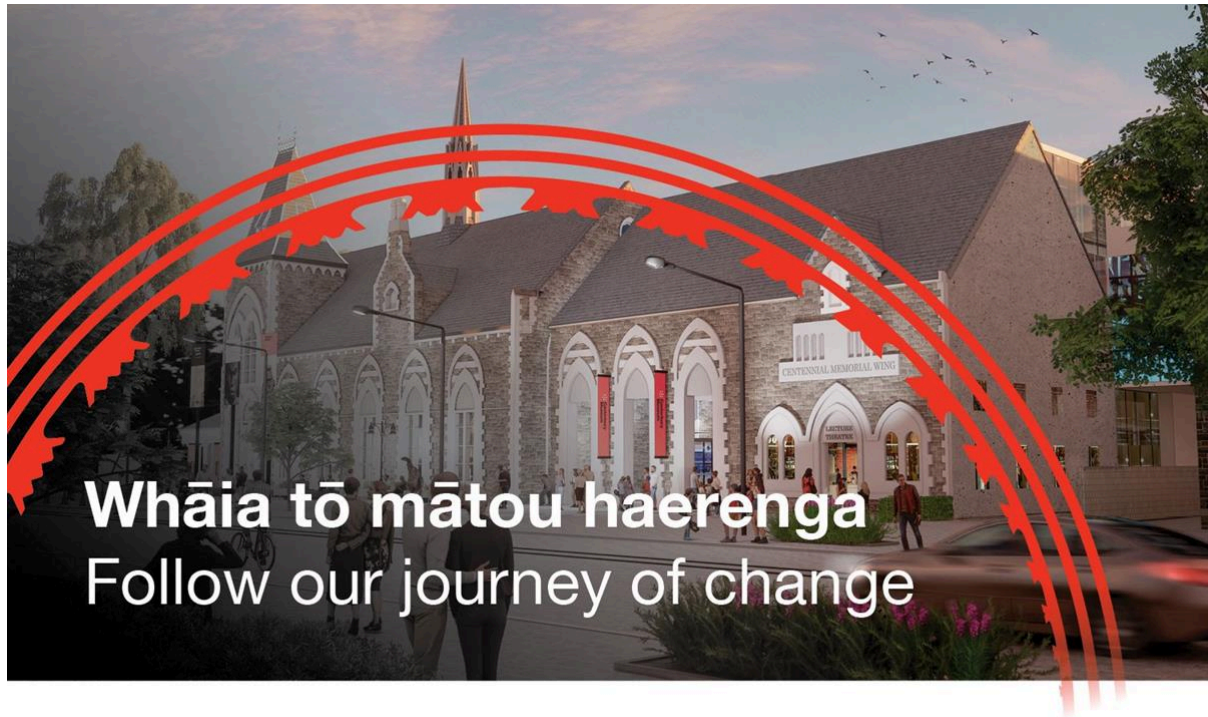


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From the Tumuaki | Director

Kia ora koutou

The Museum redevelopment journey has been ticking off the milestones since Christmas and there are some big changes to come in the next couple of months.

Contractor Ceres is due to finish the demolition works at the end of April. The Centennial Wing, which housed the Special Exhibitions Hall and the Garden Court building, home to the blue whale over recent years, are both gone and the Duff Wing is coming down now. All these "middle-aged" buildings were impaired by the 2010–2011 earthquakes.



The Duff Wing will be rebuilt in keeping with the original design (left). Image: Athfield Architects. The building is currently being demolished.

Initially we had planned to salvage and reuse the distinct exterior panels on the Duff Wing. Unfortunately, following site investigations, and engineer review, we found that these weren't actually panels, but were instead part of the structure-supporting shear wall. This meant the panels could not be effectively separated for salvage and reuse.

Following a detailed review process with Christchurch City Council's Resource Consent and Heritage teams, we've agreed a replacement finish which will be in keeping with the original facade.

While it's a shame that we can't keep the original material, it does mean that the public will have a window on the construction progress from the Botanic Gardens for the next few years.



Contractors remove the marble from the entrance of the Robert McDougall Gallery for safekeeping during construction.

Over the last 15 months, contractors Cook Brothers have strengthened the Robert McDougall Gallery above the ground. The structure has been reinforced with steel frames and sections of unreinforced masonry have been tied together throughout the building. A temporary roof is protecting the Gallery during the works. The entire roof will eventually be replaced towards the end of the project. While the building is still not up to the building code requirements for public use, it is ready for the next round of works.

The Canaday Wing, an extension built in 1982 to house Gallery staff offices and public bathrooms, is being demolished at the moment. And in case you are wondering, the marble has been salvaged from the entry steps, safely stored away and will be reinstated later on.

A joint venture of Leighs Construction and March Construction has moved onto the Museum site. Over the next month they'll be building a hoarding around the site and mobilising their heavy plant and equipment. We'll be using the hoardings to keep you up to date on the project as well.

In April, they'll be micro-piling – drilling holes that are then filled with concrete – for the structure that will support the facade of the Centennial Wing for the next few years.

