

Earthquake recovery update



CITY REBUILD

ROADS

- 20,000** road repair jobs so far
- 21,000** plus tonnes of asphalt laid
- 200,000** plus cubic metres of metal laid
- 1.2** million litres plus of bitumen sprayed
- 170** km of cracks sealed
- 2.1** km of containers placed

WASTEWATER

- 12** km of major sewer pressure mains replaced
- 3** km of sewer gravity pipes replaced
- 2,081** repairs on private landowners' sewer pipes
- 300** km of sewer network checked for damage using cameras
- 67** wastewater pumps have been overhauled to maintain system capacity
- 714** sewage clean-ups on private property since 22 February 2011

WATER

- 72** wells repaired and back in service (17 wells to be completed)
- 26** km of water mains replaced
- 13** reservoirs repaired



Recovery by leaps and bounds in the Avebury Park, Richmond, sack races on January 11.

Old-time fun a hit at picnic days

Games from the past and modern-day technology were combined in a community setting to give residents in worst-affected suburbs time out over the Christmas/New Year period.

CERA with student help and support from Sport Canterbury, the Ministry of Social Development and staff from the Christchurch Arts Festival held a series of 27 community-based moonlight movies and "pop-up" picnics in Kaiapoi and eastern city areas worst-affected by earthquake damage.

These were in addition to larger events brought together by the Christchurch City Council and which included ASB Classical Sparks as well as the Tip Top Kite Day.

Fundamental to the events' success was giving communities and neighbourhoods in 'quake-hit suburbs some "good old-fashioned fun" in their local park with people they knew best.

Charlie Hudson, one of the organisers, says the events hit the spot.

"This is a time of year for family and community and we wanted to provide events that would support this for the hard-hit suburbs of our city."

Most importantly, the programme of events, although co-ordinated by CERA, was developed after talking to communities and residents' groups. The aim was to provide relief from serious and daily post-'quake issues confronting Kaiapoi and eastern Christchurch.

So, in the first half of January, in that period when many residents were still on holiday, people could enjoy the free picnics each day in local parks, including some in Brooklands, Dallington and Bromley, featuring such much loved and iconic Kiwi pastimes as lolly scrambles, egg-and spoon races and, of course, the traditional sack race.

But the neighbourhood entertainment did not end there.

Once the evening dark descended it was time for inflatable movie screens to be popped up in the eastern suburbs' parks. This offered local residents another chance to relax in balmy summer conditions with their families, as they sat back and enjoyed a range of great New Zealand films.

Charlie says she was initially uncertain how many residents would turn up but was delighted by strong community response. The picnics attracted about 7,000 residents, many of them children, who munched through about 7,500 sausages, while the movies drew a combined audience of about 3,000.

Big Council-owned buildings project

Christchurch City Council has embarked on a major post-earthquake programme to look at the future of around 1,600 of the facilities it owns.

The Council's Facilities Rebuild Plan project includes more than 900 commercial buildings and community housing facilities.

The plan includes high-profile facilities such as Christchurch Town Hall, the Convention Centre and AMI Stadium, other community facilities such as libraries and recreation centres and smaller facilities such as toilet blocks on local parks.

Project Sponsor and General Manager Community Services Michael Aitken says the aim is to provide safe buildings for staff to work in and the public to visit. "We are likely to face some tough decisions about buildings that are too badly damaged or will cost too much to repair because we unfortunately don't have the money to repair everything."

Mayor Bob Parker says, "This programme promises to be a huge challenge for the Council over the coming years, but it is also an opportunity for us to look at the types of facilities that

will best meet the needs of our community long term."

There are a number of possible scenarios for a building's future. A building is repaired to the same level or a facility is repaired to a higher standard. Alternatively, a building could be demolished and replaced with the same type of facility, demolished and replaced with a different facility or demolished and not replaced at all.

Following the earthquakes, Council-owned buildings underwent Level Two Rapid Assessments – a visual assessment of the inside and outside of a building – or an equivalent assessment to determine if there is any obvious structural damage. More detailed assessments, called Detailed Engineering Evaluations, are now being undertaken. These will help in a decision made about a building, along with a number of other factors including insurance cover, the building's heritage significance, how often it is used and its long term benefits for the community.

For more information about the Facilities Rebuild Plan project, visit <http://www.ccc.govt.nz/theCouncil/councilfacilities/index.aspx>



Gerry Brownlee
Canterbury Earthquake
Recovery Minister

It has been a difficult Christmas and New Year period for many local people.

