

Earthquake recovery update



PROGRESS

- 26** significant new commercial buildings within the CBD 4 avenues have had foundations laid
- 1,023** earthquake-damaged buildings within the 4 avenues now demolished
- 36** per cent increase on exports and imports through Canterbury's three major ports between Sept 2010 and Sept 2011
- 5,957** consent forms returned out of 6,805 residential red-zoned properties
- 206** major infrastructure projects underway in greater Christchurch at a cost of \$422 million
- 17,000** seat stadium in Addington on track for Crusaders v Cheetahs game on 24 March
- 1,000** person capacity University of Canterbury Students' Association Events Centre on track to open in late April
- 29** million invested by Coca Cola Amatil into expanding its Christchurch factory
- 510,000** tonnes of silt removed, mainly from liquefaction
- 6,000** m3 reservoir commissioned at Huntsbury and another 7,000m3 unit in final design stages
- 27** km of water mains replaced
- 4** km of large city sewer gravity pipes replaced
- 300,000** approx. total audience for World Buskers Festival over 11 days
- 50,000** total audience for "Classical Sparks"
- 13,500** attend CERA-sponsored picnics, outdoor movies and other events in local parks



Jeremy Stewart and the old post office on the corner of High and Tuam streets.

Iconic CBD building fully-tenanted

An iconic commercial building is scheduled to be among the first to re-open within the current CBD cordon. It will do so fully-tenanted and with a mix of old and new.

The former High Street Post Office, best known now for Alice in Videoland, was designed by Government Architect John Thomas Mair and built in 1932 by the old Public Works Department. The 1929 Murchison and 1931 Napier earthquakes were then a recent memory and post-'quake building standards led to what some called "over-engineering", with extra steel strengthening and piles driven some eight metres deep. Such methods proved their worth in more recent earthquakes, with the building surviving largely unscathed.

Said to be Christchurch's first major concrete structure after the Napier event, the old post office has granite facings, fluted pilasters and a balustraded parapet making it among the best examples of a striped classical style popular in the thirties alongside the art deco style of the time. It was bought and renovated by Alice founder Paul Stewart some 15 years ago.

New Alice in Videoland owner Jeremy Stewart, Paul's son, now has his own restoration crew working full-time inside including on a new 39 luxury-seat, boutique theatre, in

which he plans to show local and art-house movies. The theatre was once the post office's large loading bay.

He will be joined soon afterwards by the team from C1 Espresso, previously in 'quake-damaged premises across the road. C1 Espresso will be on the ground floor, extending onto the High Street footpath once more and plans to embrace the draft central-city recovery plan, incorporating green technologies such as solar energy and waste reduction. The business hopes to reopen its doors before June.

The other tenant, The Physics Room, is not only returning to its former site but expanding through the second and third floors. A non-profit contemporary arts organization, The Physics Room, like the other tenants, is an icon itself, evolving out of the South Island Art Projects organization in June 1996 as a catalyst for developing ideas and debate through art. It has been in the building since 1999, relocating to the Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology (CPIT) after February 2011 to join other Christchurch arts organisations left temporarily homeless.

Jeremy of Alice in Videoland returned to this, his "home town", two months ago from Taiwan, where he ran an art school.

"What better time to be in Christchurch," he said. "I'm seeing the rebirth of my city and it's great to be part of it."

Bexley trial-clearance nears end

CERA is currently coordinating the clearance of eleven properties in the Seabreeze Close area of Bexley. This work started on 30 January and is expected to finish by the end of February. As these houses have been badly damaged they have been unsuitable for relocation. However, before the clearance occurred a salvage crew removed recyclable and reusable items of value from the properties.

Also before the clearance, door-to-door visits and a community street meeting took place with those residents who remained in the area, to inform them of work processes and answer any queries. Maintenance of health and safety

was a common theme of the meeting - CERA confirmed procedures would follow the industry's best practice.

