



Dear Friends,

It is with great sadness that we report the death of David Thornley, on July 16, 2019. David was a key member of the executive committee of the Friends and he also played an important role on the steering committee leading to our formation. David with his distinctive black beret, was a well known figure around Christchurch and the Arts Centre. He had a particular affection for with the Arts Centre, having had his office there as well as living in the Arts Centre apartments before the earthquakes. His late partner, Doris Grabner, was well known for her Court Florist shop in the old boiler house.



Although David was born in Southland and grew up there, Christchurch had become home to him. He lived at various locations in the Inner City West from 1972 and was an active member of Icon, the inner city west neighbourhood group.

David was passionate about design and urban design matters relating to the city, and any matters impacting upon the inner city west. Although he was a very private person, it did not stop him from being publicly engaged. He was never afraid to speak out about issues which concerned him whether they related to design, heritage or the environment. He was a board member of the Civic Trust from 1992 and was made an Honorary Life Member in 2018. He was also an active member of Historic Places Canterbury. His concern for the environment was reflected in his role as a foundation committee member of the Southern Environmental Trust established by the Rotary Club of Christchurch South.

David was a talented and versatile designer, but never one to blow his own trumpet. He was particularly well known for his theatre design, especially his work for the Court Theatre over many years. His work has been represented internationally at the Prague Quadrennial of Theatre Design in 1987, 1991 and 1995. David was also the designer of the distinctive yellow shuttle buses which operated in the city prior to the quakes.

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**The aims of the Friends of the Arts Centre**

- ☒ To support and promote the Arts Centre of Christchurch.
- ☒ To promote and encourage the use and enjoyment of the Arts Centre as an outstanding cultural centre for the benefit of the people of Christchurch, New Zealand and internationally.
- ☒ To support and assist with programmes, activities and fundraising for the benefit of the Arts Centre in consultation with the Arts Centre Board and Management.

**Executive Committee:**

Ron Barrow (co-opted for tours), Danny Cai (Treasurer), Ronnie Davey, Annie Edmond (co-opted for tours), Tim Hogan (Chair), Lynne Lochhead (Secretary), Lorraine Logan QSM, Peter Morrison MNZM, Faye Parkhill, Nathan Wallis.

**Contact Details:**

email: [christchurchartscentrefriends@gmail.com](mailto:christchurchartscentrefriends@gmail.com)

website: <http://friendsoftheartscentreofchristchurch.weebly.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-the-Arts-Centre-of-Christchurch-1668219206745568/>



**For further information or if you can assist us in any way, please contact us through one of the above**



Graeme Wallis with Tim Hogan

### Honorary Life Membership For Graeme Wallis

On a much happier note, we had great pleasure in being able to present our past chairman, Graeme Wallis, a well deserved certificate of Honorary Life Membership at our June meeting. It was wonderful to see Graeme sufficiently recovered from his illness to be able to attend a meeting for the presentation.

### Lumière Cinemas - Background on the Building

We hope that many of you were able to attend Film Festival events in the new Lumière Cinemas. What a wonderful way to be able celebrate the beginning of this new venture in Arts Centre, and how great it is to once again be able to enjoy the best that the art of cinema has to offer in this splendid new location. There can be no doubt that these cinemas will greatly enrich movie going opportunities for the cinema lovers of the city.

It seemed timely, therefore, to reflect on previous uses of the space in this issue of our newsletter. Situated on Rolleston Avenue to the south the former Classic's teaching room and separated from it by the arched entrance gate that leads from Rolleston Avenue to the north quadrangle, the building was erected between 1915 and 1917 and was initially known as the West Block. The main ground floor lecture room, known as Room 15, was used in its later years principally by the History Department and many of the department's most distinguished staff members would have given lectures there. The large lecture room is given striking visual expression to the west through the grouping of stepped windows that reflect the location of the tiered desks and seats on the inside. The architects for the building were Collins and Harman, by this date well established as the architects of Canterbury College. The other distinctive feature of their design is the external stone stairs that rise from Rolleston Avenue to provide a secondary entrance to the lecture room, the main entrance being from a corridor that opened into the north quadrangle. This stair now acts as the principal street entrance to the Lumière Cinemas. Sadly the interior spaces that those who attended lectures in the old Room 15 will remember with fondness have now disappeared forever. The interior was completely gutted during earthquake strengthening and repairs and the cinemas on two levels occupy the space. However the small but delightful new bar in the upper level overlooking the Botanic Gardens is sure to become a favourite space for all lovers of film and of the Arts Centre.

