



Residential Advisory Service resolution brings relief

Cashmere Hills home owners Raewyn Willocks and Andy Carr were at the end of their tether trying to negotiate with their insurer over a troublesome deck – that is until someone suggested they try the Residential Advisory Service (RAS).

The couple's insurer had been well into repairs on their multi-level hillside house before an impasse over the front poolside deck brought everything to a halt.

They'd assumed the insurer would cover the repairs, as the damage to the deck was on the original scope of works, but they eventually received an offer of less than \$2,000 towards it. An independent quote costed the repairs, including geotechnical investigations, at between \$60,000 and \$80,000.

Raewyn Willocks says the situation caused them a huge amount of stress.

"We tried really hard to resolve the issue with the insurer but we were getting nowhere. Meanwhile, the repairs to the rest of the house stopped, causing us more stress as we couldn't move on and the house had already been empty since January 2013 when repairs began."

Raewyn says after a phone call to RAS, that all changed. They met with an independent advisor who then worked with a dedicated RAS liaison staff member at the couple's insurance company to achieve a positive resolution.

"When we called to follow up, we were told the insurer had accepted responsibility for the deck and it will be fully reinstated at their cost. This was a huge relief to us."



Relieved: Raewyn Willocks and Andy Carr are grateful for the help of the Residential Advisory Service.

"We were so fortunate to hear about the service and right from our initial meeting we felt confident of a fair hearing. I would recommend the service to anyone with ongoing insurance issues as the independent advisors will be honest and advise whether or not they feel the client has a case. Having an advisor, who has an established relationship with the insurance companies, to get free advice from, is amazing."

The Residential Advisory Service is not the right fit for everyone with an earthquake issue. It is part of a suite of services designed to support and help people with ongoing earthquake issues.

What other support and assistance is available?

The **Make it Right** campaign gives vulnerable people in greater Christchurch better access to earthquake-related emergency repairs. Launched by CERA this winter, the focus was initially on sorting issues such as making damaged homes weathertight and fixing sanitation. The campaign has been extended and is a free service (for those who qualify). So far, a number of households have had emergency repairs, roofs fixed and insulation installed.

All repairs have been funded through philanthropic contributions and carried out by Fletcher Construction, Bluewater Drainage and Community Energy Action. CanCERN is working in the community so you can let them know if you or a neighbour needs assistance (go to: www.cancern.org.nz).

To find out more about Make it Right, call the Canterbury Support Line on **0800 777 846**.

Earthquake Support Coordinators are available to help people to navigate their way through the wide range of services involved in rebuilding people's homes and lives. The coordinators can:

- provide information
- identify services to assist with earthquake-related housing, finance, legal, insurance and health matters
- coordinate meetings between you and the experts.

The assistance is free and confidential. To find out more, call **0800 777 846**.

Appointments can also be made with **Earthquake Assistance Centres** in Kaiapoi and Avondale.

What is the Residential Advisory Service?

The Residential Advisory Service (RAS) provides free, independent help to residential property owners who are facing challenges in getting their home repaired or rebuilt after it has been damaged by the Canterbury earthquakes.

How does the service work?

Using RAS involves three steps:

Step 1

Call the Residential Advisory Service on **(03) 379 7027** or **0800 777 299**. They'll ask about your circumstances to better understand your particular situation and find out if the service is right for you.

Step 2

If the service is appropriate for your situation, you'll have a face-to-face meeting with an independent advisor. At that meeting, the advisor will find out more from you about where you're at in the repair and rebuild process. They'll give you advice to help progress your situation.

Step 3

If your situation is complex, you may have a multi-party meeting to clarify your issues and help find a solution.

For more information, go to: www.advisory.org.nz

HAVE YOU CHECKED IN WITH YOUR Neighbour LATELY?

Is their earthquake affected home weathertight? Emergency remedial work is a priority.

Find out more today:
Canterbury Support Line
0800 777 846



Hon Gerry Brownlee
Minister for Canterbury Earthquake Recovery

Over the last month, we've seen the marking of more exciting milestones in greater Christchurch covering so many areas of earthquake recovery progress. It constantly inspires me how much is being done at a grass-roots level to help progress this community through the recovery, how strong the rebuild is, and I am personally proud to be part of a Government that is injecting so much into the recovery.

