

Future Christchurch Update

The voice of the Canterbury rebuild

FEBRUARY 2016



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Left to right: Hifo Maamaloa, Fanga Vea and Maata Maamaloa give their seal of approval to the four-metre-wide slide at the Margaret Mahy Family Playground.

Playground bringing summer buzz to the central city

Christchurch's new Margaret Mahy Family Playground is helping inject life and laughter into the central city.

The playground opened just before Christmas and is proving a big drawcard, with tens of thousands of people visiting from New Zealand and around the world in its first few weeks. On a warm summer

day young people, families and people of all ages can be found enjoying the world-class facility from early in the morning until the twilight hours. Nearby businesses are reporting a boost in holiday trade.

And it's not just the playground contributing to the central city's summer of fun, crowds have been

flocking to the newly re-opened Christchurch Art Gallery and Canterbury Museum has reported a record-breaking January.

Read more about what's happening at Margaret Mahy Family Playground on page 5.

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CANTERBURY EARTHQUAKE RECOVERY AUTHORITY

John Ombler
Acting CERA Chief Executive

The unexpected passing of one of the recovery's true leaders has left me and many in the community shocked and deeply saddened.

Michelle Mitchell, who headed CERA's Social Recovery programme almost from the organisation's inception in 2011, died suddenly in her sleep on 24 January.

Although I and many others who knew Michelle feel her loss deeply on a personal level, her passing is a loss for the entire community. She was arguably the greater Christchurch community's most outstanding social warrior; first with the Ministry of Social Development, helping coordinate social services immediately after the earthquakes, and then over the past five years with CERA, where her priority has always been people.

The work Michelle and her team have done for the wellbeing of

the community has been a hugely significant part of Christchurch's recovery. To name just a few, they've driven programmes to connect people like Summer of Fun and Winter Chill; and coordinated support services such as Residential Advisory Service, Let's Find & Fix, In the Know and the early community-based earthquake hubs. A key achievement has been to bring all the psychosocial earthquake work together under the Community in Mind strategy, which not only provides a strategic direction but recognises the important and ongoing role community-based and non-governmental agencies play in the recovery.

And Michelle was set to continue her strong leadership over the next five years of recovery and regeneration, after recently becoming Director of the Greater Christchurch Group within the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

I know how deeply Michelle's passing is being felt, not just by us here at CERA, where many have shed tears, but also by people who crossed paths with her along the way. I have received many messages praising Michelle's work.

Although Michelle would have accepted praise with good grace, she never sought it. Her focus from day one was on making things better for the people of this community. She put her heart and soul and her immeasurable skills into helping this community get back on its feet after the earthquakes. I thank her personally, and on behalf of the people of greater Christchurch. ■



CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL

Karleen Edwards
Christchurch City Council Chief Executive

Kia ora and welcome to 2016.

Over the Christmas and New Year break I took some time out to walk around our beautiful city. The huge amount of growth, rebuild and regeneration is truly remarkable. Newly built and repaired buildings now stand strong and statuesque defining the central city landscape, while more and more suburban community facilities have either opened or are due to open this year. There is no doubt that Christchurch and Canterbury will see more rebuild progress in 2016 than ever before.

If we look back to 2015, the successful openings of the Bus Interchange, Te Hāpua: Halswell Centre and the Christchurch Art Gallery were truly symbolic of our city's resilience. The Te Hāpua: Halswell Centre opening, for example, attracted hundreds of visitors and more than 60,000 people have

explored the Christchurch Art Gallery since its grand opening in December. As you will see in this issue, achievements such as these will continue throughout 2016 and will align to rebuild milestones detailed in our Annual Plan which goes out for public consultation on 14 March.

As anticipation of our rebuild progress grows, it is important to remember that the rebuild would not be underway had it not been for the devastating 2010 and 2011 earthquakes that brought our city to its knees. This year marks the fifth anniversary since the February 2011 earthquake. Details of this year's public civic ceremony are highlighted in this issue.

While the rebuild remains a priority for the Council, my commitment to you as residents remains the same – to improve our public service and provide better public value by delivering top-quality council services every day. I look

forward to sharing our achievements with you throughout the year and keeping you informed about our region's revitalisation and development.

On a final note, as John Ombler has also expressed, I was deeply saddened to hear of Michelle Mitchell's passing last month. Michelle was highly regarded in the local government sector in her role as a Deputy Chief Executive at CERA, and was recently appointed to lead the Greater Christchurch Group (the new business group established as part of the wind-down of CERA) within the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. On behalf of the Council and Elected Members, our thoughts are with Michelle's family at this difficult time. ■

Rebuild progress at a glance...

84%

of the way through the entire SCIRT work programme



Total consents issued in greater Christchurch since Sept 2010

= 48,337

40,818 Residential consents



7,519 Non-residential consents



Recovery leader remembered

Michelle Mitchell, whose untimely death last month sent shockwaves through the recovery community, will be remembered as an inspirational leader who always put people first.



Always putting people first: former CERA senior leader Michelle Mitchell will be remembered as someone who made a massive difference.

Ms Mitchell, 49, passed away as the result of an unexpected illness. For the last five years, she had been a pivotal member of CERA's senior leadership team, focusing on supporting the people of greater Christchurch through the recovery. Ms Mitchell was determined to build on that work as Director of the newly formed Greater Christchurch Group (within the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet). Chosen to be the most senior central government official involved in Christchurch's regeneration, Michelle Mitchell's eyes were firmly fixed on helping guide the city and region through the next five years.

Acting CERA Chief Executive John Ombler says her loss therefore is being felt both in reflecting

on who she was as a person and her achievements to date, and in recognising the enormous ability, knowledge and commitment she was poised to bring in her new role

Ms Mitchell was a family-oriented person, who leaves behind a husband and two young adult children. A great netball player, her team won a Bronze medal at the Masters Open in Sydney 2011. Her netball colleagues, known as the tight seven from the West Coast, have stayed together for over 30 years. She was described by those who knew her as enthusiastic, energetic and fun.

Minister for Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Gerry Brownlee says the importance of Ms Mitchell's role in the recovery cannot be overstated.

"She was committed to helping this community get back on its feet, and she worked incredibly hard to make that happen."

Environment Canterbury Chairwoman Dame Margaret Bazley describes Michelle Mitchell as an "absolute pillar" of Christchurch's quake recovery and "one of the most outstanding women public servants I have ever worked with".

