

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? Email us!](#)



Container mall at Cashel Street in Christchurch

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New Zealand market update

Welcome to the State of the Nation for May 2012. Winter has officially arrived in New Zealand with rain hitting most of the country and a sharp frost in the air for those on the South Island. After watching the rugby at Twickenham at 3am on Sunday morning I can say I'm a little jealous of the sunshine; it's just a shame that my team (Leicester Tigers) didn't win!

Over the weekend you will all have received an email with a link to the new Christchurch booklet put together over the last 6 months or so. Hopefully most of you will have found the information useful as it is designed to allow you to appreciate the size and scale of the rebuild and provide an understanding of why things are taking so long to get going! We also appreciate that not all of you want to work in Christchurch but with that being the centre of most activity it gets most of the press. Nevertheless we continue to talk with clients around New Zealand and will keep you posted on movement and demands in those areas as well.

True to form as we release our booklet so the ground in Christchurch starts to shake again. Over the weekend there were numerous shakes with a 5.2 magnitude shake stopping all work in the red zone on Friday. The good news in that there was no further significant damage and that the insurance companies are not letting this shake stop progress and are indicating a business as usual standpoint.

As mentioned last month activity in the Garden City seems to be increasing slowly with most of activity based around civil infrastructure works at the moment. SCIRT (Stronger Christchurch Infrastructure Rebuild Team) was by now hoping to be delivering \$40m worth of work

per month to contractors, unfortunately only half that target is being hit currently. However many clients have mentioned bigger projects currently under tender that will come through the system over the next few months.

Construction companies are looking to the release of the city blueprint in just under 60 days as a major point in the progression of the rebuild. Once released the developers and stakeholders in the new city will have a clear idea of what can and can't be built. Numerous clients have already mentioned that once they know the new plans that will immediately impact on their candidate requirements. Much of the work will be design and build in nature and so there will be a need to take on candidates in the early stages of the process to follow a project through to completion.

The engineering consultants are so far continuing to distribute the workload throughout their New Zealand office network but the familiar needs for Geotechnical Engineers and Structural Engineers with seismic design experience remain. Anyone with that experience is encouraged to get in touch immediately to discuss a number of positions.

Whilst things are still fairly slow most positions are being filled by those already in the city or those visiting New Zealand. If you are planning a visit then please do get in touch first because not all skills are needed just yet and we'd hate you to make a wasted journey. Those who can't make the trip don't worry, as the workload builds so companies will have to go further a field for good candidates and at that stage Skype and phone interviews will become the norm.

As always follow us via the blog and on LinkedIn and if you have any questions on what's happening don't hesitate to get in touch.



How recruitment works in New Zealand

- First and foremost – you must understand that New Zealand is a small market with a limited number of opportunities.
- Then you must understand that our clients receive thousands of CV's each month.
- Then knowing that you only have one chance to make a first impression – you must decide how you want your CV presented. You must choose between sending your CV speculatively amid the masses, or through a recruiter.
- If you decide to use a recruiter you must choose between the international sourcing specialist or scatter gun approach.
- Do you take a chance and choose a larger recruiter where the staff are managed by the number of CV's they email - at least this way your CV will get to everyone, but will it be read?
- Or do you choose a niche technical specialist whose focus is solely on sourcing international talent for the New Zealand market. A company that will only send your CV to clients after we have spoken with them and explained why you are a great candidate – so they are looking out for your CV. A company that will represent you if you have fully researched our full suite of information about moving to this great country (including pros and cons).
- If you choose the large recruiter – good luck – and feel free to download our information for free.
- If you believe that your CV is valuable, then choose the professional approach and give Catalyst a call.

Phil Whiley

Case study of moving to Christchurch, NZ from the UK

Current Employer: MWH/Mainzeal

We have been working with Phil since Catalyst came into being but unfortunately for most of that time New Zealand was in recession and so it's taken a while to find the right role. However throughout all that time Phil kept in close communication with Catalyst and when the right role came along he was ready to move quickly. Phil and his partner have warmed to the New Zealand lifestyle and he'll often drop the team an email to let us know about the adventures he has been up to.

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

A. I was inspired to move to New Zealand with the family because during my last visit 5 years ago, (which was only for 6 days) I felt right at home, the sun was shining (although not in Auckland as it is always raining...LOL) the people were courteous and friendly, the food was good and a spirit hit me! You can live here and be treated as a grown up, if you want to jump off a mountain or out of a plane - you can, if you want to build a life here - you can, but if you want to spoil the place - you can't.

