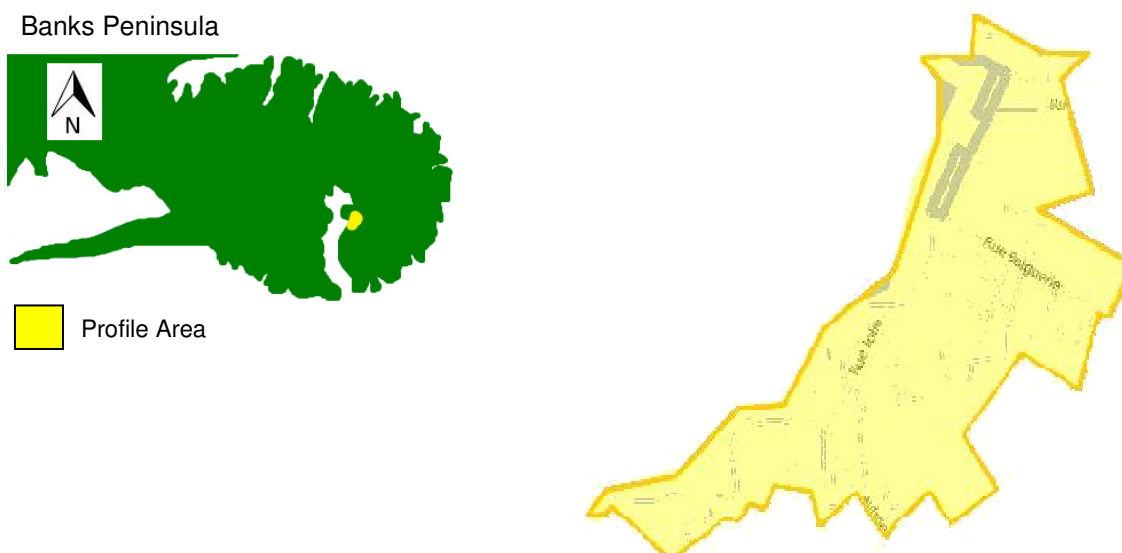


Community profile - November 2014

Akaroa

(Census area units: Akaroa)



Akaroa is a picturesque seaside settlement, 97 kilometres south-west of Christchurch, reliant on tourism and holiday makers for its economic viability. There are a number of attractions for both visitors and local residents including the 'historic area', the French history, the natural/wildlife water-based activities and natural environment.

The base population of 624 is small. The median age is 56. Couples without children make up 71.9 per cent of the residents. At the 2013 Census, the demographics were: 21 aged under five years; 45 aged 5–14 years; 27 aged 15–19 years; 42 aged 20–29 years; 93 aged 30–44 years; 78 aged 45–54 years; 123 aged 55–64 years; and 198 aged over 65 years.

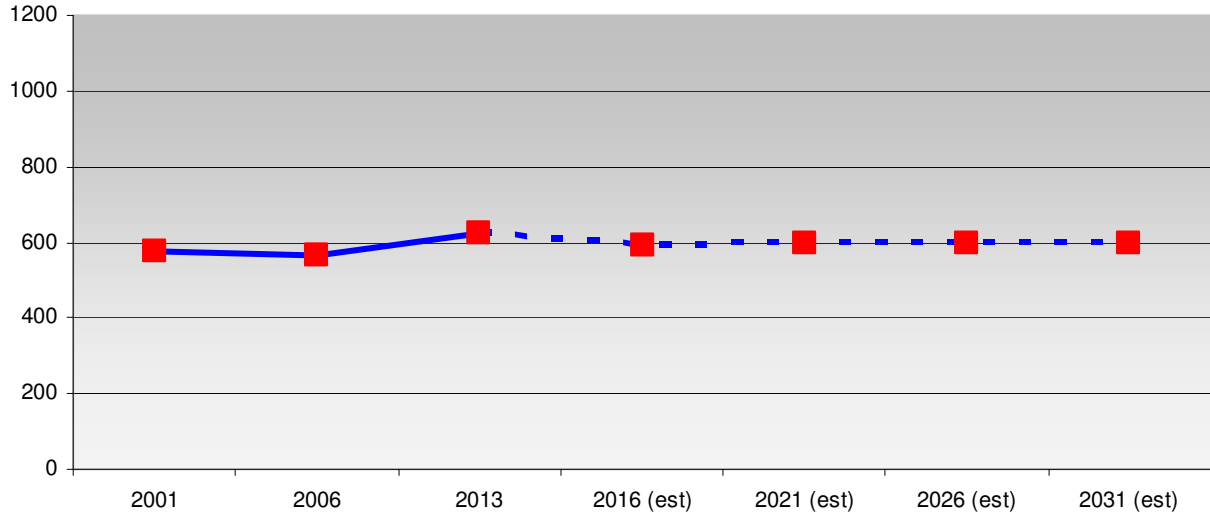
Census 2013 statistics showed 342 occupied and 567 unoccupied houses in Akaroa, the lowest occupancy rate in Christchurch. Many of these are holiday homes with absentee owners. There are pockets of Akaroa where homes are vacant for long periods of time. Rental properties are difficult to secure long-term and are expensive, limiting opportunities for young people and families to establish themselves permanently in the community. Property ownership for this group is often out of reach due to 'inflated' property prices and demand for holiday homes outstripping availability. Employment is seasonal and limited in its diversity, being mainly focused on the hospitality industry and labouring for local contractors.

