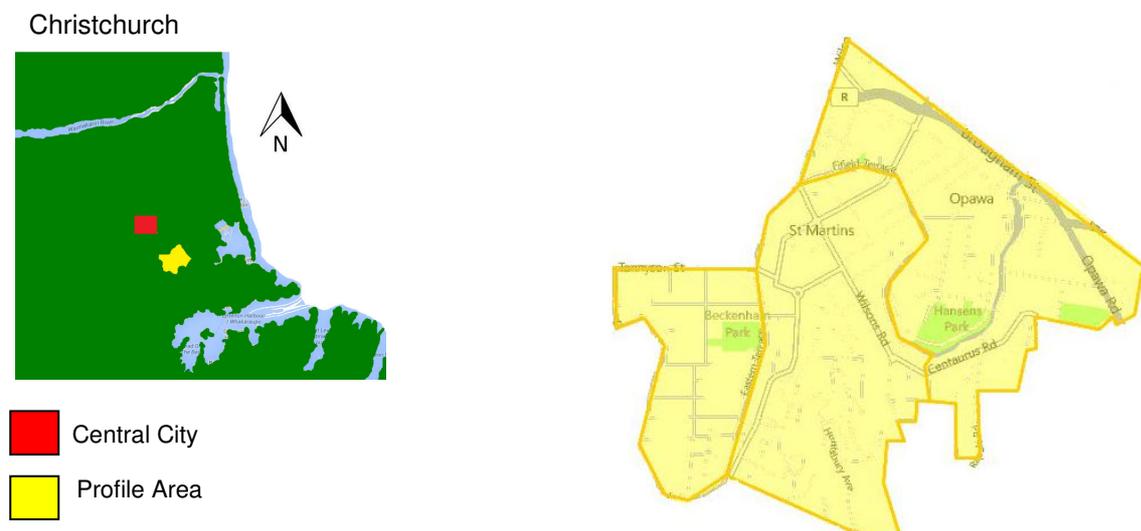


# Community profile - November 2014

## St Martins / Opawa / Beckenham

(Census area units: Opawa, Beckenham, St Martins)



The St Martins / Opawa / Beckenham area is located approximately five kilometres south of the central business district (CBD) of Christchurch. The sector covers the area from Beckenham to south-west Woolston, and from Brougham Street to the river terraces below the foot of the Port Hills. The Ōpāwaho / Heathcote River is the dominant natural feature that threads through the built environment, as well as supporting casual and organised recreational activities.

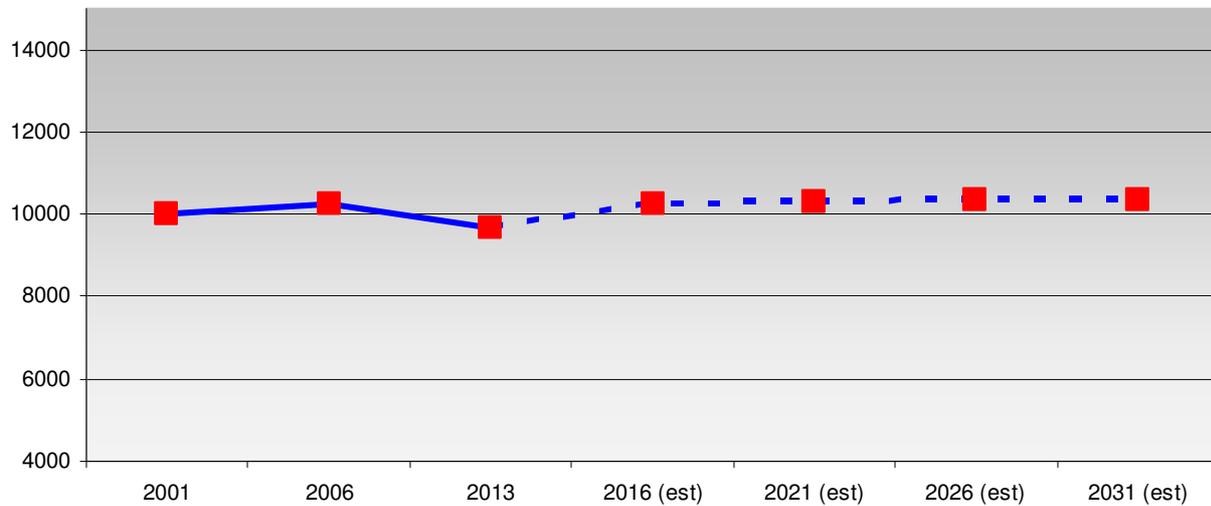
The demographics of the area are depictive of a mainly middle income area, with approximately one third of the population not in the labour force. According to the comparison between 2006 and 2013 Census figures, the population of the area has dropped by approximately 600 people, from 10,266 to 9,663. There are three social housing complexes with 88 units; of these, 27 have been closed due either to earthquake-related damage, or failure to meet the new building code.

There are six primary schools and two alternative schools, as well as eight churches, three community-run libraries and the nearby Council-owned South Library and Service Centre. Risingholme Community Centre provides leisure and educational facilities to multiple groups from across the southern side of the city.

