

593 COLOMBO STREET
Hearing: Monday 12 December 2011; 10am

Summary

593 Colombo St was a two storied un-reinforced masonry (URM) building, constructed in the early 1900's.

It was situated on the corner of St Asaph and Colombo Streets, with tenancies on both street frontages.

Following the September earthquake the building sustained some damage, particularly on the St Asaph frontage (187 St Asaph) which was yellow placarded while the Colombo frontage (593A and 593B Colombo) was green placarded.

Subsequently the building was inspected by the owner's engineer and repairs recommended to allow for resumption of occupancy and to bring the building up to 67% of new building standard (NBS)

Unfortunately this work was not carried out before the February earthquake.

Matthew McEachen was employed as a tattooist at Southern Ink, 593B Colombo Street. They had remained in occupancy throughout. Mr McEachen was last seen by a work colleague, Matthew Parkin, sitting at his desk. It appears that Mr McEachen must have run out the front door as his body was found in rubble from the collapse of the front of the building.

Proposed Witnesses

1. Peter Smith, Spencer Holmes Ltd, structural engineer
2. Christchurch City Council
3. Mark Ryburn, Opus Consultants Ltd, structural engineer
4. Christopher Chapman, Harcourts Commercial, property manager
5. Richard Seville, Holmes Consulting Group Ltd, structural engineer
6. Alistair Boys, Holmes Consulting Group Ltd, structural engineer.
7. Simon Wall, structural engineer (written statement only)
8. Matthew Parkin, Southern Ink (written statement only)
9. Kerry Parkin, Southern Ink (written statement only)

Likely Issues

1. Application of the Council's earthquake-prone policy to the building.
2. The assessment process of the building after the September earthquake, including the separate placarding of tenancies of the same building.
3. Should the owner/engineer have communicated findings in relation to the structure of the building to others eg. tenants, Council?
4. Were the cordons in front of the building sufficient?