



# Survivors could still be found

Wellington, NZPA

As searchers enter the fourth day of their rescue mission in Christchurch police say they could still pull people out alive from earthquake-ravaged buildings.

The death toll from Tuesday's 6.3-magnitude quake was updated overnight from 98 to 103, while 228 remain unaccounted for.

Police said they only recovered dead bodies overnight but Superintendent Russell Gibson said this morning that did not mean they would not find any more survivors.

"I spent quite some time...at the CTV building. The people there who are coordinating that - from Australia and also Japanese - all tell me that they have worked on buildings which look just like the CTV building and many days after the collapse they continue to pull people out."

Twelve streets in the coastal suburb of Redcliffs were evacuated around 10pm yesterday after a cliff was deemed to be unstable. Some residents had already left the area and last night's evacuees left willingly, police spokeswoman Sarah Kennett said.

Meanwhile, police started releasing names of victims yesterday, but warned it could be a long, protracted and painful process for families and loved ones.

The first four victims were named as Joseph Tehau Pohio, 40, Jaime Robert McDowell Gilbert, 22, Jayden Harris, nine months, and Baxter Gowland, five months, were named yesterday. All were from Christchurch.

Police appealed for understanding from families as they work to identify the bodies of victims.

"We know it's an agonising wait for families desperate to find out about their loved-ones, but there is a legal requirement for this work to be completed to standards set by the Coroner," police disaster victim identification commander Mike Wright said.

Police were required to follow the international process of disaster victim identification, which did not rely solely on visual identification as in stressful conditions distraught relatives could often mistakenly identify loved ones.

## Main supermarket busier than usual

by Sonia Beal

Out-of-towners escaping the Christchurch earthquake have made Westport New World noticeably busier over the last few days, says manager Justin Vaudrey.

Although the supermarket was running low on a few items, shelves were being filled everyday with new grocery order deliveries, he said.

While on the shop floor, he had spoken to seven people who had come over from Christchurch, including one woman who had to pack up and leave

her house in Fendalton.

But Mr Vaudrey said the supermarket was receiving orders daily, so it wasn't possible to say how supplies had been affected.

Distribution centres in Christchurch were okay, but a shortage of staff in charge of filling food orders, was affecting the supermarket's stock numbers.

"We're doing everything we can to get supplies here," Mr Vaudrey said.

Foodstuffs was working "very hard" to get stock from up north if it was unavailable in the South Island.

respice can call 0800 435 700.

Offers for blankets were again being taken, and if required the army would make contact before collection.

The Salvation Army has also relaunched its Canterbury Earthquake Appeal. Donations can be made online, by post, or ringing 0800 53 00 00.

This weekend all donations received from hotels and community caravans would be donated to the Canterbury Earthquake Appeal.

## St Johns Youth leaders sought

by Keira Stephenson

The Salvation Army has stepped in to help run Westport's St John Youth programme.

The long-running programme, in which youth earn badges for various health, first aid, outdoor and community subjects, had recently struggled to find a manager, said Salvation Army Lieutenant Michelle Lee.

This year, rather than having one manager, St John Youth and its younger 'Penguins' would be run by a team of leaders including Ms Lee and her husband Stewart.

The former manager Kathy Edwards had done a "fantastic job" of running it but had been struggling to

find someone to replace herself with, said Ms Lee.

When the group wound up at the end of last year there were still 30 students coming.

The St John was still looking for more leaders to join and also hoped some of the older youth would help out with 6-8-year-old Penguins.

Ms Lee said the St John Youth members aimed to get all their badges in order to receive the Grand Priors award from the Governor General.

It was fun and members got to go on camps.

St Johns Youth would start up again this year at the Salvation Army Hall on Henley Street next Wednesday and run from 6-7.15pm for the penguins and 7-8.30pm for the youth.

## CHRISTCHURCH

# Pathologist works from his garage

by Matthew Backhouse of NZPA, Christchurch, NZPA

A Christchurch pathologist who risked his safety to retrieve critical tissue samples from his quake-damaged lab is now processing them in his garage - and he hopes patients won't even notice a delay in getting their test results.

David Roche, a pathologist at Southern Community Laboratories, said he went back to the cordoned-off Christchurch lab after Saturday's 6.3 magnitude quake to retrieve the samples because some were "irreplaceable".

"There was one particular one I was working on which was a brain tumour, and it's precious and irreplaceable. I mean, you can't go in and get another one," he told NZPA.

"So if that's lost, then you're left not knowing what this person's diagnosis is, and that's just as bad as it gets really."

Dr Roche said he "quickly went in and grabbed it" after the lab was evacuated, along with a handful of other samples he was working on.

"It was a bit of a risk going in there - I put my bike helmet on and just hoped the building wasn't going to fall on my head," he said.

He said he suspected the building would be condemned, so there might not have been another chance to get the samples.

"I'm glad I got in there and got them because otherwise these people wouldn't be able to get answers."

Dr Roche also retrieved his notes along with the specimens, which he was sorting through in his garage in the suburb of Merivale.

The specimens would soon be sent to a lab in Dunedin, and Dr Roche suspected that the results would be only a day or two late - a delay patients were unlikely to notice.