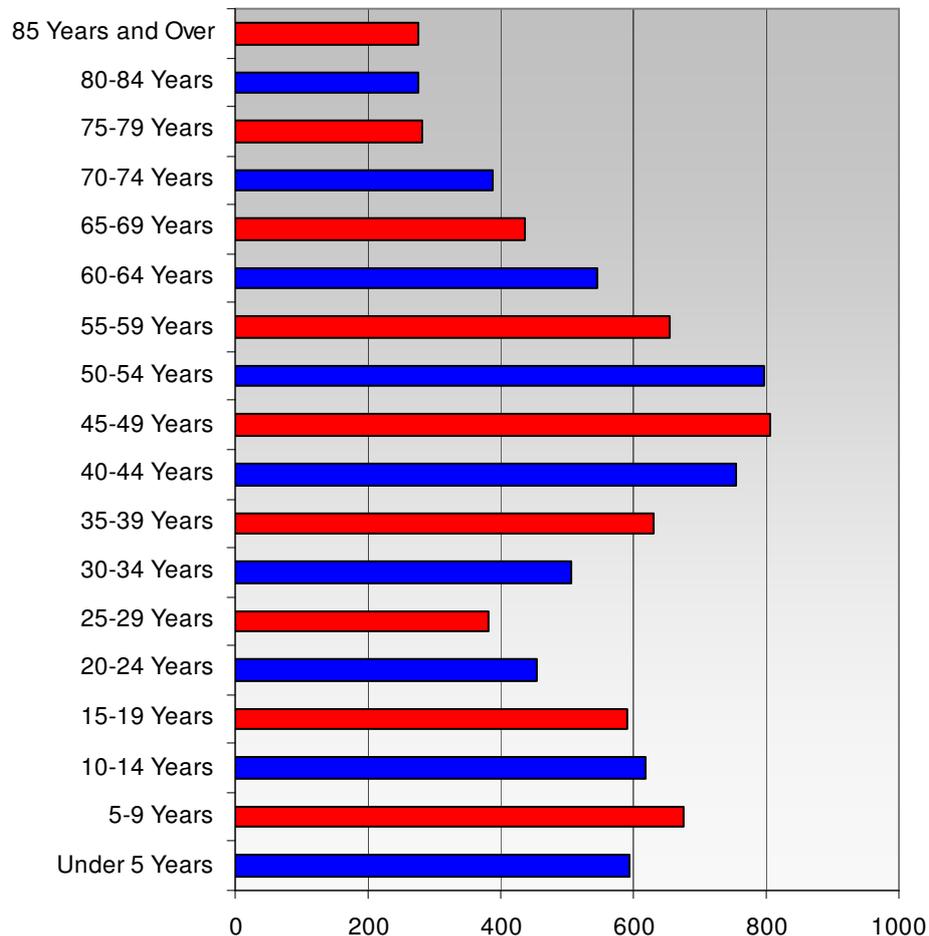
Significant retail business locations are the Colombo Street Beckenham shops and the recently re-built St Martins New World complex. There are two medical centres in the area and seven retirement/rest homes.

# Key demographics

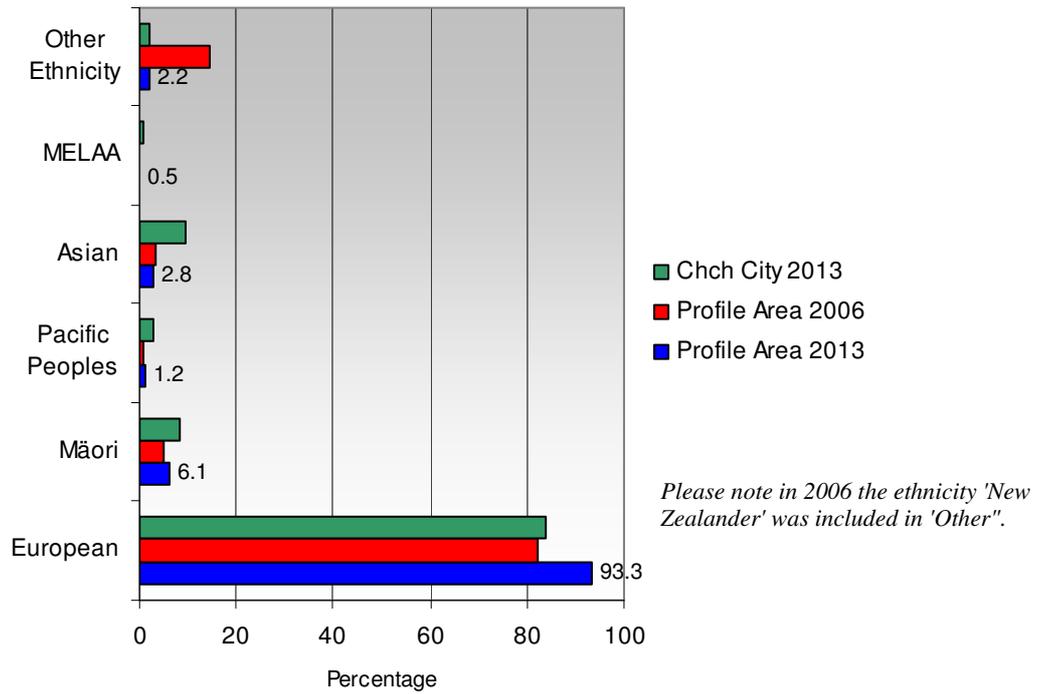
**Usually resident population count**  
(Data from Statistics NZ)



