



From the Director's Desk

Strengthening Our Heritage

Kia ora

It's been another busy month-and-a-bit at the Museum. Even though the usual exhibits are gone, we're still getting plenty of people through the door. Almost 25,000 visitors have explored *SHIFT: Urban Art Takeover* and the reviews have been universally glowing.

There's now less than 3 weeks before *SHIFT* closes, so if you haven't been yet, make a booking ASAP! April 11 is the last day you'll be able to see all these amazing artworks. All proceeds from *SHIFT* go towards our redevelopment.

Although the Museum is still open, work has begun on the first bit of redevelopment-related construction: the above-ground strengthening of the Robert McDougall Gallery. The McDougall, once Christchurch's public art gallery, has been closed since it was assessed as an earthquake-prone building after the February 2011 earthquake.

We are planning to install base isolation under this stunning heritage building as part of the redevelopment, but before that, we first need to strengthen the above-ground structure. The strengthening has two purposes: to make it safe for workers to enter, and to prevent our excavations damaging the building's heritage fabric.



Scaffolding has been erected around the building (above) and in the near future, workers from Cook Brothers Construction will begin drilling vertical holes in the walls to house steel rods. This strengthening won't be visible, keeping the McDougall's heritage look intact.

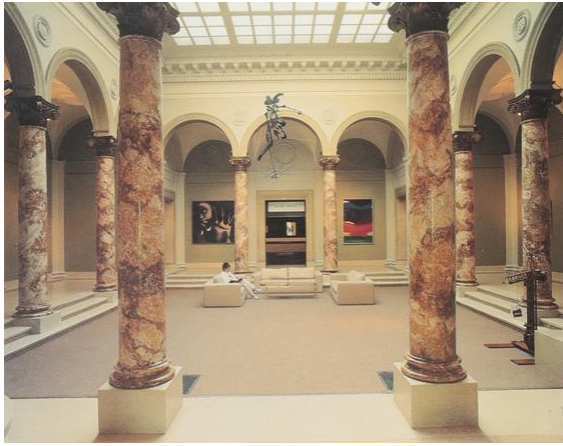
Strengthening work on the McDougall is funded by Christchurch City Council. You can read more about the building's history and our planned use for it in my colleague Sarah's piece, below.

We're in the final stages of moving the collection out of the buildings now. Last month our Ethnology storeroom was emptied and the team are now working on our refrigerated photo negative storerooms and our pinned insect collection. They have also disassembled *Fred and Myrtle's Pāua Shell House*, our final exhibition to go. Believe it or not, every shell in the house has its own number so that we can keep track of them all! There are still some odds and ends in other spaces that need tidying up but we are just about clear to vacate the buildings by the end of April.

That means our fabulous Relocation Project Manager Robyn Richards' time with us is coming to a close. Robyn has been an amazing guiding hand for what has probably been one of the most complicated relocations in this country's history and we'll all miss her. You can read some of her reflections on the project in the article below.

Thanks for supporting the Museum!

Ngā mihi nui
Anthony Wright
Tumuaki | Director



Preserving a Heritage Building

Restoring the Robert McDougall Gallery

The Museum redevelopment will see the Robert McDougall Gallery restored, made safe and reopened to the public as a vibrant addition to Canterbury's art offering. Read more about the building's past, present and future here.

[Read more](#) ➔

Interview

Moving the Museum

Robyn Richards has led the charge on the Museum's relocation project. She shares some of the challenges of moving 2.3 million precious objects.

[Read more](#) ➔



Photos

Shutting Up Shop

The *Christchurch Street* is one of our most beloved permanent exhibitions and will be returning in the new Museum. See photos from the pack-down here.

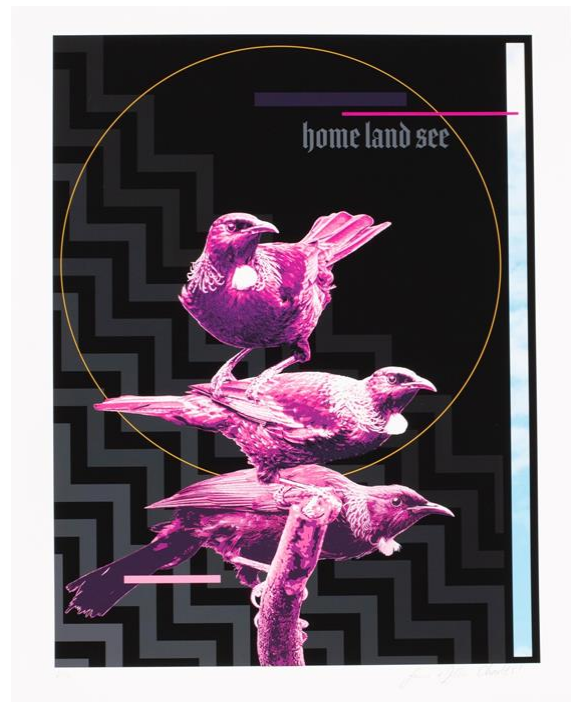
[View images](#) ➔

Support Us

Buy a Print

Want to support the Museum's redevelopment? You could buy a copy of *Home Land See*, an exquisite limited-edition print by *SHIFT* artists Charles and Janine Williams. Each print comes with two tickets to see *SHIFT*. Available from Fiksate x *SHIFT* Gallery and online through the *SHIFT* ticketing page.

[Buy Home Land See](#) ➔



Last Chance To View

SHIFT Late Nights

Have you seen *SHIFT* yet? With just a few weeks of the exhibition to go, we're opening late on select days so you can visit in the evening. All proceeds support the Museum's redevelopment.

29 March, 3 April, 11 April

5.30 – 8.00 pm

Canterbury Museum

[Buy tickets](#) ➔

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

Rolleston Avenue
Christchurch 8013
New Zealand

PHONE

+64 3 366 5000

FAX

+64 3 366 5622

WEBSITE

www.canterburymuseum.com

EMAIL

info@canterburymuseum.com

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