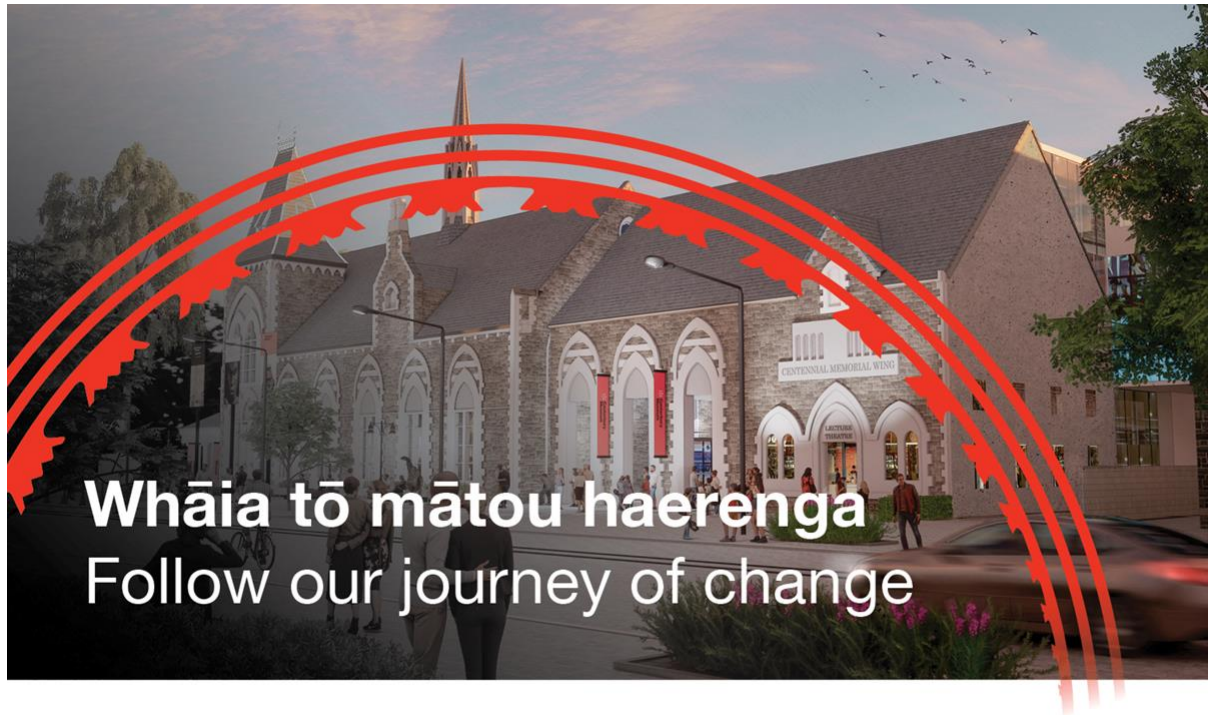


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All you need is love and neon wool

A wharenui made of bright neon wool, a crocodile fossil that changed the world, the last days of Form and Fire, a guided tour of the planned new Canterbury Museum and big news for the redevelopment. All this and more in this month's Canterbury Museum newsletter.



From the Director | Tumuaki

Tēnā koe

We're delighted that Canterbury Museum has awarded the construction contract for the build phase of the Museum redevelopment to Leighs Construction.

This phase of the redevelopment is to build the base-isolated basement and a new 5-level above ground building on top of it. This will include a large floor to ceiling atrium, a new home for the 26-metre-long blue whale skeleton. Work is expected to start in early 2025 once the ground enabling stage has been completed.

Tenders for this work were all well above the Museum's anticipated budget. The projected total project cost of the new Museum is now \$247 million, a 20.5% lift from the \$205 million project budget in 2022 when we committed to the redevelopment. It wasn't unexpected against the inflationary backdrop of recent years but it's very disappointing given our strict cost control to date.

We have divided the project into discrete stages to ensure that we don't commit to any work that we can't afford. The Museum has enough committed funding secured to complete a weathertight and insurable building and base-isolated basement, and to install any plant that is integral to the building construction phase.

The Museum's funding shortfall has increased from \$44.6 million to \$86.6 million due to the higher costs. Our staged approach means we have time to raise the remaining funds we need. We're confident we can do this and we're actively working on a fundraising plan.

We're really looking forward to reopening the Museum for Cantabrians. It will be a must-see attraction for visitors from across Aotearoa New Zealand and the globe,

with world-class facilities to care for the treasures in the Museum collection of more than 2.3 million objects.

Ngā mihi nui

Anthony Wright, Tumuaki | Director

[Read more →](#)



A house of joy

Love and wool in Whareniui Harikoa

The joyful and vibrant *Whareniui Harikoa* is coming to Christchurch.