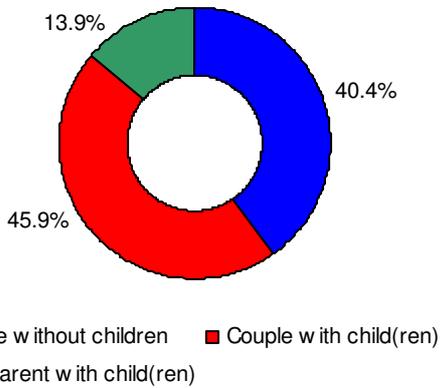
**Age for usually resident population (number of people)**  
(Data from 2013 Census, Statistics NZ)  
**Profile Area**



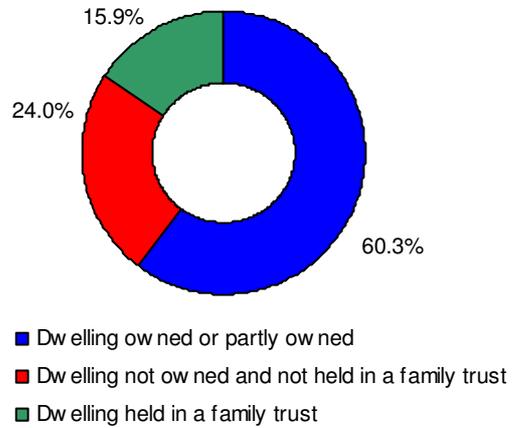
### Ethnicity for usually resident population (%) (Data from 2013 Census, Statistics NZ)



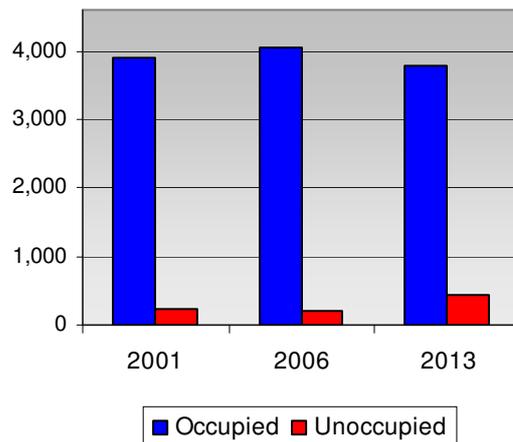
### Family type (%) (Data from 2013 Census, Statistics NZ)



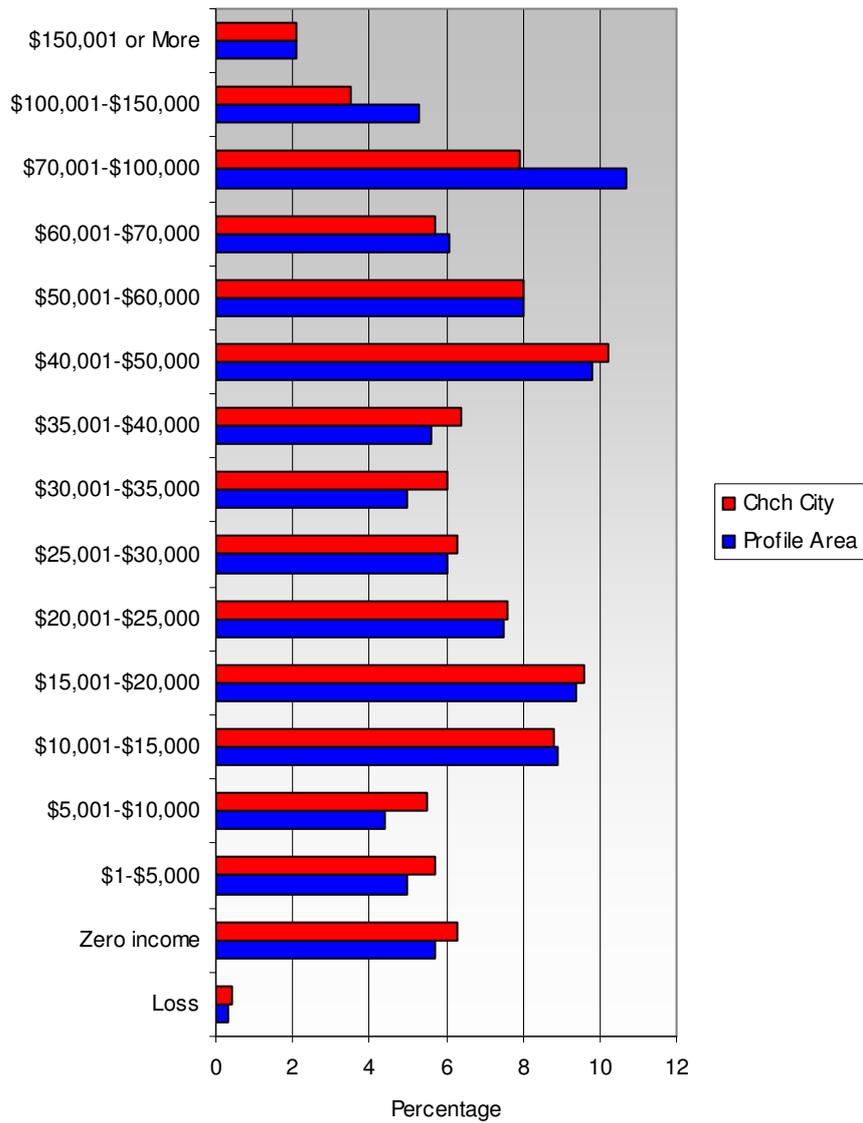
### Home ownership (%) (Data from 2013 Census, Statistics NZ)



