



From the Director's Desk

The SHIFT Gets Real

Kia ora koutou

Another month has flown by and I have more exciting news to share!

In January, the Museum will host more than 50 urban artists from Aotearoa New Zealand and overseas. The empty, soon-to-be-demolished parts of the Museum will be a blank canvas for these artists to paint, project, paste-up and otherwise create new work.

The Museum will close to the public on 3 January for the artists to begin work, reopening on 28 January for *SHIFT: Urban Art Takeover*. This unprecedented exhibition will take visitors on a winding journey through more than 35 spaces across five floors in the Museum buildings, many of which aren't normally publicly accessible.

SHIFT is the sequel to *RISE*, a hugely popular street art exhibition we held in 2013 in partnership with Oi YOU! which saw artists paint parts of the Museum including the walls of our Special Exhibitions Hall. *RISE* played a pivotal role in positioning Ōtautahi Christchurch as a leading destination for art in the streets.

SHIFT will be a bit like *RISE* on steroids. There will be art just about everywhere (except on the heritage parts of buildings).

This will be your chance to farewell the Museum buildings in their current state, including spaces you've probably never seen before!

SHIFT is a fundraiser with all proceeds going towards the Museum's \$205 million redevelopment project. Information about entry costs will be released in December.

Keep an eye on our social media and website pages as we'll be announcing further details for *SHIFT*, including some significant international artists. I hope we can count on your support to come and farewell your Museum!



Above: The Museum's Special Exhibitions Hall, decorated for RISE in 2013 and featuring Benjamin Work's floor mural Motutapu II (2021), provides a taste of what SHIFT will be like.

The Mammoth Museum Move Marches On

In the meantime, work continues to empty the Museum. Last month saw the first of our galleries, *Discovery*, *Geology*, *Our Mummy* and *Ivan Mauger Speedway King* closed as the pack-down team moved out of the storerooms and into the public spaces. These galleries are empty now, and the whole of Level 3 (the Museum's upstairs) is closed except the Visitor Lounge. The downstairs galleries will remain open until the Museum closes for *SHIFT* on 3 January.

The team are finding some exhibits easier to move than others. The rock samples in *Geology* weren't much trouble (apart from the radioactive ones, but that's another story!), but getting the oversized crocodile from *Discovery* down the stairs was a challenge.

Moving a whole fleet of waka of various shapes and sizes out of our basement storeroom was another tricky job. The largest of our waka – 14.5 metres long and weighing in at 475 kg – is still to be moved, but even the medium-sized waka are very heavy and awkwardly-shaped. It will be fantastic to have more waka on display in the new Museum.

We're also very pleased to have been granted one temporary and seven permanent easements over reserve land in the Botanic Gardens by Christchurch City Council.

Putting base isolation under the Roger Duff Wing and Robert McDougall Gallery is a crucial part of our redevelopment plans. As those buildings butt against the boundary of the Botanic Gardens, the underground base isolation retaining wall and 'rattle space' – the space for the building to move in an earthquake – needs to be built underground in Botanic Gardens reserve land.

The permanent easements will provide the space we need without impacting on Botanic Gardens visitors. The temporary easement will enable trucks to access the Museum site via the

Botanic Gardens' Rolleston Avenue entrance for up to 5 years.

These easements, which are essential to the project, were granted after consultation with the public. A huge thank you to all who submitted in support.

Ngā mihi nui
Anthony Wright
Tumuaki/Director

Below: The team load a waka from the Museum's basement into the mover's truck.



Farewell Fundraiser Exhibition

SHIFT: Urban Art Takeover

Explore five floors of urban art created by more than 50 artists from Aotearoa and overseas.

Opening 28 January

[Read more](#) ➤



Museum Move

Mammoth Museum Move: The Movie

Morgane Merien, Science and Curatorial Communicator, has been filming the move process and has put together a video showing the massive and varied mahi Museum staff are undertaking.

[Watch the video](#) ➤

Museum Move

Decanting Discovery

Chris Hoopmann, Collections Inventory Digitisation Technician, has been helping with the move, and he's kept his camera handy. See his snaps from the pack-down of *Discovery*, our natural history area for children.

[See the pictures](#) ➤





Museum Memories

A Lifetime in Discovery

Discovery, our children's natural history area, has been open since 1995 and has entertained more than a million visitors in that time. The entry fee of \$2 has stayed the same throughout!

Museum Visitor Host Georgia had her photo taken in *Discovery* as a four-year-old. On *Discovery's* last day she allowed us to recreate it!

Georgia has many happy memories of visiting *Discovery* with her parents and, like many of us, felt a pang of sadness when it closed. *Discovery* has served generations of Canterbury kids, and when it returns bigger and better in the new Museum, will serve generations more.

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.

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