Ms Mitchell's commitment to the recovery of greater Christchurch was absolute, as was her belief that recovery momentum must be maintained, says Mr Ombler. An acting Director of the Greater Christchurch Group has been appointed and a permanent replacement will be arranged in the weeks to come. ■

Further CERA functions to transition soon

The next stage of the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority's transition is now underway, with a number of its functions set to transfer on 1 March to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC), and the Ministry of Health and Canterbury District Health Board (CDHB).

Although CERA is winding up, the Government remains committed to Christchurch and its regeneration. There is still work to be done, which is why a business unit within DPMC, called the Greater Christchurch Group, is being established. It will provide policy advice on the regeneration of

greater Christchurch, including on how the residential red zone may be used in future. It will also administer the new legislation, monitor and report on the overall progress of recovery and help fund or govern the remaining horizontal infrastructure repairs. The unit officially starts operating

on 1 March and will be located in Christchurch, in HSBC House.

On 1 March, CERA will also be transferring some functions in relation to the psychosocial recovery to the Ministry of Health and CDHB. These will include monitoring and reporting on

community wellbeing, and helping coordinate the provision of supports and services that assist people in greater Christchurch to rebuild their health and wellbeing.

To find out more about the changes that come into effect on 1 March, go to cera.govt.nz ■

Meet the rebuild workers



Bonifacio Traya Cantos Carpenter Buildtech

Where are you from?

I come from Cebu City in the Philippines. I came here to work in July 2013. I am married with two children. My family have lived here for seven months and my children are already at school.

What made you want to be part of the rebuild?

I came to earn money for my family – to support them – and to look for a bright future for my two kids. I like it in New Zealand and now I am applying for permanent residency. I want to live here for the opportunities for myself and for my children.

What excites you about the future of greater Christchurch and working in the rebuild?

It is much better than where I come from. The [building] materials are much better here and homes are very different. Here they are very strong. Now I am familiar with the materials and

I have learnt a lot about building here. I worked in Japan for three years so I had some experience in building where there are earthquakes.

What challenges you about the rebuild?

At first, adjusting to the life. Here it is not busy – it's not the same as my home. There it is totally crowded, here it is totally peaceful. I love here. It's much easier. It is safety – what time you go, wherever you go – it is safe. New Zealand people are nice. People in Christchurch are friendly; they say "hi" and "hello" all the time and smile. It's totally good now, I have adapted to the culture and the climate – even though it is cold in winter!

The South Frame: new public spaces

The first part of construction is set to get underway this month on the South Frame network of connections and public spaces.

The South Frame's public spaces include the Greenway and a series of lanes and courtyards. The South Frame plays a crucial role in creating a greener, better

connected, walkable and vibrant city centre for Christchurch. The work getting started will be completed in time for the openings of the new Vodafone and Kathmandu buildings

in the Innovation Precinct and the Environment Canterbury building in the South Frame.

Construction will then progress westward, eventually encompassing seven city blocks through to the Health Precinct.

Detailed inserts include volcanic basalt referencing the Port Hills, and pounamu illuminated at night.

The distinctive central Greenway is inspired by Canterbury's braided rivers. The unique shapes created by these rivers were used to design a layout for the Greenway, with paving and movement flows intersected by 'islands' of planting and activity.



Artist's impression of the Innovation North courtyard on the corner of Poplar and Ash streets, showing the new Vodafone building.

A Canterbury story

The design and materials in these new public spaces are inspired by local ecology and geography, the area's industrial history and traditional Ngāi Tahu uses.

The 'story of stone', developed by Matapopore, describes how Ngāi Tahu used and traded local stone for tools, craft, cultivation and decoration. This story is embedded in the pavement and represented by the materials selected, which include greywacke, basalt, pounamu, boulders, and precious stones such as obsidian.

Plantings throughout the South Frame feature native plants traditionally used by Ngāi Tahu, selected for their unique healing and nourishing qualities. The different plant species are arranged to provide a diverse range of colours and textures that will represent local ecosystems.

For more information and to view design documents for the South Frame, visit ccdu.govt.nz/projects-and-precincts/the-south-frame

East Frame development another boost for central Christchurch

A new Crown-led residential development in the East and North frames will make it possible for thousands more people to call the central city home over the next 8-10 years.

The formalisation of an agreement between the Crown and Fletcher Residential (under the brand Fletcher Living) means work on the large-scale development will get underway by October 2016.

The residential development will be progressively built in 14 'superlot' blocks, with the final area to be fully completed mid 2024.

The Fletcher Living proposal for what's known as the East Frame neighbourhood is made up of three distinct precincts, with varied design and architecture including loft living and warehouse style spaces. They will provide a mix of higher-density studios and apartments and areas of lower-density apartments and townhouses.

The first area of new homes to be built is on the corner of Latimer Square and Hereford Street, comprising an area of almost 3,000 square metres.

Minister for Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Gerry Brownlee says this is the Crown's key contribution to



Artist's impression of the Latimer Precinct in the new East Frame neighbourhood.

creating a vibrant and busy central city with at least 20,000 people living within the four avenues.

Fletcher Living is now carrying out detailed design work and hopes to start on-site work in mid 2016.

To find out more, visit ccdu.govt.nz/projects-and-precincts/the-east-frame-a-new-inner-city-community

East Frame fast facts

- The East Frame is made up of approximately 140,000 square metres of land with about 50 per cent of the land being offered for residential development.
- The East Frame covers 20 per cent of the city Core and is expected to house about 2,200 people.
- The East Frame public spaces will be developed by the Crown including a new central park running north-south through the East Frame, cycleways, walking paths, spaces for community gardens and new planting within the urban park setting.



Left to right: Kate, Isabelle and Laila are big fans of the new playground.

Christchurch's new playground a hit

The sounds of diggers and construction work are being drowned out by the excited voices of children enjoying the new Margaret Mahy Family Playground in central Christchurch.

The playground on the corner of Manchester and Armagh streets has been a roaring success, attracting an estimated 100,000 visitors in the first few weeks after its 22 December 2015 opening.

Local businesses are also benefiting from the influx of people into central Christchurch over the holiday period.

Owner/manager of Coffee Lovers on New Regent Street, Geoffrey Gao, says the playground has brought

the street to life. He says success is breeding success, as now that his shop looks busier, more people are popping in than ever.

Meanwhile, the playground's new punt stop is now ready for recreational and commercial users. Christchurch people are being encouraged to come up with novel means of travel to the new playground like kayak or canoe.

To find out more, visit ccdu.govt.nz

It's not just locals but visitors from all over the country and the world who have been checking out Margaret Mahy Family Playground. We spoke to some young people about their experience.