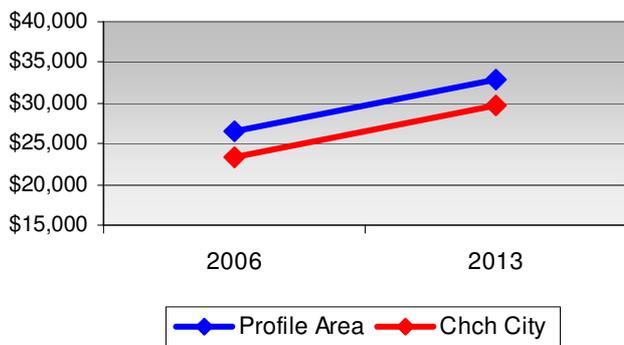
### Occupied and Unoccupied Dwellings (Data from Statistics NZ)



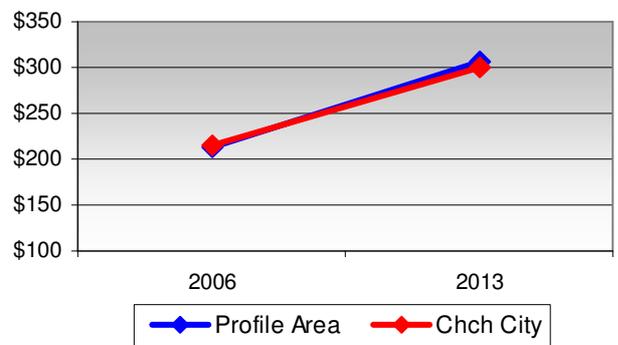
**Personal income for Profile Area compared to Christchurch City**  
(Data from Statistics NZ)



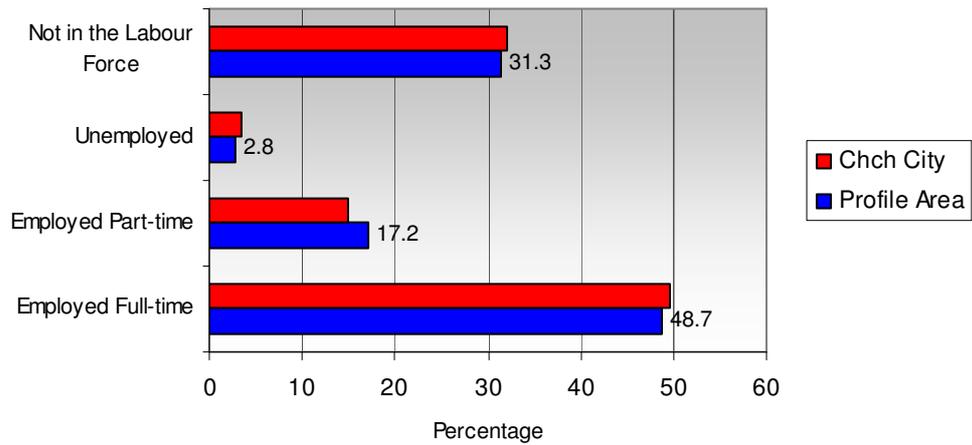
**Median Personal Income for Profile Area compared to Christchurch City**  
(Data from Statistics NZ)