Q. Has New Zealand lived up to your expectations?

A. New Zealand is far far better than my expectations. Simply put – it is bloody brilliant here.

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

A. We are better off financially and we have more time and money to undertake our hobbies. We did bring our dogs and a mangy old cat, and we make an effort every weekend to pick a point on the map and drive there with the dogs and have a picnic.

Q. What one thing would you have done differently?

A. What would I do differently? We should have done it years ago. We wasted too much time living to work - here you have to play as hard as you work to fit in!

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

A. The one thing I wish I had known before I came was - the tax is better here than the UK so our budgeting has been brilliant as we have more to spend. Ask the wife - she has spent it!!

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

A. My advice to anyone thinking of coming here is in the form of a question - "What are you waiting for?" Last week we worked until Friday afternoon then had a BBQ with the work mates. On Saturday we drove to Kaikoura and swam with the dolphins. And then on Sunday we went shooting in the hills, and had a great meal at the Mud House on the way back (check it out on its web page... nice wine too!). Big grins all round!!!!

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

A. Was this the right move

.....YES YES YES!

Useful Facts:

1st Contact with Catalyst - 23rd April 2009

1st Interview to Job Offer - 29 Days

Offer to arrival - 35 days

Time since arrival - 7 Months 4 Days



The Christchurch Rebuild: Where will they find the money?

Everyone keeps asking... Where is the New Zealand Government going to find the \$30billion+ to pay for the Christchurch Rebuild? The question is valid, so I thought I would try to answer.

When European Governments are dishing out austerity medicine and even Australia is suffering redundancies and we hear of massive \$80billion projects being pulled, how come New Zealand has so much money to spend and needs so many Engineering and Construction professionals to help?

I put this article together to provide an insight into the network of agencies, units and organisations that are the funding and delivery vehicles associated with the Christchurch rebuild.

Q. How did so much damage happen?

- A. It appears that Christchurch's founding fathers decided to build the city in the wrong place. First they appear to have underestimated the active faults in the region and second they did not fully understand the implications of building on alluvial sediment – causing so much liquefaction. 4 major earthquakes changed our understanding.

EQ1	7.1	04 Sep 2010	Minor injuries	NZ\$2.75 - \$3.5 billion
EQ2	6.3	22 Feb 2011	185 deaths	NZ\$20 - \$30 billion
EQ3	6.3	13 Jun 2011	1 related death	NZ \$6 billion
EQ4	6.0	23 Dec 2011	Minor Injuries	Significant damage

Where the \$30 billion will be spent – try to imagine these numbers and the scale of work ahead...

3000 commercial buildings	895km of damaged roads
10,000 houses to be demolished	300km of damaged sewer
160,000 houses to be repaired	124km of damaged water mains

Q. How do you go about funding a \$30billion project?

- A. First, it helps that 80% of the funding will be from Insurance through a range of mechanisms. In a nutshell – the four key areas are:-

Residential Repairs	\$12b (billion)	\$6b EQC (Disaster Relief Fund) \$5b overseas reinsurance companies \$1b Government top-up
Residential Rebuilds	\$6b	Overseas insurance companies and their reinsurance providers
Commercial Property	\$15b-\$30b	Overseas insurance companies and their reinsurance providers
Civil Infrastructure	\$3	Government, NZTA and CCC

Who is finding jobs in New Zealand...

...or should I say Christchurch?

Two months ago we wrote an article about whether you should stay in the UK or make the bold move to New Zealand.

Over the last two months we have found that **100%** of the people we have helped find jobs have secured them in Christchurch and all but one of these had arrived in Christchurch and were able to attend face-to-face interviews.

We understand that you may not personally be in a position to be able to come over without securing a job first, but sometimes it is worth taking the risk! If you are serious about coming over to Christchurch, please call one of the team on our free phone number **0808 234 3587** after 8:30pm in the UK. We can quickly let you know if we think it is worth the risk!



Q. How will they go about controlling this huge spend?

- A.** As the scale of the disaster became apparent, the New Zealand Government established **CERA** (*Christchurch Earthquake Recovery Authority*) to lead and coordinate the ongoing recovery effort with the aim of restoring the social, economic, cultural and environmental well-being of Greater Christchurch communities. CERA takes an overarching view over the direction of the spend in each of the 4 key areas.

Residential property insurance (repairs under \$100k) (\$12 billion)

New Zealand has been preparing financially for this type of eventuality since 1945 by setting up the EQC or Earthquake Commission. Every person who takes out a private insurance policy for their residential property is required to pay a premium to the EQC who invests the money in the NDF or Natural Disaster Fund. Prior to the Earthquakes – this fund sat at NZ\$5.94 billion. The EQC then covers the first \$100k of any individual claim (plus \$20k possessions) – with further amounts being covered by the insurance company through whom you secured your initial cover.

