

Opportunity to take tour of behind-scene areas

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Sarjeant Gallery

This week you have the opportunity to see behind closed doors at the Sarjeant Gallery Te Whare o Rehua Wanganui.

Join us on a behind-the-scenes tour, look inside the walls of the Queen's Park gallery to see how the building was constructed, then explore the nooks and crannies of the basement where the collection was stored.

The tour will then progress to Sarjeant On The Quay to view the NZ Lotteries funded storage racks filled with paintings in the temporary collection store, offering a rare chance to view some of the "mystery" artworks that surfaced during the recent collection move.

The gallery in Queen's Park is a Category-1 listed building and is widely regarded as one of the finest provincial art galleries in New Zealand.

Following Henry Sarjeant's (1830-1912) generous bequest to build a gallery and furnish it with "works of the highest art in all branches as a means of inspiration . . .", the Wanganui Borough Council ran a national competition to find a design.

The winning design was by a young architect called Donald Hosie (1895-1917) from the Dunedin-based firm of Edmund Anscombe and Associates. In 1916, Hosie was conscripted to



fight in World War I, and was killed in action at Passchendaele on October 12, 1917, three weeks after the gallery foundation stone was laid. The building was opened by Prime Minister William Massey in September 1919.

Ninety-six years on, the gallery building is showing signs of deterioration with cracks in ceiling beams and masonry losses from the interior. The back-of-house tours provide an opportunity to see the building in its current state and gain an understanding of why it is being redeveloped and earthquake strengthened.

The redevelopment plans include climate control for exhibition and collection areas, improved storage to allow for future growth, an auditorium for events, a purpose-built education space, and mobility access for the public.

Fundraising is well under way with the bulk of funding coming from outside Wanganui, and a grand reopening is planned for the gallery's centenary in September 2019.

Share your story

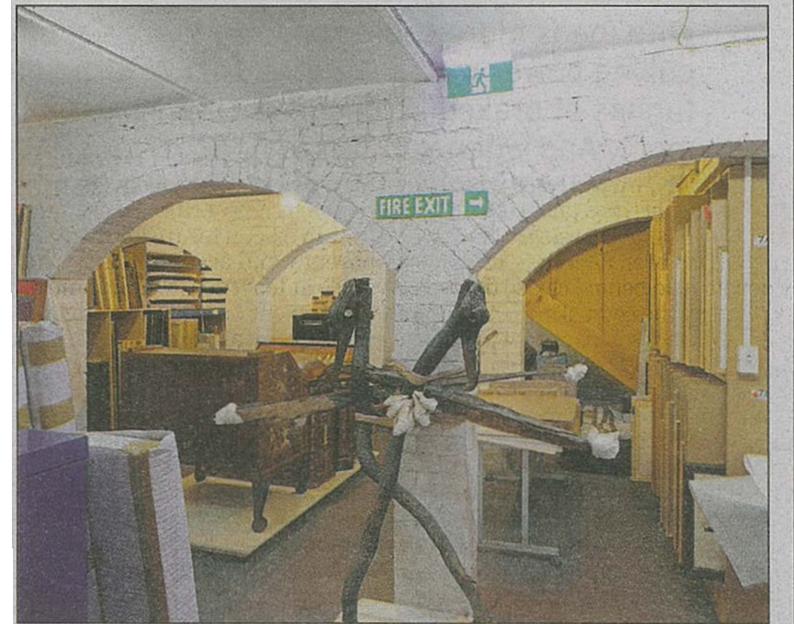
■ Do you have a story about the Sarjeant Gallery that you would like to share? If so, please contact Redevelopment Project Administrator Vivien Lindsay on (06) 349 3138, or at vivien.lindsay@sarjeant.org.nz. To learn more about the gallery's redevelopment project and interim relocation: people can pick up the 'Help Support Our Sarjeant' brochure available from Sarjeant on the Quay, 38 Taupo Quay; visit www.sarjeant.org.nz; or contact Vivien.

So the public is now being encouraged to come along and see why we are working so hard on behalf of the city to see that our iconic building and the wondrous taonga it holds are available and accessible for future generations.

■ Behind-the-scenes tours are from 1.30pm to 3.30pm tomorrow; Saturday, May 23; and Sunday, May 24. Pre-bookings can be made at 38 Taupo Quay and there is a maximum of 10 people per tour. The cost is \$20 per person, with refreshments supplied. Please note, the tour includes stairs and walking.



CEILING: The dome ceiling at the historic Sarjeant Gallery in Queen's Park.
PHOTO/ SARJEANT_GALLERY_DOME_CEILING.JPG



BASEMENT: The Sarjeant basement is part of the behind-the-scenes tour.
PHOTO/ SARJEANT_GALLERY_BASEMENT.JPG