



Houses being broken down and flatpacked. The innovative new technique recycles and re-uses newer houses that would otherwise be demolished.

Innovative new ways for recycling homes in greater Christchurch

Efforts to recycle as much as possible from houses facing demolition in greater Christchurch are gaining momentum.

Thousands of homes need to be demolished (or removed) in the residential red and green zones.

One initiative that is looking to bring new life to houses set-down for demolition is flatpack housing solutions, pioneered by owner-operated Christchurch-based business MAC Developments.

Co-owner Daryl Hodder says they were carrying out insurance company instigated demolitions and saw the opportunity for salvage through flatpacking.

The flatpacking process is essentially the reverse of building. A house is broken down piece by piece and flatpacked into a shipping container. It can then be transported to a new site and rebuilt. The system applies to homes that were built in or after 2004 and that aren't too badly damaged.

Daryl Hodder says it is not the solution for everybody as suitable land has to be found and the appropriate

consents arranged. However, he says it is a very positive way to recycle a whole house and reduce landfill waste. It is also a good, economical way of building.

"We've talked to some of the former home owners who are over the moon to see the houses used again – rather than see diggers going through them. There's been a lot of positive feedback – in fact we are yet to come across anybody who is against the idea.

"There is a lot of devastation in the red and green residential zones and if we can have a part in helping someone get a cheaper house and not have so much destruction at the other end then that brings some satisfaction."

Flatpacking is among a range of recycling initiatives underway in greater Christchurch for houses that face demolition or are being demolished. Some houses are good candidates for relocation and are being salvaged. For example, Housing New Zealand is moving some of its houses from the residential red zones in Kaiapoi and Christchurch across to Rolleston Prison where they'll be repaired and refurbished for future use (see more on page 5).

Demolition companies are also salvaging windows, doors, kitchens and bathrooms for resale.

Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority Chief Executive Roger Sutton says it is great to see materials being recycled and subsequently providing opportunities for people who are rebuilding or remodelling to get house components cheaply.

"That can reduce the amount of demolition waste going into landfill by 15 or 20 per cent. Plus materials are being re-used that have real value for other people."

Roger Sutton is also encouraged by social enterprises like Rekindle that use salvaged wood to build furniture and other useful objects.

To watch the flatpack process, check out the video at: www.cera.govt.nz/videos



Hon Gerry Brownlee
Minister for Canterbury Earthquake Recovery

Late last month, I launched Watermark, the pilot segment of Te Papa Ōtākaro/Avon River Precinct; the first of the Christchurch Central Recovery Plan anchor projects to get off the ground.

The start of Spring seems an ideal time to officially launch a project that is so much about celebrating the river and the natural beauty that can be found in the Christchurch central city. Watermark is very important because it demonstrates the sort of river walks and landscaping we can expect to see further along the precinct. We can also visualise the effect the river can have on the rest of the development of the city as we move forward.

We are living in a remarkable time, with the beginning of years of large construction in Christchurch. Even now as I drive around the central city, I am held up in traffic due to the sheer amount of construction going on. This tells me people have made a commitment to the Recovery Plan, are making a commitment to the development, redevelopment and design of our suburbs and want a future here in Canterbury.

The economy is thriving. The most recent ANZ Regional Trends Analysis shows 6.6 per cent year-on-year growth in Canterbury, largely driven by greater Christchurch. That's more than three times the national average.

But this isn't an easy time and there are very difficult decisions to be made around the recovery. There are lots of opinions and lots of decisions that get made. Sometimes they need to be adhered to and sometimes they need to be challenged, but all because we want to get as good a result as we can for greater Christchurch.

You'll read in this publication about the release of more detailed information about the Recovery Plan anchor project timelines. There has been a lot of call for that information, but until we had the cost-sharing agreement in place with the Christchurch City Council it wasn't possible to speculate about these matters.

In just a few weeks, the CCDU team has worked hard to get to the point where we now have clarity over the progress that can be expected on all of those quite splendid assets that will contribute to the city.

Even now, as we sit with the knowledge of which organisation will pay for what, we know there will be change ahead.

