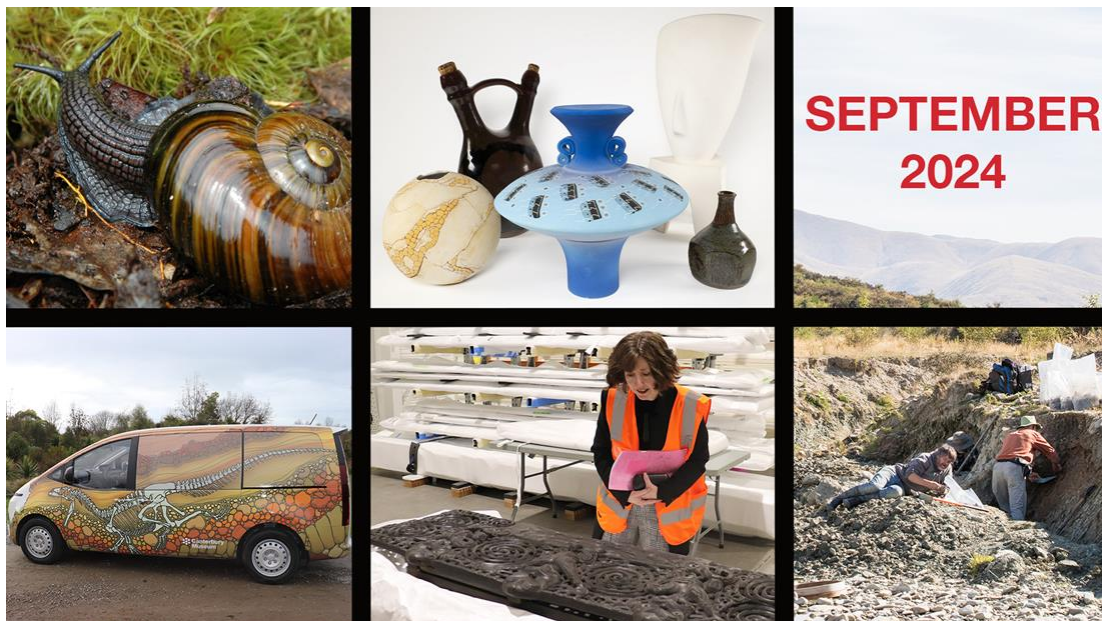
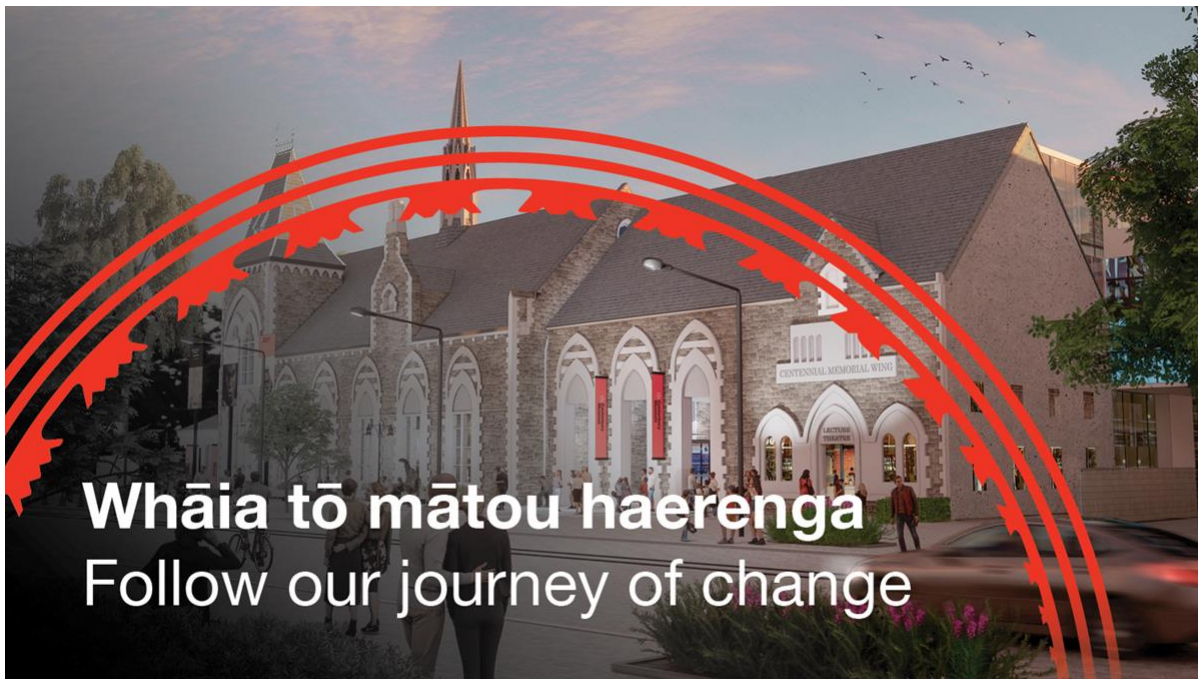