As you can see on this page of the Greater Christchurch Recovery Update, the concept design of the Justice and Emergency Services Precinct has now been revealed. The precinct will be the first major public building to be built in Christchurch since the earthquakes of 2010 and 2011. I recently attended the reopening of the Heritage Hotel in the Old Government Building in Cathedral Square. Built over 100 years ago, it captures the architecture of its time and is now considered a beautiful and iconic building. I am very confident when I look at the designs of the Justice and Emergency Services Precinct that it will be similarly iconic 100 years after it opens.

Beyond progress on the Justice and Emergency Services Precinct, we're pushing ahead with the central Christchurch Retail Precinct, the Metro Sports Facility, the Bus Interchange, and Te Papa Ōtakaro/Avon River Precinct. There has also been a great response to the calls for a Convention Centre Precinct operator, with numerous international firms indicating an interest.

In late October I released the Christchurch Central Recovery Plan transport chapter, An Accessible City, which includes details of lower speed limits in the CBD and some changes to the one-way system. Overall, we are trying to make the central city as attractive as possible for people to come in and shop, socialise and live, and I'm confident executing this plan will help meet that goal. To find out more, go to: www.ccd.govt.nz

Tertiary education has also been given a boost with the Government committing \$260 million to the University of Canterbury to support its \$1.1 billion rebuild programme. That comes just weeks after a Crown capital injection of \$18.9 million was approved for Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology to enable it to further expand its trades training capacity as part of its campus rebuild following the earthquakes.

In the context of all this progress, I'm encouraged to see Canterbury residential consents have just hit a new high. Statistics New Zealand's latest data shows 599 new dwellings were consented in Canterbury for the month of September 2013 – the largest number since records began in April 1976.

Finally, we all hope the Spring sunshine will hold out for Cup and Show Week and that you all get to enjoy some rest and recreation. If you get a chance, swing by the Future Christchurch Pavilion at this year's Canterbury A & P Show 13–15 November 2013 to see how the recovery is progressing. ☺

Justice and Emergency Services Precinct

Key facts

- 3 buildings, 5 levels
- 1,100 staff will work in the precinct
- 900 visitors daily
- 400–500 people employed during construction
- 40,000m² of floor space
- 19 courtrooms



Warren and Mahoney COX Opus Architecture

"This precinct is a significant investment in the Christchurch rebuild and, by housing all the justice sector agencies and the city's civil defence and emergency management functions in one location, it also shows how public sector agencies can work more closely together."

– Prime Minister Rt Hon John Key

The true scale of the \$300 million Justice and Emergency Services Precinct – designed by Warren and Mahoney – has now been revealed.

The precinct is a priority anchor project under the Christchurch Central Recovery Plan. It brings together all justice and emergency services in one purpose-built, world-class precinct in central Christchurch.

It will be the first major public building in greater Christchurch to be built by the Government since the

earthquakes of 2010 and 2011. It is located in the Christchurch central city block bordered by Colombo, Tuam, Durham and Lichfield streets. The site was chosen for its direct access to the city's main arterial roads.

The precinct will house:

- Ministry of Justice
- Police
- Corrections
- St John
- New Zealand Fire Service
- Civil defence and emergency management functions of the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management, the Christchurch City Council and Environment Canterbury.

The judiciary will also be housed in the precinct, in a way that recognises and ensures its constitutional independence. The Justice and Emergency Services Precinct is the largest government project drawing together multiple agencies in one location in New Zealand's history.

Resource Co-ordination Partnership Limited has been appointed as the project manager for the precinct, and Rider Levett Bucknall as the quantity surveyor. Engineering appointments are Opus as the building services engineer and Holmes Consulting Group as the structural engineer, assisted by Tonkin & Taylor.

For more information on the anchor projects and their progress, go to: www.ccd.govt.nz ☺

Timeline

EARLY 2014	EARLY FEBRUARY 2014	JUNE 2014	LATE 2016	MID 2017
Appointment of main contractor to lead the construction of the precinct	Earthworks and ground improvement works begin	Construction of the buildings begins	Justice staff and judiciary start working from the precinct	Precinct complete and open to public

Crown-owned property clearance progress in the residential red zone

The clearance of more than 3,000 Crown-owned flat land residential red zone properties was completed by the end of September.

