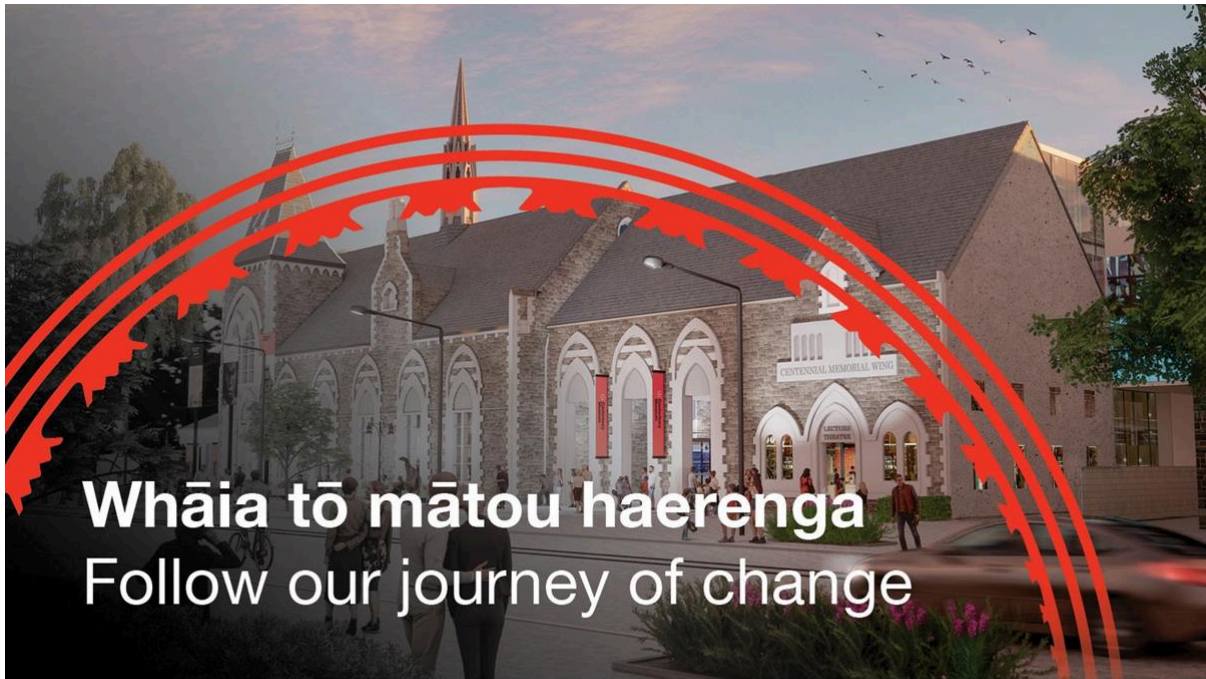


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Whāia tō mātou haerenga
Follow our journey of change

