

Alleged Earthquake Precursors reported for 4 September 2010 et seq. events near Christchurch

N.E.Whitehead, Belmont Hills Lower Hutt

November 2012.

As received, including spelling. Start of Collection 17-September-2010. This followed an appearance on "Close-Up", an article in *The Press*, and minor radio interviews. Many people filled in a survey on line, and some emailed independently. Distances are from Darfield, the epicentre. There are some other reminiscences, of Wellington 1943, Napier, 1931 etc. some historic. A few street numbers have been removed to protect safety and privacy.

Category: Time of event: Duration: Distance, Km: Location: Event description

Earth/Ground/Water Tuesday 31st August 2010 16:30 to 17:00 1 hour 40 At home

While digging a large hole 3/4 of a meter deep, for a tree, I smelled gas coming from the hole. I checked everywhere, it wasn't coming from anywhere else but the hole.

Earth/Ground/Water ; Big Bay, West Coast, South Island ; 3/9/10 at 4.30am ; 5 seconds ; 350

Was staying in a hut at Big Bay and everybody was woken by a very loud noise and a very sudden jolt and it was all over. It was so close to being 24 hrs before the Chch one.

Earth/Ground/Water ; 2nd september approx ; not sure ; 40; kaiapoi

noticed when I went to use the toilet the water in the bowl seemed to have air bubbles raising up just like lemonade in a glass

Earth/Ground/Water ; 03/01/2010; Ongoing ; 1 km ; Charing cross

Last 6mths there has been rumbling inside the house, never heard outside. More noticeable in the pantry.

Earth/Ground/Water ; 1st September 2010; 2-3 minutes ; 30; Springston

I was outside on lawn when a loud creaking noise was heard, it passed in a wave down the length of the house from east to west, back from west to east and then repeated. Very loud, actually expected to see windows pop or something. Did briefly think it may have been small earthquake but didn't feel anything and nobody else seemed to experience anything at that time.

Earth/Ground/Water ; 03/09/2010; Unknown ; 20; Tai Tapu

A friend was watching television and noticed a key hanging on the wall start to swing

Earth/Ground/Water ; 433; 2 mins ; 40; Doyleston, Leeston

rumble

Earth/Ground/Water the day of 3rd Sept.'10; 40; in the City

The height of the river Avon was exceptionally high we had never seen it that high before and we commented on the fact.

Earth/Ground/Water one week before the earthquake, 30th Aug one week, about five days; 40; Chch, Sockburn area

There was sound like a big bubble pop under the ground. because there is no one has a swimming pool here. the bubble sound happened once or twice a day before the earthquake. the ground base has lots of mud and it may be the air between or in the mud comes out. it sound quite loud that I can hear it inside the house.

Earth/Ground/Water ; 1 month before quake ; Ongoing ; 40; Christchurch

The watertable at memorial cemetery and ruru lawn had moved considerably. Places which wernt an issue have become flooded with water. First major change in over 14 years

Earth/Ground/Water ; 2nd september 2010; two days prior to quake ; 40; aranui

i was talking with a friend while playing indoor bowls last night 15th september 2010 and he lives out at kaiapoi he and his wife had noticed how extremely high the water was in the kaiapoi river low tide looked like a high tide and the high tide still looked the same hes said he had never in his life had he seen it like that before

Earth/Ground/Water ; Friday 3rd September 2010; 72 hours - say 12hours pre-quake ; 40; St Albans, Christchurch

My family and I live in St Albans, a suburb of Christchurch, and have a stormwater creek boundary which always flows. My wife and I are sure that the creek flowed cloudy grey by Friday (3rd Sep) afternoon – the grey silts being evident around Christchurch post quake.

Earth/Ground/Water ; 1 day before ; 1 day ; 40; Bishopdale

sink hole on the street, about 4m diameter

Earth/Ground/Water ; 4.35am

woke to a huge rumble in the floor, then the house shaking very badly, we thought it was going to cave in on us. then the quake stopped and started up again pretty much straight away

Earth/Ground/Water ; 1 week before ; street collapsed

Earth/Ground/Water ; 4.37 am. ; about 1min; 250; westport/ buller

I had only been up for about 10mins getting ready for work. and the sea was very rough at the time and about 30sec before the quake the sea went quite then i heard the rumbling coming then the gentle rocking of the quake it took about 1min to stop and about 1min for the noise of the sea to come back i only live about 300m from the beach.

Earth/Ground/Water ; about 2 months ago ; seems a lot less now ; 50; Leeston

I kept feeling small tremors as if someone 'heavy footed' was walking by. I used to get it sitting on the couch, but also lying in bed. Thought it was my imagination, could have been tiny 'before shocks'?

; **Earth/Ground/Water** ; about two weeks before ; still ongoing ; 40; Christchurch city

I spend a lot of time in my garden, and am aware of the drainage cycle and the low points/collection points in my property. I had noticed that water was collating in places that it normally drained away from. even when there was a reasonable amount of water. However, upon reflection - I actually considered the collection of water to the weather. Even now, some 12 days after the quake - water is still staying in the collection areas - and is not draining.

Earth/Ground/Water ; 1500 on 3rd sep ; 1h ; 40; St albans

the creek flowed cloudy grey

Earth/Ground/Water; 24th August; 240; Katiki beach

??tilt of land? Exceptional low tide

Earth/Ground/Water ; Bedtime ; 30 minute ; 40; Christchurch

I heard strange gurgling noise coming from my hot water cylinder. I hadn't heard sound like come from my cylinder before and I haven't anything since.

Earth/Ground/Water ; 28th August 10:30am ; hours ; 240; Katiki beach

most unusual calmness

Earth/Ground/Water ; Sunday before ; hours ; 40; Hagley Park

we were in the park on the Sunday before the quake. The river was a very grey milky colour, like lots of washed out silt, however, there had been no rain

Earth/Ground/Water About 12.15 to 12.30am of 4th of September for a bout 5 to 10 seconds but reoccured a number of times; 40; Parklands, Christchurch

When I went to bed after mid night, I heard some very unusual sounds. I kept asking my partner if he knew what they were. He did not hear them the first couple of times but when he did he had know idea. Since the earth quake I have heard the same sounds when after shocks are about to come. The main quake sounded like a freight train coming towards your house but these were like a rumble. The original noises I heard were up to 4 hours before the quake and I am not sure if they continue as I went to sleep. As I am writing this we are having some strong after shocks and I am hearing these noises faintly again at least 30 seconds to one minute prior to each after shock.

Earth/Ground/Water ; 29-Aug ; not sure ; 40; South Brighton

On the same day a vine that had been growing on an eastern fence fell and a whole stack of bags that I store on the eastern side of garage collapsed. I thought it strange that they did that on the same day

after having been fine for 15 years! They are approximately 30 metres from each other but on the same side of the property.

Earth/Ground/Water ; Friday 3rd September 2010; 1900; 140; Greymouth

A friend phoned from Greymouth who lives at South Beach right near the Tasman Sea and said that on Friday night the sea was making a terrible noise. As they live right by the sea they do not take any notice of the sea but on that Friday night it was making a terrible noise, after the earthquake hit Canterbury they also felt it in Greymouth the sea was all quiet.

Earth/Ground/Water ; 8.30-9am 28 Sep 2010 ; few seconds ; 120; Timaru

It went quiet. Then there was a noise like a wind or storm. I expected it to blow, for something to continue but nothing happened. I immediately rang my neighbour, to ask if she had experienced anything. I thought it was so unusual.

Air/Sky/Clouds 8:30 3rd of september till the earthquake; 40 ;Strowan/Bryndwa/Fendalton

I had no curtains at the time and each night i look out my window and count my stars, on an average night i normally see about 3-10 stars but on the 3rd of september at 8:30 (ish) i saw huge star clusters probably about 20-25 in each cluster i was thinking that it was very strange.

