

Several Old Girls live in New Zealand and Sheila Kirk has forwarded these two emails:

Christchurch Earthquake, New Zealand September 2010

Report from Linda Cox nee Mann- KHS late 50s/60 and husband David, ex Sebright School.

Hi there, thanks for your concern. We are all ok, our daughter Sam and her husband Dean and our son Stephen are much closer to the epicentre near Darfield, but apart from losing power and water for about 30 hours and a couple of ornaments and Dean's grandfathers old clock they came off very lightly. Stephen was trapped in his bedroom by falling bookcases but was able to extricate himself with little trouble and because their golf match was cancelled due to snow on the course Stephen was able to spend the day clearing up and Dean was able to go with Sam to the restaurant to help clear up the almighty mess there. As she said 'typical it happened on her watch whilst her bosses were overseas on holiday', at least they contacted her and reassured her they were fully insured even for loss of earnings. Now they (and we) are experiencing after shocks every hour or so with some up to 5 on the Richter scale.

Christchurch will be unrecognisable. Just about all the buildings built before 1940 are extensively damaged, probably bulldozer material, including Deans beautiful homestead near Darfield. Some damage at Arts centre, museum, some collections lost there but the fancy Art Gallery which appears to be built of glass has been relatively unscathed. The city authorities have been very professional and although portaloos have had to be provided in some suburbs due to broken underground sewer pipes, they were able to get water to most areas before Sunday and power was restored to most areas by Sunday midday. Just isolated areas now lacking these amenities. Some of the newer areas where every one said "don't build there its virtually sand dunes," are written off, people have only been in the houses weeks and months and now having to evacuate. Ground moved as much as 3 feet in some places. Kaiapoi badly hit too. No doubt you will be seeing pictures of all this via news and internet, but we are ok jack! Although **mother (Irene nee Hutt –ex KHS , now in her 90s)** is still shaken and experiencing her own after shock reaction but she will come right no doubt. Talked to **Di Gooseman (nee Slater ex KHS)** this am and she says she's about to wrap all her ornaments and treasures to foil the after shocks which they seem to be getting more than us....to me that suggests that it is events further east of the initial shake that are moving now. We will survive!! Sam says thank Goodness she put 'bluetack' under all of her nicknacks when she was setting up after moving into their new place

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Report from Jenny James nee Oakes KHS late 1940s/early 50s

We are all OK. We seem to be far enough away as most of the problems are old buildings without interior wooden framing and coastal areas where the subsoil is absorbing water from the rivers.

It was the most powerful shake we have felt but that is because the epicentre is only 30 km west of the city and it was reasonably shallow. Mike and I were out of bed in a flash and rocked and rolled with the house standing under the door frame until it stopped. We have had a reasonably peaceful night. I have felt two aftershocks overnight but I had just come

out in to the lounge this morning (5.30am) and Mike said there was a sudden jolt which I didn't feel. We were also lucky in that quite a few items had moved around but we had no breakages. My sister in Woodend had several ornaments damaged and a few broken glasses.

We have had no problems with power or water supply but they are having big problems in Christchurch and Kaiapoi.