



impact

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A hat-trick for the Wellington region

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Common acronyms

MCDEM Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management
CDEM Civil defence emergency management
NCMC National Crisis Management Centre
ECC Emergency Coordination Centre
EOC Emergency Operations Centre
EMO Emergency Management Officer

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EDITORIAL

Hon Nikki Kaye, Minister of Civil Defence



Local authorities show leadership

On Friday 16 August I was at Wellington airport when the 6.6 magnitude Lake Grassmere earthquake struck near Seddon.

It was a strong jolt in Wellington and I quickly decided to return to Parliament.

Unfortunately by the time I jumped in a taxi, traffic had practically gridlocked. I ended up travelling some of the way on foot and arrived to find my office had been evacuated. As the National Crisis Management Centre (NCMC) had been activated to ensure both Marlborough and Wellington Civil Defence Emergency Management Groups were supported through the earthquake and aftershocks, I made my way there to discuss the situation with the Director and the National Controller.

A couple of things I discovered between leaving the airport shortly after the main quake and getting to Parliament – Wellington city is difficult to evacuate and the traffic quickly grinds to a halt; and the mobile phone network was very quickly overloaded. I couldn't talk to my office but could send and receive email.

As media demands came in quickly, it also became obvious some of my staff need to be able to relocate and have access to computers. In previous responses to events outside Wellington they have been able to work from their offices. But in this case, because the earthquake impacted on Wellington, Bowen House where our office is, had been evacuated pending an engineer's inspection to assess safety. We are now working on our own personal office business continuity plan.

The evacuation of buildings is also something we need to think about. MCDEM Director John Hamilton has issued some advice on this since the quakes. Obviously, if a building is clearly unsafe, people should get out. But if there are strong aftershocks – which there were – there is also the risk of people being injured by falling debris or glass.

I spent a lot of time on the phone and spoke to both Marlborough District and Wellington Mayors and offered any assistance they might need.

The next day (Saturday), I visited Seddon and the surrounding areas with Earthquake Commission Minister Gerry Brownlee and we were joined by local MP Colin King. We were able to see the damage first hand and talk to, and hopefully reassure, locals most impacted by the quakes. I believe it is important to get on the ground quickly and let people know that Government is there to support local emergency management.

I think both the Marlborough and Wellington Civil Defence Emergency Management Groups did a great job.

I was impressed with how effectively and efficiently local authorities responded to the event. They were quickly and consistently present in their communities providing leadership and instilling confidence in residents. ■



"I think both the Marlborough and Wellington Civil Defence Emergency Management Groups did a great job."

Students to the rescue

The future of civil defence rescue in the Hutt Valley looks bright, judging by the skills on display at the recent Secondary Schools Rescue Training Day.

Nine schools from across the Hutt Valley participated in a full day of exercises which tested their knowledge and skills in areas such as moving casualties, stretcher lashing and loading, problem solving and reconnaissance.

Students who volunteered to take part were assessed on the learning they gained during two previous day-long sessions and assessors were impressed with the skills and attitudes on show.

Senior Emergency Management Advisor Dave Jack describes the three day programme as an opportunity for students to gain practical skills which benefit the community, and develop self-confidence and team work.

“It’s great to see the change in many of the students at the completion of the three days. Their confidence is often sky-high because they’ve been able to work together with their peers to solve problems and been given the skills to be successful. Many students also discover leadership qualities they never knew they had.

“As a rescue professional it’s fantastic to see the younger generation so enthusiastic about civil defence and willing to put their hand up to learn life-long skills which may one day save a life.”

The programme is an initiative established by the Hutt Valley office of Wellington Regional Emergency Management and was the first of its kind in the country. It was established 38 years ago and has been held annually ever since. For the past seven years, Devereux-Blum Training & Development Ltd have been involved in the programme managing the assessment process for those students seeking accreditation for Unit Standard 20473 – rescue casualties at ground level using civil defence general rescue techniques.

St Orans College were awarded the Civil Defence Shield and the Spirit Cup which are awards given by the Hutt City Mayor, Ray Wallace, at the completion of the programme. The shield recognises the school judged most competent across the range of skills assessed and the Cup recognises outstanding team work.

The Distinguished Team Leader Award went to Elizabeth Hargan from Hutt Valley High School. ■



Students from Wainuiomata High School practice lifts, drags and carries.

Tsunami risk review

Following the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, the Government requested the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management (MCDEM) to report on New Zealand's exposure to tsunami risk.

MCDEM commissioned GNS Science to conduct this assessment and the Review of Tsunami Hazard and Risk in New Zealand was completed in 2005 (the 2005 report). The 2005 report formed the basis of a comprehensive tsunami risk management programme at national and local levels.

Since 2005, and as part of the tsunami risk management programme, MCDEM has commissioned GNS Science to conduct further research to support tsunami warnings in New Zealand. This research led to the development of threat modelling that was first released in 2009. The threat modelling was further refined over the next few years to include all distant and regional tsunami sources. Since 2005, several more tsunami events have occurred in the Pacific basin that further contributed to the scientific understanding of the hazard.

