

## **CHRISTCHURCH EARTHQUAKE APPEAL**

As you are no doubt aware, at 12.51 pm on Tuesday 22 February 2011, Christchurch was rocked by a devastating 6.3 magnitude earthquake. There were many casualties and still more remain missing. Hundreds of people sought medical assistance for injuries and thousands of Christchurch residents have had their homes damaged or destroyed and their livelihoods put at risk.

With limited power available within Christchurch, radio has become an important means of communication for local people. National networks have provided a vital service in the days in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake.

Unfortunately Tahu FM, the local iwi station for Christchurch and indeed for all of the South Island, was knocked out of commission. We are pleased to report however that all the staff of Tahu FM escaped unharmed.

While the Tahu FM team obviously still needed to deal with the impact on their own homes and families, they also found time to work with their colleagues in the iwi network as well as national and local service providers to get their station back on air as from 8.00 am on Sunday 27 February 2011. Te Upoko o Te Ika is now broadcasting on Tahu FM's transmitter to the Christchurch area. This is providing another channel for information pertinent to people in Christchurch. Extensive live interviews took place on Sunday with Mark Solomon and Hon Paula Bennett.

The opportunity to involve other Iwi/Māori stations around the country is currently being explored. Regular slots throughout the day have been established where Te Upoko/Tahu FM provide the latest updates from Christchurch and other iwi stations can link in at those times.

Work is now underway to establish temporary premises for the station with the hope that a locally based broadcast will be back on the air within the next few days.

The Prime Minister John Key has launched a global fundraiser for the recovery effort in the city and the Canterbury region.

If you would like to help the people of Christchurch, the link to the world wide appeal is [Christchurch Earthquake Appeal](#)