

Hello colleagues,

What an eventful few months 2011 has given us. The power of Mother Nature has been felt around the region, with cyclones and flooding in Australia; another massive earthquake here in Christchurch; and an earthquake combined with tsunami to devastating results in Japan. Witnessing the vivid media reports during the hours and days that followed the earthquake in Christchurch at times felt quite surreal. We know that for Canterbury / Westland members the event has had a huge impact on their lives, and in some cases their workplaces. We would like to assist those members as much as we can, so along with other measures, would like to link them up with work opportunities where possible. If you are aware of any work opportunities in the Christchurch area – please forward them to CDANZ (info@cdanz.org.nz), and we will make sure they get through to the Canterbury / Westland members.



In terms of career development, the impact of natural disasters can be massive and unpredictable. The events of this year have given us some very real challenges to work with in our various spheres of career development. What becomes important for residents when thinking about their careers in the aftermath? Is there some particular career thinking / planning we could do as part of our individual preparedness for natural disasters? For example, what services or infrastructure could you or your employer do without and still continue to operate? Could you study from home or via technology if your educational institution was closed? Could a natural disaster in another area have an impact on your ability to do your job? Like other helping professions, we are in a position to assist in the recovery of individuals and their communities. Our sector will learn a lot from the experiences of those on the ground in Christchurch and hopefully we will see research develop to examine it further.



One side effect of the February earthquake has been the joint decision to move the 2011 Career Research Symposium away from Christchurch. In making the decision, consideration was given to the ongoing disruption of the daily lives of those in Christchurch; for the capacity of the University and city to host events, along with the willingness of people to visit the area. Therefore, Canterbury / Westland branch and the University of Canterbury will now host the 2012 Symposium and we have found an alternative co-host for this year.

The Career Research Symposium for 2011 will now be held in Auckland, co-hosted with AUT. We are thrilled that AUT were able to help out and ensure the event could go ahead. We look forward to bringing you more information as it comes to hand – all details will be posted on our website, and sent to members, as well as those who have made submissions already.



One of the activities of the National Executive is to develop a strategic direction; previously this has been a very practical task-orientated document divided into the different Executive Committee areas. For the past few months we have worked to develop an over-arching strategic direction that is congruent with our purpose from the Constitution and frames our work as an Association. This is what informs our decision-making (for example, prioritising requests for involvement in certain events and lobbying) while also giving

us a concise document to present to people and organisations new to CDANZ. As soon as this has been formatted we will make it available on our website.

At the International CDAA conference in Cairns next month, I will be meeting up with IAEVG and CDAA representatives to continue to develop ways in which we can work together to enhance the career development industry for practitioners and their clients. If you have any ideas or issues you think would be relevant to bring to these meetings, please contact me at president@cdanz.org.nz.

Until next time,

MEGAN SMITH

Megan Smith, CDANZ President