The next goal is to clear 5,000 Crown-owned properties in the residential red zone by April 2014. To achieve this, property clearances are set to increase over the coming months. This will mean more trucks, more demolitions and relocations, and a noticeable increase in work activity across the residential red zone.

To date, of the 7,414 residential red zone properties eligible for an offer, 7,159 have signed a Sale and Purchase Agreement and 6,902 have settled with the Crown and

vacated their properties. By 31 January 2014, all property owners who have sold their property to the Crown should have left the flat land residential red zone. ♻️



An example of an area of cleared Crown-owned residential red zone land.

Crown-owned land clearance and management

Land clearance is about creating open, safe and secure areas that are easy and cost-effective to maintain; until decisions are made about future land use. After individual dwellings and other built structures have been removed from Crown-owned properties, land clearance can commence.

This involves fencing off cleared areas, removal of superfluous vegetation, cultivation and re-grassing or some form of land treatment to stabilise the land. Wet areas, dunes and estuarine edges will likely have a lower level of intervention and be planted with an appropriate plant species consistent with the area.

A vegetation retention plan is in place to ensure mature trees, natives and other significant plants are retained until decisions are made about the long-term future. Vegetation

also helps control dust and improves the overall look of the residential red zone.

The standard of finish and level of maintenance for grassland areas will vary from area to area, depending on visibility and the proximity to green zones, public spaces, or other remaining residential red zone residents.

Crown-owned land clearance is progressing well with four significant areas completed and more underway. These sites are located at Courtenay Drive Kaiapoi, on the north and south side of New Brighton Road and Locksley Avenue, and the Gayhurst Road, Locksley Avenue corner. These completed areas cover 130 properties and nearly 15 hectares.

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



Roger Sutton
CERA Chief Executive

It's been an interesting time of late with the local elections and the debate on local issues that has occurred at the same time. Now that the votes are in, I want to congratulate the mayors, councillors and community board members elected to the councils in the greater Christchurch area. It is great that you are prepared to put yourselves up for these jobs and I wish you well for the next three years.

At CERA we work closely with many groups but our relationship with the local authorities is particularly important as so much of what we do covers the same ground. One example is the Stronger Christchurch Infrastructure Rebuild Team (SCIRT) which we set up with the Christchurch City Council and New Zealand Transport Agency to repair the roads and three waters (fresh, storm and waste) throughout Christchurch. I am sure you are all well aware of the work SCIRT is doing as you drive, bike and walk around the city. The current spend by SCIRT is running at about \$50 million per month. As well, many of the anchor projects being developed in the central city have joint teams from CERA and the Christchurch City Council sharing the planning, designing and marketing of these new facilities.

I have always met regularly with the city councillors and am particularly excited about the valuable relationship currently being developed with the new city team led by Mayor Lianne Dalziel. My senior team here at CERA have already begun working closely with this new team, particularly around the priorities and tasks that we have set ourselves to ensure the recovery and rebuild continue to progress and we work towards transitioning some tasks over the next few years. We have a great deal still to do and working in tandem can only increase the pace, which is something we all want.

Our *Recovery Strategy for Greater Christchurch: Mahere Haumanutanga o Waitaha* sets the agenda for this work plan and consolidates our relationship with the local authorities and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu.

I am also conscious that we need to work on getting more information out to you all on our priorities, work plans and progress against these. I hope that some of you managed to attend the Public Forum on 4 November 2013 to hear first hand about the various recovery programmes being undertaken by CERA and the Christchurch City Council.