There is one Area School (decile eight) with 155 pupils, an increase of 20 pupils since the earthquakes, and an 11 bed community-owned rest home in this zone. Akaroa Hospital (which had six beds and a birthing unit) was closed in December 2011 due to earthquake damage. A temporary overnight observation bed and a palliative care bed are available in the resthome as an interim measure, supported by the Canterbury District Health Board (CDHB), until a new community-owned health hub is built.

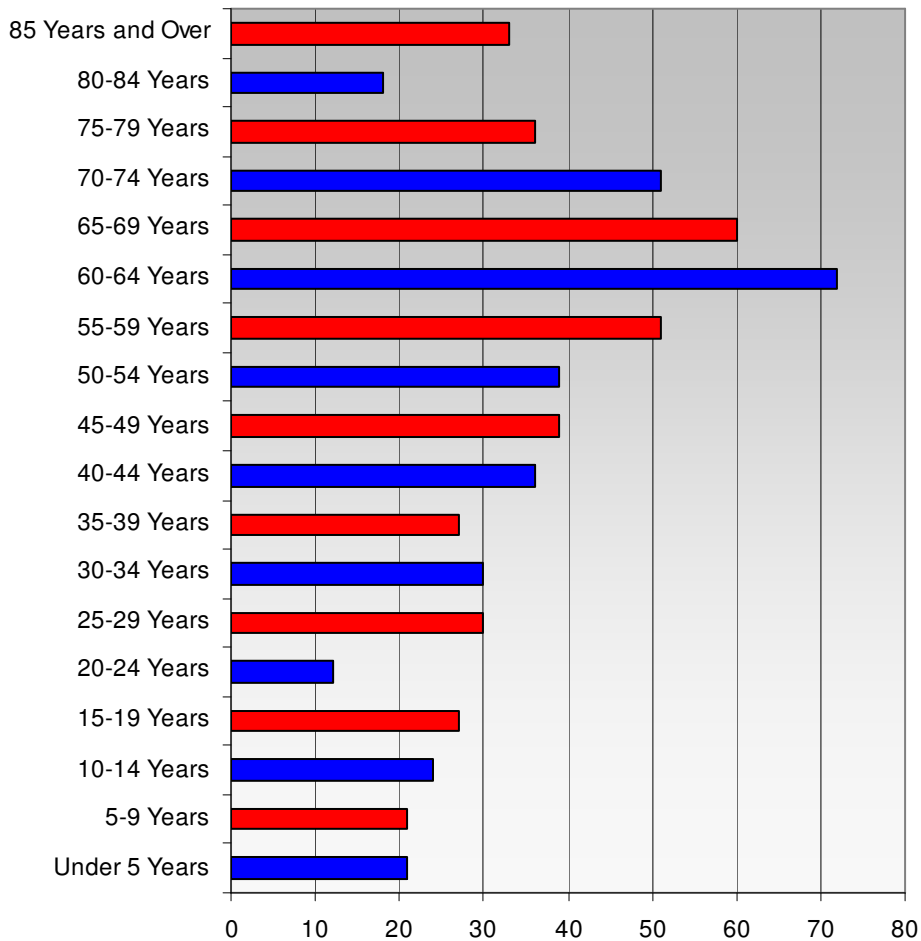
There is one marae, Ōnuku, which is five kilometres south of the township. The marae is historically significant, as South Island chiefs signed the Treaty of Waitangi at Ōnuku.

Key demographics

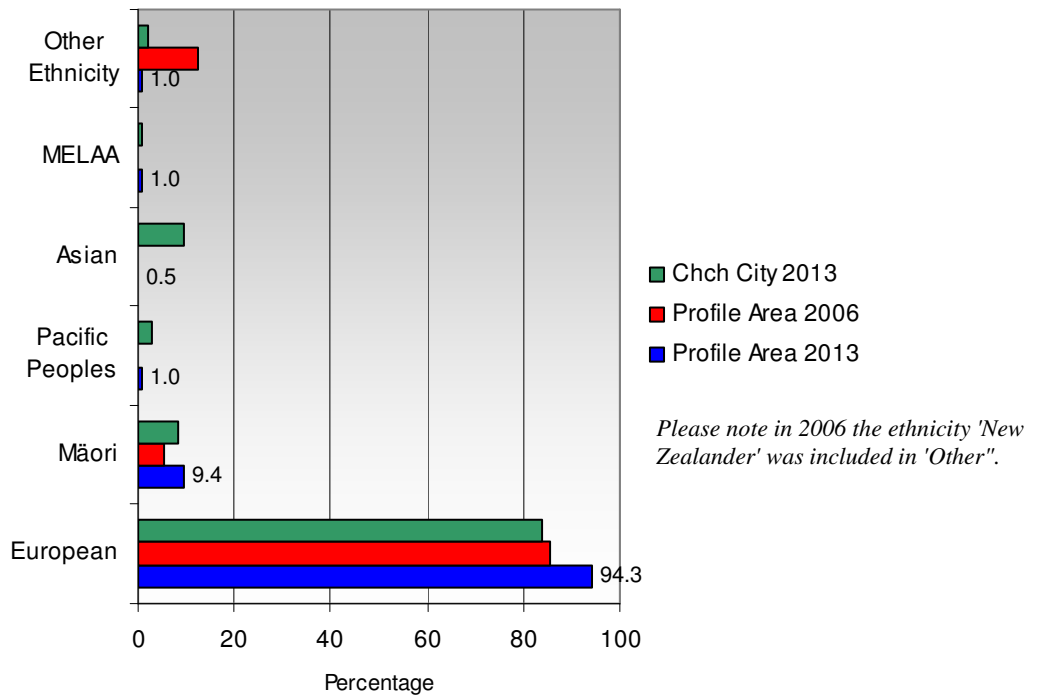
Usually resident population count
(Data from Statistics NZ)



