

# Christchurch Art Gallery Construction News

Issue 3: December 2001

## Key Dates

### December 2000

- C Lund & Son Ltd commenced work on site

### January 2002

- Construction of the sculpture wall commences

### November 2002

- Construction is completed

### 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 372 2416

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

This is the third issue of a newsletter, which is being regularly written during the construction of the Christchurch Art Gallery.

It is being distributed to those people who own and/or occupy properties within the immediate vicinity of the new Christchurch Art Gallery site and any other interested parties.

Its primary aim is to provide timely and accurate information about the construction and details of people you can contact - should you need to do so.

## Update

While the huge crawler crane continues to dominate the skyline, the gallery building is visibly taking shape and continues to grow well above ground level with construction on the second floor underway at the north-east and south east corners.

Work has also started on the Gallery's most significant design feature – the sculpture wall – which faces Montreal Street. This is an undulating wall of tinted glass panels, 75 metres long and reaching 15 metres at its highest point. The panels will graduate from transparent at the base, through translucent to largely opaque glass at the top, designed to give an impression of constantly changing light with its atmospheric reflections.

The great pit, produced earlier in the year, which will be the basement car-parking area, has been largely completed providing the footprint (the area on which the building will stand) for the Gallery.

The ground floor area has much of its concrete structure in place such as flooring slabs and a number of precast wall panels including those for the auditorium. The exception to this is the area where the 150 tonne crawler crane is working from and which will be the 'grand stair' – the staircase which will connect the ground floor with the first floor.

The concrete flooring for the first floor gallery areas, which will feature the City's permanent collections, has also been completed with walls and columns now being constructed.

"Having such a large area of the footprint covered by the concrete structure will help to reduce the potential for dust during the summer months," says Andrew Macgregor, C Lund & Son Ltd's Project Manager. "We have appreciated the understanding of the people and businesses in the area and will continue to try to minimise noise.

"On a personal note, the team on site was saddened by the death of Clarrie Kinsman at the beginning of the winter. There had been a long association between Clarrie, who was 93, and C Lund & Son Ltd. He had been a member of a working party, which was supervised by Ray and Charles Lund (the founder of C Lund & Son Ltd), during the war years in Timaru. Later, as a brick-layer, he was a subcontractor to the firm. He lived only a couple of minutes away and kept a regular watch on the progress. Those of us who regularly chatted with him, often at the end of the day, have missed his presence and keen interest in the project."



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## A Change of Dates

One of the activities the contractor C Lund & Son Ltd undertook on site earlier this year was the removal of some existing foundations which had been uncovered during excavation. Because of the amount of reinforcing, considerable effort was required to break up the foundations before they could be removed.

This, together with the removal of contaminated soil, both of which were unknown quantities before work started, slowed the project down by a month. The team has tried to make up the time but in recognition of residential neighbours has not felt able to extend its working day by either starting any earlier and/or finishing later. Consequently construction is now scheduled for completion in November 2002 with the new Christchurch Art Gallery opening in April 2003.

## Summer on Site

By Christmas the huge crawler crane will be moved from the 'grand stair' area - so that work can start in that space - to another part of the site.

The flooring and columns are to be completed in the north-eastern area of the building with flooring and walls well underway on the second floor.

A major thrust of work during mid to late December will be the installation of what are called 'double tees' on the first floor in the south-east area. These are precast concrete structures which resemble two capital Ts joined together (TT). They are placed over the top of the walls to provide reinforcement, and also provide the ceiling structure for one level and the flooring structure for the next level up.

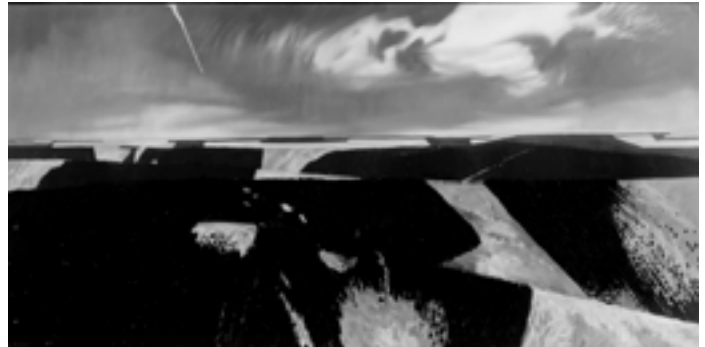
Shoring work along Montreal Street will continue. This is the building of temporary retaining walls which hold the sides of the basement excavation in place and will be removed when the Gallery's basement walls have been completed. The shoring work includes intermittent driving of steel columns into the ground which can result in localised vibration and noise.

There is currently a team of about 60 construction workers on site - this is expected to increase over the summer.



Another concrete truck arrives on site.

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



**W.A. Sutton**

***Plantation Series No. 2, 1986***

**Oil on canvas board**

**Collection of the Robert McDougall Art Gallery.**

**Purchased 1986 with assistance from Olive Stirrat Bequest.**

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



*Andrew Macgregor, C Lund & Son Ltd's Project Manager points in the general direction of where the sculpture wall will be constructed (facing Montreal Street) while Mark Noonan, the City Council's Project Co-ordinator checks the plans.*

## Did you know that ...

**... approximately 6,000 cubic metres of concrete have been poured on site, as at October 2001 - this is the equivalent of the contents of nearly 1,100 individual concrete trucks.**

**... about 2,184 individual panes of glass will be used to complete the sculpture wall.**