CERA, in conjunction with insurance companies, is planning further coordinated "cluster" clearances across the residential red zones. These are likely to start in March and people will be advised of the locations beforehand. However, all insurance companies will continue to project-manage their own clearances (as opposed to those larger-scale ones coordinated by CERA) as they have been doing since September 2010, across the city.



Gerry Brownlee
Canterbury Earthquake
Recovery Minister

We recently took another positive step forward with the rezoning of 255 residential orange zone properties, 42 of them zoned green and the remaining 213 red.

These rezoning decisions were among the most challenging we have made of the over 10,000 flat land residential properties originally zoned orange.

I am conscious that these property owners have had a long and anxious wait, and for some the decision may not have been what they wanted. Although the wait won't have been easy, I know from the feedback I receive that people do appreciate the complexity involved in these decisions and agree that they need to be robust to enable them to move forward with confidence. I appreciate your patience.

I am conscious too that there remain another 653 orange zone properties that require final zoning. I am determined we will finalise those zoning decisions within weeks.

There are also 2,100 white zoned properties on the Port Hills. We have not forgotten these residents. The geotechnical assessment of their land is markedly different to that on the flat, and there is shared responsibility for this work between CERA and the CCC.

A number of reports, on land slip risk, cliff collapse and rock fall risk, are due for completion, and these will in turn inform Council's considerations of s124 notices currently in place, and then overall zoning decisions by CERA.

Government and CERA have established a timeline for completion of all this work and CERA and the Council are working together to have all decisions completed progressively by June.

I know this timeline will disappoint some but as with all zoning decisions, we're working to make decisions in the best interests of property owners, in particular protecting the value of their assets.

As 22 February passes, we can only think about what has been a very challenging year for Cantabrians, for so many reasons. We will of course be thinking of those we have so tragically lost. Many of us will also be thinking about what we have lost. And many of us choose to focus on the future, on rebuilding our city, our communities and our lives. We have made good progress already and I am determined to increase the pace of progress.

Each of us will have approached the day in our own way, and there is no right or wrong way. I know we are supporting and respecting each other, as we have since 4 September 2010. Whichever way you chose, and whatever you choose to do, I wish you well.

Gerry Brownlee

Nearly 1,000 face-to-face appointments

Since opening five months ago, about 950 face-to-face appointments had been held at the Kaiapoi Earthquake Hub up to 10 February 2012.

The Kaiapoi Earthquake Hub opened on 19 September 2011 and is based at 11 Cass Street, Darnley Square. It currently hosts representatives from earthquake agencies and organisations including the Waimakariri District Council, CERA, EQC and the Canterbury Earthquake Temporary Accommodation Service (CETAS).

Opening hours are Monday through Friday 9am-5pm with a late night Thursday from 5pm-6.30pm by appointment only.



Roger Sutton
CERA Chief Executive

It's hard to believe a year has already gone by since the day that changed our lives and our city forever.

So much has happened in this time, yet it also seems like just yesterday. And whether people chose to commemorate 22 February with their family, friends or workmates, I know it will have been a day of remembrance.

As with any grieving process it is good to mark such a significant anniversary with a goal of looking forward. And at CERA we are no different. We have made a lot of hard decisions so far and we have several yet to do. There are some orange-zoned residents still waiting for the final decision: I know I say this over and over again, but it is so important we take the time to get the decision right.

So our goal for this second year on is to move greater Christchurch's recovery as quickly and as effectively as possible. There are so many stories of excellent, positive renewal going on. One in particular, which you can read about in this publication, is something I am personally looking forward to.

The development of a boutique cinema in the Alice in Videoland building will add something really special to this city's entertainment options. Not to mention the café in front, run by the great team from C1. Add this to the myriad of pop-up bars and re-developed suburban restaurants, and our nightlife choices are definitely on the increase. The way these entrepreneurs are putting their energies and resources into our future is inspirational and I'm sure the city will embrace such developments whole-heartedly.

