

Fiordland Quakes

Things that went “bump” in the night

By Michele Poole, Southland District Council Communications Officer

The magnitude 7.1 earthquake which struck the coast of Fiordland just after midnight on 22 August 2003 was a wake-up call for many in the south. And a pretty rude awakening it has turned out to be, with aftershocks continuing to rattle the south several weeks after the event.

It's not news that communities like Te Anau and Queenstown are near neighbours to the Alpine fault. But whereas Wellingtonians tend to give a realistic shrug about the likelihood that their city will one day be devastated by an earthquake, few of the normally pragmatic Southlanders seem to have given their earthquake risk much thought.

Remarkably, there were no casualties in the quake, only minor impact on infrastructure, and little structural damage to buildings. The Earthquake Commission had received 2448 claims with a total value of \$7 million, seven weeks after the event.

Compare that with the Inangahua earthquake of 1968. That too measured 7.1 on the Richter Scale, but its epicentre was on land. It left three people dead, 14 injured, and most of the houses in the town of Inangahua uninhabitable.

So Southland got off lightly this time.

If residents heed the warning, they can learn from the quake's lessons and make their homes, families and businesses more resilient to disaster.

Mayor Frana Cardno led by example when she explained on television how a couple of blobs of blu-tac saved her precious Royal Dalton china from destruction, when all her other china and pottery tumbled off the shelves.

There are larger lessons to be learned. The need to make a family disaster plan and know who your neighbours are; the value of having

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Over 300 people packed the Te Anau hotel to hear speakers from the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences, the Earthquake Commission and the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management discuss the earthquake and its aftershocks, one week after the major quake. From Left: Southland District Mayor Frana Cardno, EQC's Insurance Manager Lance Dixon, Seismologist Warwick Smith from GNS, and Emergency Management Advisor John Lovell from the Ministry.



The 7.1 quake in Fiordland triggered more than 400 landslides. Map courtesy of GNS.



CDEM Strategic Focus

We have recently completed consultation on the proposed National Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Strategy document. The National Strategy is a statement of the Crown's proposed priorities for CDEM in New Zealand for the next ten years. The Strategy is driven by the Vision statement:

Resilient New Zealand Strong Communities Understanding and Managing their Hazards

It contains goals, objectives and targets to focus our activities. The goals and objectives are quite high level statements but reflect significant commitments from a range of agencies. The targets will be the means by which these commitments are given substance and these are currently reflected in the proposed Strategy as Indicative Actions and Achievement Indicators. It is intended that from the consultation process these actions and indicators will be further developed.

The Strategy has three focus points:

- creating awareness so that people and agencies make informed decisions and take actions
- understanding hazards and reducing risk
- managing disasters through planning for readiness, response, and recovery.

While each focal point is reflected in a major Goal, there is a fourth goal included relating to the Recovery activity.

We are giving a particular focus to Recovery because significant work is necessary to define its scope and develop an appropriate planning framework. Much has been made of this fourth "R" but it is generally viewed as the process for "picking up the pieces" following a disaster. There is little recognition of its potential to reduce the impact of disasters, or of the importance of its scope and planning. Recent events, from the Northridge and Kobe earthquakes (1994, 1995); the Auckland Electricity incident (1998); the Melbourne gas incident (1998) to the current situation in Iraq and the 14 August 2003 North American power

outage all demonstrate that a strong focus on recovery planning is broadly missing from the emergency management sector.

In framing CDEM Group plans and arrangements it is becoming increasingly clear that in any disaster the recovery activity should commence immediately and in parallel with the response activity if community continuity is to be achieved and disruption costs are to be minimised.

Relating this to "recent happenings" I have three comments to make.

1. The connection between the Iraqi War and emergency management may seem to be remote, but it is clear that the difficulties currently being experienced in returning the community to normalcy contain major lessons for recovery planning. It also reinforces the concept of "consequence planning" whatever the source of the impact.
2. The North American power outage from 14 August raises significant questions about the vulnerability of highly connected complex infrastructure systems to control malfunctions. It seems we witnessed an uncontrollable network shut-down as discreet components of the network took automatic action to protect themselves. There is no doubt that the effectiveness of control mechanisms and their ability to match the complexity of their networks will come under intense scrutiny over the next couple of years.
3. The October Paekakariki flooding again emphasized the importance of coordination between agencies, planning for likely local consequences and the provision of timely public information for the community – both those directly impacted and those affected or passing through.

The National CDEM Strategy frames these issues and when adopted by 1 December 2003, will set the strategic direction for the coming years.

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Update on National CDEM Plan

October 2003

By Peter Wood, Emergency Management Planner

Development of the National Civil Defence & Emergency Management (CDEM) Plan is well underway. As required by the CDEM Act 2002, it will replace the current operative National Civil Defence Plan by December 2005.

