Kaikoura Earthquake Update #13 – Monday 1 May 2017

Photos: Whale Watch Kaikoura team 11, 16, 20 April 2017. Surf’s up at Gooch’s beach, along the Esplanade, yay!

News of the Month “The Kaikoura district held up relatively well during the two cyclones in April although it is frustrating that SH1 south of Kaikoura is closed for another 2-week block. NZTA and road crews are working hard to get the roads reopened as quickly as possible and we’re conscious this is ongoing. However, once completed, quoting Oscar Goldman from the Steve Austin, Six Million Dollar Man TV series, “SH1 the road, a road barely open. We can rebuild it, we have the technology, the road will be better than it was before... better, stronger, faster.” 😊.

At TRENZ 2017, Kaikoura, Hurunui and Christchurch RTOs are relaunching the Alpine Pacific Touring Route with a new brand and range of collateral to promote the districts for agents and independent visitors.

As we approach winter the region has a line-up of some great events that domestic and international visitors may like to attend. Our signature event on 7th October, Seafeast, is a must for all lovers of crayfish and seafood. We look forward to seeing you there. See page 3 for more details. Our thanks again to the Tourism New Zealand team for their tremendous support in helping our work with agents and inbounds and Qualmark businesses. It’s very much appreciated. Thanks again for everyone’s support. Glenn Ormsby, GM Destination Kaikoura
Key Spoutbites

- SH1 South to Christchurch is currently **closed. Will reopen mid-May**
- Inland Route 70 between Hanmer Springs/Culverden and Kaikoura is **OPEN**. We appreciate this road is not the easiest to travel on and care must be taken by all drivers
- 91% tourism activity/attractions are open
- 91% 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)
- FYI: 740 workers employed by NCTIR (North Canterbury Transport Infrastructure Recovery) broken down into 220 designers, 190 management, engineers, supervisors and 330 employees in road crews, 800 Kiwirail projects, 12 tunnels, 70 types of heavy machinery like cranes, excavators, rollers, 11 helicopters
- 30 projects on Alternate Highway to widen roads, soften corners and increase safety

Latest News April 2017

- Govt confirms $812m for SH1 [http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/91972268/government-confirms-812m-for-state-highway-1-fix](http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/91972268/government-confirms-812m-for-state-highway-1-fix)
- Minister Gerry Brownlee announces more funding for South Bay Harbour + partnership with Whale Watch Kaikoura and Encounter Kaikoura businesses [https://www.facebook.com/gerrybrownleemp/videos/1124265661052630/](https://www.facebook.com/gerrybrownleemp/videos/1124265661052630/)


*Photos by Dolphin Encounter 21 and 23 April 2017*
Upcoming Events May-Oct 2017

- **Sunday 7 May** – Farmers Market from 10.00am-1.00pm (and first Sunday of every month)

- **Monday 8 May** – Irish comedy star Ed Byrnes, free community event, Memorial Hall 7.30pm-10.00pm [https://www.facebook.com/events/1449541138451190/](https://www.facebook.com/events/1449541138451190/)

- Visit the region for the **Kaikoura Coast Cycle Classic 20 May 2017** [http://www.kccc.co.nz/](http://www.kccc.co.nz/)
The race is using S.H.1 as it has very low traffic volumes since the earthquake. 40km, 80km, 130km and 168km rides. The longest ride is from Blenheim’s Pernod Ricard winery to Clarence and back. Click to get more details and thanks for supporting the community.

- **48 Hours Photography Competition 5th and 6th August 2017** [www.kaikoura48hours.co.nz](http://www.kaikoura48hours.co.nz).
Enteries in by Thursday 24th August and judging on Friday 25th August. The exhibition will then run from Sat 26th August, 1.30pm to Sun 3 September 3.00pm. Changes to landscape and seabed should make for some amazing photos.

- **Kaikoura Whale Run Sat 9th September 2017** [www.kaikourawhalerun.co.nz](http://www.kaikourawhalerun.co.nz)
10km walk/run or ½ marathon walk/run plus kids 2km mararun

- **Kaikoura Hop event 14-17th September 2017** [www.kaikourahop.co.nz](http://www.kaikourahop.co.nz) Step back in time to experience cars, cruising, car show, dancing, fun, food & great entertainment

- **Kaikoura Seafest 7 October 2017** [www.seafest.co.nz](http://www.seafest.co.nz). Taste the delights of Kaikoura’s signature event and help celebrate a life by the sea… festival vibe with great cray coast cuisine and chef demonstrations, food, beverages, enteratinment and live music all day and child friendly zones

Kaikoura’s golf course is nestled between the magnificent vista of the Seaward Kaikoura Mountains and the ocean waters of the Pacific Ocean. Located within 5-minutes of the Kaikoura township this wonderful 18-hole golf course offers something for every golfer, from beginner to low handicapper. Facilities include club and trundler hire and there are also several golf carts available. The clubhouse is open daily 9am to 5pm and offers food and refreshments as well as a licensed bar.
SH1 NORTH OF KAIKOURA (ROAD BETWEEN CLARENCE AND KAIKOURA)

This information provided by NCTIR 13 and 28 April 2017 updates. Road and rail links north of Kaikoura to Picton on SH 1 and the Main North Line remain closed. Access to the beach and the surrounding areas near our 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 re-opened as quickly as possible.

