



Image supplied courtesy of RAA

A year of action for the Christchurch central city

Step one: Te Papa Ōtākaro/Avon River Precinct

What is Te Papa Ōtākaro/Avon River Precinct?

Te Papa Ōtākaro/Avon River Precinct is a priority anchor project in the Christchurch Central Recovery Plan. It involves restoring the river's health and biodiversity and creating an attractive, people-friendly space that is a mix of landscaped green space and development. The Precinct traces the river's three-kilometre path through the central city from Christchurch Hospital to Fitzgerald Avenue.

The project team

Late last year, the team that will make this project a reality was announced. As well as designing Te Papa Ōtākaro/Avon River Precinct, the team will design the North and East Frames. New Zealand infrastructural design and asset management firm Opus is responsible for the concept design. To deliver that, Opus has partnered up with a number of firms including UK-based urban design and landscape company BDP, architects RAA, ecological consultants EOS, and local urban designers.

BDP's global experience includes work on large-scale projects like a waterfront park in China and the University of Wales Newport waterfront campus. BDP Director Urbanism/Landscape Andrew Tindsley says literally dozens of different sets of local skills and know-how will go into the Christchurch project. At the same time, BDP can add a flavour of experience gathered from around the world.

Impact Project Management will see the entire project through to delivery, while local quantity surveyors WT Partnership NZ Infrastructure Ltd will provide cost advice and cost management expertise. The project team will also work on flood mitigation.

Ōtākaro/Avon River

Work is under way to study the state of the river's health

and learn more about its ecology right down to the micro-organisms living in the water.

"We see restoring the river to health as a metaphor for repairing the health of the overall city centre and the wider community," says Andrew Tindsley.

Mr Tindsley says the river is at the heart of the project. Green spaces and built structures are being designed around that.

Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, along with Christchurch City Council and Environment Canterbury, has a significant role in the project. Chief Executive Arihia Bennett says Ngāi Tahu is extremely happy to be a partner and is looking forward to seeing the city's children playing again by the river and in the parks.

"Outrageous" children's playground

A giant playground for children and families will be built on the northeast corner of the East Frame.

CERA Chief Executive Roger Sutton says the whole plan is a "grunty" one and part of that will be the world-class playground.

"Some Christchurch children have grown up knowing nothing of the CBD. The idea is to really draw them back into the central city with an outrageous playground that anchors that corner of the city. Now we are no longer planning; we are doing. We can look forward to the progress of 2013 – the year of the Christchurch rebuild – and start to bring the new CBD to life," says Mr Sutton.

A competition (The Amazing Place) has been launched encouraging preschool and school-aged children to come up with ideas for the urban playground and other major projects (see page 4 inside for more details). ☺

The job ahead

The project team is known as Team Inaka, the Māori word for 'whitebait'. 'Inaka pounamu' is also the name of the distinctive pale greenstone of the Canterbury region. BDP's Andrew Tindsley says achieving the return of whitebait to the river is a major goal of the project and will be a measure of its success.

- The project team has 65 days from 7 January 2013 to come up with a broad concept design.
- Detailed design will follow.
- Physical work is to start in the second half of this year.
- The Precinct and Frame projects will be completed in three years.



Members of Team Inaka met early in January for an information-gathering walk around the Ōtākaro/Avon River



Gerry Brownlee
Minister for Canterbury Earthquake Recovery

Welcome to 2013, which sees us at the beginning of a massive building programme right across greater Christchurch. From the CBD to the suburbs the volume and value of consents is increasing.

With 930 full or partial demolitions completed in the central city, 2013 will be the first big year of pouring concrete as we shift from demolition to construction.

Despite the predictions of many Canterbury has proven itself to be resilient, with continued economic growth and strong economic statistics throughout a challenging couple of years. And aside from rebuilding activity the fundamentals exist for growth to be sustained into the future.

It's heartening to see so many people who have had to move off very badly damaged land successfully establishing new homes on more reliable land.