CDEM Groups are developing their CDEM Group Plans, to be completed by July 2005. The difference in timing allows for the formal approval process for the National Plan and for inclusion in it of those matters arising from Group Plans that:

- are necessary for coverage across Group boundaries
- require more resource than a Group can muster
- are of national significance.

Interactions between the developers of the Group Plans and the developers of the National CDEM Plan are ongoing, so that issues of national importance are covered appropriately and consistently between the National and Group Plans. The National CDEM Plan has to support all parties in the implementation of the new CDEM Act, in

the context of the 4 R's of Reduction, Readiness, Response, and Recovery.

The Ministry has been reviewing the National CDEM Plan, including the content, timeline, and the systems to be used for writing and delivering the plan. The new National CDEM Plan will be an electronic document, required to be part of and to comply with the Government's e-govt environment (refer www.e-govt.govt.nz). From the electronic source, the plan will be produced for various mediums including paper, CD-ROM and the Internet.

In June 2002, the Ministry consulted with the CDEM sector on a discussion document and the submissions received are being used in shaping the Plan. A Working Group to oversee and advise on the National CDEM Plan is being set up. Representation from across New Zealand, from the emergency management sector, the whole of Government, and the lifelines utilities has been sought. Invitations have been sent and nominations close on 14 November 2003.

Concepts of the new Plan are available from the Ministry website www.civildefence.govt.nz (*A New National CDEM Plan*). For further information contact peter.wood@dia.govt.nz

Ministry to host Recovery Symposium 12- 13 July 2004

By Sarah Norman, Emergency Management Planner

As part of the 4R's approach to Civil Defence and Emergency Management (CDEM) comprising Reduction, Readiness, Response and Recovery, the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management is committed to the development of concepts, processes, plans and capability for the fourth 'R' of Recovery. As part of this focus, the Ministry is organising a New Zealand Recovery Symposium from 12-13 July 2004.

The Symposium will focus on five key aspects of recovery: economic; reconstruction; environmental; psychosocial; and community. A session will also be provided on the professional development aspects of recovery.

Much of the key work in emergency management since the inception of the CDEM Act 2002 has focused on reduction, readiness and response issues. The development of recovery planning, training and exercising is a huge area of work that will need the commitment, participation and resources of emergency management practitioners, stakeholders and partner agencies. The aim is to increase the capability of organisations to undertake short and long-term recovery planning, training and exercising

which is integrated with other planning activities. This symposium will provide a focal point to drive the importance of recovery planning from local to national level.

The symposium will also provide an opportunity to:

- propose and discuss a model and strategy for Recovery in New Zealand.
- explore the work of academics and practitioners both in New Zealand, Australia and elsewhere in the area of Recovery
- provide a learning and development opportunity for practitioners in the area of Recovery

The symposium is aimed at senior central government managers, CDEM Groups and emergency managers, recovery coordinators and practitioners and academics from both New Zealand and Australia. It is also aimed at members of the construction and insurance industries, lifeline utilities and non-governmental organisations who will be involved in Recovery following a disaster.

Further details on the symposium will be made available on the Ministry website: www.civildefence.govt.nz by December 2003. For further information, contact sarah.norman@dia.govt.nz.

Tangiwai 50 Years On

The Tangiwai Rail Disaster on Christmas Eve 1953 was the worst railway disaster in New Zealand's history. Fifty years on, a community group made up of local Lions Club members, railway union members, rail enthusiasts and local iwi are undertaking a commemoration event to be held on 21 December at the crash site.

The group, calling themselves "Tangiwai 50 Years On" is chaired by Mr Ian Strachan, a local farmer who was personally involved in the 1953 lahar event. Mr Strachan and many of the individuals behind this initiative were closely involved in the establishment of the memorial site and the Tangiwai monument in 1989.

A number of organisations are involved in bringing the event together and these include: Ruapehu Lions, the Rail and Maritime Trade Union, NZ Army, Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management, Ruapehu District Council, Winstone's Mill, Ngati Rangi Iwi, Maungarongo Marae, Paekakariki Steam Incorporated, Tranz Scenic and Tranz Rail.

Proposed Programme

On the morning of Sunday 21 December 2003, a special steam locomotive with about 460 people on board will travel from Palmerston North to Taihape. At Taihape a short memorial service will be held to remember the driver and fireman of engine Ka 949. Both men were from Taihape.

The train will then take passengers to the Tangiwai Memorial site (adjacent to State Highway 49, Tangiwai) for the commemoration ceremony.

A second train from Auckland, carrying about 170 passengers will also travel to Tangiwai on the morning of the 21st.