Air/Sky/Clouds 3/9/10 Friday 430pm possibly 1/2 hour; 50; Scarborough hill, Sumner, ChCh

Was about 430pm, we have an ocean view facing NE; looked out and saw two bizarre fan like rainbow clouds; they started at the water and were side by side; taken pictures..never seen anything like it, they may have lasted 1/2 hour or less

Air/Sky/Clouds ; 1 week before quake ; All week ; 250; Lud Valley, Nelson

Very strange green light; distant trees, hills stood out very clearly; a strange stillness.

Air/Sky/Clouds; Ca.1 sec before the quake; about 1 second; 40 ; Wigram Pk. ChCh.

was outside on the back lawn at my house in Wigram. I had returned from Europe only 36 hours earlier and suffering jet lag - hence why I was up at 0430! Everything was unbelievably quiet - no sound from any animal, human or even any wind to speak of. The sky was crystal clear with as many stars out as I have ever seen. It was unseasonably warm for that time of morning at that time of year. As I surveyed the skyline a huge flash of bright white light - very similar to sheet lightning- flashed across the sky from South to North. As soon as it had flashed the rumbling began and the quake hit. This phenomenon happened again in the middle of the quake and the quake subsequently felt to intensify after the second flash of 'lightning' had occurred.

Air/Sky/Clouds afternoon of day before earthquake not sure just remember thinking cloud formation was interesting 40 st albans Not sure of scientific name of clouds, but looked a bit like a thin curtain, vertical lines

Air/Sky/Clouds I saw how the clouds were different on the night before the earthquake, the 3rd of September. Up until the earthquake. 40; Christchurch

On the evening of the 3rd of September as I was in the car with mum I noticed the clouds were all gathering closer around the sun, it just looked so strange and the sky seemed to have a tint of red throughout it, the clouds also seemed more spread out and long, not like you normally see them. I even said to mum as i'd heard of this theory before "those look like the clouds people get before earthquakes" only to wake up to one the next morning.

Air/Sky/Clouds what was the big bright white light low in sky 3 sept 19.30pm - so large and so close in south sky. seemed to orbit away over the night - comparing with a nearby star that below and to right of it.; 40; North east ChCh. - Looking south.

With glasses it had red light on top. Was amazed at this bright white star, but too big and bright and very low in the sky. got binocular glasses to check it out. Was sooooo large and very low in the early night sky and red light on top . was amazed by it. was it a space station? This was the the night before. Thursday night. Never seen anything like it before. Has moved much further out now in the early night sky so is orbiting no doubt. It was so large and close on the 3rd Sept and seemed from here to be out over Darfield way.

Air/Sky/Clouds roughly 30seconds ;40; on Clifton Hill, Christchurch looking towards town

Just before the quake I noticed that there was interesting colours in the sky, this then moved on to some very low frequency vibrations and then there was what looked to be a large lightning bolt and then the big quake started. I did some research after seeing this online and found that the HAARP site was running full power around this time and I was surprised to see that this was the same for the Chilli earthquake and also another 2 earthquakes.

Air/Sky/Clouds 10.30pm Friday 3rd Sept but new 3 nights before until the 7.1 quake hit and continued ;30 ; ChCh, Bishopdale

Went outside to toilet dogs, dry, chilly, airey, night, very crystal clear close bright stars, see breath in air, but air felt dry and electrical. I knew things were a miss, something felt as though it was warning me. I told myself there would be an earthquake and there was. This has happened to me before. It is almost an aura. Pitch black and galaxy was closer than normal, with venus extremely bright than previous weeks as had been observing planets. There was no noise from anything - deathly. My DOGS PICKED UP ON THE EARTHQUAKE BEFORE I DID AS IT BEGAN AND ARE STILL DOING SO WITH THE AFTERSHOCKS

Air/Sky/Clouds 3-Sep 1h 40
eerie weather-it might snow

Air/Sky/Clouds ; 3th sept 2010 6.00pm ; 45 mins ; 50; cass bay ch ch

at 6.00 I NOTICE THE THE CLOUDS LOOKING SOUTH/ SOUTH EAST WERE ON ONE SIDE OF THE LANDSCAPE WERE ALL BUNCHED UP LIKE MANY FISTS WITH THE other side to the left looking like a snow storm completely white sky top to bottom and across ½ the landscape. This would have LASTED AT LEAST 45 MINS

Air/Sky/Clouds; 3rd of september 2010; 15 mins; 40; Avonhead

I was outside just before midnight having my last cigarette , and i do this every night the same time, I always look up at the stars while puffing away and noticed a bright star that i always see (think its venus) and 2 little stars below it on the left and right of the bright star, but on the night before the earthquake the 2 little stars were Align in a row below the bright star,,was unusuall, and it made me think of the 2012 movie and it was dead quiet

Air/Sky/Clouds I saw how the clouds were different on the night before the earthquake, the 3rd of September. Up until the earthquake ; 40; Christchurch

On the evening of the 3rd of September as I was in the car with mum I noticed the clouds were all gathering closer around the sun, it just looked so strange and the sky seemed to have a tint of red throughout it, the clouds also seemed more spread out and long, not like you normally see them. I even said to mum as i'd heard of this theory before "those look like the clouds people get before earthquakes" only to wake up to one the next morning.

Air/Sky/Clouds ; Winter ; Winter ; 30; Christchurch

Wettest winter I have known here and I have lived here 12 years. Rain and rain and more rain with little respite. I expect this on west coast of north island where i am from originally but never here.

Air/Sky/Clouds ; 3/9/10 Friday, 5pm ish ; all evening ; 20; Darfield

Was driving home to darfield on the evening of the 3rd, looking towards the mountains we mentioned the clouds were looking unusual over the mountains, and the mountains were very clearly visible.

Air/Sky/Clouds Late friday 3rd Sept, mid-late afternoon, there was an unusual rainbow, there was one particular patch of clouds perfectly placed in a hanging down formation, never had I seen anything like this, I commented to my husband about the sky, who then said he was looking at the clouds too and thought they looked a bit odd, and verbally predicted an earthquake Between 5-6pm ;40; Doyleston, Leeston

We went to bed at approx 12.30am, and I awoke a couple of minutes or so prior to the event to have a sip of water, then heard a rumble, similar to a freight train seconds prior to when the shaking started, at which I jumped out of bed, was really difficult to walk around in, we are in a new house, the swaying went for I would say not even a minute, but it felt like forever. Both my children slept through it, age 2years, and 6months, I didn't wake them, I was swaying on my sons cot till it stopped, then followed an after shock. I have been doing research and firmly believe southIsland will have another large earthquake within the next 4months, this saame year. This earthquake is rather inconsistent in some areas, and the geologists know about has much as you and I, apart from the fact they can measure it. Good luck with your studies =)

Air/Sky/Clouds over the years before a quake but the night before the quake not sure as I just noticed it for about 5 mins ; 40; shirley christchurch

I was on the phone talking to a friend and happened to look out the window. The clouds in the distance were as black as can be and the sun was shining in on the trees. I mentioned this to the person on the phone as it was very still and the feeling was unearthly. I do know of someone who was outside on their deck writing music just before the quake and he reported the sky lit up green. And tonight I heard of another person who said they were up at the time of the quake and the sky lit up.

Air/Sky/Clouds 3rd September, early evening sky was 'dirty' looking all night ; 40; Christchurch

I went outside at approx 6.30ish, the sky looked brown and murky, almost dirty looking and had an eerie feeling, it almost had the look like there was going to be snow or an earthquake (little did I know).., it looked as it would either snow and the night was still. It was like that all night

Air/Sky/Clouds ; bout 4pm Fri 3rd ; was aware of it till night fall ; 35; Rangiora/Kaiapoi

The day had gone from warm/sunny to raining and late afternoon/ early evening everything seemed unusually calm/ still/ quiet - it struck me as odd/different

Air/Sky/Clouds ; Friday 3 Sept, evening prior to going to bed ; The evening prior ; 40; At home in South Brighton, Christchurch

It had been a very dull and cloudy cool day. We stood on our frontdoor step at about 10pm and noticed that it had increased in temperature. What was startling was the sky. It was so clear and stars were shining so brightly. I said it was like being in Lake Tekapo. It was airy, it was so crystal clear.