The 2011 Tohoku tsunami in Japan illustrates some of the key changes in scientific knowledge since 2005.

The Tohoku tsunami was produced by an earthquake substantially larger than had been considered likely to occur at that location. The same situation occurred with the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and the 2009 South Pacific tsunami.

These earthquakes contradicted previous geophysical assumptions about the maximum magnitudes of earthquakes that could be created on tectonic plate boundaries. There are now far fewer restrictions on possible maximum magnitudes.

The advanced research and understanding of tsunami risk indicated that an update of the 2005 assessment was necessary. MCDEM commissioned GNS Science in 2012 to conduct this update that was made available via the MCDEM website in September 2013 as the Review of Tsunami Hazard in New Zealand (2013 Update).

A substantially revised probabilistic hazard model has been constructed for the 2013 report to accommodate the new scientific understanding.

The model evaluates the potential of all likely sources to generate tsunami, and describes the likely waves they will produce as well as the likely size of the tsunami at all areas of the New Zealand coast. In contrast, the 2005 report only covered the main coastal metropolitan areas.

The 2013 report focuses on quantifying tsunami hazard, that is, the likely size of tsunami for specified timescales, along with estimates of uncertainty. Unlike the 2005 report, estimates of expected casualties and damage costs are not included in the 2013 report. These estimates will be better made at local level using the information from the new report. It is also anticipated that the RiskScape project will use the tsunami hazard model developed for the 2013 report as a basis for revised estimates of tsunami risk in terms of casualties and damage.

Look for the report on www.civildefence.govt.nz. ■

National standard for tsunami sirens

MCDEM has committed to the development of a standard for the use of sirens in tsunami warnings during 2013.

This work is underway and aims to provide national guidance on a range of issues regarding the use of sirens for tsunami warnings – including the standardisation of siren tones.

MCDEM will engage directly with all CDEM groups during development of the standard in order to ensure that a full understanding of the current and proposed future usage of sirens for tsunami warnings is developed, and that appropriate linkages are made to current warning and public alert strategies or systems.

During development, particular attention will be given to territorial authorities that either use sirens for tsunami warnings or intend to do so in the future. Most of the on-going management responsibility for sirens lies with Territorial Authorities, and it is important that the implications of any standard on siren usage are understood.

MCDEM has engaged Brendan Morris Consulting Limited to manage the project, and the project will be supported by MCDEM staff, GNS Science, the New Zealand Fire Service and other technical experts as required.

MCDEM will provide an update on project progress and direction during regional tsunami seminars for CDEM Groups, planned for October and November. It is anticipated that the work will conclude with a document for consideration as a standard by the end of November. ■

The Cook Strait earthquake sequence

Earthquake sequence

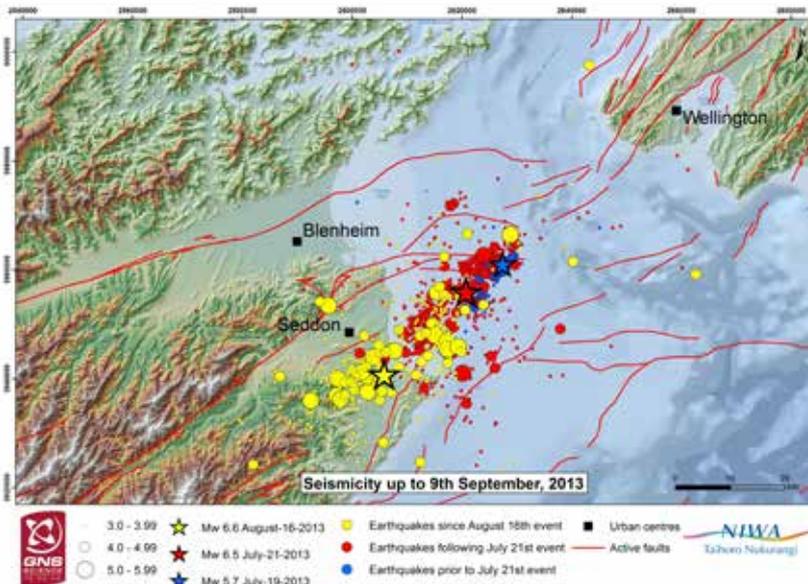
The Cook Strait earthquake sequence kicked off on Friday 19 July with a small magnitude 2.9 earthquake at 9:03am. Three minutes later this was followed by a magnitude 5.7 earthquake. This quake gave those in Marlborough and many in Wellington a shake-up, but there was minimal damage.

In the month following there were two large mainshocks – the magnitude 6.5 Cook Strait earthquake on Sunday 21st July and the magnitude (M) 6.6 Lake Grassmere earthquake on Friday 16 August. The respective energy released by the two quakes was 16 and 25 times that of the initial M5.7 July quake. As the accompanying map shows, the large earthquakes and their associated aftershocks have consistently moved southwest. The first quakes were under the Cook Strait, but the magnitude 6.6 quake struck below the coastline of the South Island only 10km from Seddon. It was this proximity, coupled with a shallower depth of 8km and slightly larger magnitude that made this quake far more destructive than the previous quakes. The quake also moved Cape Campbell 18cm closer to Australia.