The commemoration ceremony at Tangiwai will commence at



The wreckage of the Wellington - Auckland express and the remains of the railway bridge at Tangiwai. 25 December 1953. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand Reference: Morrie Peacock Collection PAColl-4875, 59.10

2.00pm. A detailed programme for the ceremony and further information on the event can be viewed on the Ministry website: www.civildefence.govt.nz.

Seats on the train

Priority for the seats on the train will be given to survivors, those involved with the rescue, and to relatives of those who died.

"We are keen to hear from those who feel they have a connection to the event, either as survivors, rescuers or relatives. There has already been a great deal of interest from around the country, and we anticipate over 1000 people will gather at the site on the Sunday for the commemoration" Mr Strachan said.

Anyone wanting to register interest in getting a seat on the train or attending the ceremony can do so by contacting the: Organising Committee, Tangiwai 50 Years On, PO Box 62, Ohakune. Telephone/Fax: Mr Owen Wallbutton, 06 356 7750 or email: ribblehead@infogen.net.nz.



JA1271 will do the commemorative run from Palmerston North to Tangiwai on 21 December. The steam locomotive is one of the ex-New Zealand Government Railways locomotives that has been restored by Steam Incorporated Inc. In 1998 the society was awarded the A&G Price Restoration Award, for the second time, for their efforts in restoring JA1271 for main line operation.



The Tangiwai monument at the memorial site which was established in 1989.

Disaster at Weeping Waters

At 10.21pm on 24 December 1953, the Wellington-Auckland night express plunged into the flooded Whangaehu River just west of Tangiwai, eight km west of Waiouru, killing 151 of the 285 passengers and crew on board.

The accident was caused by a lahar or mud-flow from the crater lake of Mt Ruapehu. Approximately 2 million cubic metres of mud, water and debris struck the concrete pylons of the Tangiwai Rail Bridge at about 10.15 pm, sweeping away three quarters of the decking and track. Though attempts were made to warn the engine driver of Ka 949 (and later investigations showed that the brakes were applied) it was too late to prevent the engine, tender and all five second class carriages from plunging off the southern bank at about 10.21pm.

The leading first class carriage, car Z, teetered on the severed bridge - and was boarded by two rescuers Arthur Cyril Ellis, a young Taihape postal clerk, and a guard William Inglis - before crashing into the torrent below. The two men, together with passenger John Holman and an unidentified man, saved all but one of the 22 occupants in the carriage by lifting them through the windows.

Within half an hour the gruesome and hazardous search and rescue operation began. Members of the NZ Forest Service, soldiers from Waiouru Military Camp, Police, Navy, and Ministry of Works personnel, groups of farmers and other local volunteers worked through the night. At 3.00am Prime Minister Sid Holland left for Waiouru to oversee rescue efforts. By the morning, 131 bodies were recovered, and twenty people remained unaccounted for.

At the time, Tangiwai was the eighth biggest railway disaster the world had seen. It is still the fifth worst disaster in New Zealand's recorded history.



Rescue party at wrecked carriage of the Wellington-Auckland express. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand Reference: Morrie Peacock Collection PAColl-4875, 35/59 A14

On Christmas Eve each year the express train slows as it crosses the new bridge across the Whangaehu River, and the driver throws a bunch of flowers into the water. A card reads: "In memory of all who died at Tangiwai on Christmas Eve, 1953.

The name Tangiwai means Weeping Waters in Māori.

Story and photos courtesy of the Ministry for Culture and Heritage and the Alexander Turnbull Library. The photos were taken by Morrie Peacock, a Taumaranui professional photographer and are part of a collection of photos deposited with the Library after his death in 1995. Further information on the disaster can be viewed at: www.nzhistory.net.nz

United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC)

By John Titmus, Emergency Management Advisor

Following consultations between the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the governments of New Zealand and Australia, and in recognition of the need to enhance the operation of the UNDAC Team in the Pacific, a Development Meeting was held in Nadi, Fiji from 5 - 7 August 2003.

Lynda Angus (UNDAC National Focal Point) and John Titmus (UNDAC Team Member) joined 22 other delegates from Australia, OCHA and Pacific Island Countries.

The aim of the meeting was discuss and resolve issues that have faced the development of an effective UNDAC Team in the Pacific since its inception, and to create a platform and sufficiently committed stakeholders to ensure that:

- the UNDAC system is utilised in a timely and appropriate manner
- governments in the Pacific are aware of the availability and

purpose of UNDAC

- governments fully commit national members to the UNDAC Team
- links between UNDAC Member Countries and individuals on the one hand and OCHA on the other are, where necessary, formalised and in all cases, enhanced.