Air/Sky/Clouds ; 01/09/2010; two hours ; 40; Barrington \$While sitting in a street in Barrington, noticed how the birds and the streets seem quiet. There were dark clouds over head, what i thought was going to be a thunder storm

Air/Sky/Clouds ; Fiday evening ; several hours ; 320; Dunedin

Getting into the car, I thought the 'atmosphere' (don't know what else to call it) was unusual. Said to my husband, "if my grandmother were alive she'd say this was earthquake weather". I 'felt' it throughout the evening and apparently said it several times. Didn't think anything more of it until two days later when I asked my husband if I had actually voiced what I had been thinking. He said I'd mentioned it several times. This is NOT the first time this has happened!

Air/Sky/Clouds ; 8.30pm 3 September 2010; Was still there at 11.55pm ; 30; Wigram

Driving along Wigram Road toward Halswell look to the right and there was an unusually bright light in the sky. Looked at first like an aircraft however it was stationary and as a family we remarked what an unusual large bright light - definitely not a star. Seen by 4 adult persons..

to the quake the weather has been behaving unusually, I work at a rural pub and the weather was the topic of conversation many times. Most thought it was a warning of snow or another weather event, but one old timer said "it's earthquake weather"

Air/Sky/Clouds ; 5pm ish ; 4 hours approx ; 40; St Albans

Seemed like a southerly storm, but gnarlier. Fourious sleet, negative wind chill. Driving rain and it went dark very early. Went deadly calm around 9.30pm (maybe).

Air/Sky/Clouds till maybe 30 minutes after quake 230 Duntroon

was a strong wind and cold air temperature, into the evening the temperature rose but about an hour or so before the quake the wind stopped and it was dead still, approx 30mins after quake the wind started up again.

Air/Sky/Clouds 2nd september morning witnessed for 3 min but could have lasted alot longer; 40; christchurch city

unusual light in the sky ,clouds seemed very bright ,it was a very calm and still atmosphere

Air/Sky/Clouds Week before EQ, especially 3 days b4. Sunrise and sunsets and clouds; 40; Burwood, chch

There were very intense virbration with sunsets and a sunrise. The night b4 there was sleet, rain and winds. This weasd and there was a cloud gap on the horizon at the point sunset. This sunlight was very intense and photographed it. Because of the strong rays the photos showed some interesting results. This was big gold ball (a reflction of sun) and prisms of light streaming from it/small rainbows in this ball also. It was like a physics experiment.

Air/Sky/Clouds seconds before the quake struck 30 seconds - 1 minute; 40; Tumara Park Burwood

as I was stabdibg at the open ranchslider in my bedroom, which faces North I felt a strong rush of air and the sky seemed black, which was unusual as it had been a clear night seconds before, seconds later the quake struck and I observed numerous flashes of light which I assumed were power lines or transformers shorting

Air/Sky/Clouds ; Friday evening, approx 9 pm ; Constant ; 40; Ilam ; Christchurch

We got out of the car on the Friday evening before the quake and saw an unusual light in the sky. Initially we thought it was a plane but realised it wasn't. It was like a very, very large, bright star.

Air/Sky/Clouds Fri 3rd 11am 4 hrs 20 ChCh Clearwater resort

Driving to lunch with wife and mentioned it was 15 degrees in the car and when we finished lunch it had dropped to 3 degrees at 1.30pm and we were really shocked at the difference and commented on this after the shock on Saturday morning. Is temp spiking a sign or a cause of some events.

Air/Sky/Clouds ; Friday ; hours ; 40; Christchurch \$Moon, enormous pink aura, record intense

Air/Sky/Clouds ; 24-Aug ; hours ; 40; Balmoral hill

Moon odd as it rose. We noticed something that we had never seen before, despite having lived on the top of Balmoral Hill for about 8 years: the full moon huge and rising from the horizon in the same manner we have witnessed the sun, lifting up from the horizon to an overhead position. It was particulary noticeable as it glowed like the sun, and as were trying to work out if the setting sun was shining on the moon somehow, but darkness was coming on. I note the nearest full moon was 25 August, so it was probably that evening.

Air/Sky/Clouds I don't recall the time other than night time. Maybe 11pm or thereabouts It was a constant observed as I drove along the road. 125 Near Pleasant Point

What I saw was a large bright light in the sky. Significantly larger than any planets or stars. On a documentary last night, there was a section about a NASA physicist (Frederen Froight?) who has shown than sustained stress on a rock produces a measurable amperage. When it occurs over a long distance, this can even produce a current of 100s of thousands of amps. The work has apparently not

received much support but my inkling is that he is on the right track. Maybe sensitive electronic sensors could be placed along fault lines to investigate

Air/Sky/Clouds ; 10-11pm Friday ; 5 minutes ; 40; Redwood

unusual slither of moon yellowish tinge. lots of stars, a calm & beautiful night I remember thinking how sill it was .(now in my mind the old saying - this is earthquake weather) especially when the geese flew over

Air/Sky/Clouds ; 3rd 9pm ; 4.5h ; 50; Heathcote

The Friday night before the quake it was dead still so very very quiet like the air was heavy

Air/Sky/Clouds ; 3rd 1145pm ; 5 minutes ; 40; Harewood

I went outside to see our babysitter home, she just lives down the road. I have always loved looking at the stars so looked up at it was such a beautiful night. I was struck by the clarity of the stars I could see any how many more there appeared to be compared to normal. You could even see the cloudy areas of the galaxies. This struck me as very unusual as being on a main street with street lighting the visibility is not normally so good. I was so impressed by the sight that when I re-entered the house, I commented on the skys amazing brilliance and clarity.

Air/Sky/Clouds ; 4th 330am ; 5 minutes ; 40; Cashmere

Atmospheric blue (electric) flashing. A little like wind lightening.

Air/Sky/Clouds 2nd september evening 930-10 hours 30 Chch towards Darfield

I went outside and noticed an extremely bright star and full moon. I had never seen a star so bright. I now know it to be Mercury. The night was very still. The same star was in the sky on Friday 3rd Sept as well. I thought it very strange as the sky looked unusually clear. Doesn't happen often in ChCh. We had friends over and they agreed.

Air/Sky/Clouds 3rd 930pm ten minutes 40; Seen over Chch driving from Darfield

Driving to ChCh from Darfield at 9.30pm on Friday 03/09/10 (the night of the Quake). Saw a strange halo / ark of light over the city of Chch. It was Blueish i guess. dont know how long it went on as I was concentrating on driving. Not to sure if connected to Quake but did seem odd at the time. also at around 1.30am on Saturday 04/09/10 was woken up by my cat who was acting strange ie. meowing loudly, running around the house scratching at doors, walls and windows. This cat is old and never behaves like this, ever. Also noted that same cat did not eat her dinner that night. Which was also odd.

Air/Sky/Clouds ; 30 min before ; several minutes ; 500; Dannevirke

The cat woke me up wanting to go out, I stepped onto the porch as I let him out as the light seemed strange. I looked across at the moon which was hanging oddly low in the sky for the time of the morning, and also very bright, with an eerie orange tint to it, which tainted the sky around it. It was very still and I thought "earthquake weather". Living in "Earthquake Alley" we get many earthquakes and live only a km or so from the epicentre of the 1990 Mother's Day Quake. About an hour later I was stunned to be woken by a fairly strong shake. Then subsequently even more amazed to wake to the news of the incredibly strong quake in Christchurch.

Air/Sky/Clouds ; 3rd, 6-9pm ; many minutes ; 25; Rolleston

Blue light towards Darfield

Air/Sky/Clouds ; Friday morning 3 September 2010; Not sure ; 50; At home in Sumner
Barometer reading was really low, so low thought it was going to drop off bottom

Animals/Birds/Plants The evening before the earthquake which was approx 6 hours before the initial quake unsure I gave up watching the hens. 50 at home, Lyttelton.

