

# Christchurch Art Gallery Construction News

Issue 5: August 2002

## Key Dates

### December 2000

- C Lund & Son Ltd commenced work on site

### January 2002

- Construction of the Sculpture Wall commenced

### November 2002

- Building Construction is completed

### December 2002 - April 2003

- Relocation of the City's collection from the Robert McDougall Art Gallery building and fit-out of the Art Gallery takes place

### April 2003

- The Christchurch Art Gallery is opened

## Who Can You Contact?



For enquiries regarding the contractor's operations please contact C Lund & Son Ltd's Project Manager:

Andrew Macgregor

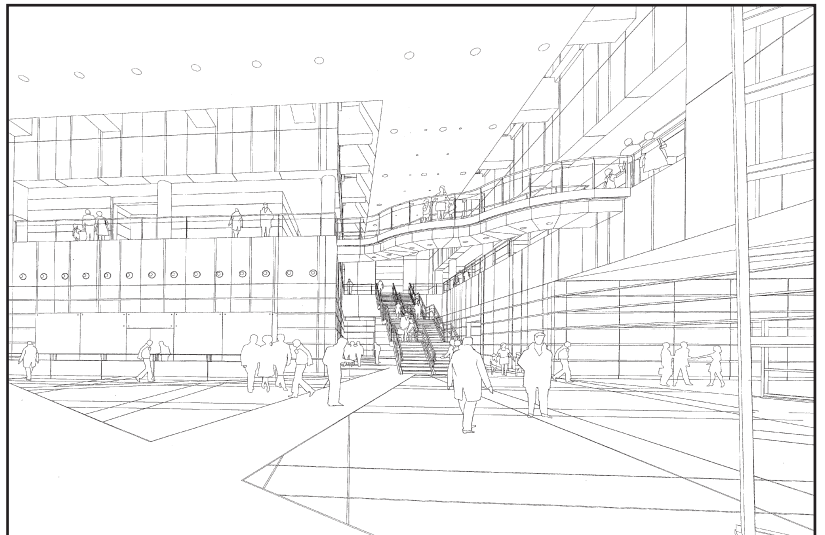
Office hours 377 8295  
Mobile 021 332 374

For enquiries regarding the project in general please contact the Council's Communication Co-ordinator:

Kay Carston  
Office hours 941 6416

*If you would like more copies of this newsletter please contact Kay Carston (details above).*

The countdown is on. It's now less than four months until the construction of the Christchurch Art Gallery is completed. The tower crane, now a familiar skyline feature, will be dismantled and removed from the area by early September. This is a milestone for the team on site and an indication of how far the construction has progressed.



*View from the foyer on the ground floor facing the 'grand stair' which leads to the first floor and the wavy bridge, which connects two permanent exhibition galleries (computer generated).*

## Update

The 'grand stair' and wavy bridge are completed and await floor coverings and balustrades. The education centre and the auditorium, on the northeast side of the ground floor are also physically completed. Lining of the walls of the auditorium is underway and will be followed by the installation of 160 seats.

Installation of the reconstituted bluestone precast panels, which contain flecks of bluestone, on the external wall along Worcester Boulevard was completed during June. These precast panels clad the wall above 4.5 metres while natural bluestone cladding from Timaru will be installed below that height.

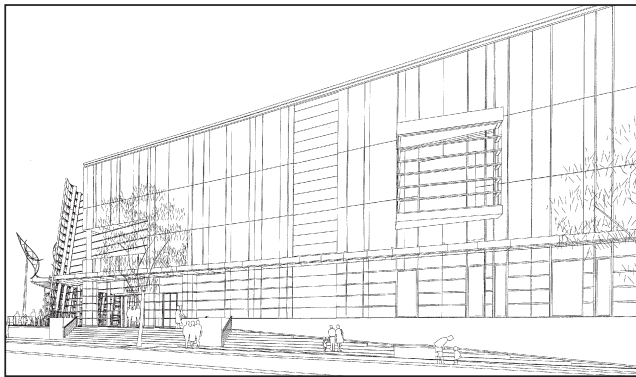
Work in the gallery areas on the ground floor, which will house touring exhibitions, is progressing with the lining of the perimeter walls and the building of internal walls. Once the walls have been completed, the bluestone flooring will be installed.

