

# Recovery Update

ISSUE 35



Concept image produced by Plenary Conventions New Zealand - a summer scene of the riverside aspect of the Convention Centre Precinct.

# Important milestone for Convention Centre Precinct

A preferred developer and operator have now been announced for Christchurch's new Convention Centre Precinct project.

Plenary Conventions New Zealand has been named as the preferred development consortium. It will be made up of international infrastructure firm Plenary Group and local firms Ngāi Tahu Property and Carter Group.

The preferred operator of the Christchurch Convention Centre Precinct will be international convention centre and hotel operator Accor. The company will advise the Christchurch Central Development Unit (CCDU) and work alongside the development consortium in the master planning and development phase of the new precinct, and may carry through to operate the Convention Centre.

Minister for Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Gerry Brownlee says this is a great milestone for the project.

"I am confident the organisations involved with the project have the knowledge and skills to produce a world-class asset for Christchurch."

Plenary Conventions NZ has already produced a concept model and images to demonstrate its vision of what the precinct could look like. The Crown will still have to work

through what the eventual design of the Convention Centre and the layout of the precinct will be, says Minister Brownlee, but the concept put together by Plenary Conventions NZ demonstrates "the exciting possibilities in

The Convention Centre Precinct development will cover most of the area between Victoria Square and Cathedral Square. It is likely to include hotel accommodation, hospitality and retail, as well as commercial and residential

The state-of-the-art facility will provide meeting and convention spaces, plus a civic venue for local and community events, which will be supported by riverfront bars, restaurants and cafés. There will be conference seating for up to 2,000 delegates.

Minister Brownlee says CCDU has worked hard to get the project to where it is now and has gone through a thorough, fair and considered approach to find the best possible development consortium and operator for this stage of the procurement process.

"I'm confident that the result of all this work done to date will be a vibrant, world-class Convention Centre Precinct



Initial design concept of the Christchurch Convention Centre Precinct.

that attracts conference and convention visitors from all over the world, and creates significant economic benefits for the Canterbury region."

Construction of the Christchurch Convention Centre Precinct project is expected to begin next year. The Crown has committed \$284 million to the project, including the purchase of land for the precinct.



**Green buildings** in the recovery page 3

Call for Ideas for the Canterbury **Earthquake Memorial** page 4

Snapshot of how we are doing: Canterbury Wellbeing Index released page 7



Hon Gerry Brownlee Minister for Canterbury Earthquake Recovery

The power of sport to inspire pride and a sense of community has yet again been demonstrated by the success of our region and our nation at the recent Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

It was heart-warming to see local athletes achieve at the games, including the ever-inspirational swimmer Sophie Pascoe, North Canterbury mountain-biker Anton Cooper and judoka Jason Koster and Moira de Villiers. The story of medal-winning wrestlers Sam Belkin and Tayla Ford also struck a chord. They have been training in an old unused stewards' room at the Rangiora Raceway since their training premises were destroyed in the earthquakes. This is a great example of triumph over adversity and a reminder to us all that although things aren't perfect here still, challenges can be overcome by the sheer will to succeed.

The Crusaders rugby team also left everything on the field in their recent attempt to claim the Super Rugby title against the New South Wales Waratahs. Although they couldn't quite clinch it in the end, they were inspiring in their gritty determination.

It is heartening that I can point to more progress this month in the central city with the announcement of the preferred developer and operator for the new Christchurch Convention Centre Precinct. They will now master plan an exciting world-class facility that will put Christchurch on the map for the conference and convention market. The venue will be one of the iewels of the central city and have huge benefits for tourism in Canterbury and the South Island. Convention centres attract high spending professionals and capturing more of this high-value expenditure would be of considerable benefit to the wider Canterbury economy.

We are also taking steps towards creating a fitting memorial for all those who lost their lives in the February 2011 earthquake and the many hundreds who were injured. The Canterbury Earthquake Memorial will recognise the trauma of the people who experienced the earthquake and the efforts of people from around the world who stepped up in our time of need. The response to the Call for Ideas has been humbling with over 500 registrations to submit designs, from 53 countries - just in the first two weeks. This shows how much the tragic events of 22 February marked not just our lives, but touched many people overseas too. The memorial will hopefully provide a tranquil setting where people can grieve and heal.

