

The New Zealand LIFT FAX

The New Zealand Lift Fax is produced bi-monthly for the NZ lift industry. Just send your email address to LEC to subscribe.

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WHAT'S GOING UP or DOWN THIS MONTH:

ELECTRA VITORIA VISITS NZ:

It was with much pleasure that I had the opportunity along with Stuart Mitchell to meet with **Borjja Gambin**; ('B' to Kiwi's), representing **Electra Vitoria** the Spanish lift manufacturer and exporter who was in town.



Borjja Gambin visits NZ



Stuart Mitchell meets 'B'

The best info I could give Borjja, was to ensure they documented their solutions when planning to bring CE certified equipment into New Zealand.

THE CORONERS INQUEST for Dave Shaw:

At 10am on the 8th of April 2011 at the Gore District Court, 6 Hokonui Drive, Gore, the Coroner will finally hold his inquest into the accidental death of our fellow lifty; Dave Shaw, who lost his life while commissioning an Otis Gen2™ into the Fonterra Edendale plant.

EDITORIAL:

NATIONALISING THE IQP:

I had to pinch myself the other day to see if the Nationalising of IQP's in New Zealand was still a dream or not. You remember in 2008 a working group was established to undermine this as a dream, but I'm sorry to have to say that it may be more exact to still consider it a dream.

As far as the D2 side of IQP inspection goes, we had diligently put together a business case to provide a single means of certification using the CBIP (Certification Board for Inspection Personnel) as a one stop shop to provide NZ wide Councils with a means of consistent qualification, and thereby promote a single standard of annual WOF inspection to be adopted NZ wide.

As far as I can ascertain, the nuts and bolts of the National IQP Registration Board had been established and had presented a Business Plan to the DBH (Dept. Building & Housing) at the end of last year.

By mid-March 2011 after a Deloitte review of the business plan, I understand the report was forwarded to the Governance Board which is where we stand today. Further to this, the Building Amendment Bill (No3) was issued in November 2010, (see January issue 112), but by 4th of March 2011 had only reached the stage where public submissions had closed. Once enacted, these amendments will need to be considered as to their affect on any inspection processes in NZ.

It seems that the CBIP Business Plan for certifying D2 IQP's has been put of the shelf by the NIQP Board awaiting the Deloitte report, so with its issue we should see some movement in the camp, as long as the DBH's OK to proceed has been forth-coming with the issue of the review. Ed.

POWERED LIFTING ELEVATOR PLATFORMS:

The Ministry of Education has been proactive in this Performance based building world, to produce their 2006 **MED 7917 Standard** that provides a good guideline of process for those contemplating installing Powered Platform Lift for the Education Department in NZ.

Until I add it to my website you can download a copy off my Google document site at:-

<http://groups.google.com/group/lifteye?lnk=src>

I note that the Standard points to various codes, including the British Standard BS6440 for Powered Lifting Platforms, along with The Building Code, but doesn't identify that it is a D2 Specified system under the Building Code, and thereby needs to meet the performance requirements of D2, or the acceptable solution D2/AS2, and also be included onto the Building Compliance Schedule once installed.

NB: Its early days, but if you are interested in joining a Lift Industry Discussion Group, email LEC either direct or through the Google LIDG to note your interest and facilitate membership. Ed.



NZ Pandect Platform Lift

Feb 22nd Christchurch Earthquake:

It seems we only experienced light rain as a metaphor for the September 4th Christchurch earthquake, for on February 22nd 2011 the projected weather forecast went astray, and the heavens opened.

I had just finished sending copies of D2 PS4 documents to the Builder hoping to open the Sumner Primary School's new extension, and had returned down stairs to finish my now cold tea and half eaten sandwich, when just another presumed aftershock began to rattle the house.

It is difficult to remember the next sequence of events as the kitchen became alive, and I even stood in the doorway until a crack appeared next to the frame, as Jan my wife disappeared under the dining room table.