There are new slips along this section of the highway following the recent heavy rain. This month, we expect our crews working from both the north and south along this section of the highway clearing slips and beginning to rebuild the transport network will have opened up construction tracks around Site 6 (Ohau Point) to allow access along the whole route. This will be a significant milestone. We have a drilling rig taking soil samples to help us better understand the land for repair work to begin.

New Road and Rail Alignments North of Kaikoura

Work on the new rail and road alignment is progressing well at Site 1, near Maungamanu. The photographs below show how the transport corridor is taking shape; at this location, SH1 will be slightly more seaward than it was before the quake. Investigations are also underway for a new bridge site within a new alignment at Site 2. Crews are continuing to remove slip debris at Sites 3 to 6. This past week, material has been reduced back to pre-cyclone levels.

State Highway 1 South: 13 April 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: 13 April 2017

Inland Road (Route 70) is open and remains a critical link for the Kaikoura community. We continue to complete repair work along the Inland Road to ensure the road will be in the best possible condition before winter.

Slope stabilisation and rock fall mitigation work is underway at the Whalesback slip where our abseiling teams have completed the removal loose rock from the slip face and we’re now putting 100 bolts into the slip face to help with stabilisation. Two-way traffic will continue to use the temporary carriageway around this site. Remediation work is also underway on the Conway Bluffs.

**DID YOU KNOW**

- **There are 10 towering slips blocking the SH1 north of Kaikōura. The tallest is 400 metres high.**
- **Access tracks have been built around the bottom of 8 of the 10 slips.**
- **South of Kaikōura on SH1 there are 32 slips that still need further repair.**
- **The Inland Road (Route 70) has at least 40 damaged sites and at least 9 major slips, plus as many secondary sites.**
- **On 16 January the first post-quake train ran from Blenheim to Lake Grassmere.**
- **Between Cheviot and Clarence there are about 200 damaged sites. These include slips, bridges, road damage, embankments, tunnels, culverts:**
  - **100+ structures damaged with 9 significantly damaged.**
  - **More than 50 retaining walls damaged.**
- **Up to 150 people are working on the ground daily, and more are expected to join in the coming weeks.**
- **One of the biggest slips by volume, is at Ohau Point with 110,000 cubic metres of debris and it is 300m tall, and very wide.**
- **700+ sites on the Main North Line railway, including rail tracks, slopes, embankments, tunnels, bridges, culverts and communications systems are damaged. This includes: 20 damaged tunnels and 7 bridges with major damage.**
Alternate SH1 Route – Picton to Christchurch 13 and 28 April 2017

The Transport Agency is preparing for winter by increasing resources and monitoring on the alternate Picton to Christchurch route that crosses the Southern Alps at Lewis Pass. These measures aim to safeguard the route during severe winter weather, and to minimise the number and length of closures due to ice or snow.

A decision has been made to have road crews on stand-by along the route 24/7 over the winter months. Increased traffic volumes on this route, including many more trucks, generally mean the roads will be less prone to icing, however Lewis Pass does close during severe weather. Stationing road crews along the route will allow any section to be cleared and re-opened as efficiently as possible.

Road widening, extensive resealing and construction of temporary bailey bridges continue. Over the next few weeks the focus will be on delineation (line marking, edge marker posts), sign reflectivity, and tree trimming/removal. Work has started on 19 pullover areas to improve passing opportunities (at eight locations along SH7, six locations on SH65, three locations on SH6 and two locations on SH63). Six new slow-vehicle bays are being built constructed.

New weather stations are being installed at St Arnaud and on the Lewis Pass to improve monitoring. This will help crews to act quickly as weather develops and intensifies. The weather stations will also feed into the Transport Agency’s real-time travel advice, so the public can access better information about conditions on a day-to-day basis though www.nzta.govt.nz/traffic or 0800 4 HIGHWAYS (0800 44 44 49). Police are also increasing their presence along the route. A Winter Journeys public awareness campaign begins next month; it will encourage all drivers to Be Safe and Be Prepared on this ‘new main highway’ over winter.