We currently call the earthquake sequence a ‘doublet’, as there are two mainshocks; the initial M5.7 was a foreshock. These names are descriptive only of the sequence as it stands, and do not describe the characteristics of any of the earthquakes. If there is another large quake the sequence will become a cluster. The usual sequence of events for a large earthquake is to have aftershocks smaller in magnitude; having another similar sized earthquake (doublet) is much rarer.

What’s to come?

With the current science knowledge we are unable to categorically say how the sequence will progress. We are, however, able to talk about the likelihood of further earthquakes. Aftershock patterns around the globe follow a similar pattern of frequency and magnitude. GNS Science is able to model future Cook Strait aftershocks using historical sequences from around New Zealand and the globe, and adapt this to how the current sequence is unfolding. The region that the forecast encompasses is a large area spanning the lower North Island and Upper South Island.



Date	Time	Magnitude	Depth (km)	Location
19/7/2013	9:06am	5.7	17	30km E of Seddon
21/07/2013	7:17am	5.8	20	30km E of Seddon
21/07/2013	5:09pm	6.5	13	25km E of Seddon
16/08/2013	2:31pm	6.6	8	10km SE of Seddon
16/08/2013	5:31pm	6.0	14	15km E of Seddon

The forecasts were initially published in day, week, and year timeframes, and are now produced for the coming week and year and are displayed on www.geonet.org.nz. At the time of writing the forecast for the coming year states there is still a 33 per cent chance of another earthquake greater than magnitude 6. This is roughly four times greater than what we’d normally expect for the region.

GeoNet

In September 2012, GeoNet switched to an automated earthquake location system – SeiscomP3. This system allows earthquake details to be published straight to the website, with the first location published usually within a minute of the quake occurring. As the energy from the quake spreads through the country in the minutes following an earthquake, new data is added to the system and the earthquake solution including location, magnitude and depth, is revised.

Occasionally SeiscomP3 is not 100 per cent correct, due to the long skinny shape of New Zealand, and the system can occasionally mislocate an earthquake or create duplicate ‘ghost’ earthquakes. We’re constantly working to improve this!

One of the biggest complaints we had after the Cook Strait quakes was that the list of felt earthquakes on our website was not long enough. Our website goes through periods of very heavy demand after a widely felt earthquake which dictates how we design our webpages. We’ve added a feature to the ‘felt quakes’ list allowing lesser intensity quakes to be filtered out. Following the Cook Strait quakes we’ve also had a big uptake of our mobile app, with more than 150,000 downloads. ■

The Marlborough experience

Marlborough CDEM Group Controller, John Foley

Friday 16 August 2013 at 2:31pm will remain a moment for anyone in Marlborough to remember.

I was enjoying my last day of annual leave. I had just sat down when I felt the sofa begin to shake. Thinking to myself this will stop, another surge came rumbling through, followed closely by a powerful wave like motion making the house creak and groan, with the chimney flue banging like something was loose. It amazes me something that lasts seconds feels like a life time while you are waiting for it to stop.

After making some quick calls to make sure family were all okay, I contacted Emergency Management Officer Gary Spence who was at the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). Gary advised the quake was magnitude 6.6 and centred off Seddon.

While driving to town listening to the Police/Fire channel I managed to gain a picture of what was unfolding. As I approached town many were just getting on with their daily business as if nothing had happened, while another section of our community was scrambling to come to terms with what had just occurred.

Initial, unsubstantiated reports to emergency services suggested chimneys down, houses collapsing, fallen power lines, slips across roads, bridges collapsed, rock falls, a grass fire and reports of house fires, etc. While emergency services were grappling with the response and confirming what information was accurate, EOC staff were flat out gathering information from around the wider district.

Very quickly, the outer areas north and west of the epicentre were confirmed to have little damage, although damage was reported to some houses in Blenheim (mainly chimneys), with some shops and other buildings being closed for precautionary reasons. Members of the public, along with shop staff, gathered in the centre of town somewhat in shock about what had just occurred. There was clear apprehension about entering buildings, and many shops closed for the day.



Damage to a chimney in Seddon

Civil defence/rural fire crews were deployed to Seddon to assist with supporting the local fire brigade. A crew was sent to the Seddon School to assist with setting up a welfare/information centre. Lessons learned over the years have taught us to send a support team from outside the main impacted area to provide support to the local response. This proved to be a wise decision as many locals were in shock and needed to deal with their own issues.

Crews were tasked to go door-to-door within the township, checking on damage and resident's wellbeing.

As if it couldn't get any worse, the skies opened up and heavy rain fell.

The enormity of the task for the local fire brigade was lightened with support from rural fire crews and search and rescue (SAR).

Crews were also letting residents know that the welfare centre was open if they required assistance or further information. Fire crews were responding to chimneys in imminent danger of falling and trying to place tarpaulins over holes in roofs where it was safe to do so.

