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Top Jobs

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

- REVIT Technicians
- Bridge Design Engineers
- Bridge Design Technicians
- Civil Geotechnical Engineers
- Seismic Structural Engineers
- Stormwater Engineers
- Water Resource Engineers

Shortcuts to Knowledge

There will be so many things to consider when you move to New Zealand. Luckily you can share our contacts for:-

- 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

We do not receive any benefit from these referrals, only the knowledge that your move will be less stressful!

[Want more info? Click here!](#)



New Zealand market update

Welcome to the Christmas edition of the Catalyst Newsletter and the final edition for 2011. It feels like only 5 minutes since I was writing the January edition! Like most of you we're looking forward to what we think is a well deserved break after a rollercoaster of a year.

The 2011 landscape was dominated by the continuing earthquakes in Christchurch and the resulting will it won't it nature of the reconstruction. Frustrating as it's been with constant delays it's nothing to what those living in the city have been going through. The end of this year has seen a small rise in activity but there now seems to be a genuine belief that we'll see an increasing amount of movement as we move through 2012. Activity to date has been focussed on the insurance companies and primarily in the residential sector but more commercial work will come online from July onwards.

Much of the demolition will be complete in the city centre by March (short of some larger buildings) and this coincides with the recent announcement that the land in the city centre is fit for a rebuild after extensive geotechnical surveying. Hopefully this will increase confidence going forward and by the end of the year some construction will be under way.

The rest of the country has remained fairly quiet in both the civil and the construction industry. The Rugby World Cup and the General Election haven't helped the sector gain any momentum but it's hoped that with the coming of the New Year we'll see new projects come online and a general lift in activity across all sectors.

Christmas in New Zealand means sunshine and BBQ's and many of the candidates who recently arrived will be enjoying this for the first time. It's a bit of a culture shock after the traditionally cold winter in the UK but it's just one of the things that makes New Zealand such a great location for most people. Not only is it Christmas here but it's our summer holidays with the school year starting again in February. Subsequently most people make the most of the weather and take extended leave at this time.

Catalyst will be shutting down from the 23rd and we will be back on board on the 9th of January fully refreshed and looking forward to helping more of you secure positions in 2012. If you have plans to visit or move to New Zealand in the New Year please do get in touch and we'll do all we can to assist you.

May we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and hope that you all enjoy the break and celebrations ahead from all of the team at Catalyst Recruitment.





A Pukeko

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/sidm/5327968665/>
by Snowmanradio / Sid Modell - 06/01/2011 - Waiwaka, Marlborough, NZ

A Pukeko in a Ponga Tree

New Zealand's own equivalent of the 12 days of Christmas

On the 1st day of Christmas
My true love gave to me
A pukeko in a ponga tree!

And the final verse:

On the 12th day of Christmas
My true love gave to me
Twelve piupius swinging,
Eleven haka lessons,
Ten juicy fish heads,
Nine sacks of pipis,
Eight plants of puha,
Seven eels a swimming,
Six pois a twirling,
Five – big – fat – pigs!
Four huhu grubs,
Three flax kits,
Two Kumara,
And a pukeko in a ponga tree!

Translations:

Piupius - Traditional Maori flax skirt.

Pipis - Shellfish.

Puha - Maori green vegetable.

Pois - A prop used in Maori dance.

Huhu Grubs - The larval (and edible) stage of a beetle.

Flax kits - A bag woven out of flax.

Kumara - Sweet potatoes.

Pukeko - A Native bird

Ponga Tree - A native tree.

Jim Redmond

Case study of moving to NZ

Current Employer: SKM, Auckland - Senior MX Designer

James contacted Catalyst in January of 2011 having at that time just obtained New Zealand residency through the Expression of Interest route. He had visited NZ twice before and had been planning this move for the previous two years and as such was ready to make a move happen quickly. James was ideally looking to move to Auckland and was looking forward to securing a life-style block on the outskirts of the City. Catalyst assisted him to secure a Senior MX Designer role with SKM, and James and his young family are now living the country lifestyle dream out at Bethells Beach.

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

A. Better work prospects, improved lifestyle and disillusionment with the UK!

Q. Has New Zealand lived up to your expectations?

A. Yes.

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

A. We're more active and living a healthier lifestyle; although living in rented accommodation we've gone from a UK 2 bed stone semi in a town to a 3 bed bungalow on a bush block, with neighbours being a 10 minute walk away!

Q. What one thing would you have done differently?

A. Used our relocation allowance to bring more possessions. Setting up has been expensive.

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

A. The rental / housing situation: it's expensive, there are very few pet friendly places available and if you're renting in a rural area, odds are that you're not going to get broadband internet.

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

A. That it's hard work, but worthwhile. To plan everything, bring what you can, and remember why you're making the move!

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

A. Yes. There's a few things taken for granted in the UK that we miss, but we have such a better lifestyle it more than compensates.

Useful Facts:

1st Contact - 24th January 2011

1st Interview* - 19th April 2011

[Verbal] Job Offer - 21st April 2011

Start - 1st June 2011

1st Contact to start - 4 months 7 Days



A Kiwiana Christmas

In 2006 Reader's Digest conducted a survey asking 259 New Zealanders 'just what does Christmas mean to New Zealanders in 2006 – and what do we treasure most'. In a nutshell it came up with a list of what was considered 'Hot' and what was 'Not'. Check it out for an interesting read:

'Kiwis' attitude to Christmas

(Ministry for Culture and Heritage)
Updated 16-December-2009

NZ Christmas Fact

Prior to 1910 Christmas Day was not an officially recognised public holiday in New Zealand. It was regarded as a common-law holiday; which essentially meant it was considered merely a custom but not a worker's legal right to have the day off.



