

# Community profile - November 2014

## Birdlings Flat

### Including Kaitorete Spit

(Census area unit: part of Little River)

Banks Peninsula



Profile Area

Birdlings Flat is an iconic New Zealand coastal bach settlement with a mixture of holiday and permanent homes. It is a discrete community 45 minutes drive from Christchurch and 12 kilometres from Little River, characterised by a windswept, unforgiving environment. As subdivisions have appeared, the character of the area has changed to include larger, more suburban-style homes. The area bordering Lake Forsyth/Te Wairewa, Poronui, and the subdivisions back towards the main highway generally house a more permanent population.

The total population in the 2006 Census data was 168. However, several new houses have been built in the last five years with a corresponding increase in permanent residents, and few sections in the new sub-divisions remain unsold. Of the population, 25 per cent are under 20 years old. The median age is 41. At the 2006 census the demographic statistics were: 15 under five years; 21 aged 5–14 years; six aged 15–19 years; six aged 20–29 years; 57 aged 30–44 years; 15 aged 45–54 years; 30 aged 55–64 years; and 18 aged over 65 years. The New Zealand Deprivation Index 2006 for the Birdlings Flat settlement is 10 (being the most deprived). Birdlings Flat is a commuting community, with many travelling to Christchurch or districts in Selwyn for work.

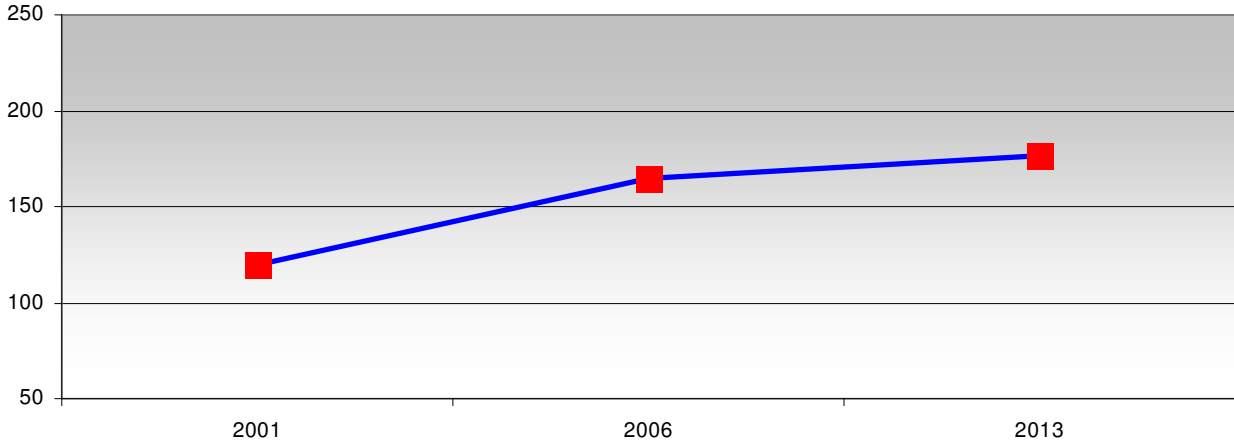
There are no recreational facilities except for a small children's playground beside public toilets. There are no community buildings, sports fields or tennis courts, health services, public transport, shops or dairy, and community consultation and meetings take place in a resident's garage or marquee. A Christchurch City Council grant from the Capital Endowment Fund in April 2013 will enable the Birdlings Flat community to have their own community facility in the centre of the settlement on reserve land, seaward of the playground/toilets.

There is one primary school for years one to eight in Little River, which is decile five, namely mid-range between high and low socio-economic homes. Secondary schooling is at Lincoln High School or at various Christchurch schools. Many children travel by school bus daily. Occasionally children will bike the 12 kilometres along the Rail Trail to school in Little River.