Some in Christchurch's eastern suburbs had to spend holiday time shovelling away liquefaction while the usual celebrations of Christmas Day were tarnished or impossible for those who lost homes over the past 16 months or, worst of all, were spending their first Christmas without close family members and friends.

After adversity, it is a time for hope. New Year is traditionally when we look ahead, and make specific resolutions or plans, and there is good reason to look forward with optimism.

Latest available figures show economic growth in Canterbury had been the strongest of any region in the country - incredible in the circumstances and a credit to local employers and their staff. Recovery is dependent of course on play as well as work and I would like to extend that praise to those who are largely unpaid for their efforts - energetic volunteers who may have suffered the loss of a venue but continue to organise sporting, cultural and social leisure activities. In many cases, rather than become disillusioned, these people have become more passionate, visionary and community-minded.

Evidence of this neighbourhood commitment came with the 27 "Choice" "pop-up" events which CERA supported this month. Family picnics and outdoor movies were deliberately targeted to some of the worst-affected suburbs to provide free barbeques, bands and traditional, fun activities and were so successful because the idea came from communities themselves, wanting lively entertainment after a rather gloomy year.

Such activities, while outside the "norm" of weighty issues CERA is dealing with in Greater Christchurch, were just what I had in mind when expressing concern last year about the psychological challenge of the Christmas-New Year period. They show how the unpaid committees and far-sighted entrepreneurs we are blessed with here can inspire others, including businesses and Government agencies, which may be able to provide sponsorship and/or fast-track procedures to allow positive and innovative projects to flourish.

On another optimistic note, I welcome my colleague and fellow Cantabrian Amy Adams as Associate Minister for Canterbury Earthquake Recovery. As well being a local MP, Amy attended Canterbury University and was a partner in a prominent local law firm. She brings a high work ethic plus a wealth of local knowledge and experience to the position.

We have much to do, but our most urgent job is for those 3,000 or so home-owners remaining in orange zones and the Port Hills white zone. To those in this category, we realise it has been harder for you to make plans in the New Year and we pledge that, despite the complexity of geotechnical and other issues involved, Government zoning announcements are our first priority.

Gerry Brownlee



Roger Sutton
CERA Chief Executive

2012 is set to be an exciting year for Canterbury, in which we will see rapid change; a year when we will see the Christchurch of the future begin to emerge.

It is our children who will inherit this new city and their experiences, borne of the earthquakes, mean they will be more resilient, creative and independent. Despite all that has happened to them in 2011 the signs are good - for example many Canterbury students excelled in their NCEA exams last year.

For them, the future of Christchurch must offer opportunity.

A December "photo essay" in the influential United States magazine and website Foreign Policy ranked Christchurch as one of the 16 world cities to watch, under a heading: "From Singapore to Christchurch, the urban centres that are shaping the next century". The magazine says of Christchurch: "A massive rebuilding effort... is a unique opportunity to rethink urban form". Lonely Planet earlier this month said "Christchurch was re-emerging as one of New Zealand's most exciting cities" and "we're confident the city is one of New Zealand's bravest and most resilient communities".

Indeed we are.

While New Zealand has a history of our children seeking worldly experiences offshore, we can expect there will be waves of young people who come from all over the world to seek new and exciting work and cultural experiences offered by the rebuild. Cemented by their collective experiences we can expect our own children to feel greater ties to the city and they will want to be part of the creation of a new city.

However, we need to remember, in the short-term, we have to do this against a backdrop of seismic activity.

The swarm of aftershocks over Christmas-New Year, centred mostly in Pegasus Bay, resulted in increased anxiety for many residents. GNS Science says over subsequent weeks frequent jolts are expected, "gradually decaying away over a period of several months and years".

So it is critical that we remove buildings and houses not capable of withstanding larger 'quakes as soon as possible and build houses and commercial premises and community facilities that will.

Early this year we can look forward to the end of the rezoning process, giving clarity and certainty to residents.

For many of you, a bright future may still appear as a dim light on the horizon but we are committed to ensuring all land decisions are made as soon as possible so people can think about and be part of the Christchurch of the future.

2012 is set to be a defining year for Cantabrians, and I am confident we will look back on the year as the turning point in the recovery of Christchurch, as it establishes itself as one of the world's most vibrant, exciting and forward-thinking cities.



Briefs

Commemorative Events

A Civic Memorial Service will be held at North Hagley Park from 12 noon until 1.30pm to mark the first anniversary of the 22 February 2011 earthquake.

Mayor Bob Parker says the service will have a strong community focus, including musical accompaniment from Christchurch school children.