Watermark is a great example of that. This taste of the river development ahead is layered – there are physical changes, ecological changes and psychological changes involved. We need them all, and we need to be able to be flexible to accommodate what will lie ahead.

I was proud to turn the first sod of the Watermark development in June and I was even more proud to see the final outcome. This is progress and the new Christchurch is underway. I hope you and your family take some time to enjoy what has been created.

Updated anchor project timelines released

At the end of last month, the Christchurch Central Development Unit (CCDU) released more detailed information on the timeframes around anchor projects contained in the Christchurch Central Recovery Plan. CCDU Director Warwick Isaacs says the updated timelines give more certainty to business owners, investors, those in the construction industries, and the people of greater Christchurch.

"It has become possible to release more detailed information after the cost-sharing agreement signed recently between the Crown and Christchurch City Council,

which outlined the funding split and project leadership for central city projects. A large number of processes are occurring in parallel to speed up delivery."

In particular, a greater level of detail has been supplied in relation to four top priority anchor projects. Warwick Isaacs says that includes not only construction and completion timeframes, but also business case development which is a very important part of anchor project development.

The table below contains a sample of the updated information in relation to the priority anchor projects.

To find out more, go to www.ccdugovt.nz



Christchurch Central Development Unit
Te Uepū Whakahiato

	Leading the Project	Business Case Start	Master Planning Start	Design Phase Start	Early Construction Works Start	Main Construction Works Start	Completion
Te Papa Ōtākaro / Avon River Precinct including North Frame and The Margaret Mahy Amazing Place	Crown	2nd Quarter 2013	1st Quarter 2013	1st Quarter 2013	1st Quarter 2013	4th Quarter 2013	2nd Quarter 2015 (The Margaret Mahy Amazing Place will open 4th Quarter 2014)
East Frame - Public Realm	Crown	2nd Quarter 2013	1st Quarter 2013	1st Quarter 2013		3rd Quarter 2014	3rd Quarter 2015
Convention Centre Precinct	Crown	1st Quarter 2013	1st Quarter 2014	1st Quarter 2014	4th Quarter 2013	1st Quarter 2015	1st Quarter 2017
Bus Interchange	Crown	2nd Quarter 2013		4th Quarter 2013	2nd Quarter 2014	3rd Quarter 2014	2nd Quarter 2015

Note that dates shown in blue text are new information released on 29 August 2013.

All timeframes are subject to change, based on private or public sector delivery mechanisms.

Official opening for Watermark

Watermark, the first stage of the first central city anchor project, has officially been opened.

The pilot segment of Te Papa Ōtākaro/Avon River Precinct is situated on the true left bank of the river between Antigua Boatsheds and Montreal Street. It features examples of plantings, landscaping and measures to improve river health and was officially launched on 29 August by Minister for Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Gerry Brownlee.

Minister Brownlee says the project team would really like the public's views through a digital feedback campaign.

"Once people have experienced Watermark they can text their comments direct to our project team.

"This text campaign will help designers across the next stage of the precinct's development, as they gain an appreciation for what the public likes and what might need to change in future stages," Mr Brownlee says.

Details on the text campaign can be found on information boards at the Watermark site. CERA staff will also canvas visitors at the site for their verbal feedback.

Christchurch Central Development Unit General Manager Design and Planning Don Miskell says the character of Te Papa Ōtākaro/Avon River Precinct will change as the river travels through the central city.



Recreational boaters enjoy checking out features of the Watermark project.

"The park-like nature of Watermark reflects its proximity to Hagley Park – other areas closer to the central city will have a harder, more urban character that will attract people."

To see the CCDU website's new animated fly-thru video of Te Papa Ōtākaro/Avon River Precinct, go to: www.ccdugovt.nz

The website also contains a new Progress Map with an interactive function that lets you click on each of the anchor projects and learn more about them, as well as some of the prominent private constructions underway.



Fred Killick and Shirley Van Grinsven can't wait to move into their newly built home.

TC3 couple counting down to a new beginning

Wainoni couple Fred Killick and Shirley Van Grinsven are counting the days until they can move into their brand new home, built with pioneering foundation technology.