New Zealand Red Cross deployed a team to take over and manage of the welfare centre, and deployed a team from Christchurch.

Only 34 people registered at the welfare centre, with 22 people staying the first night and five on the last night. This may be a sign people were prepared, or just got on with the task at hand.

Support was on offer within a short time from Nelson/Tasman, Canterbury and Wellington CDEM Groups. Although not required, it was comforting knowing support was on hand if needed.

Infrastructure, such as water, phones and power, was disrupted. Crews were busy trying to identify where the faults lay and how quickly they could be reconnected.

Marlborough Lines provided two liaison staff to the EOC to assist with providing accurate information around areas that were without power and times for reconnection.

Residents within the township and wider rural areas were busy checking on each other. A successful rural network has been running for many years in the Awatere area, managed by Helen Harris and a group of willing coordinators.



Roads across the region were damaged

Who knew only four weeks earlier, while having their annual pot luck dinner, they would be called into action to assist their neighbours?

Council building inspectors along with the SAR crews visited every home in the Seddon Township on the Saturday; each was given a quick check to make sure they were habitable and SAR checked on welfare. Sunday proved to be just as busy as the crews went door to door in the surrounding rural areas.

Internally most homes looked as if they had been trashed, with cabinets and TV's fallen over and, heartbreakingly, personal belongings strewn about and broken. There would hardly be a house without damage; from minor cracks, to homes that will never be lived in again.

We see it time and time again everywhere in the country when disaster strikes, communities pulling together to get themselves through the event. One person described their neighbours as the neighbours from hell, but they were the very ones who checked that everyone was okay.

There is no way this event can be compared to the scale of Canterbury but the financial and psychosocial impact on individuals and families is very real. We have people in our community that were uninsured or under insured, or are struggling financially, who now have to rebuild their lives. Some have expressed concerns around dealing with insurance companies and EQC. Stress levels are high and we need to remember recovery from this event is going to be a marathon



EOC staff were flat out gathering information from around the wider district

and not a sprint. Monitoring of all personnel involved with the recovery process has to be managed so we don't forgo our own team's wellbeing.

All responders have to be congratulated in the way they managed this event, from paid personnel to volunteers, some of whom lived in the impacted area and hadn't had the opportunity to check on their own properties until the following day. We had personnel who moved from Canterbury to Marlborough to build a new life. They went through the traumatic events of the Canterbury earthquakes only to suffer more damage. None the less, they remained focussed on the tasks at hand.

Organisations and individuals to be commended for their support include Cross Roads, Salvation Army, Lions, Rotary,

Federated Farmers, Rural Women, Victim Support, Top of the South Rural Community Trust, Awatere Community Hub, and Marie Flowerday and Lill Broadhurst who are coordinating the local information centre in Seddon as the focal point for anyone who requires assistance and also where EQC has set up.

The school's principal, Nick Raynor, is another shining light in the way he has managed the school and students through what is a stressful time. There are so many people assisting, I run the risk of not naming all but they know who they are and everyone appreciates their efforts. ■

A hat-trick for the Wellington region

Wellington CDEM Group Controller, Bruce Pepperell

They say bad luck comes in threes, and so, after a decade of only mainly minor incidents, the Wellington region suffered a triple whammy: a 100-year storm and two earthquakes.

On the evening of Thursday 20 June 2013, a large storm hit, with winds of more than 200kph, combined with a 'king tide' and swells of more than 10 metres. The greatest effect occurred on the southern suburbs and south-facing hillsides.

There was a degree of multiple reporting of the same incidents, and some misreporting (power lines down when they were telephone lines) which meant that different agencies occasionally attended the same events. New Zealand Fire Service, as the lead responder (the majority of 111 calls were routed to them) handled 2,745 calls, resulting in 2,044 booked events. This was well beyond what they would normally accommodate. Work required was prioritised, with many of the smaller events being fed to Emergency Operations Centres to investigate.

Approximately 30,000 premises were left without power, trees were flattened, fences levelled, houses lost roofs, seawalls were badly damaged. State Highway 1, southbound, was closed for around five hours, numerous other roads were affected by fallen trees, minor flooding and slips, and the region's rail was badly affected, particularly the area between Wellington and Petone where rough seas swept away large sections of track ballast. Some river alarms were also triggered. Amazingly, there were no deaths or serious injuries as a result of the storm, but there were some near misses. The response effort was short and sharp; recovery took much longer.

The ink on the post-storm report was barely dry when the first earthquake struck, on the afternoon of Sunday 21 July.

Initial reports of damage suggested a very grave situation indeed – with fallen masonry, and numerous broken windows sending falling shards onto the streets. Some buildings were evacuated based on preliminary assessments by owners and part of the shoreline at the port collapsed into the sea. There were false



Initial reports suggested fallen masonry, and numerous broken windows

reports on Facebook of sinkholes, and that several buildings had burst water pipes and collapsed overheads. One hotel was reported close to collapse, necessitating the establishment of cordons. Yet logic suggested something was wrong. Cuba Street with its brick buildings had seemingly

not a brick out of place. Similarly, the sink hole was investigated and found to be a collapsed pipe which resulted in a dip in the pavement of a couple of centimetres.