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## Get into the September e-newsletter

A search for lost taonga, groundbreaking fossil research revealing Kiwi birds are Aussie immigrants, a blue mushroom cloud wrought in clay and killer snails that eat earthworms like spaghetti. All this and more in this month's Canterbury Museum newsletter.

[Now read on...](#)

*The Christchurch Street will return in the redeveloped Canterbury Museum.*

## From the Director | Tumuaki

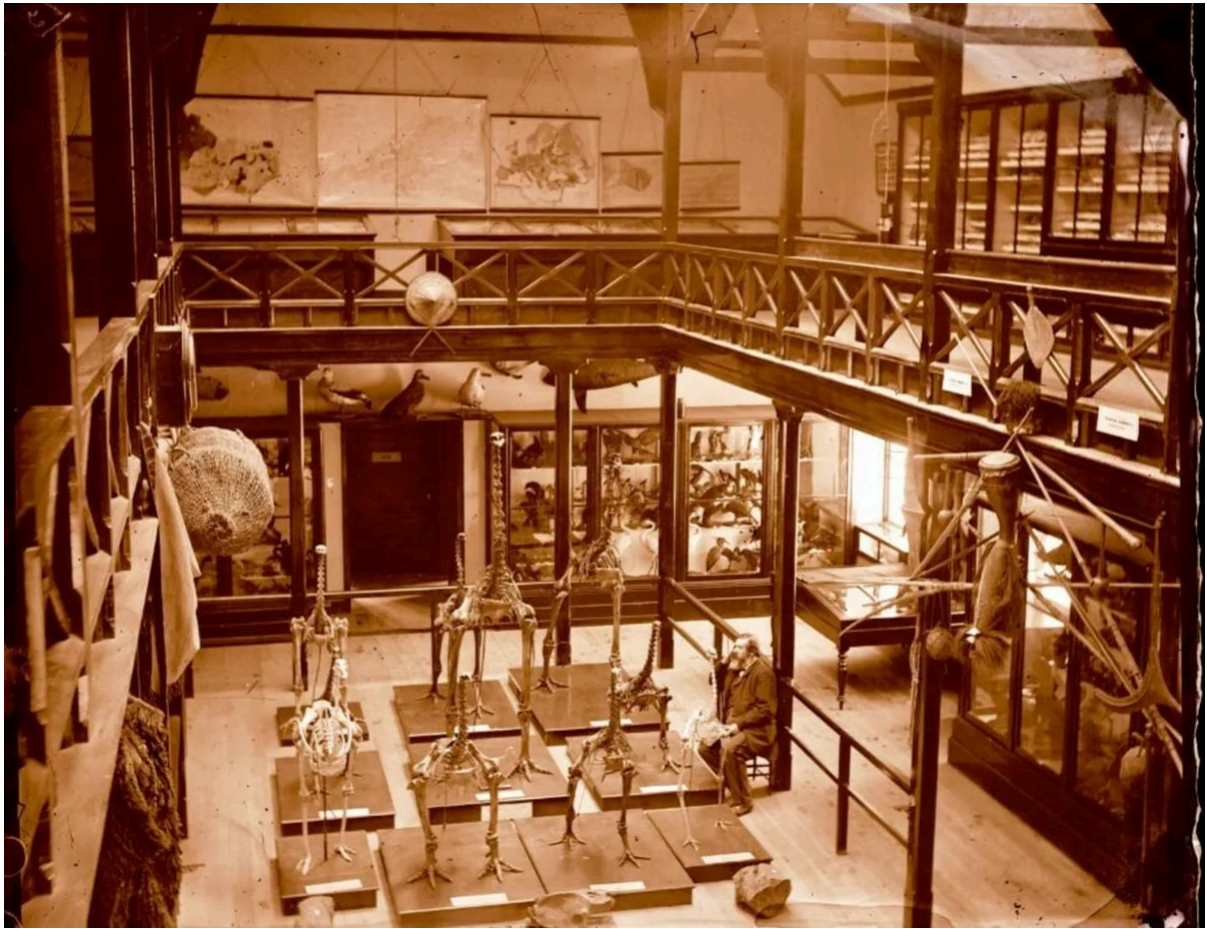
Kia ora koutou

While the building foundation works at Rolleston Avenue continue apace we are also very busy behind the scenes creating an exciting new visitor experience for you all to enjoy when the redeveloped Canterbury Museum reopens in 2028.

