

Morrinsville Gallery

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Replacement of the Morrinsville Art Gallery Skylights Project

-Morrinsville Gallery is set to enjoy ten brand-new skylights in 2025 for its main art space, thanks to the generous support of Chorus.

-Chorus, which owns the old NZ Post building where Morrinsville Gallery operates, is leading the project to replace the skylights with assistance from some of New Zealand's most experienced companies, including Programmed and Grün Group.

Morrinsville, Waikato — March 2025

Chorus is leading the project to replace the ten old skylights of main art space for the Morrinsville Art Gallery this year with new ones. With the involvement of top-tier companies such as Programmed and Grün Group, the project officially began on January 28 and is expected to last at least six weeks. Upon completion, the renovation will enhance the experience for the creative community and visitors to the Morrinsville Gallery, the most significant art and culture hub in the Matamata-Piako District.

“Chorus is delighted to be supporting the community on this important project,” says Jo Seddon, Community Relations Lead at Chorus. “It’s not every day we have the opportunity to see our buildings used in such a vibrant and creative way, and we’re incredibly proud to partner with the gallery in its mission to contribute to the cultural heart of Morrinsville.”

During the reroofing project, neighbours and visitors to the Morrinsville Gallery will notice some changes in the building's roof appearance, including scaffold erection and building wrapping. However, normal gallery hours will remain unaffected. Visitors may experience a low level of noise due to construction activities.

All neighbours of the building have been informed that some usual parking spots at the back will be unavailable. Contractors will ensure regular access to the area. We encourage the public to avoid circulating or parking at the back of the building unless necessary, as it may be busy with contractor work.

Please, if you have any questions regarding this project, you can contact Gina Barreto, director of the Morrinsville Gallery at director@morrinsvillegallery.org.nz, mobile 027 889779.

On behalf of the Morrinsville Gallery Family, we apologise in advance for any inconvenience caused during the completion of this important project.

Current Update:

- Materials for the project have been ordered and delivered to the site.
- The project started on January 28, 2025.
- We expect the project to take approximately six weeks to complete.
- The first week will involve pre-start meetings with contractors, scaffold erection, building wrapping, and general site setup.

Current Site Plan:

(See below for the diagram)

- Contractor parking will be located at the rear of the Exchange, marked as a yellow square.

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- The red square marks the waste area.
- The construction entrance will be located down the side of the building, using the rear stairs leading to the roof.
- The scaffold erected will provide edge protection on the roof rather than extending from the ground to the roof.



Graham Shortland, chair of the Morrinsville Gallery Art Charitable Trust board, explains why this project is crucial for the community: "The Morrinsville Gallery is a unique art and creative hub for the district and region. Its uniqueness comes from how it interacts with artists—many of whom are local—and the revolving exhibitions that attract numerous locals and visitors to the district. We are fortunate to receive support from organizations like Chorus, allowing us to create and maintain a valuable creative space for the community over the last 15 years. The original building was erected in 1962, and the existing skylights have suffered from time and bad weather, especially in the past five years, leading to potential leaks. Chorus has generously financed the entire project to replace the ten skylights for new ones, enabling the community to continue benefit from natural light, which is an energy-efficient option we want to keep for the future generations".

Project Background: History of the 167 Thames Street Building

Built by DC Construction Limited, the old NZ Post building was opened on October 10, 1962, and serves as a testament to mid-20th-century modernist architecture, characterized by clean lines and functional design.

Although the building is not officially listed as a historic site in New Zealand, the Matamata Piako District Council has recognized it as part of the Heritage Trail—Morrinsville. The building remains highly visible and well-regarded among the public, who appreciate its internal design and features, especially the excellent use of natural light for art and culture appreciation.

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Visitors to the Morrinsville Gallery can enjoy special architectural features such as an exposed internal garden area and an atrium, which can be viewed through a glass window from the main old banking area. This design choice aligns with modernist principles, emphasizing transparency and openness—one of the gallery's main features.

In 1997, the building ceased functioning as a post office and has since been repurposed. It now houses the Morrinsville Art Gallery, showcasing its adaptability and continued relevance within the community.

About the Morrinsville Gallery

The Morrinsville Art Gallery Charitable Trust proudly celebrates its 15th anniversary in 2025 as the heart of community art in the Matamata-Piako District. We are passionate about creating a welcoming and vibrant space for both locals and visitors in Morrinsville and throughout the beautiful Waikato region.

As a non-profit organization, we rely entirely on community support. Our efforts would not be possible without the help of donors, volunteers, and community members like you. Thank you for being an integral part of our community and our story.