The majority of the damage reports were genuine, however, and with the need for engineering assessments of buildings (a lesson from Christchurch), people were strongly advised to avoid the CBD on the following Monday, unless they had been contacted by their employer and advised their building was safe. With aftershocks, material still falling, and insufficient time to have buildings structurally checked, what we didn't need was people milling around outside, targets for the next missile from above. To their credit, the vast majority of building owners and employers rose to the challenge, and business resumed as normal on Tuesday, albeit with people's confidence dented.

Mother Nature certainly has a sense of humour, and the 16 August Grassmere quake occurred while the Wellington Group Controller was enjoying a coffee with the Canterbury Group Controller outside a café in the Wellington CBD. We all talk about drop, cover, hold, but he looked up, saw the swinging trolley bus lines and the façade of one of Lambton Quay's heritage style buildings, and immediately ducked back inside the café, later peering out to see people standing bolt upright doing their best meerkat impressions.

While the post earthquake(s) review has yet to be fully completed, there are a number of observations which can be made. These can be summarised as follows:

Human nature

Many of the people of the Wellington region live in one city or district, work in another, and in some cases have children attending school in yet another part of the region. The 16 August earthquake saw people immediately hop in their cars and drive to be with loved ones or head home. When a shake is above a certain threshold, train operations are halted for track inspections. This resulted in people congregating outside the railway station. Drivers stopped to pick up friends, and in many cases complete strangers, depositing them home in various parts of the region. There were reports of traffic chaos, but once clear of the CBD, the traffic flowed at a steady pace, and the event probably only added another 30 to 60 minutes to normal travelling time for most. One of the opportunities for improvement is therefore how to promote a faster bulk exit from the city, even if it is only as far as Hutt and Porirua Cities, making it easier to people to be either uplifted or catch alternative public transport.



Mother Nature demonstrated her powers

Building evacuation

We have become conditioned by repeated drills, to immediately evacuate a building following a fire alarm, leave personal possessions behind, and muster underneath the building across the road – completely the wrong approach for an earthquake. For an earthquake, the advice is drop, cover, hold, and in most cases remain inside the building as the safest place, exiting as required after routes have been checked, taking possessions with you.

People like certainty – “In an emergency, do the following”, in an earthquake, Drop – Cover – Hold. Yet it is clear that precise advice which caters for all situations is not possible in advance. People need to be provided with a simple framework and then encouraged to apply it to their situation. We need to find a similar mantra for after an earthquake so people will assess the risks, formulate options, and determine a safe place. The reality is that this covers all situations, but it does require people to exercise their own judgement.

Communications

Regrettably, people failed to take heed of long-standing advice not to make cell phone calls and to communicate by text instead, and the system was overloaded. This restricted the flow of official information important to the response effort. On a positive note, however, through the power of social media, WREMO now has a direct connection to communicate preparedness and emergency messages with roughly 6.5 per cent of our population (and growing daily).

Get prepared

When people and businesses are prepared, our neighbourhoods are connected, and our communities are resilient we are best able to respond to a disaster. For the Wellington Group, this is a central premise that sees one third of our CDEM team, seven people, dedicated to this task. Lasting change does not occur overnight, but we are starting to see the effect. Many people in the city have Grab & Go get away kits at work, containing amongst other things, a pair of stout walking shoes. Most people who saw no need to immediately head for home had made plans in advance.

During the storm, with 30,000 premises without power (some going without for several days), standby welfare centres were not required. People simply chose to stay with friends.

Mother Nature once again demonstrated her powers and agencies responded accordingly. I would like to thank all those who responded during the three events, helped ensure public safety and promoted confidence within the region. The fact that no-one was killed or seriously injured can be attributed to good management and also to a good deal of luck.



New Zealand ShakeOut to be repeated in 2015!

The Minister of Civil Defence, Hon Nikki Kaye, has formally released the *New Zealand ShakeOut 2012 Final Report* and announced that the next campaign will be repeated in 2015.

The decision to repeat New Zealand ShakeOut coincided, timely enough, with a number of earthquakes which rocked central New Zealand. These earthquakes reminded New Zealanders just how prone our country is to quakes and has illustrated the need for Civil Defence to continually work with our communities to improve preparedness.

The recently released 2013 Colmar Brunton report, which measures the effectiveness of the Get Ready Get Thru campaign, shows that 62 per cent of people feel more prepared for an earthquake because of New Zealand ShakeOut. The report also shows that 17 per cent of all New Zealand residents are fully prepared for an emergency. While this level has increased almost two-and-a-half times over the last seven years, it illustrates just how much more there is still to do.