The evening before the quake I went out as normal to check my hens . I found them standing in their pen, standing in the rain. They have always gone into the coop at dusk but that evening they would not and in fact when I placed them in the coop they would not stay inside and came back outside. Very unusual behaviour especially as the weather was so inclement.

Animals/Birds/Plants 1614hrs day before the quake half an hr 40; Heaton St, Merivale

The Day before I noticed a duck sitting on the ridge line of a slate roof of my two story house. It seemed very weird to me as ducks have webbed feet and I thought it was a very unusual place for a duck to sit. I have photographed it on my phone as I thought it that strange

Animals/Birds/Plants 10-10.30pm Friday Sept 3 was still happening after the 7.1; 10; Aylesbury

We were saying goodnight to our 9 year old Airedale (dog), as he was going from inside the house with us, to outside in his kennel. This routine happens every night and he is always more than happy to go into his kennel. But this night he was shaking and trembling all over with a very worried expression on his face. We tried to comfort him and were very worried as this was extremely out of character and we thought he was unwell. After much more convincing than has ever been needed before, we got him to go into his kennel, thinking we would just see how he was in the morning. Of course we felt terrible when we rushed out to get him after the earthquake and he was, not surprisingly, shaking even more.

Animals/Birds/Plants 3rd Sept, 4am 10mins approx 300 Twizel, South Canterbury

Very loud and intense bird-song, far noisier and much earlier than normal, which continued for 15 minutes or so then abruptly stopped. Within a space of perhaps another 10 minutes the earthquake occurred. The birdsong resumed at a lesser volume sometime later. (There was no clock available to confirm the times)

Animals/Birds/Plants Midday Friday 3 September 2010 continuous 11; West Melton Canterbury

On the Friday my cat, was in her bedroom because it was a cold day, she normally goes into her box by a radiator. I went into the room - the door had been closed, at around midday and found her crouched in the middle of the room with her hair up. She then went outside, I cannot recall if I saw her after this incident. But I did mention the incident to my daughter and thought I would contact the vet if she didn't improve. She is a 12 year old cat that had been a stray in Haast, where we got several earthquakes. We have had her for 10 years and have not seen this type of behaviour before. One of my Std Poodles, Rosie, became shut down, to the extent that we did not attend our dog dancing class on Friday at 1pm. She had not been herself since the previous day, kept going into a down position, not happy when inside, but ok outside, except for one time when she went down instead of coming to

me. Rosie is 8 years old and I adopted her from Wellington 2 years ago. She has always be scared of anything that rattles. Since the quake she will not sleep up stairs with us, she spent the first 2 days after the quake trembling and was given sedatives by the vet, she is still on a low dose but is not up to training nor will she sleep upstairs. She was upstairs with us when the bit quake hit, her bed is next to a metal chimmney flu. My other 2 Std Poodles have been fine. My llamas and alpacas have not shown any signs of distress. One point to note is that we live within one kilometre of an army firing range. We often get veryloud firing and heavy mortar firing, to the extent of shaking the house. Our animals are used to very loud explosions and ground shaking from the range.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 03/09/10 9.30pm ; roughly half an hour ; 40; North Brighton ;

Our large long haired dog chooses to spend her time outside at night while the fire is going as she overheats. She came in about 9.30 and curled up in the corner of our lounge behind my husbands chair which she has never done in her whole 6 years. She seemed quiet & not her usual self & we discussed why she would be curled up there & not on her couch & that she might not be feeling very well. It just seemed very unusual at the time.

Animals/Birds/Plants A few minutes before we felt the quake Until we jumped out of bed 320 Mosgiel

Dog sprung of the bed and started pacing and growling. he isn't usually a 'barker'

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 4.35am ; cant remember ; 42; Dorie Rakaia

just before each afterquake i noticed my cats running like mad and also sniffing the floorboards of the house,

Animals/Birds/Plants 04.14 am until the start of the earthquake 40; st albans, christchurch

my greyhound woke me at 4.14 whining and running around - I let her outside but she wasn't happy, got back into bed by 4.30 and about 5 minutes later the quake struck

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 10/15 minutes before quake ; a few minutes ; 40;; Mt Pleasant

Woke to stray cat inside, got up to investigate & there were actually 2 stray cats. Did not turn lights on, just chased them out along with our cat. One stray is unusual but 2 is really strange & to have to chase them out even more so.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 30th September 4-30pm ; Until 5pm ; 40; bishopdale Ch-Ch

Our dog Bess would continually bark for the half hour which lasted all week

Animals/Birds/Plants ; at night ; all week ; 40; Bishopdale Ch-Ch ;

our cat Streak was very restless wouldn't keep still and wanted to go out side alot which he normally doesn't do

Animals/Birds/Plants 03.09.10 evening and night from early evening till late evening 960 Whangarei

Our cat displayed unusual behaviour, was upset and trying to tell us something, mewing and getting in our face all the time. not like him at all.

Animals/Birds/Plants Approximately 4.25am - 4.30am September 4 2 minutes 50 Woodend

At around 4.25am my two dogs were howling and woke me up from my sleep. I went out to tell them to be quiet, and then went back to bed. The earthquake hit shortly after that.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 4/9/10 0425; til the quake ; 40; Christchurch

Our beagle who really barks or growls sat up and continuously growled til the quake hit.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 30 seconds before the quake ; thirty seconds ; 30; In bed. Springston

My border collie came running into my bedroom, whining and crying 30 seconds before the quake

Animals/Birds/Plants ; aprox 20th August ; around two weeks ; 40; Sydenham

My cat started acting strangely by that I mean she seemed to be very restless and meowed lots she got on and off me far more often just couldn't seem to settle. She didn't sleep as long during the day. She kept coming in and the lounge. She also seemed to be eating far more than normal.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; Friday 3rd September 2010; On and off all day.; 40; St Albans

Female dog Foxy x walking around rooms including bedrooms,sniffing in all the corners,she was very unsettled.Before every after shock she runs in and out dog door ,or comes and sits between my legs.

Animals/Birds/Plants 15 minutes before the quake 10 minutes 10 Rolleston, Selwyn District

Our 3 dogs started barking frantically about 15 - 20 minutes before the earthquake started

Animals/Birds/Plants ; Thursday 2 Sept 2010; 2 Days ; 40; Belfast Christchurch

I have about 80 birds in aviaries, 1 Karakihi male died on Thursday 2 Sept for no reason, my birds were stressed and flighty which is very unusual, Now 17/09/10 my birds are used to earthquakes and just ride the waves. Although they are eating more!

Animals/Birds/Plants Approx 0415 on that morning Till about 0440 800 Whitianga

My cat (15yrs) who is usually a good sleeper woke at 0415hrs and was very skittery nervous and needy she then settled about 0440hrs. Could be just coincidence but it was heightened behaviour and she doesnt usuall wake till around 0545hrs (or just before sunrise with the first twitter). We did not feel the earthquake. When I saw the news in the morning I mentioned that if we were able to feel it here I would have because I had been rudely awoken!!

Animals/Birds/Plants about 2 months ago has been ongoing but reducing 40; christchurch-Brooklands area

Gold fish started to die about two months ago. Just the odd one which didn't cause much concern. About 3 weeks ago mortalities peaked at 2-3 each day over about a week. Over the past few days mortalities have stopped, Checked O2 all OK- Water temps cold but the fish have handled the past few winters without problems. This amount of mortality has never happened during the whole period we have had gold fish (8 years)

Animals/Birds/Plants My dog's behaviour changed considerably in the evening of 2/9/2010 for the rest of that evening & all of the following evening (3/9/2010) 30 A home in Lincoln, Canterbury

I have a 2 & 1/2 year old female Jack Russell who is very boisterous & playful. During the evening of 2/9/2010 she abruptly stopped playing & with her tail between her legs, she went on her mat. I could not get her to come to me or to play & there she stayed for the rest of the night - this happened all during the next night 3/9/2010. She behaved as if something had really frightened her. I had no idea what had triggered this & it wasn't until the quake hit & I was holding her, that it occurred to me that she may have felt something & this triggered her behaviour. The only other change in behaviour she is showing is refusing to go into her bed at night - she is clearly very alert when she is in bed and doesn't want to stay there.