Devon (12) on his first visit loved the water play area. "It's real fun – the water gun thing; using the cannon to shoot people." His brother Kingston (8) also loved the water play area and the 4-metre-wide slide. "The best part about the slide is it's fast and you go further [than normal slides] – you get some air at the end."

Bonnie (5) from Invercargill says her favourite thing is the flying fox. "It's fast but it's not scary ... well, just a bit at first." Her brother Rafferty (7) also loved its pace. Visiting the playground was the best part of his trip to Christchurch.



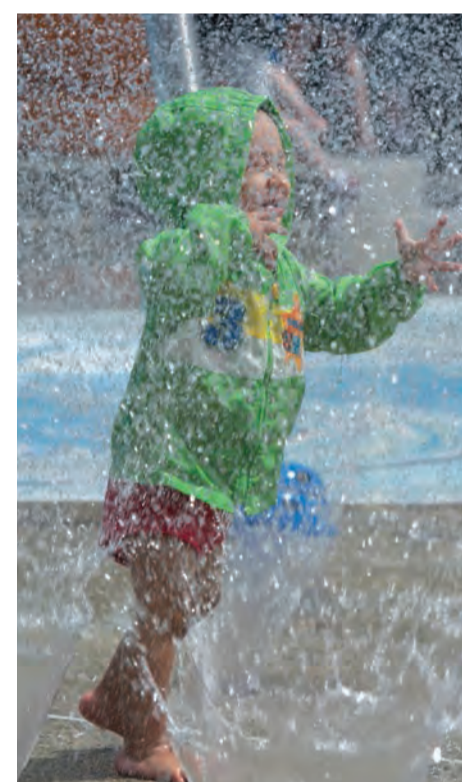
Christchurch brothers Devon and Kingston love the chance to shoot water cannons at the Margaret Mahy Family Playground.



Rafferty and Bonnie from Invercargill loved the playground so much they made their parents take them back for a second day in a row.



Water play paradise for little Isaac.



What's happening next?

From mid February, contractors will be installing additional equipment, including a series of three towers, linked by a network of rope tunnels and a solid bridge. A spiral slide will also be installed. The climbing towers have a number of enhancements to make them more accessible. While this work is done, some areas of the playground will be closed off.

A lot of great feedback has been received about the playground but ideas to improve the experience are also being taken on-board.

In response to feedback on the water play area, a fine grit and sealer have been applied to the splash pad to provide additional grip. Two reports have been received of minor injuries caused by the hot slide and as an interim measure a temporary shelter has been installed at the bottom of the slide. Slide mats are being provided on most sunny days.

The project team is identifying areas of the playground where shade is needed and considering whether it will be provided on a seasonal basis.

Let's Plan – Waimakariri takes another step forward in regeneration of residential red zone areas

Waimakariri District Council, in collaboration with CERA, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and Environment Canterbury, has now moved into the next phase of the Waimakariri Residential Red Zone Recovery Plan.

Since October last year, a team of planners, consultants and advisors have been working together to develop a series of options for the regeneration of the Waimakariri district's residential red zone. They have also given the areas in the zone a more positive and forward-looking name – the 'regeneration areas'.

Developing options has meant drawing together and considering views from a wide range of sources. These include comments and submissions from the *Canvas* and *Let's Discuss* programmes (carried out over the past 18 months), cultural and historical considerations, assessments of the impacts on a wide range of people and organisations and on community wellbeing, affordability and sustainability issues and geotechnical constraints.

The options are set out in a Preliminary Draft Residential Red Zone Recovery Plan called *Let's Plan*. From 5 February through until 4 March, the public can view the Plan and relevant documentation at redzoneplan.nz, on the Council website waimakariri.govt.nz and at all Council service centres and libraries, and share their views and comments.

As part of the project, local school pupils have helped to create a series of three-dimensional models for people to interact with. Using these, people will be able to show their support for or opposition to the land use options in each of the affected areas of Kaiapoi East, South and West, Pines Beach and Kairaki, by pinning a flag to the areas concerned. The models will be on display throughout February in a range of venues. However, a formal written submission will be required in order to reserve a right to speak to the hearing panel.

The Council has also prepared a series of short videos, available at redzoneplan.nz and on the Council website. These give a short overview of the relevant areas and the options developed for each one.

Public hearings on the comments gathered, both formally and informally, will be considered by a hearing panel in April. The feedback will then become part of the process of developing a Draft Recovery Plan, to be presented to the Minister for Canterbury Earthquake Recovery for further consultation and consideration. If the Recovery Plan is approved, *Let's Do* – the final act in the process – will be put into place from late this year onwards. ■

Contact details:
 🏠 redzoneplan.nz
 ☎ 03 311 8900
 @ info@redzoneplan.nz






Warm welcome for Te Hāpua: Halswell Centre

More than 26,000 visitors explored the striking new Te Hāpua: Halswell Centre in its first month.

It is the first time Christchurch City Council has offered so many services – a library, summer pool, service desk and community spaces – under the one roof.

“We’ve had some wonderful comments since we opened in late November and we are delighted by how warmly people have welcomed the Centre, the first major Council facility in this rapidly growing area,” says David Adamson, Director Council Facilities and Infrastructure.

“We are delighted by how warmly people have welcomed the Centre...”

David Adamson

The Council is still working on suggestions from visitors and making the final touches to the building, says Mr Adamson.

Planning for this project began in 2009, with \$23.1 million earmarked for its development. Even before the population in the area increased due to the earthquakes, the Council had identified a population boom and community need in Halswell.

Community spaces for hire have seen strong bookings. Events so far include Christmas parties, church services, wedding ceremonies and community meetings. ■

Feedback about the Centre

- I am blown away. Te Hāpua: Halswell Centre is just fabulous – world class. I shall enjoy visiting here often.
- A real joy to be able to see the great work from the inside now! So bright and spacious. Good to see outside – view of the Port Hills. Staff helpful as always.
- Amazing and a wonderful asset to our community – well done everyone
- Quiet, friendly, spacious, interesting, light, welcoming, exciting – perfect!
- Love the atmosphere, layout, design, vibe, it's all great!

Welcoming new community facility for St Martins’ residents

Christchurch City Council has revealed the design of a new community facility that will be built in St Martins this year.

The new community facility, which will include a voluntary library space, will be built on the site of the demolished St Martins Voluntary Library, 3 Wades Avenue. The developed design of the new facility is now complete and images of how the facility will look have been released (pictured).

The new facility will include three main spaces for community use, a kitchen, toilets, storage and outdoor breakout spaces. A wall between two of the meeting spaces can open to make a larger community space.