"We will observe two minutes' silence from 12.51pm. I hope that all Christchurch residents who are at work or elsewhere in the city, and are unable to attend the service, will also observe two minutes' of silence at this time to honour those lost."

Later in the day at the park, the city will recognise "earthquake heroes" during the presentation of Christchurch Earthquake Awards.

Red zone workshops

CERA and the Waimakariri District Council are running a series of workshops where people considering the Government's offer to purchase their property can get answers to questions across a range of topics to enable them to determine which option is best for them.

They are being held during the week of 7 February with both daytime and evening sessions available depending on demand. If you would like to attend it is essential to book into a session to ensure it goes ahead by phoning **0800 RING CERA (0800 7464 2372)** to register.

Central city users have their say

CERA is asking property and business owners, as well as their customers, how they want to rebuild the city centre.

Peter Townsend, CEO of the Canterbury Employers Chamber of Commerce, says he is delighted business and property owners will be providing input through the survey. "We will be encouraging all our members to participate," he said. Property and building owners will be contacted directly by members of the research team, led by Ernst & Young.

Anyone who wishes to take part in the survey can log on to www.centralcitystudy.org.nz.

New premises

Relationship Services Whakawhangaungatanga has moved to 222 Bealey Avenue.

The counselling agency, which was based in the CTV building, has previously operated out of temporary premises in Linwood and is continuing to provide government-funded earthquake counselling support at Bealey Avenue and other sites around the city. More than 13,000 Cantabrians have sought RSW's support since the September 2010 earthquake. To make an appointment call **741 9201** or **0800 735 283**.

Free business support

Latest figures show Recover Canterbury has distributed more than \$3.4 million through the Canterbury Business Recovery Trust and has helped around 220 Canterbury businesses.

Since February 2011, Recover Canterbury has been in contact with more than 6,000 Canterbury businesses and has provided over \$500,000 worth of training for Canterbury business owners and managers.

Recover Canterbury provides a wide range of free services and resources to help businesses including advice, assistance with business issues such as cashflow or insurance, training, mentoring and referrals to professional services.

To find out more or to request assistance contact Recover Canterbury on **0800 50 50 96** or go to www.recovercanterbury.co.nz

Latest artist-impression of new Christchurch Stadium

Stadium stats:

Approx. **18,000 seats** with two partially covered stands

Larger capacity for international rugby fixtures and concerts

Recycling infrastructure from other venues including: four stadium light towers from Dunedin's Carisbrook; the turf, public address system and big screen from AMI Stadium; food and beverage outlets, temporary seating and toilet blocks from Eden Park, Auckland.



Sporting and entertainment events will soon be back in Canterbury at the new Christchurch Stadium now under construction on Jack Hinton Drive in Addington - and it will be ready in time to host games of the 2012 Super Rugby season.

Earthworks and ground improvements are well advanced to prepare the site for the turf coming from AMI Stadium, while foundations are underway for the stands and lighting towers.

Christchurch Stadium will be Canterbury's only outdoor venue of its kind for major events, making it an important part of the city's recovery and rebuild.

Ensuring building safety

The 23 December aftershocks highlighted a continuing need to confirm safety of commercial and large multi-unit buildings.

One of the purposes of the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Act 2011 (CER Act) is to get information about structures which may have been affected. Building owners can be required to carry out structural inspections and provide the information to CERA under s.51 and s.29 of the Act.

Over the next few months, CERA will send letters to all commercial and large multi-unit building owners asking them to provide CERA with structural reports of their buildings. The letters will be sent in a staggered manner. Some owners may have already received a letter, particularly owners of buildings within the CBD Four Avenues.

CERA is looking for structural information which can be provided without unreasonable difficulty or expense.

If a building is currently occupied, owners will receive a notice to provide information under section 29 of the CER Act. If a building is currently unoccupied, building owners will receive a notice to carry out a detailed structural assessment under section 51 of the CER Act.

When they receive the notice, the owner, or their representative, is required to have a Chartered Professional Engineer (Structural) complete a structural engineering assessment, and notify CERA that an engineer has been appointed within 10 working days.

Those failing to do so may be subject to a notice restricting or prohibiting access to their buildings under section 45 of the CER Act until they have complied.

Christchurch City Council may have further requirements that must be met prior to a vacant building being reoccupied, or for the continued occupation of a building currently in use.

Award-winner working in Port Hills



Camilla Gibbons

New Zealand Young Engineer of the Year, Camilla Gibbons, says there is no place she would rather be than right here in Canterbury.