Finally, it is great to see the launch of the public engagement process over the future use of the Waimakariri district's residential red zones. This amounts to approximately one square kilometre of land in Kaiapoi, and Kairaki and Pines beaches. The Canvas campaign is designed to give people the opportunity to put forward their ideas for the land most affected by the earthquakes. The campaign will later be extended to Christchurch's residential red zones. As these engagement processes proceed, I would love to see people make the most of the opportunity to provide their vision for how to shape these spaces for the future.

Iseray Commelle.



Darren Wright: determined to help residents get 'unstuck' in their rebuild/repair process.

# Determination to help residents move ahead in the recovery

The community representative on the Residential Advisory Service (RAS) Governance Group is determined to keep working to get stressed residents 'unstuck' from their rebuild/repair

Darren Wright is that representative. Along with his Residential Advisory Service work, he chairs the Community Forum and sits on the board of the Canterbury Communities' Earthquake Recovery Network (CanCERN). Darren Wright is also active in his local community as Deputy Chief of the Sumner Fire Brigade, Chair of the Sumner Residents' Association and a member of the local school board of trustees. In addition, he has worked in a professional capacity helping people to resolve earthquake

The Residential Advisory Service is a free, impartial service which provides advice to property owners who are facing challenges in getting their homes repaired or rebuilt after

As part of the RAS process, residents meet with an independent advisor who is a qualified solicitor. The independent advisor will go through their case with them and provide impartial advice. The first step for residents is to phone the RAS call centre (03 379 7027 or 0800 777 299) to find out if they qualify for the service. Darren Wright says he believes everybody can find help of some kind if they call, even if they aren't the right fit for the service

"Just make that phone call - it might not be the exactly right service for you but it is a really good place to start. I think even if people are just confused, it can help. You don't have to be in legal dispute or have major issues ongoing; if you are confused about what is happening to you, they will try and help you work your way through it or point you to someone who can help."

Darren Wright says in this sense RAS functions in a similar way to a triage centre: it identifies the kind of help people need and suggests how to access it.

"The independent advisors have no vested interest in the outcome. They may not necessarily say what people want to hear but they will give honest, professional advice to help people move forward. The feedback we get from people is they really appreciate the independence of the service," says Darren Wright

He says the strength of the service is that it is totally independent.

"The independent advisors have no vested interest in the outcome. They may not necessarily say what people want to hear but they will give honest, professional advice to help people move forward. The feedback we get from people is they really appreciate the independence of the service."

Other members of the RAS Governance Group are representatives of CERA, EQC and other insurers. As community representative, Darren Wright says, he sees his role as important in helping keep the service impartial and in making sure the voice of the community is heard.

"I've certainly seen a great willingness from all the parties in the Residential Advisory Service and the entire Governance Group to keep people moving on through the rebuild and

To find out more about RAS, go to: www.advisory.org.nz or call **03 379 7027** or **0800 777 299**. 🗘





Artist's impression: The Awly development, being constructed by Arrow International (NZ) Ltd, is aiming for 5 Green Star status

## Green buildings in the recovery

The New Zealand Green Building Council (NZGBC) says it is encouraged by the uptake of green building in the Canterbury reconstruction, with some Green Star builds completed and others in the pipeline.

The large Awly development is aiming for a 5 Green Star rating using the NZ Green Building Council's system. The five-storey build is underway on what was the site of Amuri Courts and URS House on 287 - 293 Durham Street, opposite the historic Provincial Chambers. It will offer three separate blocks of office and retail space. The design team includes a Green Star Accredited Professional and three other sustainable design practitioners. The three buildings will each be oriented to make the most of the sun. The timber used will be Forest Stewardship Council certified.



The Forté Health building was the first post-quake project to achieve a Green

and it is estimated 90 per cent of the compactable site waste will be recycled.

The new \$50 million Vodafone headquarters planned for the Innovation Precinct is also being designed to achieve a 5 Green Star rating, and will implement a range of sustainable design initiatives. Both projects will undergo an independent third-party assessment through the NZGBC to achieve Green Star certification

Meanwhile, the Forté Health building on Peterborough Street was the first post-quake build to achieve a Green Star rating. The three-level building uses a highly energyefficient heating and cooling system, low-energy LEDs for lighting, and water-efficient fittings where possible. It has sustainable design features including solar water-heating and a large lawn area to provide green space and reduce stormwater run-off. It also incorporates a smart system to monitor and control all energy use. Forté Health's building is the first Green Star medical centre in New Zealand. It is also built to withstand a 1 in 2,500 year earthquake.

