Kaikoura Earthquake Update #12 – Friday 31 March 2017

Amazing viewing of sperm whales, blue whales, humpback whales, orca and dolphins this month.

Photos: Whale Watch Kaikoura team 5, 6, 15 and 18 March 2017

Photo below: Kyle Mulinder, Bare Kiwi, 28 Mar 17

News of the Week, “It’s been a month since the last update so lots to report. There’s some really interesting links in this edition highlighting a potential archaeological discovery, new scientific and geology data and SH1 and Marina updates. We’ve also attached a DOC information sheet/map that outlines the points of interest on the scenic drive along the Alternate Highway (SH63, 6, 65, 7) if visitors have the time on their journey to Kaikoura or Christchurch.

A number of operators and I attended an NZTA workshop to look at the long-term development of SH1 and provide input into tourism planning with photo stops, pull-over areas and parking for coaches, motorhomes and cars at scenic points of interest and other safety matters affecting travel on SH1.

We’re in the throes of finalising new marketing initiatives for domestic and international visitors over the next 12 months and keen to share ideas with trade attending TRENZ shortly. The Kaikoura District Council is also working closely with the community to finalise its long-term plan post-earthquake. If you read to the end of the Update you’ll see we’ve provided information on foot traffic in Kaikoura i-SITE. Not a pretty read but also not unexpected. We’ll keep documenting trends as part of the Kaikoura Story.

Thanks again for everyone’s support. Have a great week!  Glenn Ormsby, GM Destination Kaikoura
Key Spoutbites

- SH1 South to Christchurch has been open but is closed for 8 days between Sunday 26 March and Tuesday 4 April. Reopens 5 April
- Inland Route 70 between Hanmer Springs/Culverden and Kaikoura is OPEN
- 91% tourism activity/attractions are open
- 88% retail, café and general services are open
- 83% accommodation providers are open
- SH1 North from Kaikoura-Clarence-Picton planned to reopen before Christmas 2017
- Whale Watch Kaikoura, Dolphin Encounter and Albatross Encounter trips are operating daily (around tides)
- Visit the region for the Kaikoura Coast Cycle Classic 20 May 2017 [Link]

Latest News March 2017

- Heartwarming Native Affairs video on Clark family children’s trek to school and Nins Bins business [Link]
- Aussie style mining camp in Kaikoura [Link]
- Possible archaeological discovery by abseiler SH1 north of Kaikoura [Link]
- Newshub video of South Island moves 5m towards North Island [Link]
- Very interesting visual/article of SH1 road and shift of South Island 5m towards North Island [Link]
- 3D flyover of Kaikoura coastline, larger images [Link]
- Highest point 7m [Link]
SH1 NORTH OF KAIKOURA (ROAD BETWEEN CLARENCE AND KAIKOURA)

This information provided by NCTIR 27 March 2017. Road and rail links north of Kaikoura to Picton remain closed. Access to the beach and the surrounding area near NZTA work sites will be restricted to the public at all times while construction work is underway. The focus is on getting the road and rail networks opened as soon as possible.

SH1 slips north of Kaikoura

Image: NZTA March 2017

Transport Minister Simon Bridges says, “A significant milestone has been reached in the effort to restore the coastal road and rail corridor north of Kaikoura. Work commenced two weeks ago at Ohau Point. The slip at Ohau Point is one of the biggest and most complex of the 10 major slips north of Kaikoura,” Mr Bridges says.

“Helicopter sluicing crews and specialist abseilers have been working long hours for several weeks to clear loose material from the site. Machinery is at both sides of the slip to clear the estimated 110,000 cubic metres of rock and debris as quickly and safely as possible. A remote-controlled excavator will work on the north side of the slip because it is too unstable to allow workers access safely.” Mr Bridges says.

