



this issue

NZ Market update **P.1**

Room to Swing a Cat? House size comparison **P.2**

Emigration case study: Fawzi Ghorieb **P.2**

Who controls the remote in NZ tonight? **P.3**



Christchurch

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 a shorter state of the nation for April and a belated Happy Easter to you all! As we head into winter and the north island gets a soaking the focus still remains on Christchurch and what happens next. Behind the scenes meetings are being held to discuss the reconstruction of the city involving the Christchurch City Council, CERA (Christchurch Earthquake Recovery Authority) and a variety of consultants and contractors.

So Whats happened in the past few weeks?

- CERA is ready and poised to take over the Christchurch rebuild from Civil Defence, ending the state of emergency in the city.
- The first of the temporary housing contracts has been awarded and is likely to be followed very quickly by further contracts.
- Deconstruction of the city centre continues and looks likely to take 6 months as predicted.
- 5 main civil contractors are arranging a joint venture with council to work on the reconstruction of civil infrastructure and the details of this work will emerge over the next few weeks.

Earlier in the month the Prime Minister, John Key, was quoted as saying that there will be a need for 12,500 workers in Christchurch for the residential rebuild. Although these figures are an estimate (and include trade and semi skilled) it is realistic to expect a shortfall

of qualified people as the work in Christchurch starts to increase. Every day seems to produce a new set of opinions and numbers so it's very hard to be accurate but the opinion is that companies will have to look overseas for good people in the future. Andy and Phil will be in Christchurch in 10 days time speaking with clients and will report back on those meetings with the latest information from the city.

What we do know is that at present a number of people have already booked flights and arrived in the city. Those that fit into the following categories...

- Building Surveyor (Residential, commercial or historic buildings)
- Geotechnical Engineer
- Residential Project Managers
- Residential Site Managers
- Quantity Surveyors (Residential or Commercial)

...have been successful in securing jobs. **BUT** before you book your flight – make sure you call to discuss as not everyone is currently required and it would be shame to arrive 6 weeks early with nothing to do!!!

The rest of the country remains fairly quiet with many companies looking to start new projects over the next 2 months. As we head into the second half of 2011 we still expect the demand to increase across the board and as the work increases in Christchurch so the vacancies will appear elsewhere. As ever if you're close to making the move or looking to come over for a visit let us know and we can discuss a plan of action that will make New Zealand work for you.



Room to Swing a Cat?

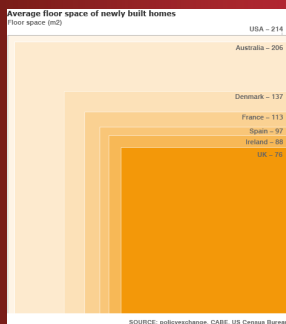
In the UK... hardly!

The UK builds the smallest homes in Europe, according to the government's adviser on architecture. How do British new-builds stack up internationally?

The sofa won't fit into the living room. There's not enough room for children to play in the kitchen as you cook. And where's the recycling bin meant to go?

These are some of the complaints from residents of new-build UK developments surveyed by Cabe, the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment.

The floor area and room sizes are the smallest in Europe - the average room in a newly built dwelling in France is 26.9m², compared with 15.8m² in the UK - and, the graph below shows how British new-builds are less than half the size of those in the United States and Australia.



New Zealand however paints a different picture...

New Zealand's largest homes can be found in some of our newest subdivisions, many of them in city fringe locations, new research has revealed.

'Quotable Value' said those districts with some of New Zealand's smallest homes tended to be located in rural areas. At suburb level, the influence of larger modern homes was more evident, QV said.

"Clearly the age of houses has a strong bearing on their size, suggesting that newer houses are larger than older ones," QV said.

Largest homes - Top 10 by district

- Selwyn District 181.3m²
- Queenstown Lakes 181m²
- Auckland, North Shore 176m²
- Auckland, Rodney 164m²
- Tauranga 162m²
- Wellington city 159m²
- Auckland city 158.3m²
- Hamilton city 158m²
- Kapiti Coast 158.2m²
- Waimakariri 156.3m²

Fawzi Ghorieb Case study of moving to NZ

Current Employer: MWH, Auckland

Fawzi approached Catalyst at the end of May 2010 with the aim of finding out about New Zealand. Fawzi and his wife Amina (a Doctor) felt that the UK could no longer offer them either the career path or life-style they were both seeking. After considerable further research they came to the conclusion that New Zealand was where they wanted to continue their life and bring up their young family.

