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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 state of the nation for the month of June and welcome to winter (in New Zealand that is). This past week has seen temperatures in Auckland drop to zero degrees and those further south are heading into negative numbers!

The city of Christchurch was the focus for rugby reasons this week with the first test match being played in the city since the earthquake. Over 600 days since the last test meant the rugby hungry Cantabrians were out to celebrate. The Irish however nearly spoilt the party and turned on a magnificent performance, falling just short at the end. Needless to say the Irish bars around the city were busy till the early hours!

In the past week I've visited Christchurch and caught up with clients when they've had a free moment to grab a coffee. The general feeling in the region is that things are moving a little quicker and that the future is looking bright. The Civil Contractors are starting to see a little more work coming through and are preparing for a very busy few years ahead. Construction remains fairly quiet with few companies taking on new people ahead of the city blueprint announcement in just over a month's time.

Whilst in the city I met with a client personally involved in the construction of the city blueprint. It was encouraging to hear that the plan is actually ahead of schedule for its release but more importantly that this will be a document from which developers will design and build a new city. It's difficult to emphasise the importance of this document and the impact it will have on the shape of the new Christchurch but needless to say many in the city are excited about its contents and are looking forward to turning plans and drawings into reality.

The Engineering Consultants remain quiet whilst they too wait for the blueprint to dictate the work ahead.

As before much of their workload is being distributed nationally through their network of offices but as always there is a need for Geotechnical and Structural Engineers (with seismic experience) and any people interested are encouraged to get in touch.

A potential hurdle in the rebuild has been the limited accommodation in the city (although there appears to be mixed thoughts around this). There is definitely a shortage in certain price zones, but our candidates are still securing accommodation within their first week. It is however, recognised that the future influx of workers will have a big impact on available housing stocks. To that end, plans have been released to build a number of worker camps in the city. So far no specifics have been released but many of the larger construction companies are backing the project and this option is being closely looked at by Gerry Brownlee the Minister for Canterbury Earthquake Recovery.

Although things are still quiet on the ground there are opportunities for those visiting or moving to Christchurch. If you are considering a visit or move it is vitally important that you discuss it with us before you book your flights. Not all skills are needed at the moment and if companies don't know what work lies ahead they can be reluctant to meet with candidates. At the end of the day the decision is yours but the last thing we want you to do is waste your trip so please get in touch with us first.

Finally I would like to welcome the newest edition to the Catalyst team, Sam Phillips. Sam joins us as an Associate after recently moving to New Zealand from the UK. Many of you will speak with Sam in the near future and we are confident that he will become a great part of the team.



Why do cities take so long to rebuild? Or even start to rebuild?



This article appeared in The Christchurch Press on 13 Jun 2012, Page A7 and represents an interview of Roger Sutton by Michael Wright. It truly gives an understanding of the challenges around rebuilding a city...

Roger Sutton – CEO – CERA (Christchurch Earthquake Recovery Agency)

For a year he has overseen Christchurch's quake recovery, most conspicuously in land zonings, which have seen more than 7000 properties in the region written off.

We know he likes lemon tea and we know of his affable nature and his fondness for getting from A to B by bike.

Some mystery remains. Sutton's Wikipedia page lists his birth year as either 1962 or 1963. Neither is right. He is 47, although Cera would not confirm his birth date.

But mostly he is known as the likeable, bespectacled, longhaired, pinstripe-suited alpha nerd making what most people agree is a decent fist of a thankless job.

Almost unnaturally easygoing, he finishes lots of sentences with "eh", prefers "nah" to "no", and if he was 30 years younger, his mother would probably be telling him to get his hair cut.

Sutton has been in his job one year today. With any luck, the first day of his second year will be easier than the first day of his first, when two aftershocks, of magnitude 5.9 and 6.3, welcomed him into the role.

"That [day] was quite frustrating, really. Just thinking, 'This is still going, this bloody thing'."

Now firmly ensconced in his 11th-floor office in the HSBC tower – comfortably the highest office in town, he likes to point out – his outlook on the recovery has brightened to the point of incandescence.