You may wish to read about progress to date in CERA's recently released Annual Report 2013. This is available on our website www.cera.govt.nz along with these Recovery Updates for regular progress reports on all our work programmes. ♻️

Corrections helps recycle resources from the residential red zone

Collaboration between the Department of Corrections and CERA has seen teams of offenders gathering from vegetable patches and fruit trees from Crown-owned properties in the residential red zone. The goods are then distributed to the Christchurch City Mission, to be used in food parcels. So far, community work teams have gathered apples and oranges, spinach, silver beet, lettuce, rocket, rhubarb and lemons. As well as edibles, workers sometimes pick flowers to brighten the City Mission halls. ♻️



Future Christchurch Greater Canterbury

Future Christchurch Pavilion at the Canterbury A & P Show

Find out how the greater Christchurch rebuild is progressing at this year's Canterbury A & P Show 13-15 November 2013.

Visit the Future Christchurch Pavilion in front of the main lake turnstiles to see what's happening and talk to different organisations involved in the rebuild.

Among loads of great exhibits are an update on the anchor projects and a special Te Papa Ōtākaro/Avon River Precinct display.

Listen to MORE FM to hear about the Christchurch & Canterbury Tourism competition running throughout the Show to encourage people to sign up to their city update newsletter. To enter the draw for some great prizes, come to the Future Christchurch Pavilion at the A & P Show.

Others in the Future Christchurch Pavilion are:

- ANZ
- ASB
- BNZ
- Canterbury District Health Board
- Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority
- Canterbury Earthquake Temporary Accommodation Service
- Christchurch Airport
- Christchurch City Council
- Designshop Architecture
- Enterprise North Canterbury
- IAG
- Kiwibank
- Ministry of Education
- NZTA
- Quake Safe
- Rebuild Me
- Residential Advisory Service
- Right House
- SCIRT

For more information, visit the CERA Facebook page: [facebook.com/CanterburyEarthquakeRecoveryAuthority](https://www.facebook.com/CanterburyEarthquakeRecoveryAuthority)

Between big horses and clever dogs: meet SCIRT at the Canterbury A & P Show

Stronger Christchurch Infrastructure Rebuild Team (SCIRT) staff will be available to talk to people on all three days of this year's 151st Canterbury A & P Show.

The SCIRT team will be in the Future Christchurch Pavilion, directly in front of the main entrance, between the Clydesdales and the Eukanuba Dog Trials. Check this map: www.theshow.co.nz/images/downloads/Showgrounds_Map2013.pdf

As well as engineers and communications people, the SCIRT stand will have examples of new technologies. SCIRT staff will be able to provide details on the work their team is doing to rebuild Christchurch's broken infrastructure – most of it invisible in non-earthquake

times, under our roads and in our footpaths or grassy berms.

With three years to go, SCIRT's crews have already repaired or relined almost a third (200km) of the 600km of broken wastewater pipes.

All the new technologies are designed to make our underground infrastructure – pipes and new wastewater systems – more resilient and able to withstand and be easily and cost-effectively repaired in the event of another earthquake. It'll also be better able to deal with the high water table and soggy ground conditions in many areas.

For more information on the Show, go to: www.theshow.co.nz



BNZ AMAZING PLACE PROJECT COMPETITION WINNERS UNVEILED

Burnside High School's Aurora Centre was packed to the rafters late last month for the BNZ Amazing Place project competition prize-giving ceremony.

The event on 29 October was the culmination of a year-long campaign to get Canterbury school children involved in, and excited about, the future of Christchurch's central city. Schools from throughout the region submitted their ideas on how to make the city amazing, and the winning entries for Years 7-13 have now been recognised.

Governor-General Sir Jerry Mateparae presented the prizes to the winning teams from Years 7-11. Then four Year 12-13 teams of finalists battled it out on stage, live-pitching their ideas to a panel of judges

in a 'Dragon's Den' styled format. In the end, it was a team from Middleton Grange with their plan for the Retail Precinct who emerged the winners. They received \$10,000 for themselves and \$5,000 for their school.

For the full list of winners, go to: www.theamazingplace.co.nz



Year 12-13 winners from Middleton Grange (l-r) Hannah Redman, Sarah Davie, Jonathan Frauenstein and Lionel Nherera with Governor-General Sir Jerry Mateparae and CERA Chief Executive Roger Sutton.



Progressive start to social housing recovery in the eastern suburbs

Housing New Zealand plans a progressive approach to rebuilding its quake-damaged properties in the eastern suburbs.