While there is still some work to be done in talking to insurers and reinsurers about time-frames to get replacement homes underway, I am pleased to see progress starting in that area too for many people. And for those still waiting, I can assure you the other agencies – EQC and Department of Building and Housing – are committed to giving insurers the best guidelines to work to when developing foundations for new homes.

Our city is certainly an ever-changing landscape. The Hotel Grand Chancellor's demolition is progressing well, and other high rises are starting to come down. This will continue as we move into the year and even week-by-week we are seeing the damaged buildings make way for the new.

Our first year on from the tragedy of 22 February will definitely be the hardest. I hope we can all try to look at 2012 as the start of the new Christchurch emerging from the rubble, and embrace the change in a positive and exciting way.

Residents can phone 0800 639 000 to make an appointment. Meanwhile the Waimakariri Earthquake Support Service (WESS), part of the Earthquake Support Coordinator Service, is actively working with 464 families. A total of 385 other families have been assisted ie left the WESS following a move from the Kaiapoi area or when a resolution for an issue or concern is provided.

There are 13 WESS coordinators supporting earthquake-affected residents. They are based at the Kaiapoi Service Centre, 24 Sewell Street and can be contacted on **327 5621**.

Briefs

Quake Stories

The anniversary of the 22 February earthquake has been marked by many local people writing personal experiences on a Government oral history website <http://www.quakestories.govt.nz>. The site was set up by Manatu Taonga/Ministry for Culture and Heritage in partnership with NV Interactive. It is part of Canterbury University's CEISMIC consortium (which includes Christchurch City Libraries and the National Library), a long-term project dedicated to preserving information about the Canterbury 'quakes.

"Canterbury Quakes" exhibition

This large temporary exhibition, from 22 February to 1 October, explores science behind the earthquakes, celebrates the human spirit in the face of disaster and glimpses at future plans for recovery. See <http://www.canterburymuseum.com/events/> Museum summer hours 9am-5.30pm every day.

Ellerslie International Flower Show

The last show was cancelled after 22 February 2011, but North Hagley Park will brighten the city landscape from 7-11 March, with 40 plus gardens. See <http://www.ellerslieflowershow.co.nz> where organisers promise: "More flowers, more colour and plenty of inspiration for Christchurch residents as they rebuild their city".

Recovery day repeated

An event held at New Brighton last May to lift spirits is being re-run on 25 February. The I Love New Brighton day will have a sports zone with free food, skateboarding "tiddlers races", bouncy castles and circus acts, from 11am- 3pm.

Free community concert

Rangiora is running The Main Event Retro Rangiora at the MainPower Oval on Saturday 3 March, 4-7pm. Organisers suggest picnic baskets and rugs and 1970s clothes. Music by Suzanne Lynch, Graham Waldrop and the Vague As Brothers.

Festival of Flowers

As the Festival of Flowers website www.festivalofflowers.co.nz says: "A few earthquakes will not bring us down. Recent happenings have only made our communities stronger and more committed to beautifying our city!" The botanic gardens festival runs to 4 March with large floral displays (Pop-Up Floral Art finishing 26 February), florally decorated port-a-loos, "greening the rubble pallet planters for modular micro gardens", a lunchtime concert with Shenandoah Davis on 2 March and kids story-telling by author Margaret Mahy on 4 March.

Festival of beer

Live entertainment including The Black Seeds will feature at The Great Kiwi Beer Festival from 11am-7pm, 25 February at Hagley Park. See www.greatkiwibeerfestival.co.nz

"Sensational Selwyn Expo"

Selwyn District Council is planning an Experience Sensational Selwyn Expo at the Rolleston Community Centre on Saturday, 28 and Sunday 29 April. The district will be showing off housing and lifestyle options, especially for displaced Christchurch people.

