

## CANTERBURY MUSEUM

### ARAITEURU – ARA NUI. ARA ROA. ARA AKE RĀ.

Christchurch Civic Trust was invited to attend the launch of Araiteuru, Canterbury Museum's epic redevelopment journey, at Rehua Marae, 79 Springfield Road, on 18 March 2024.



*Museum staff and the Crown Relocation crew manoeuvre a large waka from the basement of the Museum in November 2022*

The great journey the Museum has embarked on has two distinct but converging pathways. The physical journey will see the Museum buildings redeveloped over the next 5 years. These have been plagued for years with problems that were exacerbated by the Canterbury earthquakes. The Benjamin Mountfort-designed heritage buildings and the Robert McDougall Gallery (the city's former art gallery) will be strengthened and restored, and the twentieth century buildings will be replaced. The Museum has released a fly through of the redeveloped Museum which you can watch [here](#).

At the same time the Museum has embarked on a cultural development journey in partnership with mana whenua, to reimagine and redevelop not just the physical buildings but the institution itself. Canterbury Museum's focus for this journey is to build both stronger and deeper relationships with mana whenua. Central to this will be embracing the place of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and working together to learn what it means to be a better Treaty partner with mana whenua and all Canterbury Museum's communities.

The Museum is at the start of a challenging journey towards becoming a world-class museum that celebrates the people and place of Waitaha Canterbury.

The name Canterbury Museum has adopted for this journey is - **Araiteuru – Ara nui. Ara roa. Ara ake rā. A great journey. An extended journey. A revealing Journey.**

Araiteuru, was one of the earliest of the great voyaging waka to arrive in Te Waipounamu (the South Island), from Hawai'iki, and acknowledges the tīpuna (ancestors) and mahi (work) of those who have come before us.

Canterbury Museum has a long relationship with Ngāi Tūāhuriri and they are working together to ensure that Māori voices tell Māori stories, and that the Museum's redevelopment occurs through genuine relationships.

For nearly 40 years, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu has been represented on the Museum Ngāi Tahu Trust Board. In 1996, Ōhākī o Ngā Tīpuna – the iwi liaison committee – was established. Since 1996, bicultural competence and understanding has been elevated with te reo Māori lessons, waiata, noho marae (overnight marae stay) and increased understanding of tikanga and tradition underway with Te Manutaki, a group of Māori Museum staff, providing guidance in A 10-year bicultural strategy – Te Rautaki Kākano Rua – has a number of initiatives a range of areas supporting the Museum's Journey.

A new website launched in April 2023 is designed to acknowledge and reflect the values and tikanga of biculturalism as the foundation of Canterbury's multi-cultural and diverse communities.

You can watch the launch of Araiteuru at Rehua Marae on 18 March [here](#).

**Lynette Hardie Wills, PhD.**

Follow the Museum's journey of change on its website:

<https://www.canterburymuseum.com/redevelopment>

Link to fly through video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9v9GLtnDHY>

Link to the launch of Araiteuru <https://youtu.be/kSsPUCIvvdY>

The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Civic Trust