Redevelopment Manager Paul Commons says the priority is to rebuild houses that have been assessed as earthquake prone and this work will start early in the new year.

"We have a number of houses in Hampshire, Aldershot and Eureka Streets that have had to be vacated due to engineering assessments. We will be going to the market shortly to find suitable developers who can work with us to replace the houses that have to be demolished."

Mr Commons says, depending on the proposals, there will be a mix of double- and single-storeyed houses which will be designed to suit a range of tenant families.

"They will be two-, three- and four-bedroomed houses and, like all our new developments, the designs will include detailed landscaping. We need to be aware of pedestrian areas, including access for prams, scooters and mobility scooters, also wheelchairs."

Several houses from the red zone are in the process of being relocated to other city sites, some of which are in the eastern suburbs, he adds. Tenants will be matched to these refurbished homes as quickly as possible.

"While this construction work is getting underway, we are continuing with the quake repair programme and have



This house was moved from New Brighton in the residential red zone to its new home on the corner of Buckleys and Kerrs roads. The refurbishment programme is almost finished and the house will be ready for new tenants soon.

extended it into the suburbs of Parklands, North New Brighton, New Brighton and South New Brighton."

Mr Commons says concurrent repairs were also taking place in Kaiapoi.

"We have made a solid commitment to our tenants in Canterbury to repair up to 5,000 of our quake-damaged

properties and to build 700 new homes. We completed the first of these in September and we aim to complete another 19 in the near future." 🔄



UPDATE FROM CANTERBURY EARTHQUAKE TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION SERVICE (CETAS)

The Canterbury Earthquake Temporary Accommodation Service is well known as the go-to service for earthquake-affected households requiring help with temporary accommodation, financial assistance and support through the Earthquake Support Coordinators.

Since 2011, CETAS has assisted more than 3,300 Canterbury households to find temporary accommodation, including more than 450 households who have transitioned through over 100 temporary accommodation units built at Linwood Park, Kaiapoi Domain, Rawhiti Domain and, more recently, Rangers Park.

CETAS also provides a matching and placement accommodation service in the private rental market, bringing landlords with available temporary accommodation in contact with people looking for a place to stay in the short term while their house is being repaired or rebuilt.

This service has recently been extended through the provision of a website where landlords can self-register their properties and people looking for accommodation can see what is available. The link is: <https://contactregistration.quakeaccommodation.govt.nz>

For more information on CETAS, go to: www.quakeaccommodation.govt.nz or call 0800 673 227. 🔄

CERA's impact – see greater Christchurch in a whole new way

Last month, CERA released the PaCT Map, giving the power of all-access information and planning back to the community.

The PaCT Map is a one-stop-shop of geographic, community, council and government data that is updated on a regular cycle. This month the 2013 census layer was added in, showing where people have moved to and from since the earthquakes.

The PaCT Map shows only publicly available data that has been shared with CERA for the explicit purpose of giving more detailed information and a clearer context to community planning.

You can use it to layer information on:

- population
- key activity centres (malls)
- community facilities
- churches
- schools
- district plans and zones
- Technical Class and red zone.

You don't need any special software or training to use it – just follow the simple instructions on the landing page and start mapping. You will be amazed at what you can see happening in your city and community.

To start mapping, go to: www.cera.govt.nz/pact 🔄

Temporary Accommodation

Are you looking for temporary accommodation while your home is repaired or rebuilt due to the Canterbury earthquakes?

Do you have temporary accommodation available?

<https://contactregistration.quakeaccommodation.govt.nz>



Next big link for Sumner: Ferrymead bridge to McCormacks Bay causeway

The Stronger Christchurch Infrastructure Rebuild Team (SCIRT) completed a big project recently with the re-opening of the Main Road/McCormacks Bay causeway to Sumner. But, like many areas of Christchurch, this project has several others hard on its heels, so the journey from Sumner to the city will still require extra care from motorists, cyclists and pedestrians.

Along with the Ferrymead bridge Christchurch City Council/HEB Construction project, the three-laning of the road between the causeway and the bridge is the next stage of work for SCIRT's crew Fulton Hogan.