The award, presented to Camilla last month, recognises a young engineer judged to have made the most excellent contribution as an engineer, leader and/or through community involvement.

NZ Engineering Excellence Awards Convenor Gretchen Kivell said it was Camilla's "courage under fire" that made her stand out from her fellow Young Engineer of the Year contestants

"Camilla put herself forward to do dangerous work in Christchurch, all the while facing difficult personal circumstances including living in a home without electricity, or

sewerage," said Ms Kivell.

An average day for Camilla, working with CERA's Specialist Geotechnical Advisor Jan Kupec, involves assessing the hills and roads in the Port Hills for hazards. This includes mapping boulder formations and, when necessary, taking remedial action by securely bolting them down or, in some cases, blasting them.

Originally from Winchester in South England, 29-year-old Camilla came to New Zealand on a one year secondment. That was four years ago.

"It has never even crossed my mind to leave," said Camilla when asked if she considered going home after the Canterbury earthquakes.

Said Jan: "Even though Camilla's own Sumner home was badly damaged in the earthquake, the very next day she was putting up her hand to see how she could help others. It is a privilege to work with Camilla and she is a true role-model for other emerging young professionals in our field."

Kaiapoi and Brooklands people welcomed at Kaiapoi Hub

After a short Christmas break, Waimakariri District has two key support services running again based at the Kaiapoi Earthquake Hub, 11 Cass Street, Kaiapoi.

The Kaiapoi Earthquake Hub and the Waimakariri Earthquake Support Service (WESS) both provide one-on-one support to red zone residents from the Waimakariri District and Brooklands who are working through the Government's offer and those who may need help finding temporary accommodation.

WESS is a free, confidential service, which sees a co-ordinator appointed to help individual households get the right support and information. The Kaiapoi Earthquake Hub hosts representatives from agencies and organisations including the Waimakariri District Council, the Canterbury

Earthquake Recovery Authority (CERA), Earthquake Commission (EQC), Canterbury Temporary Accommodation Service (CETAS), AMI, IAG, ANZ Bank and Community Law.

Residents can make appointments with these representatives at the Hub or by phoning 0800 639 000. The Hub is open Monday through Friday 9am-5pm and Thursday late night from 5.30-6.30pm by appointment only.

Meanwhile the Waimakariri District Council is arranging for copies of presentations delivered at the MainPower My Housing Options Expo in Kaiapoi in December to be available soon on the New Foundations website (www.newfoundations.org.nz). These will give useful information to assist decision-making.

Fast-growing firm, fan of city centre

Cutting edge electronic product designer Bluewater Systems is a company determined to stay within Christchurch's four avenues.

The company, which employs 20 staff as well as contractors, moved from Victoria Street to its present premises on the south side of Bealey Avenue in September 2010. That move was not 'quake-related but due to the benefit of greater combined space after the company was acquired by Aiotec, another leading technology firm.

At its present site Bluewater has weathered the quakes well. Its marketing and sales representative Alan Povall says its building suffered little more than a few cracks, although at one point it brought in generators because of power outages. Other premises in the area were not so fortunate, with damage to adjacent buildings and major liquefaction.

"We have been very lucky in not having lost the building or having any significant damage," noted Alan.

Bluewater was also in a position to generously provide temporary office space, and some work, at other premises in Montreal Street, to local companies and several University of



Bluewater staff at their central city office.

Canterbury senior students displaced by the 22 February quake.

As the quakes continued to rattle the city, for Bluewater it has been business as usual and clearly it is a highly successful business. Last year Bluewater won two awards in the 2011 Deloitte Fast 50, which recognises the fastest growing companies in New Zealand. With a staggering growth rate of 283 per cent over the previous financial year it was ranked as the 29th fastest growing company in the nation. For good measure Bluewater was also named as the fastest growing technology company in Canterbury and the upper South Island.

And Bluewater is adamant it intends to continue to service its diverse range of local and international clients from current premises rather than outside the four avenues or quit Christchurch altogether.

"We are not going to pack up shop because of earthquakes. Unless there is a significant reason to move, I do not believe we will be moving any time," says Alan.

Building consent alert

From 1 March 2012 new rules under the Building Act 2004 mean building work critical to the integrity of a building is now required to be carried out by licensed building practitioners (LBPs).

Design and work that relates to either the structure (load-bearing walls, foundations etc) or moisture penetration (roofs, cladding etc) of homes will be classified as "restricted building work".

