



From the Director's Desk

The Move of the Century is Well Underway

Kia ora

The past month has flown by in a flurry of activity. Although front of house is still almost business as usual, in our project to pack out the storerooms back of house, the milestones have been falling like dominoes.

On 6 September, we watched the first truck loaded with carefully-packed objects from our Textiles Store depart to secure offsite storage. Staff from Crown Relocations are working closely with the Museum team to ensure our taonga (treasures) are transported safely.

On 21 September, we celebrated our first empty storeroom: the Vertebrate Store, where most of our animal bones and taxidermied specimens were kept. With over 41,000 objects in this storeroom, this was the culmination of weeks of work.

Since then the team have emptied what we call the Vertebrate Corridor, Canterbury Social History and Old Geology storerooms. They are also making great progress on the Textiles, Geology, and Wet Specimen stores as well as the Museum Basement. At the time of writing, 80 truckloads of precious taonga had left the Museum.

On 24 and 25 September, contractors installed an external hoist that will allow us to move objects from the upper floors out the back of the building. This involved laying a concrete pad and cutting a hole in the side of the building. I now look at a contemporary sculpture comprised of scaffolding through my office window.



Above: Contractors erected scaffolding and cut a large hold in the external wall of the Museum to enable the installation of the hoist.

We'll use the new lift when we pack out objects from the publicly-accessible parts of the building, which is due to start soon. From mid-October until the end of the year, we'll progressively close galleries to pack down their contents.

We're starting with *Discovery*, *Our Mummy* and the *Geology* gallery, which will close on 17 October. The *Bird Hall* will follow on 31 October and then it's on to *Asian Arts* and *Living Canterbury* on 7 November. The *Antarctic Gallery* is scheduled to close on 21 November.

We are still finalising dates for the closure of the downstairs galleries, but at this stage we're likely to start on some of them in December. We'll be sure to update you closer to the time.

Many of the much-loved exhibits in our galleries will return in the new Museum, so I'd just like to remind anyone concerned that this isn't goodbye – just see you later. A small selection of favourites will be shown in the temporary Museum (popping up in the central city next year) as well. However, if you were planning a visit to farewell the Museum as it's currently laid out, now is the time!

In a series of workshops earlier this month, staff provided further feedback on the Athfield Architects' designs for the new Museum. Athfields are still refining their designs, which needed some cost-cutting modifications to compensate for a huge surge in building costs since 2020. Our Board hope be in a position to sign these off and share them with the public soon.

This month has been the first period with the Museum move mahi (work) fully underway and I hope you can join with me in thanking the staff whose hard work has got us off to such a great start.

Ngā mihi nui
Anthony Wright



Museum Move

Birds in Lifejackets

Have you ever seen a bird wearing a life jacket? These little plastic pockets of air are crucial to ensuring our birds (and other taxidermied specimens) arrive at the Museum's temporary storage facility without a feather out of place.

Julia and Ashley from the Collections Inventory team explain why in this story.

[Read the story](#) ➔

Museum Move

Bespoke Box Building

To make packing for the Museum's move as simple as possible, we try to use standard boxes and packing solutions wherever we can. But a qasperluk, or salmon-skin parka, needed something special, as Collections Technician Becky describes.

[Read the story](#) ➔





Museum Move

We're Big Fans

The Museum's fan collection was another tricky packing problem. These delicate objects needed to be supported from underneath and tied down. Here, Chantal and Becky showcase the fan-cy solution.



The Mountfort Gallery was the first building constructed on the Museum site. It opened in 1870. Here, the Museum's founding Director Julius Haast is pictured seated in the gallery in c1872. At this point in time, this was the whole Museum! Today, our Decorative Arts collection can be found on the ground floor of the Mountfort, while the mezzanine is home to our Costume Gallery. Like all our heritage buildings, the Mountfort will be preserved and its heritage features enhanced in the redevelopment.

Museum Move

Shoes on the Move

Phil and Natasha, pictured, were responsible for packing the Museum's shoe collection in the Textiles Store. They packed over 400 pairs of shoes, sandals and boots!



Museum Services

Service Changes

Just about everyone in the Museum is now dedicated to the task of packing and moving the collections and exhibits. Click on the link below to learn how this will affect the range of services we usually offer.

[Get the details >](#)

Changes for Visitors

Gallery Changes

From mid-October we will progressively close galleries to dismantle and pack the displays. Click on the link below to learn how this might affect your visit.

[Get the details >](#)



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

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directions

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