NZGBC Director of Rating Tools David Craven says it is encouraging to see rebuild projects incorporating sustainable design features and achieving certified ratings but he recognises not all new builds are embracing

"We also know that sustainable design can save on operational costs over the life of the building. Studies show green rated buildings typically consume 25 to 50 per cent less energy than average commercial buildings. People often talk about the additional upfront costs of green design, but I don't see it that way. Sure, it can be more costly if you start designing a conventional building then decide to add green features later in the process - but if they are worked into the thinking from the outset they can often be included for very little or no additional cost."

David Craven says schools are also adopting environmentally sustainable technology. Clearview Primary school in Rolleston achieved a 5 Green Star Education rating and Pegasus Bay School is the first school in the country to be powered entirely by solar energy. It is also in the process of achieving a Green Star rating.

To read more about companies rebuilding for sustainability, visit Our Legacy at: www.ourlegacy.org.nz O



Roger Sutton CERA Chief Executive

Our young people are the future leaders of this city and its communities. What we plan for and do today is what they will live with in the future. I am acutely aware of this and am particularly keen that young people have a voice in our planning processes, our major projects and the events we run, so that the recovery is happening with them in mind. It is their vision that we need when we think about how greater Christchurch will look and how it will work as a city in 5, 10 and 20 years' time.

I am sure you will agree that the response of so many young people across Canterbury following the major earthquakes showed just how committed, energetic and creative they can be. However, we also know that our young people have been through a lot in the last three to four years, losing homes, schools and friends, and experiencing a great deal of upheaval.

As part of the work we do on social and cultural recovery at CERA, we have been keeping a close eye on how the recovery is progressing for young people. It was good to see in our recent Youth Wellbeing Survey that the majority of those surveyed are feeling positive and have support if they need it. The positives they identify are related to progress on the rebuild, their involvement in helping others, feeling a stronger sense of community and basically feeling stronger about their ability to cope now. But what younger people miss most are many of the places that they used to hang out in as well as the sports and recreation facilities lost in the earthquakes.

To date, we have run a couple of competitions involving young people and it has been inspiring to see their response. We initially asked for photographs that reflected young people's vision of the recovery and we printed some of these in the Recovery Strategy for Greater Christchurch: Mahere Haumanutanga o Waitaha which is the guiding document for all our planning and work programmes. These photos are clear, original and imaginative. And last year we asked young people to design the new children's playground in the centre city. More than 6,000 children took part in the Amazing Place competition and presented us with some brilliant ideas for the new Margaret Mahy Family Playground, which will be built by the middle of next year

More recently, CERA has received funding from the Ministry of Youth Development and Fletcher Building to run the Winter Chill series of events for young people. We already have more than 20 great events organised so keep a close eye on the Winter Chill Facebook page to find the events that appeal to you and remember to tell your friends.

I want to do more to provide young people with opportunities to be part of the recovery. They always remind me that we have a lot to be proud of here in this part of the world.

Kia kaha. 🔾

Roger film

# Canterbury Earthquake Memorial: Call for Ideas to Remember

Hundreds of registrations have already been lodged to submit ideas on the design for the new Canterbury Earthquake Memorial in the Christchurch central city.

The Memorial is to be part of Te Papa Ōtākaro/Avon River Precinct, situated on both banks of the river between Montreal Street and Rhododendron Island. The overall area of the site is just under one

People have the opportunity to suggest what they would like the Memorial to be. This invitation is open to anyone of any age, across the world. In the first two weeks after the online registration opened more than 530 registrations were received from 53

Minister for Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Gerry Brownlee announced the site for the planned Memorial last month. alongside Christchurch Mayor Lianne Dalziel and Kaiwhakahaere for Te Rūnanga o Ngāi

The Canterbury Earthquake Memorial will honour those whose lives were lost in the 22 February 2011 earthquake and the many hundreds who were injured; and recognise the trauma of people who experienced the earthquake. It will also acknowledge those who helped in the rescue and recovery operation, including people from Australia, the United Kingdom, USA, Japan, Taiwan, China and Singapore.

