



the Arts Centre
Friends

Dear Friends,

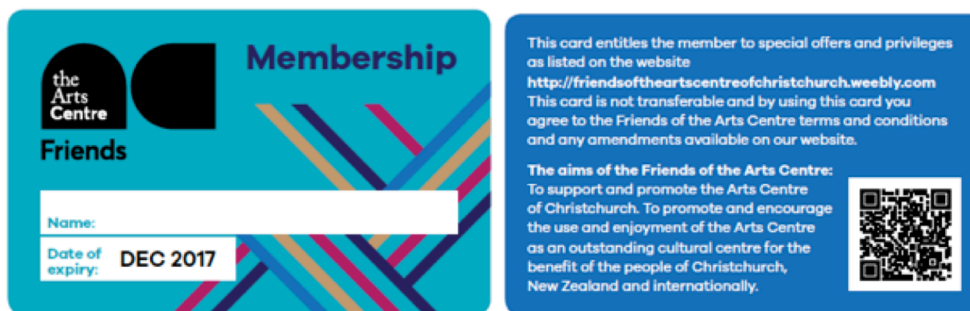
In just a few days time, at 2.00pm on Sunday the 19th February in the Great Hall, **Ali Harper** presents her **Legendary Divas** Concert. Please support the Friends of the Arts Centre in this fundraising activity. Tickets are available from The Classic Villa, 17 Worcester Boulevard, Christchurch or from Rutherford's Den shop, which is open 10am to 5pm, 7 days a week, and is located in the foyer of the Clock Tower at 2 Worcester Boulevard, Christchurch. **Tickets are also available at the door.** See you on Sunday!



Please note our **AGM will be held on Wednesday the 29th March at 5.30 for a 6.00pm start in the Hall of the Canterbury WEA, 59 Gloucester Street.** We look forward to seeing you there. Our sincere thanks to Ian Lochhead for his article, featured in this newsletter. His excellent knowledge and interest in the Arts Centre, are greatly appreciated by us all.

You are reminded to make use of your membership card. The "Friends of the Arts Centre Membership Card" offers members 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
- **Canterbury Cheesemongers** 10% discount on cheese
- **Bunsen Café** 10% discount on hot drinks.



Graeme Wallis

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:

Tim Hogan, Lynne Lochhead (Secretary), Peter Morrison (Treasurer), Faye Parkhill, David Thornley, Peter Tuffley, Graeme Wallis (Chair).

Contact Details

Our website can be viewed at: <http://friendsoftheartscentreofchristchurch.weebly.com/>
(The Friends of the Arts Centre of Christchurch is now a registered charity. (No. CC51240))

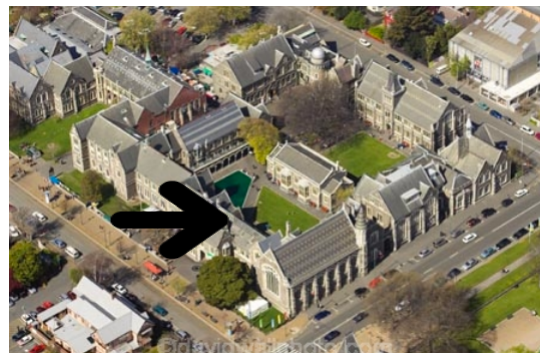
For further information or if you can assist us in any way, please contact the Friends at email: christchurchartscentrefriends@gmail.com



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

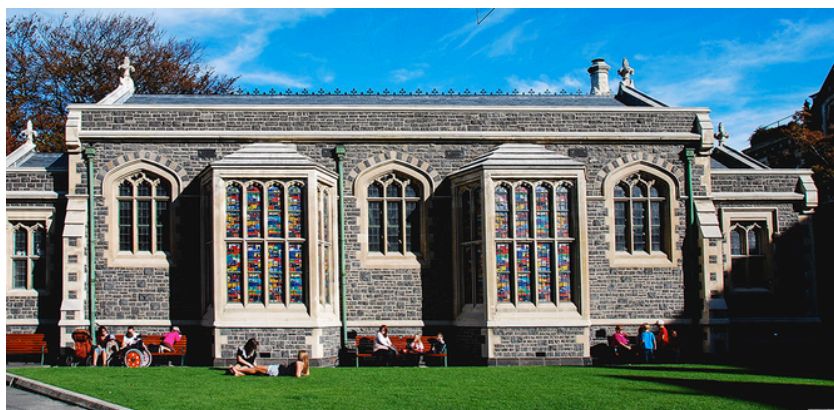
Former College Library

One of the Arts Centre's most prominent buildings is the former Canterbury College Library and older readers will remember it as the multi-level stacks prior to the library's move to its new building on the Ilam campus in the 1970s. The positioning of the library between the north and south quadrangles, was a strategic one, since it placed the library at the very centre of the campus, symbolically expressing its role at the heart of the university.



The architects of the new building were Collins and Harman and it was built between 1914 and 1916, during the early years of the Great War. It can be seen as a clear expression of confidence in the future of the university college even at a time when it seemed that the very foundations of European civilisation were under threat.

