



From the Director's Desk

Canterbury Museum to Come to CoCA

Kia ora koutou

After a short break over the holiday period, we've got our heads down again to work on the Museum redevelopment.

The most exciting news to share, hot off the press, is that we have secured a site for our pop-up Museum, so that we continue to fly our flag in the central city while we're building on the Rolleston Avenue site.

The Museum will lease the CoCA Centre of Contemporary Art Toi Moroki building at 66 Gloucester Street from early February, with the pop-up Museum to open in the middle of the year.

This is a real win-win. We get a site that is perfect for our needs over the next 5 years, and CoCA, which has been facing significant financial challenges, gets time to build a sustainable future.

One of the challenges facing CoCA was the need to replace the gallery's air conditioning system. Thanks to a grant of \$75,000 from Christchurch City Council, this is being done as I write! The Museum will meet the balance of the \$150,000 replacement cost.

CoCA and the Museum go way back. In 1880, Museum founder Sir Julius von Haast was a founding member of the Canterbury Society of Arts, which runs CoCA.

This is another chapter in our shared history, and I'm so pleased the Museum can assist an organisation that has given our region so much over the years.



Above: Last week, Canterbury Society of Arts Trust Board Chair Anna Ryan showed me around our new digs.

Canterbury Museum at CoCA will open midway through this year. What will visitors see there?

On the ground floor, the excellent Lux Espresso cafe will carry on as usual. CoCA will retain use of the gallery behind it, Ō Papa, and hold regular exhibitions there.

We'll have the entire second floor gallery. About half of this will be used for a changing programme of temporary exhibitions, both developed by us and loaned from other institutions, to give locals something new to look at.

The other half will be a kind of Canterbury Museum "greatest hits" display, showcasing some of the taonga (treasures) we know Cantabrians just couldn't go 5 years without seeing. Yes, the horse from the Christchurch Street will be there, so bring your riding boots!

Before we saddle up and gallop around the corner to Gloucester Street, however, there's quite a bit of work to be done here at Rolleston Avenue. The team here have had an exceptionally busy start to the year, emptying the remaining collections from the Museum and building towards our blockbuster farewell exhibition, *SHIFT: Urban Art Takeover*.

All the shop windows in *The Christchurch Street* are now empty. In fact, only two galleries still have their displays intact: *Fred and Myrtles Pāua Shell House* and the Mountfort Gallery, which housed to our *Decorative Arts* and *Costume Gallery* displays. The team have just started in the Mountfort and will finish emptying it over the next couple of weeks.



Above: Packing specimens in the Mammal Attic, one of the last storerooms to be emptied.

Once the Mountfort is clear, it's really only the very large or difficult objects left in the Museum – things like the elephant in the attic and Sir Ed Hillary's Tractor. Some of these will have to wait until we can alter the fabric of the building to get them out. We will be sure to share the photos with you here!

Most of the Museum is now almost unrecognisable as over 60 artists from around Aotearoa and overseas transform it for *SHIFT: Urban Art Takeover*. Our usual Museum soundscape has been replaced by the roar of ventilators and the hiss of spray cans. Providing the artists with materials, ventilation and access platforms has kept our Exhibitions and Public Programmes teams very busy since early January, but it has been an absolute joy to meet so many fantastic creatives and watch a mind-blowing variety of work take shape.

There are the stunning murals you might expect, but also sculptures, videos, tattoo art, a wall of shoes, an installation using old office furniture, and so much more. Words can't do it justice – you'll have to come and see it yourself from 28 January. There are still a few tickets available (drinks and nibbles included!) for the [exclusive preview event](#) on the evening of 27 January too.

All proceeds from *SHIFT* will go towards our redevelopment. I really hope Cantabrians will make the most of the opportunity to see this once-in-a-lifetime exhibition and farewell their Museum. Please help us by spreading the word as far and wide as you can!

Thanks for joining us on our redevelopment journey.

Ngā mihi nui
Anthony Wright
Tumuaki | Director

Below: A work by Berst celebrating Ōtautahi Christchurch's graffiti history.

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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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