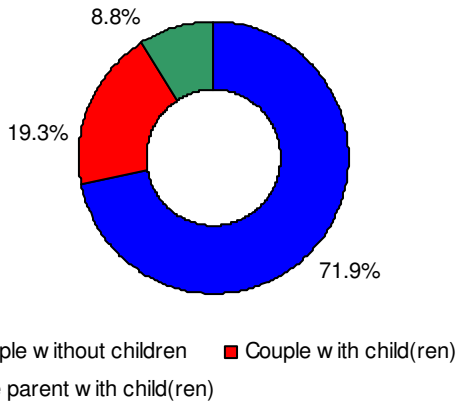
Age for usually resident population (number of people)
(Data from 2013 Census, Statistics NZ)
Profile Area



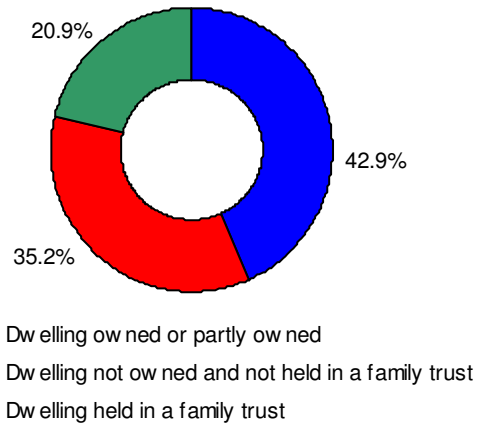
Ethnicity for usually resident population (%)
(Data from 2013 Census, Statistics NZ)



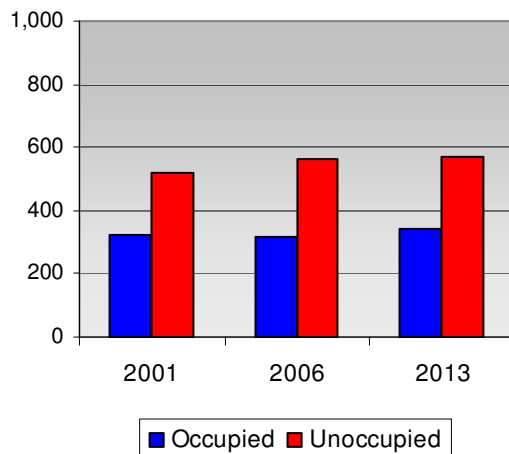
Family type (%)
(Data from 2013 Census, Statistics NZ)



