



The Illustration at the top of the page is "The Arts Centre" Christchurch. From a Print by New Zealand Artist, Lawrence Leitch.

WELCOME TO THE SECOND NEWSLETTER FOR 2024

Following our successful lecture series delivered by Judith Coullie on Alexander Pope we can confirm details of Lecture Series 2024-2 – the second series for 2024 – on **Cultural Icons of Christchurch**.

Details of this course are set out below but firstly we hope you are enjoying our new, modern facility at Rārākau Riccarton Centre. We have attached a photo taken on 1 March during the third lecture of the series. If you would like a copy of the photo please email merv.altments@gmail.com and he will provide a digital copy by return email.



5 April - Canterbury Museum

Scott Reeves will give us a brief look at the history of Canterbury Museum and talk about the redevelopment of the Museum currently in progress and how they will continue to interact with the public during this phase.

Scott has worked in the museum industry since 2000, focusing on collection management and registration. He joined the Canterbury Museum in 2016 as Registrar where he champions the care of our collections and data, making sure everything is safe, and that we know what we've got and where it is.

He and his team manage the Museum's loans, last year lending out over 1,500 artefacts and specimens to museums and researchers around the world. He also manages our Image Service and Collections Online, digitising and providing images to publications, researchers and the general public.

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12 April

Due to the venue not being available there will be no lecture on that date.

19 April - Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetū

Chloe Cull will be speaking about the exhibition *Cora-Allan: Encountering Aotearoa* opening at Christchurch Art Gallery in April.

Chloe is Pouarataki Curator Māori at Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetū. She has a background in curation and education and has held roles at Te Ara Ātea (Rolleston), Govett-Brewster Art Gallery/Len Lye Centre (New Plymouth), and the Dowse Art Museum (Lower Hutt). She is currently the Chair of the trust board for The Physics Room contemporary art space, and a trustee of Paemanu Ngāi Tahu Contemporary Visual Arts collective.

26 April - Arts Centre

Philip Aldridge will provide a brief look at the history of the Arts Centre, its Heritage value, its place in the Cultural heart of the City and future developments.

Philip Aldridge read History and History of Art at university before a classical acting training at The Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. He worked for a decade in the English theatre and on television in *The Bill*, *Boon*, *Emmerdale*, *Silent Witness*, *East Enders* and four series of the comedy *KYTV*. He left the theatre to work in corporate finance in London and New York before selling the company he had established. In 2002 he and his family moved to Hawkes Bay. In 2005 he returned to the theatre as Chief Executive of The Court Theatre, became Chairman of the Bank of New Zealand in Canterbury in 2012 and joined The Arts Centre as Director in 2018. He became an Officer of the NZ Order of Merit in 2012.

3 May - Recovery of the Central City

John Meeker will talk about the progress of the recovery of the Central City, how some of the key Blueprint projects and Crown/Council interventions have shaped renewal in some areas of the city and highlight the potential of projects still underway to further enhance the city experience.

John Meeker is the Principal Advisor within Christchurch City Council's Urban regeneration team. John moved from SW England in 2013 to take on the challenges in planning and delivering the rebuild and regeneration of Christchurch's Central City. In the UK he was involved – over 15 years - in future planning processes and regeneration projects across places including North Cornwall, Salisbury and the Mendip towns (including Glastonbury), developing a keen understanding of working with communities to plan and deliver new housing and urban redevelopment projects in historic and environmentally sensitive settings. In Christchurch, John was initially a Central City Development Coordinator within the newly established Rebuild Central office, working across council to guide property owners and developers about their options, feeding advice into Crown and Council projects emerging from the CERA "Blueprint" as well as advising the SCIRT (infrastructure) team on their prioritisation of pipe, cable and road repairs/renewals. In more recent years John's focus has shifted to helping council and the private sector grow the Central City buzz, resolve Central City Derelict Buildings (the 'Dirty Thirty') and take steps to manage unloved vacant sites. Away from the Central City, John has also supported the Little River Big Ideas community led planning process, the development of the Greater Christchurch Resilience (funded by the Rockefeller Foundation) and compiled Commercial Centre Factsheets that help improve understanding of the health and recovery of centres across the city and Banks Peninsula.

10 May – The Court Theatre

Alison Walls will give us a brief look at the history of the Court Theatre, the breadth of its programme, the future plans as it moves to the new development in central Christchurch and why it has been so successful over many decades.

Alison is originally from Whanganui-a-Tara/Wellington, She trained as an actor in the MFA program at Sarah Lawrence College, New York 2005-2007. After several years combining acting, directing, teaching and other theatre-related work in Wellington, Alison returned to New York to complete her doctorate in Theatre and Performance Studies at The Graduate Center, CUNY. In 2020, she took up a one-year position in the Theatre and Performance department of Governors State University in Illinois. In 2021, she joined the Court Theatre as Education and Outreach Manager, moving into the role of Artistic Director in 2022.

Thanks

Thanks to Pip Voller and Wendy Gallagher for organising this series.

Next series

Course 3 will commence on May 24 which means we will have just one week break between courses instead of the usual 2 weeks. This Course will look at the Criminal Justice System and will cover the following topics

May 24 The Criminal Mind
May 31 The Police Service
June 7 The Prison Service
June 14 The Youth Justice System
June 21 Prisoner Aid and Rehabilitation

Further details about this course will be in the next Newsletter