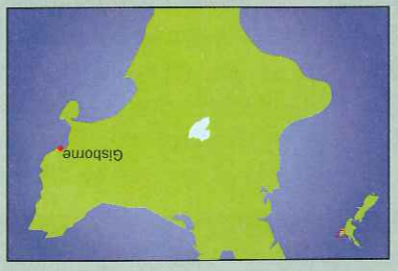


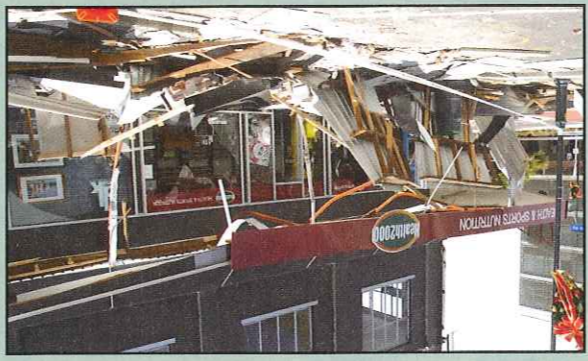
### Comparative Case Study – Regional Focus

## Gisborne Earthquake December 2007



### Sequence of events Thursday 20th December

- 8.55 pm – An earthquake measuring 6.8 on the Richter Scale rocks the city of Gisborne and its outlying districts. Its epicentre is located 50km offshore southeast of Gisborne at a depth of 40km.
- A state of civil emergency is declared immediately after the earthquake.
- The earthquake leaves buildings partially collapsed, roofs caved in, burst water tanks and winery vats and gaping holes in roadways.
- Eleven people are treated at Gisborne Hospital's emergency department for minor injuries.
- Gisborne suffers widespread power blackouts.
- Due to damage to several homes, 14 people require emergency accommodation and stay at the local council's motor park.
- 400 retailers are affected when Gisborne's central business district (CBD) is cordoned off to the public to enable council inspectors to assess building damage.



CBD of Gisborne after the earthquake.

### Friday 21st December

- 6.47 am – Aftershocks measuring up to 4.5 on the Richter Scale are experienced.
- Power is restored to 90% of Gisborne.
- The Earthquake Commission (EQC) receives 570 claims. Total claims are expected to reach up to \$30 million.

### Saturday 22nd December

- 11.35 am – Gisborne is again joined by an aftershock – this time measuring 4.8 on the Richter Scale.
- 30% of businesses in Gisborne's CBD remain closed.
- 5.15 pm – The mayor of Gisborne District Council lifts the civil state of emergency.



Damage to roading due to the earthquake.

### Monday 24th December

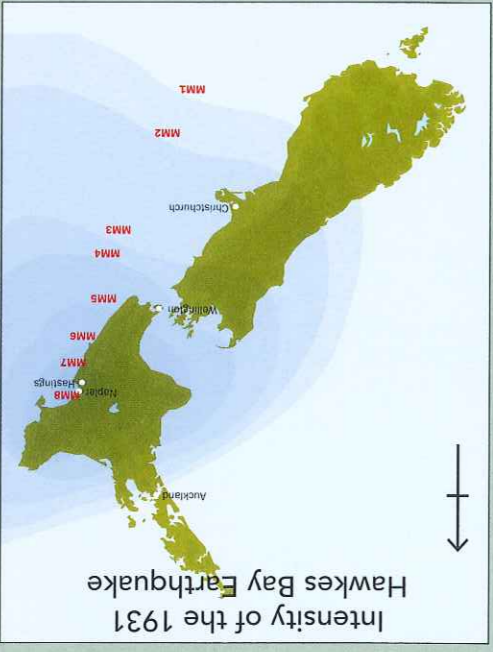
- Total EQC claims now exceed 1,000. Of these 987 are from Gisborne, 27 from Wairoa and 103 from other areas.

### Thursday 27th March

- After three months, the deadline for claims expires. Total claims are now expected to reach up to \$50 million making it the most expensive earthquake since the Edgecumbe earthquake of 1987.
- Nine buildings in the CBD area remain closed.

### Comparative Case Study – Regional Focus

## Hawkes Bay Earthquake February 1931



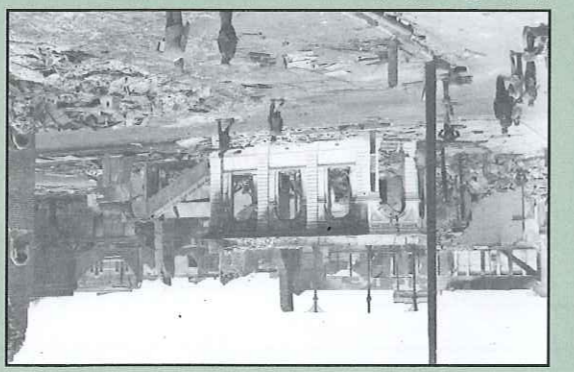
At 10.48 am, on Tuesday 3 February 1931 Hawkes Bay was struck by an earthquake measuring 7.9 on the Richter Scale. This was followed by a second shock of the same magnitude a few seconds later. The earthquake had widespread economic and social effects on the Napier and Hawkes Bay communities.

### Negative effects on the cultural environment

- **Injury and death** – The earthquake caused the largest loss of life as a result of an extreme natural event ever recorded in New Zealand. 256 people were killed. Most deaths occurred from suffocation or being crushed or buried in destroyed buildings. Others were killed in uncontrollable fires.

The earthquake and its effects injured many more people. The casualties suffered burns, broken bones, severed limbs, cuts, bruising and abrasions. Relief workers from outside the area couldn't get to the earthquake zone because road links had been blocked by landslides.

- **Trauma and disruption** – At the time most people were at work, shopping, or at school. Families suffered trauma and disruption as they struggled to reunite. A temporary tent hospital was set up on a racecourse.

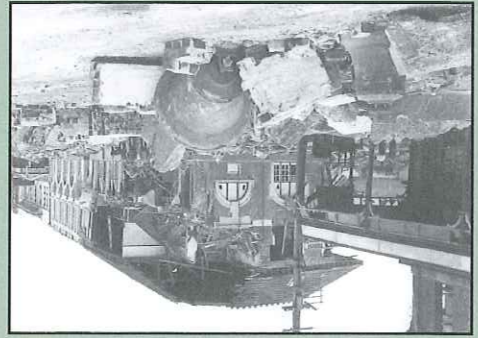


Hastings Street, Hastings.

- **Buildings and building services** – 11,000 people had their homes destroyed or damaged and had to be evacuated, most to Palmerston North. The uncertainty of the temporary shift caused these people further trauma. The hospital and schools were closed. The nurses' home, library, technical college, cathedral and an old people's home were destroyed.

- **Gas/electricity/water** – Burst gas lines started fires which caused further destruction to wooden buildings. People who were able to stay in their homes had to cope without power, telephone, water and toilets.

- **Transportation** – Roads, bridges, railway lines were broken or blocked by landslides. North of Napier, long stretches of coastline had slipped into the sea. People were cut off from family and essential services.
- **Communications** – Land rising in waves toppled lamp posts and power lines and destroyed power transformers and telephone lines, leaving people without communication.



Hastings Post Office.