocard, P. Ryan*





Flocard, F., Blacka, M.J., Montano, L., Modra, B., Pearce, G., Shand, T.& Cox, R.J., 2024.  
50 years of Hanbar concrete units in Australia and New Zealand  
Proceedings of International Conference on Physical Modelling in Coastal Engineering  
(Coastlab24)

