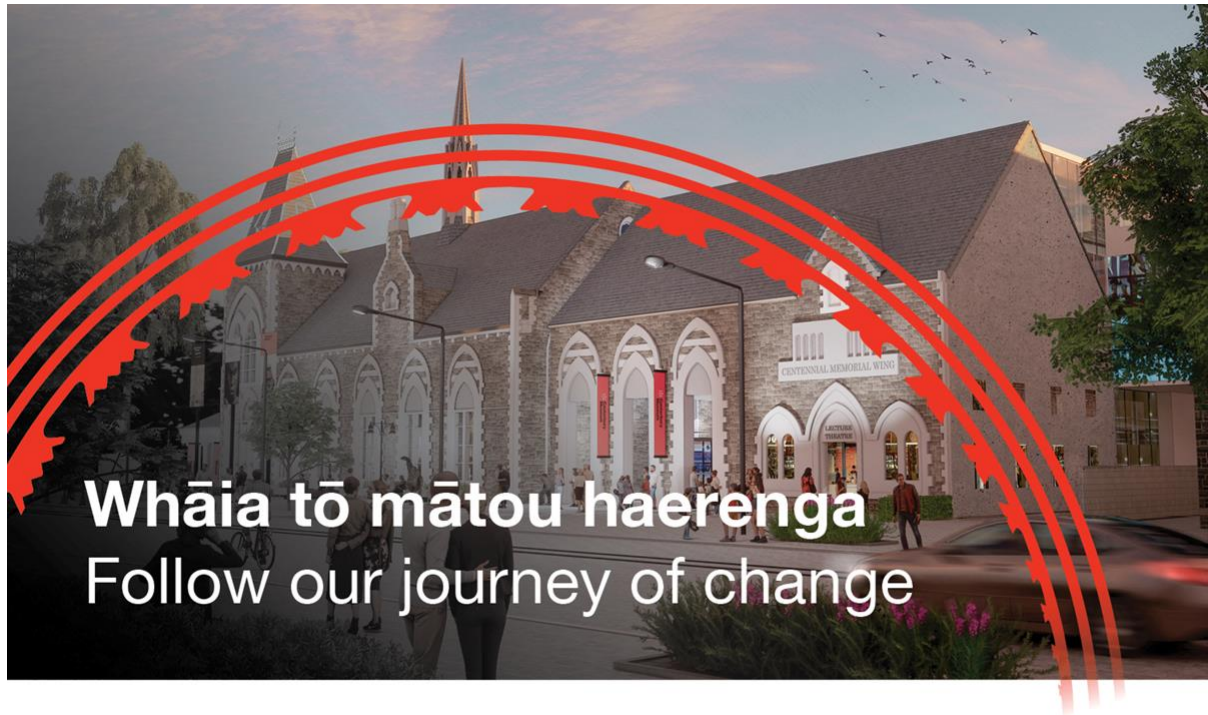


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Kia ora koutou

This is the Robert McDougall Gallery as you have never seen it before. It is now a gallery on stilts. But very strong stilts, well braced and over 300 of them.

Contractors have been busy excavating beneath the gallery with half a dozen mini-excavators removing spoil that is loaded into skips, lifted out by crane and taken away by truck. It takes about 60 truck movements a day to remove the spoil from the Museum redevelopment site.

The excavators have been carefully removing the soil between over 300 steel micropiles that, along with large steel props and a concrete wall, support the gallery during the redevelopment. You can watch a video and read more about this engineering feat [here](#).