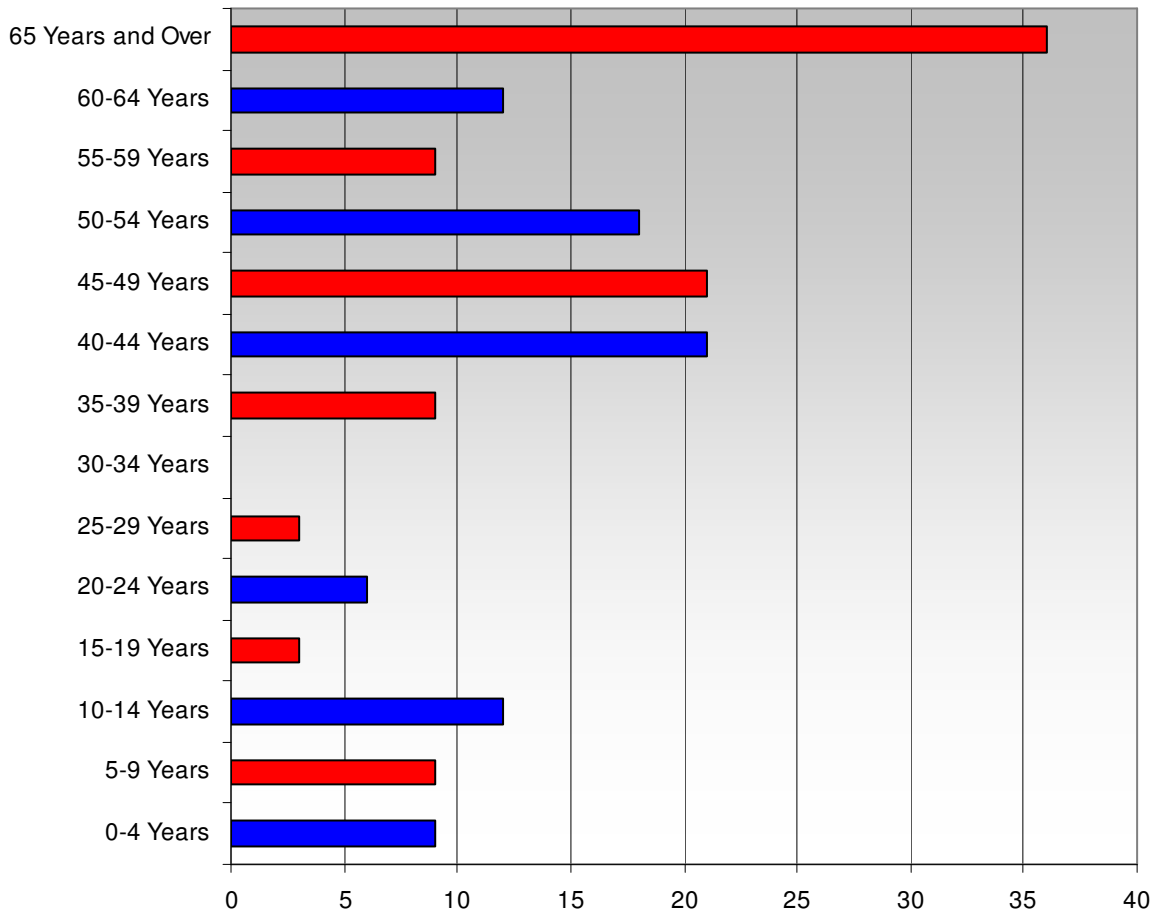
# Key demographics

**Please note:** These graphs differ slightly from other profile areas as the low number of people does not allow for some statistics to be published.