This project, which will run for 18 months, includes earthquake repairs as well as road enhancements along Main Road. The project runs for less than a kilometre, from the end of the Ferrymead bridge project through to the causeway. Although the stretch is not very long, the intersection improvements and other work in the coastal area mean this will not be a quick fix.

Maintaining good access to Sumner and Redcliffs

Fulton Hogan will make sure two-way traffic and cycle lanes are maintained throughout the project to encourage people to visit the beach as they normally would, particularly over summer.

If you'd like to see the plans for Main Road, please see the work notice at: <http://strongerchristchurch.govt.nz/work/activity/3699> or call Fulton Hogan on **0800 277 34 34**.



Phone: (03) 941 8999
Email: info@scirt.co.nz
Web: www.strongerchristchurch.govt.nz
Twitter: @SCIRT_info



The causeway re-opening along with celebratory cakes and pies were appreciated by this local cyclist.

UPDATE FROM EARTHQUAKE COMMISSION (EQC)

Controlled blasting tests repair methods

EQC's ground improvement trials are well underway with the October controlled blasting programme helping to develop cost-effective methods to strengthen land prone to liquefaction. Videos of the trials are available by visiting: www.eqc.govt.nz/canterbury-earthquakes/land-claims/land-trials/ground-improvement-trials-the-full-story

EQC, in conjunction with engineering consultants Tonkin & Taylor, expert engineers and academics from New Zealand and overseas, has held controlled blasts on 14, 17, 21 and 24 October on residential red zone land in Avonside Drive.

The aim was to simulate shaking caused by an earthquake to test how repair methods perform and gauge their potential to strengthen liquefaction-prone land.

EQC General Manager Reinsurance Research & Education, Dr Hugh Cowan, says EQC was grateful to surrounding communities of Burwood and Dallington for being so patient during the trials. Ultimately, the research will help Canterbury's rebuild effort.

"The outcome of the trials will certainly inform how EQC settles claims where residential properties have experienced an increased risk of liquefaction as a result of the Canterbury earthquakes, but it's not a silver bullet for all land repair in Canterbury.

"It's one of several methods for improving or strengthening residential land so that it is more resilient to liquefaction in future earthquakes. Results of the trials will take a while to decipher," Dr Cowan says.

Senior Geotechnical Engineer for Tonkin & Taylor, Dr Sjoerd van Ballegooy, says the houses and land in the residential red zone provided a good opportunity to test and prove some of the newer ground improvement methodologies which, if successful, can be applied to existing houses in the green zone – in particular, TC3 land.

Good progress on Building Consents Action Plan

Crown Manager Doug Martin says the Christchurch City Council has responded well to his request to rapidly put crucial strategies in place.

"It is really good to see these strategies forming a package of solutions. However, let's keep it real; it will take time for the package to take effect.

"For the package to work we also need applicants' architects, designers and engineers to work with us. Staff time is best spent working on applications which make the grade."

Mr Martin says that figures for July to September 2013 showed that on average, applications had taken eight working weeks to be processed.

"This doesn't forecast a trend for the current period. However, the reality is that there is a tsunami of applications coming in as a result of the rebuild and it is reasonable to continue to expect delays for consent processing. I'll update the community regularly."

Action Plan strategies

- **Forecasting** – The demand forecasting now in place shows a huge upsurge in the demand for building consents from late 2013.
- 19 external Building Consent Authorities and private contractors have expressed interest in helping the Council process building consents. Five are already processing an average of 50 per week. The target of contracting out 150–200 consents per week will be met.
- A plan is being prepared to look at how to improve building consent systems and processes. The Council will be smarter in the way it manages demand.
- Changes to the staff structure mean building consent functions will be streamlined around commercial and residential building consents.

For more information, visit:

www.ccc.govt.nz/bcactionplan

go ahead...

Christchurch
City Council

EQC
EARTHQUAKE COMMISSION
Kōwhiri Rauwhenua

Phone: 0800 DAMAGE
(0800 326 243)
Web: www.eqc.govt.nz

Repairing communities, not just buildings

When community organisation Project Esther lost its Spreydon headquarters to arson late last year, its mission to support people struggling in the community became that much more challenging – until it got a helping hand from Buildtech, a family building company with strong Canterbury roots.