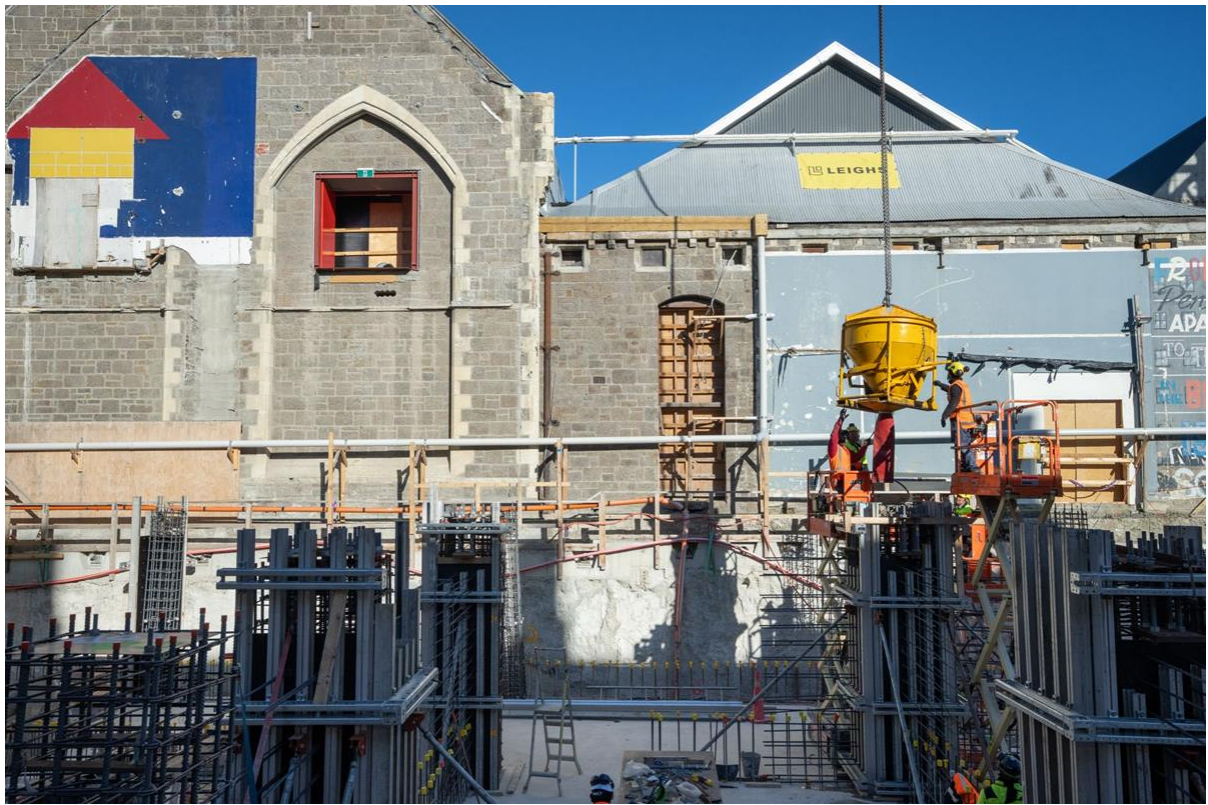
The excavation is now complete, meaning work can start on the outer basement floor that will be constructed beneath the gallery. This will join up with the large underground wall around the perimeter of the new build site and the new basement floor, already laid over the rest of the construction site.



The columns in the new basement are starting to take shape.

Contractors have also started pouring concrete for the basement pillars that will support the new ground floor. Soon, structural steel beams will start arriving on site and the new building will begin to emerge above the ground. Quite a milestone!

It is encouraging to watch the redevelopment move past major milestones so regularly and exciting to imagine the building soon taking shape above ground. You can watch all this progress **on our live webcam [here](#)** and **read more about the redevelopment [here](#)**.



Concrete being poured for one of the basement to ground floor pillars.

In other news, which you can scroll down to read, this year's free entry weekend at Quake City is on 8 and 9 August and our new hit exhibition *Tails from the Coasts* is attracting crowds at the *Canterbury Museum Pop-Up*.

Scroll down further for another Museum giveaway!

Ngā mihi nui
Anthony Wright
Tumuaki Matua | Director



Mark your calendars

Get ready for *Quake City* free weekend

The hugely popular *Quake City* exhibition, which tells stories from the Canterbury earthquakes, will be free to visit on Saturday 8 August and Sunday 9 August.

The free weekend has become an incredibly popular annual fixture in Christchurch. It is made possible by major sponsor Natural Hazards Commission Toka Tū Ake, formerly EQC, which has supported *Quake City* for over a decade.

The special exhibition takes visitors through the first earthquake of 4 September 2010, the widespread destruction and rescue efforts of 22 February 2011 through to the recovery and ongoing rebuild of the city.

[Read more →](#)

Prize draw

Enter to win *Quake City* vouchers

To celebrate the *Quake City* free weekend we are holding a prize draw.

Win a \$50 voucher for the *Quake City* gift shop by entering our prize draw.



The draw is open until midnight on Tuesday 4 August.

[Enter the draw →](#)