Manager Community Capital Delivery Darren Moses says the facility is designed to be a link between the residential and commercial areas that surround it. Recycled brick will feature on the outside of the building, helping to soften the appearance of the façade. “This facility will be a real hub for residents, with carefully designed community spaces and a welcoming exterior. The spaces within the building have been designed with residents in mind and will cater for a wide range of activities such as yoga and dance classes, community meetings and choir practice,” he says.



An architect’s impression of the new St Martins community facility.

Tenders for the construction of the facility were expected to be received at the end of January and a contractor will be appointed to carry out the work at the end of this month. It is expected the new facility will open by the end of 2016.

The remainder of the earthquake-damaged St Martins Voluntary Library was demolished in September 2014, making way for the new community facility. The

site, and the type of new facility that should be built there, were decided following engagement with residents. ■

Council upgrades Hospital Corner sports fields

Work has begun on South Hagley Park Hospital Corner sports fields.



The fields have been unusable during winter months due to water retention and subsequent flooding, since the Canterbury earthquakes. A new drainage system will be installed and the fields reconfigured to ensure summer and winter sports codes are able to use them.

Work includes installing four winter sports field platforms and repositioned cricket wickets on Hospital Corner and reinstating the cricket block on the No.2 Oval.

Head of Parks Andrew Rutledge says the upgrade will bring the fields up to a high-quality sporting standard for a variety of uses.

“The Hospital Corner upgrade is part of a staged programme of works to position Hagley Park as Christchurch’s most significant community sports venue. The upgrade of Bob Deans fields in North Hagley Park have recently been completed,” says Mr Rutledge.

“The refurbished fields will provide fit-for-purpose playing grounds for many community sports groups, as well as give Christchurch the ability to attract and host sporting tournaments in one high-quality location.”

The fields are expected to re-open for use in spring 2016, depending on weather and ground conditions during construction. ■

Have your say on new rules for dogs

Christchurch City Council is seeking comments on its proposed new rules for dogs.

Information about the proposed new Dog Control Policy and Bylaw is being posted to about 29,000 dog owners in the city. It is also on the Have Your Say website so other people who may be interested can comment.

“It’s not just about dogs and their owners,” says the Council’s Animal Management Team Leader, Mark Vincent. “Other people use areas where dogs are exercised, so they can input into the proposals too.”

Council staff are holding a number of public sessions to explain the changes and to gather feedback, which will be taken into account before the bylaw is approved.

Session information

New Brighton Pedestrian Mall	Saturday 13 Feb	10am– 11am
Akaroa township, near the waterfront	Tuesday 16 Feb	11am– 1pm
The Groynes Dog Park	Thursday 18 Feb	9.30am– 11.30am

“We’ve had a close look at the bylaw and policy and decided there could be improvements which would reduce regulation, encourage good dog ownership, and make the rules easier to understand,” says Mark Vincent.

Among the changes is a requirement for dog owners to carry plastic

bags to dispose of dog poo when in public places. It is also proposed to allow leashed dogs in Cathedral Square, Victoria Square, New Regent Street, Cashel Mall and New Brighton Pedestrian Mall where dogs are currently prohibited.

For full details and submission forms, go to ccc.govt.nz/haveyoursay or check the consultation booklet available at Council libraries, service centres and the Civic Offices in Hereford Street.

Submissions close on 4 March. ■



Christchurch City Annual Plan 2016-2017 Photography Competition

Christchurch City Council is running a photography competition to find an image showing our city *Coming Alive*. We want a shot capturing this vitality and regeneration.

The best photograph will appear on the cover of the Council’s flagship document for the year, the Annual Plan 2016. Entries are now open and close on 21 February.

An Annual Plan explains what the Council plans to do in the next financial year and how we will pay for it.

See ccc.govt.nz/annualplan to enter the photo competition online, or to find out more about the Annual Plan and ways you can have your say during March and April.

Water conservation is still important as summer continues

Christchurch people are being encouraged to continue to conserve water even after the recent rain.

Christchurch City Council Head of Three Waters and Waste John Mackie says although there have been a few rainy days, it still makes sense to conserve water.

“Water conservation is good any time of the year, whether it is hot and dry, or rainy and wet.”

“Water conservation efforts since mid December have helped ensure

a fair supply for everyone but we are still asking people to resist the urge to water their gardens in peak hours because this can still reduce water pressure in some areas,” John Mackie says.

“The best time to water the garden is before 6am or after 9pm, which will allow reservoirs to fill properly so there is plenty of water the next day,” he says.

Watering the garden with a hand-held hose, checking that your irrigation system has no leaks, reducing shower time, and waiting until you have a full load before starting the dishwasher or washing machine are other ways to conserve water.

For more water conservation tips, visit www.becomewaterwise.co.nz ■



Convenient: David and Lois Lang are among about 600 riders a day using the new Matai Street cycleway.

City couple among hundreds using new cycleway each day

For David Lang, riding to work on his bike is a no-fuss affair, giving him and wife Lois some quality time before the working day.

“In the morning my wife and I both cycle in to town, have a coffee and then I cycle on to work and she returns home. My journeys to and from work take about 20 minutes in the morning and 15 minutes in the evening.”

By comparison, it takes about 10 minutes to make the same journey to or from their Riccarton home by car.

Mr and Mrs Lang are among about 600 people a day using the new cycleway on Matai Street East and the crossing over Deans Avenue into Hagley Park. It was one of the first projects completed nationwide as part of the Government’s Urban Cycleways Programme, a joint funding arrangement to speed up delivery of cycle infrastructure.

“Before this new cycleway, we used the painted cycle lanes on Kilmarnock Street, but it was still close to heavy traffic, so we now use the Matai Street cycleway all the time,” Mr Lang says. “It feels much safer, and the timing for the lights to change for the cyclists at Matai Street seems to be more responsive than at Kilmarnock Street.

“A lot of people think you get sweaty and need to shower at work, but I ride to work in my business suit without any problem.

“Biking should be a normal part of your day. You don’t wear special clothes to vacuum your house – you don’t need special clothes to ride a bike.”

Mr Lang is a partner at Saunders and Co Lawyers and riding to get around is the norm.

“I cycle to work most days. I also use my bike at the weekends to go shopping, recreational cycling etc. I use my bike on at least one occasion during the weekend.”

He has some advice for anyone looking to give cycling a try as new cycleways are built.

“I ride a gentleman’s bike, which has an upright stance. I used to find the head-down stance of a mountain bike uncomfortable.