"I guess I'm more optimistic about this than other people because I have people coming into my office

who want to be part of the rebuild," he says.

"I meet the local investors who are cashed up but also meet the international investors – guys who have a big amount of money to spend who are excited by the opportunity of building something in a brand-new CBD."

The central business district is Sutton's pet topic.

Before the quakes, it was "very much decaying".

"It wasn't a great place. I think in a lot of New Zealand cities, the CBDs aren't actually desirable places to work," he says.

"I think we're going to create a CBD that is a very desirable place to work in."

Some things still grate. Delays around land rezonings, for one.

"When I wake up in the morning, the first thing I'm still thinking about are those land issues," he says.

"[It's] been much more difficult than we thought and we put a lot of stress on people by the fact we took much longer than we expected to take, but there wasn't a textbook.

"We had the best experts we could find to help us with that, but even the best experts had never done anything like that before."

For the most part, Sutton has attracted little criticism during his tenure, in contrast to the lightning-rod qualities of Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Minister Gerry Brownlee.

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Why do cities take so long to rebuild? Or even start to rebuild? - article continued from page 2

When it was announced in May last year that the then chief executive of lines company Orion would become the new earthquake recovery boss, the public response was favourable, to put it mildly.

Former Wigram MP Jim Anderton said it was the best news he had had since the February 2011 quake.

Port Hills Labour MP Ruth Dyson gave his appointment "12 out of 10", Canterbury Communities' Earthquake Recovery Network chairman Tom McBrearty was "delighted" and Canterbury Employers' Chamber of Commerce chief executive Peter Townsend said it was "the most important government appointment of the year".

The Saturday before he started in the job, Sutton featured on the cover of the Weekend Press' Your Weekend magazine in a local adaptation of Shepard Fairey's Barack Obama "Hope" poster from the 2008 United States presidential campaign.

After months of civil defence management, states of emergency and immeasurable heartache, change, it seemed, had come to Christchurch.

But with a tough new job description, it was inevitable Sutton would have to trade on some of that goodwill capital in his new role.

"I could only go down from there. I knew I could only go down and I don't like going down, but I know it's inevitable, so I don't stress about it," he says. "I know some people are just going to feel incredibly frustrated . . . 10,000 houses have got to be almost completely rebuilt.

"In the housing boom of Christchurch we built about 3000 a year. The maths are it ain't all going to happen as fast as many would like."

Was the job what he expected? One of Sutton's favourite interview techniques is to repeat your question. It's a good tactic; makes him seem engaging and willing to help. But this is the only time he stumps himself. "It has been . . ." he starts. "It has involved . . ." "It has been . . ." He stares out the window for a few seconds

before settling on a platitude: "The key thing about this job is feeling you're supported by other leaders in the community and the wider New Zealand community. I went into this job hoping I was going to be well supported and I've been very, very well supported."

Very diplomatic, if irrelevant.

Later he chides himself for "sounding like a politician" in his answers.

His diplomacy is at work again when asked about his relationship with Brownlee, whom he feels "very privileged" to work under.

Heading a government department has been a change for Sutton. At Orion, he was in charge. At Cera, he is answerable to the minister.

"It is different, but I knew it would be different. It's not just being answerable to a minister; it's that fact that there's lots of stuff I have less control over," he says.

"At Orion, if I wanted to get a big job done I could just write a contract and away I'd go.

"Here, there may not just be ministers who need to approve it, but it may be other organisations need to sign off as well. Sometimes the pace does annoy you and upset you, but I've worked in government before [with the now defunct Electricity Corporation of New Zealand]."

Despite the frustrations, there is little about the past year he would change.

"What are some of the regrets?" he asks himself.

"Nah. I don't really have any proper regrets."

If he had the time again, he would try to recruit his senior managers more quickly – some did not start until last September – but there have been no "dark days" and he dismisses any claim he has tried to resign. "Yeah, I really haven't, eh."

Easygoing.

Roger Sutton.

