



A quick recovery after the Quake

As many of you are aware, much of Christchurch CBD and surrounding areas were significantly affected by the recent events on February 22nd. We were fortunate that our Christchurch staff were able to exit their building uninjured.

Cardlink's office sustained substantial damage and as a result we have since secured new premises on the corner of Fitzgerald Ave and Lichfield Street. We are looking at occupying the new space in early May.



Following the event, due to Cardlink's Emergency Recovery Plan, our Wellington and Auckland offices were able to spring into action and seamlessly continue to provide coverage of essential fleet management functions.

This support framework also enabled the Christchurch team to focus on their individual homes and families and after a short period of time were back up and running from their own homes for the interim period.

We are especially grateful to Solid Energy New Zealand who were kind enough to accommodate us as we sought new accommodation. This not only enabled us to continue to provide fleet management services to our wider based South Island customers but in particular to assist our Christchurch-based customers with issues such as vehicle location and recovery, emergency panel and glass repairs, key and fuel card replacements, to name just a few.

Cardlink are strongly committed to the South Island and are looking forward to continuing to provide first-rate Fleet Management to our existing clients and to grow our list of satisfied customers even further.



2011 Vehicles: Evolving technology

During the past few years there have been many new innovations in Motor Vehicles, it seems there is never a dull moment.

It would now be very uncommon to see modern vehicles without the likes of stability and traction control or multiple air bags – we now have vehicles with up to 9 airbags including knee protection and dual stage deployment for extra safety.

Given the move to ban mobile phone use when driving, factory fitted blue tooth is now standard in a far wider range of vehicles.



Paddle Gear Shifter

"Paddle" gear shifters behind the steering wheel are another innovation being used to help keep two hands on the wheel when driving.

If we look at the environment, particulate filters have come a long way to reducing emissions from diesel vehicles and we are seeing litres per 100 km's figures reducing all the time. Who would have thought it would be possible to reduce fuel usage from a large vehicle with six or eight cylinders by shutting down 3 or 4 cylinders under certain load and then returning the engine to full power when necessary without affecting driver comfort or vehicle performance.

What else is happening?

Here are just a few more things to consider for the future:

- Less stress and more direct journeys using factory fitted navigation systems
- Radar controlled cruise control which measures your vehicles distance from the vehicle in front
- Intelligent car parking – cars that parallel park themselves!
- And of course fully electric vehicles

Those that are looking at alternative vehicles for their fleet or just want to have an open discussion on fleets in general, call our team on 09 574 7700.

"You can't do today's job with yesterday's methods and be in business tomorrow"

- anonymous

Vehicle Stock Shortages

Following the March earthquake in Japan commentators have begun issuing warnings about potential vehicle shortages.

While in New Zealand we have almost always had long lead times (compared to other countries) with the delivery of new vehicles, we now find that several vehicle manufacturers that source directly from Japan are stating that lead times could become longer. This position is dependant on how the Japanese situation develops over the next few months.

The reliance on suppliers of components and general manufacturing infrastructure will dictate the go forward position.

Thinking ahead, FleetSmart always looks to plan with their clients vehicle replacement a year in advance and ensure that orders are placed at least three months in advance, we are now working with clients to manage the potentially extended lead times.

If you want to discuss vehicle options or simply review alternatives to replacement, call our Team on 09 574 7700.



For more information

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