



## Resilient Organisations – Retreat

### Flock Hill, Canterbury

**12pm 17<sup>th</sup> – 5pm 18<sup>th</sup> February 2009** (The Research Team are meeting at Flock Hill from the 16<sup>th</sup>)

You are invited to join the Resilient Organisations research team for a day and a half of Resilience thinking and debate! This retreat will be an opportunity to get away from day-to-day pressures to think about what Resilience means for your organisation and community. We have a range of people coming from a variety of industries in both New Zealand and Australia, so we hope to trigger thought provoking discussion about what resilience is and how best to achieve it. Our agenda will look something like this:

#### 17<sup>th</sup> February

- 12pmish – bus leaves Christchurch Airport to head to Flock Hill
- 1:30pm – 2:30pm – late lunch at Flock Hill
- 2:30 – 5pm – How Resilient is your Organisation really?
  - In this session you will get the chance have a sneak preview at our new Benchmarking Survey – and fill it out for your own organisation.
  - We will then be looking at common areas of strengths and weaknesses and breaking into groups to develop take-home strategies for overcoming them.

*5pm- 7pm: take a walk, go for a bike ride, or just enjoy the tranquil atmosphere of Flock Hill.*

- 7pm - Dinner and drinks, with a couple dinner speakers
  - Peter Whelan will talk about the Alinta experience during the Melbourne wind storms when 400,000 people lost electricity for several days and how the organisation performed in face of a major operational effort, a staff fatality and ongoing Public Enquiries.
  - Erica Seville will talk about the China reconstruction effort following the Wenchuan earthquake earlier this year, when more than 70,000 lost their lives and the pros and cons of the leadership role provided by the Central Government.

#### 18<sup>th</sup> February

- 9am – 11am – What if you had the power to direct a community recovery effort?
  - In this session we will be following on from an exercise done with the research team a few days before hand, simulating that an Alpine Fault earthquake occurs while the team are staying at Flock Hill. In this session we will be putting you in the shoes of a Recovery Commission formed one week after the earthquake, to make recommendations to the Prime Minister.

- Details of how and why you suddenly have the power to make decisions on behalf of the NZ community will become clear during the scenario – but the key question we want to explore is: if you had the power to control the recovery process - what would your top priorities be? This session draws on the theme of leadership in times of crisis – and how that leadership is provided to organisations and communities in times of crisis through communicating strategic priorities.
- 11am – 11:30pm - Morning Tea
- 11:30am – 1:00pm - Burning Resilience Questions
  - In this session you will get the opportunity to decide which group to join to answer some burning resilience questions. We will pose some of the questions, but you will also get the opportunity to suggest some during the retreat. Examples include:
    - As a new CEO or Director, if there were five key pieces of information or evidence you would like to gather during your first 100 days gauge the resilience of an organisation – what would they be?
    - In times of crisis comes opportunity: how to change the mindset of resilience as a defensive strategy to an offensive one?
    - Planning for likely scenarios or planning for anything – do we need to change our approach?
  - Rather than doing a detailed report back from each of the groups, we will have one of our research team studiously taking notes which we will send to you all at the end of the retreat.
- 1 – 2:00pm - Lunch and packing bags for those returning on the bus.
- 2 – 2:45pm – State of the Research Programme
  - Where we have been, where we are going and how to get the most out of the research.
- 2:45pm - Bus back to Christchurch Airport in time to catch 5pm flights

### Travel

It would be appreciated if you could arrange your own flights. There will be a minibus leaving Christchurch Airport to travel to Flock Hill at 12pm on Tuesday the 17<sup>th</sup> of February. We will also have a minibus to return you to Christchurch Airport in time to catch a 5pm (domestic) flight. If you want to travel in your own car, Flock Hill is located just before Lake Pearson (near Craigeburn ski field) on SH73; an hour and half from Christchurch. For those wanting to make a holiday of it, you can also catch the Transalpine train to Cass Station, which is just 10 minutes from Flock Hill. For more details, see the Flock Hill website: [www.flockhill.co.nz](http://www.flockhill.co.nz).

Please be aware that Flock Hill is near the mountains and there is **no cell phone reception** at the lodge. To get cell phone reception you need to travel 20 minutes away to either Arthurs Pass or Springfield. There are phones in the motel units and also pay-as-you-go internet in the backpackers if you need to get in touch with someone.

### What to Bring

We are keen to keep the atmosphere at the retreat relaxed, so casual dress is perfect. It is the middle of summer, so with any luck the weather should be good. We are in the mountains though (and the weather can be fickle) so please bring some warm clothes as well. If you want to stay on at Flock Hill before or after the retreat we recommend booking accommodation early, as they do fill

up. You can request accommodation from the Flock Hill website; please just let us know if you are doing this and we will try to coordinate rooms etc so you get the same one for your full stay. Also there are lots of activities available –mountain biking, horse riding, fishing, walking through Cave Stream etc. Again, more details are available on the website.

**RSVP**

We have limited accommodation at Flock Hill, so if you have not done so already, please confirm your attendance to Erica Seville on [erica.seville@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:erica.seville@canterbury.ac.nz). Please also let us know if your partner is joining you so that we can invite them to the dinner on the evening of the 17th.