



FAST FACTS

City of Christchurch

- Population – 376 700 (June 2010 estimate)
- Area – 452 km²
- Co-ordinates – latitude 43° 31' 48" S – longitude 172° 37' 13" E
- Average Temperature – 12.1°C
- Average annual rainfall – 648mm

► Official languages – English and Maori

- Local government consists of the Christchurch City Council, Canterbury Regional Council, community boards, and district councils
- Maori name for the city is Ōtautahi

A BRIEF HISTORY

BEFORE European settlement, the area where Christchurch is now situated was inhabited by different native tribes as early as 1250. Early in 1840, European settlers began to establish themselves in the area. The first of the Canterbury Pilgrims arrived in 1850, on board the ship the Charlotte-Jane, with ideas of building a city around a cathedral and college based on Christ Church in Oxford, England. Many of the city's Gothic style buildings date from this early period. Christchurch official-

ly became a city on July 31, 1856 making it the oldest established city in New Zealand. This carefully planned city is laid out around a central city square encompassed by four complementary squares and parklands.

Christchurch's economy is essentially based around agriculture due to the large areas of surrounding farm country of sheep, dairy, deer, cropping, olives and vineyards. Tourism is another significant factor of the local economy having an international airport opening it up to the world.

CHRISTCHURCH

ON a busy Tuesday afternoon, the peace and tranquillity of a truly beautiful city was shattered by a violent earthquake measuring 6.3 on the Richter Scale. February 22, 2011, will be etched in the pages of history as the day that changed Christchurch. The lives of many of its residents were rocked by this natural disaster. We are going to visit the City of Christchurch in this page on our world where-a-bouts tour to find out more about the place that has hit headline news.



WHERE IS IT?

SURROUNDED by natural wonders – the Pacific Ocean, the Southern Alps, glacial lakes and an abundance of wildlife – is the city of Christchurch, the heart of the South Island of New Zealand. Dubbed the Garden City, Christchurch, located on the east coast, is the second largest city in New Zealand. Found on the winding banks of the Avon River, Christchurch is the central hub of the Canterbury Region.



THE DAY THE EARTH SHOOK

THE powerful earthquake that destroyed buildings in Christchurch, cracked roads, twisted rail lines, cut power and water supplies and sadly claimed many lives on Tuesday, February 22, 2011, was one of numerous that occur in New Zealand each year. The country lies on the boun-

dary between the Australian and Pacific tectonic plates, making it vulnerable to the movements along the fault lines that criss-cross "the land of the long white cloud". These two plates continually push towards each other, causing stress to build up until the energy releases as an earthquake.

LET'S TALK

AFTER devastations like the one that struck Christchurch, questions are often asked about safety issues like building collapses and why lives were lost. Should seismologists have predicted this event

and given more warning? Should earthquake-resistant building standards be raised to ensure structures are safe? What do you think? Send us your thoughts. nie@apn.com.au

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

- Find the World News section in today's paper. Make a list of where the stories are from and mark them on a world map.
- Identify what each story is about and sort them into categories eg human suffering, political, natural disaster, business



NEXT WEEK: SCIENCE SCENE