Corrugated classic

Iconic artwork readied for display

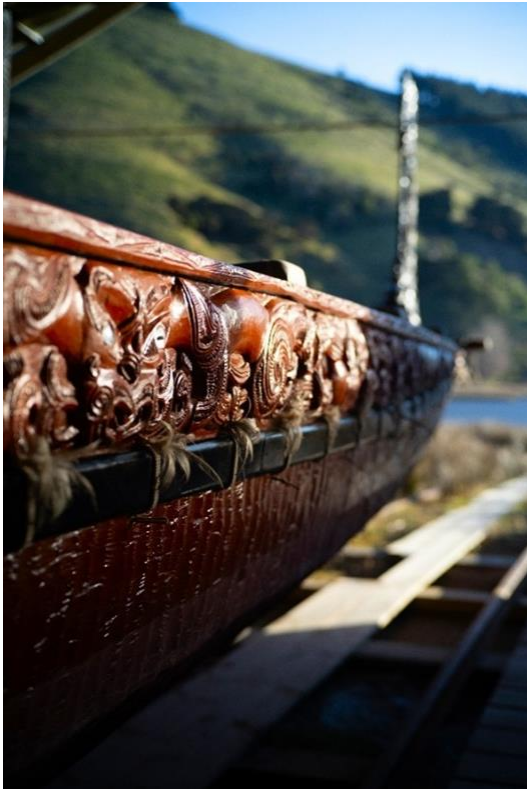
We're getting our Morris Minor back on the road again.

Kiwi artist Jeff Thomson made this corrugated-iron Morris Minor, which was part of an incredibly popular exhibition at Canterbury Museum in 2015.

After that show, the iconic artwork was purchased by the Museum, with plans to make it a star of the redeveloped Museum.

Now we are getting the car ready to go back on show for the first time in over a decade. The Morris Minor will be on display in a new space linking the new building to the restored Robert McDougall Gallery.

[Watch video →](#)



Our journey

A Museum karakia

Before undertaking any significant task, such as selecting a tree to build a waka or beginning a journey, a tohunga (expert) would perform karakia to ensure a successful outcome.

The Museum has sought the guidance of Ngāi Tahu experts to compose a karakia that celebrates our shared identity, brings focus to our teams and helps protect and guide us on our redevelopment and cultural journey.

Discover how our karakia links to this beautiful waka on Te Pātaka o Rakaihautū Banks Peninsula.

[Read more →](#)



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 →](#)

Prize draw result

Digging Deep winner

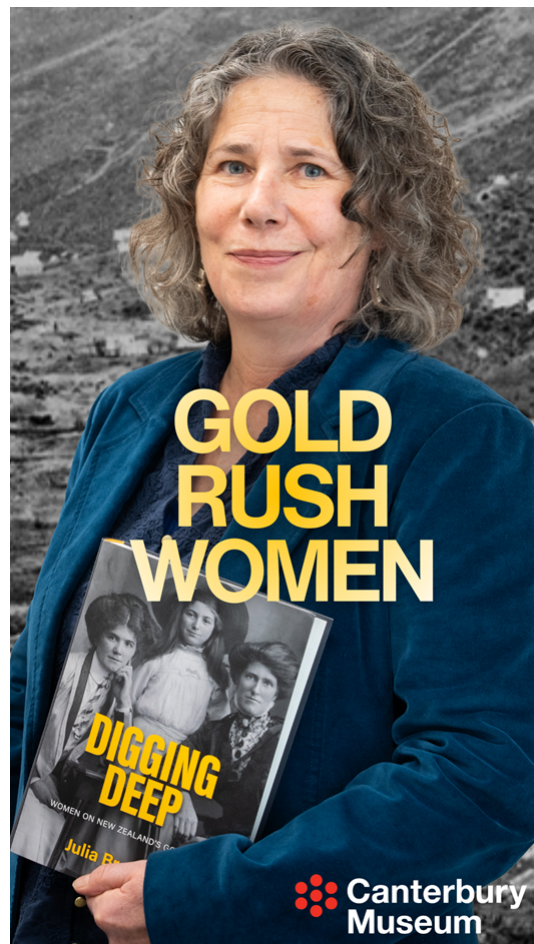
The winner of our prize draw for a copy of the new book *Digging Deep: Women on New Zealand's Goldfields* is Karin from Lincoln. Congratulations Karin, a copy of the book is now heading your way.

Senior Curator Human History Julia Bradshaw has spent 30 years unearthing fantastic stories about women on the New Zealand goldfields.

Her latest book, *Digging Deep: Women on New Zealand's Goldfields*, tells the stories of these remarkable women who played a vital part in the country's gold rush era, but were often overlooked by historians.

Watch the reel to learn more about *Digging Deep*.

[Watch the reel →](#)



Canterbury taonga

Starlight the horse and other stories

Discover the history of Selwyn through a rich tapestry of objects from the Canterbury Museum collection.

In this talk, Curator Human History Paulien Martens tells the stories of this diverse region through treasures and photographs.

Learn about the region's mining, the history of the Homebush brick, the impact of war, vintage recipe books written by Mary Barker of Darfield, Māori artefacts like a patu hī (fishing club) and a horse named Starlight.

Take a journey through Canterbury Museum's collection and learn something new about the social history of Selwyn along the way.

A Friends of the Canterbury Museum talk.

[Watch video →](#)

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 **Canterbury
Museum**



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