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27 November 2012 4:04 PM

To: Undisclosed recipients: ;

Nicky in the City December January Nicky Wagner MP for Christchurch Central

10 Attachments, 206 KB



Hello everyone

Being away from New Zealand for a brief period has made me appreciate even more just how well we have worked through the earthquake recovery and rebuild process ... and really, how quickly. On a global level we have impressed. The world is watching and Lonely Planet has just ranked Christchurch in the Top Ten cities for 2013. Fantastic news!

I visited the UK to thank those, especially expats, who donated hundreds of thousands of dollars, drew on their networks to raise funds, and gave their support to the rebuild of Christchurch. A further mission in the UK was to help recruit the especially skilled people we need for the rebuild, given its massive scale, particularly geotechnical experts and engineers. You may have seen on primetime news the tremendous interest in the rebuild, with huge crowds attending the London Expo.



Lonely Planet describes Christchurch as "rising from the rubble with a breathtaking mix of spirit, determination and flair." And New Zealand has just been named "Favourite Country – Worldwide" at the Telegraph travel awards in London, while international political and economic commentators at Forbes have moved New Zealand to the top of their list of the world's best countries to do business.

I couldn't agree more. I have championed our city from day one and this kind of publicity just confirms what I have believed all along.

As 2012 draws to a close and we look ahead to new challenges in 2013, I have taken time to consider my wish list for Christchurch in the coming year and beyond. Most important to me are:

- * making sure we build on the positive aspects that have come out of the crisis
- * our sense of being one connected community
- * our ability to confront problems and proactively find a way to fix them
- * the flexibility and innovative thinking that forced change has fostered
- * the opportunities being in the global headlines is offering us

I am particularly interested in the Urban Village Design competition. I want to see beautifully designed, good quality, affordable and sustainable housing in our central city.

That 130 of the world's architects are interested in this project and that Kevin McCloud is part of the judging panel, provides us with an opportunity that we would never have even aspired to pre-earthquake.

That we have all lost so much and had such a tough time has united us and provided a driving force to make sure we create something wonderful and good as we rebuild our city, and a stronger and better future for all Cantabrians.

Did you know about ...

Lonely Planet's post-quake guide to Christchurch

Lonely Planet clearly seeks to 'accentuate the positive and latch on to the alternative' in its fresh look at Christchurch. See [here](#)

Good in the Hood

Z Energy is giving away over \$1 million in community funding in 2013. Every Z station will be giving away \$5,000 to neighbourhood groups and projects which help people who need it, so with 210 Z stations, that's over \$1 million across New Zealand. More information [here](#)

Hospitality update

Christchurch and Canterbury Tourism reports seven new bars and restaurants opened in September/October with another five to open before the end of the year. More details [here](#)

Out and About

Rotary Club Colour-Me-Christchurch project brightens up the city

It was a pleasure to join the Rotary clubs of Christchurch recently to help plant thousands of flowers on vacant sites around the city. This major project involved members from 15 Rotary clubs plus over 50 volunteers from the Student Volunteer Army. Together the teams planted 5500 petunias and 1600 sunflowers on 15-16 vacant sites, and I'm pleased to say two-thirds of the sites are in the Christchurch Central electorate! In addition, large quantities of wildflower seed were sown and the clubs will maintain the plantings over summer.



I was delighted to conduct a ceremonial planting of the first flower at the project's central site on the corner of Brougham and Colombo Streets (*pictured here with Mr Gordon Hooper, Governor of Rotary's northern South Island district and at rear, Mr Bill Pierson, Christchurch West Rotary*).

Men's Sheds in Christchurch

'Men's Sheds' is an organisation nurturing men's talents and wellbeing and bringing them together in one community space to share their skills, have a laugh, and work on practical projects. I visited the Men's Shed in Nancy Avenue, St Albans/ Mairehau where 'the men' were delighted to show me around and talk about their community projects. There are 23 Men's Sheds groups in Canterbury in various stages of development, with five fully open.



Aldred Men's Shed in Nancy Avenue is involved in many woodwork projects and also boasts a community garden. *Pictured at Aldred Men's Shed are Mr Bill Percy (left and in the garden) and Mr Dave Falls.* Further details about Men's Sheds [here](#)

Central city businesses reopen



It's wonderful to see earthquake affected businesses and services reopening in the central city.

The Government has made the Christchurch rebuild one of its four key priorities for this term and it is vital Cantabrians get behind it.

So it's great to see businesses like C1 Espresso café reopening in new premises in the old post office on the corner of Tuam and High Streets.

C1 has a real environmental focus, including a rooftop vineyard and organic planting, while owners Sam (pictured above with Earthquake Recovery Minister Gerry Brownlee at the official reopening) and Fleur Croftskey have a special connection with villages in Samoa, where they produce coffee, ginger and honey for the café and provide work for the villagers.

Two of the honoured guests flew from Samoa especially for the event (*pictured below - Adi Tafuna'i (left) and Fuimaono Rosalia from Women in Business Development Inc. Samoa.*)

The new premises also feature recycled table tops and lighting from the Arts Centre.



Congratulations

- > Mr Pieter and Mrs Jacoba Wever on their 60th wedding anniversary, 6 November 2012
- > To all dux, scholarship and school prize giving award recipients, and the head girls, head boys and senior prefects announced for 2013. Well done to you all

Seasons greetings and very best wishes for 2013,



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Funded by the Parliamentary Service and authorised by Nicky Wagner MP, 103 Salisbury Street, Christchurch.