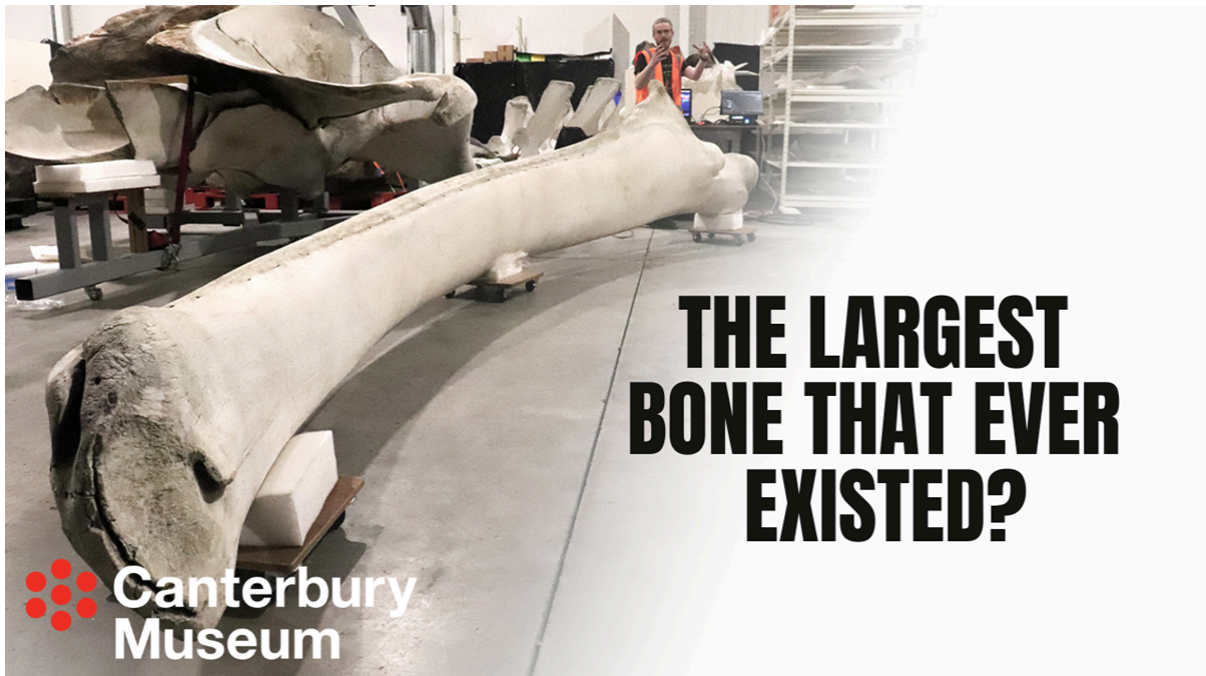
From the Tumuaki | Director

Kia ora koutou

At the end of last week I was able to visit the Rolleston Avenue building site and see from the inside the great progress that has been made (more details below).

It gave me a real appreciation of the size of the cleared site and the scale of the new Museum spaces that will be built there. The new atrium will be an impressive welcoming space, large enough to hang our 4.6 tonne blue whale skeleton from the ceiling.

To give you a sense of the scale of the blue whale skeleton, we think one of the lower jaw bones is the largest single animal bone held by any museum in the world. It may just be the largest bone that has ever existed.



THE LARGEST BONE THAT EVER EXISTED?

 Canterbury
Museum

How do you hang a 4.6 tonne blue whale skeleton from the ceiling? [Watch the video and read the story.](#)

The Museum team has a big job over the next 3 years researching, creating stories, designing, and building exhibitions and displays for the New Visitor Experience. Almost 60 exhibitions and displays need to be created for the new Museum.

These range from single objects and smaller displays of around 35 sq metres to a new Antarctic Gallery, new Discovery Centre for children, suspending the blue whale skeleton from the ceiling of the atrium, and recreating the Christchurch Street and Paua Shell House. Virtually all our back of house team will be working on the New Visitor Experience over the coming years.

We have 12 exhibitions and displays in the early planning stage including the blue whale. I hope you enjoy the video story about the challenges of hanging a 4.6 tonne skeleton from the ceiling (link above).

In other news, Museum staff have just finished digitising more than 22,000 lantern slides relating to mountaineering and the outdoors in Aotearoa, collected by William Alexander Kennedy (1865-1950). These are now available on Collections Online. You can read more below.

We also pay tribute to Museum Research Fellow, Terry Hitchings who died earlier this year. Terry was a much-loved member of the Museum team who left an enduring legacy after more than three decades of research. We salute him.

Ngā mihi
Anthony Wright



Stunning images

Wildlife Photos

The *Wildlife Photographer of the Year* exhibition is proving to be a big hit with visitors. See 100 spectacular images of wildlife from around the globe. On now at *Canterbury Museum at CoCA*, Gloucester Street.

Developed by the Natural History Museum, London.

Image: Max Waugh. All rights reserved

[Read more →](#)

Competition

Send in your snaps

We're looking for the best wildlife photographers in Waitaha Canterbury to enter our *Amazing Animals* photography competition. Open to all ages, you can enter up to five of your best snaps taken since 1 July 2023. You could win a prize and have your entry displayed at at the Museum. Competition closes 28 July.

