



## this issue

- State of the nation **P.1**
- New Zealand: 5th in the World in Prosperity Index **P.2**
- New Zealand's population hits 4,444,444 **P.2**
- Bringing Children to New Zealand? **P.2**
- NZ judged best country in world to do business **P.3**
- Mark Stanko: case study on moving to NZ **P.4**
- Christchurch Central City Transport Plan **P.5**

## State of the nation

Welcome to the Catalyst state of the nation for November. The feel of an early summer is upon us as we head towards Christmas with temperatures regularly heading into the 20's. This has meant that I've been out every weekend mowing the lawn to keep things under control but at least I can relax afterwards, sitting with my feet in my daughter's paddling pool!

At Catalyst we speak with a lot of candidates and my first comment this month acts as a word of caution when looking for a job in New Zealand. Since the first earthquake over two years ago there has been a significant increase in recruiters looking for people to work in Christchurch. Some specialise in the construction market and some don't but it's not the number that's alarming. What's alarming is some of the information (or lack of it) and bad advice that candidates are being given. One of the most common at the moment is the guarantee that if you move to New Zealand you'll get a job! Its true Christchurch is busy and it's also true that candidates on the ground have more chance of securing a position but no recruitment company can guarantee you a job because they don't make the decision to hire. It would also be prudent to check what type of job you are guaranteed; will you be doing the job you want or any job? I could go on but run the risk of becoming boring. What I will say is that any recruiter worth their salt will give you the positives and the negatives; if it's too good to be true, it probably is so be careful!

With less than a month to go before the shut down for the Christmas holidays there has been a lift in activity in preparation for the start of 2013. Christchurch remains an enigma and drawing conclusions on the state of activity there depends on who you talk to. One client only this morning made it clear that there was a significant amount of talk going on but the real substance within was harder to find. That said he did mention two projects due to be awarded in the next few weeks each worth over \$100m! On the whole companies in the Canterbury Region remain very busy and while they have coped with minimal recruitment up to now the increase in work expected in 2013 is already causing a reassessment of their position.

Other parts of the country still remain quiet on the whole but certain sectors are showing signs of life. This is clearly

noticeable of PQS and Professional Project Management companies as they look to increase their numbers in the New Year. Anyone with intermediate or senior experience in this sector looking at Auckland, Wellington or Christchurch are encouraged to get in touch with Sam to discuss the opportunities he has available. Consultant Engineering requirements remain the same with an ongoing demand for Geotechnical engineers (8+ years experience), structural engineer and bridge designers (4+ years) and traffic & transportation engineers (4+ years). The majority of the need is for Christchurch but there is a growing requirement for T&T engineers in Auckland and Wellington as well; those interested in knowing more should contact Mireille.

Construction and civil contractors are also gearing up for new recruitment in 2013, particularly in Christchurch. Both sectors will be very busy next year as the level of infrastructure work increases and the reconstruction of the city centre gets underway. The release of the transport plan for the city centre (see accompanying article) has given more detail of what's ahead and before long those plans will become reality. Current requirements for the civil contractors include project engineers, project managers and civil foreman but this list will increase so contact Phil to find out more. Construction requirements include site managers, carpenters and scaffolders, anyone interested should contact Andy or Fran to discuss positions in more detail.

As always if you have plans to visit or move in the future then do get in touch so we can discuss how we can assist. Keep up to date with the latest news in the blog and follow the discussions through our groups on Linked In.

## Bringing Children to New Zealand?

All the questions you have about your children's education are answered here...

Making a move across the world is a big decision – not least when there are children involved. Some of the most frequently asked questions we are asked surround the New Zealand Education system. The link below will take you to an overview of the New Zealand Education System as published by the Ministry of Education New Zealand:

<http://tinyurl.com/NZEDUdoc>

## New Zealand: 5th in the World in Prosperity Index

Every year there are lists released along the lines of “Best place in the World to live”. But how are the rankings decided?

The 2012 Legatum Prosperity Index takes the 8 most important features and produces a ranking. The results are that New Zealand comes in 5th, scoring highly on the areas which are considered most important to people when deciding to move here: namely education and personal freedom. What are the fundamental pillars of prosperity? Economy; Entrepreneurship/opportunity; Governance; Education; Health; Safety and Security; Personal freedom and Social capital.