*Can you believe how brave these crazy abseilers are plus remote control diggers!*

*Photos: Ohau Point off Kaikoura Civil Defence Facebook page 17 March 2017 and provided by NCTIR*
SH1 North of Kaikoura

State Highway 1 South – 27 March 2017

SH1 south of Kaikoura remains fragile. Twenty-nine slips have been identified along this stretch of highway as requiring further repair. The road remains subject to on-going closures because of repair work and bad weather. Strengthening work continues at the Oaro overbridge and the retaining wall strengthening work started this week at the Parnassus overbridge.

Inland Road – 27 March 2017

16 crews are carrying out repairs and upgrades to the road surface along damaged sections along the route as well as tree felling to reduce the risk of black ice to motorists over winter. This does have an impact on traffic flows and will result in some delays. Travellers to allow extra time for their journey.
Alternate SH1 Route – Picton to Christchurch 27 March 2017

The alternate route (via the Lewis Pass) is continuously being improved through the use of new technology, such as mobile towers to reduce coverage black spots, webcams and radar to monitor what is happening to keep everyone safe, and road improvements to make the route safer and easier to travel on.

By mid-April more than 70kmks of the highway will have been either rebuilt or resurfaced since November. Safety projects will continue throughout winter and spring. These improvements will be focused on the Springs Junction, Murchison, St Arnaud and Renwick townships.

South Bay Marina Progress

This information provided by NCTIR 27 March 2017. The repair work to the marina and harbour continues. Reinstatement of Kaikoura Harbour is crucial to restoring the economic prosperity of the town’s tourism and fishing industries.

The marina has been raised by about a metre; work is focused on deepening the harbour and resetting all the structures in the marina to the new depth. Dredging of Berth 4 got underway this week which will allow Whale Watch to continue operating from this berth, rather than a trailer. Dolphin Encounter continues to operate their daily service from within the harbour area, by using their trailer via the boat ramp.

Video taken 15 March 2017 by Whale Watch Kaikoura

https://www.facebook.com/WhaleWatchKaikoura/videos/1352101544826229/

Photos: Whale Watch Kaikoura team, 22 and 30 March 2017
Info NZ Inbound Tour Operators and Offshore Tour Wholesalers (Agents)

Inbounds and agents planning to include Kaikoura on future itineraries (2017 and 2018), please note SH1 Picton-Clarence is open. However, the road from Clarence-Kaikoura is closed and not expected to open till December. There are options to fly from Clarence to Kaikoura with Air Kaikoura.

Air Kaikoura www.airkaikoura.co.nz Wings Over Whales www.whales.co.nz and Sounds Air www.soundsair.com have scheduled and charter services to/from Kaikoura.

New Product Idea – Coastal & Seabed Hiking

Lots of opportunities for school groups, travel clubs, senior and education markets to visit Kaikoura and learn about the impact of the earthquake and geology. Scientists around the world will be interested in changes.

Some of the great views you’ll see walking around the Peninsula. White chalky rocks used to be covered with water at high tide. Now green dark coloured rocks are high tide. (Photos L Keene, Feb 2017)

Tourism NZ China famil visited Kaikoura on 27 March 2017 and had a great time viewing whales hosted by Whale Watch Kaikoura. Escort by Alfred Li, TNZ China team. Thanks Alfred!

http://tourismticker.com/2017/03/21/first-north-china-trade-famil-to-visit-kaikoura-since-earthquake/

All ferry services with Interislander and Bluebridge sailings are fully operational.

Intercity reinstated their coach service in January from Christchurch to Kaikoura.

- 8728 Departs Christchurch 07:00 Arrives Kaikoura 09:40
- 8727 Departs Kaikoura 15:50 Arrives Christchurch 18:25

The times are identical to the previous timetable and the towns/communities en route will also be serviced – e.g. Cheviot, Amberley. Please note, the timings make it possible to do a Whale Watch or Dolphin/Albatross encounter day trip on most days including kayak, seal swim trips, hiking and general sightseeing. FIT pax and wholesalers are of course free to book a Whale Watch cruise and then separately book InterCity to get there and back, same as before the earthquake.
Insights travelling from Blenheim to Kawatiri Junction
(visit on 8 March 2017 by Lynda Keene)

I recently attended an NZTA workshop in Blenheim on the future of SH1 from Picton-Christchurch and decided to drive the long way back to Nelson to experience the road and traffic from Blenheim – St Arnaud – Kawatiri Junction, where SH63 meets up with the SH6, the main road (alternate highway) to Christchurch.