Animals/Birds/Plants Thursday 2nd September 6pm Still happening 40; Cashmere

Cat started getting very affectionate (he is never like that) and wouldn't leave our sides, also our son with cerebral palsy had a lot more startling reflexes and was very tense

Animals/Birds/Plants 4/9/10 0435 15sec 40; Cashmere Christchurch

I was awake prior to earthquake. Cat asleep on bed. Cat started to make startled noises. I thought he was having a dream. Then cat made growling noise. I thought he was having a bad dream. Then the earthquake started.

Animals/Birds/Plants A short time before Earthquake not sure; 60; Winchmore Rd6 Ashburton

Cat vomited in laundry where i had put it for night.

Animals/Birds/Plants about 7pm Friday before quake 1 hour 280 Oamaru

My cat (who was bought over from Perth 1 yr ago and is 13 years old) is normally very sedate, that Friday night she went nuts, running around and round the house and climbing furniture. Then after 1 hour she returned to normal, during the quake she was like a floppy doll, purring when the "big one" had ceased.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 4.9.10 4.30am ; 5min ; 250; Nelson

My husband and I were awake in bed. Our cat sleeps at the foot of the bed. He senses when I am awake and comes up to lie on my chest. I was stroking him, he was purring, then suddenly he stopped purring, his eyes widened and ears pricked up, then we felt the earthquake. Both of us remarked at the time, that you would think puss had sensed something was about to happen.

Animals/Birds/Plants Whale Standings 10 -14 days prior N/a 900 Auckland

Just the number of occurrences noticed over the past 10 years where a whale standing had preceded an earthquake between 10 and 14 days prior to the quake happening. It is appreciated that some map overlay would be required to assess this

Animals/Birds/Plants In the evening prior-so, Friday 3 Sept, around dusk for the whole evening, until I went to bed to sleep away from the cat 40; Phillipstown, Christchurch

My 15 year old cat sleeps in boxes inside. That night she came out of the box and followed me around the house. She sat next to me while i was sitting at the computer, or on the arm chair. She watched me, and meowed at me to get my attention. All of this is very unusual behaviour as she is usually very quiet and sleeps alot and keeps to herself.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 1 week before quake ; All week ; 250; Ludd Valley, Nelson

Dog whining & scratching at doors in the night - unusual for him; horses galloping around & snorting at nothing, breaking through fences; personal feeling of impending & actual doom (small things went wrong).

Animals/Birds/Plants Around 0030 hours on staturday morning Noticed it while going inside to bed for the night about 5 mins 40; Hillsborough

As I was leaving my radio shack in the back yard & heading inside I noticed that the "dawn chorus" of birds were chirping. I thought this a little odd, but then it was a clear mild night & though perhaps the birds had got confused.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; Evening of 3/9/10; All evening ; 40; Hoon Hay

Cats were hiding under bedding and very skitish

Animals/Birds/Plants Two consecutive nights prior to earthquake i hour each time 40; chch

There is a sideboard in our lounge with an antique clock on it. Our cat had never jumped up there before but on both Thursday and Friday nights she jumped up, wide eyed and jittery and started sniffing the clock. I kept telling her off and taking her down, afraid that she would break something. She just kept getting back up there and sniffing the clock. She was very agitated and seemed quite distressed. I said to my husband that maybe she was trying to tell us something. He said that, "no, she is just going nuts!" As I said, this went on for two nights before the earthquake. Saturday morning arrives and the earthquake strikes- Bella is normally on our bed but she was nowhere to be seen. Once the earthquake subsided, we went out to survey the damage. Our house sustained a fair amount of damage but we didn't lose many contents EXCEPT the clock on the sideboard! It had fallen off and smashed on to an antique plate of mine. I immediately recalled Bella sniffing it those previous nights. Even my cynical husband was perplexed. Bella has not been back up on the sideboard since! Hope this helps.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; the evening before ; whole evening ; 35; Lincoln

Cat was behaving strangely more playful and maybe a bit on edge than usual he goes out every night but this night he went out but almost clawed the door down to come back inside like he knew he had to stay inside that night??

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 3.30 to 4.00 am ; 15 minutes ; 40; Christchurch

Noticed the birds were very noisy at that time of the morning. Seemed a bit early for Dawn?

Animals/Birds/Plants The Sunday before at Darfield, our dog started to tremble and did not stop until we were at least 20km away on the way back to Chch About 30mins from the start of the event on Sat morning again the dog started to bark for about 2-3 mins 40; Halswell

Animals/Birds/Plants The morning before, about 6am 5-10 mins, maybe longer as I came inside 15 Rolleston

Went outside and sat on our deck about 6am, the air seemed unusually still, and although we have some bird life around here normally, it seemed like NZ's total bird life was close and squacking terribly. It was incredibly loud. I came inside and woke my husband and asked him to listen as it was quite peculiar. He said it must be breeding season, rolled over and went back to sleep. I made a comment to him later in the morning, that there must be something funny going on, because it was so unusual. We left in the afternoon for our holiday in Rarotonga. The next day we got a call about the earthquake. I told him that that must have been why the birds were acting so strangely. I think I will listen to my instincts and wildlife from now on.

Animals/Birds/Plants Saturday Night For approximately half an hour 5 hours before the quake ; 40; Rangora

Approximately 5 hours before the 7.1 earthquake my cat had been meowing extraordinarily out of character, pacing the house, and jumping up on windowsills meowing very loudly, she was very unsettled. Even now before major aftershocks hit she is showing nervousness by running weirdly around house but without that piercing meow. Of the nights we haven't been experiencing minor aftershocks she appears settled.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; Fri 3rd September 1300hrs ; Still ; 40; Belfast Christchurch

Pukeko's are missing out of the paddocks around the Belfast freezing works site and have been since the time started up till 0900hrs today when I drove down Blakes Road Belfast also the lack of seagulls around the area since Friday 4/9/2010

Animals/Birds/Plants two days before the quake, mostly at night time a few hours every night 40; Christchurch suburb Somerfield

We have three cats. One of these who usually comes in every night eats her tea and curls up on my daughter's bed until morning refused to settle. She would pace the house (as she was locked in) and meow loudly until let out. Once outside, she would pace the large back yard meowing. I went out with her and she kept running around the yard and then coming back to me all the while meowing. She refused to settle inside or out.

Animals/Birds/Plants 4 am on 4th September As long as it took me to get my car from the carpark ; 40; Getting my car from the carpark at the hospital

As I was getting into my car I heard a bird singing, which at the time I thought was peculiar as the bird should have been in the nest asleep. It was dark being 4 am. I never thought anymore about it at the time, picked up my husband who had just been discharged from A & E and drove home to Kaiapoi. Of course within being home a few minutes the quake struck, and it was only during the next few hours I thought of the bird singing.

Animals/Birds/Plants Around the time of the major Earthquake in Chch approx 4.30am 5 minutes
750 Papakura

Maybe just a coincidence...or something else triggered this reaction, but it has puzzled us ever since, so thought there was no harm in submitting our experience - At the time of the Chch earthquake, my son's dog, a border collie,(who resides outside our house), started barking, and would not stop. We went outside on the balcony and he was obviously stirred by something. His actions were quite unusual in that he was walking around and around and did not settle for about 5 minutes. Unusually my 15 year old son and I stood outside on the balcony in the dark for some time, talking about this unusual behaviour. It was not until the morning that he said to me, you know when Zeebee was barking last night, when I went back to bed I looked at the clock and it was 4.30. I know we live a long way away, but it was as if our dog was trying to tell us something, and when the dog stopped walking around in circles barking and was focussed in a particular direction, ears alert, focussed and barking it was in a NSW direction. Who knows maybe just a burglar....we will never know.