The key recommendations from the meeting are:

- The UNDAC Pacific Team membership will be maintained at a level of between 15 and 20 team members.
- New Zealand, in conjunction with the Australian Aid Agency (AUSAid) will host the UNDAC Pacific Team Refresher Course, tentatively set for August/September 2004. The focus for the course will be exercising an On Site Operations Coordination Centre (OSOCC) in collaboration with the National Crisis Management Centre (NCCM), USAR Task Forces, and CDEMG Rescue Assets.

For further information on UNDAC please contact john.titmus@dia.govt.nz.

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torches and fresh batteries on hand; why motels should screw down their wall-mounted televisions and every water cylinder should be fixed in place.

Many people will be taking a closer look at their insurance policies, after discovering the limits of EQC cover.

For the Southland District Civil Defence organisation, the earthquake served as an excellent practical exercise.

CDO Tom Shaw was on the phone from his home in Winton almost as soon as the shaking stopped, beginning a series of calls to sector managers to get a quick assessment of the quake's impact.

One of his first concerns was Solid Energy's underground coalmine at Nightcaps, and Meridian Energy's underground powerhouse at the Manapouri hydro station. Fortunately, no one was on site in either place when the quake struck.

It quickly became clear that there was no need to activate the whole civil defence emergency management (CDEM) organisation, and only Tom Shaw and his Public Information Manager Michele Poole remained on deck overnight, feeding information to the media.

Aside from the actual management of an emergency, one of the most important ways to reassure the public during a disaster is to have a credible figurehead.

Southland District Mayor Frana Cardno was the perfect person for the job. As well as being quick-witted and articulate, Mayor Cardno is a widely known and respected community leader. And the fact that she happens to live in Te Anau was a bonus.

The sight of her walking around the Main Street the morning after the quake, talking to shopkeepers, was very reassuring to local residents, while journalists from around the country and overseas sought her out for authoritative comment.

Southland District's CDEM organisation has used the earthquake to test its own responses and systems. By and large, the system worked well, but there are some improvements to be made to the lines of communication between personnel. Because the power supply and telephone lines were unaffected, there was no difficulty contacting sector managers anywhere in Southland. That could easily have been a major obstacle, with the majority of the CDEM headquarters personnel based in and around Invercargill, and the epicentre of the quake 180km away in Fiordland.



Southland District Council engineer John Cook inspects slumping on Hillside Road near Manapouri, caused by the earthquake.

Another issue was the lack of commercial radio stations broadcasting "live" between midnight and 6am. Those who tuned to their local radio stations looking for information and advice heard nothing but the usual automated programming of music and ads.

National Radio and Newstalk ZB, both broadcasting on the AM frequency, were the only stations broadcasting news bulletins overnight. National Radio's journalists were particularly quick off the mark, with the first quake report at 1am and hourly updates from GNS and Southland Civil Defence through the night.

The local newspaper, The Southland Times, made no effort to get any mention of the earthquake into its Friday edition, although it happened just minutes after the presses started rolling, yet its rival, the Dunedin-based Otago Daily Times, put the story on the front page.

As aftershocks of magnitude 5 and above continued to rock Fiordland in the week after the earthquake, the community remained in a state of unease. There were some extravagant rumours flying about, suggesting that they were not aftershocks but were the precursor of "the big one".

Public Meeting in Te Anau

The Southland District Council organised a public meeting in Te Anau the following week, to give the community credible scientific information about the quake and the aftershocks.

Seismologist Warwick Smith from IGNS spoke to several hundred people, putting the earthquake in context and answering questions about future risks.

Southland's CDEM Group will now look to capitalise on the heightened public awareness about earthquake risks, before the memories start to fade. ■

Otago Region CDEM Training

By Tom Roche, Professional Development Advisor

Ministry staff collaborated with civil defence emergency management (CDEM) Managers from the wider Otago region to deliver a comprehensive training programme from 8 - 10 July 2003.

A different group was targeted on each of the three days, with separate programmes being tailored to the specific needs of each group.

Ward Coordinators and new Controllers were the target group on Day One and were given a 'once over lightly' on:

- Key provisions of the new CDEM Act, and related legislation
- An introduction to Coordinated Incident Management System (CIMS)
- The role and functions of an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC)
- Importance of exercises to confirm operational capability

On Day Two, the new Controllers returned and were joined by longer term employees. The programme provided an opportunity to share ideas and thoughts on: risk and consequence planning; operational response activities; styles of management and leadership; and post emergency recovery activities

The target group on day three comprised Public Information Managers (PIMS) and the Controllers. That is, those likely to be working with the media and keeping the public informed of operational response activities during an emergency.