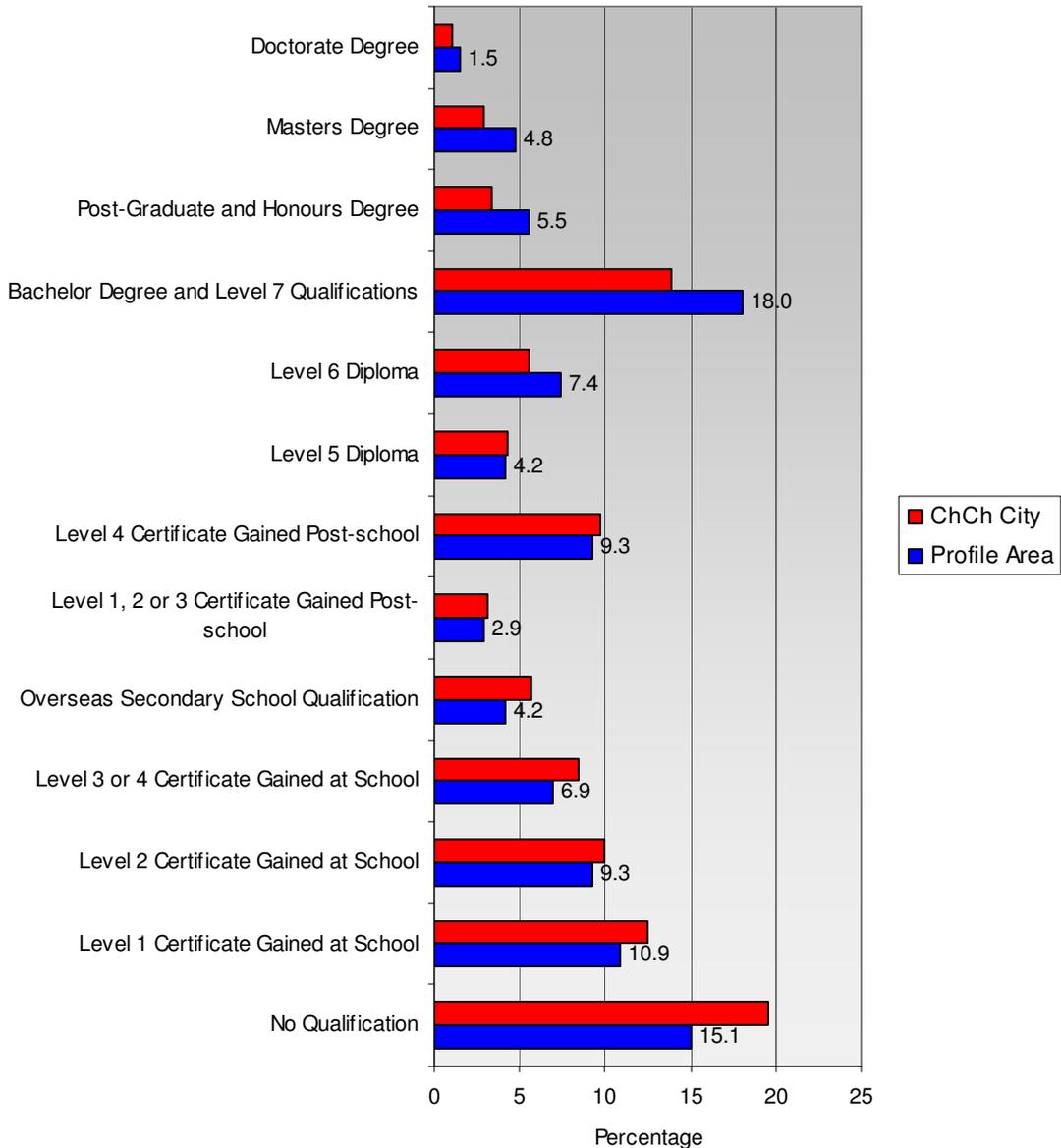
**Median Weekly Rent for rented households, in private occupied dwellings**  
(Data from 2013 Census, Statistics NZ)



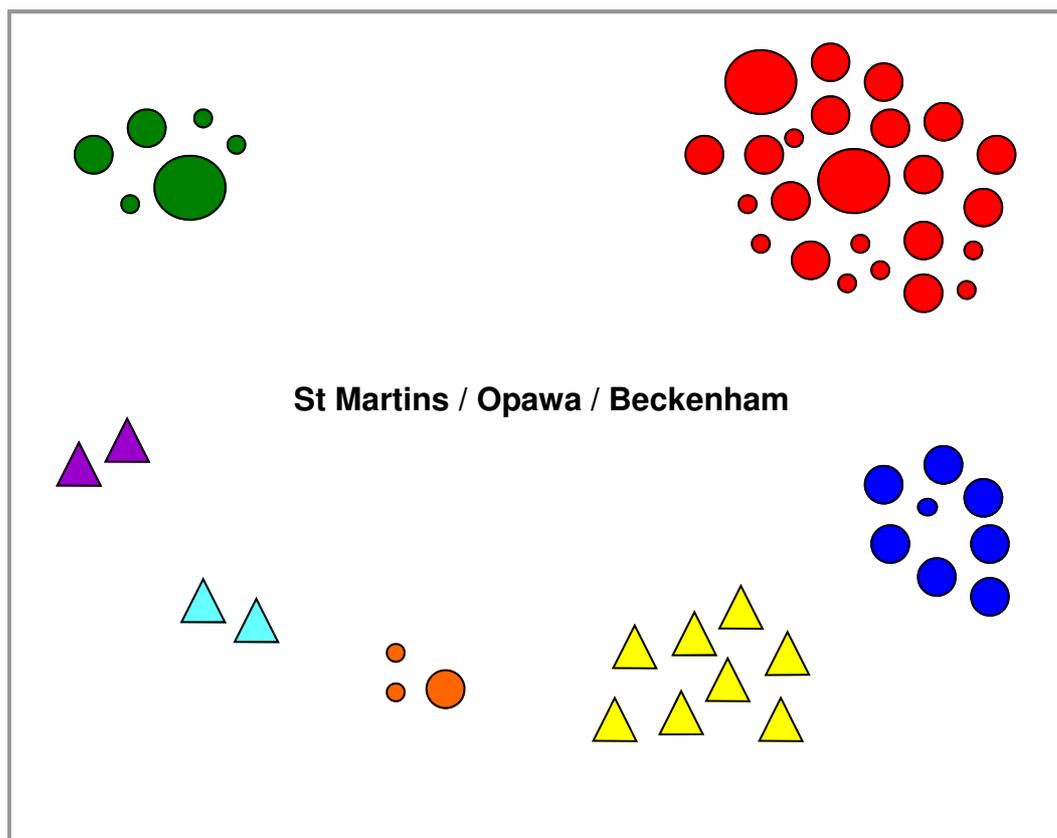
**Work and Labour Force status (%)**  
(Data from 2013 Census, Statistics NZ)