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

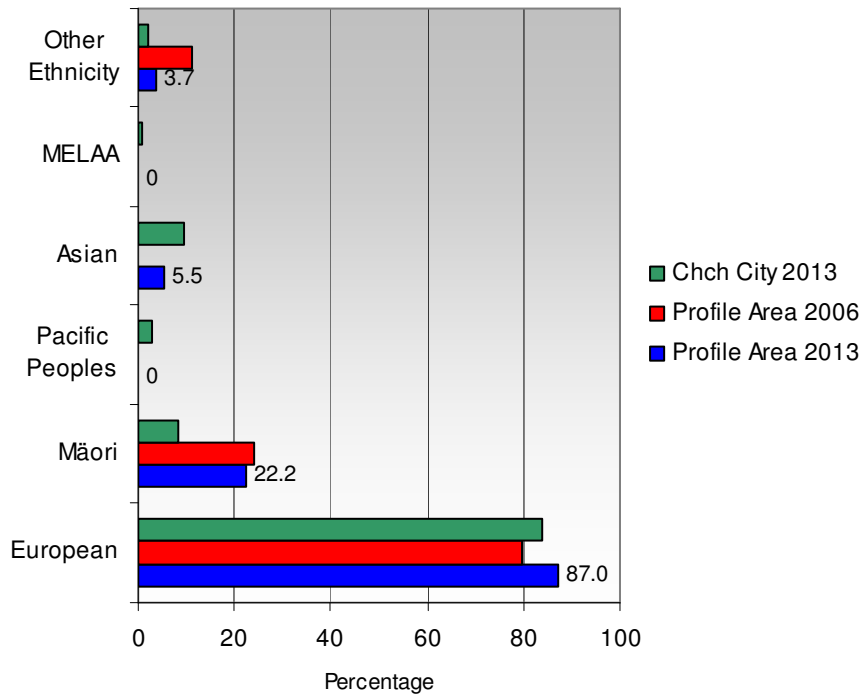


**Age for usually resident population (number of people)**  
(Data from 2013 Census, Statistics NZ)  
**Profile Area**



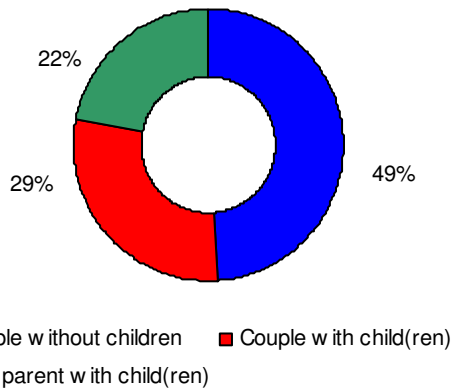
### Ethnicity for usually resident population (%)

(Data from 2013 Census, Statistics NZ)



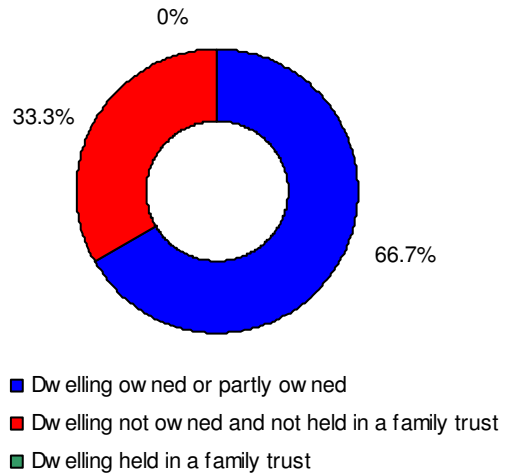
### Family type (%)

(Data from 2013 Census, Statistics NZ)



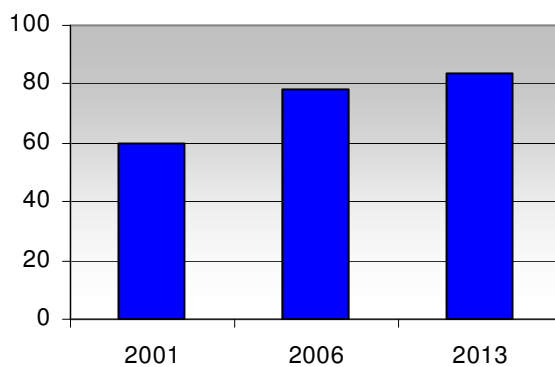
### Home ownership (%)

(Data from 2013 Census, Statistics NZ)

