



From the Director's Desk

Museum on the Move

Mate atu he tētēkura, ara mai he tētēkura. Rātou kua whetūrangitia, haere atu rā, okioki ai. Rātou ki a rātou, tātou te hunga ora ki a tātou. Tēnā tātou.

E aku nui, e aku rahi nāia te reo o mihi, te puna whakamihi e mimiti noa. Kua roa nei koutou e whakaporo ana kia ea ai ngā wawata. Ko ngā puapua kua tutuki. Kua eke panuku, kua eke Tangaroa.

When one plant frond dies, another rises to take its place. We farewell those who have taken their place in the heavens, may you rest amongst the stars. We acknowledge you and turn now to the living.

We extend warm greetings and thank you for your patience. After many years of planning we are pleased to commence the next phase of the redevelopment project.

Welcome to the first of a new series of e-newsletters keeping you up to date with Te Hinonga: Te Whare Taonga, Canterbury Museum's redevelopment. You're receiving this because you've expressed an interest in our redevelopment previously or you're already a subscriber to our e-newsletters. If you don't want to receive this e-newsletter, please just scroll to the bottom and click unsubscribe.

The Museum has been a hive of activity in the past month as we prepare for our mammoth move – and it's only going to get busier. In September, we'll start shifting the collection offsite.

This is a monumental job – 2.3 million taonga (treasures) need to be moved in a matter of months! The mood around the building is one of excitement, although there's definitely some trepidation in the mix as well.

I thought I'd use this opportunity to lay out how the Museum will be changing, both in terms of the physical galleries and the services we offer, in the next 6 months as we move towards our long-awaited redevelopment.



The Road Ahead

The Museum will remain open as we start to move the collection and staff to offsite storage and offices. However, from mid-October we will start progressively closing galleries to dismantle and pack the displays.

By the end of November, the galleries on Level 3 will be pretty much empty. We'll start packing down the Level 1 galleries from December. We're also planning a blockbuster farewell exhibition which will be a fundraiser for the redevelopment. Keep an eye out for this in early 2023.

The Museum will shut its Rolleston Avenue doors in April 2023 for construction to start. Building and fitting out the new Museum is a huge and complex project and we anticipate it will take around 5 years.

This is a very exciting time for everyone here, but as you can imagine it's also a very busy one! Almost everyone will be dedicated to the task of packing and moving the collections to the new site. This means that we won't be able to offer our usual range of services, as outlined later in this newsletter.

We're sorry for any inconvenience, but we hope you can share in our excitement as we finally embark on this long-awaited and much-needed redevelopment. We can all look forward to a world-class visitor experience and first-rate collections care in the new Museum.

Watch out for a temporary Museum popping up in the central city in 2023. We'll share news about this and progress on the redevelopment on our website, social media and in this newsletter.

Thank you for your support of the Museum as we navigate this exciting but challenging time.

Ngā mihi nui
Anthony Wright



Museum Services

Service Changes

Just about everyone in the Museum will be dedicated to the task of packing and moving the collections and exhibits to a new site, which means that we won't be able to offer our usual range of services.

[Get the details](#) ➤

Service Changes

Museum Explorer Club

Discovery is among the galleries closing in mid-October – but it will return, refreshed, bigger and better than ever in the new Museum. Over the next while we'll be looking at how we can keep the Museum Explorer Club going – for example, through events, online and the planned temporary Museum, popping up in the central city in 2023.

[Read more](#) ➤



Museum Access

Museum Lift

From 5 September, Museum staff will be using the lift to move taonga (treasures) out of the building. The lift will remain available for visitors with mobility issues and prams, but please use the stairs if you are able to. We apologise for any delays.

[Read more](#) ➤

Museum Whale

The Tale of Your Whale

Many visitors fondly remember the Museum's blue whale skeleton hanging in the Garden Court. Although it has not been on display in nearly 30 years, the whale will take pride of place in the redeveloped Museum.

How did the whale come to be in the Museum? Read on to find out!

[Read more](#) 



A view of the Museum down Worcester Boulevard in heavy snow, taken around 1900. At that stage the Museum comprised four buildings, all constructed in the 1870s. Four more buildings have been added to the complex since this photo was taken.



Need for Change

Why We're Redeveloping

The Museum has stood on Rolleston Avenue for 150 years, and most of our buildings are showing their age.

Substandard storage conditions, a lack of exhibition space and poor facilities are just a few of the consequences. Read on to learn why our redevelopment is needed.

[Read more](#) 

Visit and explore New Zealand's rich cultural and natural heritage. Learn about the past, present and future of Canterbury. There's always lots to see and do at Canterbury Museum. Entry is free; donations are appreciated.

LOCATION

Rolleston Avenue
Christchurch 8013
New Zealand

[Click here](#) for map and directions

PHONE

+64 3 366 5000

FAX

+64 3 366 5622

SOCIAL



WEBSITE

www.canterburymuseum.com

EMAIL

info@canterburymuseum.com



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