The Pohutakawa Tree

The Pohutakawa is widely recognised as being New Zealand's Iconic Christmas tree with its beautiful red flowers (no need to decorate) in full bloom during the season (which can best be described as red fireworks going off in the sky) and which can be seen everywhere; clinging to the cliffs, alongside the grassy verges of the beaches, lining residential streets and gardens and in all their glory on many a Christmas card originating from here.

One of the biggest differences between NZ and the Northern Hemisphere is that Christmas occurs in the middle of our summer. When you have spent the majority of your life experiencing Christmas in the depths of winter; huddled around the fire, preparing hearty dinners and drinking gluhwein while its snowing outside and listening to "white Christmas" on the radio, then spending your first one at the beach playing a game of cricket as the sausages are cooking on the barbeque... while still listening to "white Christmas" may take a bit of mental adjustment!

All of the team at Catalyst have experienced this adjustment so we thought we would give you a bit of an insight in to what a typical Christmas in New Zealand is all about.

But firstly, when did it all start. Well it was that Dutchman Abel Tasman and his crew, who were the first to actually celebrate Christmas in New Zealand aboard their ship in 1642. Rumour has it that they went all out and sacrificed one of the pigs from the menagerie on board and washed it down with extra rations of wine for dinner that night. Since then, as more people arrived New Zealand has adapted and taken on their Christmas traditions and merged it to what it is today.

Kiwis have always enjoyed their own family traditions on Christmas day. Whether it be the annual Christmas get-together for a barbeque at the beach, or at the family bach (holiday home), a Champagne brunch or the full Christmas lunch, or dinner, or both (for those up to the challenge). There really aren't too many rules but one thing stays the same; its inevitably enjoyed on a fine sunny day no matter where in the country. Typically you will have overfull bellies and enjoy a mid-day siesta (either on the couch or under the Pohutakawa tree at the beach) in order to be able to do it all again for the evening dinner.

Traditionally Kiwi Christmas dinners involve a Christmas Ham (most likely served cold), possibly a roast turkey or chicken with cranberry sauce, steak and sausages on the barbeque, roast vegetables including; kumara and yams, potatoes, carrots and pumpkin, green salads, and for dessert; a good old fashioned Pavlova adorned with fresh strawberries and kiwifruit, Christmas mince pies, cheesecakes or the more traditional Christmas pudding.

Like other countries, the commercial side of Christmas means sometimes as early as the end of October one can hear "White Christmas, Snoopy's Christmas, Destiny's Child "8 Days of Christmas" and The Pogues "Fairytale of New York", (depending on your choice of radio station). The malls get decorated in snow-covered Christmas trees and Santa Parades get arranged up and down the country. What that poor Santa must go through when he is dressed up in his winter's best in the blistering summer's heat.

Santa parades started happening in the main centres from the early 1900's, in order to attract customers to the department stores (who arranged them) and to make them aware that Santa had now officially arrived in store for the yearly photo opportunity with the kids.

One of the largest department stores; Farmers topped it all in 1960 when they erected a giant Santa on their Central Auckland department store. For the next 30 odd years Santa took centre stage appearing each year on top of their Hobson street store before being bought by Whitcoull's on Queens Street. Many a child has a memory of being either fascinated, petrified, or sometimes being both at the sight of him winking and beckoning with his pointing finger (his winking eye was later turned off due to noise complaints from neighbours!). He had a bit of a hiatus for a few years and returned in 2009 with a complete facelift, and no longer with the ability to wiggle his finger at you...and somehow now doesn't look nearly as daunting as one remembers him to be!



Before



After

Why don't you be the judge: see the before picture and the link below that shows him being put up against the Whitcoulls building.

Whitcoulls Santa being erected:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mwBAuvk4jFE>

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The Catalyst team's own lasting impressions of their first Christmas's in New Zealand



Andy

It was a wonderfully hot day. We went down to the beach in the morning and my English flat mate and I went back to the house and cooked a great roast turkey dinner which we planned to eat in the late afternoon.

I remember that it was so hot that we decided to pick up the table and move it outside to eat alfresco. The highlight of the dinner was the white wine gravy – we should have poured it straight into the glass – it was that good!!

Phil

My first Christmas was a collection of mates all away from home on the other side of the world getting together to eat a massive turkey dinner. The image of 10 people squashed around a table, eating a piping hot roast dinner in the heat of a NZ summer will stick with me forever. Needless to say we cooled down once we retired to the deck with a cold beer!

Mireille

I still remember waking up that very first NZ Christmas day, to find my mother in tears in front of the Christmas tree having found her family heirloom glass Christmas balls in 1000's of shattered pieces underneath it. Those very same ornaments that she had lovingly carried in her hand luggage only 10 days earlier on our flight over from Holland. A painful lesson that fresh cut Christmas trees don't cope too well in the summer's heat and so artificial trees may be the better bet if intending to hang your cherished Christmas decorations!

Adam

I had only been in New Zealand for a couple of months prior to the holiday season, and with it being summer I almost forgot it was Christmas! It was a scorching hot day (at least 25 degrees C) and I woke to hearing my house mates ironically singing "White Christmas" on the deck outside! Later on we joined Andy for Christmas dinner of a slow bbq'd Turkey and all the usual English trimmings just to feel more at home! Celebrations went late into the night, and I ended out taking my partner home in a shopping trolley (I live in the middle of the suburbs though so I have no idea where I found the trolley - must have been a good night!). Having Christmas in Summer really is an odd experience!

Fran

My first Christmas in New Zealand was fantastic although not traditionally freezing cold like the UK. We had a BBQ with friends followed by drinks and lots of laughter. Although my close friends and family were not there I still had a lovely day due to the generous nature of our new found friends - I was not allowed to be in charge of the BBQ as that is seen as the mans job here! Ha ha.