The highlight of the three days was the significant input of the keynote presenters - high calibre individuals drawn from across the country:

- Dr Bryan Bang (Hamilton) – Covered the new CDEM Legislation
- Chris Webb (MCDEM) – Decision-making framework



Controllers workshop, from left: Max Moore (Waitaki), Mark Yaxley (Waitaki), Jim Harland (Dunedin), and Eric Spittal (Waitaki)

- Keith Evans (MCDEM) – Risk management
- Robyn Sherson (Thames) – Dealing with media
- Martin McPherson (Alexandra) – Who should front the media
- Rodney Bryant & Bryan Stewart – How to get the best out of interviews (Dunedin)

There were of course many positive contributions from members of the delivery team and also from the 'seasoned controllers'.

It is fair to say, that those of us involved in planning the event were ambitious in what we hoped to achieve in the three days. Still it was worthwhile pushing the boundaries in order to make a number of key appointees aware of the scope and nature of their responsibilities in the CDEM context.

Thanks are extended to the Dunedin City Council, Neil Brown and his team for providing the venue and the administrative support. A worthwhile outcome achieved through positive collaboration and effective commitment from CDEM Managers at local level.

Profile

Mark Harrison, EMO Manager, Manawatu-Wanganui

In June 2003 Mark Harrison commenced at Horizons Regional Council (Manawatu-Wanganui region) as the Manager of the Emergency Management Office.

The Manawatu-Wanganui CDEM Group has an approved CDEM Group Plan and Mark's major focus in this position will be ongoing implementation, monitoring and review of the Plan.

Mark joins Horizons Regional Council after having served 20 years with the New Zealand Police. While with Police, Mark looked after the emergency management portfolio and was also Second in Command of the Police Armed Offenders Squad.

Mark has been one of the "core" CIMS trainers used by the Horizons Regional Council to carry out training throughout the region and has also helped deliver courses at a national level.

He graduated from Massey University last year with a qualification in Business Studies (Human Resource Management) and is into his second year of study for a Graduate Diploma of Emergency Services Management, also from Massey.

Building a house, kids' sport and being Chairman of his son's school Board of Trustees, coupled with some very bad golf keeps Mark otherwise occupied.



Marlborough Opens New Emergency Operations Centre

By John Lovell, Emergency Management Advisor

On 2 August 2003, the Marlborough District Council opened its new \$500,000 emergency operations centre. It replaces the old building which had served its purpose well but had confirmed its inadequacies during the fires of late 2000. The centre is designed to be a multi-function facility where all emergencies – from civil defence to oil spills, rural fires, and biosecurity events – can be managed.

Extensive consultation took place across all sectors of emergency response to ensure that the best possible layout and features were included.

Over 100 people, including a large number of volunteers, gathered for the opening.

Edward Latter, a former Marlborough MP and the Director of Civil Defence from 1985 to 1991, officially opened the centre, assisted by his wife Anne. He praised the dedication of those involved and the initiative taken to write a book "One Eyed and Blinkered" on the history of the organisation since its inception in 1960.

Speakers at the opening included Mayor Tom Harrison who said that the centre set an example for other areas of New Zealand to follow and it was his dream that similar complexes would become the norm in this country.

MP for Marlborough, Dr Lynda Scott commented on the 2000 Boxing Day fires which showed the fantastic community spirit Marlborough had and that the community had been prepared to finance such a facility

Facilities at the centre

Facilities at the centre include working offices for staff, a large lounge and training room, kitchen, operations room, controller, liaison and communication rooms. The District Council also intends to use the centre for in-house staff training.

After the experience of the fires where working conditions were intolerable due to heat buildup, air conditioning has been installed throughout. Earthquake standards were not ignored either in the design. Acoustic ceilings have also been installed in the operational areas to assist with noise control.



The flag-raising ceremony at the opening of the new centre.



The external area comprises a car park with garages for the AREC Emergency communications and rural fire appliances. There are external power points if required for tents or caravans within the compound. The centre is self reliant with a 60kVa self start diesel generator and a 3000 litre sewerage storage tank. Two 450 litre water storage tanks are located on the roof for personal use. This water supply remains fresh by circulating with day- to- day supply. A security, fire and smoke alarm system throughout complete the services.

National Warning System Review

By David Coetzee, Emergency Management Planner

As a sub-project of the development of a new National CDEM Plan, the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management intends to review the current procedures relating to the national civil defence warning system. The need for a review was motivated by several indicators and factors noted through a period of national warning system tests and feedback from stakeholders.

The first phase of the review will be in the form of a questionnaire to be sent to all local and regional civil defence offices. The questionnaire will deal with issues relating to the current warning system and will seek suggestions for improvement. The responses to the questionnaire will be considered by a small but inclusive working group with the view of compiling a first draft amendment to the existing procedures where and if found to be necessary. The Ministry will be sending the questionnaire to civil defence offices during the first week of November 2003.