Made from 5,000 balls of brightly-coloured yarn and crotched by hand, this full size whareniui (Māori meeting house) has been wowing audiences across Aotearoa. Now, Christchurch and Canterbury folk can experience this unique fusion of traditional whakairo (carving) patterns and neon wool.

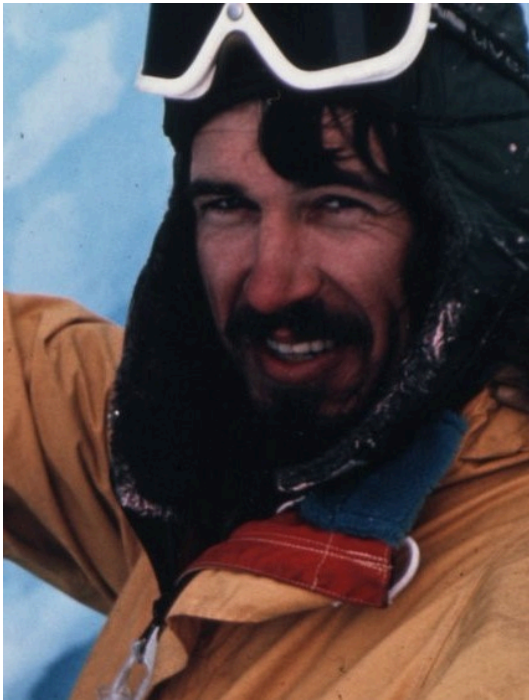
Artists Lissy and Rudi Robinson-Cole spent three years making *Whareniui Harikoa*, which translates to House of Joy. The monumental task of creating this neon-coloured whareniui began with a simple crochet hook and a clutch of eye-catching yarn.

For Lissy and Rudi it is more than just an art installation – it's a manifestation of their dreams, identity, and the love they have for each other and their people.

“This project is a tribute to our tīpuna (ancestors), a celebration of our culture and a testament to the healing power of art. The wharenuī embodies our vision of manifesting intergenerational healing and deeply felt joy.

“We aim to connect cultures, heal hearts, and spread joy – one loop, one stitch, one community at a time.”

[Read more →](#)



Discovered by a Kiwi

The fossil that changed the world

It was glued together with pancake batter and nearly seized by customs, but it was a fossil that changed history.

On first sight it looked unremarkable, hardly worth the effort of digging it out of the ground. But when New Zealand geologist Peter Barrett returned for a third time to the fossil high in the mountains of Antarctica, he decided to start digging.

[Read more →](#)



Watch a guided tour

A sneak preview of the new Museum

Watch Athfield Architects Director Trevor Watt describe the exciting redevelopment of Canterbury Museum with the help of two scale models.

Trevor has designed some of the most significant buildings in Christchurch, including Jade Stadium and Hagley Oval, and has been working on the Museum project since 2000.

Here Trevor explains how the redevelopment will restore our heritage buildings, create a new atrium complete with a soaring blue whale skeleton and bring new life to Rolleston Avenue.

[Watch video →](#)

Guess who's back?

The Great Museum Santa Search returns

The much-loved *Great Museum Santa Search* is back for some festive family fun. Can you find all the Santas hiding in the pop-up Museum?

Discover all the Santas and you could win a fantastic prize. It's not Christmas until *The Great Museum Santa Search* is underway and children are hunting



for their bearded bringer of yuletide cheer. The hunt begins 14 December at the pop-up Museum, 66 Gloucester Street.

[Read more →](#)



Gorgeous pottery

The last days of Form & Fire

It's your last chance to see the fabulous pottery show *Form & Fire* at the pop-up Museum.

The exhibition, which features a diverse collection of inspiring, eccentric and beautiful pottery from the 1960s to now, closes on 24 November. The pottery from the Museum collection includes an electric blue mushroom cloud from the 1990s,

masterworks from the 1960s, and pieces by famed Kiwi artists like Doris Holland, who painted under the name Doris Lusk.

The exhibition also includes the Canterbury Potters Association 51st Annual Exhibition. New ceramic works by members of the Canterbury Potters Association (CPA) will be on display and for sale as part of the exhibition until closing day.

Get along and buy a beautiful piece of pottery to take home at the pop-up Museum, 66 Gloucester Street.

[Read more →](#)



Beautiful objects and stories

Araiteuru Our Journey

Canterbury Museum has embarked on an epic journey of change as we build a new home. We're likening it to the voyage of Araiteuru, the waka hourua that first carried Polynesians to Aotearoa.

Along the way, we're sharing inspirational objects and stories from the collection representing each stage of our waka voyage; from building and preparing to sailing and arriving.

A new taonga (treasure) from the collection will be added regularly.

Canterbury Museum 1923.53.754

[See the taonga →](#)

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