The site for the Memorial was chosen following feedback from bereaved family members, who expressed a common wish for a memorial to incorporate water, trees and other greenery.

"We have been conscious that we want a memorial in a location that can be meaningful for all those who were affected by the tragedy rather than placing any emphasis on any particular site where lives were lost," Minister Brownlee says.

Tā Mark Solomon says, "The Ōtākaro/ Avon River has supported our people for centuries as a meeting place and mahinga kai. We believe it is appropriate that the river continues to support the people of Canterbury by providing a beautiful setting for a place of remembrance."

Christchurch Mayor Lianne Dalziel says the events of 22 February 2011 have had an immeasurable impact on the people of Christchurch, and affected people across the world.

"Choosing a site for the Memorial is a significant step forward to having a dedicated, special place where people can come and reflect and remember all those we lost, and everything that people everywhere have been through on that day, and since." savs Mayor Dalziel.

The Government has set aside up to \$10 million for the Memorial, and another \$1 million is coming from the Mayoral Relief Fund.



#### **IDEAS TO REMEMBER**

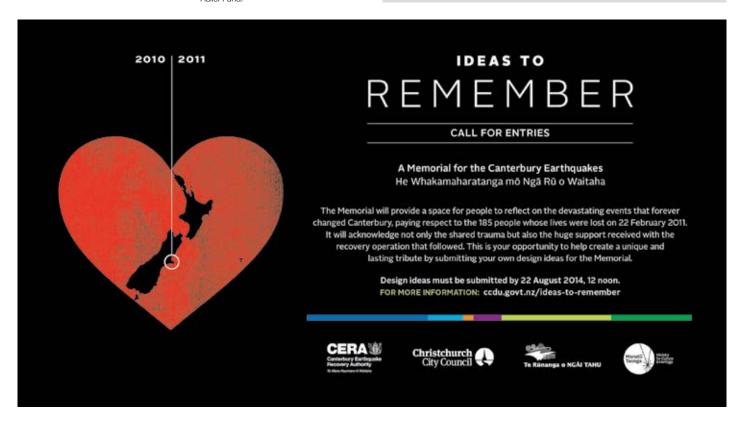
People have until noon 22 August 2014 to submit their design ideas for the Memorial.

It is necessary to pre-register to obtain your unique identification number. You can do that now on the Christchurch Central Development Unit website (www.ccdu.govt.nz/

Once you have pre-registered, you can then submit your ideas by uploading your design concept on the online platform after it opens on 12 August.

Once submissions close, the Ideas to Remember will be narrowed down to a shortlist. Those shortlisted will then be invited to further develop their design ideas.

The favoured design at the end of that process will become the Canterbury Earthquake Memorial. O



UPDATE FROM HOUSING NEW ZEALAND (HNZ)

# Second Chance homes delivered in Aranui

An innovative partnership is breathing new life into housing in greater Christchurch and playing a significant part in the city's recovery.

Late last month, Prime Minister John Key officially opened the first four Housing New Zealand homes to be completed in a joint venture between HNZ and the Department of Corrections.

The houses were HNZ properties from the residential red zone areas of Avondale and Kaiapoi.

With the support of the Department of Corrections, the houses were transported to Rolleston Prison, south of Christchurch, where prisoners helped repair and refurbish them so they could house people instead of being demolished.

The two-bedroom houses had new insulation, new carpets, new kitchens and new bathrooms installed.

The first four houses to be completed in this project were transported to their new permanent site at Rowses Road in Aranui and four families in need now call these warm, dry, revamped houses their home.

The joint programme will see 150 houses refurbished over the next five years.

HNZ Deputy Board Chairwoman Adrienne Young-Cooper, who helped officially open the houses, says the project helped create an enduring legacy for greater Christchurch.

Housing New Zealand's Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Programme General Manager Paul Commons says the prisoners involved had been able to develop valuable trade skills which would help them gain employment after their release.

Housing New Zealand was pleased to be able to provide training opportunities for prisoners while seeing



Celebrating last month's official opening of the Second Chance houses at Rowses Road were, from left, Housing New Zealand Chief Executive Glen Sown, Department of Corrections Chief Executive Ray Smith, Corrections Minister Anne Tolley and Housing Minister Nick Smith.

damaged houses effectively recycled so they could be used again.