Animals/Birds/Plants Christchurch Earthquake - Cat went crazy approx 3 minutes before the Quake struck Actual roll here was about 30-40 sec 250 In bed, Stoke Nelson

My Burman cat-4 years old sleeps, shut in at night in an area off my bedroom. He woke me up meowing and scratching furiously at the door. My clock said 4.44am but i always have the clock a couple of minutes fast to wake before the news comes on in the morning. Shortly after the quake struck, much more a rolling affect than jolting. I, of course got up and brought Brandy the cat onto my bed. He never slept for 3 nights as I am sure he was feeling the aftershocks, I kept him on my bed. He is now back to sleeping all night as usual.I would think there was about 3 minutes before the quake that he got very upset, although i don't know how long it took him to wake me.

Animals/Birds/Plants 11.30 pm 3rd September until the quake happened 400; Mossburn Northern Southland

Our dog Izzy, a Belgian/German Shepard aged 8yrs tried to break out of our house, scratching at the sliding door sounding very distressed. He was drooling and whining. I let him outside and he ran the perimeter fence line and ran back inside and would not leave my side. He went to sleep when the shaking woke me at 4.30. He was in the Te Anau shake of 2003. He often barks at small shakes I cant feel. He also hates thunder and lightning.

Animals/Birds/Plants approx. 5 mins before the Christchurch Not sure, but we we were woken by it. 60; In our home in Maronan, 15 km Norwest of Ashburton

The bulls in the paddock nearby woke us up before the earthquake. They were bellowing and making a lot of noise. This hasnt happened before. We were wondering why they were making so much noise and then we felt the earthquake.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 4.30am ; quite a while ; 800; Mt Eden

The dog who normally sleeps on his own bed would not get on it he would only sleep between us. we thought his bed may be wet as when told to get on it he always does. Other times we will tell him he can sleep on the end of the bed he would not do this. we put him on his bed twice but he kept coming back to be inbetween us. Very out of character for him.

Animals/Birds/Plants 3.30am my young springer spaniel woke and barked. A couple of minutes.I went and told him it was too early to get up. 8; Kirwee

The 5 month old springer spaniel pup woke at 3.30am and started barking and crying. I got up and told him it was way too early to get up!! An hour later the earthquake hit. The father of this pup lives in Hornby and he also woke at a similar hour and his owner had to get up and quieten his dogs.

Animals/Birds/Plants the night before, early evening until I went to bed about 11 3 to 4 hours 250; Nelson city

My dog would not settle, she wanted out but wouldn't go, she cried, she was on her chair, she was off her chair. The only other time she behaves like this is during an electrical storm. She was a pain in the

Animals/Birds/Plants about a week before the quake several days 460 Manawatu

We have horses on the property that change their behaviour about a week before a big earthquake. It happened about a week before Chch, but we had a smaller quake here a few days after the horses started acting strange. They also did the same thing about a week before the big one in Indonesia and Chile/Peru. There is just enough change in them for me to think "Um I think we are going to have an earthquake.

Animals/Birds/Plants 09/04/2010 35 minutes ; 40; Christchurch- Upper Riccarton

I woke up at 4am, and knew it was coming, everything was so silent and our cat had disappeared from our bed (unusual). I got up, and put my Grand teapot in a box in the lounge so that it wouldn't break. Went back to bed and waited

Animals/Birds/Plants 2130 hrs 3-9-10 approx 5 minutes ; 40; At home, Avondale Christchurch

We have a 7 year old Staffordshire Bull Terrier and he started running around our living room and bathroom with his head in the air and his nose pointing upwards sniffing wildly. I thought he had caught the scent of a neighbour's cat or something and let him outside but he did not go out and kept sniffing around the same area always going into our bathroom which always has a louvre window open. This went on for about 5 minutes and never happened again. We had not seen this behaviour before or since. The earthquake affected him and he is on medication to keep him calm. As the tremors subside he is getting better daily.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; sept 04 2010 approx 0440; approx 30sec ; 100; Temuka

My 2 cats leapt out of bed and ran madly around the house approx 30-60 sec before the earthquake hit.

Animals/Birds/Plants Wednesday and Thursday 1 - 2 September from 9am Wed - evening then again on Thursday during the afternoon 20; Hororata

I noticed our pet kune kune pig Lucy Jayne was going crazy running around the paddock and screaming out - very out of character and strange for her. I thought it was because our pet goat had died on the Tuesday and she could smell him or the fact the cows next door had been annoying her but I just kept giving her tit bits to eat and talking to her to try to calm her down. After the earthquake I said to my husband I am sure Lucy Jayne sensed or felt something under the ground. She's pretty heavy!!

Animals/Birds/Plants 10 pm ish 3/9 about 24 hours, comes back occasionally 250 Nelson, Stoke

It started about 9.30pm, our dog became very uneasy, and restless. he would whimper, and wne as if he could sense something or someone. He would look at me as if I had done something, or called him. He would then run out the dog door and sniff and run around, only to come back in and stay close to me. for about 24 hrs. Both he and I felt the quake at 4.38, on our clock, and thought it was local until hearing the news about 8am

Animals/Birds/Plants seconds before the Chch earthquake began on 4/9/10 30 seconds 250 Nelson

Our cat was on our bed and began clawing the sheets - using that clawing action that they think kittens do to stimulate their mothers milk. She sometimes does this but never this loudly. It was like plucking a violin bow. It woke me up - she has never woken us before - as well as my waking my wife. I asked my wife "what that popping sound was" and then within seconds of this the quake started. I would have normally slept though this sized quake that Nelson experienced. We are pretty sure she was trying to wake us. If not it was a HUGE coincidence.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 28th August - 5.40pm ; 45 Minutes ; 250; At home in Blenheim

Looking out to admire the sunset, when we noticed a large flock of small birds (100+) flying in a south-easterly direction towards Seddon and the coast. These were followed closely by more flocks, varying from approx 30 to 100, then birds in nearby trees joined and followed them. At the end there appeared to be two Canadian geese, which idved twice to the nearby river, then joined the flocks of small birds. There seemed to be an endless procession passing the beautiful sunset. We have seen birds migrating before - but never in such numbers or at this time of year.

Animals/Birds/Plants 12.00am 4/Sept/10 5 mins ; 40; Christchurch, Harewood Suburb

Our dog who always sleeps in our daughters' room on his mat followed me everywhere when I was getting ready for bed. This was very unusual as normally he is asleep in their room and doesnt move. When I got into bed he sat in our doorway for around 5 mins before I "spoke" to him and asked him what the matter was. He came up beside the bed and just sat there with his head on the bed. I had to say to him to leave and go to the girls room before he would leave.

Animals/Birds/Plants @ 1 week before the earthquake every night ; 40; Merivale

Every night my dog (a Siberian Husky) started to hide his food around the yard. I asked my partner if she had been feeding him treats during the day as it seemed unusual? It only happened the week leading up to to earthquake.

Animals/Birds/Plants About 2 minutes before the chch M7.1 earthquake Until the eq started ; 40; Fendalton, Chch

My dog was sleeping in my bedroom on the morning of the chch EQ. He woke me up by whining and running out of the room and back in as if to get me to let him out of the house. I had time to put on my dressing gown and slippers and we got halfway through the house and the shaking began. My dog never behaves in this way and he definitely knew that something was about to happen.