**Highest Educational Qualification for the census usually resident population, aged 15 years and over**  
(Data from 2013 Census, Statistics NZ)



# Community infrastructure mapping



- |   |  |
|---|--|
|  Community development/support organisations |  Schools                              |
|  Sport/recreation/leisure groups             |  Community facilities (Council-owned) |
|  Faith-based organisations                   |  Libraries (Council-owned)            |
|  Residents'/business associations            |  |

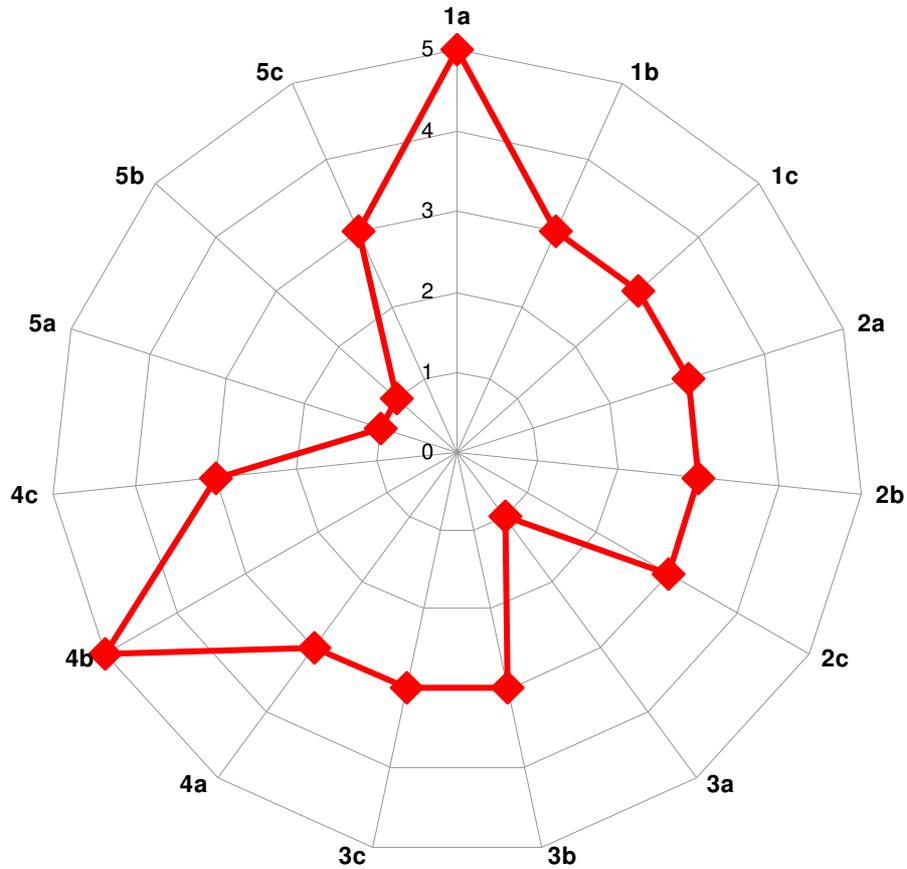
*The above ratings have been based on reach, diversity, and participation. For example, bigger circles tend to be groups that provide a wider range of services, or have large numbers of participants. They also tend to be groups that are well networked within the community.*

The St Martins / Opawa / Beckenham area has a large number of sport, recreation and leisure groups providing a large variety of activities from toy libraries to Probus groups.

There are many faith-based organisations in the area, however, some have lost their buildings and facilities due to the earthquakes. Congregations who have lost their usual places of worship continue to meet in different locations across the area. Where church community halls or meeting spaces were damaged or demolished, the loss has been detrimental to the community as the groups using these facilities have had to relocate to other available sites, and in some cases move out of the area.

This area is serviced by Opawa Community Library, St Martins Library, Opawa Children's Library and the nearby South Library and Service Centre which is Council-owned. All of these suffered substantial earthquake-related damage, however, the South Library and Service Centre and Opawa Children's Library have been able to re-open and operate.

# Community resilience mapping



Scale: 1 = Low 5 = High

## 15 Measures of Resilience

Community Support Organisations		(rating)
1a	# of organisations	(5)
1b	strength of organisations	(3)
1c	community development principles	(3)

Volunteering		(rating)
2a	investment in volunteers	(3)
2b	# of volunteer hours from Fundforce	(3)
2c	# of volunteer hours from Census	(3)

Connectedness		(rating)
3a	# of Neighbourhood Support groups	(1)
3b	# of residents' associations	(3)
3c	access to networking groups/forums	(3)

Participation		(rating)
4a	community events	(3)
4b	Fundforce participation rates	(5)
4c	club membership #s	(3)

Preparedness		(rating)
5a	# of Neighbourhood Support groups	(1)
5b	# households in Neighbourhood Support	(1)
5c	capability of groups to lead local response	(3)

**Note:** 2b, 4b - These ratings only take into account figures from community projects funded by Council.  
 2c - These figures are based on 2006 Census data as this information is not yet available for 2013.  
 3a, 5a, 5b - These ratings are based on groups and households registered with Christchurch Gets Ready as at November 2013.

