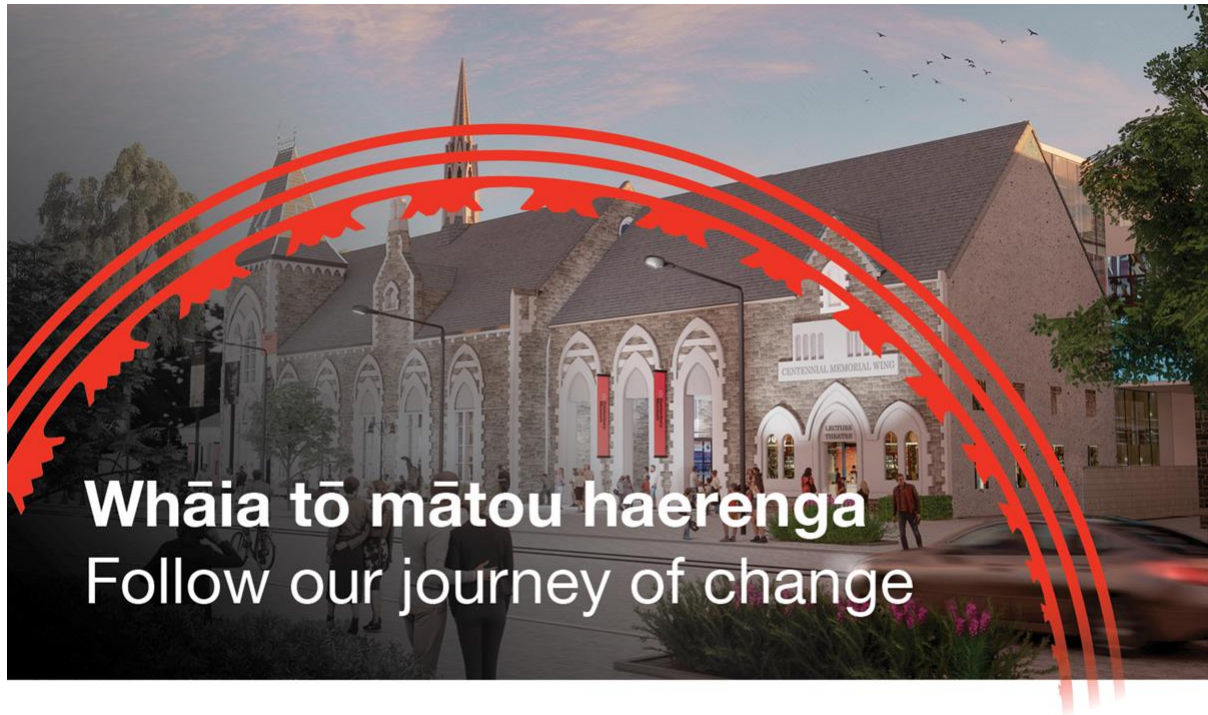


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Kia ora koutou

Ravenscar House Museum, above, will be free to visit during the first weekend of September.

This stunning house museum features one of the most significant private art collections in New Zealand, assembled by Susan and Jim Wakefield. After the Canterbury earthquakes, the Wakefields built an extraordinary new home for the collection in the heart of Christchurch and gifted the building to the city. This meant that their art collection could be shared with the world.

The free weekend at Ravenscar House Museum makes sure this wonderful gift is shared with as many people as possible. It will be a great pleasure to welcome you through the doors.



Quake City

Earlier this month, it was our pleasure to host the annual free entry weekend at the hugely popular *Quake City* exhibition.

It was a huge success, with a record 2,306 people enjoying the experience over the weekend of 8 and 9 August. The annual event has become a popular way for us to share the earthquake stories captured so well in *Quake City* with as wide an audience as possible. It offers a way for people to look back on the city's earthquake story and a chance for young people and newcomers to learn about our turbulent recent history.



The redevelopment webcam shows live progress.

Meanwhile, the Museum redevelopment is progressing well. As you can see from this image from our live webcam, the inner basement floor for the new building is largely complete and there are even walls going up in the new basement. The next major milestone will be when steel arrives on site and the new building starts to emerge above ground. Every time I visit the redevelopment site, there seems to be some new and exciting sign of progress. **You can keep up to date on the redevelopment with our webcam [here](#).**

Ngā mihi nui

Anthony Wright

Tumuaki Matua | Director



Free entry weekend

Enjoy Ravenscar House Museum

Ravenscar House Museum, one of Christchurch's finest art treasures, will be free to enjoy on Saturday 5 September and Sunday 6 September, 2026.

Described by *Stuff Travel* as “one of Christchurch's most unexpected treasures”, this stunning house museum features a unique collection of Kiwi art displayed in an architectural gem.

Ravenscar House Museum is home to works by much-loved Aotearoa New Zealand artists like Frances Hodgkins, Colin McCahon, Ralph Hotere, Bill Sutton and Rita Angus. The collection of around 300 paintings and objects also features intricate glass works, beautiful furniture and ancient Roman jewellery.

The house museum itself is also a work of art, with a series of striking spaces arranged around an internal courtyard along with a landscaped garden studded with contemporary sculptures. The building's architectural awards include best new cultural building at the World Architecture Festival in 2023 and a win at the New Zealand Architecture Awards in 2024.

[Read more →](#)



Prize draw

Enter to win a Ravenscar book

To celebrate the *Ravenscar House Museum* free weekend we are holding a prize draw.

Enter to win a copy of Sally Blundell's beautifully illustrated book about how Ravenscar House Museum came to life. The draw is open until midnight on Wednesday 2 September.

[Enter the draw →](#)



An immersive world

Discover nature stories of Singapore

Enter a fascinating world of bearcats that smell of popcorn, fish that can climb trees and the world's only venomous primate.

Tails From The Coasts: Nature Stories of Singapore, which is on now at the *Canterbury Museum Pop-Up*, offers an insight into Singapore's diverse and intriguing wildlife through a priceless collection of historic watercolours.

The 200-year-old artworks, on loan from the National Museum of Singapore, are also brought to life through animation in a special immersive digital experience called *Voyage – Experience the William Farquhar Collection of Natural History Drawings of Southeast Asia*.

[Watch video →](#)

Our journey

A jacket for a new life

This life jacket accompanied the Barker family during their 99-day voyage from England to New Zealand in 1850.

Emma and Alfred Barker, along with their three children under the age of five, endured the long voyage to start a new life in Christchurch.



You can read more about their voyage and explore other stories on the Museum's Our Journey page.

[Read more →](#)



Street life

Capturing lost Christchurch

This photo of Cathedral Square in the 1990s was taken by Joan Woodward – an avid photographer who captured many fabulous images of street life in 1980s Christchurch.

Joan, who was a former Museum Pictorial History Curator, photographed many Christchurch landmarks that were later lost in the Canterbury earthquakes. Her collection of negatives and photographs became part of the Museum collection in 1997.

We are celebrating Joan's work, and bringing back many precious memories for Christchurch people, with a showcase of her photography on Facebook and Instagram, and the Museum website.

[More photos →](#)

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... to read about our redevelopment journey and treasures from the collection by signing up for Museum Stories delivered straight to your inbox.

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 **Canterbury
Museum**



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2026 Canterbury Museum

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