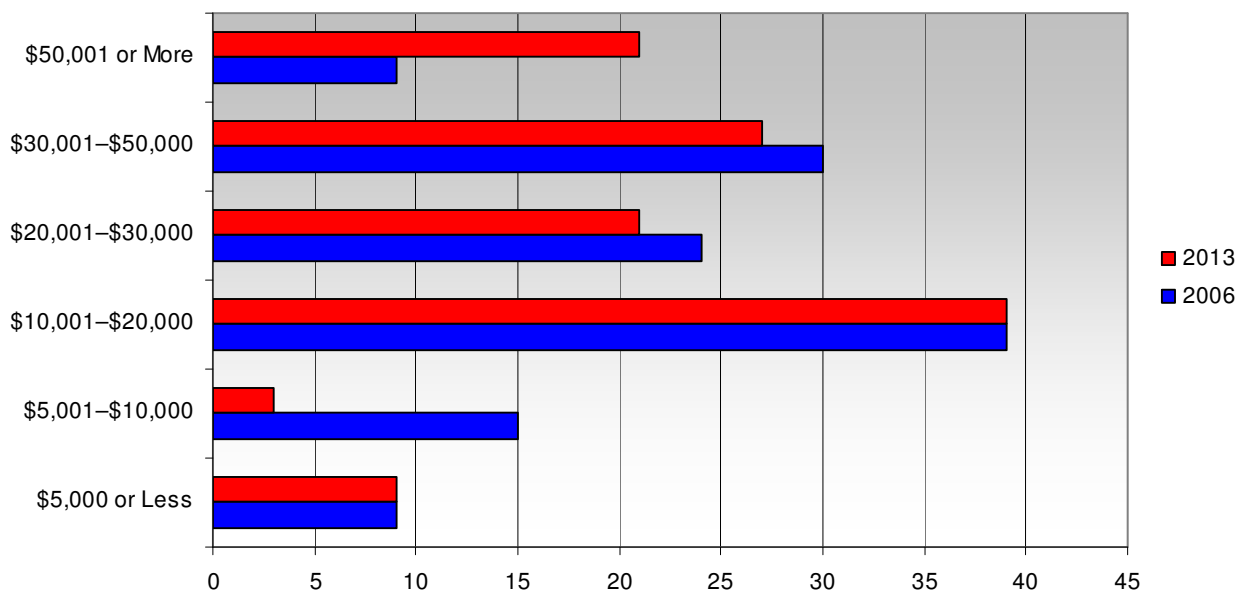


### Occupied Dwellings

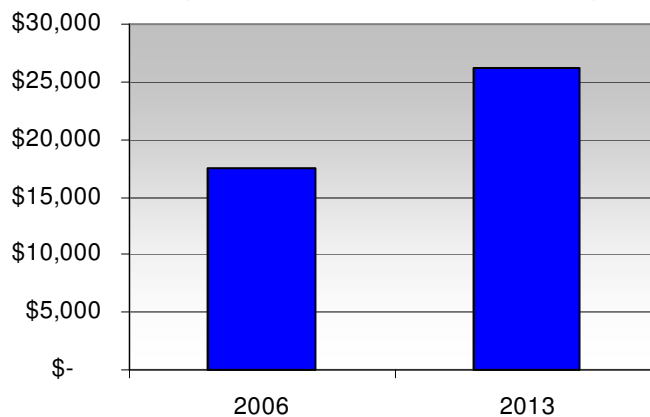
(Data from Statistics NZ)



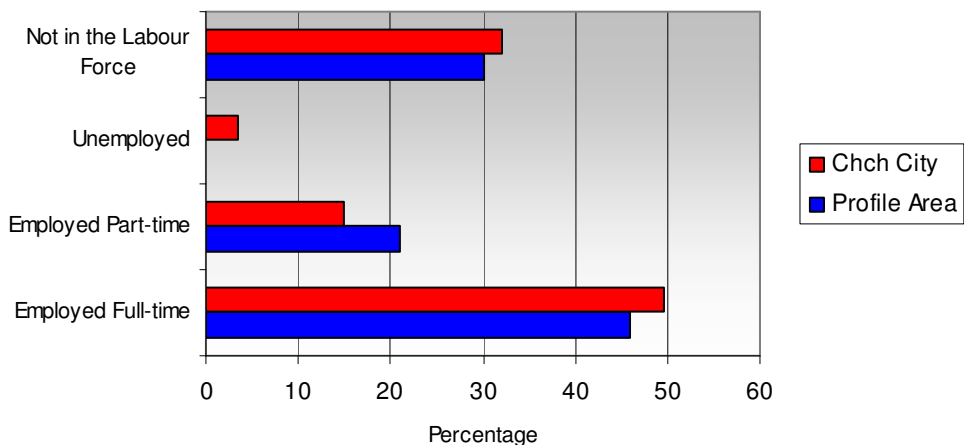
**Personal income for Profile Area** (number of people)  
(Data from 2013 Census, Statistics NZ)