At the workshop, NZTA reported that on average, most ferries arriving in Picton will have approximately 60 trucks, 350 cars and passengers. This does vary on each sailing due to service, availability and travel seasons.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vessel</th>
<th>Number of Cars</th>
<th>Number of Trucks</th>
<th>Number of Passengers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interislander – Kaitaki</td>
<td>1780 lane metres for cars and trucks, no rail</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>1350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interislander – Kaiarahi</td>
<td>1900m lane metres for cars and trucks, no rail</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interislander – Aratere</td>
<td>1050 lm for cars and trucks + 32 rail wagons</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bluebridge – Strait Feronia</td>
<td>2150 lane metres for 150 cars and trucks</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bluebridge – The Straitsman</td>
<td>2150 lane meters for cars and trucks</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I left Blenheim to travel to St Arnaud (SH63) at 3.30pm. NZTA states travel time from Blenheim to St Arnaud is 1.25 hours. I would recommend due to roadworks you allow 1.45 hours. My departure time from Blenheim unfortunately didn’t coincide with traffic from the Bluebridge ferry arriving in Picton at 11.30am and Interislander ferry at 12.30pm. However, it did coincide with traffic on the road travelling north from Christchurch for the Interislander 6.45pm Picton-Wellington sailing and Bluebridge 7.00pm sailings. When you factor in the one hour check-in time prior to departure, it was noticeable to see more north flowing traffic than south-bound traffic. I didn’t feel the road was particularly busy when you compare it to North Island traffic flows, but for a South Island resident, you may ‘feel’ it busier than normal.

The NZTA journey time table below is dated 20 December 2016 when the majority of road repairs commenced. Having recently travelled the roads I would add another 15-20 minutes for the Blenheim-St Arnaud and St Arnaud to Murchison sections and overall time from Picton to Christchurch I would say allow for 8 hours travel time (factors in food and bathroom stops). This is because there has been significant increase in the number of roadwork projects along the routes since December, which is helping improve the roads with safety a priority for all travellers.
TIP: For FIT clients, rental car and campervan travellers doing Wellington-Picton sailing - assuming trucks are the first to disembark off the vessel, I would recommend having a coffee or something to eat (or shop) in Picton or Blenheim taking up 30-60 minutes of time before commencing drive to Nelson or Christchurch. This will reduce the amount of south-bound truck traffic you’ll experience.

- The first 40 minutes of driving from Blenheim was great. Long straights and you could see NZTA have widen a number of sections of road to cope with the new volume of traffic. Vehicles travelled between 90-100kms.
- As you get closer to St Arnaud the road gets narrower and there are a number (5) of 30km major road work sections where you catch up with traffic at a dedicated stop/go section. Sometimes a 3-5 minute delay at roadwork sites due to north bound traffic having a longer line of vehicles.
- There are numerous bends/curves having work done to straighten the curve to allow for cars and trucks to navigate more easily.
- I got to St Arnaud about 5.15pm and stopped at the General Store for a drink and snack. They have a café inside the store with good seating outside under the trees. Across the road is the Alpine Lodge [http://www.alpinelodge.co.nz/](http://www.alpinelodge.co.nz/) a 3 ½ star Qualmark Mainstay property (hotel and backpackers) with a good restaurant serving lunch between 12noon-2.00pm [http://www.alpinelodge.co.nz/facilities.html#](http://www.alpinelodge.co.nz/facilities.html#) Note, restaurant is closed on Tuesdays. The Clinker Café is also an option for food [http://www.clinkercafe.com/](http://www.clinkercafe.com/), open from 10am-4.00pm Monday-Friday and 10.00am-5.00pm Sat and Sun.
- Toilets in St Arnaud? I couldn’t see any obvious public toilets at the General Store but I didn’t ask. If you get refreshments at Alpine Lodge you can obviously use the public toilets in the Lodge. There are a good number of toilets at the DOC Nelson Lakes Visitor Centre and its worth a stop if you have the time. The alpine Nelson Lakes National Park is less known than the Abel Tasman National Park and Kahurangi National Park in the Nelson Tasman region but it’s home to some of the best alpine hiking in New Zealand.
Here’s a couple of iconic shots of the Nelson Lakes National Park