The new visitor experience will feature old favourites like the Christchurch Street and the Paua Shell House pretty much as you remember them, but with tweaks to bring them up to date and adapt them for our new or strengthened buildings.

The redeveloped Museum will also be a chance to showcase items from the collection that haven't been on display for a very long time. These include the stagecoach that used to be a highlight of the old Transport Gallery, Jeff Thomson's corrugated iron art car, and items related to suffragist Kate Sheppard and Victoria Cross recipient Henry Nicholas, both proud Cantabrians.





*Julius Haast in the Mountfort Gallery, c1872. Barker Collection, Canterbury Museum 1944.78.66*

We are in the early stages of working to recreate the ambience and style of the original Mountfort Gallery as it looked when Canterbury Museum opened at Rolleston Avenue in 1870. This will use original objects and items from the era to conjure the look and feel of a Victorian museum. The gallery will teem with all manner of intriguing objects from our natural history collection.

We are at the beginning of an enormous piece of work to curate, design and build 60 new exhibitions for the redeveloped Museum. We can't do everything at once but we will soon start work on exhibitions like the new Antarctic gallery, showcasing our art collection and reinstating bird dioramas.

We can't wait to welcome you back into our new Museum towards the end of 2028. Enjoy reading and seeing here some of the great work being done by the Museum team. Head along to *Form & Fire* at *Canterbury Museum at CoCA* when it opens on 20 September to see a special collection of beautiful pottery from the 1960s to the present day.

Ngā mihi nui

Anthony Wright



Gorgeous pottery

## New show **Form & Fire** brings the heat

A diverse collection of inspiring, eccentric and beautiful pottery from the 1960s to now stars in the new exhibition *Form & Fire* opening at *Canterbury Museum at CoCA* on 20 September.

This celebration of Canterbury pottery features more than 160 artworks from the Museum's collection and is only running for a limited time of 2 months. The show includes an electric blue mushroom cloud from the 1990s, masterworks from the 1960s, and pieces by famed Kiwi artists like Doris Holland, who painted under the name Doris Lusk.

Highlights include works by international grand masters like Bernard Leach from the United Kingdom and Shōji Hamada of Japan, along with beautiful pieces by New Zealand artists like Margaret Ryley, Yvonne Rust, Wyn Reed and David Brokenshire, many of which have not been on public display for decades.

[See more →](#)

Groundbreaking fossil research

## **Kiwis are Aussie immigrants**



Aotearoa New Zealand's true ancient species are animals like Kākāpō, small wrens, bats and freshwater limpets, not recent Aussie immigrants like kiwi, moa and takahē. This is the conclusion reached by an international team of palaeontologists after two decades of groundbreaking research at the St Bathans fossil site in Central Otago.

[See more →](#)



**Mystery solved**

## The Search for lost taonga

Art historian Deidre Brown searched for a lost Māori carving for eight years. She finally came face to face with the ornately carved taonga at Canterbury Museum.

The kōrupe (door lintel) was thought lost for two centuries, but it was uncovered in the Museum's collection after a global search by Deidre, who is professor of architecture at Waipapa Taumata Rau University of Auckland.



It was one of a group of eight Māori whakairo rākau (traditional wood carvings) she has tracked down to museums across the world.

[Read more →](#)



**Makeover time**

## A van-tastic video

Canterbury Museum educators have hit the road in their new van over the last year, bringing their teaching magic to children across Te Waipounamu South Island. We wanted to revamp our van to make it more eye catching, so asked Christchurch children for inspiration.

Check out this video revealing the bright new designs, which were inspired by sketches by students from from Te Waka Unua and Chisnallwood Intermediate.

[Watch video →](#)



**Shark-toothed predators**

# Aotearoa's deadly carnivorous snails

Sharks are predators of the ocean, but some snails are just as deadly predators of the forest. But, just like sharks threatened by overfishing, Aotearoa New Zealand's carnivorous snails are endangered by human activity.

These beautiful killers mainly eat earthworms. The snail moves surprisingly fast to grab its prey, then sucks the earthworm into its mouth like grisly spaghetti, where it is enveloped and suffocated. Once dead, the worm is torn apart by the snail's sharp, rasping teeth. These teeth, known as radulae, sit in a deadly ribbon in the snail's mouth.

[Read more →](#)

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