My advice would be to get a comfortable bike with mudguards if you are using it for work, and just make it part of your day to bike to work.”

The NZ Transport Agency has a target of 10 million more cycling trips annually by 2019, and Jim Harland, Southern Regional Director, says he’s delighted by the increase in people cycling in Christchurch.

“Over a quarter of New Zealanders are already getting out on their bike and research shows that a further 407,002 are intending to take up cycling in the next six months so we’re on track for 10 million journeys annually by 2019 – if not sooner.”

ccc.govt.nz/cycleways ■



Relaxing: Having a coffee together after biking into the central city is part of the morning routine for David and Lois Lang.

What’s next for cycleways?

It’s shaping up as a busy year for cycleways in Christchurch.

Here are some of the key milestones the Council expects to achieve on its Major Cycle Routes in 2016:

- More of the Uni-Cycle route will be built. This includes cycleways past Christchurch Boys’ High School, through Hagley Park. Once approved, work will also start on the section from Riccarton Bush to the University of Canterbury.
- Consultation will proceed on Quarryman’s Trail design, with construction starting later in the year.
- Work will begin on the city end of Little River Link, from the central city through Addington connecting with the cycleway alongside the Southern Motorway.
- Sections of the Rapanui – Shag Rock Cycleway will be built between Fitzgerald Avenue and Linwood Park.
- Plans for the Heathcote Expressway will be released for comment.
- The Council will invite comment on plans to extend the Northern Line Cycleway.

Two new consultations will begin this month. You can see the plans and comment online. ccc.govt.nz/haveyoursay

Earthquake stress still a reality in Canterbury

Children and young people who act out, or refuse to go to school or to sleep in their own beds are a familiar challenge to many people raising a family – but they may also be indicators of ongoing earthquake stress.

Experts say the psychosocial recovery from a disaster can take 5 to 10 years. Working through that recovery can feel like riding a rollercoaster. For children, it is no different.

Child and adolescent psychotherapist Jo Doyle says all children involved in the Canterbury earthquakes will have been impacted emotionally on some level.

“They need time to adjust to the disruptions and changes in their lives caused by the earthquakes. Also children cannot avoid being impacted if their parents are experiencing stress.”

Jo Doyle says because children are still developing emotionally they may not have the resources to cope or the ability to express their feelings.

She uses the example of 12-year-old ‘Tim’.

“Tim can’t go to sleep and he doesn’t want to go to school. His father is a builder and his mother works part time and does the building accounts at night. The family home, which they had just finished building in August 2010, was red-zoned and then

demolished. The family has moved three times. His father became very busy with the rebuild; hiring more staff and organising bigger jobs. Weekend family activities took a back seat while Tim’s parents juggled moving, extra work and helping their elderly parents with insurance claims. While Tim seemed to cope well at first, now he is negative and aggressive at home and very quiet and anxious at school.”

Jo Doyle says parents don’t always link what is happening with their children or teenagers with ongoing stress from the earthquakes.

If you have concerns about your child or teenager, support is available. As a starting point, visit your general practitioner or call the Canterbury Support Line (0800 777 846). Support Line staff can give information, and connect you with free counselling services or organisations that offer practical support, information or advice. ■

Five ways to feel All Right

International research has shown that the Five Ways to Wellbeing can make a real difference to the way we feel, even when times are tough.

- 1. Connect ...**
Build connections with the people around you. That will support and enrich you every day.
- 2. Be active...**
Exercising can make you feel good!
- 3. Take notice...**
Be aware of the world around you and what you are feeling.
- 4. Keep learning...**
Try something new. Learning new things will make you more confident as well as being fun.
- 5. Give ...**
Do something nice for a friend, or a stranger.



Being active and doing things with people you care about can make a difference to how you feel.

Needing to rebuild or relocate?

Our Earthquake Support Coordinators can help you plan your recovery and connect you to the services you need including:

- › Accommodation
- › Financial advice
- › Legal and insurance help
- › Health
- › Employment and retraining
- › Child care

Call **0800 777 846** to request an **Earthquake Support Coordinator** – the service is free and confidential.

Need help to find help?



Canterbury Support Line

Call now **»» 0800 777 846**
9am–11pm 7 days

Rū Whenua Kaitoko Whānau: Creating strategies for change

Drawing up a brightly coloured ‘plan for change’ to pin on the fridge may sound simple, but for some struggling Christchurch families it’s making all the difference.

Kaupapa Maori providers support earthquake-affected whānau in greater Christchurch. Rū Whenua Kaitoko worker from Te Ora Hou Otautahi, Ngaire Briggs is proud of her ‘success stories’. She has helped family members reconnect with one another and worked with them to identify and resolve issues.

She says a key tool for struggling families is making a Whānau Ora Path plan. Using brightly coloured pictures, diagrams and words, adults and children alike detail their ‘vision’ for how they’d like things to be. The plan identifies obstacles to achieving progress and strategies for change.

These can be simple things like: a family ‘date night’ or picnic at a local park, going for walks, visiting the Christchurch Botanic Gardens, playing board games or having a movie night in.

Ngaire Briggs explains people are often very private about their issues so building trust and positive relationships is vital.

Showing a photo of one whānau in which everyone is holding their individual safety plans, Ngaire Briggs

says, “Just taking that photo was a huge achievement in itself. It is a show of solidarity. I hold it really dear. It is a privilege to be a part of that.”

She and other Rū Whenua Kaitoko Whānau workers support Māori whānau to deal with both earthquake issues and other concerns such as housing, finance, education, and psychological and emotional health.

Rū Whenua Kaitoko worker Adele Tikao from Positive Directions Trust also works with families in Christchurch.

“Housing is a major issue affecting Māori families. Some have moved up to nine times since the earthquakes. They’ve been muscled out of the accommodation market, leaving them couch-surfing with their whānau or living in a garage with babies crawling around on carpet on concrete.”

Adele Tikao says as well as reducing people’s health, happiness and sense of self-worth, this way of living has split up whānau, with different members living in different parts of the city as they seek cheaper accommodation.



A family movie night, a picnic in the park or going for a walk in the gardens can be simple strategies to help families reconnect and increase their wellbeing.

She says the Kaitoko approach is to look at the whole whānau in a holistic way.

One way she reaches out is to base herself at a local school several days a week so that people can come to her in a place they feel safe.

“Mothers will talk to me about children acting up and their concerns

over their children’s health ahead of the winter. It helps them to have someone to talk to.”