Project Esther is a charitable trust, based with the South-West Baptist church, that works with women and families in need. Its wide range of support services include practical help for single mothers, parenting education, a preschool music and movement class, a drop-in centre with a computer available, and emergency accommodation. It also provides support for the chaplaincy at Christchurch Women's Prison.

"We're well utilised," says Project Esther Manager Daphne Marsden. "We work with hundreds and hundreds of families."

On 24 December 2012, the trust's building was destroyed by an arsonist. Overnight they lost their offices and a drop-in centre, as well as resources built over 19 years.

The fire knocked out services that were more in demand than ever.

"For the women we work with, life's hard already. Post-earthquake, it's just harder – harder if your partner's bailed, the rent's high, it's cold, the kids don't sleep well, there's not much left for groceries and you're lonely. The vulnerable women in greater Christchurch right now – they're simply more vulnerable."

Project Esther found a new base, but rent was higher, and the building in disrepair.

"We didn't know how to get it all sorted, or if we could keep up the rent. And then Buildtech came to us and, with 18 men working over two days, transformed it!"



A few of the Buildtech crew - happy to help out in the community.

The workers were divided up into shifts and worked a paid Friday and unpaid Saturday.

Buildtech Director Israel Cooper says it's all part of Buildtech's business to recognise and back the work that community groups are doing in the Canterbury rebuild.

Israel Cooper says the company's central tenet in post-quake greater Christchurch is that the rebuild is about repairing communities, not just buildings.

Israel Cooper says since the earthquakes they've had to look overseas for staff, and now about 40 per cent are international workers. They cover 13 nationalities, with the majority Filipino.

"All of our workers were keen to help Project Esther, including many of our overseas staff who have not been part of our community for long at all. It's amazing: they're away from their homes and families, for the sole reason of earning, and they want to donate their time to help another country. When they were thanked, they just said, 'Oh that's okay, boss, these people do good work!'"

"The emotional effect on staff can't be over-estimated. Plus it's reinforced to all of us that greater Christchurch is recovering." 🔄

Spring festival fun for Canterbury

New Zealand Cup and Show Week – Canterbury's Spring festival of racing, agriculture, fashion and entertainment – is now in full swing and runs until Saturday 16 November 2013.

The festival, an icon event in the Christchurch City Council's event strategy, is recognised as New Zealand's leading Spring event and attracts thousands of visitors to the Canterbury region.

"This is a very special time of year for all Cantabrians. No matter what your interests, there is something to excite everyone," says Christchurch City Council Events Development Manager, Richard Attwood.

As well as all the favourites, New Zealand Cup and Show Week features several new events, including Christchurch's

first Fashion for a Cure show on Monday evening, 11 November. The Transitional Cardboard Cathedral will be transformed when New Zealand's top designers take to the stage to raise funds for the Breast Cancer Research Trust.

On Tuesday 12 November, 25,000 people are expected at Addington Raceway for the prestigious Christchurch Casino New Zealand Trotting Cup Day.

Celebrations for the 150th running of the New Zealand Cup at Riccarton Park will be the final highlight of the week on Saturday 16 November.

To find out more about the week's events, visit: www.nzcupandshow.co.nz 🔄



Summer OF Fun

IS HAPPENING AGAIN

A raft of free community events will be happening around greater Christchurch to help residents enjoy summer in the city.

For the second year running, local community groups and church groups will be holding Summer of Fun events in different suburbs around greater Christchurch between December 2013 and March 2014. All Summer of Fun events are being generously funded by the Canterbury Earthquake Appeal Trust (CEAT). CEAT has been established to provide relief to the community from the adverse effects of the September 2010 and February 2011 earthquakes.

All you need to do is turn up, bring the kids and enjoy yourself.

Specific details of times and places and information will be available on www.bethere.co.nz and the Choice CHCH Facebook page. 🔄

Breathing life into urban design in Christchurch

The design of a Kiwi/Italian consortium selected as the winner of the international Breathe – New Urban Village design competition could be the catalyst to further inner city residential redevelopment. The competition challenged entrants to present a financially viable benchmark design for 21st century inner city living in Christchurch.