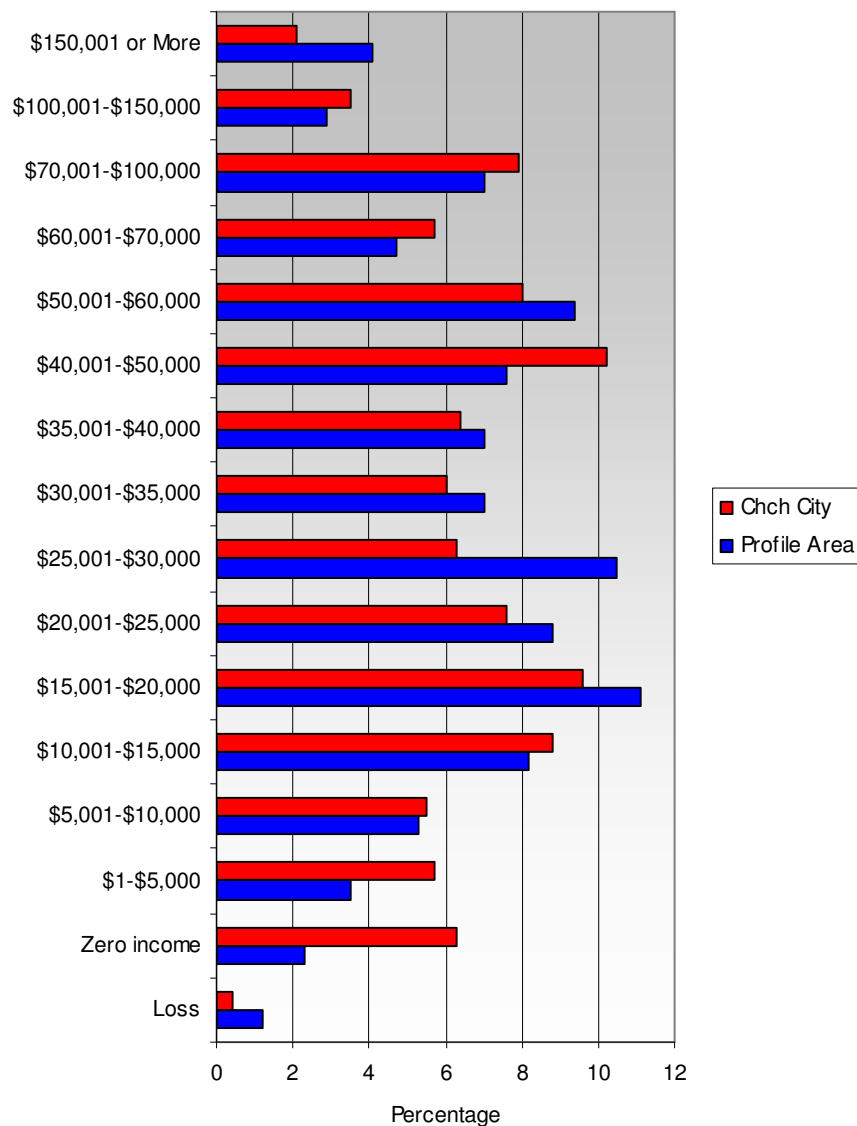
Home ownership (%)
(Data from 2013 Census, Statistics NZ)



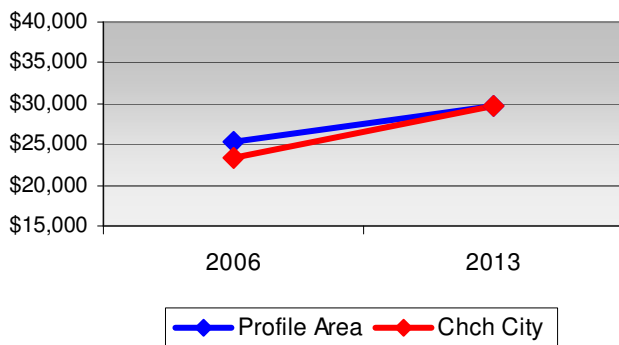
Occupied and Unoccupied Dwellings
(Data from Statistics NZ)



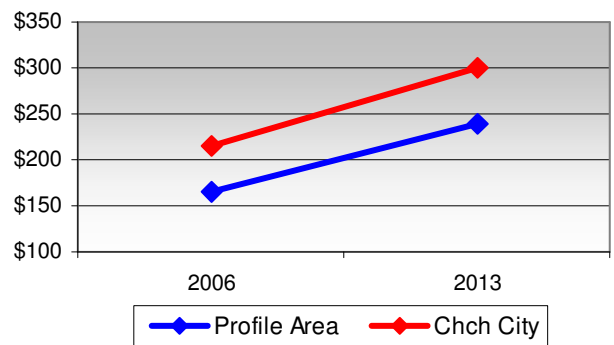
Personal income for Profile Area compared to Christchurch City (%)
(Data from Statistics NZ)



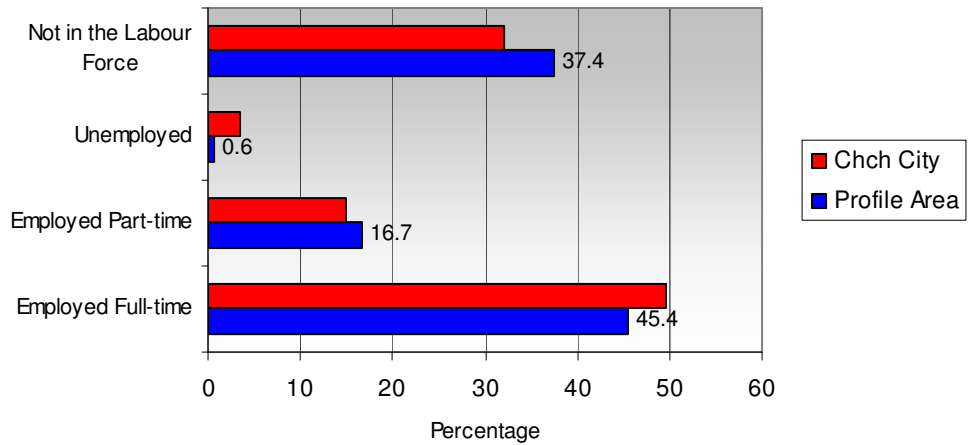
Median Personal Income for Profile Area compared to Christchurch City
(Data from Statistics NZ)