Plum drive

One of the more unusual community get-togethers post-earthquakes has been this month's Great Sumner Plum Drive. About 40kg of plums were collected, according to one of the organisers, David de Castro, who set up a Facebook page for the event. The plums were made into jam for needy Sumner locals or as thank-you gifts for a few of the hard-working local volunteers.

Over 800 jobs for 500 households

When the 22 February earthquake struck there was a swift response in the Addington community.

Local resident Mike Peters quickly assessed his neighbourhood, on his bike at times, to work out what help was required and tell residents that assistance would be coming. This was the origin of Addington Action. And, now an incorporated society, it is going strong a year after that quake.

Addington Action represents a grassroots approach to earthquake recovery. Its members believe in the benefit of having local residents being able to address the concerns and needs of their neighbours. It helps to achieve this by having monthly committee meetings, where participants, who number around 50, include street representatives. In this task it is helped by a long tradition of community support in Addington and neighbouring suburbs.

"All that social cohesion has gone on. I think the reason we are able to pull this thing together is that people are able to be organised," says Mike, the organiser of Addington Action.

At present the group has around 200 volunteers on its books, representing a range of useful skills, of whom about 50 are actively working at any one time. Immediately after



Twenty young people from disaster-hit areas of the Asia-Pacific Region help three Addington Action volunteers clear rubble from a Sydenham home, ready for a community garden. The 15-25-year-olds were attending a UNESCO Youth Forum - Looking Beyond Disaster - at Canterbury University.

22 February it focused on dismantling chimneys, putting tarpaulins on roofs and removing rubble. Since, it has carried out a large number of social support tasks.

Over 800 jobs have been completed for more than 500 households, mostly in the area between Phillipstown and Hoon Hay and Mike believes this could be a three year project. One task is fixing the uninsured homes of the elderly, the disabled and single parents with young children. But the volunteers also supply food parcels to hungry families and facilitate the development of household vegetable gardens.

This interaction with the community helps to enable Addington Action volunteers to be able to offer help in other areas, such as suggesting whether the support of social agencies might be required. However, the group is, in one way, a victim of its own success. Given the community need, it is keen to have its own headquarters, rather than storing tools and other resources in five garages across Addington.

Contacts: info@addingtonaction.org.nz or 027 210 5042.

Energy efficiency boost for city buildings

Commercial developers and building owners in Christchurch will soon be able to access funding to make new buildings energy efficient.

The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) is working with a number of building and energy services experts to design a funding programme for Christchurch's new commercial buildings. The offer will help embed energy efficient features at the design stage.

EECA is working closely with the Christchurch Agency for Energy (CAFE), which will offer a funded energy advisory service for building developers.

This will include preliminary assessment of design and plans, and suggesting options to increase the use of

renewable energy - including assessing opportunities to connect to the proposed district energy scheme.

Though focused on Christchurch, EECA's commercial building design grants are part of a nationwide programme that includes funding to improve building energy use, and energy management.

"Christchurch represents a huge opportunity to lock in energy savings at the design stage, and deliver a long-term benefit to the region's business sector," says EECA Commercial Programme Manager Karen Chaney. "Energy efficient buildings have lower operating costs, hold their value longer, are more attractive to tenants and more pleasant for occupants.

"If Christchurch's commercial buildings are designed and

built to be as energy efficient as possible, annual energy savings will be worth millions to the local economy – and that's before calculating improved productivity or brand value."

The aim to improve Christchurch's energy performance is also supported by the BASE (Building a Sustainable Environment) tool developed by the New Zealand Green Building Council, and being considered for adoption by the Christchurch City Council.

EECA's building design grants should be on offer from April, Karen says. To find out more or register an interest in the scheme, see www.eecabusiness.govt.nz/commercial-buildings and to see more of CAFE's work www.cafe.gen.nz



Retailers in the new Cashel Mall are reporting it has become something of an overseas tourist attraction, with 50 percent of visitors thought to be tourists. About 20,500 visited the mall's 27 shops and cafes, built from converted shipping containers, in its first weekend in October and it is unknown how many tens of thousands have visited since. The area, the first part of the city's cordoned red zone to re-open for business since the 22 February 2011 'quake, has free wi-fi to surf the internet via a wireless network.

