



Dear Friends,

We regret to announce that our Chairman, Graeme Wallis, has had to step down from the Executive Committee on account of health issues. This is truly a great loss for the committee as Graeme has been a tower of strength from the beginning. He will be sorely missed but I am sure that all members will join with us in wishing him well as he focusses on recovering his health. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

You will no doubt have observed that the newsletter has a different look from usual. This is because at present we have no-one with the skills to present the newsletter in the same way as Graeme had been doing. If there is member out there who would be interested in assisting with production of newsletters, we would love to hear from you.

Please join us for our Annual AGM which will take place on **Wednesday 20 March at 5pm in the Arts Centre Boardroom** (upstairs in the Clocktower Block). Philip Aldridge, the new chief executive, will address us. Nick Paris will also present a short talk on his plans for the Lumière Cinema. The formal part of the meeting will not be long. This is a chance to socialise and meet other Friends as well as representatives of the Arts Centre Board and staff. Light refreshments will be offered. Come along and share with us your ideas on what sort of fundraising activities you would like to see us undertake. We would also welcome new members on the Executive Committee but do not stay away because you fear pressure to join!

Remember, too, that 2019 subs are now due. Thanks to those members who have already paid. We need your support to help us in our fundraising efforts for the Arts Centre. We will have information on our major fundraising project for the year in our next newsletter.

We are excited that the Art School building will be opening in March so it is appropriate to include in this issue of the newsletter an article on the history of the building. The Arts Centre is holding a special re-opening tour of completed Girls' High/School of Art on Friday March 15<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. The Friends Executive committee and subscribed members of the Friends are invited to attend. There will be a tour of the building and facilities followed by light refreshments. Please note this is not a public open day; there may be one scheduled after this event and full details will be available on the Arts Centre website in due course.

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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, Lynne Lochhead (Secretary), Lorraine Logan QSM, Peter Morrison MNZM, Faye Parkhill, David Thornley, 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**

## Christchurch's First Girls' High School    Ian Lochhead

The building on the south-west corner of the Arts Centre, now generally known as the School of Art, was built originally to house Christchurch Girls' High School, but it fulfilled that role only from 1878, when it opened, until 1882, when the new Girls' High School was constructed on the corner Montreal Street and Armagh St, facing Cranmer Square. This was the second Girls' High School in New Zealand, preceded only by Otago Girls' High School (1871).

The architect of the original Girls' High was Thomas Cane, who had arrived in Canterbury 1874. Work commenced on the building in 1876. Cane had worked in the office of Sir George Gilbert Scott, which would have given him immediate standing in Canterbury since work was by then underway on Scott's Christ Church Cathedral. Shortly after his arrival in Canterbury Cane became the Provincial Architect, although this position came to an end with the dissolution of the Provincial Assemblies in 1876. He subsequently worked in the Public Works Department's Office in Christchurch and was responsible for, among other things, the Lyttelton Time-ball Station (demolished following the earthquake but with the circular tower reconstructed) and the later sections of Sunnyside Lunatic asylum on Lincoln Road, also demolished. Among his surviving designs is the former Belfast School Master's house on the Main North Road, now part of Kapuatohe Historic Reserve on the southern edge of Belfast and Condell's House (Christ's College).

The Girls' High School was built in the prevailing Gothic Revival style and forms part of the varied sequence of buildings that form the western facade of the Arts Centre. Although Cane was a committed Gothic Revivalist, the Board of Governors of Canterbury College left nothing to chance. They wanted to ensure that the architectural character of Canterbury College was not undermined by an unsympathetic building on the south-western corner. At its meeting on 13 June 1876 the Board resolved, on the motion of Sir John Hall, that:

In the opinion of this meeting it is desirable that the building to be used as a Girls' High School... should harmonise in style and material and general elevation with the adjoining building about to be erected for other departments of the College.



The Art School in context

The Board's concern to ensure stylistic consistency across the site was thus established at this early date and every successive architect, up until the time of the Second World War, followed this requirement. Only in the 1950s, when the Registry was extended on the eastern side of the site was a change in architectural style adopted.

In 1882 the newly established Canterbury College School of Art moved into the former Girl's High School. The building was extended by Samuel Hurst Seagar in 1901-2. (The lower portion behind the double gables in the context view.) Seagar was a lecturer at the School of Art from 1893 to 1903 and was also on the Canterbury

College Board of Governors from 1910-1919. He played a key role in developing the overall plan for the College buildings, including the quadrangle concept.

Seagar was just one of a number of prominent teachers associated with the School of Art, including Elizabeth Kelly, Evelyn Page, Sydney Lough Thompson and Bill Sutton. The School of Art remained in this building until its move to the University's Ilam Campus in 1957, the first university department to make the move. Having served as the Girls' High School for a mere four years and as the Art School for 75 years it is hardly surprising that its original purpose is now scarcely remembered.



Life class with Bill Sutton

### Lumière Cinema

The Friends are delighted about the planned opening of the Lumière Cinema in the West Lecture Building (next to the School of Art). The cinema is expected to open around May. It will have two theatres, with state-of-the-art technology. The aim is to create a vintage ambiance. The cinema complex will feature a small bar overlooking the Botanic Gardens. This will be a very welcome addition to the offerings at the Arts Centre. Don't forget to come and hear Nick Paris speak about this new venture at our AGM.

### Fundraising Concert for the Steinway Piano Sunday 24 March, Great Hall

Distinguished German pianist Michael Endres will present a concert in the Great Hall as a fundraiser to off-set the cost of restoration of the Steinway piano. The programme will include works by Handel, Beethoven, Bolcom and Gershwin.

2.00 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.

Ticket prices from \$10.

See the Arts Centre website for further details of the programme



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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% discount
- 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 S

**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.