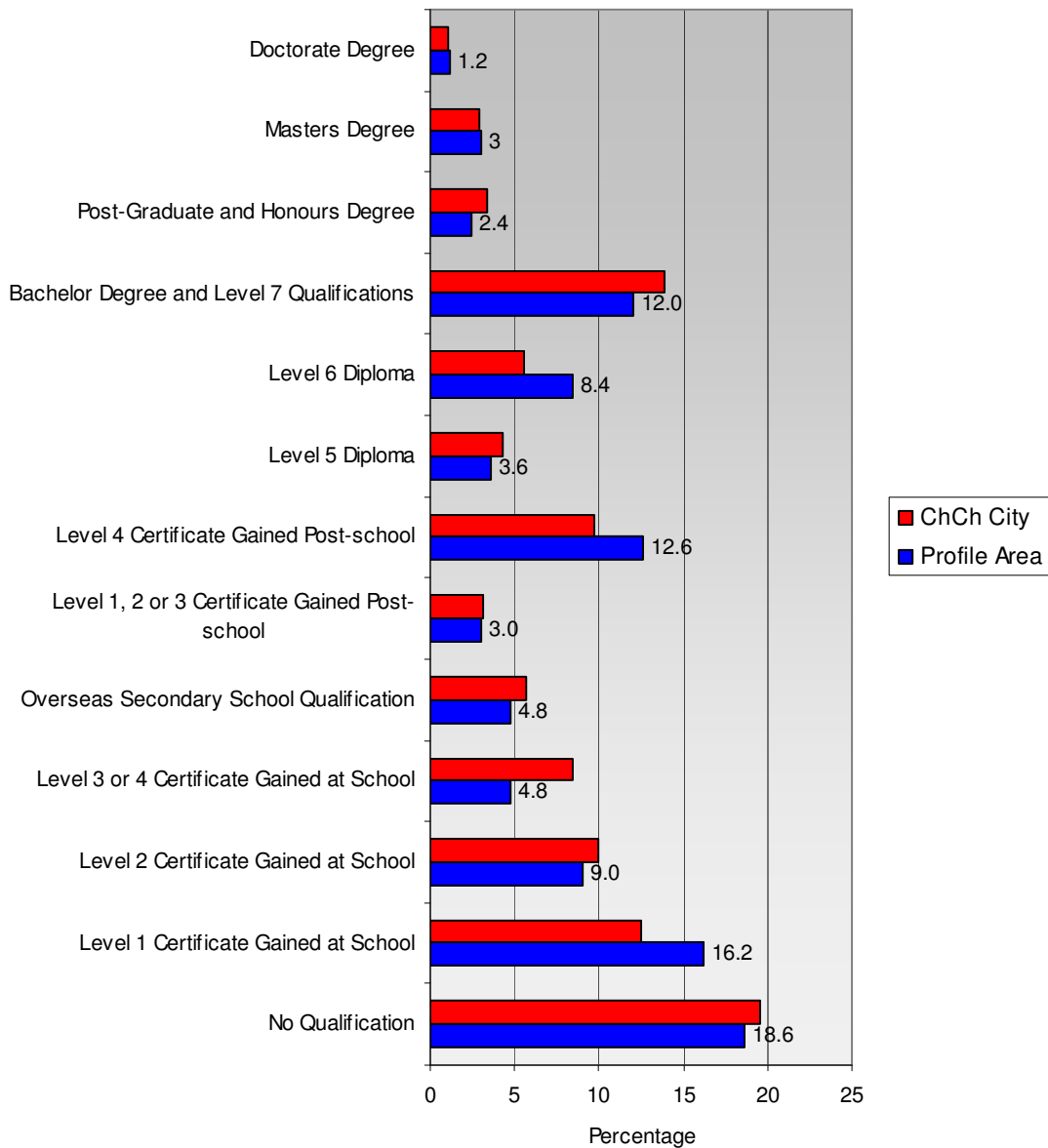
Median Weekly Rent for rented households, in private occupied dwellings
(Data from 2013 Census, Statistics NZ)



