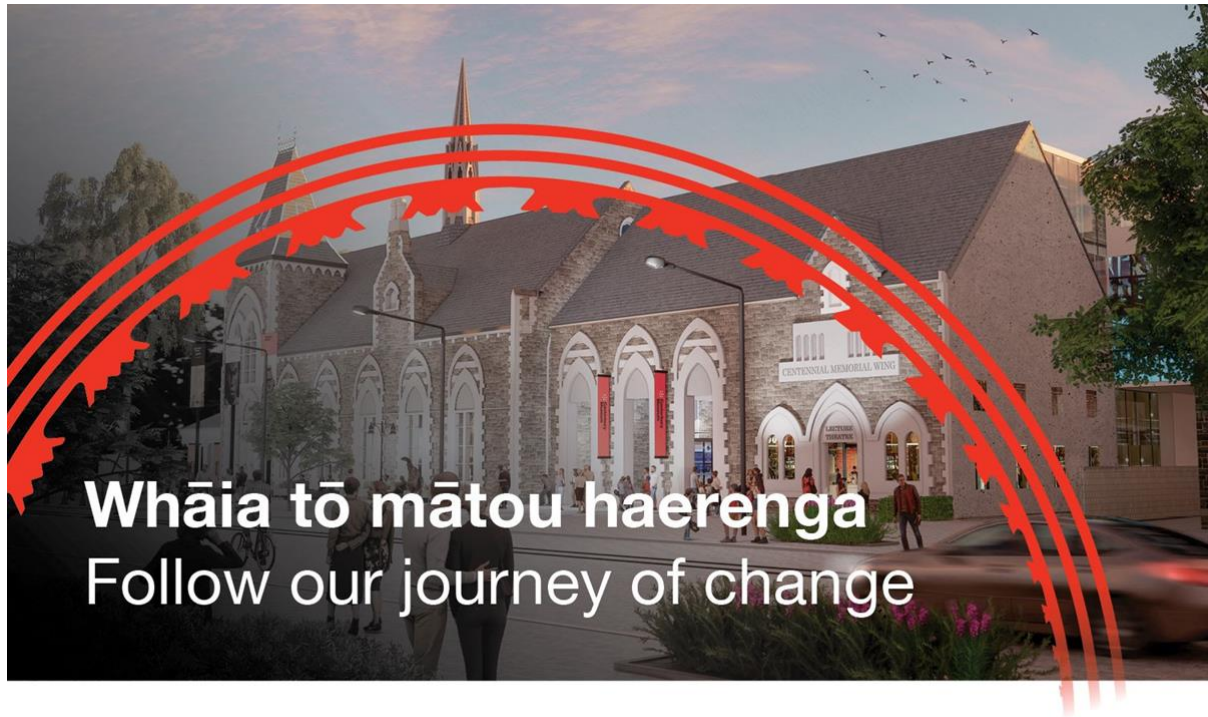


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## From the Tumuaki | Director

As we come to the end of 2023, it's amazing to reflect on how far we've travelled on the Museum redevelopment journey.

Most of the staff and the collection have physically moved and settled into our new temporary home in Hornby. We opened our pop-up *Canterbury Museum at CoCA* at 66 Gloucester Street at Matariki in July and have just opened the second temporary exhibition, *Ngā Hau Ngākau*, a beautiful fusion of art and music created in a space evocative of a *whare whakairo* (carved meeting house). Read more about that below.

As we finished moving everyone and everything out of Rolleston Avenue at the end of April, contractors Ceres Ltd moved in, stripping the building interiors and preparing the site for demolition of the twentieth century buildings. The heavy machinery moved in at the start of November.

The Centennial Wing – the large Special Exhibitions Hall – has now gone, which you can see if you look down the driveway on the northern (Christ's College) side of the Museum building from Rolleston Avenue.



*The cleared site of the Special Exhibitions Hall, with Christ's College behind and the former 'Discovery' space through the rafters to the right.*

Ceres will move to the southern side of the building and start the more complex task of removing the maze of rooms and small buildings that sit behind the heritage buildings and the facade of the Roger Duff Wing. This should take about three months.

Building the base isolated basement under the new building and the Robert McDougall Gallery will be one of the more difficult parts of the build due to the ground conditions in the area. There has been a significant amount of detailed work done by the project team in designing the below-ground structures working with expert civil contractors March Construction to minimise the risks associated with below-ground works in Ōtautahi Christchurch. Our experience with the basement excavations for Ravenscar House Museum over the road and other Christchurch basement projects has assisted in the detailed design.

March will start working on the basement early next year. This is expected to take about 2 years, until late 2025, and is being funded by our local authority funders – Christchurch City and Hurunui, Selwyn and Waimakariri District Councils, along with Government contributions from Greater Christchurch Regeneration contingency funding and the Regional Culture and Heritage Fund and a grant from the Lottery Grants Board.

If you'd like to keep track of progress on the redevelopment, you can see the latest view from a time lapse camera, which updates every 15 minutes, on the Museum's website [here](#). You can also see the latest progress images on the same page.