To find out more about Rū Whenua Kaitoko Whānau, call the Ngāi Tahu call centre on **0800 Kai Tahu (0800 524 8248)** or the Canterbury Support Line on **0800 777 846**. ■

Quake counselling still available

Large numbers of Cantabrians are continuing to access mental health services, including a growing number who have never sought support before.

In CERA’s latest Wellbeing Survey, 77 per cent of those surveyed report a positive quality of life. However, 20 per cent report ongoing stress as an issue.

Petersgate Counselling Centre Director Geoff King says that the cumulative effect of earthquake-related stress on individuals and families is a significant factor for people seeking counselling.

“Part of what we’re seeing in our counselling rooms is people who have held it together for the last five years, but have now simply run out of steam.”

Geoff King
Petersgate Counselling
Centre Director

He says their adult clients include an increasing number of men (mostly middle-aged and older), many of whom have been balancing work and family commitments on top of earthquake-related stressors such as insurance and housing issues.

“This is compounded for clients who have been working long hours in construction or related industries.

“Part of what we’re seeing in our counselling rooms is people who have held it together for the last five years, but have now simply run out of steam,” Geoff King says.

Counsellor To’Alepai Louella Thomsen Inder says Pacific Island people tend to try to solve their problems within the family unit or the local community. It takes a huge shift in understanding, particularly for men, to seek outside help.

She says housing is a major issue.

“There are still situations where three or four generations are living in one house. There are couples living in one room with three to four children – the tension is extremely high. Initially, it was only considered a temporary thing and people coped, but all this time has passed. People now have to deal with issues they put on the back-burner,” Ms Thomsen Inder says.

“One strategy I use is to encourage people to draw up a personal or family plan. They can use that to identify for themselves their issues and the steps they can take to improve their situation.”

Free earthquake counselling and support is still available. If you or someone you know are finding it hard to cope and need support, call the Canterbury Support Line on **0800 777 846**. ■

Useful websites:

alright.org.nz – All Right? works to support and improve Cantabrians’ mental health and wellbeing as we recover and rebuild from the earthquakes.

bounce.org.nz – Bounce is a collection of tips, ideas and inspiration to help people live well. This New Zealand Red Cross project partners with young people for young people.

mentalhealth.org.nz or call 09 23 4812

SCIRT on the job for final year

The Stronger Christchurch Infrastructure Rebuild Team (SCIRT) has launched into the final year of its programme of work to repair the city's earthquake-damaged pipes, roads, bridges and retaining walls and SCIRT is on track to get the job done by December 2016.

For SCIRT, 2016 will be another big and busy year, the last of SCIRT's five-year programme of horizontal infrastructure repairs. It has been a big job, and SCIRT thanks Christchurch people for continuing to make workers feel welcome in their communities.

SCIRT's aim is to finish the construction programme by December this year and is on target to do that.

This year the delivery teams have all hit the ground running to get through SCIRT's full programme of infrastructure repair and rebuild. Christchurch people will notice many work crews on the streets across the city continuing to repair wastewater, storm water, and water pipe networks as well as roads, kerbs and channels throughout the year.

The entire SCIRT programme of work is now 84 per cent complete. In the central city, SCIRT has completed 97 per cent of its programme of work to make way for the vertical rebuild there.

Although SCIRT will finish the bulk of the work of rebuilding Christchurch's damaged infrastructure this December, it will not be the end of the rebuild programme. Christchurch City Council and New Zealand Transport Agency will continue to repair the remaining damaged infrastructure as part of an ongoing programme of repair work and long-term maintenance. ■



Large projects to be completed in 2016 are:

- The resilient vacuum wastewater system in Aranui
- Wastewater repair works in a number of suburbs, including Parklands, Burwood, Linwood, Fendalton, St Albans, and hill suburbs such as Huntsbury, Hoon Hay, Westmorland, Heathcote and Mount Pleasant
- Repairs to the city's two large wastewater trunk pipes, the Northern Relief in Edgware and the Southern Relief in Linwood
- Repairs to several bridges, including Moorhouse Avenue and Durham Street overbridges in the city
- Roading, kerb and channel works in various suburbs, including Parklands, Woolston, Aranui, Fendalton, Strowan, New Brighton, Burwood, Richmond, St Albans and Linwood.
- Continuing and completing repairs of retaining walls in Lyttelton

SCIRT's aim is to finish the construction programme by December this year and is on target to do that.

Thank you for your patience

SCIRT knows it's not easy being held up during your daily commute or having disruption in your neighbourhood. The team would like to say a huge thanks to residents and businesses in areas where it is working for their ongoing patience and support.

Contact details:

strongerchristchurch.govt.nz

03 941 8999

info@scirt.co.nz



84% of the whole SCIRT programme is complete



97% of the SCIRT programme in the Central City is complete



95% of residents believe that roadworks are part of progress



Call for workers to swap cars for Metrocards

Christchurch residents are being urged to leave their cars at home and consider public transport.

With an estimated 15,000 people* expected to be working in the Retail Precinct in central Christchurch within the next two years, Environment Canterbury senior transport advisor Shannon Boorer is encouraging inner city workers to swap their cars for a Metrocard to reduce parking issues and traffic congestion.

“We all need to get on board and free up our roads by catching a bus occasionally – if not to work in the central city, then maybe to a social event or a shopping trip to the mall. Every trip can help make a positive difference.”

Taking public transport, cycling and walking are all encouraged under *An Accessible City*, the transport chapter of the Christchurch Central Recovery Plan.

Computer modelling shows by 2041, once *An Accessible City* is implemented, it is expected there will be a threefold increase in cycling and public transport use, while the number of car trips per day to, from and within the central city is anticipated to increase only slightly compared with pre-earthquake levels.

The opening of the Bus Interchange in 2015 was an important step in developing a region-wide transport system. Research commissioned by Environment Canterbury shows

*Research from property firm Colliers forecasted 10,000 people will work in the central city's new Retail Precinct by late 2016, growing to approximately 15,000 by Christmas 2017.



Environment Canterbury senior transport advisor Shannon Boorer says catching the bus to work several times a week gives her more time to check emails, read or prepare for meetings.

overall patronage of the five high-frequency Metro services is increasing, with some bus routes growing by 40 per cent.

“Like all major international cities, use of Christchurch’s public transport system is vital and will contribute greatly to the smooth flow, energetic vibe and success of our new, emerging city,” Shannon Boorer says.

For more information, visit metroinfo.co.nz

“Every trip can help make a positive difference.”

