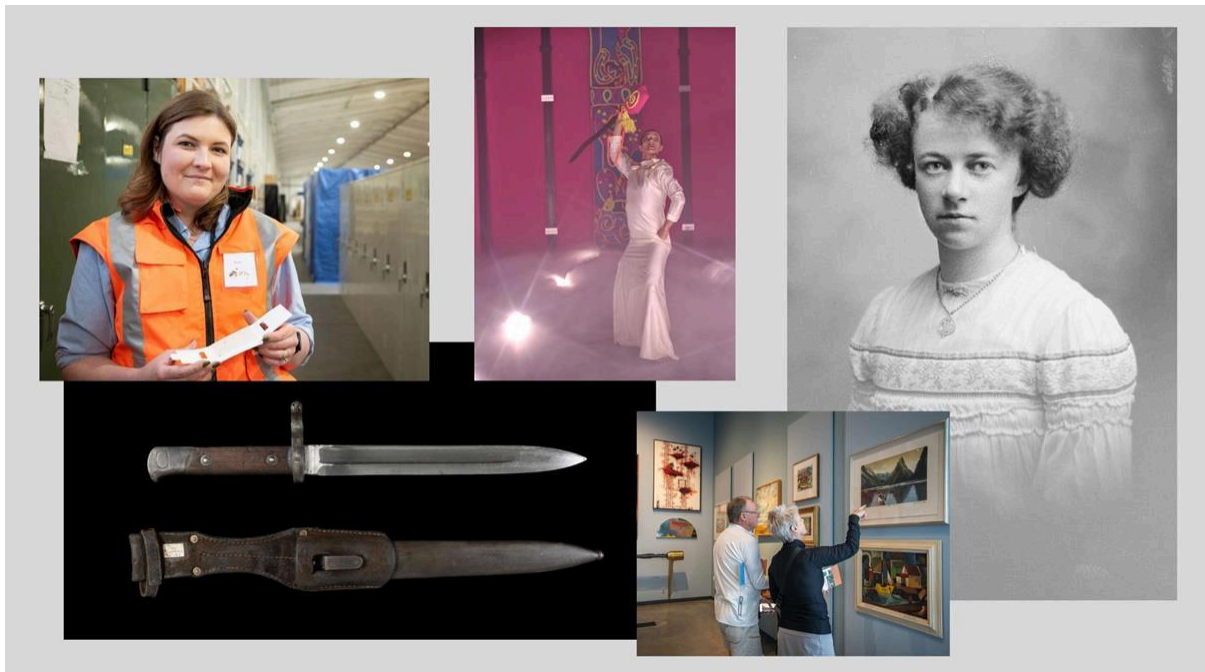


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**Whāia tō mātou haerenga**  
Follow our journey of change

**A World War One bayonet mystery, dancing in the whareniui and underground progress on the new Canterbury Museum. All this and more in our March newsletter.**



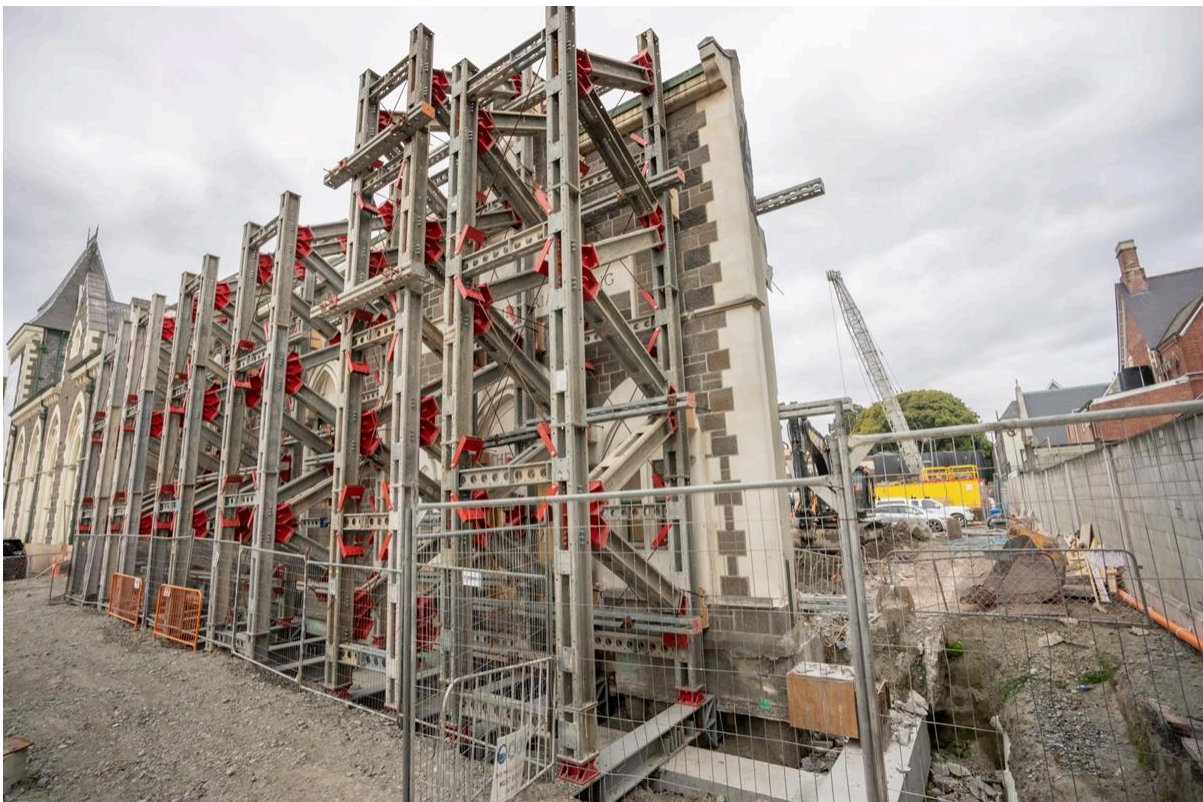
# From the Director | Tumuaki

Tēnā koe

Contractors have made great progress on the new Museum over recent months. The big news is that the 12-metre-deep underground concrete wall around the Robert McDougall Gallery and the Museum site is finished.

