



Friends

Dear Friends,

Growing excitement about the re-opening of the site is reflected by the growth of our Friends community – now more than 60 signed up members and 400 followers on Facebook.

Please note our **AGM will be held on Thursday the 31st March at 5.30 for 6.00pm in the Conference Room** (ground floor) of **the YMCA** (12 Hereford Street, opposite the Arts Centre). We look forward to seeing you there.

Also our grand fundraising function ***Celebrating the Great Hall*** takes place at 6.00pm on Friday the 10th June in the Great Hall. This will be a very special occasion, which includes great food, wine, entertainment and an auction. Please keep this night free for you to attend and let your friends know. Watch for further details in the next newsletter.

The Arts Centre's exciting new future is unfolding, with iconic space available for leasing. There is a new website available for those looking at leasing opportunities within the Arts Centre, including the Clock Tower building. See artscentrelasing.co.nz or call the leasing manager, Ben Murphy, on 021 579 039.

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, Rae James, Lynne Lochhead (Secretary), Peter Morrison (Treasurer), 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))

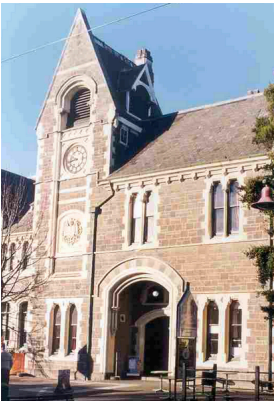
For further information or if you can assist us in any way, please contact the Friends at email: christchurchartscentrefriends@gmail.com



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

The Arts Centre's Changing Skyline

By Ian Lochhead



Since the earthquakes of 2010 and 2011 much of the work that has occurred on the Arts Centre buildings has been invisible, either buried in the ground as new foundations or hidden behind walls. Recently, however, restoration of the upper levels of many buildings has had a huge impact on the appearance of the site. On Worcester Street the saddleback roof of the Clock Tower is now back in place, complete with finials, while around the corner on Rolleston Avenue the conical-roofed turret to the Great Hall's stair tower has returned to its original position. One of the features of the tower is the ring of slender columns at its top, just below the roof. Once craned back into place these columns didn't quite match up to their original bases, an indication of the degree of movement the buildings have undergone over the last five years. Any discrepancy will remain invisible however, since the turret could be rotated to ensure that this slight misalignment is completely hidden.

The Great Hall's polychrome roof has been completely replaced in Welsh slates following its original pattern, but the pattern has also been incorporated on roof's eastern side, an innovation that Benjamin Mountfort, the building's architect, would certainly have approved. The terracotta cresting on the ridgeline of the Clock Tower block is also being reinstated. Although a lighter weight contemporary material is being used, the visual effect will be the same.



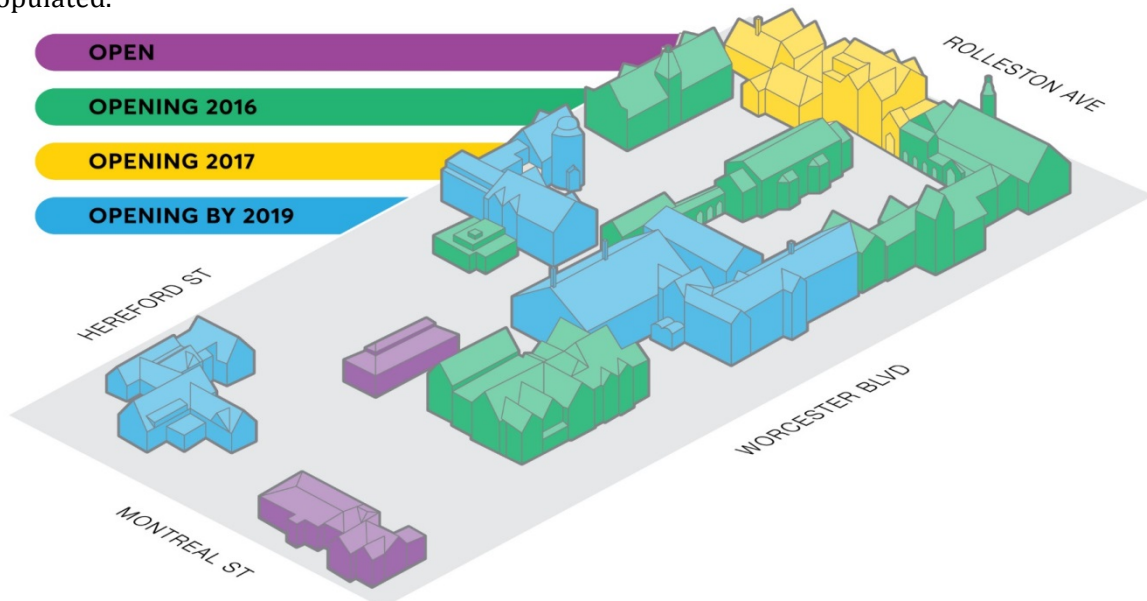
On the southern side of the block, work on the former Chemistry building is nearing completion, its tower roof with its iron cresting back *in situ* once again. The building's appearance has been transformed by the reinstatement of the stone pinnacles that were long ago removed from its upper walls as an earthquake risk. The sparkling, freshly-cut Oamaru stone of the pinnacles makes them seem almost startlingly new but they will soon weather and blend with the rest of the building, giving it a degree of visual integrity it has been missing for many years.