Shannon Boorer
Environment Canterbury senior transport advisor

Contact details:

ecan.govt.nz

03 353 9007



Handmade gifts for new tenants

Tenants living in Housing New Zealand homes that were restored in a successful government partnership will get a permanent memento of the work that went into rebuilding them.



Caption: Aranui tenant Melanie Manuel trying out her new chopping board, made from the same timber as that used to restore her Housing New Zealand home.

Housing New Zealand and the Department of Corrections joined forces in a scheme where prisoners gain new skills and confidence by building and restoring damaged state houses at the Rolleston Prison construction yard.

Once completed at the yard, the houses are transported to sites across the city and re-let to tenants.

The prisoners also crafted left-over rimu timber from the houses into chopping boards. These will be given to every family who move into one of the restored houses.

Melanie Manuel, who recently moved into a restored house in Aranui with her young children, says the gesture is fantastic and she appreciates the prisoners’ efforts.

“It’s something they can be proud of too, you know. It might only be a chopping board to some people but I think it’s pretty cool.”

Housing New Zealand Rolleston Prison Project Manager Mark Harrison says the idea of making the chopping boards was thought up as a creative activity alongside the construction project.

“It’s like the overall programme. It’s all win-win as far as we are concerned.”

Contact details:

hnzc.co.nz

0800 801 601

enquiries1@hnzc.co.nz



EQC grants \$1 million to natural disaster researchers

Developing an advanced understanding of natural hazard risk is taking another step forward, thanks to 15 new research projects being funded by the Earthquake Commission (EQC).

The latest round of EQC’s Biennial Research Grants Programme is providing \$1 million to projects that explore different aspects of New Zealand’s exposure and vulnerability to natural disasters, and ways to manage these effectively.

This is part of \$16 million EQC funds each year to high-quality research that builds on this knowledge.

Three of the 15 Biennial Grant recipients are Canterbury-based geological researchers. Many of the projects are ongoing collaborations with GeoNet, New Zealand’s geological hazard monitoring system.

As its name suggests, the programme provides funding every two years. Former recipients have provided significant findings and improved tools to better understand and limit the potential impact of geological hazards.

Since 1989, EQC has supported more than 250 different projects through these grants. These have helped New Zealand become a world leader in improving the quality of data that is used to inform natural disaster mitigation.

The programme is a contestable grants initiative, with the 2016 round attracting 118 applicants. The next round will be open for applicants in 2017. Visit eqc.govt.nz for further information.

Contact details:

eqc.govt.nz

0800 DAMAGE or 0800 326 243



Joining together on quake anniversary

Memorial service on fifth anniversary of 2011 quake

A Civic Memorial Service will be held to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the 2011 earthquake.

The service will be at the Christchurch Botanic Gardens Archery Lawn starting at midday on Monday, 22 February 2016.

One minute's silence will be included in the service at 12.51pm, the time the earthquake happened.

Christchurch Mayor Lianne Dalziel says this is a community event, open to everyone to attend.

"The service also enables us to share our collective sense of loss. We have lasting memories of how the earthquake changed our lives and this event is the opportunity to support each other as we share those experiences," Mayor Lianne Dalziel says. ■

First element of Earthquake Memorial nears completion

Construction of the first area of the new Canterbury Earthquake Memorial will be complete by 22 February 2016.

The first element of the Memorial is a reflective space on the north bank of the Ōtākaro/Avon River, between Montreal Street and Rhododendron Island. From there, people can look across the river to the Memorial Wall to be built on the south bank.

The stone Memorial Wall on the Oxford Terrace side of the river is in the detailed design phase now and will be finished in time for an official dedication on 22 February 2017.

To find out more, visit ccdu.govt.nz ■

River of Flowers to mark earthquake anniversary

This year's River of Flowers fifth anniversary commemoration is expected to be the biggest yet.

Now in its fifth year, the River of Flowers has become a key way communities come together to commemorate the 22 February 2011 earthquake.

Evan Smith from the Avon-Otakaro Network (AvON) says placing flowers into our waterways sends a strong message that we are all in

this together; we're all connected as communities and part of something much bigger.

To find the River of Flowers site closest to you, visit healthychristchurch.org.nz ■



Summer event series underway in Selwyn



Selwyn summer events kicked off with a popular Teddy Bears' Picnic in January at Rolleston.

Selwyn District Council's summer event programme is now underway.

Family picnics are planned at Leeston, Dunsandel and Prebbleton in February and March. They will feature live music, bouncy castles, the Fun on Wheels Trailer, games, pedalmania and more.

Music on the Green sessions are taking place at Lincoln, Darfield and Rolleston. These sessions are a great chance to pack a picnic and enjoy summer's balmy evenings while being entertained by great local musicians.

Families can also enjoy screenings of drive-in movies at Rolleston, Darfield, Lincoln and Leeston during February and March. Kids can take part in summer skate jams at Rolleston, Leeston, Tai Tapu, Lincoln and Prebbleton, and a pool party at the Selwyn Aquatic Centre in Rolleston

on 14 February. Successful pool parties were held at Darfield and Southbridge in January.

For a complete list of summer events running in Selwyn until March 2016, visit selwyn.govt.nz/events, or pick up a copy of the Summer in Selwyn guide from a Selwyn library, Rolleston Community Centre or Lincoln Event Centre. ■

Contact details:

