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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!](#)



The views of the Canterbury region 30 minutes North of Christchurch

New Zealand market update

Welcome to the January newsletter for 2012 and a belated Happy New Year to you all. I hope that wherever you are your Christmas and New Year went as you hoped and that you had a great time. As you'll know from reading previous newsletters Christmas is the start of the summer holidays here in New Zealand and so many people switch off the mobile phone, pack up the family and head to the beach, not to return until the end of January! The result is a slow start to the year with most companies not fully up to speed until the start of February.

Christchurch remains at the forefront of people's minds going into the New Year and with a number of aftershocks throughout the Christmas period questions remain on how soon things will start to move. The main stumbling point with the rebuild is the fact that we continue to have shakes and as such the ability to secure any new insurance is difficult. Around 80% of the rebuild cost will be covered by insurance companies; compare that to only 17% of the Japanese disaster and it clear why things are taking so long. As one insurer put it; would you reinsure a burning house?

That said things are progressing in the Garden City and there is a real determination that this year is when the rebuild gets fully underway. Certainly the talk before the shutdown implied the second half of 2012 would be very busy and so far the clients we've spoken to are sticking to that prediction. Over the next few weeks all of our clients will be taking the time to discuss

their requirements in line with work they're due to start in the near future. As soon as we know those requirements then we'll be talking to candidates who fit the bill; so if you haven't already, start doing your research on what you need to do to make the move.

As for the rest of the country things still remain fairly quiet. There are a number of major projects set to start later in the year, including the \$1.4billion Waterview Motorway Project, which will see an increase in activity within both the consultants and the contractors. At this stage many of the companies involved have the staff needed for their current workload but they are very aware that this will change over the next 6 months. To this end we'll continue to keep in very close contact with our clients so that we're on the pulse of what's happening ahead.

It will be a busy year ahead, of that there's no doubt, but the specifics are so far difficult to ascertain. The next few months will have a significant impact on the shape the year will take and the pace at which things will move. Specifically in Christchurch we're sure that when the build starts requirements will come very quickly so keep us up to date with your availability and plans.

As always you can follow us on Linked-In and via my weekly blog and you can keep up to date with roles as they appear on the Catalyst Job Board.

Bringing your Pet to New Zealand

We're often asked if pets can be brought across, and in many cases with dogs and cats the answer is yes depending on which country they are coming from, whether they meet the specific conditions for entry which are dependent on that country of origin, and in the cases of dogs; that they are not on the list of prohibited breeds.

If your dog is of the American Pit Bull Terrier, Dogo Argentino, Japanese Tosa or Brazilian Fila or Perro de Presa Canario variety, then they will not be allowed in the country. Furthermore birds, guinea pigs, ferrets, mice, rats, and reptiles are also a definite no-no.

Depending on which country you are coming from will determine whether you can bring your dog or cat with you. The first thing to do is to take a look at MAFNZB's website to establish whether your country of origin is on the list of approved countries to import pets. (www.maf.govt.nz). There are three categories of approved countries, each with their own specific requirements pertaining to the requirement of import permits, veterinary checks, vaccinations, micro-chipping and imposed quarantine periods.

As of January 1st, 2012 there have been two major changes to the requirements by MAFBNZ pertaining to the import of cats and dogs. The first being that all new arrivals (except those from Australia) to NZ must now spend a minimum 10 days at one of the five MAF registered quarantine facilities for domestic cats and dogs around the country. Secondly; cats and dogs from the UK, Malta, Republic of Ireland, and Sweden will now be required to have a rabies vaccination and rabies titre test prior to entry in NZ.

Furthermore, your pet must be more than 16 weeks of age at the date of departure and no more than 42 days pregnant in order to qualify.

Deciding to bring your pet with you on your new adventure can be an emotional choice but consideration should be given as to whether it is the right thing for your particular pet. If your pet is elderly, has a medical condition or has a nervous disposition then the number of flights and subsequent quarantine period required to bring them here may not be in their best interest, and it may be kinder to re-home them with a friend or family member.



Sara Gulick

Case study of moving to Christchurch, NZ

Current Employer: OPUS, Christchurch - Senior Environmental Engineer

Sara's decision to move to New Zealand was influenced by her partner (also an Engineer) who had himself visited Christchurch in the past. Having found her partner work initially, Catalyst then worked with Sarah to find her a suitable position also, culminating in four interviews each resulting in a job offer! Sara chose to join Opus Consultants and upon arrival at the end of September last year was seconded to the SCIRT (Stronger Christchurch Infrastructure Rebuild Team) office which is responsible for rebuilding the horizontal infrastructure in Christchurch following the earthquakes in 2010 and 2011.