The house, which is nearly complete, is being constructed by Stonewood Homes using Firth's Ribraft foundations, which have been adapted to suit TC3 conditions. Theirs is among the first to be constructed in greater Christchurch using the world-first technology.

Shirley Van Grinsven and Fred Killick haven't had an easy journey to get where they are now. The couple's Avonside Drive home was badly damaged in the earthquakes, zoned red and subsequently demolished. They are now renting a TC3 home which is also scheduled for demolition. For the time being, though, it's proving a useful base as it's just down the road from their new build so they can keep an eye on progress. Shirley's daughter gifted them the land after levelling her rental property due to quake-damage. She lives in the same street as the couple's new home and their grandson will build on the back half of the section.

"Some people have asked why we want to build in this area which has been so badly affected, but this is our home. We have family around us and this is where we want to be... It's been a long journey and we have had to work hard with insurers and so on, but now we are happy campers. The light at the end of the tunnel is to know we are going to be living here soon," says Shirley Van Grinsven.

The couple is excited to be among the first to use the Ribraft foundation technology which involves grids

of reinforced concrete, polystyrene pods, steel reinforcing, spacers and RaftMix™. They fit together in a way that significantly reduces traditional labour time. The foundation sits on the ground, not in it. Dozens of jacks installed throughout mean adjustments can easily be made in the event of future seismic activity.

Firth South Island Sales Manager Craig Wilson says it's great to see the Ribraft TC3 foundations increasingly being used throughout greater Christchurch. Other regions around New Zealand are also looking at it as a way of dealing with variable ground conditions.

"In greater Christchurch, Firth has seen more than 300 plans, of which 90 per cent suit the system. Of these, 100 have consent or are in the consent process with fully engineered designs. We have more than 10 homes completed using the foundation system and one or two starting every week," says Craig Wilson.

He says the foundation system is the most cost-effective option for TC3, with costs coming in at between 30 and 50 per cent below other TC3 construction methods.

"We are now able to use the system for two-storey construction in both residential and commercial areas," says Craig Wilson. "Construction is about to begin on two Ferry Road sites with a total of five commercial buildings using the technology. A large retirement village is also going to be built using the system." 🔄

Art Trail to complement city's redeveloped river park

A unique trail of artworks is being developed as part of Te Papa Ōtākaro/Avon River Precinct.

Once completed, it will see significant works from local, national and international artists sited along the banks of Ōtākaro/Avon River.

CCDU Director Warwick Isaacs says the Art Trail development will go through a number of stages between

now and the end of 2015 and require \$10 million in funding through a number of channels.

"This will become a unique cultural drawcard for the city. It will also be a legacy of the rebuild for the people of Christchurch and highlight the unique histories of the city and the region," says Mr Isaacs.

For more information on the Art Trail, go to www.ccd.govt.nz 🔄



Roger Sutton
CERA Chief Executive

It has been three years since the first big earthquake ripped through our lives and I am so very aware of the emotional toll that the last three years have had on many people. While we have worked hard at CERA to get programmes up and running that respond to the changes that have occurred and the needs that have arisen, I know that life continues to be difficult for some.

This Update provides you with information on some of the strong support that is now in place to help, including the Winter Make it Right campaign, the Residential Advisory Service, additional temporary accommodation coming on board and the many other initiatives that are out there now. Demand for this support has been slightly less than expected, but help is still available and if you know of others in need, please ensure they get this information.

It has become the nature of living in Christchurch that life continues to be a bit of a mixture for us. This is graphically seen in the events of the past week. On the one hand, we have been able to open the first section of the first anchor project, Watermark. But on the other, the 'Quake Outcasts' High Court ruling has made it prudent for us to hold off on the planned Port Hills zoning review announcements, which has caused much frustration for many residents.

Opening Watermark at the end of last month was a momentous step for greater Christchurch as a whole. If you have the chance please head down to Watermark and experience it for yourself. There is room to walk, sit and just generally enjoy the green space our team have enhanced. On the day we opened this area, I saw both children and adults skipping along the new boardwalk, and I was quite heartened by that.