A really positive example is Kaiapoi where a significant number of local people have resettled nearby, along with large numbers moving into the area, re-forming the geographic and social fabric of that community.

I hear a lot about a lack of community input into the recovery. This is nonsense. Communities are driving the recovery. Throughout the city, people have led the way and supported each other, developing closer and more resilient community networks. They are now identifying what they need in order to be an effective part of the recovery picture, from events which bring their communities together, to suburban plans and precinct developments. This community-led impetus is within the context of a planning and investment framework provided by the government, through CERA and other government agencies, and local territorial authorities.

Communities will continue to play a key role, and to suggest otherwise is to demonstrate a lack of respect to those in these communities working so hard. There is no place for those who wish to slow progress and put vested interests above those of the communities of Greater Christchurch, however, we will always support those playing a positive role in the recovery.

I look forward to working with you throughout 2013. ☺

Gerry Brownlee

2013 Census - Every Person Counts on March 5

Arguably the most important census in recent times will take place on Tuesday, 5 March 2013.

For Christchurch, the upcoming census means the city will have crucial information as it rebuilds. Census information is used to make decisions on health, education and other community services.

Government, local government and many others around the country are also keenly awaiting the results of this census so that they can use the information to make well-informed decisions for our country and communities in the future.

Census collectors will begin visiting homes to deliver census forms from 16 February.

In total, census collectors will visit around 1.8 million homes, delivering 6.4 million census forms (4.6 million individual and 1.8 million dwelling forms). Collectors will be encouraging people to complete their forms online.

The online option is secure, quick and easy and may mean a collector does not have to return to your home to collect forms.

Statistics New Zealand understands that people's circumstances may have changed or be uncertain because of the earthquakes. Statistics New Zealand wants to make it as easy as possible for people in Christchurch to take part in the 2013 Census, so it has developed a Christchurch-specific section on its website.

Information included on the website gives advice on how to answer questions within the census, such as:

How should I answer if my address has been affected by the Canterbury earthquakes?

Give the address you are currently living at, unless you are temporarily living somewhere and will be moving back to your earthquake-affected address (once your home has been repaired or rebuilt, for example). In that case, give that address you will be moving back to.

For more information, please go to: <http://aboutcensus.census.govt.nz/about-census/census-in-canterbury/filling-forms-canty.aspx>

Everyone who is in New Zealand on 5 March 2013 must fill in a census form. ☺



To do your census form online you need:

- your paper forms
 - your Internet Access Code
1. Go to www.census.govt.nz
 2. Enter your Internet ID from your paper forms
 3. Enter your Internet Access Code and follow the instructions
 4. For your privacy remember to logout when you are finished



Phone: 0800 236 787
– available from 11 February 2013.
Email: censuscommunications@stats.govt.nz
Web: www.census.govt.nz



Rescued plants to star at the Ellerslie International Flower Show

For some red-zoned Sumner residents, figuring out how to retrieve a few special plants and trees from their properties proved one headache too many in the aftermath of the earthquakes. That was until local resident Scott Fletcher decided to put his skills as a landscape gardener to good use.

"A neighbour of mine asked for some advice on a favourite rose bush in her red-zoned property. It looked really sick and she wasn't sure how to go about relocating it, ahead of her settlement date with the Crown. I offered to go in and retrieve it for her and any other favourites – in return, we agreed I could take whatever the family didn't want, for my landscape business."

Scott Fletcher says that arrangement worked so well, word soon spread throughout the community. He has since helped more than two dozen residents retrieve plants that have sentimental value from red-zoned properties where it was safe and possible to do so. Property owners have the opportunity to remove special trees and shrubs right up until their settlement date with the Crown and where access is permitted.

"People just don't have the time and energy to go round and do it themselves and don't necessarily have the experience, knowledge or equipment to go about it the right way."

Mr Fletcher says he's approached demolition companies on the job and they've been happy for him to remove some unwanted plants or trees.



