



## this issue

NZ Market update **P.1**Christchurch - Whats going on? **P.2**IPENZ Response - Christchurch Earthquake **P.3**Emigration case study: Agostino Lampariello **P.3**Telediscount.co.uk - cheap calls to NZ **P.4**

Queen Charlotte Sound, Top of South Island

## 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 then 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 then please email us and request the info. We have teamed up with a number of specialist providers who have built businesses helping people like you.

## New Zealand market update

Welcome to the March newsletter and the latest state of the nation. Developments in Christchurch since the earthquake a month ago have been the main talking point throughout New Zealand with other work temporarily going on the back burner. Many of our clients have been focussing on the welfare of their staff in Christchurch City and doing all they can to assist in the disaster. Many who were based in the CBD have either permanently or temporarily lost their offices and as such office sharing or remote access has become the norm for now.

As we head into April the way ahead is still unknown with so much work to be done but small steps are being made. The de-construction plan for the city centre has begun and is estimated to take up to 6 months to complete with roughly one in every four buildings having to be removed. Utilities have been patched up on the whole but within 6 months it's expected that the first civil construction works will start taking place. Also announced this week was the relocation of the Rugby World Cup games away from Christchurch as there was no guarantee that the stadium, pitch and enough local infrastructure could be repaired in time. Not a popular decision with the local population but accepted by all as a realistic move.

Many of the clients we worked with after the initial earthquake in September are currently working through their needs going forward. Obviously with the estimated bill increasing from \$4b to \$16b+ there will be a significant need for construction staff of all shapes and sizes. Already the need for Quantity Surveyors has been mentioned and as the work ahead is awarded then further requirements will be announced.

Elsewhere in the industry the construction market remains quiet with limited activity happening in Auckland and Wellington. In the civil sector there has been a concern that in order to pay for the Christchurch rebuild a number of key projects in Auckland would be put on hold. Thankfully the government has announced today that this will not be the case stating that to put Auckland on hold could be significantly detrimental to the economy (<http://tinyurl.com/Auckland-Projects>). With this news announced we should see a slow but continued increase in civil activity, primarily in the North Island, with a number of key projects coming on line over the next few months. This combined with civil work coming up in Christchurch should see a much busier industry by the end of 2011.

Many engineering consultants are putting extra resources into the Christchurch region leaving offices stretched throughout the rest of the country. Their requirements continue to focus on candidates with seismic (building design and assessment), geotechnical and civil structural experience. Although there is acknowledgement of a need, activity is still a little slow whilst things unfold in Christchurch. Once companies have a better understanding of work going forward then we anticipate a burst of activity and a real demand for specialists.

As much as this has been a difficult month for New Zealand it's fair to say that the resilience and spirit of the Christchurch people has been amazing. It may take time but New Zealand will recover from this disaster and will be the stronger for it. As always if you're intending to visit or are making plans to move for good, let us know and we'll do everything we can to help.



## The Rebuild Process

The aim is for residential repair and construction to begin as quickly as possible due to winter closing in. It is hoped that utilities will be patched and working again within the month and then the focus can be on civil reconstruction as well. As an indicator of how much needs to be done; Christchurch's annual deep pipeline replacement quota was 4km. After the first earthquake in September there was an immediate need for 100km to be replaced; how big that figure is now we are yet to find out.

### Houses & Buildings

The construction industry will have requirements first with many projects starting within the next few months. There will be a need for those with all types of construction experience including commercial, residential and historic (many of Christchurch's oldest buildings will be restored to keep the character of the city). Positions in demand will include Site Engineers, Site Managers, Project Managers, Quantity Surveyors, and Estimators.

### Civil Construction

The civil reconstruction works are not expected to be under way until June / July, but they may surprise us and move quicker! The work will be varied and will include drainage, road, structural and general civil projects. Experience in one or a number of these fields will be invaluable when the work gets to project stage. At this point it's too early to even guess the numbers required as we have nothing from the last earthquake to go on but positions likely to be in need include Site & Project Engineers, Site Managers, Project Managers, Quantity Surveyors, and Estimators.

### Structural Designers

Ongoing need over the next 5 years as many buildings need to be redesigned and rebuilt. We will need seismic experience which is usually gained in NZ, Europe, California, Canada and Japan. Initial thoughts turned towards Japan, but their own earthquake and tsunami mean Japanese engineers may wish to remain at home, but we may find more Japanese wishing to migrate here.

### Geotechnical Engineers

Civil Engineers that have specialised in Geotechnical designs are of most use. Other Geoscience disciplines will be required to a lesser extent – mainly Engineering Geologists. Significant liquefaction has occurred so each site needs to be assessed and reported on.