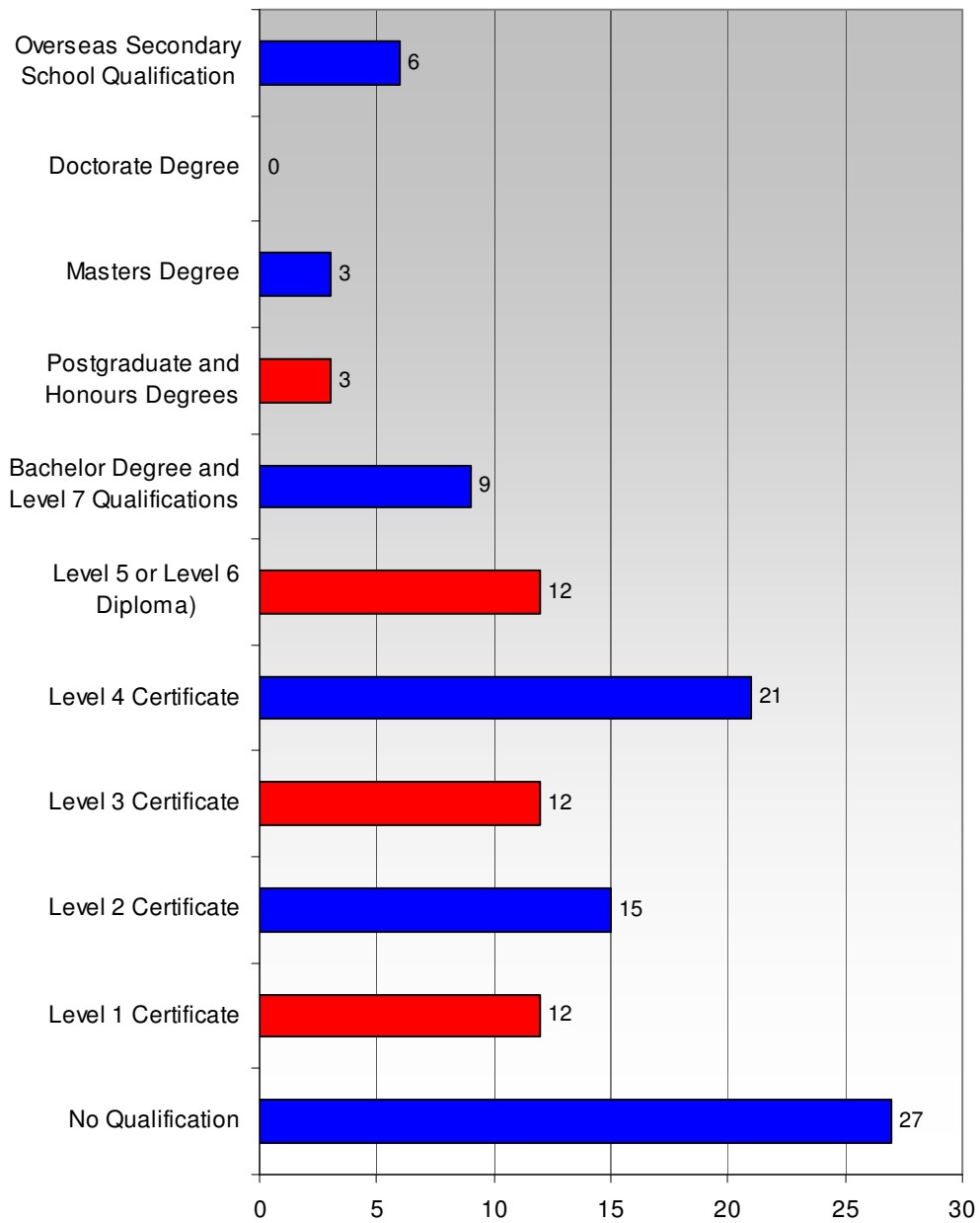
**Median Personal Income for Profile Area**  
(Data from 2013 Census, Statistics NZ)