Former Sharks NRL player, now landscape gardener Scott Fletcher in his garden full of rescued plants waiting for new homes

"Some of the gardens would have gone to waste by now without watering and care or been lost during demolition. But it's not just about looking after plants; it's about looking after people. Seeing the smiles on people's faces makes it really worthwhile," says Mr Fletcher.

Scott Fletcher is looking after some of the plants in pots until the owners are settled into new homes. He is using some in his landscaping business but he has another plan for the rest: to make them part of his entry in this year's Ellerslie International Flower Show in Christchurch.

"My entry will be made entirely out of rehomed plants from red-zoned properties. Where some would certainly have died, they will now get the opportunity to sit in this garden and be looked over by 80,000 to 100,000 people," says Mr Fletcher.

"Every plant has a story. That is what I love about the Flower Show – I will have the opportunity to tell that story."

Southern Demolition is allowing Mr Fletcher to use materials it has salvaged from earthquake-damaged homes to create the physical features of the entry.

You'll be able to check out his entry at the Ellerslie International Flower Show in North Hagley Park from 6–10 March 2013. ♻️



Roger Sutton
CERA Chief Executive

2013 is destined to be a year of action for greater Christchurch. We've largely done the planning and now we are implementing those plans.

Significant progress has already been made. Many kilometres of road have now been repaired and rebuilt, stormwater pipes fixed, building consents issued, concrete poured etc. While delays are frustrating when you have to alter your route to work or school because of roadworks, every piece that's fixed gets us closer to recovery.

Top of the agenda is driving the rebuild of our homes so people have some security about where they're going to be living.

We're working on ways to encourage and speed up the rebuild process. There's been a lot more activity with rebuilding as new homes pop up around the city, Selwyn and Waimakariri. And insurance companies are now giving assurances that their customers' homes will all be repaired or rebuilt in the next two to three years.

This is obviously heartening news for the people of greater Christchurch who are able to start planning for the future so they can get on with their lives.

I went for a walk around Ōtākaro/Avon River with Ngāi Tahu representatives and the project team led by infrastructural design and asset management firm Opus working on Te Papa Ōtākaro/Avon River Precinct. We've got some pretty amazing opportunities to develop a world-leading 3.2km riverside area for recreation and lunching – that's a huge piece of land in the heart of the city. I'm inspired by what I've seen in places like Melbourne and Brisbane where their cities also nestle along riverbanks. Some concept design work has already begun and physical construction is expected to start later this year and take about three years in total to complete.

Elsewhere in the newsletter you'll read more about The Amazing Place Schools' Competition to design a playground and project for Christchurch's central city. Our young people are going to be leading the city in the future. By encouraging them to participate, they can play their part in establishing the new Christchurch central city – what a legacy and bragging rights!

The region continues to be the major source of new employment for New Zealand. With a whole host of new jobs, we'll be needing more hospitality industry (bars, restaurants and so on), more recreational and cultural activities, more community support and good infrastructure like roads and public transport. All the things that create good places to live while greater Christchurch is built back better.

It's encouraging to see Kaiapoi and Rolleston town centres being replanned to meet their particular issues – in Kaiapoi there was a lot of damage, in Rolleston the population is expected to nearly triple in the next 30 years. That's what we want too – to ensure that what we're working on now will provide a platform for the future of greater Christchurch.

I want 2013 to be the year that you see more progress, where you can point to all the recovery happening around you. ♻️

THE AMAZING PLACE

CHRISTCHURCH CITY PLAYGROUND AND PROJECT SCHOOLS' COMPETITION

An exciting competition has been launched to encourage the children of Canterbury to have a real say as a new and amazing city centre comes to life. The Amazing Place competition, running in the first half of this year, will give children of all ages the opportunity to think about what shape the new Christchurch central city will take.

Preschool and primary age children can come up with ideas for a planned new family playground in the central city. We're building the best playground in the world for the children of Canterbury in the northeast corner of the East Frame because, after what they've been through these last two years, they deserve it.

Older children will be encouraged to expand their thoughts into designing a major project in the central city, in a way that can at once potentially influence actual planning, and contribute to learning outcomes.