Italian architects Anselmi Attiani and engineers Cresco Group, along with Riccarton-based Holloway Builders, beat out 57 other entries and four finalists with a design that, in the words of international judge Kevin McCloud, "presented a well considered and mature scheme that builds on a vernacular of timber dwellings in the area, importing some of the more progressive international ideas in public realm design".

The New Urban Village is one of 17 anchor projects in the Christchurch Central Recovery Plan, and will see as many as 72 terraced houses and apartments built on a one-hectare block opposite Latimer Square. The winning design also incorporated seismic-resistance techniques developed in New Zealand. Known as ARMIDILLO™, the approach is both earthquake resistant and a fast way of re-leveling and stabilising dwellings post earthquakes to allow re-occupation. Subject to finance, construction could begin as early as the middle of next year.

The other three finalists – Walker Architecture, Design King Company architects and Jasmax – were also praised by



A new vision for residential inner city living.

the judges as offering unique solutions to the challenges in greater Christchurch following the earthquakes. Mayor Lianne Dalziel says all the designs have been "hugely exciting, while elements of each finalist could be picked for the Christchurch rebuild".

Christchurch City Council



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Emergency preparedness: Selwyn Gets Ready

A new website has been developed that will help Selwyn residents to stay informed and help each other in an emergency.

Selwyn.getready.net was developed by Hororata resident Dave Askin. Selwyn District Council is helping to fund the cost of maintaining and further developing the website and providing training for Community Response Teams and neighbourhood support coordinators.

The new website will help local Community Response Teams contact their communities in an emergency and will provide groups with information on what skills and equipment people in their area have to respond to an emergency and who in the community may need help. It will also inform the Council, which is responsible for emergency response, about which communities need assistance.

Local Community Response Teams made up of volunteers and neighbourhood support groups are helping to build a database of contact information which is then uploaded into the Selwyn Gets Ready website. To gather information, the groups are circulating questionnaires asking people to provide contact details and information on whether they have any equipment or skills that could help in an

emergency, like a four-wheel drive or medical skills. The questionnaires also help to identify people who may need assistance, like older people or those with young children.

Completing the questionnaire is voluntary. Access to personal information like names and addresses is restricted.

So far 2,500 Selwyn residents have become part of the Selwyn Gets Ready website database, with more residents being added each week. Selwyn residents can add their details to the database by visiting **www.selwyn.getready.net** and selecting the 'join a group' link, or by clicking on 'support groups' and contacting the person listed for your area.

Selwyn District Council



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YOU ME WE US Community Conversation Café gets Kaiapoi buzzing

YOU ME WE US is a grass-roots initiative led by the community to reimagine and invigorate the radically changed post-earthquake Kaiapoi, Pines Beach and Kairaki communities.

Kaipoi has experienced a lot of changes following the quakes when a quarter of the town's homes were red zoned and 40 per cent of the town centre floor space was lost. An area the size of Hagley Park will have been cleared in Kaiapoi once all the residential red zoned properties have been dealt with. Now the town centre is in the process of being rebuilt and more new housing has appeared. Both physically and emotionally things are different, and it is a good moment to look ahead with a renewed sense of optimism and community after three tough years.

How to get Kaiapoi buzzing? That was one of the questions Peter Kenyon asked the hundred or so people who braved the elements on a recent rainy evening to attend the YOU ME WE US Community Conversation Café at the Kaiapoi Rugby Club.

Peter Kenyon is an expert on community-building and has gained experience in helping approximately 1,500 communities worldwide to take greater leadership of their own future.

At the community conversation, he let the community explore their own ideas through conversation. Around 500 comments later, some common themes started to emerge. Future opportunities presented by the residential red zone land in Kaiapoi, Pines Beach and Kairaki were on many people's minds that evening, but there were many other ideas too, including enlivening the streets and encouraging good neighbours.

The next step will be for the YOU ME WE US steering group to collect all the information the community has given them, and then the real fun begins! Go to the YOU ME WE US Facebook page to find out more: **www.facebook.com/YouMeWeUsKaiapoi**



WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL



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