# Community environment

## Social environment

There has been little reduction in the number of community organisations following the 2010 and 2011 earthquakes; however, membership continues to fluctuate due to movement of residents within the area. Insurance issues around repairs to buildings and permanent accommodation for community organisations remain problematic.

In general, the range and number of social activity and friendship groups remains stable. The transitional nature and location of these groups means there is a level of instability throughout the community. This pattern is repeated across the entire ward. This has had positive and negative effects for the social environment. The positive effect has been groups are able to network with other organisations and reach new populations across the area. The negative impacts include the financial instability and cost of moving for these groups, and the emotional turmoil for members of the community who find change difficult to cope with.

Prior to the earthquakes, there were three volunteer libraries as well as the South Library and Service Centre. The two Opawa volunteer libraries have combined at the Opawa Children's Library site and remain open. The St Martins Volunteer Library re-opened in March 2013 in a temporary location at the St Martins New World complex. However, its temporary accommodation expired in December 2013. Council decided that a new community facility would be located on the former St Martins Library site, with space allocated for the Library to operate from.

The South Library and Service Centre re-opened in December 2012 following strengthening work after its Detailed Engineering Evaluation (DEE) found it was below the 34 per cent building standard required to remain open. The strengthening work is temporary and long-term decisions about the repair of the South Library and Service Centre are yet to be made.

Schools across the area are operating and have noticed a marked increase in use of their halls by the community. The faith-based organisations continue to operate despite the loss of buildings, and some continue to meet with their congregations at other locations in the sector. Some churches have now progressed to the design phase of their rebuild. This is a positive sign that things are moving forward. Some churches are taking the opportunity to look at their facilities to determine how best they can service the community by designing multi-purpose facilities which will be a huge benefit for the area as a whole.

Some of the residents' associations, which emerged post-earthquake have disbanded, but their details have been retained on Canterbury Neighbourhood Support's list of community co-ordinators. These groups tend to emerge in post-crisis situations, and in the immediate aftermath of the earthquakes these groups helped the community feel connected. This connectivity continues to be acknowledged in the community. This area registered the highest interest in Neighbourhood Week activities of all the profile areas in the Spreydon/Heathcote ward.

Following the Canterbury Earthquakes, Risingholme Community Centre's craft workshops, community hall and homestead were closed due to earthquake-related damage. This was a huge loss for the area, despite the organisation still being able to provide many courses from other locations. Midway through 2013 the craft rooms were repaired and re-opened. Investigations are continuing into the future of the remaining buildings.

The 2013 Census indicates the population of this area has dropped by approximately 600 people, with the most significant loss in the suburbs of St Martins and Opawa. This correlates with significant increases in the number of unoccupied homes and people temporarily moving from these areas while their homes are repaired or rebuilt.

## Built environment

The significant, earthquake-related land damage that has been experienced throughout the city has had an inevitable consequence for the built environment. For this area, higher floor levels will be required in future in order to protect homes from the risk of flooding. The actual floor levels for each property will be set as part of the building consent process and will reflect the risk associated with area-wide earthquake-related land damage. In the winter of 2013, the built environment along the Ōpāwaho /

Heathcote River was significantly threatened and in some cases affected by widespread flooding as a consequence of the earthquake-related land damage to the area. Also in March 2014 substantial rainfall led to significant flooding across the area that breached many homes and affected roads.

Under-road infrastructure remains in a state of repair, with a number of road works disrupting usual traffic flows across the area. However, progress is being made across the area.

### **Economic environment**

St Martins New World supermarket and co-located buildings that housed local businesses were damaged beyond repair following the 2010 and 2011 earthquakes. This essential local hub was rebuilt and re-opened in September 2012. The New World complex, as it is now known, has grown in custom base and has clearly rejuvenated the economic environment of the area.

The Opawa shops continue to operate and provide a convenient range of services to the local area, including a butcher, pharmacy, dairy and opportunity shop.

The Beckenham shopping area has had a number of buildings demolished, but overall the area continues to thrive, with a butcher, café, pharmacy and post shop, among other businesses. New buildings are planned for the vacant sites which will add to the vibrancy and variety of businesses in the area.

According to the 2013 Census results, the personal median incomes in Beckenham and St Martins (respectively \$35,300 and \$33,800) are significantly higher than the Christchurch personal median income of \$29,800, while for Opawa it is lower at \$29,500. The most common job type of employed residents across the whole area is professional.

### **Natural environment**

The Ōpāwaho / Heathcote River, the major natural recreational feature of this area, was polluted and found unsafe for public use after the sequence of earthquakes and aftershocks throughout 2011. As a consequence, the Heathcote River Raft Day has not been held since. Unfortunately, the river continues to fluctuate in water quality, mainly depending on rainfall, which prolongs the impact on recreational use of the river. Due to underground water course and river bed changes, there is heightened flood risk in some residential areas bordering the river.