Up to three entries may be submitted by each school or learning centre, over a range of deadlines through to the start of the third term. A major awards ceremony will be held in term 3.

More information can be found at: www.theamazingplace.co.nz

ECE (Early Childhood Education) PLAYGROUND COMPETITION

- * Children to draw or build their idea of the best playground in the world, or a part of it.
- * In the process of discussing and deciding what might be included, children can:
 - identify preferences and explain why they like them
 - generate ideas about how their preference might be included in a playground
 - share ideas with others about what makes a good playground
 - describe new things they would like to have in a playground, and explain how they work

YEARS 1-4 PLAYGROUND COMPETITION

- * Students to present their idea of the best playground in the world, or a part of it – and describe the adventures they will have within it.
- * The judging panel will assess entries against four criteria:
 - Amazing imagination
 - Amazing interactivity
 - Amazing presentation
 - Amazing description
- * Prizes in each year level.

YEARS 5-6 PLAYGROUND COMPETITION

- * Students to present their idea of the best playground in the world, or a part of it, describe the adventures they will have within it – and write a draft letter to the Prime Minister explaining why he should pay for it.
- * The judging panel will assess entries against five criteria:
 - Amazing imagination
 - Amazing interactivity
 - Amazing presentation
 - Amazing description
 - Amazing persuasion
- * Prizes in each year level.
- * Entries for the playground competitions are due by 19 April, 2013.

YEARS 7-11 CITY PROJECT COMPETITION

- * The competition is designed to involve every student in years 7 to 11 in the Canterbury region in bringing ideas to life for a major project in the central city.
- * Students to:
 - familiarise themselves with the Christchurch Central Recovery Plan, including the Blueprint for the central city
 - form a team and write a contract on how they will work together, how they will share any prizes they win or intellectual property they create and how they will resolve possible disputes
 - choose an anchor project or propose a development for another site shown on the Blueprint
 - design their dream project
 - engage their school community so that it reflects the community's views
 - write a proposal outlining their case for why their dream project should be supported by the people who will pay for it

YEARS 12-13 CITY PROJECT COMPETITION

- * Students to form multi-disciplinary teams of between three and eight members, with skills in brief development and project management, design and visual communication, construction and mechanical technologies, geography, accounting, economics and English.
- * Students study the Christchurch Central Recovery Plan and choose an anchor project or propose a development for another site shown on the Blueprint.
- * Students to:
 - design the development
 - check the land is suitable using GIS and other data, and modify the design if necessary
 - work out how much it will cost and how it might generate revenue
 - show it has community support
 - present a persuasive case for why it should be funded by the government, a bank or an investor





Town Crier helping with directions at Re:START Mall

Canterbury tourism: the road to recovery

The road to recovery is now looking more positive for the Canterbury tourism industry with stronger visitor numbers over the summer and the prospect of more accommodation coming online in 2013.

Christchurch and Canterbury Tourism Chief Executive Tim Hunter says the visitor decline that was triggered by the earthquakes of 2011 has now been arrested with improving arrivals from most key markets in recent months.

"There were noticeably more visitors in December and January compared with last year. The i-SITE Visitor Centre on Rolleston Ave has been humming with people from all over the world, and it is particularly pleasing to see more Australians returning to our city. We have been working to address Australians' misconceptions of Christchurch by replacing the early post-quake images of the city with fresh ones that show the city is becoming a vibrant and exciting place to be," says Mr Hunter.

The 'Christchurch Reimagined' campaign has worked well and a new campaign – 'Test Drive a South Island Road Trip' – has also been launched to attract the Australian market back for longer trips around the South Island.

Mr Hunter says visitors to Christchurch have responded well to the new tourism experiences that tell the earthquake story, such as the Red Zone Bus Tours, the Canterbury Museum's Earthquake City Exhibition and central city Punting on the Avon.

"These products fulfil an important need for visitors who are intrigued by these events and the way Cantabrians have responded. They have also become a popular way for locals

to show visitors around the city and explain the impacts of the earthquakes and the future plans for rebuild."