We welcome Sam to the team

Sam Phillips
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Sam has joined the Catalyst team to specialise in the Mechanical and Electrical sectors, while also providing much needed firepower to the Construction team – hopefully tying in with the predicted uptake in Christchurch.

Sam commenced his recruitment career in 2000. The first half of his career he recruited in the IT sector in the City of London. He established and developed the recruitment arm of a financial consultancy, delivering IT professionals into investment banks.

In 2007 Sam moved into the engineering and construction sector. Initially sourcing candidates for and developing major accounts, Sam recognised the need of international companies for experienced professionals. Sam began relocating engineers and managers to New Zealand and Australia, amongst other locations.

With his consultative approach, Sam has the ability to produce creative solutions to recruitment issues and recognises the importance of fully understanding staffing requirements in relation to projects and the aims of his clients. His calm, pragmatic and honest approach results in strong candidate and client satisfaction, he has an in depth knowledge of the technical engineering disciplines he recruits for.

Outside of work Sam is a keen mountain biker, marine conservation volunteer and enjoys a good game of rugby. He recently moved here with his kiwi wife.

Why do people rave about New Zealand?

Mercer is one of the leading HR Consultants in the world and they produce the information below in the form of a league table. They measure Cost of Living and Quality of Living. These figures represent the 2011 figures for the top ten cities in terms of quality of life and all of the New Zealand and Australian cities.

It is important to note that Christchurch is not large enough to be ranked, but was considered (pre earthquake) to outrank Auckland and Wellington.

I am no statistician, but it seems to me that these figures confirm what we already know. It is a lot better to live in NZ than Australia and a lot less expensive (Which is why you need twice as much to live there).

But it also states a couple of other interesting facts...

- Switzerland and Germany dominate. The cities must be wonderful places to live. It depends of course if you speak the local language and can afford it!!!
- Vienna must be amazing!!!

Quality of Life	Cost of living	City	Country
1	36	Vienna	Austria
2	7	Zurich	Switzerland
3	118	Auckland	New Zealand
4	78	Munich	Germany
5	Unavailable	Düsseldorf	Germany
5	65	Vancouver	Canada
7	73	Frankfurt	Germany
8	5	Geneva	Switzerland
9	16	Bern	Switzerland
9	17	Copenhagen	Denmark
11	14	Sydney	Australia
13	136	Wellington	New Zealand
18	21	Melbourne	Australia
21	30	Perth	Australia
26	34	Canberra	Australia
30	46	Adelaide	Australia
37	31	Brisbane	Australia



Melissa Sheridan – Civil Site Engineer

Case study of moving to NZ

Current Employer: March Construction – Christchurch
Melissa contacted Catalyst in November of last year, having made firm plans to make a move to New Zealand including already having obtained a working holiday visa. By the time Melissa touched the ground in early February this year, an interview with March Construction was already arranged and a job offer soon followed. Melissa started her career with March Construction on March 27th.

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

I chose New Zealand as it holds great opportunities for work, as well as being a very beautiful country with so many new things to see and do.

Has New Zealand lived up to your expectations?

New Zealand has far exceeded my expectations. There are so many amazing sights and places here. It's a country that has literally everything - sandy beaches, surfing, white water rafting, hot pools, skiing and snowboarding resorts, it even has glaciers.

How has your life changed since moving to New Zealand?

The overall lifestyle in New Zealand is a lot more laid back than in Ireland or the UK. People here are generally very chilled and take things more in their stride, they don't tend to get as worked up about things. It has a very relaxing effect on all visitors.

Since moving to New Zealand my lifestyle has changed very much as a result of my work, as well as the influence of lifestyle changes within Christchurch itself.

Christchurch is not a typical city, it's come a long way since the earthquake of 2011 but it still has a very long way to go. The resilience and determination the people of Christchurch have shown is amazing, as is their imaginative use of large shipping containers for everything from a shop to a bank!

A lot of things you take for granted back home are missing from Christchurch city. A slightly more trivial example of this is the main area for nightlife in the city is gone, cordoned into the Red Zone. The pubs are scattered around the city's suburbs - a small pub crawl will earn you a big taxi bill. Also, there are no deli's here so anyone fond of a hot chicken fillet roll or a box of wedges and a can of coke after a hard night is flat out of luck!