"At the end of this programme, we get modern, fit-forpurpose housing for people in need. It really is a great win-win for all involved "

Mr Commons says the project is an important part of Housing New Zealand's overall earthquake recovery programme.

This will see repairs completed on up to 5,000 earthquake-damaged houses and the construction of 700 new homes by the end of next year.

Contractors, Housing New Zealand staff and others involved in this massive project are making exciting progress, Mr Commons says. 🔾



# Last days to comment on vision for central city living

People have until 13 August 2014 to comment on A Liveable City, the draft residential chapter of the Christchurch Central Recovery Plan developed by the Christchurch Central Development Unit (CCDU).

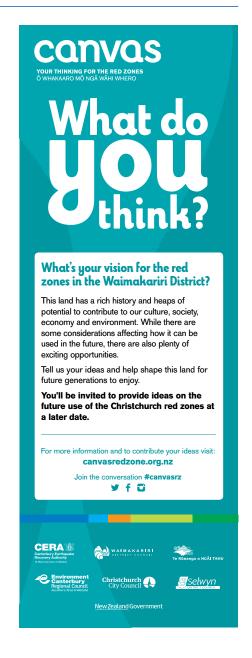
A Liveable City puts forward the vision and framework for residential development within the four avenues of Christchurch.

The chapter proposes amendments to the Central City Living Zones in the Christchurch City Council's District Plan, a new residential neighbourhood in the East Frame. the Breathe housing showcase and a new mixed-tenure development model

To see A Liveable City, you can download it at: http://ccdu.govt.nz/the-plan or visit the CERA offices at the HSBC Tower, 62 Worcester Boulevard, Christchurch or any of the Christchurch City Council's libraries and service centres.

Comment can be made up until 13 August 2014, and will be considered before the chapter is finalised. O





## **Extension for** residential red zone property owners in the Port Hills

Owners of residential red zone properties in the Port Hills, eligible for a Crown offer to purchase their properties, now have longer to consider.

The deadline for acceptance of the Crown offer has been extended from 31 August 2014 to 27 February 2015.

Of the 475 insured residential red zone properties in the Port Hills known to be eligible for a Crown offer, 132 are yet to accept an offer.

An offer has not yet been made to the owners of uninsured, insured commercial or vacant land properties in the Port

More information is available at www.cera.govt.nz, or by phoning 0800 RING CERA (0800 7464 2372). O

UPDATE FROM STRONGER CHRISTCHURCH INFRASTRUCTURE REBUILD TEAM (SCIRT)

# **Antigua Street** footbridge lifts off

The historic Antigua Street footbridge, near the Antigua Boat Sheds' café and punting operation, was cut free and lifted skywards one chilly evening last month.

After 113 years in position, the 12.2-tonne bridge structure was lifted by crane onto a flatbed truck so SCIRT's Downer crew could take it off site for earthquake repairs.

For all of its life the bridge had a flat deck, but the earthquake squeezed it slightly creating a bow and a humped deck. The old broken deck will be replaced with a new concrete platform.

The operation was not without its challenges - there was limited light, the need for calm weather conditions. and uncertainty over whether the structure would stay together once it was air-borne. In the event, it did, although not without some frustrating moments.

Gas-cutting of the steel structure started mid afternoon on 1 July and the lift was planned to take place at around 5pm and last about an hour. All was going to plan until the structure refused to be lifted. The earthquake-induced bow in the steel structure had slowly released, causing the bridge to settle back into its abutments - effectively jamming itself into place.

The crew patiently worked a further two-and-a-half hours in cold temperatures, removing a section of existing abutment and gas-cutting some stubborn steel sections again to alleviate the problem. Finally, close



The Antigua Street footbridge is lifted out of its position and taken away for earthquake repairs

to 8pm the footbridge gave up and let go. After it was lifted out of its position, the bridge was taken away at 4am on 2 July, ready for removal of paintwork.

The bridge's steel structure and a new deck will be back on site later this year, ready for reconnection to the banks. It is anticipated that the bridge will re-open for cyclists and pedestrians, and function as it did before the earthquakes, later this year.