New Zealand ShakeOut 2012 Final Report

The *New Zealand ShakeOut 2012 Final Report* summarises New Zealand ShakeOut and its results, which speak to the success of the campaign. Feedback received from participants shows that the aim of the campaign, which was for everyone who participated to become better prepared to Get Thru an earthquake, was achieved. Results from a survey sent out to Civil Defence Emergency Management Groups and partner agencies show that the vast majority of people (93.4 per cent) felt that the New Zealand ShakeOut campaign was successful and 95.9 per cent would like the campaign to be repeated.

While an annual drill is preferred, resource constraints and the need to also focus on other hazards and exercise types, is acknowledged. Therefore, the next campaign is scheduled for 2015 and will be held every three years after. A copy of the report can be found on www.civildefence.govt.nz. ■

A few facts about New Zealand ShakeOut 2012

- New Zealand ShakeOut was the first nationwide ShakeOut drill held anywhere in the world.
- 1,340,529 people were registered to take place in New Zealand ShakeOut. That's just over 30 per cent of our population!
- 127 New Zealand ShakeOut participants lived overseas. We were joined by people in the United States, Canada, India, Australia, China, Japan, Greece, the United Kingdom, Lebanon and Brazil!
- The biggest participant group was schools, with 650,962 people registered.
- The second biggest participant group was businesses, with 203,712 people registered.
- The Wellington region had the highest per capita participation for a New Zealand region, with 35.94 per cent of their population registered.
- Wellington City had the highest per capita participation for a local authority, with 41.2 per cent of their population registered.
- The workplace appeared to be the most common place where people heard information about the campaign.
- Worldwide, more than 19.4 million people participated in ShakeOut drills in 2012.



Combined response in Seddon

Central New Zealand has been shaky of late, with 392 earthquakes felt at magnitude 3.0 or higher according to GeoNet.

With the two larger Cook Strait quakes (magnitudes 6.6 and 6.5) fresh in mind, we look back on the response in Seddon, the hardest hit area.

New Zealand Red Cross Blenheim and Christchurch Disaster Welfare Support Teams quickly established a response centre at the request of local council and continued to support the Marlborough District Council Emergency Management staff in the running of the centre for two days.

During this time the New Zealand Red Cross Truck 04 made the journey from Christchurch to provide additional relief supplies to those assisting.

The centre's primary purpose was to shelter evacuees whose buildings were damaged, and provide support to those struggling to deal with the aftershocks.

Two Red Cross specialists arrived in Seddon on the Saturday. Elizabeth McNaughton, International Recovery Manager helped conduct an early recovery assessment and advised on plans going forward.



New Zealand Red Cross Truck 04 made the journey from Christchurch to provide additional relief supplies

With her was Corinne Ambler, New Zealand Red Cross Communications Manager, who was on hand to advise and manage the media. Both were impressed with the liaison of the teams and their efforts.

These efforts did not go unnoticed by the evacuees within the centre. Steve Manson, New Zealand Red Cross Emergency Management Officer, coordinated the response and received positive feedback from those using the centre.

“Evacuees felt secure in the hands of the teams. Knowing that these teams responded to the Canterbury Earthquakes was an important factor in this. They felt the volunteers were well trained and really understood their needs,” says Steve.

The teams looked after 22 people the first night and five people on the second night. ■

Auckland Council and New Zealand Red Cross join forces to train for disaster relief

To be prepared for when disaster strikes it is imperative to go through training exercises. Auckland Council CDEM was fortunate to be invited to join the New Zealand Red Cross for their annual upper North Island training held 23-25 August.

The scenario for the weekend's manoeuvres was dealing with the after-effects of the sub-tropical storm Brodie. Activities included training on how to care for displaced people, community outreach, tarping roofs, and triage with mass casualties.

Hunua and Ararimu locals were invited to participate as impacted residents and worked with Auckland ALERT Teams NZRT 3 and NZRT 5, the Red Cross National Disaster Response Team (NDRT), No.5 Squadron ATC and Disaster Welfare Support Teams (DWST).



Auckland Council CDEM joined the New Zealand Red Cross for training

Challenges included integrating the Incident Management Team, needs assessment (outreach) operating an integrated welfare centre for 36 hours continuously, plus the opportunity to work with Westpac Rescue Helicopter.

It was a great weekend to test skills, deployment arrangements and to work together as one team. Stronger relationships were forged and a lot was learnt. ■

Plenty of wet stuff for the Waimakariri

June 2013 was a busy month for Waimakariri CDEM, with four separate emergency activations preceded by a well-timed (by fluke) public exercise.

Last year, the Waimakariri Emergency Management Office (EMO) began joint planning for Exercise Pandora 2013 with North Canterbury Rural Support Trust (NC RST). The exercise was aimed at the rural farming sector with key objectives of:

- a public workshop to discuss how to plan and execute snow raking operations
- a public workshop to learn what kind of emergency support Dairy NZ and Fonterra could provide to its clients
- a closed workshop for emergency welfare stakeholders to determine options for welfare support to the rural farming sector in particular.

Wrapped around all of this was a scenario involving a major rupture of the Alpine Faultline, tapping into the all-of-South Island Exercise Te Ripahapa that occurred 29 May and followed one week later with a forecast major snow storm and Exercise Pandora occurring on 8 June.