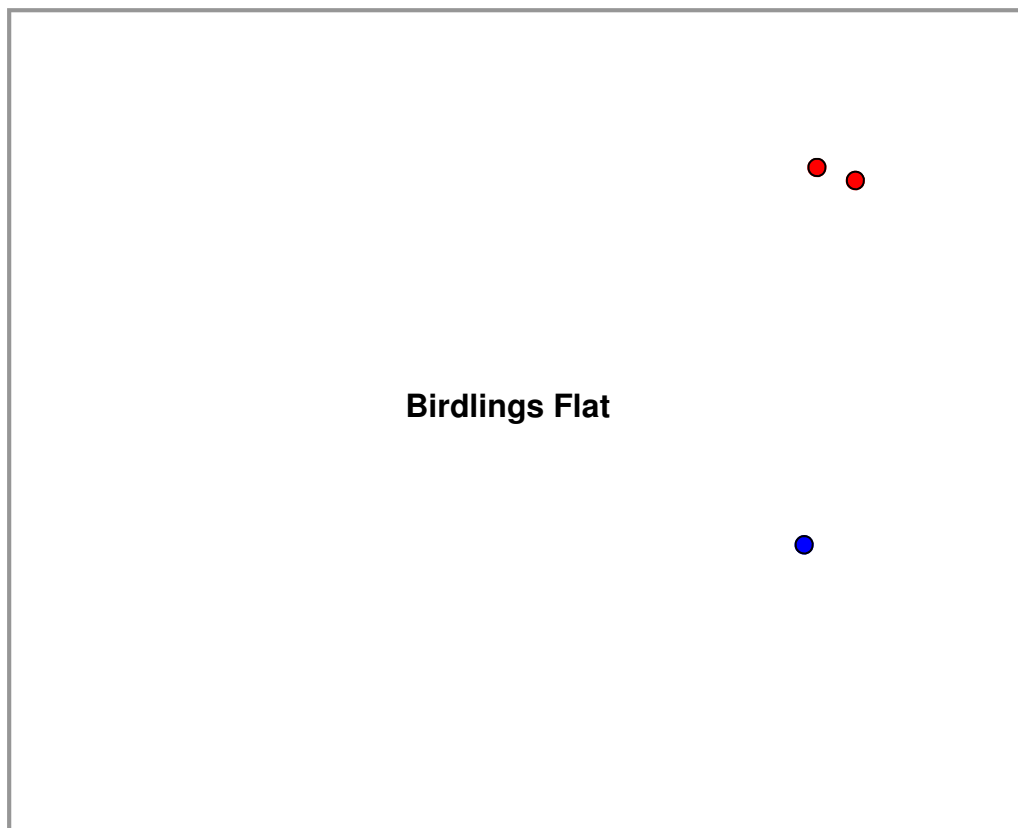
**Work and Labour Force status (%)**  
(Data from 2013 Census, Statistics NZ)



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



# Community infrastructure mapping



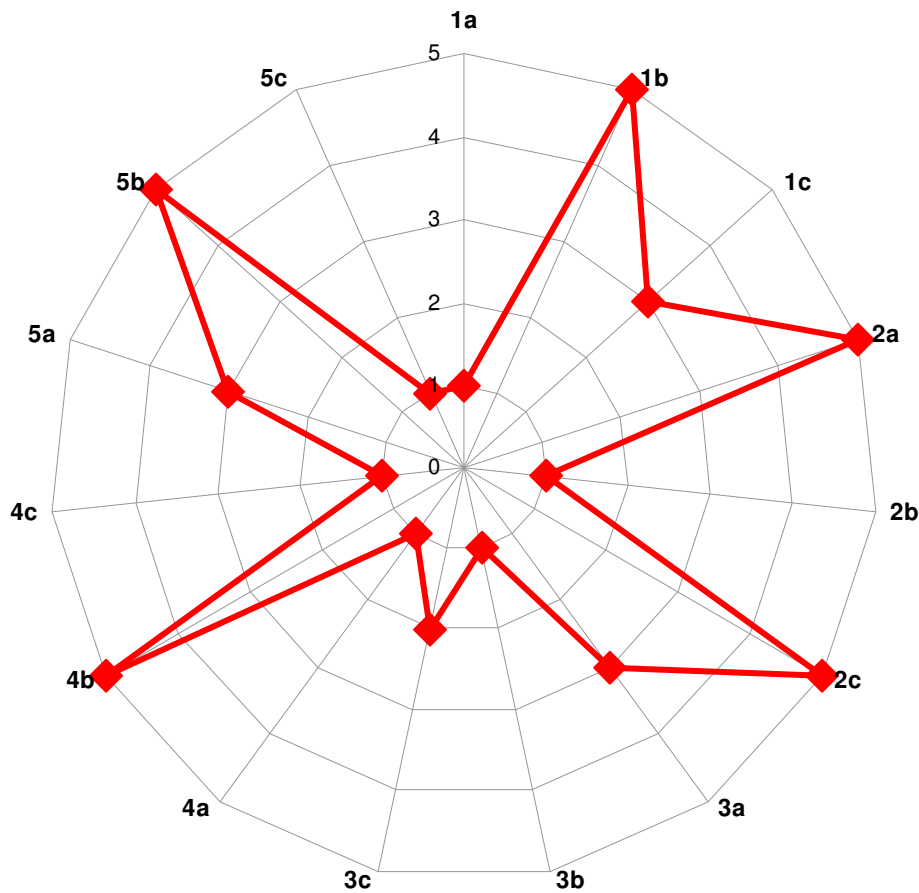
- Community development/support organisations
- Sport/recreation/leisure groups
- Faith-based organisations
- Residents'/business associations
- ▲ Schools
- ▲ Community facilities (Council-owned)
- ▲ Libraries (Council-owned)

