

Local news

Brooklands enters red zone

BROOKLANDS IS the latest area to turn red.

Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Minister Gerry Brownlee announced that 417 properties in Brooklands have been zoned red while 341 other Christchurch properties have been re-classified as green.

Mr Brownlee said geotechnical work had been undertaken to identify cost and time-effective solutions for repairing Brooklands, but the reality was that all houses would have had to be removed for the land to be fixed, regardless of their damage.

“Brooklands residents would then have to spend a significant amount of time off their land as it was remediated to provide suitable building platforms and the essential infrastructure was completely replaced. This would effectively be the same as creating a new subdivision from scratch.”

Mr Brownlee was confident the right call had been made.

Houses on the green zoned land are in Department of Building and Housing's Technical Category 3. Homes that do not require substantial repairs are unaffected by the technical categories. Those that do require rebuilding or substantial repair will need improved foundations.

Tenacity earns business award

Fruit and vegetable store manager Kevin Wang is the second winner of the Master Builders Business Hero Award. **Grant Woolliams** reports

EDGEWARE FRUIT and Vegetable store manager Kevin Wang is quietly spoken and self-effacing.

But his public persona disguises backbone and award-winning customer loyalty.

Chinese-born, he came to New Zealand and Christchurch in 2001, met his wife at a city English language school and they set about establishing themselves in a new city and land.

Mr Wang was managing the Edgeware Fruit & Vege store when the building was ruined by the February 22 earthquake.

The owner of the business, in Hong Kong for family reasons, suggested he sell what was left of the produce and shut the business down. Mr Wang's extended family suggested he, wife Ray, and two-year-old son move back to China — or at least away from Christchurch.

But Christchurch was home. Rather than running away the Wang's stayed and Mr Wang kept the business going under a makeshift shelter through a bitter



TOP GUY: Kevin Wang is presented with his Business Hero Award by The Star general manager Steve McCaughan. PHOTO: GEOFF SLOAN

winter.

Same daily routine: arrive in the morning in his truck with market produce, put up the temporary shop then take it all down at the end of the day and go home.

The Wang's didn't just decide to stay in Christchurch. In April

they bought a house, telling family that Christchurch is no different to other places — “bad things like earthquakes happen somewhere in world every day.”

Mr Wang's tenacity was noticed by local customers. Christine Cockle was so impressed she last month

nominated him for a Master Builders Business Hero Award.

In her nomination Mrs Cockle say Mr Wang's daily routine and customer service “has helped make our lives that much easier especially for the elderly and young families who would otherwise need transport to buy their fresh fruit and vege.”

Christchurch International Airport chief executive Jim Bolt thought her nomination — and Mr Wang's customer service — was outstanding and judged him the October Master Builders Business Hero.

Registered Master Builders Federation chief executive Warwick Quinn says Mrs Cockle's nomination shows how important people like Kevin Wang are in our daily lives: “Christine's nomination referred to one of the most important reasons for the Awards which is that business people like Kevin help keep us going and deserve our applause.”

■ To read Christine Cockle's story and nominate a Cantabrian you think is a business hero go to www.businesshero.co.nz.

The Master Builders Business Hero Awards are supported by Christchurch International Airport, *The Star*, Newstalk ZB and The Hamner Springs Thermal Pools and Spa.

The awards support Habitat for Humanity.

■ Getting back to business, p23

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Authorised by John Parsons, 160 Willis Street, Wellington