The point of the precinct is to integrate the river with the city. I think the concept will be very clear once The Terrace construction advances – that's where the Strip used to be, but in its new life it will mean the shops and restaurants are not separated from the river by Oxford Terrace.

It was great to be asked to launch the Christchurch Arts Festival late last month. The launch featured performances from children who attend Woolston School and Shirley Intermediate and I can admit to having tears in my eyes as I heard those young voices sing and watched their confident presentations. We have a lot to be proud of here in greater Christchurch and these children demonstrate this so clearly.

Finally, the new Cardboard Cathedral is also now open. This is another exciting and tangible addition to Christchurch that demonstrates just how well we are doing. Congratulations to all those involved in all these steps forward. 🔄

Residents respond to winter resilience campaign

In mid July, CERA launched Make it Right, a winter resilience campaign to give people in greater Christchurch better access to the support and assistance they may need to get through winter and beyond.

The campaign's aim is to connect people with the agency that can help them and get them that support faster where possible.

Up to 16 August 2013, a total of 51 vulnerable households were referred for an emergency repair. Forty-three homes received a home assessment in this period and 28 have had work orders raised or completed. Weathertightness was the most common concern, as reported by nearly half of the affected households.

The Canterbury Support Line, CanCERN and Community Energy Action Charitable Trust are jointly implementing the programme. Canterbury Support Line operators have been receiving calls from people looking for assistance, while CanCERN is working in neighbourhoods to identify people in need and refer them on, or find solutions from within the community. Community Energy Action is working to tackle issues with damp and cold homes and implementing the Make it Right emergency repairs.

One elderly St Albans couple emailed CERA with concerns about their health due to their cold home. They wrote again later with this feedback:

"My email to CERA resulted in a response from Community Energy Action for which I am really grateful. Ian [from Community Energy Action] responded very quickly. He explained all the options to me and offered help which I accepted. He kept me informed of the progress and kept checking if I was OK. He sourced and promptly supplied the material needed to solve the problems. I now feel confident that I can get through this winter without further serious medical problems."

Although the initiative was launched as a winter campaign, work is underway to keep it going while there is a strong need for it in the community.

For more information, call the Canterbury Support Line (0800 777 846) or go to: www.cera.govt.nz



Praise for the Residential Advisory Service (RAS)

Early feedback on the new Residential Advisory Service (RAS) shows a very positive response to the service.

Launched in May 2013, this free and independent service helps earthquake-affected home owners to understand the process involved in their own repair or rebuild and to make progress with it. After they first contact RAS, those who are not already in a formal disputes resolution process meet with an independent advisor at one of 15 community locations throughout greater Christchurch. All independent advisors are qualified solicitors with experience in dealing with insurance and EQC matters. For technical advice, they can consult a panel of independent experts, who come from a range of backgrounds.

Shortly after people have first met with an independent advisor, RAS asks them for feedback. To date, 77 per cent of those who were able to be contacted were either positive or neutral about the service.

To the end of August, almost 1,400 people had made contact with the Residential Advisory Service. Many enquiries are resolved at the first contact or advice is given as to what the caller's next steps could be. Almost 300 property owners have had or are scheduled to have face-to-face meetings with independent advisors. Another 337 have been connected with other organisations and services. Forty-three cases have been closed.

Some people who have used the service have said:

Very successful experience – RAS clarified everything and ensured (we) were well informed to progress.

Advice given has been 'perfect'.

Professional and felt listened to.

Very happy with the service. Have passed the number on to several friends.

RAS Governance Board Chair Michelle Mitchell says it's heartening to see so much positive feedback.

"We know some people are out there doing it tough but this service can provide the assistance some people may need to move forward with their lives. The service can position and prepare property owners to engage in the next step of their repair and rebuild process; and give them the confidence and support to make this happen."

For more information on the Residential Advisory Service and more testimonials from some of the people who've used the service, go to: www.advisory.org.nz or call 03 379 7027 or 0800 777 299.