### Highways Designers

Junction and pavement design will be required.

### Water & Wastewater

Designers – Whole swathes of reticulation will need to be redesigned and the constriction phase managed.

### Hydrogeologists

The water supplies have been significantly affected across the whole region. New studies and advice will be required.

As you can gather, it is very early days in terms of who is required and when, but if you have an interest in helping New Zealand and more specifically Christchurch through the rebuild process, please do let us know.

# Christchurch... Whats going on?

After the initial Christchurch Earthquake on 4th September 2010 when fortunately nobody was killed but approximately NZ\$4billion damage occurred, it took some time for the rebuild to gain traction.

### So, who pays this NZ\$4billion?

New Zealanders, who buy an insurance policy for their home or personal belongings, will be charged a disaster insurance premium, which is passed on to the Earthquake Commission. This gives the individual "EQCover". EQCover provides for the first NZ\$100,000 of any claim. Any claim over NZ\$100,000 is provided for by the insurer. From the first earthquake there were 156,932 claims and it is estimated that the EQC will fund the first NZ\$1.5billion and private insurers the next NZ\$2.5billion in claims.

Immediately, Structural Engineers were flown down to Christchurch to assess buildings to decide whether they would be safe to enter and use moving forward. Generally this was for commercial or institutional buildings. At the same time a separate process was going on led by EQC where buildings were assessed by the EQC for access conditions, i.e. Red, Yellow or Green stickered. Red means unsafe: do not enter. Yellow means restricted use - parts may be off limits and people should enter only on urgent business and leave as soon as possible. A green sticker means the building has been inspected and there are no restrictions on use or entry. These stickers do not refer to whether the building should be demolished, only to access conditions.

Once the buildings were assessed, and before any of the repair work could be completed – the EQC and the private insurers had to appoint preferred project managers and construction companies for the detailed assessment and programming of the works. At this stage our construction clients needed to build specific earthquake teams which involved hiring some 300 staff mostly from around the country. Once this avenue had been exhausted, the companies looked to overseas candidates filling approximately 15% of vacancies of the vacancies this way.

At the same time, the Christchurch City Council is responsible for the highways and water reticulation systems. Immediate repairs were carried out to ensure houses received clean water and that when the toilet was flushed – the water reached the treatment works. Similarly gaping chasms in the roads were repaired. The longer term assessment and repair work was close to release but had not actually commenced. The city has been divided into 4 geographical regions each

with a major civil contractor or JV appointed. As the work had not started we are not sure of the numbers involved, but our best estimates were that approximately 200 staff would be required primarily from around the country with 10% sourced internationally. Each of the appointed contractors then needed to appoint teams of designers. The Consultants had been appointed, but the teams had not assembled. Again our best estimates were that the Engineering Consultants would need approximately 75 in their teams dedicated to this work – appointed locally and from across New Zealand with a few sourced internationally.

While all of this was going on the utilities companies were assessing and repairing their assets.

### After the February 22nd Earthquake

After the massive aftershock of February 22nd and the resulting destruction where up to 200 people were killed – the rebuild has taken on a completely new complexion as the landscape has literally changed. The Government has indicated that approximately NZ\$15billion damage has been caused. 100,000 of the 140,000 homes have been damaged with 10,000 no longer habitable. The Christchurch CBD is devastated with somewhere between 25% and 33% of the buildings to be demolished. The demolition phase will take approximately 6 months with the aim of making Christchurch CBD open to the public by Christmas.

Our estimates are based around discussions held with the decision makers within the industry. The second event has caused approximately 4 times the initial damage. Although the number of buildings damaged will not massively increase, the scale of each repair and the number of complete rebuilds will be much larger. We estimate that the size of the teams will need to double or in some cases treble. Our clients have indicated that they believe they have squeezed their own teams and the local market virtually dry and will need massive numbers from overseas. We believe that somewhere in the region of 1000 to 1500 people will be required.

The difficulty arises around the timing. Most of our clients have lost offices and have established 'command' centres where 10 to 25% of their staff can visit at any one time. It will be another few weeks before the new temporary/permanent offices are fitted out. Once this happens and the plan is confirmed for staff numbers – we can commence, but even then – we will need to find accommodation near the city for new migrants. So we expect a few speed bumps on the way.





## IPENZ Response Christchurch Earthquake

"On the morning of the 23rd February I indicated in an email to Members that we are developing a list of engineers willing and able to deploy to Christchurch, with an emphasis on those with building safety evaluation skills. Approximately 600 Members responded within 30 minutes – thank you. I also indicated that the lifelines engineering preparation of utility operators would be swinging into action, and that we expected calls for additional engineering resource for that work to be made through the network of utility operators. Hence we have concentrated our efforts on identifying structural engineers.

