

Foreword

A magnitude 6.8 earthquake struck Gisborne at 8.55pm on 20 December 2007. Minor damage was widespread but in some locations, especially the CBD, a number of buildings were extensively damaged. Whilst the Gisborne earthquake was only a moderate event overall, it is the first earthquake in many years that affected a population centre as large as a provincial city. The response and recovery to this event, in particular addressing the areas of heavy damage, has provided the opportunity for learning to improve the management of future natural hazards. Several research organisations have conducted studies into the recovery experiences of the Gisborne community following the earthquake.

On 7 December 2009, two years on from the earthquake, some 140 government representatives, insurers, local authority staff, researchers, engineers and others from throughout New Zealand and Australia converged on Wellington to attend a half-day workshop called Shaken Up: Recovery Following the Gisborne Earthquake at which the findings of this research were presented.

The workshop was organised by researchers at Opus International Consultants' Central Laboratories in Lower Hutt as part of a research programme entitled *Social and Economic Recovery from Natural Disasters through Community Resilience (2004-2010)*, funded by the New Zealand Foundation for Research, Science and Technology (FRST).

The workshop presentations addressed topics as diverse as:

- » building and infrastructure damage;
- » the preparedness, damage, and experience of recovery from the perception of households and businesses;
- » the need for adequate insurance;
- » people's post-earthquake travel patterns and motivations;
- » parallels between the Gisborne earthquake and the Newcastle earthquake of 1989; and,
- » a panel discussion with questions from the floor.

The purpose of these proceedings is to ensure that these learnings from the Gisborne earthquake are available to a wider audience. Most of the papers in these proceedings have been adapted from a transcript of each presentation and include most of the visual material presented, as well as questions from the floor.

I am grateful for the speakers that agreed to share their expertise with the workshop participants, and especially Dr Abigail Harding and Dr Felicity Powell for organising the event. I trust that the insights presented at the workshop regarding the opportunities and challenges in recovering from natural disaster impacts will contribute to improved recovery scenarios in the future.



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