



# Christchurch Earthquake Disaster



This is the first special issue of the InforMer updating the situation in Christchurch and reporting on Lions' response and activities to provide aid to those affected by the 22 February earthquake. It follows on from the initial reports published in the March InforM.

## Update from Lions Alert Chairman Mike Cameron

1 March 2011

My apologies for not being able to update you sooner. I received a call on Monday to rapidly deploy me and 5 others to Christchurch to transport emergency vehicles and a critical shipment that needed to be hand delivered to Christchurch ASAP. And I have only just flown home from Christchurch this afternoon.

Lions and Red Cross have invoked the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) signed on 27 March 2009 between our two organisation to better assist in the recovery efforts in Christchurch. We are currently building a data base of 100 + volunteers to assist with "Operation Suburb" in Christchurch. As well we have taken an offer of office space in the Red Cross National HQ in Wellington to coordinate the Lions side of "Operation Suburb". We have 8 Lions that will be operating out of this office for 12 hours per day until further notice. We are currently working together with Red Cross to better deliver the support Christchurch needs at this great moment of need. [See page 3 of this InforMer for a News Release from Red Cross – Ed.]

I have personally attended the briefings in Christchurch for "Operation Suburb" during my brief trip there. The job that Lions will be doing is of the utmost importance to assist the Christchurch people. The information gathered during this operation will needs assess the entire Christchurch community and highlight what is required for humanitarian relief efforts to assist those affected in Christchurch by the devastating earthquake last Tuesday.

I cannot stress how important this is and what an unbelievable opportunity this is for Lions to serve their community during this time of need.

Also as I may have to go to Christchurch to assist further, I have asked PDG Adrian Ash to take over the role of coordinating the Lions data base for Lions wanting to self evacuate from Christchurch. Adrian will be accepting offers from Lions wanting to help out with accommodation. I have asked DG Raewyn Clearwater if she can arrange a list of Lions that wish to leave the Christchurch area. Once we have the names Adrian will arrange them to be put in touch with each other. Adrian's may be contacted at: [adrian.ash@xtra.co.nz](mailto:adrian.ash@xtra.co.nz)

Also due to the large number of citizens currently leaving the Christchurch area. (so far the numbers I have been given are 50,000+) there has been a web site created to assist in the offers of accommodation. This web site is for anyone to register with and should not be confused with the Lions offers above. If you would like to help a non Lion with accommodation please register at this web address: [www.quakeescape.org.nz](http://www.quakeescape.org.nz)

- The number of confirmed dead is unchanged at 154. Police still expect that number to rise. Three bodies were recovered overnight from the PGC building. The identity of eight of the deceased has been publicly released. See: <http://www.police.govt.nz/list-deceased>.
- Police aim to release more names some time after 1500hrs today.

... continued on page 2

## InforMer

Please send comments and contributions to:  
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- Approximately 240 people are reported as missing (unaccounted for) in the worst-damaged sites in the city. This number will include many, or all, of the fatalities.
- Of the 200 homes evacuated in Sumner all but 20 have been able to be reoccupied.
- Police cordons were lifted in Sumner at about 7.30pm, with the exception of the main road which opened at 9.00pm.
- Temporary accommodation: Engineers are looking at areas of land suitable for temporary accommodation for displaced residents
- Sixty-six per cent of water is back on across Christchurch.
- Water is being chlorinated for public safety. However, the public are advised to continue to boil drinking water.
- Police have at least 80 officers from Australia and New Zealand patrolling the suburbs in and around Christchurch and in Lyttelton today.
- A total fire ban has been declared by the National Rural Fire Officer across Canterbury for the next 48 hours taking effect from midday today, due to high winds forecast. No fire permits will be issued.
- People wanting to contribute to the response are encouraged to contribute financially ONLY. (No donations of goods or services at this time please). Please send donations by cheque payable to Lions District 202E Emergency Relief Fund to: District Treasurer Don Giles, 21 Alpine Avenue, Hanmer Springs 7334. Please note: a website for the donation of money and goods is being developed. Please check the [www.canterburyearthquake.org.nz](http://www.canterburyearthquake.org.nz) website from Wednesday.

## Water

The public can expect water supply to be intermittent for the next two to three weeks. Remember to boil ALL water before drinking, including tanker water, de-salinated water, and normal tap water. The City Council will advise when it is no longer necessary to boil or treat tap water. Supply is often turned off soon after being restored so that leaks can be checked and then repaired. This will affect mainly the eastern side of the city.

## Waste/Portaloos

Any one with commercial liquid waste should employ a tankered waste company to convey their discharge for disposal. Around 3,000 chemical toilets have been ordered in addition to the close to 900 portaloos currently available. See map: <http://eqviewer.co.nz/index-portaloos.html>. Another 250 portaloos are in transit nationally, and a further 963 in transit from the United States of America.

## Silt

Work crews and volunteers are removing silt from roads across the city. As of last night, 120,000 tonnes of silt had been gathered. The original estimate of 180,000 tonnes is being revised upwards and so it will take three or four days longer than was earlier indicated.

## Event Summary

Restoration work is progressively providing increased utility services, although the rate of restoration for some services will slow now given the impact of extensive liquefaction and other ground disruption, especially in the southern end east of the city. It is estimated that 180,000+ tonnes of liquefaction sand will need to be removed, compared with a total of approximately 20,000 tonnes in the September event.

Priorities for the response remain the support of the urban search and rescue operation, the treatment and care of injured or affected individuals, and the coordination of national resources in support of the local response. National resources continue to be deployed in support of the local response.

**Operation Suburb:** An estimated 100 multi-agency teams will be operating today to evaluate building safety and the needs of residents. These agencies will include Red Cross, Salvation Army, Lions, and other organisations assisting a team of Building Inspectors and EQC representatives.

Michael Cameron



*Together we stand, One Team, One Goal.*



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## NEWS RELEASE

Tuesday March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011

### Red Cross gets support from Lions Clubs

Volunteers and pledges of cash from the global Lions Clubs network will boost the Red Cross' efforts helping those affected by the Christchurch earthquake.

The partnership follows a cooperative global alliance between International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and Lions Clubs International, which included offering assistance with disaster relief volunteers if needed. New Zealand Red Cross has activated this alliance.

Some seventy five Lions Clubs members will work along-side Red Cross volunteers providing additional support for efforts in the suburbs, while two Lions Clubs officials will help at Red Cross' national office.

The Chief Executive of New Zealand Red Cross, John Ware, said key partnerships were coming to the aid of the people of Christchurch.

"We seek to work with others with similar standards and social responsibility to help others in need. This alliance will mean we can help more people," said Mr Ware.

Lions Clubs New Zealand Executive Officer David Dawick said: "Although many of our own Lions members have been equally hard hit by the quake they are being joined by Lions from around the districts to pitch in and support their neighbours."

"Volunteers will door knock as part of Christchurch City Council's Operation Suburb to check residents' welfare needs and to offer support and comfort in the days and weeks ahead."

Mr Dawick said local residents will recognise the volunteers from the distinctive Lions logo and the Red Cross emblem on their vests or caps. The programme will start tomorrow morning.

The *New Zealand Red Cross 2011 Earthquake Appeal* has to date raised more than \$10.6 million, with substantial pledges still to come.

People in New Zealand can donate to the appeal via [www.redcross.org.nz](http://www.redcross.org.nz), make an automatic \$20 donation by ringing 0900 733 27 or text a message to 4419 for an instant \$3 donation.

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