"We're at a great stage where we can tick off a lot of the 'behind the scenes work' - you can see significant changes on an almost daily basis," says Andrew Macgregor, C Lund & Son Ltd's Project Manager. "Because the basement is completed and fully encapsulated (water proofed) the dewatering pumps have been turned off and the water table is returning to its original level. All the metal roofing has been completed which means the entire Gallery building is now covered in and effectively waterproof. Throughout the building extensive carpentry work is going on. We have an enthusiastic team of about 130 workers on site which is likely to increase to 150 as more of the trade fit-out work is undertaken."



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After 70 years in operation, the Robert McDougall Art Gallery closed on Sunday 16 June. Staff are now focused on the preparation of the City's art collections for relocation to the new building.



External view of the south side (along Worcester Boulevard) of the Gallery which shows the start of the Sculpture Wall (left), the external steps from street level to the ground floor and the oriel window at first floor level (computer generated).

## What Next?

During August work will start on the ramp and external stairs that will provide access to the ground floor of the Gallery and retail areas, which will be 1.5 metres above street level.

Space has been provided in the wall along Worcester Boulevard for an oriel (projecting) window at first floor level – work on this will not start for another couple of months.

Construction of another aspect to this side of the Gallery - a water feature which will run the length of the Gallery – will commence this month. At its highest point the water feature will be about 2.7 metres above street level. Water will well up and form a 30 metre long solid beam of cascading water.

## The Sculpture Wall

The Gallery's most significant design feature – the Sculpture Wall, which faces Montreal Street – is taking shape and defining the Art Gallery. This undulating wall of tinted glass panels will be 75 metres long and 15 metres at its highest point. The panels will graduate from grey tinted transparent at ground level, through milky translucent to opaque glass giving an impression of constantly changing light.

Installation of the Wall's 47 mullions – the vertical columns which support the horizontal framework and glass panels - is complete.



More than 2,180 individual panes of glass will be used to complete the Wall. Glass has been installed on the section of the wall closest to Worcester Boulevard and will continue along the wall over the next three months.

Royce Treymane, a member of the team on site, works on one of the 47 mullions, which will support the Sculpture Wall.

## Gloucester Street access to the Art Gallery

An all-weather entrance off Gloucester Street has been designed for tour groups and visitors arriving by bus. This will include the provision of a bus stop with its own approach lane to the traffic lights at the Montreal and Gloucester Streets intersection, a veranda to link the bus stop with the main building and an extended footpath area for pedestrians.

Access to the Gallery's basement car park is also off Gloucester Street.

## Temporary Footpath Closure

Towards the end of August the footpath on the southern side of Gloucester Street along the length of the Art Gallery site will be closed for work on the access facilities described above.

The bus stop currently located along this stretch of the road will be relocated to a nearby spot on Gloucester Street. The exact location has yet to be decided.

Completion of the work and access to the footpath is scheduled for the end of September although the bus stop could remain longer in its temporary location.

## From the City's permanent collection...

Christchurch's community-owned art collection is one of the four most significant public collections in New Zealand. It consists of over 5,500 works, including paintings, prints, drawings, photography, sculpture, ceramics, glass and textiles.

The Robert McDougall Art Gallery was only large enough to show 8 -10 per cent of these works at any one time. This will increase to nearly 50 per cent at the new Gallery, and a series of temporary exhibitions over time will allow most of the collection to be displayed.



Frances Hodgkins  
*The Pleasure Garden*, 1933  
Watercolour

Collection of the Robert McDougall Art Gallery  
Presented by a group of subscribers

## Did you know that ...

**... around 15,000 cubic metres of concrete have been placed on site – this is the equivalent of about 2,500 individual concrete trucks full of concrete.**

**... about 2,349 square metres of glass will be needed to construct the Sculpture Wall**

**... that there will be 3,900 light fittings in the Gallery**