Christchurch's popular Earthquake City Exhibition will re-open in a larger format as Quake City on 15 February in Re:START Mall.

"The tourism market in Christchurch reaches its peak towards the end of February so the opening of Quake City will be a particularly relevant new tourism activity for the region," says Mr Hunter.

The last year has also seen Canterbury grab nine spots in AA Travel's 101 Must-Do list; the thermal resort of Hanmer Springs ranked number 1, while a cruise around Akaroa Harbour with Black Cat Cruises was ranked at number 3. Travel guide Lonely Planet has dubbed Christchurch "the ever-evolving city buzzing with creativity" and named it in its Top 10 Cities for 2013. ♻️

"Lonely Planet's inclusion of Christchurch in its list of Top 10 Cities in the world to visit in 2013 was huge for us. It was priceless recognition of all the hard work that has gone on in Christchurch since the quakes and has the potential to make a major difference to the speed of the tourism industry recovery."

- Christchurch & Canterbury Tourism Chief Executive Tim Hunter

Hotels planning to re-open in Christchurch in 2013	
April	Heritage Hotel (Old Government Building) Copthorne Commodore (new wing complete)
May	The Rendezvous Hotel
July	Chateau on the Park (repairs complete)
August	Novotel in the Square
September	Latimer Hotel (new build)

Dates are indicative only

Other developments in the pipeline for 2013	
March	New Regent Street re-opens
May	Christchurch Gondola re-opens in the Port Hills
July	Cardboard Cathedral opens
September	New Carlton Hotel opens (bar and restaurant only)
October	Market Square at Arts Centre re-opens

Dates are indicative only

BRIEFS

New website brings information together for TC3 property owners

There has been steady interest in a new website launched recently to help summarise the assortment of information available for Technical Category 3 (TC3) property owners.

The residential rebuild information is already publicly available through a range of sources but the new site brings that information together. It will also be updated as the information evolves over time. The website is a joint project between the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and CERA.

Visit the site at:

www.canterburyresidentialrebuild.govt.nz

Land acquisition update

Christchurch Central Development Unit (CCDU) has settled its first land acquisition deals, signed two further agreements, and received signed sale and purchase documents from 16 land owners. It has also reached agreement in principle with a further 19 parties.

Minister for Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Gerry Brownlee says, "Negotiations are under way on 177 other properties, some of them well advanced, so altogether CCDU has made progress on 215 CBD sites, starting with those of highest priority."

CCDU is well advanced through the planning process for the Convention Centre Precinct and will have all the land cleared by year's end. Clearance of land required for the Metro Sports Facility will also begin this year, paving the way for construction in 2014.

Strong interest in Health Precinct planning role

The call has gone out for a master planner for a world-class health hub in the Christchurch central city. In response, the market-place has shown strong interest.

The private sector has a lead role to play in the development of the Health Precinct. It will be working in partnership with the Canterbury District Health Board, University of Canterbury, University of Otago and Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology.

Late last year, a Request For Proposal (RFP) was issued for a lead consultant to provide master planning services for the Precinct. The RFP closes on the 11th of this month. The Health Precinct will be a campus-style hub within walking distance of the Metro Sports Facility and Christchurch Hospital which, along with Burwood Hospital, is set for major redevelopment.

The Health Precinct will include:

- allied health – partnerships between industry and clinicians
- medi-hotels – where patients and families can stay while receiving outpatient or specialist care
- a knowledge campus – providing clinical education and training
- a research campus – for public and private research activities
- private and public services delivering health care in and near the new ambulatory care hub.

