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From the desk of the Tumuaki | Director

Getting ready for the rebuild



With demolition of the twentieth century Museum buildings set to start in October, contractors will soon be setting the boundaries for the construction site area. A secure site fence will replace the current temporary fencing in late September.

Six trees and smaller shrubs within the site – in front of and to the side of the Robert McDougall Gallery – have been removed to accommodate large machinery and equipment. This will include the piling rig that will be used to build the walls of the base-isolated basement under the Robert McDougall Gallery and the new build part of the Museum redevelopment.

The Botanic Gardens plan on keeping some of the wood from the trees for future use. They are talking with wood workers about using as much of the timber for various crafts as they can. Any mulch from the trees will be used within the Botanic Gardens and Hagley Park. They have also taken some cuttings for replanting.

We'll replace every tree removed with two trees which is in line with the Christchurch City Council's policy. We hope to agree the replacement tree species and locations with the Council soon so that we can start growing them off site.

The Christchurch City Council consulted on removing the trees as part of the Museum's application for temporary easements in 2022. The Council granted the easements at their 23 November 2022 meeting.

Two lime trees and a small specimen tree were removed from the front of the Museum building in early August to create space for a construction site office and access for construction vehicles.

Outreach Outcomes

Last month the Museum team completed a 2-year project aimed at raising capability and resilience in the heritage sector across Waitaha Canterbury, with funding from the Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage Capability Fund.

There are about 80 organisations in the regional heritage network and most work with minimal resources relying heavily on volunteers. The Capability Fund Project allowed the Museum to support them in a variety of different ways including hands-on training, networking sessions and advice on collections care. [You can read more here.](#)



West Coast Society of Arts members toast the lighting and seats gifted by the Museum for the Left Bank Art Gallery, Māwhera (Greymouth).

With the decant of the Museum's Rolleston Avenue building earlier in the year, one of the last initiatives of the project was to offer surplus material and equipment to local organisations. We were able to help out more than 30 heritage organisations in Canterbury and the West Coast including the Left Bank Art Gallery (West Coast Society of Arts) pictured above.

Sharing our research

In the last few months our curators have been presenting at and attending conferences in person for the first time in almost four years. While digital hui kept us all connected during the pandemic, there is no substitute for face to face networking and learning from other international experts in your field.

Human History Senior Curator Julia Bradshaw was in Sydney in July presenting her research about bigamy on the nineteenth century New Zealand goldfields. Natural History Curator Rebecca Le Grice and Associate Curator Johnathon Ridden recently presented on the Mammoth Museum Collection Move to colleagues at the New Zealand Entomology Conference in Auckland.

Curator Human History Adele Jackson, whose research is focused on Antarctica, represented the Museum at two international conferences – in Lisbon and Melbourne (with support from the Trans-Antarctic Association and the University of Tasmania). At both she made connections with some of the leading scholars and professionals working in polar history and Antarctic art, all of which bring

immeasurable benefits as we start to reimagine the Antarctic displays in the new Museum.



Leigh Love's son David (left) who helped recover the tropicbird specimen recently in the news and (right) Paul Scofield (standing) and Leigh Love excavating at the Waipara Greensands site.

In July, Adjunct Professor Paul Scofield, Senior Curator Natural History presented at the triennial Australasian Palaeontology Society Conference in Perth with University of Canterbury colleagues and students as part of their Marsden-funded New Zealand vertebrate palaeontology research. Also presenting were Leigh Love and Al Mannering who have discovered and prepared many of the amazing fossils – giant penguins, bony-toothed birds and ancient tropicbirds – found in the Waipara Greensands. Both are strong supporters of the Museum.

It was wonderful to see such excellent news coverage of their most recent tropicbird research which [you can read more about on our website](#), along with other stories from Aotearoa New Zealand's ancient past.

Ngā mihi
Anthony



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Collection Highlight

Emma's sewing box

Visit the pop-up *Canterbury Museum* at CoCA (66 Gloucester Street) to see highlights from the Museum collection. Emma Barker brought this sewing box with her on the *Charlotte Jane* when she arrived with her husband, Dr Alfred Barker, and family in 1850. It's one of more than 4,000 letters, photographs and personal items that we care for in the Barker Collection.

[Read more →](#)

At the Art Gallery

Historic Treasures

Ship Nails and Tail Feathers, our collaborative exhibition with Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Wai Whetū is on until 23 October. Don't miss seeing some real gems from the Museum and Gallery collections.



[Read more →](#)



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