Extensive alterations to the interiors of the building had already occurred prior to the earthquakes while it was in use as the Christchurch Free Theatre. The Free Theatre, which was established in 1979, has the distinction of being the longest running experimental theatre in New Zealand. In 1982 they built a 100 seat theatre within the space as a base for their experimentation. Although the earthquakes brought an end to the use of this space by the Free Theatre, their association with the Arts Centre continued with a further 2 year lease of the Gym (perhaps better known to many as the former Academy Cinema) after its restoration in 2014.

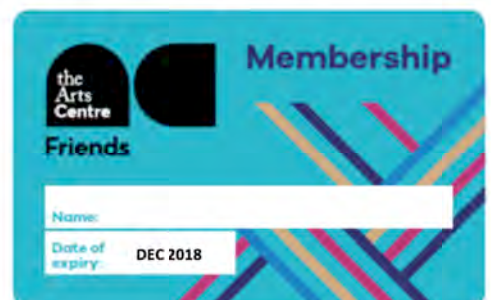
I am sure that the space in its latest incarnation will produce as many fond memories as earlier uses. It is a testimony to the versatility of these buildings that they are able to adapt to changing uses while retaining their importance as outstanding heritage buildings.

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### Membership Cards

You are reminded to make use of your membership card. The "Friends of the Arts Centre Membership Card" offers members a growing number of discounts on products and services in and about the Arts Centre. Any discounts will be advertised in our Quarterly Newsletter and on our website.

- **Rutherford's Den** 10% entry discount
- **Zen Sushi and Dumplings** 10% discount
- **Curator's Deli** 10% discount
- **Bunsen Café** 10% discount on hot drinks
- **Soul Jewellery** 10% discoun
- **Fudge Cottage** 10% discount on a range of product•
- **Concerts for Christchurch** Adult tickets reduced from \$15 to \$10  
(at both the Great Hall (Worcester St) & the Piano (156 Armagh St))



## Heritage Festival October

The Arts Centre will be hosting a number of events during the Heritage Festival. For more details check out the Arts Centre website. Information is also be available in the Heritage Festival programme.

The Friends have organised a lecture by Art Historian, Dr Ian Lochhead, entitled *Architectural Encounters: Designing Colonial Canterbury*. In this lecture, Dr Lochhead examines the challenges settler architects faced when designing buildings for Christchurch and Canterbury during the period from first settlement until the end of the provincial government era. Wrestling with materials that behaved differently from the ones they were familiar with, reacting to a climate that was erratic and prone to high winds and confronting geological conditions that were both unpredictable and unstable, architects in colonial Canterbury faced unprecedented challenges. The problems resulting from inexperience in the new land, and the lessons derived from costly failures provide the background to the emergence of the province's early architecture. Architects discussed will include both well-known figures such as Benjamin Mountfort and lesser-known designers such as George Mallinson, Robert Speechly and William FitzJohn Crisp.

**Date: Wednesday 23 October 2019**

**Time:** 6.00pm to 7.00pm

**Venue:** Rutherford's Den Lecture Theatre, The Arts Centre Te Matatiki Toi Ora, 2 Worcester Boulevard, Christchurch

Enquiries or bookings for the lecture can be made by [emailing](#) Friends of the Arts Centre. There will be a limited number of tickets available at the door.

**This lecture is a fundraising activity by the Friends of the Arts Centre with all proceeds going towards the Arts Centre restoration project. Entry \$10 or \$5 for Friends**



7-28 Oct 2019



Canterbury Provincial Council Buildings Circa 1865. Photographer unknown ( Private Collection)

**Membership Form January – December 2019**

**Surname(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**First name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Post Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Class** (please tick one):

- Individual \$35
- Family \$65 (Include names of each family member)
- Student \$15
- Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

All donations will be receipted. Payment of subs will only be receipted on request.

**Please list your skills should you wish to volunteer**

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**Please make your cheque payable to the Friends of the Arts Centre of Christchurch and post with this form to:**

The Treasurer,  
Friends of the Arts Centre of Christchurch,  
7 Stratford Street, Christchurch 8014.

**OR Tick here if you have credited the Friends of the Arts Centre**

**SBS 031355 0807473 00 account for:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ and email details to:

[christchurchartscentrefriends@gmail.com](mailto:christchurchartscentrefriends@gmail.com)

If we do not have your address we cannot get a members card to you.

**The Friends of the Arts Centre of Christchurch is a registered charity. (No. CC51240) Donations (but not subs) are eligible for a tax credit.**