*Image from the time lapse camera taken at 3.15 pm on Friday 15 December. See the latest images [here](#).*

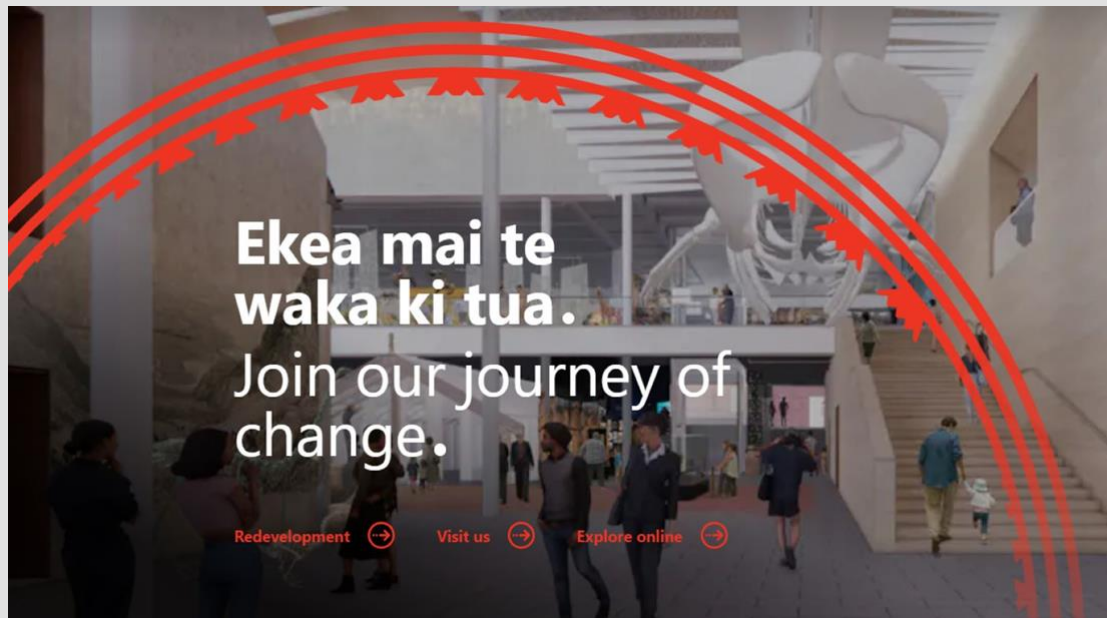
Next year, the team will be turning our full focus to the massive job of researching, designing and installing 6,500 square metres of new exhibition space – 50% more than the old Museum. This will be a much more flexible and welcoming set of spaces allowing exhibits to be changed more often and far more of our rich collections to be displayed.

We've already started investigating the best solution for suspending the blue whale skeleton from the ceiling of the new atrium. With the whale weighing in at an estimated 5.4 tonnes – and almost 27 metres long – there's a team of structural engineers alongside the curators on the project team.

We've had tremendous support from our funders and the wider community over 2023. Thank you so much. I hope that you and your whanau have time to enjoy the festive season and that you pop into the pop-up Museum to see our new exhibition *Ngā Hau Ngākau*.

Ngā mihi o te Kirihimete me a Tau Hou  
Anthony Wright





The Museum kahukura

## Signal of change

Fayne Robinson – a Ngāi Tahu master carver, artist, visionary and storyteller – has developed a new graphic for the Museum which was first brought to life on our new website by Ngāti Makō artist and designer Morgan Mathews-Hale.

The kahukura, symbolic of a rainbow, sits alongside the rose window-inspired Museum logo. You will increasingly see it as a signal of change in the organisation.

In Te Ao Māori to move forward you must always acknowledge your past. The ancient chevron shapes link us to the past – to the first people of this land and to Araiteuru the voyaging waka that brought them here. Each chevron is reinterpreted as a link to our whakapapa and speaks of arrival - each has a different number of notches symbolising the deepening of those genealogical links to our ancestors.

The chevrons with a single notch represent Waitaha, the first people of this land; two notches denote the arrival of Ngāti Māmoë and three notches symbolises the arrival of Ngāi Tahu. The chevrons with four notches acknowledge all the people and races that reside in Waitaha and Aotearoa today.

The three bold centric circles draw their inspiration from the classical rose window a prominent feature of the Mountford designed building linking both European and Māori narratives together. The circles imitate ripples travelling across water away from their source and beginning their great journey.

## Museum kahukura

Fayne Robinson drew his inspiration for the kahukura from ancient carved whale teeth in the Museum collection like this rei puta (chevroned amulet) found at Kawate (Little Okains Bay) on Te Pātaka-o-Rākaihautū (Banks Peninsula). Thank you to Te Rūnanga o Kōkōrarata for allowing us to use this image.



Image: Canterbury Museum 1975.148.1 (E175.39).

Courtesy of Te Rūnanga o Kōkōrarata. All Rights Reserved.



**New special exhibition**

## Ngā Hau Ngākau

Explore an immersive world of luminous paintings, intricately carved musical instruments and beautiful songs.

Ngā Hau Ngākau (Breath of Mine) features paintings by Robin Slow, intricately carved taonga puoro (traditional Māori musical instruments) by master-carver Brian Flintoff and an otherworldly soundscape of waiata by musician Bob Bickerton.

[Read More →](#)

Until 7 January

## Santa Search

Santa's back! The *Great Museum Santa Search*, the festive family favourite returns this year at Canterbury Museum at CoCA. Will you be able to find all the special Santas hidden among two display cases brimming with the bearded bringer of Christmas cheer?

Terms & conditions apply.



[Read more →](#)



New acquisitions

## Museum Treasures

Discover how embroidered postcards sent to loved ones in New Zealand from the Western Front in World War One were transformed into Museum treasures. New objects go through a series of rigorous checks before they are accessioned into the Museum collection to not only keep them safe, but make sure their stories are never lost.

[Read more →](#)

## Canterbury Museum at CoCA

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2023 Canterbury Museum

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