*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.*

Birdlings Flat is a small, resilient community without any formal groups or organisations. Residents participate in local interest groups and gatherings, with many also active in larger community organisations, sports or craft groups in Little River.

A new project management group has been set up to help progress the new community facility.

# Community resilience mapping



Scale: 1 = Low 5 = High

## 15 Measures of resilience

### Community Support Organisations (rating)

- 1a # of organisations (1)
- 1b strength of organisations (5)
- 1c community development principles (3)

### Volunteering (rating)

- 2a investment in volunteers (5)
- 2b # of volunteer hours from Fundforce (1)
- 2c # of volunteer hours from Census (5)

### Connectedness (rating)

- 3a # of Neighbourhood Support groups (3)
- 3b # of residents' associations (1)
- 3c access to networking groups/forums (2)

### Participation (rating)

- 4a community events (1)
- 4b Fundforce participation rates (5)
- 4c club membership #s (1)

### Preparedness (rating)

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

**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 are no local social service agencies or organisations that run programmes for groups or individuals. The community has become more resilient and more cohesive following the earthquakes, with small informal groups such as coffee mornings and playgroups meeting regularly.

During the latter half of 2013 an increase in fragility and decreased coping has been noted across the Akaroa/Wairewa area. This is in line with literature and research that shows that people's resilience erodes in the third and fourth year following an extreme, adverse event.

## **Built environment**

There are no community facilities, meeting rooms or designated recreation areas in Birdlings Flat but a new community facility is currently going through the consenting process with a view to be completed by mid year 2015.

## **Economic environment**

There is a small, local business community 12 kilometres away in Little River. There are no retail or convenience stores in Birdlings Flat.

Some people are uncertain about whether their jobs are permanent and about possible changes in the workplace after the earthquakes.

There are several resilient individuals who are running businesses from home due to recent improvements in broadband and cell phone coverage.

## **Natural environment**

Birdlings Flat was minimally affected by the earthquakes. Roads stayed open, however there were some minor rock falls on valley ridges and some water ponding on rural paddocks close to the highway and access road to the settlement.