Animals/Birds/Plants Cats (2) normally always sleep on my bed at night with me, on the friday evening of the quake neither cat came to bed 1 night ; 40; christchurch city

Cats did not appear friday preceeding earthquake. Couldn't find them till 9pm that night when they arrived home very scared

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 4.40am ; 1 minute ; 200; Kawatiri junction

Before the quake struck at 4.10 am our cats wanted outside Normally one would go out during the night ,but at the time it was strange that all 3wanted out

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 06/01/2010; still happens ; 40; at home

We have three Jack russel dogs.the dog with three legs started strange behaviour of staring at the floor & sometimes scratching the ground or same behaviour up an arm chair.took her to the vet who thought it was behavioural.About three days later she started digging holes outside.still does it always but not so often .does not bark or seem distressed .Other dogs do not seem to be unduly stressed.Have a photos of three legged dog doing her staring trick

Animals/Birds/Plants A couple of minutes before the quake approx 0428hrs Afew seconds 320
Twizel Mackenzie Basin

Our two cats were sleeping inside the house,then all of a sudden they shot out of the cat door just before we felt the rumble in our bed.The dog woke just at the end of the rumble.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 2 mins before shake ; 3 mins ; 350; Clyde

Dog woke me by pawing about one minute before shaking started. Very unusual

Animals/Birds/Plants ; Just after 4:30am ; maybe 30 seconds ; 440; Invercargill

My maltese terrier was asleep on our bed and she leapt off the bed barking madly and tore out of the room, seconds later the bathroom door swung shut with a bang and the ground started to sway. I called to the dog and she flew back into the room and jumped into my arms, she never does that, she is the most disobedient dog normally. It was not violent, just persistent.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 10.55pm on 3rd Sept 2010; Unknown ; 1; Charing Cross

Checked animals in paddock before going to bed they were all standing in a group in middle of paddock which is very unusual. They are usually standing where there is shelter. Then 15mins before the quake the 2 cats wanted to go out at the same time. They usually stay in all night. Never have they both wanted to go outside at same time.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; few minutes ; 30; ChCh, Bishopdale

Dogs before

Animals/Birds/Plants 1400 hrs on friday (day before earthquake no sure as I noticed as driving down the road 60 ashburton

Every paddock of sheep I drove past had the animals running to or already congregated in the corner of the paddock furthest from darfield direction ----- was very odd and drew my attention to it at the time

Animals/Birds/Plants About 2min before the big quake until the quake ; 40; Papanui

My dog 14 month old Bichon started to scratch my bedroom door and didn't stop

Animals/Birds/Plants about 1 second before the shake during the whole shake 320 Johnsonville Wellington

I was working at my computer when suddenly for no apparent reason my rainbow lorikeet jumped from his perch to the bottom of the cage. About 1 second later the house etc started shaking with the earthquake. He stayed at the bottom of the cage throughout the shake. It is not the first time he has done this. On at least 3 other occasions he has dropped to the bottom of the cage just before an earthquake has been felt.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 12 hours before quake ; several hours, on and off ; 40; Halswell

My Burmese cat who is very quiet by nature, became agitated, looking for the highest point in the room, trying to jump up to the curtain rails. She also whined which she never does. She is 5 years old.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 4.25am 4/9/2010; 5 minutes ; 50; Diamond Harbour

My cat woke me meowing, then jumped on my bed pushing her face into me. I rolled over to ignore her but she pulled at the blankets and became very restless. Not sure where she was when quake hit soon after. The cat door was locked as usual so she could not get outside. Afterwards we found her burrowed in my son's bed. She also behaved very strangely a couple of hours before the 5.1 quake hit on 8/9/2010. Although able to get outside, she paced the house climbing over furniture and meowing, which was unusual behaviour for her. We were only 5kms from this quake.

Animals/Birds/Plants 3pm to 4pm 3rd Sept 2010 About 1 hour ; 40; Mandeville near Ohoka-

Animals. 40 sheep in a round cluster beside a tree. After 10 minutes I noticed the sheep still in a circle but they had been moved further over and 35 cattle were now in a close circle around the tree, they were not moving as if waiting for a storm coming. It was strange seeing both types of animals close by each other just silent.

Animals/Birds/Plants 1 minute before the earthquake. my dog successfully got me out of bed (he was sleeping right next to me) cause he just freaked out barking and shaking. until the earthquakes passed ; 40; Bryndwr

My dog who slept beside me, woke me up, barking and shaking about a minute before the quake

Animals/Birds/Plants ; At 3:30am on 4th September ; 10 or 15 minutes ; 350; Mosgiel

2 of my cats woke me running up and down the hall and around the house. I actually thought it quite strange at the time. I also woke with a pounding heart at that time and the night before for no apparent reason. Connected? I'm not sure.

Animals/Birds/Plants Friday 3rd September 2010 Most of the day ; 40; Redwood Christchurch

Our cat was making the most awful crying noises which we had never heard before. Very much on edge and didn't seem to know where to put herself

Animals/Birds/Plants ; Friday the 3rd, 6am ; Lasted till Tues 7th ; 40; Opawa, ChCh

We have a 4yo cocker spaniel dog which is always waiting at the back door to be fed. With young children we are always up between 6am and 7am and the dog is always waiting for us at the back door, unless it is raining when he is a little reluctant to come out of his dog house. The morning before the quake i went outside to bring in the newspaper but noticed the dog was not trying to knock me over in the process. I called the dog but it did not come so i went to the back of the property thinking that somehow he had escaped. He was still in his dog house and i had to nearly drag him out as he was trembling and not interested in myself which was very unusual. I gave him some food which he would normally gulp down but on this day he showed no interest at all in food. I even tried to give him his favourite snack of vegemite on toast which he still refused. I left for work and my partner had him inside all day and she mentioned that he was quiet all day and wouldnt leave her side. He didnt eat anything all day. We thought he might of picked up a bug so thought we would see how he was over the next couple of days. Of course the next morning we had the quake and he didnt really eat anything for the next 3 to 4 days. This dog hates water, if we go to the beach he will not walk in the water and he will avoid any puddle on the footpath. He gets very quiet when he has to walk in water and puts his head down, very similar to his behaviour the day before the quake. This dog has never refused food in the 4 years we have had him. And the weather was fine the day before the quake and this was the only fine morning that he hasnt greeted me at the door. He seems to be back to his oldself now but he hated those aftershocks. I hope this information helps. Thanks Alan Walker.

Animals/Birds/Plants About 10 minutes before the quake until my husband woke up 250
Onamalutu Valley, about 10-15 km NW of Renwick, Marlborough

One of our cats (Dusty) pawed hard at my husband's hand until he woke up. Dusty has never done this before and was very determined that my husband must wake up. (my husband sleeps heavily). My husband got up and checked that there was nothing downstairs that was upsetting Dusty and then came back to bed. After about 10 minutes he noticed that the lights flickered and then the logburner flue rattled and the bed rattled. He assumed it was a small-ish local quake and went back to sleep. I did not wake up at all during this. It's only when we saw the news at about 7am that my husband realised what he'd felt. (my husband would report this himself but he's overseas at the moment) We have two other cats who did not do anything unusual as far as we know. Dusty is normally the brightest and naughtiest of the three cats - if that's of any relevance!

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 20 minutes before main earthquake ; 2/5 minutes ; 30;
Broadfields/Templeton

My six donkeys started braying in the early hours of the morning, don't do that unless something is wrong, prowler etc

Animals/Birds/Plants ; Dogs barking ; 1 minute ; 30; Templton Broadfields

Dogs barking just before earthquake and aftershocks, about 5 minutes before..

Animals/Birds/Plants ; friday 3rd September 2010; 11 hours ; 120; Oamaru

I work to 5pm, arriving home as usual at around 5.20pm our family cat was behaving strange, tearing around the house, scratching furniture, running outside and jumping in the air swiping at nothing there. this went on all evening, one minute she wanted inside next outside, even when went to bed around midnight she normally sleeps on my bed but was unsettled all night. I woke to her standing on my chest when the earthquake was happening.

Animals/Birds/Plants Friday 3rd September, around 9pm All night 50 Heathcote Valley,
Christchurch

On Friday 3rd September my small dog started barking, not noisy barks, just little annoying barks. He started about 9pm and kept running up and down the house. We live opposite a disused Malt Works which attracts all sorts of people at night so I just assumed someone was up to mischief again. But got to the point I had to take my dog down to the street to have a look, I remember talking to him and saying "look, know one around, nice quiet night" I only remembered this about two days later. My dog normally sleeps under the bed covers and snuggles into me or sleeps with my daughter. He perched himself on the end of my bed from when I went to bed about 1.30am. Not interested at all in getting into bed with me.