This underground structure is the deep protective wall within which the Museum's new base-isolated collection storage basement and the new-build above it will be constructed. Progress is also being made beneath the McDougall. The forest of 300-plus micropiles being inserted 15 metres into the ground beneath the McDougall is now 70% complete.

The micropiles will support the building during the construction of a new basement and will be completed in May. We are currently 3 weeks ahead of schedule.



*Propping on the grade 3 listed facade of the Centennial Wing on Rolleston Avenue.*

On Rolleston Avenue, the facade of the 1958 Centennial Wing is now securely propped by a grid of steel. The roof and walls of the wing have been demolished, exposing the north end of the adjacent 1877 heritage building for the first time in nearly 70 years.

A thin slice of the 1958 facade has been cut away to expose the original 1877 north wall. This will become a key feature of the new Museum. The gap between

the old and new buildings will have a water feature installed. The glass wall of the new entrance foyer will showcase the long-hidden 1877 facade.

Museum staff are working hard on what will go inside the buildings. To date, we've started about 30 projects developing the new exhibitions and a raft of other initiatives. These include new back-of-house technology and new digital ways for visitors to engage with the Museum collection and stories of Waitaha Canterbury and Antarctica.

We're advertising for some new exhibition staff and a new Head of Technology to help deliver the new visitor experience. The tech in the old Museum was developed piecemeal—a bit like the buildings—and quite often didn't work that well.

If you're interested in one of these roles, or know someone who might be, you can **read more on the Museum website here.**

Ngā mihi nui

Anthony Wright, Tumuaki | Director



**World War One**

## **Bayonets and women's rights**

Dr Jessie Scott broke through barriers to pursue a medical career, campaigned for women's rights and endured great hardship to treat wounded soldiers on the frontlines of World War One. But how did this Canterbury medic end up with a Bulgarian bayonet?

[Read more →](#)

Art gem

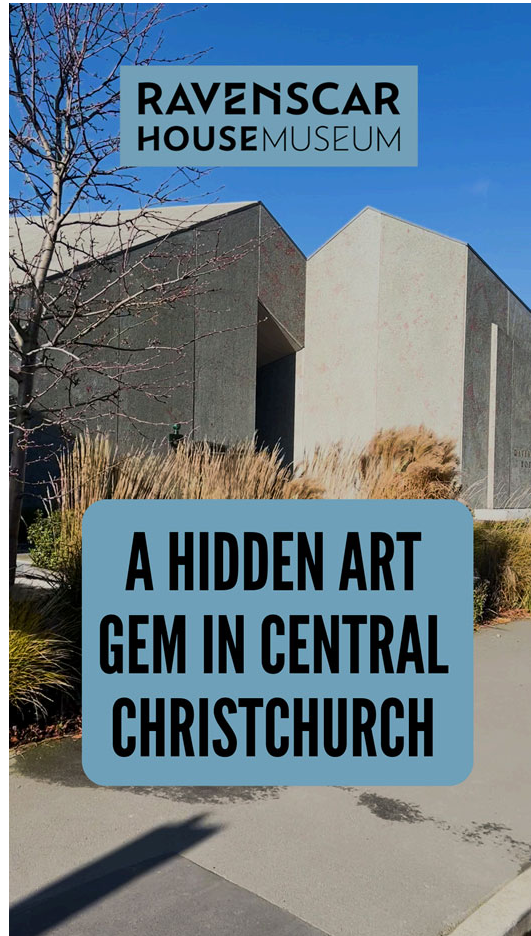
## Ravenscar reels

Take a video tour of Ravenscar House Museum.

Explore Ravenscar's beautiful paintings, stylish architecture and gorgeous furniture in this short video tour of a hidden Christchurch gem.

Follow Canterbury Museum on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok to see more videos showcasing Ravenscar's collection of works by artists like Bill Sutton, Colin McCahon and Frances Hodgkins.

[Watch →](#)



Creepy crawlies

## Saving treasures from hungry bugs

How do we stop lice, borer and moths devouring treasures in Canterbury Museum's care? Associate Registrar Erna Tidy describes our battles with silverfish, clothing moths, booklice and beetles in this fascinating talk. She also reveals how beetles are sometimes employed by museums around the world for a very specific task.

[Watch the talk →](#)



Dance film

### Wharenui Harikoa

Come and see a special dance film shot in the *Wharenui Harikoa* exhibition, which is currently on show at the Canterbury Museum Pop-Up.

Artists Lissy and Rudi Robinson-Cole collaborated with choreographer Tiaki Kerei to capture the wharenui with film and contemporary choreography. The film is screening until the end of March at Tūranga central library in Christchurch.

[Read more →](#)



**A Greek enigma**

## Decoding ancient secrets

The mysterious text was written over 2,000 years ago. But it had not been deciphered until now.

This unassuming wooden tag bearing an inscription in ancient Greek was unearthed in Pompeii. It is part of Canterbury Museum's collection of over 3,000 classical objects from Egyptian, Roman and Greek culture. These range from ancient vases, coins, masks and jewellery, to spearheads, lamps and statuettes.

The secrets of this collection are being unlocked thanks to a partnership between the Museum and the University of Canterbury Teece Museum of Classical Antiquities.

[Read more →](#)

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