# Key issues identified

Issue	Progress to date / outcomes
<p><b>Communication</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is patchy telecommunication, broadband, television (without satellite) and radio coverage for the whole area. There is now some cell phone coverage at Birdlings Flat.</li> </ul>	<p><u>November 2012/13</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2011-12 Strengthening Communities funding from the Christchurch City Council was provided to establish a small local radio station, which will have the capacity to reach the Little River and Birdlings Flat area and the capability of disseminating emergency information in times of disaster/adverse events.</li> </ul> <p><u>November 2014</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is improved broadband and cell phone coverage for the settlement however these are still 'patchy' and slow at times.</li> <li>The radio sites are still being trialled to gain maximum coverage.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Civil Defence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The local volunteer fire brigade has now been formally assigned the role of Civil Defence co-ordination. However as the brigade is voluntary, if volunteers are called to a medical emergency, accident and/or a fire, they may not be able to co-ordinate Civil Defence during a disaster/adverse event. As the base is in Little River, there is a risk of the highway being blocked by slips or rock falls.</li> <li>Birdlings Flat is close to the wild, open Pacific Ocean and is therefore at risk of the effects of a tsunami. During the tsunami warning in 2010, Birdlings Flat residents felt isolated and unsure of whether they needed to move away from the beach or head to Little River or Christchurch.</li> </ul>	<p><u>November 2012</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is hoped that in its Civil Defence role the fire brigade will be able to initiate some development plans for Birdlings Flat.</li> <li>The Little River/Wairewa community intends to include Birdlings Flat residents who wish to be part of the Neighbourhood Support asset database.</li> </ul> <p><u>November 2013</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The database is developing slowly however there is strong networking amongst local residents.</li> </ul> <p><u>November 2014</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The issue of where to move to in the event of a tsunami warning is still current and requires Civil Defence follow up.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Rock falls, slips and flooding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There remains a risk of some minor rock falls associated with slips. At times of heavy rain, slips pose a risk to State Highway 75, particularly between Birdlings Flat and Little River. This would close access to the highway/roads for emergency services, residents and also other service deliveries.</li> </ul>	<p><u>November 2012/13</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No action at this time.</li> </ul> <p><u>November 2014</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These hazards are taken into account by emergency services planners</li> </ul>

Issue	Progress to date / outcomes
<p><b>Lack of social services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are currently no health or social services provided locally. There are no facilities or buildings for community use; no opportunity for recreation or social interaction; and no facility for consultation meetings. Residents feel particularly disadvantaged and isolated without any community facility or area designated for community activities. There are 36 children aged under 15 (census 2006) living in this settlement.</li> <li>• The population is increasing with families relocating from Christchurch due to the affordable price of land/housing.</li> </ul>	<p><u>November 2012/13</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Akaroa Heartland Centre opened an outreach Heartland Centre in the Little River Service Centre in October 2012, which could expand to Birdlings Flat if there was a suitable facility from which the service could be delivered.</li> <li>• Avenues to obtain a community building for Birdlings Flat are being explored as they arise.</li> <li>• The Christchurch City Council's Capital Endowment Fund granted \$180,000 in 2013 for a community facility for Birdlings Flat. A small, active group is working with Council staff to progress the project to building. The Council will own the building but the community will be responsible for managing and developing its use under a lease/management agreement.</li> </ul> <p><u>November 2014</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress is slow but steady as the consenting process is worked through. Extra resources are being sought to be able to complete the building.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Violence/abuse</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a risk of increasing domestic violence and other abuse; historically, statistics show an increase following a disaster once people's coping mechanisms decline and with the increased pressures traditionally associated with Christmas, holidays, and/or financial commitments.</li> </ul>	<p><u>November 2012</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low-key awareness campaigns for 'It's not OK'; implementation of some social services to address issues for groups and individuals.</li> <li>• A Safer Christchurch project has been implemented to address issues which, if they escalate, risk an increase in antisocial behaviour and family violence across the age spectrum.</li> </ul> <p><u>November 2013</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Safer Christchurch programme met with limited success as individuals were reluctant to acknowledge their needs.</li> <li>• Police have noted a small increase in reported family violence incidents.</li> </ul> <p><u>November 2014</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social service agencies remain aware of the heightened risks of domestic and other violence for people facing prolonged disaster recovery difficulties.</li> </ul>

Issue	Progress to date / outcomes
<p><b>Climate change</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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 Banks Peninsula but has not included Wairewa or Birdlings Flat in the study.</li> <li>• 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, possibly more frequent coastal storms, and possible re-orientation of shorelines in response to changes in wave action.</li> <li>• An expected increase in adverse weather events, anticipated changes to the lake, and the reduction in the shingle bank protecting the settlement mean that Birdlings Flat is likely to be affected by changes in climate and is at risk of tsunamis.</li> </ul>	<p><u>November 2013/14</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Future development in identified areas will need to take into account projected sea level rise and the effects of climate change.</li> </ul>