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

A. *My partner inspired me to move to New Zealand. Also I thought it would be interesting to live in a different country where I didn't necessarily have to learn a new language, rather to learn to drive on the opposite side of the road and perform calculations in metric units.*

Q. Has New Zealand lived up to your expectations?

A. *New Zealand has surpassed my expectations on scenery and outdoor activities.*

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

A. *My life has changed in that it is much more difficult to communicate back to my family in the US (given the time difference). I am also very much more acutely aware of earthquakes and aftershocks. Also, I am finding it completely impossible to predict the weather.*

Q. What one thing would you have done differently?

A. *I would have purchased more Annie's macaroni & cheese and JIF peanut butter in the US to bring to New Zealand.*

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

A. *I wish I would have known how long it took to find a car to purchase. However, pleasantly surprised to discover all of the public holidays that New Zealand has to offer.*

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

A. *I would advise people to consider that working in a City full of partially destroyed buildings and services might be disheartening at times, but if you try to seek out fun activities with other ex-pats, Christchurch can be a fun place, despite the earthquakes.*

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

A. *The initial Christchurch transition was difficult for me, but it's getting better every day with continued support from my new friends and my biggest supporter, my partner.*

Useful Facts:

1 st Contact -	3 rd June 2011
1 st Interview -	21 st June 2011
1 st Job Offer -	11 th July 2011
Arrived in NZ -	26 th September 2011

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New Zealand Importing Control initiatives

To many people overseas, New Zealand is synonymous with the images and ideology of a clean, green environment, of being relatively unspoilt and unpopulated (people versus land ratio), and having an economy built on its agriculture, farming and tourism industries, which are all equally dependent on keeping it just so.

New Zealand is fortunate that we do not have any wild animals of the mammal, reptile or fish variety (aside from those you can safely encounter at the zoo) nor of the creepy crawl insect variety, that can seriously do harm. More important however is the fact that due to the very nature of New Zealand's geographical isolation from other countries, it enjoys less than 10% of the world's pests and diseases. As our economy is largely dependent on primary industry such as agriculture and farming, keeping it that way is crucial. Therefore we have stringent rules and legislation in place which is regulated and controlled by MAF (Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry) Biosecurity New Zealand (MAFBNZ) in terms of what can and cannot be brought into the country.

How does it apply to people coming to the country? Every aspect of your move will need to comply with and pass the scrutiny of MAFBNZ. From shipping your household belongings, to your physical touch down on NZ soil and passing through customs, from which pets you can and cannot bring, to the process you need to follow in order to bring them.

Arriving at the Airport

Thankfully gone are the days where every plane landing at an international airport in NZ automatically was fumigated. An experience which consisted of, after landing, MAF officers boarding the plane and walking down the aisles with two giant spray cans (not too dissimilar to those that hold fly spray) and emptying them out over the passengers as they passed. These days, planes that regularly come to NZ are issued with a bio-security certificate and it is only in very rare circumstances (such as if that certificate has expired or it is a plane that doesn't normally come to NZ) that passengers get to enjoy this particular treat!

What you can expect though is a comprehensive border control procedure involving several phases. The first being the arrivals declaration card that you are asked to complete while still on board – if in doubt declare it – otherwise no matter how innocent the mistake your first impression of NZ may not be as you'd expected when you're hit with a hefty fine at customs!

When walking through to the baggage claim, it will be highly likely that you will come across MAFBNZ inspectors with their detector dogs (typically Beagles) trained specifically to locate any food and other agricultural products amongst travellers and their baggage.

Once you have located your baggage you will precede to customs which is your last chance to declare any items that may be considered a potential biosecurity risk before your baggage passes through an X-ray machine. Here too, you may be asked to show any camping or sports gear and shoes that may have been used in forestry or farms especially where foot and mouth disease outbreaks may have occurred. Again, thorough cleaning of these items before packing them is strongly advised for a smooth arrival. If your shoes are dirty you will be required to wait while they are fumigated and cleaned before being allowed to clear customs.

Personal Effects and Household Goods

MAFBNZ assess all shipments of goods coming into the country by checking the required accompanying documentation and when necessary physically inspecting the goods. There are some items that cannot be brought into NZ and should these items be found during inspection they may either be treated, reshipped or destroyed at the owners cost. Furthermore, belongings whether shipped via air or sea, need to be packaged in a freight container that meets the requirements of the Import Health Standards for Air Containers and Sea containers respectively. Using a professional moving company familiar with NZ biosecurity laws may therefore make your move a whole lot less stressful and timely.

Examples of what is restricted and prohibited and therefore you shouldn't pack unless you have obtained relevant official certification are; any packets of food, bee products, plant products such as; seeds, cuttings, bulbs, and straw, along with any items restricted under the convention on International Trade in Endangered species (coral, ivory etc). By the way, don't go round collecting food cartons from your local supermarket that were used for the transportation of fresh food to use for your packing of household goods either, as they too are not allowed to come into the country.