The existing warning procedures remain in place until a formal notice of change is given – pending the outcome of this review.

Chatham Islands form CDEM Group

The Chatham Islands Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Group was formally established at a special council meeting in June 2003. This completed the formation of the sixteen CDEM Groups around the country.

The Chatham Islands Council is required to maintain a Civil Defence Plan and organisation with support and assistance coming from the Ministry's Christchurch office. With the enactment of the CDEM Act, Emergency Management Advisor John Lovell visited the island in June 2003 to assist with the establishment of a CDEM Group and to brief the Council, emergency services and key organisations on the requirements to prepare their CDEM Plan.

The uniqueness of their situation required some innovation hence the combining of their CDEM Group and Coordinating Executive Group, with decisions being ratified by the elected members only. Also contributing to the CEG is the CEO of the Chatham Islands Enterprise Trust which manages and operates the port and power supply, and the Department of Conservation area manager.

Issues and hazards which may be routine events for the rest of the country pose major challenges on the islands. Hazards and risks identified for the islands include earthquake, tsunami, wind storm, coastal erosion and storm surge, flooding, transportation including road, sea and air, loss of power supply, disruption of communications and closure of port through a shipping incident.

John reported excellent support to develop planning within the new framework and the Ministry will play a major role in supporting this work. During a week in February 2004 there will be a major training initiative concentrating on CIMS, Welfare, EOC Operations, and involving key personnel across the islands culminating in a tabletop exercise to test planning.

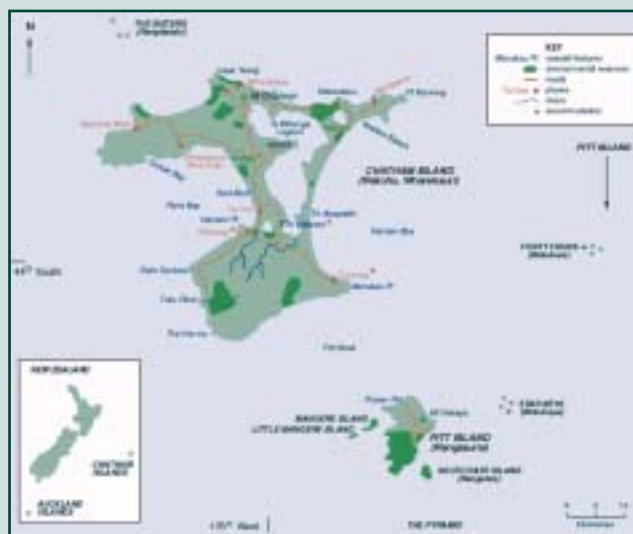
Owen Pickles, former CEO of the Gore District Council, is the Council's manager. He has appointed Cairi Timpson as Emergency Response Coordinator with responsibility for looking after civil defence, rural fire and maritime issues.

The appointment of Cairi and her involvement with activities in New Zealand will be a major asset for the islands as they build their organisation under the CDEM framework.

The islands also form a vital part of the Pacific Tsunami Warning system with a tide gauge and tsunami data collection platform installed off the wharf at Waitangi. Data from this equipment is transmitted by satellite to Hawaii and forms part of the wider network and warning system within the Pacific.



Hotel Waitangi and fish processing facilities behind Waitangi township



The Chatham Islands sit approx 750km to the east of New Zealand towards the edge of the submarine shelf, made up of three main islands and numerous smaller islands and rock pinnacles. The total land area of the group is about 965 sq km with the largest island, Chatham, having a number of shallow lakes and a large lagoon area.

Originally settled by the Morioris about 1200 and later by Maori settlers from 1835, the islands now have a population of about 700, with most people residing on the main island. The climate is chilly with an average temperature of about 11 degrees, annual rainfall between 75 and 125mm and a prevailing south-west wind.

The economy is vulnerable to external forces that influence employment and population with a high dependency on export markets for products based on the natural resources of the island – mainly fishing and farming.

The Chatham Islands Council was formed in 1901 with the first council elected in 1925.



Kaingaroa wharf on the east side of the island. First point for New Zealand of a South American generated tsunami.

New appointments at the Ministry

Sarah Norman MSc, BSc(Hons), RCN, Emergency Management Planner

Sarah's main areas of responsibility include development of the Cluster Approach to enhance multi-agency relationships and promote coordination. The Cluster Approach introduces the concept of a group of agencies, either within or across sectors that interact to achieve common outcomes, which includes the delivery of a function or related functions.



As part of this work, the Ministry and health stakeholders will be working more closely together on a number of joint projects including the development of Health Emergency Management Standards and Auditing Toolkits.

Sarah's other key responsibility is development of the Recovery Programme within the Ministry. This includes developing a National Strategy for Recovery, acting as programme administrator for the fifteen MCDEM recovery projects, and organising a New Zealand Recovery Symposium in July 2004.