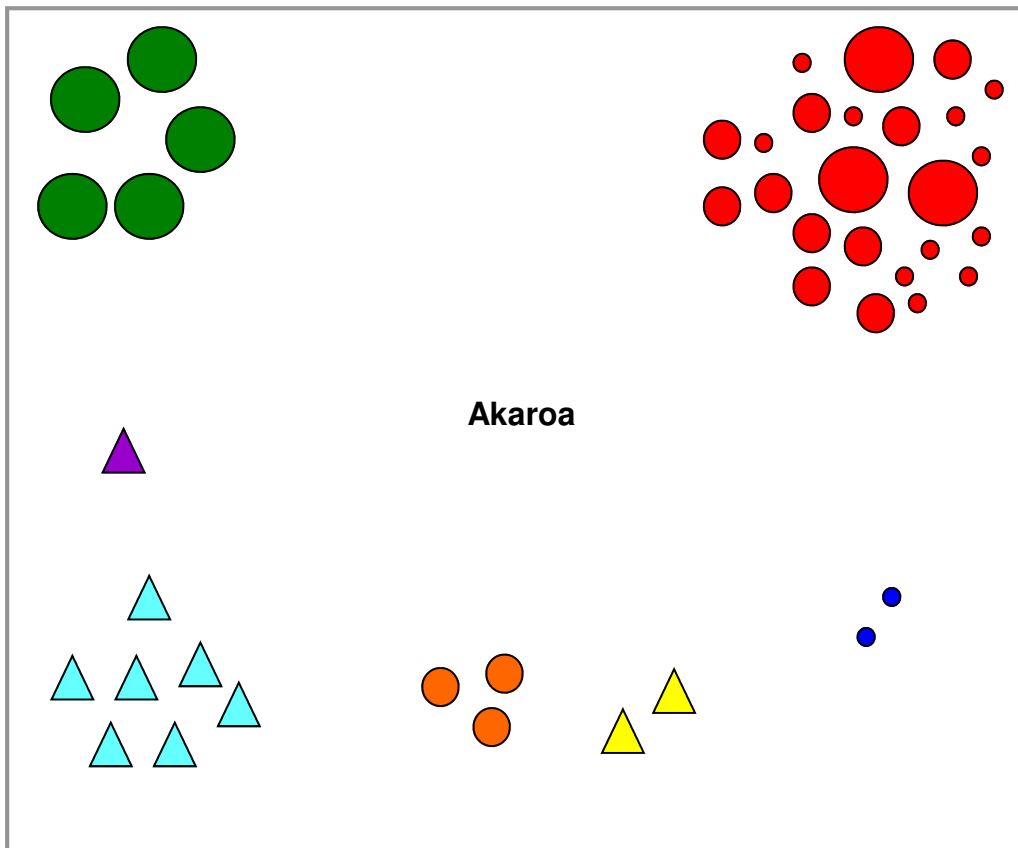
Work and Labour Force status (%)
(Data from 2013 Census, Statistics NZ)



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



Community infrastructure mapping



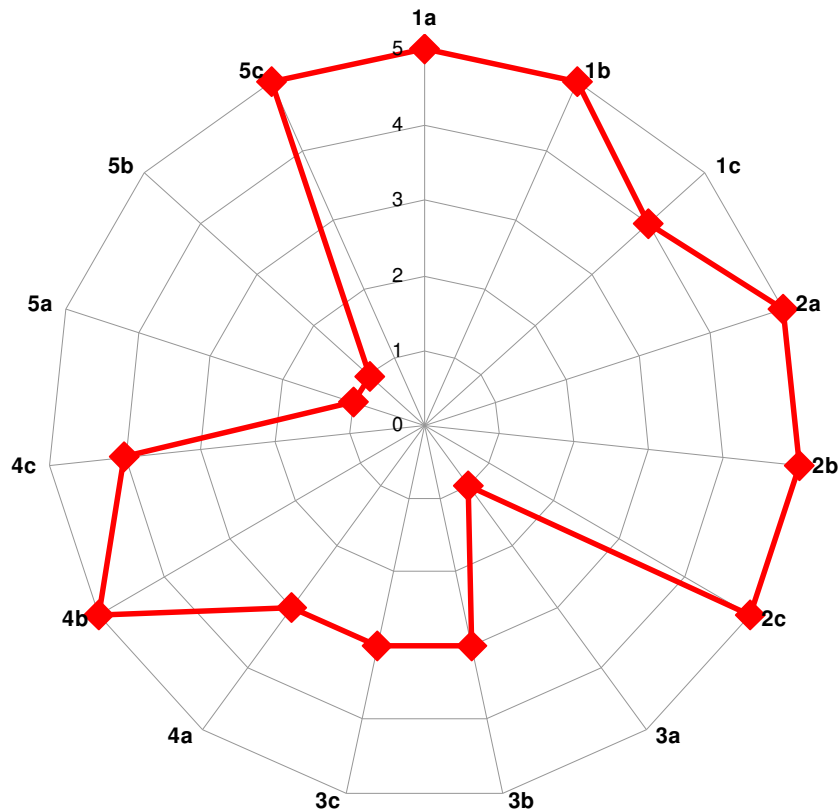
- Community development/support organisations
- Sport/recreation/leisure groups
- Faith-based organisations
- Residents/business associations
- ▲ Schools
- ▲ Community facilities (Council owned)
- ▲ Libraries (Council owned)

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.

In the Akaroa zone there are two Reserve Management Committees and one business association. There are no residents groups to reflect the views of the wider community. Many smaller organisations and groups provide representative stakeholders when issues require community participation.

Some council-owned facilities are still closed and awaiting further explorative examination following the original detailed engineering evaluations. This includes the Akaroa Service Centre, and Gaiety Hall which the community have stated are important, and have been included in the Council's 'Top 30' facilities to be repaired. The Gaiety is due to reopen in 2015.

Community resilience mapping



Scale: 1 = Low 5 = High

15 measures of resilience

Community Support Organisations (rating)

1a # of organisations (5)
1b strength of organisations (5)
1c community development principles (4)

Volunteering (rating)

2a investment in volunteers (5)
2b # of volunteer hours from Fundforce (5)
2c # of volunteer hours from Census (5)

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 (4)

Preparedness (rating)

5a # of neighbourhood support groups (1)
5b # households in neighbourhood support (1)
5c capability of groups to lead local response (5)

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

This rural community is resilient and residents are continuing to support one another. The Akaroa Heartland Centre had an initial surge in social responsiveness following the earthquakes. Initially community resilience was tested and while some people remain 'emotionally-fractured', in general the rural communities are coping and moving forward with their lives. During the latter half of 2013 an increase in fragility and decreased coping capacity in the community has been noted. This is in line with literature and research which shows that people's resilience erodes in the third and fourth year following an extreme, adverse event. Ongoing social issues remain for some residents across the age and gender spectrum.

