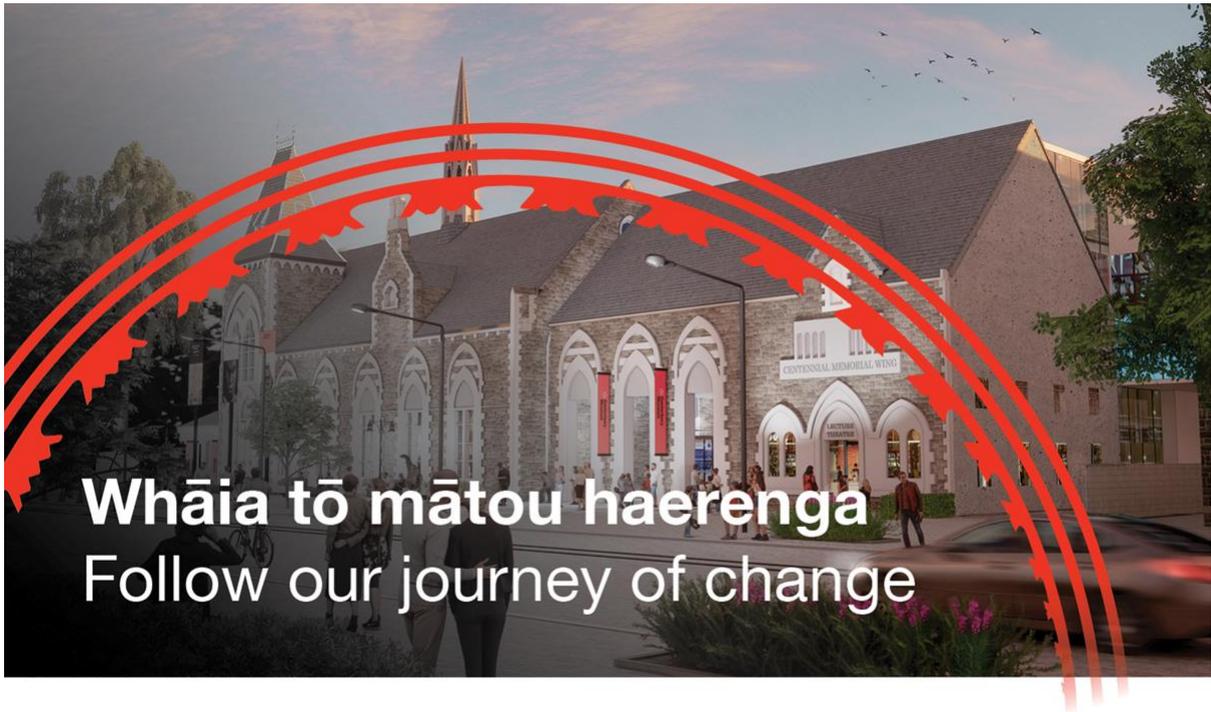
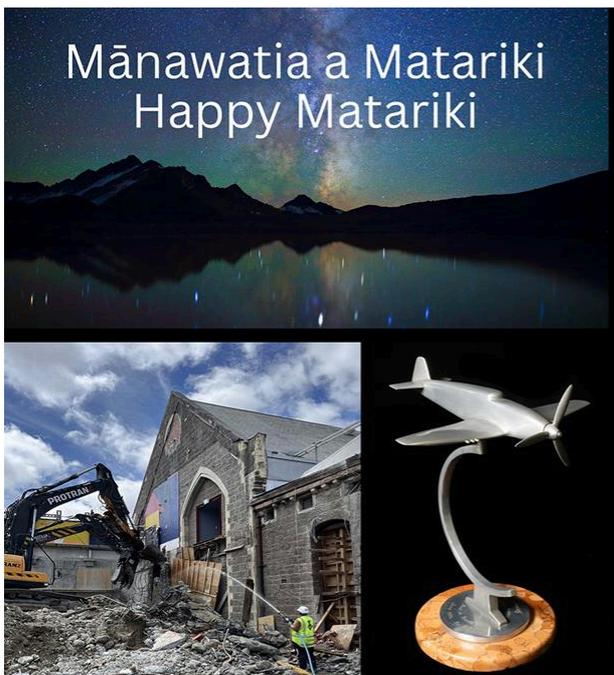


Email not displaying properly? [Click here](#) to view online



Whāia tō mātou haerenga
Follow our journey of change

In this issue: See the latest action on the Rolleston Avenue construction site, find bat lady in a newly-digitised collection, see an artwork made from a World War Two German propeller and follow a special Matariki trail.