The river surrounds have been relatively undamaged, and have been restored to pre-earthquake standards. Beckenham Park and Hansen Park continue to have high usage, hosting athletics and other activities that have been displaced from other parts of the city.

### Land condition

The 2010 and 2011 Canterbury earthquakes caused significant land damage throughout the city, with areas close to riverbanks and other waterways being particularly hard hit. Ground levels across large areas of the city have dropped by as much as 200 - 300 millimetres, and by more in some areas.

This profile area has a significant concentration of technical category three (TC3) land, which relates to how it is likely to respond in future earthquakes and what type of foundations are required to build in this area. Specifically, this refers to the fact there may be 'moderate to significant land damage from liquefaction in future large earthquakes'. The portions of the area that have been zoned TC3 tend to be along and around the Ōpāwaho / Heathcote River, but there are also sporadic patches throughout Beckenham beside the river loop. The rest of the areas in this sector are technical category two (TC2), which specifically means there may be 'minor to moderate land damage from liquefaction in future significant earthquakes'. None of the land in this sector has been zoned red.

The recent Council-commissioned Port Hills Land Instability Stage One Report on mass movement does not affect this area.

# Key issues identified

Issue	Progress to date / outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently, there is a need and opportunity for earthquake authority and expertise engagement with St Martins/Opawa residents living on orange-zoned land.</li> </ul>	<p><u>November 2012</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are no longer any properties zoned as orange in the area, as they have all been zoned green under the direction of the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority (CERA). CERA has held a series of community meetings to disseminate information.</li> </ul> <p><u>November 2013/14</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Orange zoning no longer applies. Residents have access to the Residential Advisory Service and the Earthquake Coordinators for advice.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The reduction in community library facilities is a loss to older residents in particular. The Council libraries have assisted with the removal and storage of stock.</li> </ul>	<p><u>November 2012</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opawa Public Library has co-located with the Opawa Children's Library, and although this is a smaller site, it continues to function. St Martins Library is due to re-open in the coming months at a temporary location in St Martins, which will restore some library facilities to the area. The closure of the South Library has also added to the risk described.</li> </ul> <p><u>November 2013</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The South Library reopened in December 2012 after strengthening work, it is a very valuable asset to the community. The long term plans for this building are unknown.</li> <li>The St Martins Volunteer Library opened in March 2013 in a temporary location at the New World complex. A new community facility will be located on the former St Martins Library site, with room being put aside for the Library to operate from.</li> </ul> <p><u>November 2014</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Although the St Martins Volunteer Library has now closed after leaving its temporary site, the new community facility will have space for the library to operate out of. The nearest library in its absence is the South Library in Beckenham.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interest has been expressed in the establishment of a community orchard on Garlands Road in Opawa.</li> </ul>	<p><u>November 2012</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This idea has not been progressed as yet.</li> </ul> <p><u>November 2013</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This site was leased to Addington Action. Future opportunities for the site would need to be considered once Addington Action has vacated the site.</li> </ul>

Issue	Progress to date / outcomes
continued...	<p><u>November 2014</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To date the Garlands Roads site has attracted insufficient interest for further community use.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uncertainties about when the Ōpāwaho/ Heathcote River will be safe for recreation.</li> </ul>	<p><u>November 2012</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water quality in the Ōpāwaho / Heathcote River has been fluctuating, and is being monitored continuously.</li> </ul> <p><u>November 2013</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Until the infrastructure is fully repaired across the ward, the water quality in the Ōpāwaho / Heathcote River continues to fluctuate. Continuous monitoring is being carried out, to ensure public safety is maintained.</li> </ul> <p><u>November 2014</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water quality continues to be monitored, but again, until the infrastructure of the area is fully completed, the water quality will continue to fluctuate.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opportunity for co-location of facilities.</li> </ul>	<p><u>November 2012</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussions between many community organisations regarding possibility of co-locating in the future.</li> </ul> <p><u>November 2013</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussions continue between varying groups, including volunteer libraries and toy libraries, to see what opportunities are available for co-location of facilities. This is an ongoing opportunity, that will need continually working on as opportunities arise.</li> </ul> <p><u>November 2014</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff continue to look for opportunities to encourage co-location of facilities where appropriate.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased insurance costs for community organisations.</li> </ul>	<p><u>November 2013</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This continues to be an issue for community organisations and residents across the whole city.</li> </ul> <p><u>November 2014</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is an adjustment challenge for residents, businesses, and community organisations.</li> </ul>

Issue	Progress to date / outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flooding around the Ōpāwaho / Heathcote River</li> </ul>	<p><u>November 2013</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The winter of 2013 highlighted that due to a combination of unrepaired infrastructure and land damage across this area, there is a flooding risk to residents in periods of heavy rain.</li> </ul> <p><u>November 2014</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>March 2014 saw significant flooding of the Ōpāwaho / Heathcote River resulting in property and roads being breached by floodwaters. Consequently a Flooding Taskforce was set up by CCC to investigate remediation options. Although this area was not as badly affected as nearby areas, it remains a concern to local residents around the river. The Taskforce continues to work on remediation solutions.</li> </ul>