Now 75 coordinators to help

It's a fair bet that a lot of Canterbury residents still have not heard of CETAS.

Yet the Canterbury Earthquake Temporary Accommodation Service is a Government-funded agency helping many residents - notably in the eastern city and Kaiapoi - adjust to disruptions to their daily lives caused by the earthquakes.

The genesis of CETAS was the 4 September earthquake but its starting date was to be 21 February last year. The savage shock of the very next day understandably led to a reshuffling of its own office space and today it has staff spread widely, both out of necessity and to meet community needs.

As the agency's name suggests a major part of its work is in helping find temporary accommodation in a tight rental market, including helping those whose damaged homes are being repaired. For some elderly residents who have owned homes for many decades this service is especially valuable, as they would not have had to deal with the rental market for quite some time. Such assistance might involve facilitating access to private rental properties or access to the temporary villages which have been provided by the Government in Linwood and Kaiapoi. But



Jacqui Harding, Earthquake Support Coordinator for EQC.

as CETAS Manager David Griffiths points out, aside from the temporary accommodation role, there are two other streams to his agency's work.

One is providing financial support to home-owners whose accommodation insurance is expiring. And the other is the Earthquake Support Coordinator Service, to help residents "navigate their way through some of the issues they face", as David puts it.

At present there are eight Government coordinators, plus 67 from non-governmental organisations. One of the main requests for assistance has been in dealing with insurance companies and the Earthquake Commission, another is arranging social support, including counselling for those suffering stress.

The job of David's agency is not to provide services itself or to engage in advocacy, but in facilitating access to a wide variety of other agencies. "We help connect people to the support they need."

Detail vital in applications

Christchurch City Council is making important changes to the building consent application process.

Council has acted quickly in 2012 to improve its building consent application services and to focus in particular on pre-application meetings, says Customer and Business Support Manager Tracey Weston.

Applicants proposing projects for the Central Business District, commercial buildings, the Port Hills, or multi-residential dwellings should check whether they would benefit from having a pre-application meeting at www.ccc.govt.nz/consents

"We're expecting up to 10,000 extra building consent applications per year in the next few years. Council wants to make sure applicants, whose projects might come up against some challenges, know what to do to make sure their application is technically complete from the start. A pre-application meeting is the best way to do this."

Council is ensuring staff carefully review concept plans and specifications supplied with pre-application meeting requests. This will make sure the right specialists attend pre-application meetings and they have been fully briefed on information applicants have provided, she says. Customers will be given a formal record of the meeting, decisions and recommendations. Clear and consistent information will help the applicant provide a technically complete application, resulting in the more timely issue of consents.

The cost of a meeting will differ on a case-by-case basis depending on how many specialists will be required to attend and how long the pre-application meeting is for. This cost will be recovered at the end of the consenting process.

If applicants provide as much detail as accurately as possible before the pre-application meeting, Council staff will be in a better position to provide the advice they need.

Hazardous waste

People vacating properties in residential red zones are asked to dispose of household hazardous waste safely before leaving, by following the guidelines below:

- In the first instance, please take your household hazardous waste to the household hazardous waste drop-off point (free of charge) at your local transfer station or EcoDrop.
- If you are physically unable (eg elderly, disabled) to take your household hazardous waste to an EcoDrop, please make sure all your items are secured in a safe, cool, dry and well-ventilated place, and contact your

local Council to inform them of what waste you have left at the property. The household hazardous waste will be removed prior to demolition.

- Make sure that you separate any oxidisers (pool chemicals, peroxides, etc.) and flammable items (aerosol cans, solvents, fuels etc.) from each other and from your other household hazardous wastes as these items may create a fire risk if stored together.