For more information about the work SCIRT is doing and an update on latest progress, go to: www.strongerchristchurch.govt.nz



Phone: (03) 941 8999 Email: info@scirt.co.nz

Web: www.strongerchristchurch.govt.nz

Twitter: @SCIRT\_info

## Events lined up to help young people chill through the winter

More than 20 Winter Chill events have been approved for the young people of greater Christchurch to enjoy over the next few months.

Winter Chill is a series of fun and exciting youth-led events and activities for young people. In July, a call went out for individuals or groups interested in hosting an event to apply for funding. The demand was such that the funding is already allocated.

#### Events coming up include:

- The Tree Felled in Winter; In Spring the Sap Rising (sculpture exhibition) - now to 22 August
- Blast Beats for Young Peeps 23 August
- Broods Concert (for under 18s) 23 August

Events range from a junior rugby prize-giving to discos, a onesie party and music gigs. The fund is helping provide heavily subsidised youth tickets for TEDxChristchurch.

For information about these events and to find out what is coming up, go to www.facebook.com/ winterchillchch G

## Collaborative customer approach from Canterbury floods

Government agencies who struggled to cater to specific customer enquiries during the recent Canterbury floods, joined forces and have come up with a new approach to manage customer calls for help in future greater Christchurch events.

At first it was the Earthquake Commission (EQC), the Ministry of Social Development's Canterbury Support Line and CERA who worked together to find a way to manage customer calls more efficiently and effectively. Their new customercentric approach proved so successful that they invited private insurers to join them.

EQC Manager Customer Experience Gary Donnison says the new approach ensured customers were not left feeling lost at the end of a call.

"For example, EQC received about 100 calls over two days of the floods. Only about 20 per cent were still open building claims that EQC could help with. Most other calls could only be resolved with the input of other agencies.

"So what we did was swap information [in relation to our emergency responses], so that when customers called any of us, we were able to support them to a certain point and if the issue was particularly complicated - we handed them on to the relevant agency or insurer.

"It produced a far better outcome for each of our customers and allowed us to pool resources in a far more effective way," Mr Donnison says.

The Canterbury Support Line (0800 777 846) was set up after the earthquakes to support residents and connect them with counselling or other services. Outgoing Manager Florence Gomes says the resources of the call centre were also called on during the June flooding event in North Canterbury.

"We were provided with information from all the recovery agencies involved, so we could supply consistent responses to queries, and, in some cases, seamlessly transfer people directly to the organisation they needed to reach.

Florence Gomes says the arrangement was specific to that event but the model was so successful it will be adopted for future emergencies in greater Christchurch and possibly nationally. 🔾

## UPDATE FROM THE EARTHQUAKE COMMISSION (EQC)

## EQC building and contents claims update

The sequence of earthquakes from September 2010 through February 2011, June 2011 and December 2011 combined to be one of the most costly natural disaster insurance events ever.

The Earthquake Commission received over 420,000 building claims (across 169,000 damaged properties) and over 185,000 contents claims.

In total, EQC has paid out over \$7 billion for these claims

#### **Buildings**

EQC covers damage from a natural disaster up to \$100,000 + GST per claim. EQC has now settled over 85 per cent of all Canterbury building claims and has paid out \$6.8 billion for these claims. This includes over 60,000 properties that either have been repaired or have repairs underway within the Canterbury Home Repair Programme.

#### Contents

EQC covers contents damage up to \$20,000 (+ GST) per claim, with the private insurer providing a 'top up' to the sum insured if necessary. EQC has paid out over \$500 million in contents claims for the Canterbury series of earthquakes, with an average payment of \$2,700.

It has now settled 99 per cent of these claims. For the remaining claims, EQC is awaiting additional information from the customer or a decision is to be made on whether a house will be demolished.

For more information, go to: www.eqc.govt.nz 🔾



## Wellbeing data shows progress and challenges in the recovery

Recently released social data collected by CERA highlights both the positives and the challenges we are facing in our recovery.

The Canterbury Wellbeing Index, which is updated annually, consists of indicators relating to health, knowledge and skills, economic wellbeing, social connectedness, civil participation, housing, safety, arts, sports and population. The findings from the June 2014 Index were released last month, as were the results of the fourth CERA Wellbeing Survey.

