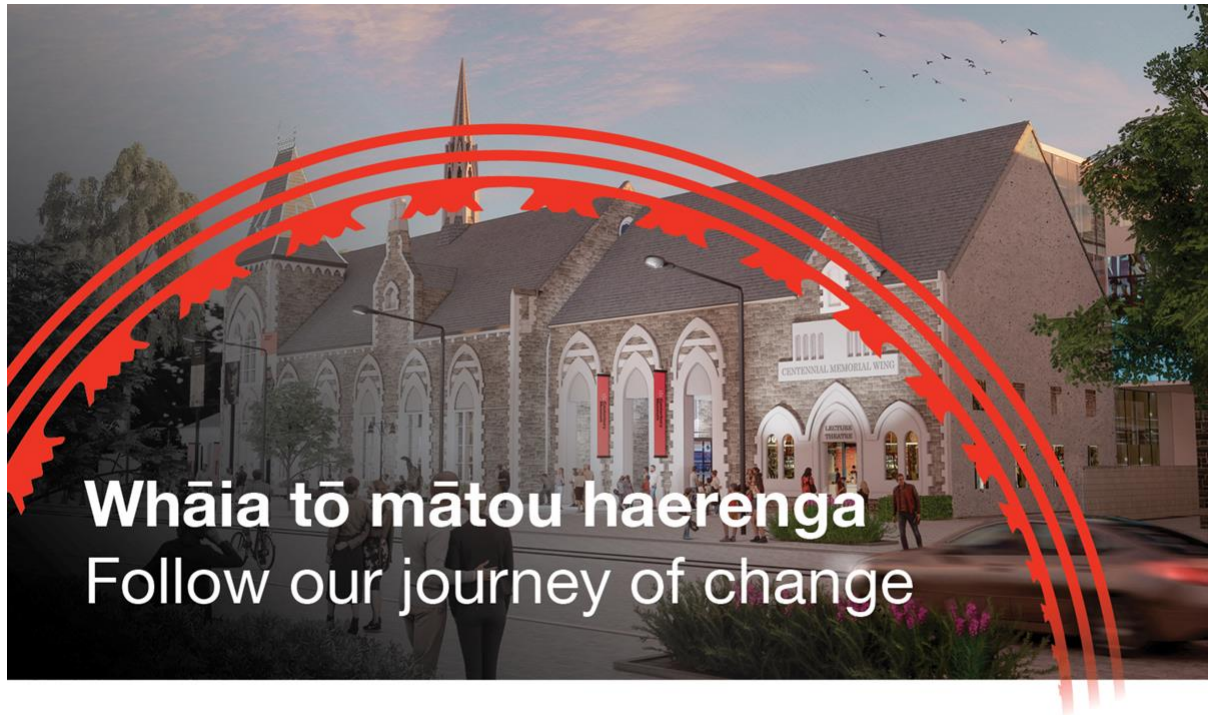


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**Whāia tō mātou haerenga**  
Follow our journey of change



**December e-newsletter**

**From the Tumuaki Matua | Director**

Kia ora koutou

Here's a view of Canterbury Museum you won't have seen before. This is the back of the Centennial Memorial Wing façade on Rolleston Avenue. The Centennial Wing, which was built between 1955 and 1958, used to be home to Fred and Myrtle's Paua Shell House and the Special Exhibitions Hall.



*Behind the facade of the Canterbury Museum Centennial Wing on Rolleston Avenue. The bright colours along the top were the upper walls of the Discovery Centre.*

The restored facade will house an additional entrance to the redeveloped Museum. Once visitors pass through those doors they will enter the foyer which leads into a dramatic new atrium, complete with the blue whale skeleton soaring above them.





*Artist's impression of the Centennial Wing facade, on the right, as seen from Rolleston Avenue. Image: Athfield Architects*

The facade is now carefully propped and suspended while the new Museum's basement is excavated beneath. The basement extends beyond the façade to a point beneath the pavement in front of the building. Work is forging ahead on the new basement, with two more concrete pours for the floor planned this month. The first pour was completed in October.

Once the basement is complete, the new building will emerge from the ground next year. The new building will wrap around our heritage buildings and connect to the Robert McDougall Gallery.

This week, we reached another milestone with the installation of a tower crane on the site. The crane will put the redevelopment firmly on the city's skyline and show Cantabrians that your new Museum is truly underway.

We can't wait to welcome you through those doors when the redeveloped Museum reopens in 2029.

Compliments of the season and Meri Kirihimete.

Ngā mihi nui  
Anthony Wright

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Country estate to Museum

## A painting's voyage into the collection

A trail of discovery led back in time to a painting's original 1920s home.

Fine art research often involves carefully examining all surfaces of a work. The back of paintings – or the verso as its called – sometimes reveals clues to the artwork's story and history.

The back of this work in the Museum collection led to stories of a house fire, the well-known Christchurch architect Heathcote Helmore and a revealing image of the painting hanging in an ornate country estate outside Wellington.