Along Worcester Street work on Old Boys High is progressing with the reconstruction of the upper stages of the stair tower on the east side of the building. This was deconstructed following the earthquakes but has now regained its original form. One key element of the Arts Centre's skyline is still missing, however. The wooden flèche that once stood at the centre of the main roof ridge of Old Boys High facing Worcester Street was destroyed at the time of the fire in the Little Theatre but plans have been prepared for its reinstatement. All that is lacking is the money to meet the cost of its reconstruction and this is a project that the Friends have undertaken to assist with. We are calling on members of the Friends to help us with fundraising for this worthwhile project to recover yet one more 'dreaming spire' on the Arts Centre's Gothic skyline.



Restoration timeline - what is planned in 2016

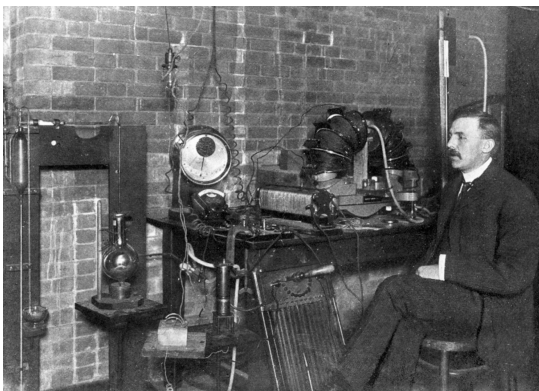
2016 is going to be a landmark year with over half of the buildings at the Arts Centre being completely restored and re-populated.



The buildings marked in green (above) will be open to the public, as well as both of the North and South Quads. There is great anticipation and excitement, as everyone has a favourite place in the Arts Centre that they are keen to re-visit! The Great Hall already has a number of significant bookings in place for key events and festivals, and is now available for advance booking. Rutherford's Den in the Clock Tower on Worcester Boulevard is shaping up well, with a new science experience being developed and implemented, based around Rutherford's discoveries and those peers and students who were influenced by his life and works.

The Chemistry building on Hereford Street is going to be the new home of the University of Canterbury Music and Classics departments, with the James Logie Memorial Collection of antiquities being open to the public, and other bright and modern spaces for public concerts and musical events. The Common Room is planned to be an art and education space. The Library, a smaller but beautiful heritage building situated between the Quads, is aimed as a gallery and exhibition space. The Christchurch Boys' High School building at the Montreal Street end of Worcester Boulevard is once again planned to be an arts-centric retail and hospitality area.

Rutherford's Den progress and fundraising campaign



Nobel prize-winning scientist Ernest, Lord Rutherford, was a pioneer, innovator, thinker and collaborator. His legacy means that he was an inspiration, encouraging a new era of scientific discovery. Rutherford's Den will once more be a vibrant centre of scientific education, with a major refresh and refit project well underway.

The plan is to re-open the Den as an education centre, hosting a state-of-the-art exhibit. Please join with us to keep the spirit of experimentation alive by donating to this transformation at givealittle.co.nz/cause/rutherfordsdenappeal or contact the Fundraising Manager on (03) 366 0989.

New brand identity for the Arts Centre

The Arts Centre has recently introduced an updated brand identity, with the new logo symbolising the "AC" initials and echoing the curve of windows and arches within the site. There are many colourful new signs and posters with the new identity around the perimeter fence. Please take a look when you are next in the city centre.



"Te Matatiki Toi Ora" means "The spring of living art", and links the Arts Centre's vision and purpose with a sense of place connected through history and geography. The Arts Centre campus is built above an aquifer, a spring, which has been a source of water and life for the surrounding area and people for centuries. Similarly, the Arts Centre is the heart of innovation, ideas, passion and art for residents and visitors alike – the source of creative excellence, spreading its creativity throughout Christchurch, Canterbury and New Zealand.

Te Matatiki Toi Ora

Membership Form January – December 2016



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)