Mānawatia a Matariki
Happy Matariki



June e-newsletter

From the Director | Tumuaki

Tēnā koe

The Museum redevelopment is forging ahead at Rolleston Avenue. The 12-metre-deep underground diaphragm wall, which will provide the outer wall of the new basement, has been completed and the diggers are starting to excavate it out.

One of the joys of the redevelopment is revealing the Museum's heritage facades that have not been seen for decades. The northern gable end of the 1877 Benjamin Mountfort building on Rolleston Avenue is now visible for the first time since it was covered up by the construction of the Centennial Memorial Wing between 1955 and 1958.



The north end of (from left) the 1877, 1882 and original 1870 Mountfort buildings before the Centennial Wing was built, mid 1950s.



Diggers have carefully removed later material revealing the northern end of the nineteenth century Mountfort buildings, 2025. Image: Courtesy Athfield Architects

Large excavators have peeled away a concrete wall, which stood just a couple of centimetres away from the historic stone façade. What they found underneath was the intact wall looking almost exactly as it did in the early 1950s. The redevelopment has also revealed heritage facades on the adjacent 1882 building.

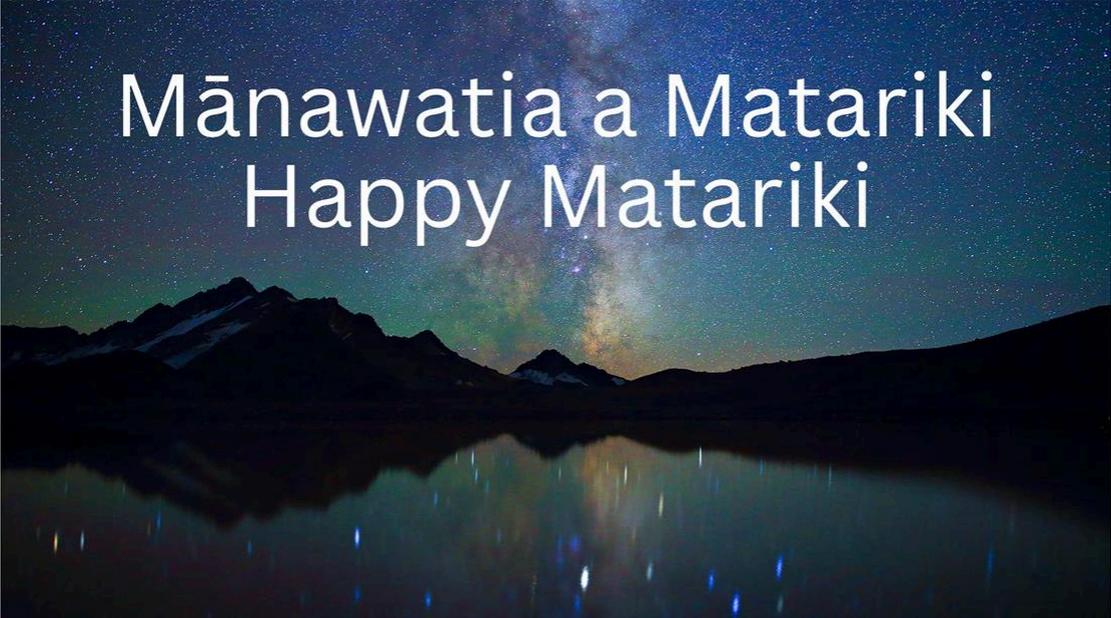
The heritage walls will be cleaned and revived so they can become a key feature of the new Museum entrance and atrium - viewed through a new glass curtain wall.