Photo: Lake Rotoiti, Nelson Lakes National Park (L. Keene 27 May 2014)

- From St Arnaud to Kawatiri Junction there were a number of long straights and about 3-4 major sections of roadworks to widen roads and soften curves and bends with stop/go sections. Quite impressive to see the new bridges NZTA and Tasman District Council have constructed so quickly to help the flow of traffic.
- NZTA road signage was excellent and as with SH6, SH65 and SH7 there are a number of sections of road that are now 80km zones. Safety first.
- I’ve travelled Murchison-Nelson (SH6) a number of times and didn’t feel there was a major increase in traffic volume. However, in Nelson City travelling along Rocks Road (around SH6 route along waterfront) traffic volume seem busier and slower. Not unexpected with SH1 inaccessible at the moment.

Tip: The first snow-dump in Nelson Lakes National Park and on the Lewis Pass normally happens late May. During winter months there is a requirement to have CHAINS as there are a number of times chains are required due to road conditions. A heads-up for rental car, motorhome and coach companies to check chains are in vehicles.

Kaikoura i-SITE Insights & News [www.kaikoura.co.nz]

Kaikoura i-SITE Manager, Mariet van Vierzen said, “It’s great we’re still seeing visitors coming through the i-SITE and making bookings for activities accommodation and transport. You’ll note in the table below the decline in foot traffic since the earthquake event. The Inland Route 70 road reopened on 19 December and SH1 South reopened 21 December. Unfortunately, there wasn’t a lot of time to inform NZ and international visitors so you can see we were down 84% in December. However, it is encouraging to see the decline improve (if one can say that) in January and February 2017. There’s renewed interest in surfing by young and old with the new surf-break that has formed at the beach along the esplanade (since the earthquake). Fun for the brave!”

Table 2.0 Kaikoura i-SITE Foot Traffic post-Earthquake Nov 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year/Month</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015-2016</td>
<td>9034</td>
<td>11481</td>
<td>17271</td>
<td>14269</td>
<td>12313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-2017</td>
<td>3807</td>
<td>1835</td>
<td>5895</td>
<td>6336</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

% Variance

|  | -57.9 | -84.0 | -65.9 | -55.6 |
STANDARD INFORMATION: SH1 South Road and Inland Route 70 are Open

Road access is restored to Kaikoura. The Inland Route 70 is open and State Highway 1 to the south of the seaside town is open with restrictions. **SH1 north of Kaikoura is closed 6-12 months.**

Access along **SH1 to the south of Kaikoura is open but has night-time restrictions** (excluding 26 March – 4 April when the road is closed for repairs). These will remain until all slip faces have been stabilised and traffic signals have been installed along a 1km coastal section of the route where there is single-lane access only. **Access will be two-way and only during daylight hours, 6am to 8pm.** The last vehicles will be admitted to travel along SH1 south from Peketa at 7.30pm. Vehicles travelling north from Christchurch are advised to leave the city by 5.30pm to ensure they get through to Kaikoura before the road closes at Oaro at 7.15pm.