CERA Chief Executive Roger Sutton launched the Christchurch Arts Festival (2013) on 22 August. The festival runs until 22 September in the city. To find out more, go to: www.artsfestival.co.nz

(Left) Arts Festival opening exhibit Fly Me Up To Where You Are features 4,000 coloured flags created by Christchurch school children expressing their hopes and dreams for the future.



Rangers Park in Linwood – work on the village is close to completion.

Rangers Park on track and open to view

The first of 40 new homes being built in Linwood as part of the response to the demand for temporary accommodation are on track to receive their first occupants in September.

Rangers Park consists of a mix of two-, three- and four-bedroom stand-alone houses as well as some higher-density town houses – all of which will be well insulated and earthquake strengthened.

The Government is investing around \$12.5 million in Rangers Park although the houses will eventually be sold to provide permanent housing once the demand for temporary accommodation has lessened.

The public are invited to take a look around Rangers Park at an open day being held from 10am to 1pm at Eric Adam Way (off McGregor's Road), Linwood on Sunday 29 September.

For more information on temporary accommodation, go to www.quakeaccommodation.govt.nz or phone Canterbury Earthquake Temporary Accommodation Service on **0800 673 227**



Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment

Hundreds of residential red zone settlement extensions granted

Settlement date extensions have been granted for 345 flat land residential red zone home owners who have agreed to sell their properties to the Crown.

In recent months, affected property owners were given the opportunity to request an extension. In total, 369 request forms were received. More than 93 per cent of them were granted an extension. Only 24 applications were not approved as property owners did not meet the criteria.

Almost half of the home owners whose requests were approved now have a settlement date of January 2014. About a third only required a short extension to their settlement date.

Earlier in the year, CERA identified that some residential red zone home owners were experiencing obstacles and barriers to vacate their properties by the agreed settlement date. Requests for an extension were considered by the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority (CERA) Chief Executive Roger Sutton, based on vulnerability and individual circumstances.

The case-by-case extension process does not apply to the Port Hills residential red zone property owners, who have until 31 January 2014 to accept the Crown offer.

For more information, go to www.cera.govt.nz

Red zone houses on the move

Last month, Housing New Zealand (HNZ) started moving some of its houses from the residential red zones in Kaiapoi and Christchurch across to Rolleston Prison for repairs. Over the next few weeks, more than 30 houses will be trucked down State Highway One in the early hours of the morning from Monday to Friday.

At the same time, other houses are being shifted from the Christchurch residential red zone to new sites in the city where they are being repaired ahead of new tenants coming in.

Housing New Zealand's operations manager for the earthquake recovery programme Andrew Booker says both projects are important because they are opportunities to refurbish houses from the residential red zones that aren't damaged badly enough to be demolished.

"We have a great project going on here. Engineers have assessed all the houses we are shifting to make sure firstly that they can be moved relatively easily and secondly that they can be repaired.

"We are moving 19 of our houses across to Rolleston and another 17 houses owned by insurance companies. They form part of a partnership with the prison to repair 150 houses over the next five years."

At the same time, Mr Booker says Housing New Zealand has identified eight houses suitable for relocation that are being moved directly onto other HNZ sites in the city.

"The first two houses to be moved from the Christchurch red zone have gone to their new home in Linwood where they are being repaired and refurbished. We expect tenants to be able to move in to their new home next month."

The work is part of Housing New Zealand's commitment to repair up to 5,000 of its quake-damaged houses by the end of 2015 and at the same time to build up to 700 new ones. New houses will be built in Kaiapoi as well as Christchurch.

Relocating houses from the red zones has generated positive comments from many former residential red zoners who are happy to know that not everything is being demolished.



A Housing New Zealand residential red zone home being moved out for repairs and ultimately re-use.



UPDATE FROM STRONGER CHRISTCHURCH INFRASTRUCTURE REBUILD TEAM (SCIRT)

Shirley project chance for SCIRT to help out school

At the back of Shirley Primary School, in Riselaw Street's Macfarlane Park, is an unexciting-looking structure with the official title of "Pump Station 120". The people who live nearby have probably called it much more colourful names since its construction started at the end of last year, requiring noisy work and vibrating of piles 25 metres into the very soft ground.