The top 7 are the Scandinavian countries plus Australia, Canada and New Zealand. It's fair to say that all, apart from NZ, aggressively exploit their natural resources. The

Prosperity Index comes at a time when much of the world is questioning the foundations on which prosperity and security are built. Increasing economic uncertainty continues to dominate much of the developed world; new global powers are emerging in Asia; citizens of Arab nations are tasting freedom and democracy for the first time; and social unrest is erupting in places as different as London and Lagos. It seems that NZ is consistent in its ranking in this survey, has never been out of the top 10 and offers security in nearly all aspects of what makes a country prosperous.

Source: [www.prosperity.com](http://www.prosperity.com)

## New Zealand's population hits 4,444,444 & Kiwis have 16 times the space

According to population statistics manager Andrea Blackburn, New Zealand's population enjoyed a rare moment of symmetry at the beginning of the month when on 1st Nov, somebody became New Zealand's 4,444,444th resident.

The symmetrical milestone matches one the Australian state of Queensland reached three years ago, and puts our population very close to that of Ireland or Croatia, Mrs Blackburn said.

“These types of landmarks are quite rare. Our population hit 3,333,333 in the mid-1980s and based on our projections, we probably won't get to 5,555,555 for another 30 years.

“It will also pass quite quickly. The population is currently growing by roughly 100 people every day, so it will only be at 4,444,444 for about quarter of an hour.”

Compare these figures to the UK figures secured from the UK website - Office for National Statistics, which has the UK population hitting 63,498,000 next year with a predicted growth of **4,300,000** in the next 5 years!!!

Then take into account the size of each country – NZ, 270,467 km<sup>2</sup> and UK, 242,900km<sup>2</sup> and you realize that each Kiwi has approximately 16 times the space of their UK counterpart!





## NZ judged best country in world to do business

New Zealand has topped a list of the best countries to do business thanks to its “transparent and stable business climate” that fosters entrepreneurship, says Forbes business magazine who has rated New Zealand the best country on the planet to do business in.

It ranked “tiny” New Zealand at the top of its list, bumping it up from the second place last year. The South Pacific nation excelled because of what Forbes called a “stable” business climate, transparency and an environment that encouraged entrepreneurs.

Although New Zealand was the smallest economy in the top 10, with GDP of \$162 billion, it was ranked highly for personal freedom, investor protection, lack of red tape and lack of corruption.

Forbes determined the best place to do business by analysing 141 countries on factors that include taxes, property rights, stock market performance, technology and innovation.

Forbes praised New Zealand’s close ties to Australia, saying both countries held up “better than most” during the recent global downturn despite the high New Zealand dollar and employment recently reaching its highest level since 1999.

It said the corporate tax cut last year, which reduced rates from 30 per cent to 28 per cent, “eliminated certain deductions, making the cut fiscally neutral”.

Australia missed the top 10, coming in at No11.

### Rankings

- 1 New Zealand
- 2 Denmark
- 3 Hong Kong
- 4 Singapore
- 5 Canada
- 6 Ireland
- 7 Sweden
- 8 Norway
- 9 Finland
- 10 United Kingdom.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/business/industries/7957437/NZ-judged-best-country-in-world-to-do-business>

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=3&objectid=10847700](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/news/article.cfm?c_id=3&objectid=10847700)







“ I have had the good fortune to have worked and lived in quite a few countries around the world, all very different to each other. New Zealand is by far my favourite so far. ”

## Mark Stanko

### Case study of moving to NZ

Current Employer: Brian Perry Civil – Auckland

Mark first made contact with Catalyst in January 2011 in search of Site Engineering opportunities. At that time the market was not recruiting in his area of expertise however Mark remained committed to making a move to New Zealand and stayed in regular contact with Catalyst. In August of this year, (while based in Perth – Australia), Mark came across for a quick break with the aim of attending interviews and making the most of the South Island ski slopes. Ultimately, Mark did not interview with Brian Perry Civil during his visit, but did so when he returned to Perth. It all moved quite quickly from there and Mark secured a job offer to join the team in Auckland. Mark commenced his new role at the beginning of October.

#### What inspired you to consider moving to New Zealand?

I first came to New Zealand in 2003 on a gap year trip and went on a backpacker's bus tour. I was amazed by the country, particularly by being able to surf and snowboard in the same day. I really enjoyed the warm but laid back nature of the people and the diversity of the main cities. I had been hoping for a move to New Zealand ever since.