**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.

**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.

![Photo: Lake Rotoiti, Nelson Lakes National Park](attachment://image.jpg)
‘Kit-Set’ Village arrives at Lyttelton

The prefabricated accommodation facility heading for Kaikoura has arrived at Lyttelton port after travelling by ship from Brisbane. The accommodation facility is required to house more than 300 women and men who will be stationed in Kaikoura while SH1 and the railway are rebuilt. Once a site for the facility has been confirmed and prepared, the facility will be trucked to Kaikoura and assembled. The ‘kit-set village’ will be put together on behalf of the alliance. Local suppliers will also play an important role in looking after the alliance’s staff — it is hoped the influx of this professional workforce will provide an economic boost for the township. The alliance thanks the residents, local authorities and contractors for their assistance in getting the accommodation facility in place.
South Bay Marina Progress

This information provided by NCTIR 28 April 2017.

Kaikoura harbour repairs have reached a new milestone with the arrival of the dredging barges - one has a 47-tonne excavator aboard while the other is a hopper barge for carrying waste material. The two barges work in tandem: the excavator dredges up to 400 cubic metres a day from the seabed and deposits it onto the hopper. A tug boat then pulls the hopper out to sea, depositing the excess material approximately 2km from the shore.

Dredging is required because the earthquake raised the seabed under the marina by about a metre; deepening of the harbour is ongoing work. These photographs show the trio of vessel as they left Picton last week and in Kaikoura yesterday. Here’s photos of the tug boat, barges and the floating excavation platform on-route to Kaikoura in perfect conditions.

*Photos: Barge photos by The Factory 22 April 2017*

*Photos by Whale Watch Kaikoura team 18, 23 and 27 April 2017*
Alpine Pacific Touring Route relaunched

RTOs from Destination Kaikoura, Hurunui Tourism and Christchurch & Canterbury Tourism have refreshed the Alpine Pacific Triangle route under the new name and brand as the Alpine Pacific Touring Route (APT). The original touring route was established in 1999 when communities and tourism operators recognised the potential to promote North Canterbury districts.

The Alpine Pacific Touring Route is one of New Zealand’s most stunning and spectacular touring routes. It encompasses:

- The Waipara Valley, a food and wine lovers paradise;
- The irresistible charm of Hanmer Springs hot pools and day spa. Also great mountain-biking, hiking, jetboating and spa treatments;
- Finish at the coastal town of Kaikoura. Well known for its breath-taking scenery, coastline, marine-life, sea-kayaking, biking and hiking experiences. In particular, Kaikoura’s famous residents which can be seen all year-round; sperm whales, humpback whales, orca, dolphins (dusky and hector dolphins), fur seals, albatross and other birdlife.

Any agents, inbounds or tourism websites that have previously hosted a link to the APT and who would like a link with the refreshed look, please contact:

Destination Kaikoura  Glenn@kaikoura.co.nz
Hurunui Tourism  Shane@hanmersprings.co.nz
Christchurch & Canterbury Tourism  Julia.Hunt@christchurchnz.com

Maori Tours Kaikoura back hosting visitors  http://www.maoritours.co.nz/

Maori Tours Kaikoura have increased the length of tours to provide visitors a real insight into the recent workings of Ruaumoko – visitors are fascinated and love standing on the new land and hearing the 7.8 story. All tours have had an hour extended – just the time, not the cost. Photo: Norwegian students April 2017.
Kaikoura i-SITE Manager, Mariet van Vierzen said, “The recent road closure definitely has had an effect on visitor numbers, but visitors are still making the effort and are coming through the Inland route. They are warmly welcomed as we appreciate the extra effort visitors are making to get to here. After the weather events we are having some beautiful autumn weather. During the Easter break we saw lots of domestic visitors occupying their holiday homes/baches and enjoying Kaikoura’s famous stunning scenery, the beaches and fishing. Spectacular wildlife sightings are being reported: pilot whales, large pods of Dusky Dolphins and lots of baby dolphins, common dolphins, sperm whales and humpback whales!”

Graph 2.0 Kaikoura i-SITE Foot Traffic since November 2016

Graph 3.0 Kaikoura i-SITE Foot Traffic % Variance since Nov 2016
Local News
Kaikoura doctors awarded for earthquake contribution
http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/health/91620464/kaikoura-doctors-awarded-for-their-contribution-after-last-years-earthquake

Photo: The Photographic Wanderings of Tamzin S Henderson 17 April 2017, Fyffe House under the Milky Way

Table 1.0: Progress Indicator Summary Week 2 to Week 23 (28 April 2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Progress Indicator</th>
<th>Week 2 29 Nov 16</th>
<th>Week 4 17 Dec 16</th>
<th>Week 23 28 Apr 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>Closed from 28 April-mid May. When reopens day driving only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SH1 North</td>
<td>closed</td>
<td>Closed</td>
<td>closed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Kaikoura Progress per Business Category from Week 2 - Week 23 (% 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 & Poultrey Farm
- Wings over Whales
- Whale Watch Kaikoura (2-3 trips daily)

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.

