



Being prepared

You know you're from Christchurch when there's a tank at the end of your street.
Vicki Summerfield reflects.

You can have all the plans for processes and systems, but when it all comes crashing down they do too. So the theory is chaos really, make good come out of the bad.

Have an analogue phone and access to dial up. We had internet because we had a working phone line ... but no power and water.

Have a bike and a 10 litre water container so you can ride and find water.

Have a camping stove, torches and lots of batteries. A solar phone charger from Kathmandu is great too!

Keep your stocks up - plenty in the freezer and on the shelves ... and the cupboards fastened shut. Chocolate is a must, giant Toblerone is perfect! We could have gone a week without going to the shop. Ours is the only supermarket open within a 7km radius.

Petrol has been hard to find with so many providers damaged. We will always keep our petrol tanks filled now.

Don't keep sauce and cocoa in the same cupboard; without water you can't clean it up, but puddles from the flooding are great for washing cleaning cloths in.

Don't shower on the weekends, then you are well used to going without when the biggie comes. Keep a supply of good books because you go to bed early when you don't have power and heat.

Keep electronic data on a virtual backup, or external hard drive. Have a webmail address so that you can always access your professional information and intellectual property.

And from the careers side, a portfolio of skills is a must so you can change jobs.

Regards from the war zone, I've had a tour of the tank at the end of our street!

Vicki Summerfield is a CDANZ professional member living in Christchurch. She has recently served on the National Executive.