SCIRT Progress Statistics

Completed

175	projects totalling \$88.5 million
20.5km	fresh water pipe laid
104km	wastewater pipe laid
6.1km	stormwater pipe laid
965km	of the 1,610km wastewater network (over 100 mm diameter) completed using CCTV/ other assessment
815km	of 1,080km of stormwater network (over 100mm diameter) completed using CCTV/other assessment
157,464	square metres road pavement laid
4,069	face-to-face interactions about our work
830	work notices distributed to 196,802 residents
2,151	square metres of retaining walls repaired

In pipeline

98	projects totalling \$292.4 million under construction
50	projects totalling \$243.8 million being estimated
180	projects totalling \$1.3 billion being designed



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

UPDATE FROM THE STRONGER CHRISTCHURCH INFRASTRUCTURE REBUILD TEAM (SCIRT)

Earthquake silver lining: more resilient wastewater systems

Before the earthquakes, the city's wastewater network relied on gravity. Pipes were generally made of brittle materials, metres-deep underground.

The earthquakes created major damage, with more than 300km of wastewater pipes and about 100 wastewater pump stations needing to be fixed. As well as replacing or

relining broken pipes and building new pump stations, in many places, SCIRT is designing new systems to better withstand any future earthquakes and deal with the changed ground conditions.

The SCIRT communication team holds meetings or open days whenever new wastewater systems are being installed.

Three new wastewater systems are being rolled out

- In areas with the least damage but still prone to liquefaction, enhanced gravity systems fit the bill. Large areas of St Albans and Merivale are currently underway. Brittle pipes are replaced with plastic or polyvinylchloride, laid at shallower, more accessible depths.
- In the areas most prone to significant ground movement and liquefaction, pressure systems are the best solution. This includes parts of Halswell, Shirley, Dallington and Southshore. Each home will have its own wastewater collection and pumping chamber buried on-site which will connect to the new pressure main in the street.
- Vacuum is the third option for suburbs prone to ground movement or liquefaction. Wastewater flows from your house using gravity as normal then connects to on-street collection chambers, buried in the grass berm. Vacuum pressure empties these tanks and takes the waste to a vacuum station. Aranui, Wainoni and parts of Shirley are areas getting vacuum systems. ♻️



Mark Smith, of Rockinghorse Road, Southshore, had a pressure wastewater tank installed at the end of last year by SCIRT delivery team Fulton Hogan. Several hundred Southshore residents are getting the more reliable, easier to fix pressure wastewater systems in coming months

UPDATE FROM THE EARTHQUAKE COMMISSION

EQC moves ahead with settling land damage claims

The assessment and settlement of a possible \$2 billion worth of EQC Canterbury land claims is moving ahead.

In the Port Hills, settlements have been under way for some time, with priority given to claims that need to be settled so building work can begin. All Port Hills settlements should be completed in the first half of this year.

On the flat land in the green zone, EQC has already done extensive geotechnical mapping. This work has identified 70,000 properties that potentially have land damage that is extensive enough to qualify for an insurance payment. In January, teams of field staff started inspecting these properties to confirm the extent of damage and estimate the cost to repair the damage. The teams started in the east of the city and are moving west throughout the year.

Most land damage can be seen, such as cracks and undulations. However, some types of damage cannot be easily seen; for example, increased risk of liquefaction

and increased risk of flood due to land subsidence. By analysing the soil composition, depth to groundwater, and changes in land height as a result of the earthquakes, EQC has identified about 14,000 properties that may have "increased risk" damage. Drilling is under way to collect soil samples required to confirm the extent of damage and an appropriate settlement. Drilling is expected to be completed in March 2013.

EQC will cash settle land claims in Canterbury, just as it does elsewhere around the country. Property owners do not need to take any action. Settlements will be completed by the end of 2014. ♻️

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

EARTHQUAKE COMMISSION
Kōwhiriāna Rūwhenua





Cantabrians have remarked at the pleasure of hearing laughter and music ring out through the central city, thanks to the World Buskers Festival

Buskers bring light and laughter to Christchurch

The streets of central Christchurch were brought to life last month with the arrival of the SCIRT World Buskers Festival 2013.

More than 50 national and international artists performed over 550 circus, street and comedy shows. The 10-day event, starting 17 January, attracted an estimated 300,000 plus visitors.