In the eventuality of an earthquake – the EQC is actually reinsured through a range of international reinsurance companies. The EQC has an excess of \$1.5 billion – which means the first \$1.5 billion is paid by EQC. The next \$2.5 billion is paid for by the reinsurance companies – anything over \$4 billion is paid for by the Government. None of the single events has surpassed the \$4 billion threshold for residential property – so the Government has not had to pay out on that clause; however, it is believed that the Government will have to provide approximately \$1 billion for claims as the NDF will be depleted. According to EQC themselves, total payouts through this mechanism (NDF, reinsurance companies and government) are around \$12 billion.

Residential property insurance (repairs & rebuilds \$100k+) (\$6 billion)

For all residential claims that are valued at over \$100k, the individual's private insurer is responsible for providing cover. In this scenario – because national house building companies do not really exist in New Zealand (most residential building is carried out by smaller speculative developers) – each of the Insurance companies (including AA, AIG, ING, AMI, VERO, NZI, State etc) teamed up with a major contractor to put together an earthquake repair team. This work covers approximately \$6 billion and is mostly covered by the reinsurance companies.

Some of the delays in this sector are based around the final zoning that CERA will give the remaining properties. Originally the residential land was classified as either **Red**, **Orange**, **Green** or **White** zone – with the following definitions:-

Red Zone (7256 houses) - land that has been so badly damaged by the earthquakes it is unlikely it can be rebuilt on for a prolonged period. Property owners will receive an offer from the Crown for their.

Orange Zone (zero houses) - land areas where engineers need to undertake further investigation. Originally some 10,000 properties were zoned in this area.

Green Zone - split into three technical categories – TC1 (grey), TC2 (yellow) and TC3 (blue). The categories relate to the land, how it will react to further earthquakes and which likely foundations will be required. TC1 is the best through to TC3 – which needs individual site testing.

White Zone (1679 houses) - land in the Port Hills area that is still being mapped as part of an extensive, ongoing geotechnical investigation. These are extremely complex and are ongoing.

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Commercial Property Insurance (between \$15 billion & \$30 billion)

CBD Red Zone - This is the cordoned off zone in the centre of the city which is slowly shrinking in size as buildings are demolished and other areas are made safe. A rough estimate has somewhere between 50 - 80% of the buildings being demolished and almost all others in the area are damaged. There are also believed to be approximately 1000 commercial buildings outside of the CBD which have been demolished or need attention.

All of these building owners took out private insurance for their properties (with no EQC involvement). An article posted in the National Business Review on 19th April, stated that according to New Zealand Trade and Enterprise investment director Graham Matthews the CDB rebuild would be \$30 billion on its own! With 80% of property owners already 'recommitted' to Christchurch – that is a lot of money to be spent. Vero appear to be the Insurance Company with the largest exposure – or more accurately – their reinsurance providers!

The redevelopment of the CBD is an absolute key to the overall recovery project and the *Christchurch City Council (CCC)* has developed their draft *Central City Plan (CCP)* – a 161 page document that explains what can be rebuilt where – to form a wonderful new CBD. The CCP is based around 5 key initiatives. Providing:-

- i. **A Green City;**
- ii. **A Stronger built identity;**
- iii. **A compact CBD;**
- iv. **A great place to live, work, play, learn and visit;**
- v. **& An Accessible city.**

On 18th April – the NZ Government announced the creation of a new unit – the **CCDU** (*Christchurch Central Development Unit*). The CCDU's role is to lead the rebuild of Christchurch central and to deliver the vision of the CCC - CCP for a distinctive, vibrant and green 21st Century City.

The CCDU has been given a 100 day remit (which interestingly corresponds to opening day of the 2012 Olympics 27th July 2012). The team of Consultants was appointed on 18th May 2012 and is a truly international consortium.

Civil Infrastructure Rebuild (At least \$3 billion)

After the first earthquake – it took some time to set up the delivery mechanism for the civil infrastructure rebuild – it was based around 4 geographic areas. Then after the Feb 2011 earthquake – the plan was ripped to shreds as so much damage was either in the CBD or the riverside suburbs that the work had to be redistributed.

The final solution is an alliance known as **SCIRT** (*Stronger Christchurch Infrastructure Rebuild Team*). The SCIRT alliance has three funding partners - **CERA** (*Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority*), **CCC** (*Christchurch City Council*), and **NTZA** (*New Zealand Transport Agency*), and five delivery members. SCIRT currently employs 950 people and will grow to approximately 3000.

(Please forgive any inaccuracies as I have pulled together a wide range of sources and relied on other actual research. Added to this is the fact that the figures seem to increase for various reasons as time moves on).