

## NZ Specialists

When considering migration there are so many questions that need to be answered. We will try, but if we don't know the answer, we will probably know someone who does. Some of the topics other migrants have asked for information on include:-

- Buying a House
- Renting property on your arrival
- Banking
- Tax & Trusts laws (UK to NZ)
- Child care and schooling
- Moving money to NZ
- Moving Pets to NZ
- Relocating your belongings
- Buying and Driving a car in NZ
- Kiwisaver (NZ pension scheme)
- Tax advice on keeping a UK rental property

If you would like information regarding the above topics or you have other topics to suggest please click [here](#) and request the info. We have teamed up with a number of specialist providers who have built businesses helping people like you.

## NZ Market Update:-

Welcome to the June state of the nation from Catalyst Recruitment. First off an apology; we spoke last month of our new live job board and its impending arrival. Well our IT guru has been working hard but a number of gremlins in the works slowed the project down a little. I can now state however that we are so close we can smell it and that we've seen the prototype and it looks fantastic (even if we do say so ourselves). Thanks for your patience with us on this matter; we're sure you'll love the final result as we do.

As most of you will know New Zealand sport tends to revolve around rugby, cricket and netball but for the past two weeks the country has been gripped by World Cup madness. At the time of writing we have just drawn the final game, and along with Italy, have been ejected. To be unbeaten at only the Country's second appearance at the finals is a great achievement and has changed the sporting landscape in the country.

Winter is well set in throughout New Zealand; as I write kids in Christchurch have been enjoying a day off school due to the snow and the ski resorts are rubbing their hands with glee. As for the rest of the country it remains a mix of wet and windy weather with the occasional splash of sunshine. This sort of weather doesn't bode well for the civil contractors and the progression of projects throughout the North and South Islands. That said there are indications of companies recruiting for key professionals and so bit by bit the roles are coming up. On a down side even if they're looking for people they're taking an eternity to go through the recruitment process which is frustrating but can't last forever.

The consultants continue to go from strength to

strength and both Andy and Mireille are recruiting furiously for positions all over New Zealand. Clients once on a recruitment freeze are now looking to hire and are speaking with us at Catalyst on a regular basis. Where once we were focusing on only two engineering disciplines we're now looking for applicants in four or five and this continues to build every week. This is a great position to be in and more and more of you will be contacted as appropriate positions become available.

Things are slowly moving in the right direction and every week we're speaking with more and more of you about the opportunity to make the move to New Zealand. If the right position hasn't come up for you yet it's only a matter of time and it will happen soon. As ever join our Linked-In group and follow the weekly blog about activity over here in the industry and if you've set a date to move or visit get in touch and we'll do all we can to help you out.



Mt. Hutt, a mere 1.25hr drive from Christchurch Central received a massive 52cm snow dump overnight on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2010, bringing its snow base to 125cm and boding well for an amazing and extended ski season. (Photo courtesy of Ashburton District Tourism)

## FIFA WORLD CUP 2010: ALL WHITES ROCK!

There's no doubt about it, New Zealand is aflutter and falling just a little bit more in love with their newest sporting heroes each day. Widely regarded as the underdogs, NZ was ecstatic to even have qualified, not having done so since 1982. After the All Whites first match resulting in a 1-1 draw with Slovakia, even our Australian cousins were wanting to claim part of our glory, with front page headlines appearing in The Sydney Herald stating: "**Australasia 1 - Slovakia 1: Kiwis get the point**".

Dared we dream that things could get even better? And then it did - the All Whites drawing with the mighty Italians. A match reported to having been as evenly matched as a rusty old Fiat trying to taking on a gleaming Ferrari. The third match resulted in a 0-0 draw with Paraguay which means the end of the road for the All Whites tour, though they leave South Africa, heads held high, unbeaten. It's fair to say the All Whites have left their mark on the Nations' heart and far surpassed anyone's expectations.

# Peter Routledge – Case Study of moving from the UK to NZ

Current Employer: Opus International Consultants - Christchurch

Peter approached Catalyst in early February 2009 with the intention of obtaining a role specifically in the Christchurch area for early 2010. This was a tough assignment considering the market conditions!