For the first time since the quakes, the Cashel Mall area hosted Festival events as street performances featured at Re:START Mall. 🔄



Images supplied courtesy of Triebels Photography

UPDATE FROM ENVIRONMENT CANTERBURY

Environment Canterbury takes lead in land use recovery

Environment Canterbury received a direction from Minister for Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Gerry Brownlee, towards the end of last year to develop a Land Use Recovery Plan for greater Christchurch.

Environment Canterbury will include the wider community in the process of developing this plan over the coming months together with strategic partners Christchurch City Council, Waimakariri and Selwyn District Councils, the New Zealand Transport Agency, Ngāi Tahu and CERA.

Commissioner Peter Skelton says the plan is vital to facilitate earthquake recovery with an urgent need for greater certainty regarding land use and infrastructure in greater Christchurch.

"Significant investment decisions that are currently being made will be assisted by the plan. The needs of people and businesses seeking to locate and relocate are pressing, and the plan will provide focus for decision making in this area," says Professor Skelton.

The recovery plan will respond to the impacts of the earthquakes on residential and business land use, providing

a platform for transitioning from rebuild to longer-term planning.

A consultation document should be available for public input along with a series of workshops in mid March. A draft recovery plan will be presented to the Minister for Canterbury Earthquake Recovery by the middle of the year, when he will call for written comments before considering the draft plan.

Environment Canterbury is also leading the development of the Natural Environment Recovery Programme. Commissioner Rex Williams says there will be a strong link to projects initiated and led by community organisations. 🔄



ENVIRONMENT CANTERBURY
Phone: (03) 353 9007
Web: www.ecan.govt.nz

Pallet Pavilion delight

Locals and tourists have been enjoying the highly creative Gap Filler known as the Summer Pallet Pavilion.

The Pavilion, on the former site of the Crowne Plaza, is built from over 3,000 wooden blue pallets. It was made up over a number of weeks by volunteers from the community.

Organiser Amy Jansen says both locals and tourists coming through the space since the end of December have given overwhelmingly positive feedback.

"For those who haven't been in the space before, it is a complete surprise; they love how strikingly beautiful, dynamic and imaginative it is."

Ms Jansen says 200 to 300 people are visiting on any given day and hundreds more have been attending night-time performances.

To find out what's on at the Pallet Pavilion, go to www.palletpavilion.com 🔄



Pallet Pavilion in action – Built by the community | For the community

Summer of Fun

The perfect Christchurch summer is being perfectly complemented by the series of Summer of Fun community-run 'Fun Days'. The Fun Days continue right through to the end of March. To find out more go to: www.bethere.co.nz or the 'Choice Chch' Facebook page.



Summer of Fun: Opawa Community Church Fun Day

Around 120 people attended the Opawa event in January. Most agreed that the highlight of the day was the YMCA's River Experience. Enthusiastic participants enjoyed the opportunity to kayak down the river and made the most of the chance for some impromptu water fights! 🔄

More earthquake recovery repairs on the go

An important Kaiapoi pedestrian link will soon be re-opened with work beginning in early February to repair the earthquake-damaged Kaikanui footbridge. This repair will be undertaken concurrently with other works to reinstate the holding capacity of the Kaikanui and Courtenay stormwater basins.

Stage one involves restoration of the stormwater basins and shortening of the Kaikanui footbridge to repair it.

The existing track in the Kaikanui basin area will be realigned to accommodate the shortened bridge and larger basin dimensions. Grassing the Courtenay basin and landscaping the Kaikanui basin, using plants that complement existing vegetation in the area, comprise stage two. A three-metre wide access track will also be reconstructed along the Courtenay basin stopbank.

As a safety precaution, fencing has been erected around the work area. Earthworks are expected to be completed in March 2013, with final landscaping at Kaikanui basin in April 2013. The Kaikanui footbridge will be closed to the public

during this time. However, entry to the playground beside the Courtenay basin and the walking track between the Courtenay and Kaikanui basins will be retained.