Fawzi's first interview was arranged through Catalyst towards the end of June and a month later an offer for the National Technical Lead – Network Planning with MWH was secured. Fawzi commenced his new position in Auckland on the 7th November 2010.

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

A. *The Number of opportunities that New Zealand can offer ambitious Civil Engineers, and most importantly a better lifestyle when compared with the UK.*

Q. Has New Zealand lived up to your expectations?

A. *It is still a bit soon to give a fair opinion since I am still in the process of discovering the country, but from what I have seen so far New Zealand is a lovely place to live and work in.*

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

A. *We feel that we have more time for activities other than work, and the better weather really encourages us to do a bit more than we use to.*

Q. What one thing would you have done differently?

A. *Considered moving to New Zealand two years earlier on my own, and bring the rest of the family after having time to check for better accommodation.*

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

A. *Nothing I can think of.*

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

A. *Do thorough research about the work environment, economic situations and job opportunities.*

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

A. *Yes.*

Useful Facts:

1st Contact - 25th May 2010

1st Interview - 25th June 2010

Job Offer - 29th July 2010

[1st contact to] Arrival - 7th November 2010
(165 days)

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Who Controls the Remote in NZ Tonight? The Royal Wedding

The TV Battle:

Royal Wedding - From 7:30pm
Breakers v Taipans - From 7:30pm
Highlanders v Blues - From 7:35pm

New Zealand has well and truly been overcome with a case of Royal Wedding Fever. Across the country there are gatherings of every description being organised to watch the big event live tonight (which starts at 7pm our time and goes on through to the early hours of Saturday morning).

From the informal; watching it with a couple of mates at home and possibly drinking a glass or two of bubbly too many, through to formal complete mock black tie wedding receptions with cardboard cut outs of Prince William and Kate taking pride of place, and beef wellingtons, toad in the hole, cottage pie, Devonshire teas and glasses of Pimms featuring on the menu (with provisions being made to soak up the hangovers with bubble and squeak in the morning).

There are reports of Kiwi ladies polishing up their tiaras, pulling their own wedding dresses back out of the cupboard, shaking off the mothballs and squeezing themselves back in, whilst at the same time decking the living room out with as much British memorabilia they can muster. In Christchurch you can even 'attend' the big event seated within one of the pews of a local Church and watching the big screen at the altar, so 'you may really get the feel of being part of it'.

Whilst this sudden case of 'madness' is going on, what many don't realise is that there's something much much bigger at stake tonight than tomorrow's undoubted hangover due to an over indulgence of celebratory drinkies and the bags under the eyes from lack of sleep. New Zealand's biggest battle of the sexes to date will play out tonight: that of who wins and gets ownership of the TV remote!

In competition to Kate and Will's big day on TV tonight we have the Highlanders vs Blues super 15 rugby match and a history making basketball final between the NZ Breakers and Cairns Taipans. If the Breakers win they'll be the first NZ team in any sport to win an Australian league title!

The battle lines have been drawn; in some households the winner is already abundantly clear, in others there is a raging war on who takes ownership of the much coveted pride of place: the living room.

One of our own; Director Andy Hopkins (and he won't be the only one) has already been informed he's sitting on the losers couch...any couch that is as long as he realises it won't be the family one.



Cartoon Source: Otago Daily Times <http://www.odt.co.nz/>

Nope that one's been taken over by the wife and mother-in-law and he's been told he's person non grata tonight. He doesn't mind too much as in order to sweeten the deal wifey has kindly informed him that he's been given a last minute 'evening out pass' to go and watch whatever it is he wants to watch... elsewhere.

With any young family in this scenario tonight, a secondary battle will need to be fought and won; that is of which of the two will win the rights to a sleep-in tomorrow morning and who will lose and be required to get up early and entertain the kids! At time of publication, this has not been decided in the Hopkins family, in fact it may not even have been thought of as yet.

Yes, I think the only real winners on the day (or evening as may be the case here) will be those watering establishments with multiple big screen TV's able to offer the mere male and his companions (who undoubtedly will be the overall losers according to this female writer) viewing of both games whilst at the same time keeping the pints flowing.

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