The Office

I eagerly moved outside when the initial shaking had subsided to find that the 5 brick columns supporting the pergola has fallen like toy soldiers, 5 -

30mm cracks had opened in a fan formation leading to the top of the drive, and 70% of the glazing in the

north facing front of the house was shattered. It wasn't until a wave of aftershocks has subsided that I ventured back inside to find most cupboards open, with all full height sliding bedroom cupboards and anything in them on the floor.



The Failed Pergola

Amazingly, out of all the household goods, other than for a few appliances and a small kitchen TV that had dropped about 1.8m, along with 60% of glassware, most things were still intact and working.

Over the days attending to our own needs, with no power or water, we had become an isolated neighbourhood group like thousands of others, reliant fully on each other, and cut off from the world of constant ads and news reports. A certain peace prevailed that we hadn't felt for a long time in our busy lives of today, a unplanned break from the rat-race it seemed, where there was time to focus on others as well as ourselves.



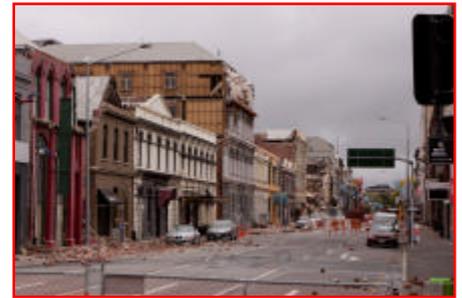
Kitchen Mayhem

When we stopped for a moment to listen to the radio, it informed us that the centre of the quake was shallow and just adjacent to us reaching a 6.3, far below the Sept. 7.1 quake centred 30km away, but much more devastating for us.

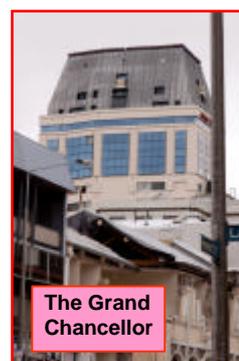
The city of Christchurch was another story, we had been shaken silly, but it had succumbed to the age and construction of its buildings and the extreme lateral and vertical forces, and had crumbled!

It wasn't until power was returned 6 days later that we gained an insight into the devastation in downtown Christchurch only 3km distant as the crow flies, and the growing number of deaths, now over 150 and climbing began to sink in.

We had survived a catastrophe! Something you can read about overseas nearly instantly it happens, where the significance of the extent and shock and horror for those involved in the event is mostly not fully experienced until days later.



CTV Building



The Grand Chancellor



But as they say, "when one door shuts another opens", and hopefully a better Christchurch will rise from the ashes. In the meantime to time to cleanup and make the most of this life's experience. LEC is lucky to be back up and running. Ed.

A Personal Experience of the 22nd:

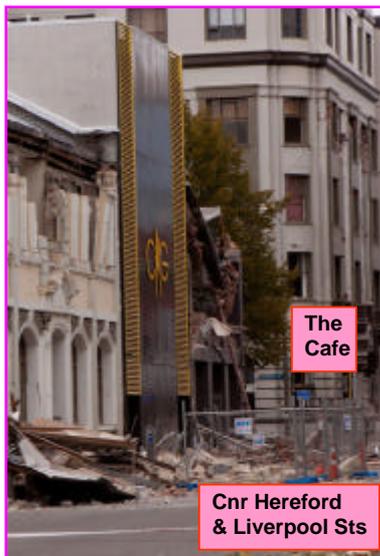
Before the earthquake, Glenn, Ziva & I had a fantastic long weekend away for my brother's wedding in Kaiteriteri. We had lovely weather and spent plenty of time on the beach. Ziva wasn't a fan of the water or waves but loved playing in the sand. The sandy poos weren't so pleasant though!

We arrived home late Monday night to find our house had been burgled. It could have been a lot worse - the buggers stole our 46" LED and 32" LCD tellys but didn't trash the house. They walked past Glenn's iPod, the computers, cash & keys but took the time to take the telly remotes and power leads. We'd only bought the 46" LED lounge TV the week before Christmas & Glenn was almost reduced to tears when he realised it was gone. The insurance agent said there had been a spate of burglaries of Harvey Norman customers between 1 week & 4 months after they bought big tellys so suspect an inside job. (We hope the tellys fell over & really hurt the thieves in the earthquake!!).