There is no stopping or camping along the route because of the risk from potential rockfall in the event of any further seismic activity or heavy rain. There will be designated rest areas for your safety. [https://www.nzta.govt.nz/traffic-and-travel-information/travel-information-for-canterbury-andmarlborough-regions/](https://www.nzta.govt.nz/traffic-and-travel-information/travel-information-for-canterbury-andmarlborough-regions/)

The **Inland Route, between Waiau and Kaikoura, is open 24/7 with unrestricted access both ways.** There are speed restrictions and no stopping areas which everyone using the route is asked to strictly adhere to. The average travel time for the 90km route from Waiau to Kaikoura is about two hours. The route remains hazardous and fragile and all road users are asked to take extra care and be prepared for the unexpected.
Local News


Visit Kaikoura for cheese and museum


Innovative waste programs in Kaikoura http://www.localgovernmentmag.co.nz/technical-briefings/innovative-waste-kaikoura/

Rakautara community happy with SH1 progress and peacefulness http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/90124858/residents-of-rakautara-stranded-no-more

Table 1.0: Progress Indicator Summary Week 2 to Week 19 (27 March 2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Progress Indicator</th>
<th>Week 2 29 Nov 16</th>
<th>Week 4 17 Dec 16</th>
<th>Week 19 27 Mar 17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Activities/Attractions</td>
<td>53% open</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>91% open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail, café, general</td>
<td>78% open</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>91% open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation</td>
<td>66% open</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>83% open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inland Route 70 road</td>
<td>closed</td>
<td>Restricted access 2 Dec</td>
<td>Open 24/7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SH1 South</td>
<td>closed</td>
<td>Reopened 21 Dec</td>
<td>Open – day driving only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SH1 North</td>
<td>closed</td>
<td>Closed</td>
<td>closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residential properties</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>938</td>
<td>White 1215</td>
<td>White 1708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>Yellow 50</td>
<td>Yellow 232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>Red 27</td>
<td>Red 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial properties</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>White 199</td>
<td>White 230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Yellow 37</td>
<td>Yellow 32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Red 3</td>
<td>Red 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Kaikoura Progress per Business Category from Week 2 - Week 19 (% open)
Activities/Attractions – 45 operators on spreadsheet (91% open for business)

- Albatross Encounter (operating daily)
- Air Kaikoura
- Air Kaikoura Pilot a Plane
- Atawera Art
- Board Silly Surf & SUP Adventures
- Caves Kaikoura Tours (early Feb)
- Clarence River Rafting
- Dolphin Encounter (operating daily)
- Emporium Brewery
- Emporium Mini-golf
- Fish Kaikoura
- Glenstrae 4Wheel Adventures
- Homeward Hill Art Gallery
- Indulge Body & Soul
- Kaikoura Coast Track
- Kaikoura Cheese
- Kaikoura Farm Park
- Kaikoura Fishing Charters
- Kaikoura Fishing Tours
- Kaikoura Golf Club
- Kaikoura Helicopters
- Kaikoura Kayaks
- Kaikoura Marine Tours
- Kaikoura Museum
- Kaikoura Short Walks
- Kaikoura Shuttles
- Kaikoura Snorkelling Tours
- Koura Bay Fishing Charters
- Koura Bay Golf (9 holes)
- Kowhai Gorge Horse-trekking
- Kaikoura Lavender Farm
- Levi’s Pedal Kayaks
- Maori Tours Kaikoura
- Llama Trekking
- Seal Swim Kaikoura
- South Pacific Whale Watch
- Spey Creek Hunting
- The Point Sheep Shearing Show
- Waikoura Springs & Freshwater Crayfish & Poultry Farm
- Wings over Whales
- Whale Watch Kaikoura (2-3 trips daily)

Accommodation – 81 properties on spreadsheet (83% open for business)

Please find attached a copy of a spreadsheet that has information on Accommodation providers and whether they are open (white) for business if they are yellow (closed in the interim while still being evaluated) or red stickered (closed indefinitely).

Retail/Food & Beverage Services – 102 businesses on spreadsheet (91% open)

The majority of retail, hospitality and general service outlets are open for business. Information collated from i-SITE. Please refer to spreadsheet attached with this email for specific information.