The exercise was tremendously successful in terms of achieving these key objectives but equally in terms of developing close and fruitful relations between Waimakariri District Council and the local rural farming sector.

Canterbury was hit for real with heavy and persistent rain over the period 16–23 June which saw moderate flooding with some significant consequences for some residents, across Waimakariri, Christchurch City, Selwyn and Ashburton Districts.

On 17-18 June, Waimakariri EMO activated NZRT12 (its volunteer rescue and response team) to support a number of properties both rural and urban, across the width of the district. Fire services were equally busy with a number of NZFS brigades and the Council's rural fire crews responding to 111 calls for flooding.

On 20 June Waimakariri CDEM activated again in anticipation of further self-evacuations and a need to supplement NZRT12 with flood protection work.



This was the first time Waimakariri EMO was involved in actual snow raking operations



Snow raking operations to save livestock stranded in extreme freezing cold and snow conditions



NZRT12 was unleashed again with portable flood barriers

However, after standing everyone down later that night, we got the call to assist Selwyn District on the evening of 22 June as its Leeston community began to take on huge volumes of water from the Halswell River and Ellesmere Lake started to swell significantly.

NZRT12 was unleashed again with portable flood barriers purchased in 2008, which have been deployed now in Waimakariri, Waitaki and Selwyn Districts. This time the team use them to protect an elderly residential complex – a job well done.

Remember that old adage ‘prior planning and preparation’? Well as luck would have it after our snow raking exercise of 8 June the South Island and Canterbury were hit by a polar blast on 24 June.

Snow raking operations to save livestock stranded in extreme freezing cold and snow conditions were conducted in Otago, Canterbury and Kaikoura.

Waimakariri EMO sent two staff to Ben McLeod Station near Timaru on 25 June for two days to help rake snow - something in the order of 4,000 merino sheep were moved to low lands on this station.

This was the first time our EMO was involved in actual snow raking operations so it was great to put the theory of Exercise Pandora into practice for real.

Returning home on the night of 26 June, we received a call for help from NC RST. A number of farms in the Hurunui, Kaikoura, Waimakariri and Selwyn Districts needed help with snow raking.

Waimakariri EMO deployed with a combined volunteer contingent (CDEM staff and volunteers; Oxford SAR, Red Cross, Salvation Army, AREC, rural fire, hunters and farmers) on 28-29 June to Mt Pember Station in the Lees Valley which separates Waimakariri District from the Arthur’s Pass area.

This contingent supplemented four PGG Wrightson teams which the farm owner had already rustled together two days earlier, along with a local agricultural helicopter firm. Three other farms in the Waimakariri had already completed snow raking with CDEM aid over the previous two days.

We’ve enjoyed a rare opportunity to identify a real hazard; discuss it with the local community and relevant industry sector; agree some coping strategies and concept plans; and put it to the ultimate practical test - the real thing!

It’s been a wet, cold, but enlightening journey that epitomises real resilience building. Well done NC RST for your service to the rural farming sector and many thanks to all those people and organisations who were involved in this series of emergency response operations. ■

Pimp my long drop – putting preparedness to the challenge

On Sunday 25 August the Kapiti coast hosted the inaugural ‘pimp my long drop’ competition.

Five teams competed to build an emergency toilet, using only material and tools sourced from their homes.

Campbell Park, Paekakariki provided an ideal location on a warm sunny August afternoon as the teams were given an hour and forty minutes to build an emergency toilet, which was then judged on functionality, creativity and style.

Using a wide variety of materials, from an old front door, curtains, tyres, sacking and of course tarpaulins, five different long drops were constructed. All competitors incorporated usability, hygiene and even aesthetics as a part of their build. The judging panel included Jenny Rowan, Mayor of Kapiti Coast District Council, Scott Dray of WREMO and Paul Kennett, a former New Zealand representative mountain biker.

The winning team, Alexander Road, built a structurally sound construction, used composting toilet principles and even considered rainwater collection as part of their design. Second place was the Paekakariki Scouts, who showed amazing innovation when they discovered that their planned key component, a tent, was found to be missing on the day.

A lovely location and a wonder

The ‘pimp my long drop’ was part of Kapiti Coast’s Greenest Neighbourhood competition, a friendly competition run annually to promote sustainability and resilience in Kapiti. It is a great opportunity for neighbours to meet, share ideas and build communities. Further information on the Kapiti Coast’s Greenest Neighbourhood is available from greenestneighbourhood.net. ■



Members of the Alexander Road team in their winning ‘Drop-n-Go’ toilet

Collaborative kōrero – partnership and impact in volunteering

Volunteering New Zealand (VNZ) is an organisation that exists to promote, support and advocate for volunteering in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Every two years members and supporters of the community and voluntary sector get together for a conference where we learn together and discuss the issues facing volunteerism in New Zealand.