It is clear that accommodation and transport is at a premium, so we are concentrating our initial efforts on locally based personnel.

In the 24 hours since that message (23rd-24th February), information reaching us is that there has been some self-initiated deployment, and many engineering companies are deploying their staff from other centres to Christchurch. Some of this deployment is to service clients, but some engineers may also be available to contribute to the Council-led building safety evaluation programme. It appears that there are probably sufficient engineers on the ground today for the work planned, but because of the multi-faceted ways in which people are being deployed there is no definitive way of knowing for certain. National Office staff will continue to develop a list of those able to deploy over coming days – both to give early arrivals some stand-down time and to add additional resource if a request is received. If you are contacted and are already part of a company programme please tell us how that company programme is being coordinated so we do not waste time and effort.

We have indicated that when we provide a list to the authorities, we will inform those on the list they are on standby, but their deployment will only be confirmed when the authorities contact them to arrange travel. If not contacted, they would remain on standby. I am sorry I cannot be more definitive, but this seems to be the best handover mechanism.

In the meantime, many Members will appreciate the clear information being provided to the public via the media by several engineers on the ground explaining what has happened.

If there is more useful information I can provide over coming days I will again email again. In closing can I express the gratitude of us all to those who have stepped forwards to assist."

Dr Andrew Cleland  
Chief Executive  
ce@ipenz.org.nz

## Agostino Lampariello Case study of moving to NZ

Current Employer: Holmes Consulting Group, Auckland

Agostino first approached Catalyst at the end of April 2010. Having worked with Kiwi colleagues in Ireland, he had heard them speak of the opportunities available for civil and structural engineers (in particular those with seismic knowledge) such as himself. His further research showed that New Zealand could also offer him the life-style he and his fiancé Ulvi were looking for. After an initial phone interview with Holmes Consulting, Agostino then showed his commitment to making a potential move and travelled to Venice to meet up with his future employer for a face to face interview. Shortly after which he was invited to join the team at Holmes Consulting Group. Agostino and Ulvi arrived in Auckland on the 10th of February 2011.

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

*A. A new totally different life experience at a time when Europe isn't doing very well, and in a country that offers all possible outdoor sports, mild weather and good food - why not?!*

**Q. Has New Zealand lived up to your expectations?**

*A. Absolutely, and it went beyond. I am very pleased with the weather so far.*

**Q. Has your life changed since moving to New Zealand?**

*A. Too early to say but here I feel like two days are never alike.*

**Q. What one thing would you have done differently?**

*A. I would have liked to come here in the beginning of the summer.*

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

*A. Finding nice accommodation in Auckland is challenging, especially with the University start date (February-March). The location is very important as public transport and traffic on the roads can be very slow at commuting times.*

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

*A. Start the VISA process as soon as possible, it takes plenty of time.*

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

*A. It was the only one worth making at that time and it's proved the right one so far.*

### Useful Facts:

First Interview - 27<sup>th</sup> October 2010

Interview to Offer - 30 days

First contact to arrival - 256 days

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There are no connection fees or rental charges, and the rates apply 24/7! Customers can call the access number from any UK landline or mobile phone.

The service is simple to use; dial the access number that corresponds with the country you want to call, followed by the country code and subscriber number. The call charges for using Telediscount's access numbers will simply appear on your regular phone bill - you will not receive any bills from Telediscount. If you are ringing from a mobile you could be surcharged by your mobile operator. This depends on your mobile operator and which tariff plan you have. We advise you to get in touch with your mobile phone provider to double check if they surcharge on calls to our access numbers.

## From a UK phone:

**NZ Landline (2p/min) - 0844 462 95 95**

**NZ Mobile (15p/min) - 0911 501 25 25**

**Catalyst (free!) - 0808 234 3587**

For example, if you make a 5 minute call to a New Zealand landline from a BT phone via access number 0844 462 95 95 which is charged at 2p/min (0911 501 25 25 to call a mobile phone - 15p/min); next time you get your BT bill you will see a call to our 0844 462 95 95 number, a duration of 5 minutes and a total charge of 5min x 2p = 10p.

Furthermore, before each call, the operator will confirm the current call charge per minute so you will know exactly what the call is going to cost, no unpleasant surprises!

For more info see <http://www.telediscount.co.uk/>

*What topics would you like to see more information on? Drop us an email ([mverdon@catalystjobs.co.nz](mailto:mverdon@catalystjobs.co.nz)) and we'll be sure to include it in upcoming newsletters!*