Terms & conditions apply. See website for details

[Read more →](#)



Watch 5 months of demolition in 1 minute



Redevelopment update

The Leighs March Joint Venture (JV) has taken over the Rolleston Avenue site now that Ceres have finished demolishing the twentieth century buildings. The JV will be installing the new basement walls and significant new structures to support the existing buildings while they excavate the space for the new base-isolated basement.

The JV is currently bringing storage tanks and large plant onto the site ready to start work on the new basement diaphragm walls. They have been carefully excavating around the perimeter of the former Centennial Wing Building and the Robert McDougall Gallery, installing one-metre-deep guide walls which will enable precise excavation for the installation of the new 12-metre-deep outer basement retaining walls.

There will soon be crawler cranes outside the front of the Museum and around the Robert McDougall Gallery. These will dig out the cavities for new basement walls and install reinforcing cages in them before concrete is poured.



Temporary steel support frames inside the west end of the 1872 Gallery. You might recognise some of the murals which formed the backdrop to the old 'Christchurch Street' which used to occupy this space.

The first of the large temporary support frames has been installed inside the heritage-listed 1872 building to support the gable end while the last section of the Duff Wing is demolished over the next couple of months. Later in the year, a temporary frame will be installed to support the heritage-listed Centennial Wing facade on Rolleston Avenue while the remaining building behind is demolished.

Basement walls in the Robert McDougall Gallery are being strengthened and reinforced before new structural beams are built. The JV will then install more than 300 micro piles inside the Gallery. These will form the basis of the temporary structure which the building will sit on while the existing basement is demolished, and the base-isolated Museum basement is built across most of the remaining site.



Tribute to a Museum legend

Terry Hitchings (1927–2024)

Museum Research Fellow Terry Hitchings, who died earlier this year, spent 33 years working at the Museum creating a unique archive of insect life in Aotearoa New Zealand. His association with the Museum began in 1950. In later years his son Tim and grandson Richard joined his research efforts.

[Read more →](#)

Boredom & Brutality

Art on a Whaler

Working on a whaling ship in the nineteenth century was one of the worse jobs imaginable.

Brutal and dangerous, there was every chance you could die. But it could also be very boring. In their downtime, sailors would use their knives to create scrimshaw, artworks carved into whale teeth.

The reverse of the tooth features a design of flowers.

Canterbury Museum 2011.48.5



[Read more →](#)

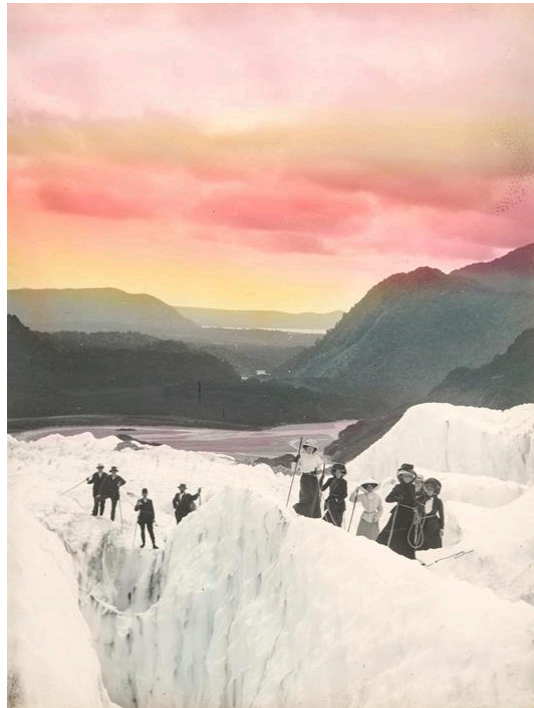
The Kennedy Collection

Alpine wonder

A remarkable collection of around 22,000 lantern slides mostly relating to mountaineering and the outdoors has been published on Collections Online. Teacher, mountaineer and traveller William Alexander Kennedy (1865–1950) collected the images to encourage people to venture into the mountains.

A hand coloured black and white lantern slide of a tour party on the Franz Josef Glacier. Photo: Alec Graham

Kennedy Collection. Canterbury Museum 1975.203.2847



[See more →](#)

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