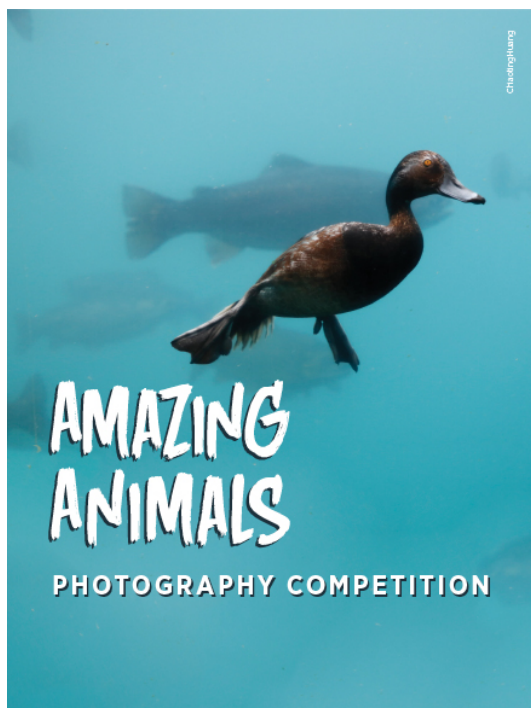
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The final countdown

## Amazing Animals

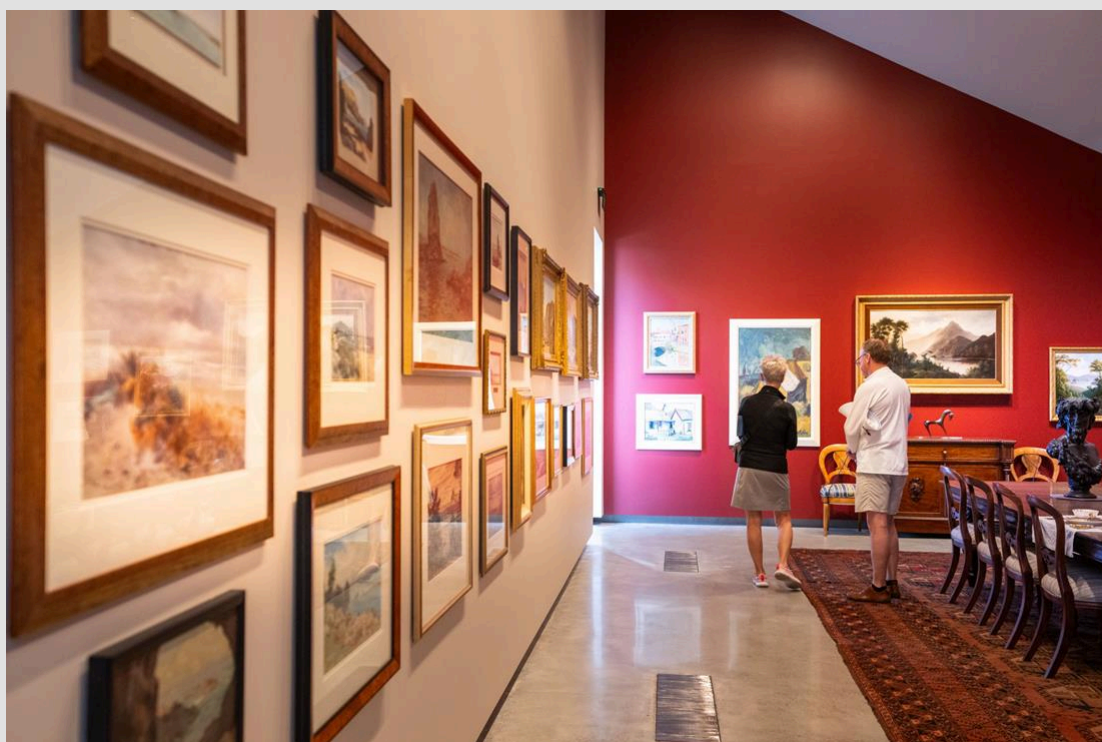
Hurry! Only a few days left to enter!

Dive into our competition and see if your image fits the bill. Enter your best wildlife photographs in our *Amazing Animals* photo competition and be in to win a fantastic prize.



The best pictures taken this year will also be displayed at the *Canterbury Museum Pop-Up*. The competition is open to all Canterbury photographers and closes on 7 December.

[Enter the competition →](#)



**Ravenscar House Museum**

## The perfect gift for an art lover

Want to gift someone a visit to Ravenscar House Museum?

A ticket to Ravenscar House Museum is the perfect gift for the art lover in your life.

Tickets are \$25 for adults; \$20 for seniors and students and \$5 for children aged 2 to 15 years. They are available from Ravenscar House Museum or online by clicking below.



If you want to be really generous, an annual pass is available from Ravenscar House Museum for \$75 for adults and \$60 for seniors and students.

[Buy gift tickets →](#)

**Guess who's back?**

## Santa Search

It's that time of year again - the *Great Museum Santa Search* returns to the Museum pop-up on Saturday, 6 December.

Can you find all the Santas hiding in the Museum? Discover them all and you could win a prize.

*The Great Museum Santa Search* has been a Museum family favourite for more than a decade.

[Read more →](#)



**Nipping the scales**

# Bring me dinner and make it snappy

Photographer Ian Ford had a bit of luck when he photographed a jaguar catching a caiman for dinner in South America.

See this incredible image, along with a fresh batch of 100 spectacular animal photos, in *Wildlife Photographer of the Year* at the pop-up Museum.

Ian heard over his radio that a jaguar was prowling the banks of a São Lourenço River tributary in the Pantanal. He arrived by boat just in time to photograph the jaguar crushing the caiman's skull with their mighty jaws.

The exhibition, on loan from the Natural History Museum in London, gives visitors the chance to see a hawk hunting a butterfly, the nocturnal glow of a Chilean volcano and the intimate world of tiny insects.

*Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2024* is on at the *Canterbury Museum Pop-up* until 1 February.

Image: *Deadly Bite* by Ian Ford. *Wildlife Photographer of the Year*. Natural History Museum, London

[See more →](#)



Giant Crane

## Bird mystery solved with DNA tech

The Hodgens' Waterhen was a flightless bird that once lived in Aotearoa New Zealand, but disappeared shortly after human arrival. For many years, nobody was quite sure where it fitted in the bird family tree.

Now, thanks to some clever detective work using DNA from ancient bones held in the Museum collection, the mystery has finally been solved.

[Read more →](#)

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#### Canterbury Museum Pop-Up

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