



From the desk of the Acting Director

## What's ahead for the Museum team?

Kia ora koutou

Director Anthony Wright is on leave so it's my great pleasure to share with you what we've been up to over recent weeks and to give you a glimpse into our future mahi.

Often when we're talking about the Museum closing to the public and the mammoth move out of Rolleston Avenue, people ask what will our staff do for the next 5 years. Take a breather? No, we're likely to be busier than ever!

We did have a little break at the beginning of the month. We were all just a little bit tired after the mammoth Museum move and SHIFT, our blockbuster farewell exhibition.

Feeling a lot more refreshed, we're now focusing on the mahi for the next few years. We're settling into a new "business as usual" for our day-to-day operations. The curatorial, registration and inventory teams have about another 4 to 5 months' work to complete the collection move onto shelving in the new storage area, and to record each object's new location.

After that we can resume services such as collections access and loans, as well as the image service which we know is so important to Cantabrians and our research colleagues.

The inventory team will go back to the monumental task of working through the collection to make sure every object has an up-to-date record on the Vernon database. They started in 2017 and had inventoried almost half a million objects when they stopped to work on the move. With 2.3 million objects in the collection, they've still got about another 20 years' work ahead of them.

### Pop up progress

Our curators and exhibition team are finalising plans for the pop-up Museum on the first floor of the CoCA building at 66 Gloucester Street in the central city. The southern gallery will house temporary exhibitions. We're opening with *Six Extinctions*, on 14 July, at the start of Matariki.

Read more below

The northern gallery will display Museum "greatest hits" and visitor favourites including – spoiler alert – the horse from *The Christchurch Street* and Ivan Mauger's gold bike.

The front of house team is looking forward to the opening of the Museum at CoCA. In the meantime, they've been helping unpack in the new storage facility and taking their turn working at our two other venues, *Quake City* and Ravenscar House Museum.

Our new website has been designed so that we can share even more stories about the collection and Waitaha Canterbury online. Expect to see an increased serving of online stories, blog posts, news and social media posts from our curators and researchers in the very near future.

### **New Exhibitions**

Longer term, the team will be starting the massive job of researching, designing and installing 6,500 sq metres of new exhibitions and display space (one and a half times more than the old Museum). With the new Museum opening towards the end of 2028, we need to start designing, curating and fabricating now, ready to install starting 2027.

While favourites like *The Christchurch Street* and *Fred & Myrtle's Pāua Shell House* will look much the same, there's a lot to be done to fit them into their new spaces. Others like *The Antarctic Gallery* and *Discovery* will be completely reimagined and of course there are new spaces and exhibitions that we'll be working on with mana whenua and local communities.

Ngā mihi nui  
Sarah Murray  
Acting Director



## **New exhibitions & outreach**

We're continuing to collaborate with other arts and culture organisations and Waitaha Canterbury's diverse communities. Hatesa Seumanutafa, Curator Māori and Pasifika (pictured

above with Te Puna o Waiwhetū Christchurch Art Gallery curator Peter Vangioni) has been working with colleagues from the Gallery on a new exhibition with the intriguing title *Ships Nails and Tail Feathers* showcasing taonga from the historic collections of both institutions. The details are below.

Associate Curator Natural History Johnathon Ridden has been developing a small exhibition about the bugs you might find in your backyard. This will join our two other touring exhibitions, *Ancient New Zealand* and *House of Treasures Te Whare Taonga* which can be seen at libraries and other venues in Waimakariri, Selwyn and Hurunui Districts. Last year, these smaller exhibitions were seen by more than 135,000 people.

Our two Museum educators are now on the road in a shiny new van delivering lessons in schools, as well as Riccarton House and Bush, and at *Quake City* (thanks to ongoing support from Toka Tu Akē EQC). They're fully booked for Term 2, with Terms 3 and 4 filling fast. Teachers can [book an education programme here](#).



Contribute to our new exhibitions

## Help the blue whale soar

The new Museum is costed at \$205 million. This includes an allowance for contingency and escalation. With \$150 million secured, we have enough to finance construction until 2027. This gives us several years to raise the remaining \$55 million to complete the building construction fit out and to develop and install the new exhibitions and displays.

Over the next few years, we'll be focusing on fundraising through philanthropic giving and grants. We're planning a community fundraising campaign to support new exhibitions and displays, like suspending the blue whale skeleton from the atrium ceiling. You can help us out by going to the [Donate page](#) on our website.

[Donate now](#) ➔

On now at the Art Gallery

## Ship Nails and Tail Feathers

Missing the Museum? See the new exhibition showcasing taonga from the historic collections of the Museum and Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetū.

About 100 rare, exquisite, extravagant – and even curiously ordinary – objects have been handpicked by curators from both institutions.

Images: Margaret Stoddart, *Bush Fire, Parapaumu*, 1908.

Watercolour. Collection of Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o

Waiwhetū. Hūia nest collected 1883 near Manawatu River. Canterbury Museum AV2743. Image: Jane Ussher

Until 23 October

Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetū

[See more](#) ➔



**Six Extinctions**

## First show at CoCA

The Museum's first exhibition at CoCA opens on 14 July at the start of Matariki. *Six Extinctions*, which premiered at the South Australia Museum in 2022 (left), explores the five major mass extinctions that decimated life on Earth and the sixth that we're currently living through, climate change.

Come to see a life-size cast of the largest tyrannosaurus rex ever found and go on a journey of 485 million years exploring what caused the five previous mass extinction events. See what became extinct and understand how these events shaped the world we know.

*Six Extinctions* is produced by Gondwana Studios

**14 July to 3 December**

New children's book

## Where did the moa go?

Watch out for a new book *Dreams of a Moa*, by Carly Waddleton, inspired by her son's question about the fate of the moa during a visit to the Museum.

Senior Curator Natural History Paul Scofield contributed a fact page and Science Communicator Morgane Merien (right) showcased moa bones from the collection during the book's launch at Redcliffs Library. Morgane will be talking more about moa in a Kidsfest programme at Tūranga in July.

**11 July**

**10.30 to 11.30 am; 1.00 to 2.00 pm**

**Tūranga**

**See Tūranga Events** [➤](#)



Watch out for the pop-up Museum opening at CoCA in Gloucester Street in July.

### LOCATION

Rolleston Avenue  
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[Click here](#) for map and directions

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### SOCIAL



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