For more information visit

<http://www.dbh.govt.nz/builditright>

If you apply for a building consent after 1 March:

1. Your building consent application for a residential building (restricted building work) must include a memorandum from a licensed building practitioner (Designer class) certifying that the design work complies with the Building Code.
2. Each licensed building practitioner involved in the project - (eg: designer, foundation specialist, carpenter, bricklayer, external plasterer and roofer) must provide their LBP number and a Record of Work to the Council (and the owner) before a Code Compliance Certificate can be issued.

Handy tip: To avoid delays in processing your consent, be sure to include the required LBP certification - especially the LBP Designer certification, which is required up front. The details of other LBPs can be added as they are engaged to do the work, if you do not know them at the time of application.

CITY EVENTS

St Albans Skate Jam

Madras Street, 28 Jan
12pm-3pm, free

Brighton Rising

Reggae/dub/NZ roots
bands from 6pm until 1am
on 28 January - R18 \$10
New Brighton

The Drum Festival

Manaia Native Habitat,
Little River, 28-29 Jan,
3pm

Little River Surfcasting

Fishing Competition
29 Jan, 8am-3pm

The Breeze Lazy

Sundays:

Akaroa Rhythm Method 29
Jan, 3:30pm - 5pm, free

Anthony Harper

Summer Theatre

1 - 19 February, free, 7pm
Matinees Saturday and
Sunday, 2pm, Botanic
Gardens, Daffodil Lawn

Little River Music

Festival

3 - 6 February, 6pm
La Casa Bella, Cooptown

Yoga in the Park

Saturday 4 February
10am - 12.30pm, free
Botanic Gardens, Daffodil
Lawn

International Track Meet

Saturday 4 February
4pm - 6pm, Upper Fields,
Christ's College

ASB Classical Sparks

Sunday 5 February
6.45pm - 10.30pm, free
North Hagley Park

Sunday Bandstand

*Riccarton and Scottish
Society Pipe Band

Central Lawn, Botanic
Gardens, 5 Feb

12noon - 1.30pm, free

*New Brighton Silver

Scarborough Reserve,
Sumner, 5 Feb

12noon - 1.30pm, free

Waitangi Day

Celebrations

Sunday 6 February, 10am

Okains Bay Maori and
Colonial Museum

Open Air Summer

Shakespeare: As you like it

10 - 18 February, 6pm

Mona Vale

The Court Theatre

Side by Side by Sondheim
11 February - 3 March
Bernard Street, Addington

A Weekend of

Happenings

11 - 12 February
Little River

Chinese Lantern Festival

11 - 12 February
5pm - 10.30pm, free
Carlton Corner

North Hagley Park

Canterbury Scottish

Cultural Festival

Sunday 12 February, free
Riccarton Bush

Avice Hill Arts and Craft

Fair

Sunday 12 February

11am - 3pm, free

Avice Hill Reserve

Sunday Bandstand

Sunday 12 February

12noon - 1.30pm, free

*Salvation Army Brass

Band, Central Lawn,
Botanic Gardens

*Christchurch Metropolitan

Pipe Band

Scarborough Reserve,
Sumner

*All Pipe Bands

Riccarton Bush

The Breeze Lazy

Sundays

Fiona Pears

Sunday 12 February

3.30pm - 5pm, free

Archery Lawn, Botanic
Gardens

Canterbury Wizards vs

South Africa, Twenty20

Match

Wednesday 15 February,

5pm, Hagley Oval

Garden Gala

Thursday 16 February

11am - 2pm, free

NZ Women's Open

16 - 19 February

7am - 6pm each day

Pegasus Golf Course

Hornby Skate Jam

Friday 17 February

4.30pm - 7.30pm, free

The Hornby Roller-drome

Riccarton House

Festival of Flowers

17 February - 4 March,

free, Various locations

February 2012

BUSKERS

The Stronger Christchurch World Buskers Festival kicked off in Hagley Park on 19 January. The festival is bigger than ever this year, and is proving popular, with 60 acts from 12 countries performing until 29 January. There is \$3 all day parking at the Harper Ave end of Hagley Park. Solid Energy are sponsoring several free 'busker buses' from some eastern suburbs. For bus timetables and more information about the festival, visit www.worldbuskersfestival.com.



Recovery project re-brightens Brighton

Kate Hewitt (foreground) joins other Canterbury University students in a community effort to paint over graffiti in New Brighton town centre. As part of recovery efforts, the New Brighton Project and New Brighton Business Association organised a week of weeding, litter removal and painting this month. It was supported by CERA, Christchurch City Council, Greening the Rubble, St Faith's Church and by local volunteers, with paint supplied by Resene.