The pump station, which serves 350 homes and businesses, has now been tested and commissioned. Last month SCIRT's Fletcher Construction team handed it to the Christchurch City Council as an operational part of the city's wastewater network.

As well as being completed with no health and safety incidents, the project gave the Fletcher Construction team a chance to thank the school community for their patience. "We kept the back entrance to the school open throughout and the school community – parents, teachers, pupils – all played a valuable part," says Fletcher Construction site engineer Harry Brownlee.

In return, Harry's team did some volunteer work at Shirley Primary School earlier this year, painting two classrooms on a Saturday. "As well as the Riselaw Street pump station, they have SCIRT pipe projects on the south side of the school on Shirley Road," he says. "Whichever way they got to school, they had to negotiate infrastructure work."

Fletcher Construction at the moment has four other pump stations on the go: McFaddens Road and Weston Road in northern St Albans; Guild Street in Richmond; and Chester Street West in the central city. Elsewhere in the city – in Avondale, Linwood, Dallington and Wainoni – SCIRT's teams have also completed pump stations, tested them and commissioned them (ie, checking all the parts operate together as a whole). Many more pump stations are currently under construction.



At Macfarlane Park, Shirley. Left to right, Don Gracia (Christchurch City Council), Joe Allen (Fletcher Construction commissioning manager), John Moulin (Christchurch City Council), Harry Brownlee (Fletcher Construction site engineer).



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UPDATE FROM EARTHQUAKE COMMISSION (EQC)

EQC Community Contact Team reaches out

The EQC Community Contact Team is a group of knowledgeable and caring people who are here to help property owners understand their claim status.

Earthquake Commission customers are asked to simply call **0800 326 243 (0800 DAMAGE)**, ask to speak to the Community Contact Team and book an appointment time for a meeting at a location that's convenient for them. The team meets customers at various community locations around greater Christchurch or at people's homes if they can't easily get around.

The team's main aim is to provide professional, accurate and timely information. They can inform customers about the EQC claims process and how to access key resources and information, and provide status updates on claims. For some customers, this may mean a visit or two to discuss their claim and the process, and for others it can mean ongoing attention with weekly contact.

The very first EQC mobile unit was set up by Paula McPhail in July 2011, and she still leads the Community Contact Team today. "Our goal is not to advise as much as to educate our customers. To let them know where they stand, what the next thing is that will happen, and to explain why things are happening during the claim or repair process."

Long-time friends Shona and Betty were recently put in touch with the Community Contact Team and want to recommend the free service to other elderly or vulnerable people who are finding the EQC processes challenging to navigate.



Their Community Contact Team case managers popped into their cosy living room in Bower Ave last week to talk them through the repair process. As their claim is now with a local Fletcher EQR hub, Shona and Betty had some questions around interpreting the Scope of Works and some uncertainties about how to communicate with their contract supervisor.

"It has taken a weight off our shoulders," says Shona, "and they really do a great job answering our questions and helping us to understand what is happening."

For more information, visit: www.eqc.govt.nz or phone **0800 326 243 (0800 DAMAGE)**.



UPDATE FROM ENVIRONMENT CANTERBURY

Your water, your say

The Christchurch–West Melton zone implementation programme – or ZIP – is a key working document for the greater Christchurch earthquake recovery.

The ZIP was developed over the past year by hundreds of committed Cantabrians with an interest in improving our freshwater systems and management, and is part of the wider Canterbury Water Management Strategy. The Strategy is a leading-edge, community-led process which starts well before the formal council planning processes kick in and aims to find the best uses for water within an environmentally sustainable framework.

In the Christchurch–West Melton zone, the key goals identified by the community are the protection of the groundwater resource, effective management of stormwater as well as the identification of local stream improvement projects.

These goals and recommendations are set out in the ZIP along with milestones and responsibilities.

While the Christchurch–West Melton ZIP is an advisory document, it has been endorsed by the three councils

party to it – Christchurch City, Selwyn District and Environment Canterbury – as the basis to guide future work programmes for freshwater management in the zone.