Sarah continues to have a keen interest in terrorism and CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear) incidents related to her experience in London.

Sarah qualified as a (NZ) Registered Comprehensive Nurse in 1993. In 2000 she completed a BSc (Hons) Development and Health in Disaster Management before travelling to Ethiopia to work as the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer for Concern Worldwide. She returned to Coventry University in 2001 to complete her MSc (by research) in Disaster Management, and worked as a Regional Health Emergency Planning Adviser (RHEPA) in London. The role of the RHEPA is diverse, involving increasing the preparedness and response capability of NHS organisations in response to major incidents and providing a regional response role in London to major incidents. Sarah has recently completed a handbook on health emergency planning, due to be published later this year. Sarah has returned home to New Zealand after nine years in the UK.

Jim Stuart-Black BA(Hons) IDM Emergency Management Advisor (Professional Development)

Jim's main areas of responsibility will include multi-agency frameworks, competency profiles and continued development with the tertiary sector; he will also be working on a number of projects within the CDEM Group sector. Jim chairs the Ministry's Research Working Group and will work with a number of other parties in ensuring the continued development of research-based initiatives to enhance CDEM Group and national planning initiatives.



Originally from the United Kingdom, Jim worked overseas for a number of years including the Balkans during the recent conflict period, a number of East European countries and the Middle East. On returning from overseas, Jim completed a five year Honours degree in International Disaster Management and included a year training at

the renowned Fire Service College covering a number of topics including crisis and consequence management, emergency and contingency planning and multi-agency coordination.

Upon graduation, Jim worked as an Emergency Manager for London's second largest authority providing an on-call lead role for some 30 multi-agency major incidents. During his time in London, Jim was asked to assist on a number of local and national projects including leading an assessment of the City of London's CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological & Nuclear) capability; he also worked on a number of other conventional anti-terrorist projects.

More recently, Jim has finished co-writing a handbook on health emergency planning and has published articles on a range of topics within the emergency/disaster management field.

Peter Kingsbury Emergency Management Planner (Hazards)

Peter joined the Ministry in July 2003 on secondment for one year from Environment Canterbury (ECAN). Prior to his eight years at ECAN as a Hazards Analyst, Peter worked for eight years for the Wellington Regional Council also as a Hazards Analyst. He has a degree in Geology and a Masters in Engineering Geology.



His specific role with the Ministry is to develop the sector's approach to hazard understanding and planning at the national and regional level. He will work with hazard planners in local government, CDEM Groups and the sector to develop understanding of their hazards. He will also be working with the CDEM Groups to assist them with their required CDEM Plan strategic outputs. This includes identification of their hazards, the impacts of these, work priorities and mitigation implementation programmes.

Director's Forum 2004

Change in date: 6-7 April, Christchurch

Please note that there has been a change in dates for the 2004 Director's Forum which will now be held on 6 -7 April.

The Forum aims to bring together civil defence emergency managers and planners from local and central government, and representatives from emergency services, utilities, and scientific groups with an interest in emergency management to address issues of common interest. It aims to be responsive to regional as well as national matters, with active participation from the CDEM sector.

Your suggestions on themes/topics of interest for the next Director's Forum are welcome and can be sent to sara.williams@dia.govt.nz. More information about the programme will be communicated to the sector in late November and will be available at: www.civildefence.govt.nz

USAR Search Dog Association Formed

by Steve Glassey, Emergency Management Advisor

The inaugural meeting of the New Zealand USAR Search Dog Association was held in Wellington on 2 August 2003.

The formation of the USAR Search Dog Association is an important step in the development of an effective and appropriate USAR search dog capability in New Zealand. This specialist area has already seen some milestones in the last two years with the development and implementation of basic USAR Dog Standards for New Zealand and the Association has a unique opportunity to contribute to and drive future initiatives.

The development of USAR dogs has paralleled the larger USAR project and has benefitted from the support and commitment to USAR shown at a national level. At the AGM several individuals were identified as having a significant contribution including Lynda Angus, Dave Brunson, Steve Glassey and the late Ian Craig.

The process started in 2001 when a meeting was held in Christchurch to do an initial stocktake of USAR dogs in New Zealand. From here a working group was established that began the initial engagement of the search dog sector. A formation meeting for the Association was held in May 2003. After this meeting members for the association were sought and to date the association has 35 members from throughout New Zealand.