Built environment

The War Memorial, Coronation Library, Orion Powerhouse, Oinako (historic bed and breakfast accommodation) and the Old Shipping Office all suffered extensive structural damage. The Akaroa Wharf and Gaiety Hall and Supper Room were also damaged. There was some minor damage to parts of the sea wall in Akaroa.

The closure of the damaged Gaiety Hall continues to create problems for the wider community. It was the only facility capable of accommodating larger functions and productions. Groups who were regular users have been accommodated in other local venues. The School Gymnasium has been available for larger community meetings and functions. It is expected that the Gaiety will be reopened by mid 2015.

Information from the Earthquake Commission (EQC) showed eight per cent of Akaroa properties had habitability issues after the earthquakes. A small number of private properties require demolition or extensive repairs. Across the Akaroa/ Wairewa ward area, 17 heritage buildings were damaged. The Fletchers Hub reports that over 2,000 houses sustained damage in the \$10,000–\$100,000 category. On 26 September 2011, EQC commenced assessing houses, completing the whole Akaroa/ Wairewa ward area within three weeks. Repair of houses is systematically occurring across the zone.

The closure of Christchurch City Council facilities continues to have an impact on the local community. Postal services are delivered from the i-Site office based in the Adventure Centre on Rue Lavaud. Private postal boxes remain on the Akaroa Sports Pavilion veranda and the Service Centre continues to operate from a portable building adjacent to the pavilion.

Economic environment

Local businesses continue operating in a depressed market, particularly those specifically providing tourist experiences, although this is slowly improving. Some businesses have closed while others have opened. An i-Site and Adventure Centre has opened on Rue Lavaud and has developed a niche tourism market. The official Information Centre which was based on Rue Jolie North, following the quakes has closed. The bakery was extensively damaged in a fire in early 2013 and has remained closed since. Two new cafes have opened in the north end of the shopping area. Businesses are directly dependent on visitors/ tourism over the summer months to help with sustainability over the off-season or winter period. Several significant hospitality businesses are on the market.

Natural environment

There have been no significant changes to the natural environment since the earthquakes.

Key issues identified

Issue	Progress to date / outcomes
<p>Economic recession</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further economic recession, closing of more businesses, and the reduction in employment opportunities which, in turn, may see people reassessing their circumstances, leading to a further decline in the already small population base. 	<p><u>November 2012/13</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cruise ship visits will assist with the economic viability for local businesses. New businesses have opened and the economy is showing signs of recovery locally. <p><u>November 2014</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several significant hospitality businesses are on the market.
<p>Cruise ship visits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are risks associated with 85 cruise ship visits bringing 94,000 potential visitors to the town between October and April, which is already the peak visitor time. The increased volume of people creates a strain on local infrastructure and requires traffic management planning. Rather than focusing on the negative impacts of these visitors, the community and businesses need to embrace this one-off opportunity to share, welcome visitors, and celebrate the uniqueness of Akaroa. Some of these visitors may choose to return in the future, and one good word can impress and encourage their friends or family to visit, with a potential economic spin-off for the town. One bad experience can impact widely and the word spreads negatively far and wide. 	<p><u>November 2012/13</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As at October 2011 three new shops have opened to take advantage of the expected increase in visitor numbers – a café, a small haberdashery/ drapery, and a specialist bookshop. Following the 2011/12 season Akaroa ranked highly as a destination port with tour companies, not just in New Zealand but across the South Pacific region. On 13 October 2012, 770 passengers and crew from the Sea Princess were stranded on shore when a southerly storm prevented their return to the ship. Akaroa was able to provide food, shelter, medications and overnight accommodation locally and in Christchurch. Passengers were generous in expressing their gratitude for the hospitality extended by all involved. <p><u>November 2014</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cruise ships continue to be part of Akaroa's summer and contribute to the economy of Akaroa and the wider Christchurch area. However some of the resident community have noted that the adverse effects felt by some outweigh any benefits.
<p>Rock falls/slips/flooding/snow/ice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There remains a risk of some minor rock falls associated with slips, which can occur at times of heavy rain. Seasonal snow and ice on State Highway 75 and rural roads can limit safe access for emergency services, residents and other service vehicles. 	<p><u>November 2013</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change – however good contract/ maintenance schedules will help ensure access to communities is maintained, where practical, during adverse weather events. <p><u>November 2014</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early 2014 saw several adverse weather events with major slips closing the main highway and flooding in the township.