For advice on a hazardous substance or hazardous waste, you can contact the Hazardous Waste Advisory Service on **(03) 941 8999**.

EVENTS

Festival of Flowers

Botanic Gardens until 4 Mar. Pop-Up Floral Art ends 26 Feb. Lunchtime concert, Shenandoah Davis, 2 Mar. Story-telling, Margaret Mahy, 4 Mar www.festivalofflowers.co.nz

"Canterbury Quakes"

Exhibition 22 Feb-1 Oct 9am-5.30pm (summer hours). See: <http://www.canterburymuseum.com/events/>

"Support Structures"

Joint NZ-Japan 'quakes photo exhibition. Ends 3 Mar, 241 Moorhouse Ave, Weds-Fri 11am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-2pm

"Great Kiwi Beer Festival"

11am to 7pm, 25 Feb, Hagley Park. www.greatkiwibeerfestival.co.nz

"I Love New Brighton" recovery day

Thomson Park, Marine Pde, 11am-3pm 25 Feb

NZ Sandcastle Competition

26 Feb, enter online www.newzealandcompetition.co.nz or before 9.45am at New Brighton Beach.

Community Market

Children's Day 3 Mar, 9am-3pm, New Brighton Mall and nearby. Pony rides, bouncy castle, kapa haka, puppet show etc

"Main Event"

Free community concert, Rangiora MainPower Oval 3 Mar, 4-7pm

Children's Day "Kidz Karnival"

Free games, face-painting etc. 4 Mar, 2.30-4pm, Parklands Baptist Community Church.

Co-operative Bank

Children's Day 4 Mar, 11am-4pm, free, Groynes Regional Park

Sunday Bandstand

4 Mar noon-1.30pm * Christchurch Metropolitan Pipe Band, Botanic Gardens * Canterbury Caledonian Society Pipe Band, Scarborough Reserve, Sumner * Canterbury Caledonian Royal Stewart Pipe Band and Canterbury Caledonian Balmoral Pipe Band, Artisan Market, Riccarton Bush

The Breeze Lazy

Sundays 4 Mar 3.30pm-5pm, Botanic Gardens. Band: The Eastern

Ellerslie International Flower Show

7-11 Mar, North Hagley Park. <http://www.ellerslieflowershow.co.nz>

Farewell to the godwits

BYO binoculars. Free BBQ sausages. 9 Mar, South New Brighton, 5.30pm

"Culture Galore"

More than 50 cultural performances 10 Mar, noon-4pm Ray Blank Park, Maidstone Rd

"Weetbix TRyathlon"

11 Mar, 9am, Centennial Park

Sunday Bandstand

11 Mar noon-1.30pm * Addington Brass Botanic Gardens * Leopard Coachlines Canterbury Brass, Scarborough Reserve, Sumner * Sumner Silver, Allandale Community Fete, Allandale Domain

Governors Bay Fete

11 Mar, 10.30am-3pm, Allandale Domain

Linwood Youth Festival Experience

17 Mar, noon-5pm, Linwood Park

REAL Women's Series

Fun walks and runs, 18 Mar 9am, McLeans Island Rd. <http://whatson.msn.co.nz/2012/real-womens-series/christchurch-city>

Sunday Bandstand

18 Mar noon-1.30pm * Woolston Junior Brass and Concert Brass Botanic Gardens * Riccarton and Scottish Soc Pipe Band, Scarborough Reserve, Sumner

Crusaders v Cheetahs

24 Mar, 7.35pm, Addington

Sunday Bandstand

25 Mar noon-1.30pm * St Andrew's College Pipe Band, Botanic Gardens * Sumner Silver Scarborough Reserve, Sumner

The Era of Swing

Music from Glen Miller, The Rat Pack and more. 27 Mar 11am, La Vida Centre **Le Race** Cycling race, Christchurch to Akaroa. Starts 8am, 31 Mar. <http://www.lerace.co.nz/>