Minister for Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Gerry Brownlee says the research shows how important it is to track wellbeing in the recovery so government agencies and community groups know where to focus their efforts

The infographics (right) represent a snapshot of the latest Canterbury Wellbeing Index findings. A range of measures are in place to mitigate some of the challenges identified, including:

- CERA recently hosted the release of the Community in Mind psychosocial strategy, which is intended to guide agencies and community groups to develop, target and coordinate their work towards the psychological and social recovery of greater Christchurch communities.
- In Budget 2014 the Government announced \$13.5 million in funding to continue the Earthquake Support Coordination Service, the 0800 Canterbury Support Line and counselling over the next four years.
- Housing initiatives include building the Awatea Affordable Housing Development and establishing four temporary accommodation villages. Both Housing New Zealand and Christchurch City Council are carrying out residential rebuild programmes. The Government is also partnering with the Canterbury Community Trust to provide \$31 million for 156 new social and
- The Residential Advisory Service helps people to make progress in repairs/rebuilds by providing free, impartial advice and the Let's Find & Fix programme provides temporary fixes to earthquake-damaged homes.
- Initiatives such as the 'Piece of Cake' neighbours' day and the Summer of Fun community events are great examples of efforts to encourage and build social

For more details on the findings about wellbeing in greater Christchurch, see the Canterbury Wellbeing Index at: www.cera.govt.nz/cwi and the CERA Wellbeing Survey at: www.cera.govt.nz/wellbeing-survey O

## A snapshot of the June 2014 Canterbury Wellbeing Index findings:



The unemployment rate in greater Christchurch was 3.3 per cent in March 2014 compared with 6.2 per cent nationally.



The unemployment rate for 20-24 year olds in March 2014 was 6.1 per cent compared with 13.1 per cent across New Zealand.



Median gross weekly household income increased by 16.6 per cent between 2008 and 2013, compared with an 8.1 per cent increase nationally.

(These figures were equivalised, me they were adjusted for the age and number of children in each household.)



Between November 2010 and November 2013, mean weekly rent increased by 35.5 per cent and was increasing at a faster rate than the national average.



Access to General Practice medical services has improved. At the same time, both smoking and hazardous drinking rates have declined and are lower than national rates.



In April 2014, 22 per cent of respondents reported they had high levels of stress. The main causes were living in a damaged environment, transport pressures, and dealing with repair and rebuild issues.



The number of people reporting a strong sense of community in their neighbourhood fell from 57 per cent in 2010 to 47 per cent in April 2014.



75 per cent of people rate their quality of life in greater Christchurch as good or extremely good, up from 73 per cent



Crime is down. The total number of assaults fell by 5 per cent from 2008-2009 to 2013. Total property offences fell by 16 per cent.

## Older people's wellbeing in the spotlight

A recent community-led event put the focus on the health and wellbeing of the elderly in postearthquake greater Christchurch.

The Older Generations Forum on 24 July was run by co-founder of the Third Age Forum, John Patterson. The forum aimed to help inform older people about what support is out there and give them the opportunity to engage directly with the representatives of the various agencies involved in the recovery.

Over the day, about 100 people attended presentations by Age Concern, Earthquake Support Coordination Service, Canterbury Insurance Assistance Service. Earthquake Commission, Residential Advisory Service and others. Community liaisons from various insurance companies. Fletcher EQR and Red Cross were among those present.

CanCERN Relationship Manager Leanne Curtis says the vibe on the day was positive. She says a lot of people appreciated the opportunity to talk face-to-face with

representatives of the various agencies to figure out which one could help the most with their circumstances

"What was so valuable about the day was hearing people tell their stories. There was so much talking and sharing. But rather than just having those conversations, which are in themselves important, people were then able to go and talk to someone who could help

"It is also good to see the various agencies working together to refer people to the right place, if required."

Leanne Curtis says the time of the elderly sitting back and waiting for 'people who are worse off' to be attended to first seems to be passing.