Issue	Progress to date / outcomes
<p>Changing demographics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing rental and house prices due to demand and availability/lack of availability, making local accommodation unaffordable and forcing families to move to more affordable areas. This could result in a change in the demographic make-up of the community. Closure of the hospital may impact on retired residents' decision to relocate closer to health services in Christchurch. 	<p><u>November 2013</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The status quo remains at November 2013. In November 2013, a hui held at Ōnuku Marae for community residents and organisations identified a lack of social/affordable housing as a primary concern. <p><u>November 2014</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demographic changes and housing issues continue to be monitored by stakeholders.
<p>Civil Defence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil Defence services have historically been delivered from the Christchurch City Council Service Centre. The use of this building as a base has been reassessed and found to be inappropriate, especially during an adverse event. In 2010, had the tsunami warning generated a larger wave, the building would have been unusable due to its proximity to the seashore; during the earthquakes the Service Centre was closed awaiting inspection. It was also recognised that a two-storey building with the Civil Defence radios and equipment upstairs was not ideal. Arrangements have now been made to locate the Civil Defence control room within the school grounds which are 600 metres above sea level. The school gymnasium is used as a welfare centre during emergencies. During an adverse event or disaster, access may be cut from Beach Road/Rue Jolie, separating the south of the town. Emergency and rescue personnel may not have vehicle access as there is no alternative road link to this part of the area. 	<p><u>November 2012</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work is underway on building the current base of Civil Defence volunteers, and assisting smaller communities with their planning for adverse events. Links are being established with the asset database being developed by Neighbourhood Support in Christchurch. On 13 October 2012 when passengers of the Sea Princess were stranded in town, Civil Defence personnel responded to the adverse weather, ensuring visitors were made as comfortable as possible. <p><u>November 2013/14</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Akaroa Civil Defence group now has their own Civil Defence trailer for use in emergency situations.
<p>Health services – Hospital closure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prior to December 2011, Akaroa had a medical centre, small hospital, physiotherapist and Plunket/Well Child co-located on one site. Temporary health centre facilities have been established in a purpose-built refurbishment of the garage on the hospital site 	<p><u>November 2012</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A process to develop a new health hub providing services across the continuum of life is being undertaken with the CDHB, community representatives and health professionals. This should help alleviate some of the local concerns.

Issue	Progress to date / outcomes
<p><i>Health service – Hospital closure continued...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The closure and proposed demolition of the hospital has created: uncertainty within the community; employment issues for hospital staff; risk of retention of the sole General Practitioner without adequate back up; and additional calls on volunteer First Response/ambulance services due to a greater number of patient transfers to Christchurch, which has an impact on the employment and employers of volunteers, and increased risks of burnout (with small crew numbers). Changes in health service delivery may find the community without backup services whilst doctor and ambulance are out of the area for up to four hours. There is the risk of further change in the demographic make-up of the population without secondary hospital healthcare available particularly for elderly, visitor, accident and overnight stays. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is expected that there will be a small number of acute/convalescent in-patient beds available in the new facility. Pompallier Rest Home is continuing to provide rest home options and has allocated one bed for local palliative care requirements. There are six Christchurch City Council-owned pensioner units in Akaroa and a number of privately-owned retirement villas adjacent to the community-owned rest home. <p><u>November 2013</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The community have given their mandate for community ownership of both the health hub building and the delivery of services. A business plan is being undertaken and all potential sites are being evaluated. There are two beds available in Pompallier Rest Home (funded by the CDHB), one for palliative care the other for overnight observation. <p><u>November 2014</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A cooperative partnership has been agreed to involving: Akaroa Health Hub Ltd and the community, CDHB and Ngai Tahu with a new facility to be built on the old hospital site. The planned opening day is 4 July 2016. The facility will be a 12 flexi-bed one housing health specialists, GPs, physios and visiting health professionals. The rest home will be part of the 12 flexi-beds. Pompallier Village (Trust run) will remain and will possibly expand.
<p>Climate Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Tonkin and Taylor report "Effects of Sea Level Rise for Christchurch City" (November 2013) focused on sea level rise but noted that the Christchurch City Council area is prone to multiple natural hazards such as river flooding, landslides, liquefaction and tsunamis. The report has identified several areas of risk for this zone. Coastal erosion and shoreline retreat is likely to be exacerbated by climate change in all areas of Banks Peninsula due to a rise in mean sea level, possible increase in frequency of coastal storms, and possible re-orientation of shorelines in response to changes in wave action. 	<p><u>November 2013/14</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Future development of and in identified areas will need to take into account projected sea level rise and the effects of projected climate change.

Issue	Progress to date / outcomes
<p><i>Climate Change continued...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential effects could involve Jubilee Park, the Recreation Ground, Beach Road, the Boat Compound, lower Pompallier Village, lower Rue Grehan and Rue Jolie North. • Most public assets affected are low lying roads providing access to the town and south of the town centre. Current sea walls are likely to be overtopped more frequently during storm events. 	
<p>Access to Government Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to Government services in person has been stopped in Akaroa due to a homicide in the MSD Ashburton offices earlier in 2014. This means people need to travel to Christchurch to have interviews and progress applications for support. 	<p><u>November 2014</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Akaroa Resource Collective Trust is lobbying and in conversation with MSD to re-instate the staff visits.