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Eden Park, Auckland - Rugby World Cup central!

## Top Jobs

If you fit any of the job roles below then contact us now! Our clients are desperate to speak with the following:

- New Zealand Rail Manager
- Bridge Designers / Technicians
- Geotechnical Engineers
- Intermediate Structural Engineers
- REVIT (Structural) Technicians

## 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 September issue of the Catalyst newsletter. Last weekend we adjusted our clocks leaving us with a 12 hour difference with the UK. The change has resulted in the long evenings of summer that Kiwis love; it won't be long before the barbeques are being stoked and the smell of cooked sausages and steak fills the air!

As most of you are aware we're also currently enjoying the Rugby World Cup and all the excitement and drama that it brings. Without detracting from the World Cup article later in the newsletter, it is fair to say that the atmosphere is fantastic and there's a real party going on throughout New Zealand. Andy, Mireille and I are off to the England v Scotland game tomorrow and are looking forward to a full house at Eden Park!

Throughout the industry we have seen an incremental pick up in activity. It's fair to say that most eyes are now on the New Year but companies are still looking for staff in key areas. The consultancies continue to search for geotechnical engineers, seismic structural specialists and bridge designers with a degree of activity starting to appear in the water (design) sector.

The contractors remain relatively quiet throughout the country but it's clear through our discussions that plans for substantial growth are in place for 2012 at which

point we should see a significant increase in the number of positions available. In Christchurch the insurance delays are hindering construction contractors and most are not anticipating hiring staff before the New Year.

Civil contractors in Christchurch are finding that work is slowly filtering through but nowhere near the amount they had anticipated. This will change as SCIRT iron out their working processes but at the moment companies are coping with their current staffing levels.

Although to the naked eye it may not seem much is happening in the New Zealand market the current state reminds me of the analogy of the swan. Beneath the water line everyone is working hard, almost frantically, whilst on the surface everything is calm and still. According to clients as we head towards 2012 all this activity will result in significant movement in the reconstruction of Christchurch and in the industry throughout NZ as a whole.

As always follow the latest news in New Zealand on the [Catalyst Blog](#) and through our LinkedIn Groups ([Moving to New Zealand](#) & [Christchurch Rebuild](#)). If you're visiting or moving to New Zealand in the near future then please get in touch and we'll help in anyway we can to make you move a successful one.

## The Rugby World Cup

The rugby world cup is the biggest event to hit New Zealand shores since the commonwealth games were held in Auckland back in 1990. The opening ceremony based at Eden Park was a celebration of all things Kiwi with a strong Maori theme and proved to be a great success.

Watch the Rugby World Cup Opening Ceremony:

[Part 1](#) - [Part 2](#) - [Part 3](#) - [Part 4](#)

The All Blacks opened the tournament with the first game against Tonga before a capacity 60,000 at Eden Park and since then the party has continued on throughout the country. Already we've had a few scares from Japan and Romania and depending on your interpretation of an upset, Ireland beat Australia!

We're heading into the knock out stages with a lot more excitement expected from this fantastic event. The great thing is the way in which the population has approached the competition as a whole. Different towns have adopted teams beyond their beloved All Blacks and have made the travelling fans feel right at home. One group of students have adopted Russia as their team for the tournament and have even gone as far as to have the team badge tattooed on the back-sides!

All around Auckland different areas are adorned with team flags; Mt Eden residents might be a little put out that they got Australia but they're not showing it and the atmosphere is one of fun and frivolity!

Auckland and Wellington will become the focus of attention as we close in on the quarters, semis and final and even if tickets to the final are hard to come by the fanzones around the city have been packed to the rafters with people having a great time.

New Zealanders have really come to the party in this World Cup and made all visitors very welcome. This is a true reflection of the way Kiwis are as a people and one of the main reasons why so many people look to New Zealand as their new home. As to who's going to win it's still anyone's guess, but my money's on a team that wears black!