#### Has New Zealand lived up to your expectations?

100%! I have had the good fortune to have worked and lived in quite a few countries around the world, all very different to each other. New Zealand is by far my favourite so far. I'm enjoying working for a New Zealand based company and you can feel the New Zealand way of life in everything we do in the workplace. There is a lot more freedom and responsibility given here if you're willing to embrace it.

The best bit has to be the options you have during the weekend. I've been here for almost two months and have spent weekends snowboarding, cycling up volcanoes, surfing and soaking up the Auckland nightlife.

#### How has your life changed since moving to New Zealand?

It sounds cheesy but life is just a lot more enjoyable out here. I get up in the morning happy to go to work and I no longer just go home and sit in front of the TV. New Zealanders are a very active bunch and it pays to get out and join them.

#### What one thing would you have done differently?

I probably wasted a bit of time in applying for jobs here from a distance by email. The process only really started when I came out for a job hunting visit in July. I would have come out straight away if I had known.

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

The strength of the sun in New Zealand. I somehow even manage to get sunburnt on cloudy days. As a site engineer it really pays to get the sun cream on in the morning.

#### What advice would you pass to someone commencing the process?

If you are committed to the move, then just come out as soon as you can. Once you are in New Zealand, the process can move rapidly. Also, research as much as you can about the different parts of New Zealand. I had a choice of where to be based and the differences between Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch are surprising. Each City is suited to a different kind of person and it is important you get the right fit.

#### Looking back with hindsight, do think you have made the right move for yourself?

Absolutely, I have spent the past 5 years moving around the world in different jobs. I feel really comfortable and at home here despite the distance from the UK. I'm hoping to be here for some time. There really is no reason to leave New Zealand.

#### Useful facts

1st interview to offer	11 days
Offer to arrival	32 days
Time since arrival	57 days

## The Catalyst Team



**Andy Hopkins**

ahopkins@catalystjobs.co.nz



**Phil Ponder**

pponder@catalystjobs.co.nz



**Mireille Verdonkschot**

mverdon@catalystjobs.co.nz



**Fran Stevenson**

fstevenson@catalystjobs.co.nz



**Sam Phillips**

sphillips@catalystjobs.co.nz

### Address:

PO Box 17405  
Green Lane  
Auckland 1546

Level 2  
642 Great South Road  
Ellerslie  
Auckland 1051

### Phone:

+64 9 307 6111

### UK freephone:

0808 234 3587

### Fax:

+64 9 307 6110

### Website:

www.catalystjobs.co.nz

# Christchurch Central City Transport Plan

As part of its ongoing remit the Christchurch Central Development Unit (CCDU) has recently produced its draft transport plan for Christchurch. Charged with completing the plan within 100 days of releasing its Central City Blueprint, the CCDU has delivered on time and so far received a favourable reception. Warwick Isaacs, CCDU Director, suggested *'All this is about making the central city a great place to live, work, use and shop - all those things that are very important to the recovery of the central city'*.

The general principal of the plan is to make the city more accessible and those who walk cycle or use public transport should be particularly pleased with the results. New walking routes are to be established to take advantage of the additional park space, giving easy access to the city centre. In the centre footpaths will be widened and traffic slowed to 30kmh (20mph) making a safer environment. Retail blocks either side of City Mall will be pedestrian only, as will most of Cathedral Square.

The number of bus routes will be reduced from the previous 40 to 7 core routes but will carry more buses. Current service frequency sits at 30 minutes but in the new plan services will be every 10 minutes in peak periods and every 15 minutes at other times. A new bus interchange will be complete by 2017 and will include retail outlets and cycle storage facilities. The interchange will also cater for inter city, airport transfers and taxis, subsequently becoming a transport hub. Two high quality 'super stops' will also be provided, the first near Christchurch Hospital, providing access to the metro

sports facility, health precinct and south frame. The second will be at Manchester St providing a walking link to the North CBD; both stops allowing access to the CBD within a two block walk.

Cars will not be completely outlawed and 4 of the planned 16 parking areas will be within 100 metres of Cathedral Square. In contrast to the parking currently being ripped down the new facilities will have fewer stories, will be placed mid block rather than at intersections and will have retailers at ground level to add character to the buildings.

One noticeable omission from the plan is the \$406 million light-rail connection included in the Christchurch City Council's proposed plan submitted in August. Although opinion is mixed with many believing that leaving out the rail is a wasted opportunity, Warwick Isaacs insisted that steps had been taken to future proof the transport network to keep light rail options open.

Source: The Press