Following the AGM the inaugural management committee meeting met and further developed ideas for key activities for the association in the upcoming year. These include:

- Input into the organisation of USAR search dog assessments
- Input into the development of an advanced search dog standard with accompanying tertiary education programme
- Communication with members and the wider USAR community
- Facilitation of joint training workshops

For more information please contact: Janelle Mackie, Association Coordinator searchdogs@usar.govt.nz 027 2231708

General Rescue Trainer – Lesson Exemplars Launched

As a result of the review on the USAR General Trainer Programme, those seeking certification now undertake a formal assessment rather than a course reducing the amount of time students are away from work. To ensure students are well prepared for the centralised assessment, pre-assessment workshops can be run by the CDEM Group. To assist these workshops the USAR Programme has developed lesson exemplars for the General Rescue Trainer Assessment in association with Environment Canterbury Civil Defence and the Dunedin College of Education (Video Unit). The video is available in a range of formats (VHS Tape, DVD, and QuickTime CD) and can be loaned from the CDEM Collection at the Royal NZ Police College Library. A presenters guide is also available to support the presentation of the video at pre-assessment workshops and can be downloaded from the USAR website.

Website www.usar.govt.nz

Search Dog Capability Strengthened

The 3rd National Disaster Dog Evaluation was held in Christchurch in October resulting in an additional five handlers being certified as USAR Canine Search Specialists (Type II).

Disaster search dogs are dogs specially trained to locate the scent of humans trapped underneath collapsed structures such as from earthquakes and land-slides.

The evaluation has increased the national capability to eight dogs, a significant achievement given New Zealand had no certified capability only eight months ago.

Most of the handlers are undergoing selection for attachment to either NZ Task Force 1 or 2 in Palmerston North and Christchurch respectively.

The current pool of canine search specialists also have the opportunity to undertake a tertiary education programme next year to learn about veterinary first aid, animal handling, transportation and animal management law.

Congratulations to Nathan Field and *Nix*, Wayne Severn and *Zoe*, Sue Chesterfield and *Nugget*, Matthew Dodd and *Sara*, and Graham Joseph and *Jesse*

Thank you to the NZ USAR Search Dog Association, NZ Police (Dog Section) and Environment Canterbury Civil Defence who made the recent evaluation possible.



Above: Nathan Field from Palmerston North Civil Defence is one of eight certified USAR canine search specialists. Nathan along with five other handlers recently graduated in October.



Above: Lesson exemplars are now available in VHS, DVD and QuickTime and help prepare students for their General Rescue Trainer Assessment.

National CDEM Strategy

In July 2003, Cabinet agreed to the release of the proposed National Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Strategy for public consultation. A key requirement of the CDEM Act 2002, the Strategy sets out the Crown's priorities for CDEM in New Zealand for the next decade. The proposed Strategy has been developed in consultation with a range of stakeholders.

On 6 August the Minister of Civil Defence, Hon George Hawkins, held a press conference in the National Crisis Management Centre, to launch the public release of the proposed National CDEM Strategy. The Minister stressed the need for the public to be better prepared for emergencies. He expressed his concern that New Zealanders may have become complacent, as the country hasn't experienced a major disaster for many years. The Minister encouraged the public to participate in hazard related issues in their communities and that they could do this by submitting on the proposed National CDEM Strategy.

The proposed Strategy was sent to a wide range of stakeholders and widely advertised in the main newspapers around New Zealand. Public submissions on the proposed Strategy closed in September. The Ministry has had a good response to the release of the proposed Strategy. Approximately 50 submissions were received, the majority of which came from local authorities. There was general agreement and support of the vision and goals of the



L-R Police Commissioner Rob Robinson, Director of the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management John Norton, Civil Defence Minister George Hawkins and the Fire Service's Director of Fire Safety Jim Dance at the launch of the National CDEM Strategy in August in Wellington.

Strategy and to its overall clarity. Peter Davey, MCDEM Policy Manager, commented that: "the comments received were all positive and constructive. Clearly some considerable thought had gone into them." Many submissions pointed out the need to make some of the actions more specific with measurable targets.

The Ministry is now working on revising the proposed Strategy to take account, as far as is practicable, the comments received. The Minister must complete the Strategy by 1 December 2003. A revised Strategy will be submitted to the Minister for approval in November. Given that this is the first National CDEM Strategy and many of the benchmarks and measurable targets have yet to be established, it is intended that the Strategy be reviewed within three to five years. The Ministry anticipates that the first National CDEM Strategy will be in effect before Christmas.

Can you surf on a tsunami?

That was the question posed to Civil Defence Minister George Hawkins when he visited the Cosgrove School in Papakura on 22 August 2003.

As part of a school project on "Disasters", the Minister had been invited to speak to Year 5-6 students on the topic. The Minister talked about the different types of disasters and how to be better prepared for them. He fielded many enthusiastic questions but one, "can you surf on a tsunami?" however caught him somewhat "unprepared".



A captive audience at the Cosgrove School in Papakura.