He said there was no issue storing the specimens in his garage, because they were preserved in formalin.

"Essentially they're like pickled onions in a jar, they'll sit there a year. So now there's no rush - except obviously people want to know what they have."

Dr Roche was nonchalant about his risky mission. "It's what you do."

But he said the earthquake had rattled him much more than the September tremor.

"I wasn't very upset by the first one. This one's left me pretty jangled, you know. It's fairly horrendous," he said.

"For Christchurch itself, this is a real big hit. It's going to take a heck of a lot to recover from this."

**Right: Dr David Roche (pathologist) with samples he has to work on at home to give people results, so they don't need more surgery to get the samples again, after the 6.3 quake. Credit:NZPA / Pam Johnson.**



# Pike robot put on hold

by Amelia Langford - Wellington, NZPA

A plan to send a robot into Greymouth's Pike River Coal mine again has been put on hold following Christchurch's devastating 6.3 earthquake.

The robot, from Western Australia, was to be sent into the mine this week to assess damage and investigate the possibility of recovering the remains of the 29 men, killed in an explosion on November 19.

But New Zealand Mines Rescue manager Trevor Watts today told NZPA a Western Australian team, who were on their way to Greymouth to support the robot operation, had been redirected to Christchurch.

The group had specialist camera equipment which could help the quake rescue effort, he said.

The Pike River recovery operation would continue, despite delays with the robot, and there were plans to bore another hole into the mine to gather more information, he said.

Mr Watts, who was in a meeting at Pike River when he heard news of the quake, said his rescue staff were ready to go to Christchurch if needed.

There was some crossover of skills between earthquake and mine rescue work, but building work was a specialist field.

"Trying to analyse and determine stability of a building is completely different to determining the stability of an underground mine," he told NZPA.

Like Pike River, safety of the rescue workers had to be paramount.

"They'll be faced with some pretty horrendous

situations to go into...It's quite hard to comprehend the level of destruction and the massive rescue and recovery effort that's going to have to take place."

Complex problems, such as the looming collapse of the Hotel Grand Chancellor building, made recovery even more difficult and dangerous.

He urged rescue workers in Christchurch to make sure they got the support they needed.

"Because at the end of the day, we're not robots, we're human beings. These people need to call on their support networks," he said.

Police's initial decision to call off a rescue operation at the Canterbury TV building, where people were trapped and dead, brought back memories of the agonising decision not to enter Pike River mine because it was too dangerous.

"The people on the ground that make those types of decisions, they are the tops in their fields. These guys know what they're doing. Those decisions are not made lightly," he said.

Before the quake struck, the mine's receiver PricewaterhouseCoopers had planned for the robot to enter the mine this week.

Receiver John Fisk earlier told NZPA the robot would hopefully provide images of the mine's interior, reveal the extent of the damage, and give an indication of how much of the mine was accessible.

And Greymouth Mayor Tony Kokshoorn earlier said sending a robot into the mine would be a big step forward.

# DWC assistance to be confirmed

by Sonia Beal

Development West Coast (DWC) is working with agencies to see whether it can provide assistance for victims of the Christchurch quake.

Chief executive John Chang said the board had not had the opportunity to meet, but a meeting between himself and chairman John Sturgeon was scheduled

on Monday to see how they could help.

One staff member, part of the Civil Defence (CD) unit, had already been deployed to Christchurch and another was on standby.

DWC gave \$100,000 and Buller and Grey district councils gave \$10,000 each after the September quake. DWC had also covered the cost for two senior staff to assist CD.

## Fire crew called

The same six Westport fire crew who returned home Wednesday night after not being required to help out in the quake rescue effort were sent to Christchurch at 1pm yesterday.

They had got as far as Greymouth before they were turned back Wednesday.

Fire chief Pat O'Dea said the crew had an hour's notice yesterday as the number of calls the city's brigades had received got on top of them.

Fire fighters had worked through the night pumping water out of a building.

## Hot chip turf wars

The Salvation Army received a big donation this week from a woman who set her hot-chip caravan up on the Sallies' Saturday night turf.

The Salvation Army handed out free sausages and bread on Friday and Saturday nights to help people soak up the alcohol, said Lieutenant Michelle Lee.

However on marathon weekend Army officers had turned up in their van only to find someone else selling takeaways in their spot outside the clock tower.

There had been no room for the Salvation Army caravan so they had had to go home.

Buller Mayor Pat McManus who had also turned up to work the sausage van for the night had gone home too.

Lieutenant Lee understood that rival van had not had a permit and had been told to make a donation to the Salvation Army by a Buller district councillor.

## Heavy traffic discouraged

Heavy trucks and milk tankers will be directed to use a bypass down Mill and Queen streets to prevent a number of trucks driving through the town centre.

Cr Graham Howard told this week's Buller District Council meeting it was not a good look for heavy vehicles to be driving through town.

Councillors agreed most of the offenders were out-of-town contractors.

They decided council should write letters to the trucking companies responsible, advising drivers to take the alternative route.

Operations manager Steve Griffin said the bypass was a preferred route. He said all heavy truck drivers knew about it, but liked to drive down the main street.