Collins and Harman had become architects to Canterbury College in 1908 when they designed the Gymnasium for Boys' High School, but the library was a much more prominent and prestigious commission. Its completion also coincided with the demolition of the original Chemical Laboratory (the notorious Tin Shed which was situated in what is now the North Quad) and the erection of the Cloisters to Samuel Hurst Seager's design in 1915-17. With the completion of the library and the Cloisters the North Quad took on the appearance we are familiar with today.



The design of the library continues the Gothic Revival architectural character of the Arts Centre that was established by Benjamin Mountfort with his design of the Clock Tower block in 1876. It differs from Mountfort's earlier designs by adopting, as the principle motif, a shallow pointed arch over the entrance doors and windows rather than the segmental arches that Mountfort used on the Clock Tower and Great Hall. This is a late Gothic form and the architects were

clearly intending to express the difference in date between the early and later college buildings by this means. On the interior of the library the exposed timber beams of the roof also repeat this shallow arched form. The other key feature of the library is the pair of oriel windows on the north side, which rise almost the full height of the building. These provide ample light to the main space in a manner appropriate to an interior that was originally intended to function as a reading room as well as a place for book stacks. Only in its later years did the demand for book storage mean that the grandeur of this space, with its lofty roof and exposed timber beams, was lost with the insertion of a mezzanine floor and closely spaced shelves.

When the Robert McDougall Art Gallery opened its Contemporary Art Annex in what came to be known as the Centre Gallery during the 1980s, the splendour of the space was a revelation for visitors who had only known it as a labyrinthine book stack. After the McDougall closed the Art Annex in anticipation of its move to the new Christchurch Art Gallery on Worcester Boulevard, the future use of the Centre Gallery was uncertain, but the University of Canterbury's School of Fine Arts took over the space as the SOFA Gallery in 2001. SOFA ran a very successful exhibition programme for the decade up to the February 2011 earthquake, its last exhibition being a very appropriate one, the murals painted by a former University of Canterbury School of Art student, Pat Hanly, for the University of Auckland Medical School. It seems equally appropriate that the Centre Gallery's connection with the display of contemporary art will continue when it reopens in 2017 as The Central.

The Central



Christchurch gallerist Jonathan Smart

Leading Christchurch gallerist Jonathan Smart is opening a new exhibition and selling gallery in the historic Arts Centre Library building that has just turned 100. Known as The Central, the gallery will feature work by leading contemporary New Zealand artists, displayed sympathetically in order to celebrate the Library's unique character.

Jonathan has run and operated the Jonathan Smart Gallery (JSG) in the city since 1987. The Central is a joint project between him and four other local families, all who experienced Canterbury's earthquakes and are passionate about the regeneration of Christchurch's community.

"As art lovers, we recognise the need to bring contemporary art back into the centre of the city," Jonathan says. "The space we want to create will have the same ethic as the JSG, in that it will be dedicated to the exhibition of top-drawer, contemporary visual art, ranging from painting and photography to sculpture and moving image work. However it will have a different style and will present a wider range of art to the people of Christchurch."

Ali Harper is a graduate of Toi Whakaari: The New Zealand Drama School. Ali wears many hats in the entertainment business; actress, singer, writer and producer. She has starred in numerous musicals and plays around New Zealand. In 2008 in Wellington, Ali was awarded 'Chapman Tripp Best Actress'. In 2014 she performed the one-woman play *Bombshells* at the United Solo Festival in New York, where she was awarded 'Best Actress'.

Ali has toured *Bombshells* to 38 venues around New Zealand. Other tours include *Oklahoma*, *Pirates of Penzance*, *Evita* and *Chess*. Since performing at New York's prestigious Metropolitan Room in 2013 and 2014 with her cabaret show *Naughty and Nice: A Down Under Diva!* Ali enjoys continued success with her shows *Legendary Divas*, *Naughty and Nice*, *An Evening with Ali Harper* and *Ali Harper sings the Gershwin Songbook*. Television credits include *Hope and Wire*, *The Strip*, *Market Forces* and resident singer for 4 years on TV One's *Dancing with the Stars*. She was also a radio co-host on Wellington's Classic Hits.

Ali has released her CD *Legendary Divas*, and has two other albums entitled *Naughty and Nice* and *Something So Right*. Ali's musical play *A Doris Day Special* is being launched this year along with her 4th album.

**Door sales
from 1.00pm**

Ali Harper
**LEGENDARY
DIVAS**

**2.00pm Sunday 19th February
2017**

**in the Great Hall
Arts Centre of Christchurch**

**Tickets (\$50.00) available from
Rutherford's Den shop (Arts Centre) or
The Classic Villa (17 Worcester Boulevard)
or phone (03)332 6196 or 021 55 8120.**

Legendary Divas is a show starring award winning actress and singer Ali Harper. It honours the legendary women who inspired us with their music. These talented, hardworking courageous women gave so much of themselves. Shirley Bassey, Dusty Springfield, Judy Garland, Doris Day, Barbra Streisand and many more.

**All proceeds go towards the restoration
of the Arts Centre of Christchurch.**

the Arts Centre Friends

Membership Form January – December 2017



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: \$_____

- Tick if you would like a receipt

Please list your skills should you wish to volunteer:

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 emailed details to:
christchurchartscentrefriends@gmail.com

The *Friends of the Arts Centre of Christchurch* is a registered charity. (No. CC51240)