



THE GOOD EARTH



Christmas 2010

CANTERBURY EARTHQUAKE

As has been widely reported, the Canterbury earthquake on 4 September and the many aftershocks had a widespread impact on the people and businesses of the Canterbury region. We were fortunate not to suffer any damage to our Christchurch office, and thankfully our disaster recovery plans did not need to be invoked. Good Earth Matters Consulting has had a multi-disciplinary response to the earthquake. We have provided property management, resource management and property valuation services to the Earthquake Commission, as well as engineering services to Waimakariri District Council as they begin the massive task of repairing and rebuilding their water and wastewater infrastructure, particularly in Kaiapoi.

When the earthquake struck, Good Earth Matters Consulting was in the process of completing the 2010 triennial revaluation of the Christchurch City rateable values. Due to the large and widespread scale of damage the revaluation has been deferred. Our valuers are now focusing on recording changes in value as a result of damage caused by the earthquake. Any changes will still be valued at the date of the last general revaluation, 1 August 2007.

Since the earthquake, the Christchurch property market has been understandably quiet, with the number of houses sold reducing to about half of that before 4 September. Good Earth Matters Consulting is monitoring the property market closely to determine the impact of the earthquake on property values.



GOOD EARTH MATTERS CONSULTING SUPPORTS UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

It has been a long term policy of Good Earth Matters Consulting to offer opportunities for university students to provide them with relevant work experience. This is always of enormous benefit to both staff and the students employed.



Hanan Kayed, studying Chemical Engineering at Massey University, is back with us in the Palmerston North office for the second summer and believes that the ongoing involvement with us certainly contributes to her progress with her degree.

Megan Buddle is working in our Christchurch office over the summer break from her Bachelor of Commerce, majoring in Valuation and Property at Lincoln University. She is thoroughly enjoying the opportunity to go in to the field with valuers and observing their practices.



Rhys Bridges is working with us for his first summer prior to commencing study towards a Bachelor of Business Studies, majoring in Accounting.

We wish them all well as they participate in our work and as they commence a new year of study in 2011

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Be sure to add goodearthmatters.com to your favourites. Our new website will be launched in the coming weeks.



WAIMAKARIRI FLOOD PROTECTION

Following on from the company's success in gaining a Gold Award of Excellence from ACENZ earlier this year, construction of the Waimakariri Flood Protection Project works has commenced.

Contractors are currently working on the first phase of the project and will



continue via a number of different contracts through to the end of the financial year. While some earthquake damage occurred in September 2010 to parts of the existing stop banks, Environment Canterbury Regional Council has continued to progress the flood protection improvements. The first year of the project involves rock protection works around the northern motorway, road and rail bridge abutments, as well as "plugging the gaps" on the Christchurch side secondary stopbank line between the Airport and the State Highway 1 bridge across the Waimakariri River.

NEWS FROM THE PLANNING TEAM

The planning team has had a busy and exciting year and is looking forward to another one in 2011. Although David Forrest was not able to take his planned sabbatical due to the Icelandic volcano eruption, renewable sustainable energy and in particular wind energy remains a key issue and focus for our planning team. The Environment Court granted consent to the Waitahora Wind Farm in the Puketoi Ranges, and its decision in respect of the land use application largely accepts and reflects the evidence David provided to it and to the Councils' hearing committee. Wind farms have also taken centre stage in the mediation of appeals on the Proposed Tararua District Plan. Mediation is progressing well and we are hopeful that appeals will be resolved without the need for an Environment Court Hearing.

The team has had a challenging and variety filled year, involving a number of both large and smaller scale projects. We have waded our way through the 2009 amendments to the RMA and wait with anticipation for the next round of 'simplifying and streamlining' changes to the Act. Next year is shaping up to be another interesting year, particularly with the signals coming from central government about its role in the management of land and water.

WORLD WATER CONGRESS

In September, David Bridges attended the International Water Association World Water Congress and Exhibition in Montreal, Canada.

The conference was attended by almost 4,000 water professionals from around the world.

The key messages which David has brought back relate to:

- Effort being made in Europe and Canada to manage diffuse pollution
- Legacy effects arising from present levels of contamination
- The importance of integrated nutrient management rather than focusing on individual nutrients
- Harnessing both the energy and nutrient potential of any wastewater stream as opposed to just attempting to minimise effects from discharges.

The over-riding impression is that New Zealand is lagging behind both in terms of knowledge and effort when compared to Europe and North America when addressing water management issues.



CHRISTMAS WISHES



Finally, all of us in both Christchurch and Palmerston North Offices join in sending you all our best thoughts for a very joyful Christmas and every good wish for a Happy New Year. We look forward to assisting you meeting the challenges ahead in 2011.