The Joint Venture will be working together on two key aspects of the build. The ground floor of the Robert McDougall Gallery will be strengthened with a temporary support structure and piles, so that the building can be separated from the existing

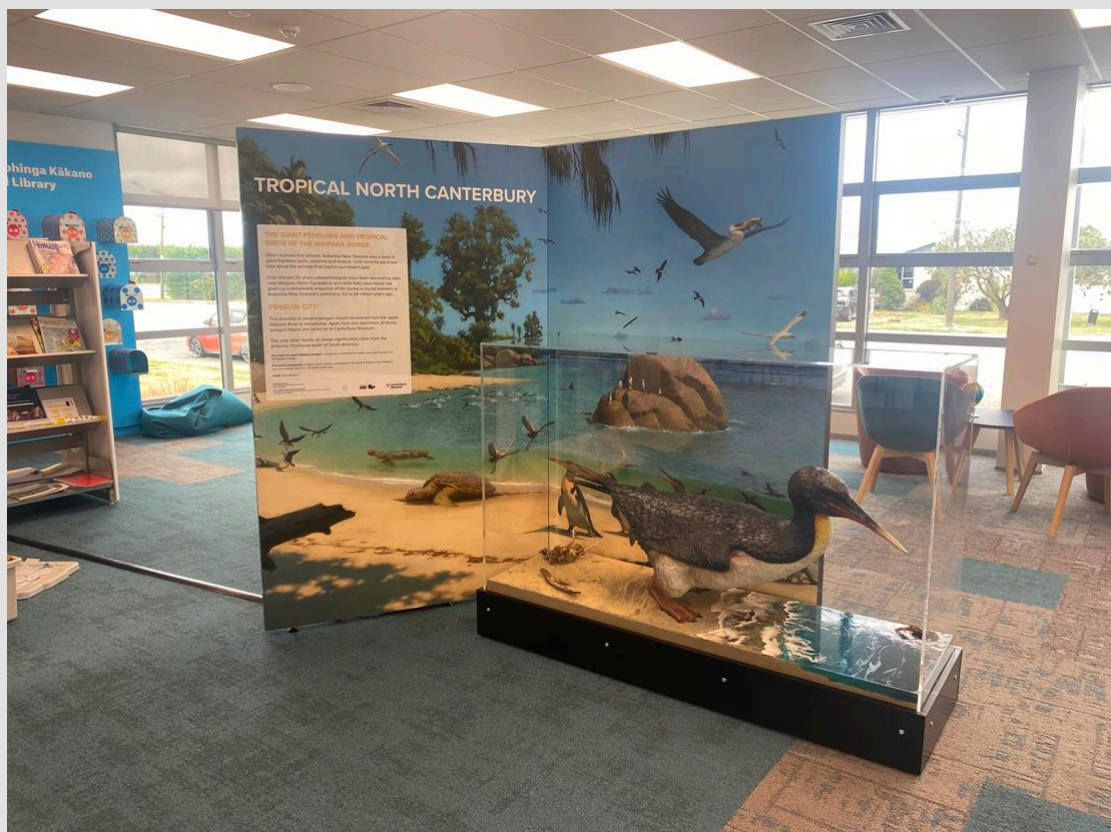
basement. The old basement will be demolished and excavated out to make way for the new basement which will house collection storerooms.

At the same time, the Joint Venture will be installing the new basement diaphragm wall around the perimeter of the Robert McDougall Gallery, and the area where the Museum buildings have been demolished.

This uses a highly specialised technique which involves excavating a narrow trench that is filled with a bentonite slurry, temporarily supporting the soil and stopping water getting in. The trench is then filled with reinforced concrete creating an outside wall around what will become the base-isolated Museum collection storage basement within.

This work is expected to take until mid-2025. It's tremendously exciting to see the activity on site. You can check on progress by viewing the livestream camera on the Museum website which updates every 15 minutes.

Ngā mihi nui
Anthony Wright



Museum display on the move

Touring Waitaha

Next time you go to the library, you might encounter a moa skull or a 60-million-year-old fossil.

Canterbury Museum's touring displays *Ancient New Zealand*, *House of Treasures Te Whare Taonga* and *Bugs in Your Backyard* have moved to new venues.

Ancient New Zealand, which explores how North Canterbury looked 60 million years ago, has moved to Darfield Library and Service Centre. *House of Treasures Te Whare Taonga*, which showcases five special taonga (treasures) from the Museum collection, has moved to Hanmer Springs Community Library & Service Centre. *Bugs in Your Backyard*, which reveals the tiny world of insects in your back garden, has moved to Rangiora Library.

The special displays tour libraries and other venues in the area of our local authority funders. Discover a new world in the towns of Waitaha Canterbury.

[Find out more →](#)

Art & music

Breath of Mine

Ngā Hau Ngākau (Breath of Mine) weaves together beautiful paintings, carvings and music to explore the place of manu (birds) in Māori mythology. Discover a world of beauty and birds at our pop-up *Canterbury Museum at CoCA*, 66 Gloucester Street until 28 April. Free entry; donations appreciated.

Image: Robin Slow



Art experience

Discover Ravenscar

Enjoy a special guided tour of Ravenscar House Museum. Our experienced and knowledgeable visitor hosts will guide you through the fascinating stories behind this stunning building, at 52 Rolleston Avenue, and the amazing artworks inside. Tours at



2.00 pm on Wednesdays and
Sundays.

[Book here →](#)



Education on wheels

Museum educators head west

Canterbury Museum educators have hit the road, bringing their teaching magic to the children of Te Tai Poutini (the West Coast) on a 1,200 kilometre education odyssey.

The Museum's new education van, which is filled with costumes, historic items and fun learning activities, was driven over the Alps to five schools at the end of last year.

The touring education programme includes activities on everything from dinosaurs to navigating the Pacific and earthquakes. Museum Education Communicators,

Muriel McGlone and Anthony Hennig, said it felt good to bring their work to remote and often small West Coast schools.

Continue reading

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Canterbury Museum at CoCA

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



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