

PREFACE

There is a famous quote by football coach Vince Lombardi which states that it doesn't matter how many times you get knocked down, but rather how many times you get back up. There is no doubt that Cantabrians get back up. They have kept getting back up, not once or twice, but thousands of times in this past year. That makes Christchurch and Canterbury an outstandingly inspirational city and region.

The room to dream about a brighter future with new opportunities only comes to those who do get back up on their feet and keep moving forward. So with that inherent gutsy strength, along with numerous acts of kindness and courage shown on a daily basis since 4 September 2010, Canterbury has seized the right to dream, gained the ground required to help mend broken lives, and grasped the chance to become part of a brighter and more positive future.

The Crusaders are our rugby team. Crusaders are generally defined as brave people of strong character who lead the way in seeking reform and positive change. After recent events it is clear that Canterbury is a region full of crusaders, through their strength and fortitude, the way they bravely tackled and overcame what looked to be insurmountable odds, and for their amazing ability to steadfastly continue to look towards the future. Now the way is before us not only to retain our ground, but to improve it.

Conquest of Paradise is the anthem of the Crusaders. Our hearts beat to this song. It never fails to send tingles down the spine of every Cantabrian, no matter where they are. But the anthem belongs to all of us that live here, whether in the city, North Canterbury, South Canterbury or anywhere in between. Our conquest in those first dark days was with wheelbarrows, bare hands, diggers, shovels, courage, kind words, comfort, compassion, hugs, and care for one another. Our conquest for the future is different. Although it includes the attributes that gained our initial ground, it also opens the way to moving ahead with positive dreams.

Christchurch and Canterbury have the opportunity to create a new city from the old and set world standards that will see the region prosper for all the right reasons. We have the chance to work with nature, implement green, sustainable and earthquake-proof technology in our buildings and outlying towns, and place them among stunning parks and gardens. We can set high standards for the restoration of beloved historical buildings. We can become world leaders in these subjects. The new international business that our region

can attract, the local support industries that will spring up, and the export markets that will potentially open as a result, all offer huge potential. The opportunities are almost so great that we are in danger of missing them if we don't stand back and take a good look.

There have been some hard lessons learned from nature, but we now know where to build and where not to. We also know it is wiser to listen to nature and work with it, and to keep our water pure and our land clean. This gives us an exciting opportunity to think outside the usual fixed parameters of instant profit and look at the long-term benefits of being true custodians of the land, which will produce genuine wealth and profit for longer, and on so many more levels. I believe that most Cantabrians know that. They also have an amazing number of great ideas, and naturally want to do what is right for the area.

Christchurch Dreaming is for everyone in New Zealand and the world who stood shoulder to shoulder with Canterbury. It is especially for Christchurch and Canterbury. It celebrates who we are, it speaks of gratitude for what we still have, and shows appreciation for what we can restore. It also respects our heritage and contains big dreams from Cantabrians for their future. It is about making our region the best it can be for the natural environment, for future generations, for the world, and for each other.

After all, it is not only about getting up, it is also about moving forward, and Canterbury does that well too, for we all know in our hearts that our best tomorrows always begin with a positive dream today. A new day is dawning for Christchurch and Canterbury. And it's going to be a cracker.

Previous:

The Christchurch Arts Centre
Formerly Canterbury College (as Canterbury University was then known).