That aside, being able to spend an afternoon or an evening on a beautiful beach, up on a mountain with incredible views, unwinding in a hot pool or roaring at a rugby game, makes it all worthwhile. You'll never be short of things to do in Christchurch if you're willing to take a short drive or hop on a bus.

What one thing would you have done differently?

I'm not sure of anything I would have done differently.

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

Winter here can be just as cold as at home!

Living in Christchurch holds many advantages as well as disadvantages. There's not a day you won't be without work if you work in the construction industry. There aren't many places in the world where you can work on a construction project of this scale. You basically need to rebuild an entire city. A lot of people come out here expecting the city to be further along in its rebuild stage. It's not. In the next 12 months, most of the major buildings in the city centre will be demolished. At the moment, there is very little being re-built in comparison with all that is being demolished. A lot of places in the city are closed down, although many look like they've suffered no damage at all, others are left lying abandoned in wait of demolition. It can be slightly daunting when you first arrive. However, seeing the efforts people are making to restore the city is inspiring and being part of the rebuild of a city is something very few people can say they have done and there are plenty of

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Melissa Sheridan - Civil Site Engineer. Case study of moving to New Zealand - article continued from page 5

restaurants, cafes and shops in the city suburbs to make up for the closure of the inner city facilities.

What advice would you pass to someone commencing the process?

I would advise anyone thinking of moving to New Zealand to do it.

Moving here holds amazing opportunities. However, be aware of the cost of living here. Many things in NZ are quite expensive compared to home. Be particularly careful of the salary/pay rate you accept – rates of pay are often not similar to those at home and often may not reflect the amount of hours you actually work. Ensure you agree to a rate that will allow you to enjoy all the sights and activities NZ has to offer, not leave you struggling after the basics are paid for.

My advice to anyone thinking of moving to Christchurch

who is nervous about the earthquake situation here - Although difficult to believe, the aftershocks just become part of your lifestyle, more of a tea-break conversation than a worry. The first shake you feel will make you freeze instantly, after that you just continue with what you were doing. You can even go several weeks without feeling one. Of course, a big earthquake is always a concern at the back of your mind, I've only felt one above a magnitude 5. But no one lives in fear here of a major seismic event, it's strangely just something we all accept and don't dwell on.

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

Definitely. If I had it to do all over again, I wouldn't hesitate for a second to move to New Zealand.

Tremors spawn new terms for new reality

Courtesy of the Press – www.press.co.nz

Mega-montage, grand mal, dungery and futterly ucked are new terms that have emerged from the destruction of the February 2011 earthquake.

The New Zealand Dictionary Centre has recorded several new quake-related terms.

Some of the terms were already being used, but after the quake their usage changed.

"The word liquefaction in the dictionary is actually a process, but it's now being used to refer to the product of the process, which is silt," centre director Dianne Bardsley said.

Other terms, like dungery, are being used to talk about historical buildings that cannot be preserved.

"Before, it was used to refer to debilitated cars and old vehicles," she said.

"[Press columnist] Jane Bowron coined Old Bucky in her columns to refer to the February 22 quake and the Christchurch Wizard coined Old Stumpy to refer to Christ Church Cathedral, and when New Zealanders from other parts of the country hear those words, they know what they mean."

Terms such as futterly ucked, stuffed, rooted and bugged were "all expressions that show the amount of devastation, if not physically, then emotionally.

"They're not just describing the environment, but also what's inside people."

Stuffed, rooted and bugged were three terms with sexual connotations, she said, and they showed how people felt violated by quake damage. All the terms were taken from newspapers.

"Depending on whether the terms stand the test of time, they may go into a dictionary," she said. "It depends on the amount of usage and whether they are just used in 2011 and never again," Bardsley said.

"Things like Fanny Army and the SVA [Student Volunteer Army], we all know what they mean, but they wouldn't necessarily end up in the dictionary because they are not used in very many contexts."

For a list of new Canterbury earthquake terms, go to press.co.nz