On 19-20 November 2013 VNZ will lead a series of kōrero at the next National Volunteering Conference which is being held at the Museum of New Zealand, Te Papa Tongarewa in Wellington. The overall theme of the conference is Collaborative Kōrero - Partnership & Impact in Volunteering.

What is a 'kōrero'? 'Kōrero' in Te Reo Māori means 'conversation'. At this conference, we want to have collaborative conversations.

We've been listening to the needs, stories and issues in the areas of partnership and impact of growing volunteering in our organisations and communities.

In June this year, we reached out to the sector with our "Call for Questions" where we asked our members and the wider volunteering community to pose a question that they want to kōrero about at their conference.

We know, as a nation, and in the community and voluntary sector that we have the skills and knowledge to learn from our own people and share the knowledge we have together so why not get our agenda from our conference participants?

The response to our approach was fantastic and we got many great questions. The topics from the questions have been grouped into a variety of session types, including keynote, panel discussion, workshops and interactive kōrero.



Partnership discussions include Māori, untapped resource, management, and corporate. Impact discussions include technology, measurement and the future.

For further information about our Collaborative Kōrero and how to register, go to www.collaborativekorero.org.nz. ■

Building a resilient Auckland

The Natural Hazard Risk Management Action Plan (NHRMAP) was launched Tuesday 13 August. It shows the commitment of Auckland Council to building a city resilient to natural hazards.

The impact of natural hazards has been seen around the country in recent months. In order for Auckland to be prepared we need proactive risk management that reduces risk to acceptable levels.

The NHRMAP will reduce costs, eliminate duplication of effort and cost in research, and prioritise sets of actions that reduce risk from natural hazards.

This is a truly council wide approach, with the project team and steering group involving the environmental strategy and policy, stormwater, research investigations and monitoring, civil defence, planning, building control and information service teams.

For more information on this project please contact:
Rachael.Pentney@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz ■



Wildfire spreading on Great Barrier Island

International emergency management presence at AUT

Eve Coles, from the United Kingdom, and a familiar face to the New Zealand scene is currently in the country working with Auckland University of Technology's (AUT) postgraduate emergency management students studying Business Continuity & Crisis Management. AUT attempts to bring international academics to assist with the delivery of the block courses, a key component of the students' learning. This provides the students with additional expertise in their area of study as well as an international perspective and appreciation of emergency management.

Eve has been working with AUT since 2009, and during her previous visits to New Zealand has also worked with the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management and Resilient Organisations. In 2012, Chris Webb, Programme Leader, Emergency Management at AUT reciprocated by teaching at Leeds University.

Eve has been teaching 'resilience' studies including risk management, crisis management, business continuity management and emergency management in higher education for the last 25 years. Her research interests centre around organisational resilience particularly in the public sector and include civil protection/emergency management policy in the UK, crisis and business continuity management and supply chain resilience. She has been a member of a number of national steering groups, working groups and committees that have developed a core competencies framework for emergency management and national occupational standards in civil contingencies and standards in crisis management.

Eve is editor of a new UK online peer reviewed journal *Emergency Management Review* which is published in partnership with the Cabinet Office Emergency Planning College (epcollege.com/EMR).



Eve Coles

She is Chair of the Emergency Planning Society's Education Committee, a member of the BSI steering committee for the development of a British Standard in Crisis Management and a member of the International Research Committee on Disasters. She is also a registered expert with the European Commission Directorate General in Civil Protection, and an external examiner at Portsmouth University Business School, and Dublin Business School. ■

Be ready: know your neighbours, know your community

Getting to know your neighbours is the focus for the 2013 Get Ready Week just around the corner in the week of 23-29 September.

Get Ready Week is an important time for families, communities and businesses to take stock of where they are at in terms of disaster readiness and look out for others who may need help at these times.

This year the tagline for Get Ready Week in 2013 is: Know your neighbours, know your community. It's a great opportunity for all of us – if you don't already – to get to know neighbours, and make a plan to help one another Get Ready, Get Thru.

The Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management, working in collaboration with Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Groups around the country, is promoting a week of activities aimed at raising awareness of potential disasters and the need to be prepared.

A range of online materials and resources have been developed to assist you with your important work. These resources can be printed out or provided electronically to help promote preparedness, and encourage businesses in your community, and neighbours, families and friends to help one another Get Ready, Get Thru.

Get Ready Week is being supported by an ongoing national advertising programme and social media messaging, and will be reinforced by your own local and regional community based activities.

Every year since the early nineties, the United Nations has organised a World Disaster Reduction Campaign, culminating on International Disaster Reduction Day, the second Wednesday of October.

In New Zealand, we have promoted this as Get Ready Week. This year, thanks to feedback, we have brought forward Get Ready Week to 23-29 September, so schools can take part. ■



Best wishes for a successful 2013 Get Ready Week

Get Ready Week

23-29 September 2013



Know your neighbours!



What can you do to assist each other?

Do you have a household emergency plan?

Have you assembled emergency survival items?

Do you have a getaway kit in case you have to leave in a hurry?

Do you know where your nearest Civil Defence Centre is located?



www.getthru.govt.nz