selwyn.govt.nz

03 347 2800 or 03 318 8338

Start with a Smile

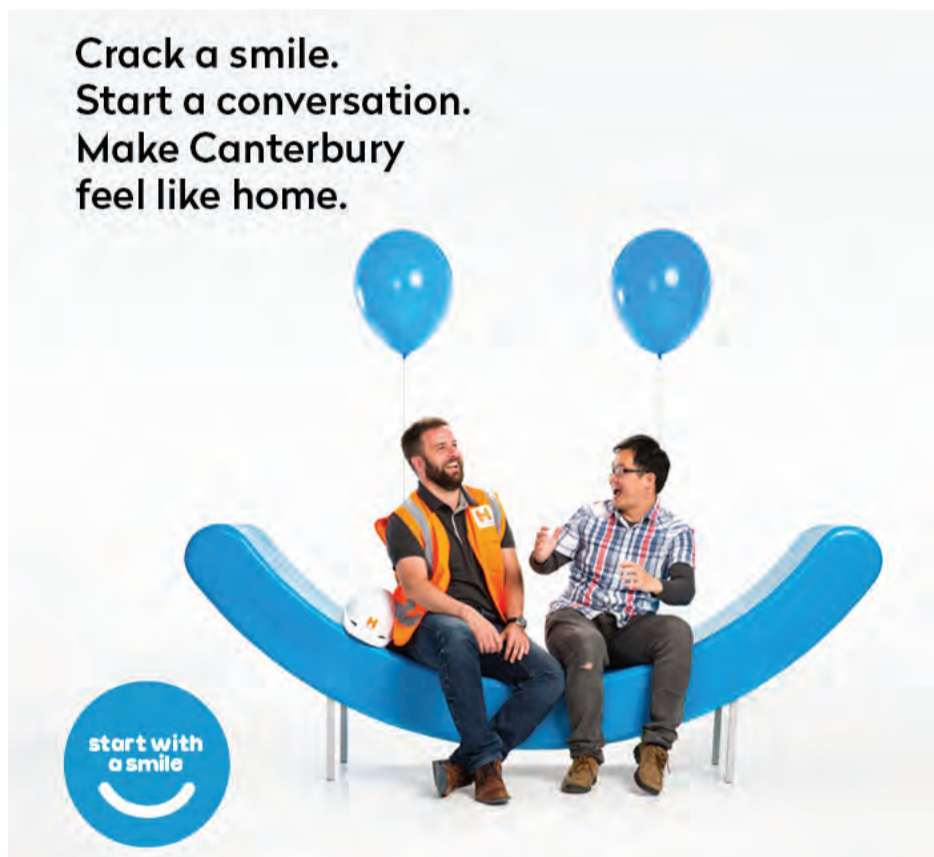
Large numbers of migrants have settled into greater Christchurch since the earthquakes, bringing with them experience, qualifications and energy, as well as injecting international flavour. Many of them have decided to stay on and build roots in their new city. Work visas are being changed into residence visas. As a result, Christchurch has become increasingly multicultural, and the diverse population is now highly visible in schools, churches, malls, hospitals and workplaces.

The Start with a Smile campaign from the Canterbury Employers' Chamber of Commerce encourages everyday Cantabrians to engage with newcomers to Christchurch. The campaign features a curved couch that – with two helium balloons

floating above it – resembles a smiley face. As the Smile Couch makes its way around Canterbury, it gets Kiwi-born and foreign-born people to sit down, grab a conversation card and start talking.

Dayle Gibson, a lawyer at Lane Neave who got to know Naoki Ikeda of Japan on the Smile Couch, says, "any time you sit down with somebody you don't know, it's always going to be initially slightly awkward, but something like this shows you that that awkwardness is very short-lived. I loved having a chat with Naoki!"

To find out more, visit cecc.org.nz ■



Christchurch International Market

The Christchurch International Market is bringing the sights, sounds and most importantly the flavours of the world to the central city.

The market is open at 100 Peterborough Street on Saturday nights 5-8 pm, until the end of April.

Authentic cuisine from around the world is on offer including Malawian, Nigerian and Hungarian. There is food and entertainment for all tastes and ages.

The market's goal is to encourage and support micro-enterprise development of enterprise opportunities for ethnic communities and women in Christchurch including African countries.

To find out more, go to: www.facebook.com/christchurchinternationalmarket ■



Useful contacts



Christchurch City Council
03 941 8999
0800 800 169
info@ccc.govt.nz
www.ccc.govt.nz

CERA
0800 RING CERA
0800 7464 2372
info@cera.govt.nz
cera.govt.nz

EQC
0800 DAMAGE
0800 326 243
eqc.govt.nz

SCIRT
03 941 8999
info@scirt.co.nz
strongerchristchurch.govt.nz

Waimakariri District Council
03 311 8900
waimakariri.govt.nz

Selwyn District Council
03 347 2800
03 318 8338
selwyn.govt.nz

Environment Canterbury
03 353 9007
ecan.govt.nz

Canterbury Support Line
0800 777 846

Earthquake Support Coordination Service
0800 777 846

Residential Advisory Service
03 379 7027
0800 777 299
advisory.org.nz

Canterbury Earthquake Temporary Accommodation Service
0800 673 227
quakeaccommodation.govt.nz

What's on...

Free



Christchurch Lantern Festival

27-28 February, 5pm - 10.30pm
North Hagley Park

Bring your family and friends as the Christchurch Lantern Festival celebrates the Year of the Monkey. FREE



Free

Canterbury Japan Day

6 March, 10am - 5pm
Riccarton Park Function Centre

Experience authentic Japanese culture at this day filled with fun, delicious food and education attractions. FREE



Open Air Summer Shakespeare: Hamlet

10-20 February, 6pm - 8pm and Saturday matinee
Mona Vale

See one of the world's most famous plays in beautiful surroundings (not recommended for children under 8 years). \$10 - \$15



ISPS Handa NZ Women's Open

12-14 February
7.30am start
Clearwater Golf Club

Various prices



Black Caps v Australia

20-24 February
10.30am, Hagley Oval

The second ANZ cricket test. Various prices



Cirque du Soleil - QUIDAM

17-25 February, 8pm, Horncastle Arena

Since premiering in 1996, Quidam has captivated millions of people across five continents. Now it's coming our way, with the same spell-binding production performed in arenas around the world.



Nostalgia Festival

20 February
12.30pm - 7.30pm
Ferrymead Heritage Park

\$39 + booking fee



Free

NZ National Touch Championship

4-6 March, 9am
Deans Field, Hagley Park North

FREE



Christchurch Holi: Indian Festival of Colours

5 March, 11am - 3pm, The Commons

This year Holi is celebrating the people of Christchurch. Throw colours and dance to music. Bring cash to buy colour and enjoy Holi food. \$10, children under 10 FREE



Alliance Française French Film Festival

3-20 March

Various prices and locations



Danny Bhoj: Please Untick This Box

22 February, 8pm
Isaac Theatre Royal

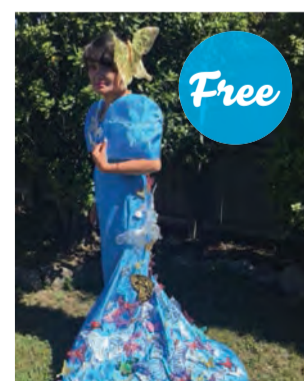
\$59.60



Armageddon Expo

12-13 March, 10am - 5pm, Horncastle Arena

A weekend of sci-fi, gaming, anime (Japanese-style animation), collectables, TV and movie stars and comics. Various prices.



Free

Philippines Day

22 February
12pm - 4pm
Cathedral Square

FREE

The events featured on this page are just a selection of what's happening in Christchurch over the next few weeks. Find out more online. ■

Be There >>>
CHRISTCHURCH EVENTS

For more events visit:
bethere.co.nz