Anyway, on earthquake Tuesday, I'd taken the day as annual leave as our original plan had been to stay in Nelson Monday night. Glenn had to come back for work Tuesday morning though so he suggested we meet at a café called Joe's Garage for lunch and go to our 2pm appointment for our 19 week pregnancy ultrasound scan. Ziva & I had a great morning shopping and spent an hour at the insurance agents in Latimer Square.

We left there at 12:45 to walk to the Ferringhi Teppanyaki & Grill Bar & called Glenn on my way. Ziva was squawking for lunch so as soon as I got to Joe's, I left her strapped into her buggy and started feeding her. Glenn had just arrived and asked how I got on with the burglary insurance claim when the earthquake hit. It was really violent & really sudden (no rumbling or build-up like in September). Glenn & I were struggling to stand and the light fittings & ceiling panels were falling from the ceiling, bookcases & tables were falling over and there was chaos. There were maybe 20 people inside and it was every man for himself. People starting sprinting out of the cafe, but Ziva & I were tucked into a booth with the buggy and weren't very speedy. Also, being 32 now & 19 weeks pregnant, my agility isn't what it once was!! Glenn picked up the buggy and ran for the door as the supporting beams for the floor above started falling. As Glenn got to the doorway, he paused to check I was with him. As he did, the entire façade & top brick floor wall collapsed into the footpath in front of him. Another step and he & Ziva would have been hit.

There were three people crushed by these bricks - they were there, then they were gone. It was really frightening. After that, there was only us, two staff and one other customer still inside the café & the door was blocked. Glenn was screaming at the staff asking about a back entrance but they couldn't/wouldn't respond. Glenn saw a set of double doors on the side of the café near the back. They were locked & had a table in front of them but moved the table & shoulder-charged the door until the lock gave. Our initial reaction was to get away from the café, so we clambered over the bricks & to the other side of Liverpool St to find chunks of masonry falling off that building too. We made our way down to Latimer Square and Glenn went to check on his employees.



The Cafe

Cnr Hereford & Liverpool Sts

His office is on the 6th floor of the Canterbury Development Corporation building in Cashel St (½ a block east of the Hotel Grand Chancellor and not far from the café we were at) and found all his employees got out safely.

We managed to retrieve Glenn's car - it had been hit by bricks and all the windows and panels smashed/dented but still was driveable. It took us over an hour to drive home, which normally takes 15 mins.



The city was like a war zone, but I'm sure you've seen the photos on the news or the net. Three days later, we had a call from the police who had found my handbag and a woman's body in the café, in the booth next to where we'd been. They also told us a chef was killed in the café kitchen and that of the three people we'd seen crushed by the collapsing façade, the man had died and the two women were still alive but in critical care in hospital. We are feeling very fortunate to be alive, when so many people so close to us died. I am also really thankful Glenn, Ziva & I were together as I wouldn't have been able to get Ziva out of her buggy or the buggy out of the café by myself.



Our house was a mess. We lost almost everything that we hadn't lost in the first earthquake. We only had 4 glasses & 2 coffee mugs. We had about 20 bottles of wine & spirits fall from the cupboards & smash on the kitchen tiles. Doesn't matter - we don't have any wine glasses left anyway! It would have smelled quite nice if the fridge hadn't busted open too & the eggs, sweet thai chilli sauce & mustard all added to the kitchen aroma. There are cracks in the foundations right around the house and it feels like some of the piles have sunk. We had no power for five days and no water or sewerage for twelve. We stayed at home for the first seven, then packed up & went to Mum & Dad's in Westport for five days. It was such a treat. No aftershocks, babysitters dotting on Ziva and plentiful electricity & water. It was tempting to stay there!

Glenn's office is very close to the Chancellor and CTV building so is in the No Access zone. The cordon is still in place in the central city but they are slowly carving it up and releasing more areas to the public but latest estimates are that it will be 3-4 months before they have access to their building, even to retrieve computers & servers. Glenn's trying to organise a temporary office space & new machines somewhere else now but a couple of his key staff have left town and their wives are refusing to return. The brewery is outside the cordon area now but structural engineers are still assessing the buildings so we have no staff on site. Once that is done, there will be a crew in to shovel the silt & broken product and assess damage to plant & machines.