Q. What inspired you to consider moving with your family to New Zealand?

A. *My wife is a New Zealander and had lived in the UK for the last seven years. We decided that we'd like to move to Christchurch to be closer to her family.*

Q. Has New Zealand lived up to your expectations?

A. *Yes and no. The scenery is amazing and we've had plenty of opportunities to enjoy the outdoors so far. The work I'm doing is interesting and the challenge I'd been hoping for. Now that the weather is getting colder the lack of central heating and double glazing is noticeable. This seems to be very common in NZ Houses. House prices are relatively cheap compared to the UK and you can buy much more for your money. The cost of living is not as cheap as I'd been expecting although that might be due to me still converting everything back into pounds and the current poor exchange rate.*

Q. How has your life changed since moving to New Zealand?

A. *It's still early days. It is taking us a while to settle because our shipping has not yet arrived. We are living with my wife's parents at the moment which has allowed us to take our time in deciding where to live.*

Q. What one thing would you have done differently?

A. *From being offered the job to moving was only three months and everything happened so quickly. We probably wouldn't do anything differently although being organised wasn't easy. Looking back we were amazed that everything fell into place.*

Q. What one thing do you wish you had known about before moving?

A. *I think we underestimated how much time sorting out our affairs in the UK would take. We had a property to rent out and organising our belongings, cleaning and touching-up the house took much more time than we had anticipated. Unfortunately, this ate into the time we had hoped to spend with my family before we left.*

Q. What advice would you pass to someone commencing the process?

A. *Get three shipping quotes and try to negotiate the rate of one of them down. Check with your travel agent to ensure you get double baggage allowance on the plane. If you are depending on your work email address for personal things make sure you change this well before you finish work and lose access to the email address. When setting up bank accounts in NZ, shop around as accounts vary in terms of the types of banking fees charged, there are some where fees are waived e.g. if you have a mortgage with the bank.*

Q. Looking back with hindsight, do you think you have made the right move with your family?

A. *Definitely yes. We'd wanted to live in Christchurch which meant turning down an earlier job offer in Wellington. We are pleased that we waited for the perfect job offer which came at just the right time and have no regrets.*

Useful facts...

First interview to offer- 4 months

offer to arrival - 4 months

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## Driving in New Zealand- What do you need to know?



At first glance driving in New Zealand may not seem too dissimilar to that in the UK but there are a couple of things that you need to be aware about surrounding licensing and unique road rules and legislation.

### Driver license requirements:

It is a legal obligation to have your valid and current driver licence or international driving permit with you at all times when you are driving.

Upon arrival in New Zealand, if you hold a valid and current overseas driver license or international driving permit, you can drive for a maximum of 12 months from the date that you arrived in New Zealand. If your license is from overseas and not in English you must carry an accurate and authorised English translation with you at all times.

It is advisable prior to the expiration of the 12 months that you apply to a driver licensing agent to convert your overseas license to the New Zealand equivalent, pass the required eye test and pay the relevant fees. Currently if you hold a valid license from the UK for more than 2 years, you would not need to sit any additional theory or practical tests.

Unlike the UK, New Zealand does not have a distinction between automatic and manual full driver licenses.

In New Zealand it is not compulsory to have car insurance although this is advisable in the case of an accident where your car is damaged through the fault of somebody else who happens to not be insured!

### Our Road Rules:

We have a unique give way rule at intersections. When turning left, you must give way to vehicles that are coming from the opposite direction and turning right. Treat every intersection like a roundabout, giving way to traffic from your right.

Unlike the UK, you can only park in the direction of traffic flow on your side of the road. You can be fined or towed away for parallel parking on the wrong side of the road.

Drivers are no longer allowed to use hand-held mobile phones when driving and writing, reading or sending text messages on a mobile phone is also illegal.

Everything is referred to as kilometres per hour not miles. On most New Zealand's main rural roads and motorways, the speed limit is 100km/h unless a sign says a lower speed applies. In urban areas the speed limit is normally 50km/h again unless a sign says otherwise.

By law, everyone in the vehicle must wear a safety belt or appropriate child restraint; it is the driver's responsibility to ensure this is abided by. Children under the age of 5 must be secured in an approved child restraint.

These are by no means the only applicable rules relevant to driving in New Zealand, as such before driving in New Zealand it is suggested to view the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) website for further information and to familiarise yourself with a copy of the 'Official New Zealand Road code'

[www.nzta.govt.nz](http://www.nzta.govt.nz)