There are 10 water management committees throughout Canterbury, from the Lower Waitaki to Kaikoura, each made up of nominated locals, Ngāi Tahu and council representatives. The only prerequisite for committee members is that each person is passionate about Canterbury's fresh water and is committed to finding solutions to water management that achieve consensus.

To find out more about the Canterbury Water Management Strategy, visit: www.cwms.org.nz or www.ecan.govt.nz/canterburywater



City Mission steps up for women under pressure

The Christchurch City Mission has seen an increasing number of women under pressure since the earthquakes and its women's night shelter is offering just the support some of them need.

The women's night shelter was opened in the Christchurch central city in December 2012 and is being trialled for a year. The mission has provided a men's night shelter and day centre for some time but it's the first time emergency short-term accommodation has been provided for women. The shelter has three bedrooms and can accommodate up to seven women per night.

City Mission Supervisor of Women's Services Catherine Williamson says the shelter has averaged around 90 per cent occupancy since it opened.

"Demand for this kind of support has definitely risen since the earthquakes. The accommodation situation is extreme for our traditional client group. Rising costs have priced them off the market. Cheaper forms of accommodation like bedsits and so on are gone or have risen in price. The other issue is that Christchurch City Council and Housing New Zealand stock has been depleted. Our client group has been heavily impacted post-earthquake."

Catherine Williamson says it isn't just the most financially challenged who are presenting for help.

"There's another issue that's been a bit of a surprise for me, which is the number of women who are older – as in middle-aged and above – who have presented. Some of these [are] women who, post-quake, have been living in much tighter family circles. It seems like families have been able to accommodate Mum for a while and now they can't. Where does she go?" says Catherine Williamson.

Other occupants are women who are working but are on low wages and just can't meet the increased costs of housing.

Catherine Williamson says the shelter works closely with other agencies including women's refuges, social agencies and police.

"Once, police brought us a woman who was overnighing in Christchurch on a road trip south to see family and simply couldn't find anywhere to stay.

"Another time, we had a mother and daughter who came over from Australia to support family after the earthquakes and it didn't work out. They needed to go back but were



The City Mission's Catherine Williamson says the women's night shelter will continue to provide support for women in need.

sleeping in their car which was basically their only resource. Staying in the house enabled them to sell the car and raise the funds they needed in order to leave. They have since sent a letter later saying the help they got restored their faith in people."

Each woman is encouraged to make a plan with the City Mission social workers about 'where to from here'.

The Mission has supported the shelter on a trial basis but Catherine Williamson says it now looks like it will roll over for another year at least, based on current occupancy rates. 🔄



Ironside House while restoration was still underway. It officially opened last month.



A new beginning for a grand old central city house

Ironside House has been fully restored and is now a vibrant restaurant and place of business. The century-old house on the corner of Montreal and Salisbury streets, was red-stickered and a candidate for demolition. However, owners Jacqui and Barry Lee have lovingly restored it. It now hosts a law firm and Jonny Schwass' new restaurant, Harlequin Public House, which opened in the middle of last month.

Jacqui Lee's son Jeremy Houghton (left) spent months painstakingly stripping back and restoring all the original woodwork in the two-storey building.

Timebanking on the way for Lincoln

The Lincoln community is setting up a timebank and looking for locals with skills to contribute.

With timebanking, people gain credits for carrying out tasks for one another. Lincoln Envirotown Trust (LET) organiser Sarah Pritchett says they've looked at the way it has helped strengthen the community in Lyttelton.

"Lyttelton Timebank has about 500 members and has found that it has facilitated a number of friendships between people whose paths may have not crossed otherwise. It is a very important part of the Lyttelton community and there was increased demand for it after the earthquakes of 2010 and 2011.

"In fast-growing communities such as Lincoln, it can be difficult for newcomers to meet others, especially if they are commuting into the city to work or have moved into a new housing development. Timebanks provide a way for people to meet others in their community and to establish those networks that used to happen naturally in rural communities."

Sarah Pritchett says LET aims to have the Lincoln Timebank up and running towards the end of the year. Eventually it will extend to other communities in the Selwyn district.