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).

New Kaikoura Museum is worth visiting, opposite i-SITE, lower floor Kaikoura District Council building
Locals Supporting Kaikoura Recovery

South Pacific Helicopters NZ

HELPING A LOCAL BUSINESS FLOURISH

At more than 300 metres high and covered in layers of fractured rock and loose material, the large slips north of Kaikōura are an imposing sight, say the group of helicopter operators, working in conjunction with Kaikōura-based South Pacific Helicopters NZ to wash loose rock and debris off the slip faces.

The team has dropped more than 80 million litres of water on the slips, flying from the helibase at Mangamaunu where NCTIR has employed an air traffic controller to co-ordinate the chopper movements to and from site and other aircraft flying along the coast. The job remains challenging day in, day out.

Flying in these conditions can be tricky and keeping safe is critical, as Kaikōura pilot Daniel Stevenson knows well.

Daniel is part of a team of 14 helicopter pilots who have spent the last two months dropping nearly 80 million litres of water on the slips to the north of Kaikōura.

He has previously been involved in sluicing operations for other slips following heavy rain events, but says this work pales in comparison.

‘These are obviously a lot larger and it’s a much bigger job.’

For Daniel, being involved in the work has been a ‘godsend’ for his business following the earthquake.

Before the earthquake, Daniel ran whale watch tours, the sluicing work having helped to keep his business going.

‘It has been a blessing.’

Daniel is pleased to give back to his community by carrying out this essential work.

‘It’s really cool; it’s nice to be able to help and do something to get State Highway 1 open and Kaikōura moving again.’

Source: NCTIR March 2017 Issue 3 Update
**KEEPING IT LOCAL**

Work to clear slips north of Kaikōura is ramping up and local contractors are playing a major part.

Ford Brothers have been on the ground to the north since January, clearing access tracks past 300-metre high slips and bringing down the rock and debris.

This work has been vital to the success of the programme to date: NCTIR being on track to reopen State Highway 1 to full road and rail access by the end of the year.

Ford Brothers part owner Pete Ford says his team of 16 have been operating eight trucks, four excavators and three loaders on various worksites in the months following last November’s earthquake.

‘I’m proud of our workers; they’ve worked long hours and are the backbone of Ford Brothers.’

When the North Canterbury Transport Infrastructure Recovery was established earlier this year, it was important for the alliance that local contractors played a big role in the repair and rebuild of the transport networks.

More than 30 local subcontractors have been involved, from helicopter slucing pilots to operators like Ford Brothers working on the ground. This local contractor support has been vital for the operation.

Ford Brothers have been operating in Kaikōura for more than 60 years. The company played an essential role in the initial recovery effort clearing slips on State Highway 1 south of Kaikōura and are now working in the north.

Pete Ford says the company has employed extra staff to help with this work.

‘The work is unprecedented. The slips are large but our crews are making good progress at bringing them down.

‘Having good gear helps, but good workers are also essential and I’m lucky to have a great team behind me.’

Subcontractors that have the required machinery and experience who would like to join the NCTIR team, should send their expression of interest to: procurement@nctir.com

*Ford Brothers excavator clearing a secondary slip around Site 2*
While State Highway 1 north of Kaikōura and south of Clarence is being repaired, a local air club is helping the community stay connected.

Around 500 locals have flown between Kaikōura and Parikawa since Air Kaikoura launched the new service in early December.

Air Kaikōura Manager Murray Hamilton says Kaikōura Aero Club is a non-profit organisation run by members of the community.

'We're providing a lifeline for people to get between Clarence and Kaikōura.'

Clients have included hospital staff, insurance companies and even 20 people heading from Clarence to Christchurch for the Bruce Springsteen concert last month.

Beekeepers are major clients, flying two to three times a week to check on hives.

Mr Hamilton says the small airport is particularly busy Mondays and Fridays running at least four flights on these days. Other days flights are on demand, which is convenient for the locals.

'We're thrilled to be able to provide this service to support Kaikōura,' says Mr Hamilton.

NCTIR has helped by installing a 'terminal' and portaloo for travellers to use at Parikawa.

Air Kaikoura is known for its whale watching flights, and while these are still continuing, the flights between Parikawa and Kaikōura are growing in demand.

Farmers have relied on the service to transport machinery, while the vet has used it to get crucial medical supplies in for their animals.

The company is growing, they've increased staff numbers and have purchased a fourth aircraft for the Parikawa service.

Flying the route means the locals are seeing the damage from the air first hand.

'I was shocked the first time I saw the slips, completely blown away, thinking oh my goodness that's just incredible,' says Mr Hamilton.

Air Kaikoura is also hoping to expand its service to connect Blenheim, locals and tourists with Kaikōura. This is due to launch before winter.

Source: NCTIR March 2017 Issue 3 Update