



From the Desk of the Director | Tumuaki

Farewell to Te Whare Taonga

Kia ora koutou

It was with a mix of sadness and excitement that the Museum whanau gathered in the Rolleston Avenue building on 28 April to farewell the Museum as we know it. Ngai Tūāhuriri said karakia for the buildings that will remain and in preparation for the journey ahead.

It was an opportunity to acknowledge the whole team's tremendous achievements in moving the entire contents of the Museum and all staff out of the building in just under 8 months. At times it's seemed that there would never be an end to the packing and to the challenges of moving objects large and small.



Many people all around the motu have told me how much they enjoyed watching the video of Sir Ed Hillary's tractor and other large taonga being craned out of the building through a third storey window.

I know that the logistics of moving these objects required meticulous and extensive planning – a few centimetres either way and the elephant could still be stuck in the attic. In truth, I was more nervous about shifting some of the very small taonga in the collection, taonga like the 100-plus-year-old type specimens of all manner of insects in the Entomology Collection.

The last trucks left the Museum on Saturday 29 April. A huge vote of thanks to the team at Crown Relocations for their mahi, together with Robyn Richards of B&W who masterminded the logistics of the move and worked so closely with staff. We've also been supported by a number of our longstanding contractors and consultants – those who've kept the building going for years and the ones who are helping plan the exciting new Museum.

Since then the team have been settling themselves and the taonga into their temporary whare. It'll be another 3 months before the shelving is completed in the new store and everything is in the right place. At the same time everyone is getting organised in their new office spaces and beginning to plan for the huge work programme that's ahead of us over the next 5 years.

I'll share what we'll be working on while we are out of the Rolleston Avenue building in my next update.



Work Starts on New Museum

The new Museum is being built in several overlapping phases. Earlier in the year Cook Brothers Construction started work on the first phase, strengthening the Robert McDougall Gallery to

make it safe for contractors working in the building. This work is due to finish toward the end of the year and is being funded by the building owners, the Christchurch City Council. For more about the Gallery, past and present, read our recent story [here](#).

We are pressing ahead so that costs don't run away and make the project unaffordable. Phasing the project means it's more manageable and we can select the best main contractor for the job.



Demolition contractors Ceres New Zealand have already moved onto the Museum site, initially disconnecting services and stripping out the interiors of the twentieth century buildings.

Demolition proper is scheduled to start in August. The heritage buildings, which will be restored and further strengthened, will be carefully protected during demolition and construction works.

Building the base-isolated basement under the new building and the Robert McDougall Gallery is one of the most complex parts of the project due to the high water table and geology in the area.

Our project team have already worked with expert civil contractors, March Construction, to design the below-ground structures as part of our active risk management.

We plan to contract with March to build the basement phase of the project towards the end of 2023. This work is expected to take at least 2 years, until the end of 2025. The four councils which fund the Museum, Christchurch City, Hurunui, Selwyn and Waimakiriri, together with the Government have contributed funding for this phase of the project.

We then plan to tender for a contractor for the new building which will wrap around the heritage buildings and connect with a glass walkway to the Robert McDougall Gallery. Work on this is

expected to start at the end of 2025 and take 2 to 3 years to complete, including the services fit-out.

During the fit-out, the Museum team will move in to install the exhibitions and displays with the re-opening scheduled for towards the end of 2028.

With \$150 million committed, we have enough to finance construction through to 2027. This gives us several years to raise the remaining \$25 million to complete the building construction fit out and a further \$28 million for the new exhibitions and displays.

We'll be sourcing the money through grants, philanthropic giving and community fundraising. So we certainly have our work mapped out for us over the next few years.

The major focus for the next few months is completing the collection move into temporary storage and developing and installing the exhibitions and displays in the Museum pop up at CoCA. I'll give you a sneak preview next time around, but I can share with you that there'll be a temporary exhibition opening in half the gallery space in July, in time for the school holidays.

Ngā mihi nui
Anthony

Watch out for the pop-up Museum opening at CoCA in Gloucester Street in July.

LOCATION

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SOCIAL



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