To find out more, contact Sarah Pritchett on **03 329 3344** (after 3pm) or email: sarahp@snap.net.nz A public information evening is also being held at the Habgood Lounge, Lincoln Events Centre on Tuesday 17 September from 7–8pm, with supper provided.

UPDATE FROM CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL

Sydenham Pod Park opens

Sydenham residents and visitors have a stylish new park to relax in thanks to the collaborative efforts of Christchurch City Council, consultancy Beca, Sydenham Quarter Inc and local businesses.

When Mayor Bob Parker officially opened the Sydenham Pod Park on the corner of Colombo and Wordsworth Streets last month, he described it as a creative way of breathing new life into a suburban commercial area hard hit in the earthquakes.

The Beca design features a curved pipe-inspired shelter, steel columns and saw-tooth-shaped sculptures and was chosen to fit with Sydenham's industrial mix of factories and warehouses.

The Council contributed materials, plants and consenting costs, and a dozen Sydenham businesses donated labour and supplies for the project. As well as designing the park, Beca staff project managed construction and helped clear and plant the site. ♻️



Christchurch City Council

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UPDATE FROM SELWYN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Selwyn libraries prove popular



Artist's impression of the new Lincoln Library, which will open early next year.

Libraries in the Selwyn district now receive more than twice the number of visits they did five years ago. In the year to June 2013, they had a total of 340,000 visits compared with around 150,000 visits in the year to June 2008.

As part of the Council's strategy to enhance library services, a new library is being built in Lincoln which will open early next year. Library facilities in Leeston and Darfield have already been improved, with these libraries expanding in former Council office sites. Improved library services in Rolleston are also being considered by the Selwyn District Council as part of the development of Rolleston town centre.

Sixty-two per cent of Selwyn residents are active members of a local library. The number of books being borrowed has also been increasing. It is now up 26 per cent on figures from 2008, with an increase in library borrowings outstripping population growth in

the district. About 370,000 books and other items were borrowed from libraries in the year to June 2013.

Selwyn Libraries Manager Glen Walker says that it is fantastic that library services are so popular and well used by people living in Selwyn. He says that libraries have focused on offering a wider variety of programmes over the past couple of years including holiday programmes for kids, book clubs, more toddler time sessions and new baby time sessions. Free, high-speed, public-access internet and wi-fi have also helped to attract more people to the libraries. ♻️



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UPDATE FROM WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL

On 16 August, Prime Minister John Key visited Kaiapoi to open the rebuilt aquatic centre and to see other earthquake recovery progress being made throughout the town.

Along with Waimakariri Mayor David Ayers and Member of Parliament Kate Wilkinson, he drove along Courtenay Drive to see the progress made in clearing Crown-owned red zone residential properties. After walking through the Kaiapoi town centre, he then visited the site of the construction of the new Blackwell's Department Store which is nearing completion.

The fifth generation of the Blackwell family are due to open the store's new building in November this year after the previous one was badly damaged in the September 2010 earthquake and subsequently demolished.

The Prime Minister also unveiled a *Landmarks* plaque acknowledging the historic railway station building which houses the Kaiapoi i-Site. The railway station building was constructed in 1904 and over the years has survived fires, lightning strikes, vandalism and earthquakes.

Mr Key rounded off his visit to Waimakariri with a walk with Mayor David Ayers along Rangiora's High Street, where many businesses have been affected by the demolition or repair of earthquake-prone buildings.

"The Council is continuing to work positively with property owners to advance comprehensive redevelopment plans for the heart of the town centre and hopes soon to be able to widely share plans for the North of High Street precinct to help secure the centre's future," says Mr Ayers.

Meanwhile, 386 Crown-owned properties in the Waimakariri district have been cleared under the CERA-coordinated residential red zone property clearance project. Another 99 clearances are scheduled. An area the size of Hagley Park, when the work has been completed, will have been cleared within Kaiapoi. This poses challenges, but also creates new opportunities for the town.

Residential building is strong in the Waimakariri district, with 1,211 residential building consents approved in the year to June 2013. ♻️



Prime Minister Key talks with contract staff restoring damaged Kaiapoi streets.



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