Residents with questions or concerns about this work should contact Gary Stevenson on 03 311 8900 extension 8931 or at gary.stevenson@wmk.govt.nz

Progress updates will be available on the New Foundations website at www.newfoundations.org.nz



Progress on community facilities in the Selwyn District

Planning for public facilities in the region and preparing for growth have always been a priority for the Selwyn District Council, and now more than ever. Prior to the earthquakes, a new library in Lincoln and a new Selwyn Aquatic Centre in Rolleston were identified as amenities the community needed.

Both projects were in the final stages of planning when the quakes hit. As with many new builds in the region after the quakes, deeper piles and more stringent strengthening were required and overall building costs rose. Population growth accelerated as people relocated from Christchurch, which has led to even greater demand for these services.

The new Lincoln Library, to be built in the town centre, is now in the final consenting stages and is set for completion by the end of 2013.

The existing Lincoln Library is very small and the community requested a bigger, more modern facility. In 2008, the Selwyn District Council agreed to upgrade the library, but unfortunately the earthquakes delayed the project and in that time the cost of building rose considerably. Given the expected population growth in the region and the importance of the library service to the community (60 per

cent of Selwyn residents are library members), the Council agreed to cover the additional costs. It also wants to ensure that the new library is built to a high safety standard and has the capacity to be a Civil Defence centre in the event of another emergency.

The Selwyn Aquatic Centre is another facility the Council sees as a priority, as there is no covered aquatic facility for its population of 42,000 people. The aquatic centre is now under construction and expected to open mid June. It will house a 25-metre lane pool, learn to swim and hydrotherapy pools, as well as a small spa and leisure pool. Aquatic Facilities Manager Kathy Moore says, "The complex has been future-proofed to allow for an expanding population."



Work progresses on Council facilities

Christchurch City Council has almost completed engineering assessments on its non-residential facilities, while repairs and investigations continue on other buildings across the city and Banks Peninsula.

Since the end of 2011, the Council has been carrying out Detailed Engineering Evaluation (DEE) assessments on its buildings under its Facilities Rebuild Plan project. These assessments help it to make informed decisions about whether a Council-owned building should continue to be occupied, as it has agreed to close all buildings that are below 34 per cent of the New Building Standard.

- By the end of January, 762 of the 916 assessments required were in progress or had been completed.
- The Council will complete all DEE assessments on its non-residential facilities by the end of March this year.
- Council expects the DEE assessments of its social housing facilities to be completed by March 2014. Of the 651 DEE social housing assessments that will be done, 232 are under way or have been completed.

Council General Manager Community Services Michael Aitken says although some key community facilities have been repaired in the past year, the Council's main focus since 2011 has been completing DEE assessments.

This year, the Council expects to investigate the future of hundreds more facilities based on a prioritised programme that was approved by councillors last year. Mr Aitken says, "After the earthquakes, the Council made a commitment to carrying out DEE assessments on all of its 1,600 buildings to ensure they were fit to be occupied. An assessment can take up to two months to complete."

Once these assessments and a number of other factors, such as insurance discussions, are complete, staff will present recommendations about each building to councillors. The councillors will then decide on its future.

"This year, our community can expect to see more tangible progress with Council-owned facilities. While we'll be demolishing some buildings, we'll also be repairing facilities and re-opening them to the public. Work will also continue on identifying opportunities for new facilities to better meet the needs of our community in the future," says Mr Aitken.

For more information visit www.futurechristchurch.co.nz

Latest news

- In December, the Council re-opened the South Library and Beckenham Service Centre in Colombo Street following the completion of temporary repairs and strengthening work.
- Repairs are continuing on Avebury House, a community and function centre in Richmond, and Linwood Community Arts Centre. Work is expected to be completed on both facilities in April/May this year.
- Repair and strengthening work has begun on the historic Edmonds Clock Tower, on the corner of Madras Street and Oxford Terrace. Once work is completed, the clock tower will again be telling the time on the banks of the Ōtākaro/Avon River. Repairs are also due to start on the Victoria Clock Tower (Jubilee Clock), corner of Montreal and Victoria Streets.

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