CTV Building

Anyway, it's a day by day operation now. There are still huge chunks of the Eastern suburbs without water and it takes forever to travel around town as the roads are very bumpy. Our insurance agent moved to Papanui and it took us 90 mins to get there on Tuesday. We have an appointment with our midwife in Merivale this afternoon & we're going to allow an hour to get there! I'm doing a little bit of work from home but mostly just looking after Ziva and tidying up the house (only one bedroom, the garage & the studio to go now!). Thanks to our friends **Emma & Glenn Bull** who gave us this horrific insight into their day.

The Local Lift Industry & The Earthquake:

I don't think my public relations persona is doing to well today as industry protocol seems more to do with avoiding me than respond to what I thought was a simple request for information as to the lift industry experience in these dire times.



Maybe it's just the effects of the Commerce Commission investigation into industry practices, or maybe they are just too busy to spend a moment reflecting on the immediate and likely ongoing effects of the Feb 12th Earthquake in Christchurch. Whatever it is, getting anyone to respond to what I thought was a simple request has brought out some interesting reactions.

It seems the corporate response to a request for information for some these days requires approval by Australian middle managers, along with a guarantee list of protocols to be met before anyone in the global organisation can respond.

I thought I had learnt my lesson following the September Earthquake after I had only approached local Christchurch lift representatives and received a mixed response. So this time I thought I'd head straight to the top and overcome any upward management politics, only to be contacted by more Australian Managers, and or no response at all - as yet!

But it's early days yet and hopefully those in positions of responsibility will respond to ensure an accurate industry record of this significant Christchurch event.

There are close to **2500** water powered platform lifts now in NZ, and so I was interested to see how they fared, to find about 10% of the some 50 in Christchurch were effected by the liquefaction of the ground. The rising force of ground water provided sufficient uplifting force to break the cylinder vertically from its ground fixings. Repair was not overly significant, as little damage resulted to the hydraulic cylinder, requiring only digging out and relocating of the caisson. I would suggest strengthening of the foundation pit and securing of the cylinder may be worth considering. No persons were reported as trapped or hurt while using water lifts, although one of Access Elevators Ltd's customers; renown Architect Don Cowey, tragically lost his life at his property in Redcliffe when struck by a hugh boulder dislodged by the earthquake.



Uninstalled Ram & Cylinder



In September the lift industry wasn't even consulted by the Emergency Rescue Services, as entrapment in lifts wasn't a big issue with the 7.1 earthquake happening very early on a Saturday morning, and centered 35kms or so from the city. But the February quake differed drastically in that it was early afternoon on a Tuesday when the city centre was full of people - the lifts were in their busy lunchtime Up/Down peak period of use, and the 6.3 earthquake was shallow and centered much closer just east of the city.

Damage to many older city buildings was catastrophic with many pre 70's buildings experiencing significant damage to some degree or other. A couple of under 8 storey post 70's buildings totally failed, causing the highest number of deaths.

The later built high rise buildings; (15-26 levels) remained standing, with the most significant failures being in the 18 level **Forsyth Barr** office building where egress stairs collapsed, trapping people for over 4.5 hrs before the last office workers were released by worker using a mobile crane and a construction box.

Forsyth Barr



Others escapees note while awaiting rescue, because of their vantage point in the building, they had observed the nearby spire fall from Christchurch Cathedral, as well as seeing the collapse of the PCG and other buildings around them.

The present 26 level tallest building in Christchurch; the **Grand Chancellor Hotel**, took on a lean (see pg2) under suspected liquefaction, and the building looks to require possible dismantling.

Grand Chancellor Hotel



Of the 190 buildings presently RED-stickered in Christchurch, 42 have been demolished and 94 partially deconstructed. **The following buildings are also on possible demolition watch.**

BNZ Building



Crown Plaza Hotel



MFL Building



Clarendon Towers



BDO House



Securities House