"Older people are now saying this is my year to get sorted out - it is my turn. They are less inclined to sit back now and I think that is great. There is so much help out there; it is available and it is free. I say make the most of it."  ${\bf O}$ 

## Where to go for earthquake support and assistance

**Canterbury Support Line:** 

Call 0800 777 846

**Earthquake Support Coordination** Service: Call 0800 777 846

Residential Advisory Service:

www.advisory.org.nz or call 0800 777 299

**Canterbury Earthquake Temporary** Accommodation Service (CETAS):

www.quakeaccommodation.govt.nz/applyfor-temporary-accommodation-assistance or call 0800 673 227.

#### UPDATE FROM SELWYN DISTRICT COUNCIL

## New park for Selwyn

Funding for the development of stage one of Foster Recreation Park has been confirmed with Selwyn District Council allocating \$2.2 million of reserve contributions towards this project.

Foster Recreation Park will become the largest sports park in Selwyn. The park is located in Rolleston and is home to the Selwyn Aquatic Centre. The plan is based on four hub areas: a facility sports hub, an outdoor sports hub, a recreation hub and an events oval hub.

The first stage of work at the park involves the development of around 14 hectares of sports fields. the installation of irrigation and lighting, and tree planting. Walking and cycling paths will also start to be developed and a facility with changing rooms, toilets and storage space for sports equipment will

be constructed. Work on the first stage of the main car park is set to start as well. Earthworks to begin the process of developing sports fields at the park are already underway.

Consultation on the design for the park was undertaken late last year and 96 per cent of submitters supported the overall concept for the park. O



Phone: (03) 347 2800 Web: www.selwyn.govt.nz

#### UPDATE FROM CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL

# Work begins on new Halswell **Library and Community Facility**

Deputy Mayor Vicki Buck joined the local community to break ground on the new Halswell Library and Community Facility, at a whakawātea (blessing) and sod-turning on Friday 11 July.

Construction is now underway on the Christchurch City Council facility, which will be located at the site of the popular Halswell Aquatic Centre. The facility will incorporate the existing pool alongside a 3,000-squaremetre building for the other services, including a library, meeting spaces and a customer service desk. It is expected that the facility will take about 16 months to construct and fit out, with its opening scheduled for November 2015

#### Public consultation

Christchurch City Council started consulting the public on Monday 14 July about proposed changes to five bylaws. The changes are proposed as the result of a rolling programme of bylaw reviews. The proposed bylaws are:

- Urban Fire Safety Bylaw 2014
- Cruising and Prohibited Times on Roads Bylaw 2014
- Christchurch City Council Water Supply, Wastewater and Stormwater Bylaw 2014
- Parks and Reserves Bylaw 2014
- Traffic and Parking Amendment Bylaw 2014.

Submissions close on Friday 15 August and can be made by post or email, or through the www.ccc.govt.nz/HaveYourSay website. Hearings will be held in September. 🗘



Oaklands School's Lily Pitman helps Deputy Mayor Vicki Buck turn the



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### **UPDATE FROM** WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL



## From destruction to construction

The tangible signs of earthquake recovery are not limited to Council facilities in the Waimakariri district.

Farmers department store in Rangiora is currently, and quite literally, only a bare shell of what it used to be. The long-awaited demolition of the former central Rangiora store began in earnest a month ago and all that's left now are the outside walls. Once that is demolished. construction of a new Farmers store will begin and the complex will also include a number of specialty shops. The floor area will be approximately double that of the original store at around 5,900 square metres. The store is scheduled to be ready for business early in 2016.

And a couple of blocks further down High Street, demolition of the rear of the original Junction Hotel, formerly known as Robbie's, is also taking place. Thanks to a grant from the Heritage Protection Trust, the façade of the historic hotel is to be strengthened and preserved as part of the rebuild. Demolition of the rear of the building began at the end of June and the reconstruction is due to be completed by the end of September.

In Kaiapoi, PLC House is to be built on the site of the original post office (corner of Williams and Charles streets). The two-storey building, due to be completed mid 2015, contains two tenancies on the ground floor with office space upstairs and features a prominent clock tower, reminiscent of the clock tower from the town's earthquake-destroyed war memorial.

On the corner diagonally opposite, a concept has been created for a two-level, single-storey shopping plaza, which is to cover 1,300 square metres in a boatshedstyle design. The site itself is currently owned by Council and the developer has the option to buy that land.

With this progress now evident from both Council and the private sector, the Waimakariri district is on track for a significant facelift and revitalisation in the coming 12 months. 🔾



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