Come 2029, you'll be able to view the exterior of all five nineteenth century Mountfort buildings once again. The revealed facades are just a small part of this major redevelopment, but show how the new Museum will continue to celebrate our heritage and ensure a viable future.

Mānawatia a Matarki. Happy Matariki

Ngā mihi nui

Anthony Wright, Tumuaki | Director



Mānawatia a Matariki Happy Matariki

Night at the Museum

Tīrama Mai Late Nights

The *Canterbury Museum Pop-Up* will be part of the city's *Tīrama Mai* light festival this year. The Pop-Up will be open until 9.00 pm on Thursday 19, Friday 20 and Saturday 21 June so you can experience the Museum in a whole new light.

Explore the exhibitions, take part in a family-friendly Matariki themed trail and create your very own badge to take home.

The Matariki Trail runs from 18 June to 20 July at the Museum Pop-Up, 66 Gloucester Street in the central city. Free entry, donations appreciated.

[Read more →](#)



Historic portraits

Job done! 75k photos digitised, online

A fascinating collection of over 75,000 photographs taken in Christchurch from 1902 to the 1940s is now digitised, online and fully searchable. **You can have a look here and see if you can find a portrait of a relative.**

Henry Herbert Clifford (1872–1949) opened his Cashel Street studio in 1902 and was taking photographs in Christchurch until the 1940s. In 1980, his son Ogilvie Clifford donated an archive of over 75,000 glass plate and film negatives to Canterbury Museum.

Museum staff have carefully digitised the fragile glass plate negatives to preserve them for the future and make them more accessible.

The Clifford Collection includes a portrait of Kate Sheppard used on the \$10 note, along with photos of crime writer Ngaio Marsh and of Ethelda Bleibtrey – a record-setting American swimmer, Olympic gold medallist and the reason women no longer have to wear stockings in the pool.

You can search the Collection on our website and post any information you have about the images. With only a surname and a first initial to go on, we'd love to know more about the many interesting people who may be hiding in plain sight in the collection.

Putting the Clifford Collection online is part of a project to create a digital inventory of the Museum's entire collection of 2.3 million objects.

Thanks to the New Zealand Lottery Grants Board for their invaluable support, which has been instrumental in making the digitisation of the the collection a reality.

[Read more →](#)

New exhibition

He Riri Awatea

One of the bloodiest and most contested periods in Aotearoa New Zealand history – the New Zealand Wars – is explored through film in the exhibition now on at the *Canterbury Museum Pop-Up*. Until 7 September at 66 Gloucester Street. Free entry; donations appreciated.



Toured by the New Zealand Portrait Gallery.

[Read more →](#)



Swords to ploughshares

German propeller to WWII artwork

A model of an American fighter plane made by a Canterbury soldier in World War Two became a memento for his family, of the man, his service and craftsmanship.

Staff Sergeant Patrick Joseph (Pat) Ell, second from left, forged the model of a P-51 Mustang from the propeller of a downed German plane while in Trieste, Italy. Canterbury Museum was fortunate to be gifted the unique memento this year.

In July 1945, after fighting had ceased and while camped in the hills near Trieste, Pat spent his free time making this beautiful memento. He first made a model in wood and then a mould was created in modelling clay. The metal used for the casting was a piece of propeller blade that Pat had cut from a downed German Messerschmitt Bf 109 fighter.

This was melted and poured by a metal casting business in Trieste. The cast and its stand were then filed and sanded by hand. A circular piece of Italian marble was used for the base of the stand. The model is beautifully crafted. The propeller and stand were made as separate pieces. Three M2 Browning machine guns are visible on each wing.

[Read more →](#)

Subscribe to our stories

Be the first

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

[Sign up here →](#)



Canterbury Museum Pop-Up

66 Gloucester Street
Christchurch 8013
New Zealand

Canterbury Museum

Private Bag 4744
Christchurch 8154
New Zealand

Website

www.canterburymuseum.com

Email

info@canterburymuseum.com

Phone

+64 3 366 5000



Unless otherwise stated, all content on this website is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution Non Commercial licence.