## Debby Booth Case study of moving to NZ

Current Employer: Opus - Christchurch, Senior Environmental Engineer

Debby contacted us in February this year, but there was little happening in the W&WW market at that time. Debby bided her time and re-contacted us in June/July as Christchurch roles started to become available. Debby attended a videoconference within a 35 minute drive of home which proved successful. Debby was keen to secure a role in Christchurch so that she could be involved with the Christchurch Rebuild, gain international experience and get away from the UK at this stage of the economic recession.

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

**A.** *I wanted to do something different and enjoy the New Zealand lifestyle of outdoor activities - it was all spurred on by the global economic recession and lack of engineering positions in the UK.*

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

**A.** *I have only seen a little bit of the country so far, but I haven't seen a bit I don't like!*

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

**A.** *Not too much. It's been easy to keep in touch with friends & family, and getting back into my hobbies now that I am out here (horse riding, mountain biking, etc). I have found it has been relatively easy making new contacts.*

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

**A.** *Spent a bit more time packing! Can't think of anything else.*

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

**A.** *All the information given by Catalyst and Opus was very concise and I was well prepared for moving to [and working in] Christchurch.*

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

**A.** *Can't think of anything, but everyone here in New Zealand is really helpful and welcoming - you'll find they will give you advice whenever you need it, just ask!*

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

**A.** *So far so good, enjoying it all so far!*

### Useful Facts:

1 <sup>st</sup> Contact -	2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2011
1 <sup>st</sup> Interview -	13 <sup>th</sup> July 2011
Job Offer -	11 <sup>th</sup> August 2011
Start -	5 <sup>th</sup> September 2011
1 <sup>st</sup> Contact to start -	7 Months 3 Days

One of the most important decisions for you to make is...

## Q. When is the best time of year to move to New Zealand?

*The answer is fairly straight forward -*

### A. It all depends on your personal circumstances

In order to determine when the best time to visit / move to New Zealand is you should really work out exactly what your main drivers are, i.e.:

- Children and schooling
- Job
- Weather
- Important Date

If it is children and schooling then ask the question - Is it more important for your children to finish their academic year where they currently are? Or is it more important for your children to commence in a new school at the beginning of a school year? For instance, we often see UK based families moving to New Zealand after the completion of the UK school year (August time), but because the two school years do not coincide these kids may have to then join a new school near at the end of the NZ school year. Therefore it may be better for your kids to move to NZ in January and commence the NZ school year in early February when the school year starts.

Putting kids aside - NZ is one of those great all year round destinations and travelling at any time of the year is a possibility (depending on what you want to do). New Zealand's climate is temperate - i.e. changeable and mild all year round. This means that the NZ winters (for most of the country) are fairly mild. The rule is - the further north you go the better the weather - but if you like snow then the deep south offers solid winters!!

If you haven't worked out by now the seasons in New Zealand are directly opposite to those in the Northern Hemisphere, and are the same as those in Australia. Our Christmas and Summer coincide (along with the end of school year holidays). If you work on site there is definitely a peak of arrivals to coincide with the start of the construction season (September/October/November). The second peak is January/February. Despite these two peaks - we place people all year around!!

## 2012 School Terms & Holidays

If you are bringing a young family over to New Zealand then it would be beneficial to know when we have our school terms and holidays. Information on the 2012 School Terms and Holidays for State and State-Integrated primary, intermediate, secondary and composite schools can be found on the [Ministry of Education website](#). See below for a short summary of term dates for 2012.

- First term starts at the end of January/beginning of February and finishes in the first week in April, (30th Jan to the 5th of April).
- Second term is from the end of April to the end of June, (23rd of April to the 29th June).
- Third term is from mid July to the end of September, (16th of July to the 28th of September).
- Fourth term is from mid October to the end of December, (15th of October to the 20th of December).

The academic year in New Zealand varies between institutions, but generally runs from late January until mid-December for primary and secondary schools and polytechnics, and from late February until mid-November for universities. You will also notice that New Zealand has 4 terms instead of 3, where 3 terms are more commonly found in places like the UK and Europe.

Children starting school for the first time almost always start school on their 5th birthday, or the first School Day after it!

### The Catalyst Team



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