Animals/Birds/Plants Around 4.30am, 4th Sept Till the quake hit 50 Heathcote Valley, Christchurch

Waking to my dog growling, not a normal growl and when I think back was it fear? I had never heard him to that before. I am laying there listening to him, pretty much still asleep when I suddenly realised there was another noise a rumble that just got louder and louder and then BANG it hit. Chaos!!

Animals/Birds/Plants Same as before, about 3 weeks prior to the quake on Sept 4th Up to the day before the Sept 4th quake. ; 40; Kaiapoi

My cat Smooch would come in the open back door, wander through the laundry to the lounge and let out a distinctive pitiful cry, not for food or pain, and a cry I hadn't heard from her before. She would do this most days. Immediately after she would go through most rooms in the house as if looking for something, then walk back out the back door. Smooch spends the majority of her time outside and prior to the weeks before the quake, would seldom be inside even in wet weather.

Animals/Birds/Plants About 3 weeks before the earthquake Up to the day before the Sept 4th quake ; 40; Kaiapoi

My cat Smooch is a creature of habit and has always come inside around 8pm at night until I put her out around 11.30. For the weeks prior to the quake she was nowhere to be seen at that time of night.

Animals/Birds/Plants 6pm Friday evening a few minutes 270 Wanaka

We saw a huge number of birds flying South East - we noticed them because it was a flock much larger than anything I've seen before, maybe hundreds of thousands. Not sure what type, perhaps starlings. It was an enormous black cloud of birds and they looked like they were going somewhere (not just circling/playing).

Animals/Birds/Plants 09/03/2010 Not sure ; 40; At home, South Brighton, Christchurch.

I noticed just prior to the earthquake all the dogs in the neighbourhood barking. It was weird.

Animals/Birds/Plants the night before the earthquake 5 or so minutes ; 40; Halswell

We were driving home from our daughters, I saw about 5-6 cats just sitting on the footpath, it looks quite unusual, never seen this before. Our daughter only lives a short distance from our home.

Animals/Birds/Plants was aware my cat had woken me up just prior to earthquake. about a minute before quake 30 Kaiapoi

Cat woke me up by walking by my head

Animals/Birds/Plants Friday 3rd/09 noticed lots of worms in front lawn They weren't there the next day ; 40; Christchurch City

Worms day before

Animals/Birds/Plants 4 September 4.34am 30 seconds approximately ; 40; Spreydon, Christchurch

About a minute before the earthquake I awoke to my dog barking.

old started to get very vocal meowing non stop to my husband and started to claw and trying to pull herself up on him wouldn't stop meowing this is very unusuall for her.we knew something was up but just thought it was probably just bad weather due to happen.

Animals/Birds/Plants Sat 4 before 7.1 quake in Chch. Rooster crowing. I recall thinking it was too early for it to be crowing. About (5 minutes ??) before 7.1 quake. I recall also roosters crowing before aftershocks hitting in the very early hours days following. A little inconsistent because not always a shake followed crowing. I was only aware of about 30 seconds of crowing I guess. ; 40; Regent Park, Redwood, Christchurch

All a bit fuzzy but I woke up before the quake happened (can't really remember how long before but say 5 mins before). My baby boy was stirring for his feed and I recall hearing a rooster (resident of the Christchurch refuse/dump) and remember thinking it was too early for a rooster to crow. About 5 mins later the quake hit (while I was feeding baby). I never really took the rooster too seriously but do remember mentioning it to my husband. The following day I do remember hearing the rooster and I waited to see what happened. An aftershock hit minutes later. I also heard the rooster crow many other times and did not feel anything. Didn't take it too seriously as I knew there were so many aftershocks, they were so frequent that it could have easily just come down to timing.

Animals/Birds/Plants Fri 3 Sept - 5pm (ish) Half hour(ish) 10 West Melton, Selwyn District, Canterbury

I have 5 horses on my property. All, except one, were fine the evening before the earthquake. This gelding was completely bonkers at dinnertime - he galloped round and round the field bucking and was completely mad. Now I know horses can do this from time to time but it was completely out of character for this guy. He loves his tucker and NEVER runs around like an idiot at dinnertime. I thought it was very strange at the time.

Animals/Birds/Plants 4.33 the dog started going nuts woke me up checked him and then went out to my paddocks to check the stock. 1 minute but the rumble before hand made it last for at least a minute 30; 25; ROLLESTON

FAINT RUMBLE THEN A LITTLE SHAKING THEN THE RUMBLE GOT LOUDER AND THE SHAKING GOT MORE AGGRESSIVE

Animals/Birds/Plants ; approx 4.33am 04 Sept ; 440; Invercargill

I was awoken by my dogs' barking. I listened to them for a while, then decided to go and see what was disturbing them. I looked at my clock, I am not sure whether it was when I got up or when I went back to bed, but the time read 4.34am. I let the dogs from the garage into the house, where my small poodle stood in the middle of the room barking quietly, as if to say "What's going on?" I put

them back into the garage and went back to bed. It was then that I felt a small tremor and thought 'earthquake', went back to sleep and thought nothing more of it until I heard the news in the morning. I believe that at least one of the dogs had sensed something was going to happen.

Animals/Birds/Plants Friday night prior to earthquake 11pm, approx 5 1/2 hours before earthquake
90 minutes 120 timaru

Our pet rabbit thumped his foot loudly on the wooden base of his cage for 90 minutes late on the evening before the earthquake. He thumped his foot fast at first then slowed down to a thump a minute for an hour then further apart for the last 30 minutes. This is unusual as there was no other danger around him at the time, and he hasn't thumped his foot in over 6 months since he was much smaller. Our pet cat was sleeping beside his cage as he does everynight which never bothers the rabbit.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 435; OVER A MINUTE ; 120; Timaru

I awoke at 0400 and couldn't get back to sleep so I got up at 0420 and made a coffee and was watching BBC World news. Our daughter budgie started fluttering her wings in her cage a full 1 minute 30 seconds before the quake struck which at the time I thought to myself why is she doing that she's never ever done that before next minute the quake struck I got my partner up and we went straight to our daughter's room grabbed her straight out of bed and stood in the doorway of her bedroom as the quake continued violently for a minute,....

Animals/Birds/Plants Friday 3rd September mid afternoon Not sure. aware for approx 15 minutes;
80; Geraldine

We commented that something seemed very "strange" Realised it was very quiet and still and that there were no birds singing. Normally our garden is full of noisy bird song. We carried on normally after our coffee break and so didn't take much notice how long it lasted for.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 31st August 2010; till earthquake hit ; 20; Springston

Our dog was very fussy, most really fussy at nights and we couldn't work out why. Our sheep's behaving oddly, lying down a lot than before. post-earthquake, our dog follows us whimpers for about 15mins before big aftershocks hit. She won't leave my husband alone, especially she knows she not suppose to go to bedrooms areas as it is out of bound but she just won't obey the instruction during that time.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; about 4-35am ; around 1 minute ; 260; Kurow

my husband was awake and about 5minutes before the earthquake our 2 dogs who were outside in their run started barking madly

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 4.30am ; Until I woke ; 330; Wanaka

I was woken by my cat continually tapping me on my face with her paw. She has never tapped me on the face before, and she would not stop, despite me pushing her away. My cat's actions woke me fully, and I was awake and alert when the quake struck, minutes later. Minutes later the earthquake struck, and the bed started rolling with the quake.

Animals/Birds/Plants between 3.30am and 4.35am on 04/09/2010 a few minutes ; 40; Christchurch

One of my cats had diarrhoea in the hallway at 3am and I got up to clean it up (I looked at the clock at the time so I that's how I know the time it occurred). When I finished cleaning up I went back to bed and took my other cat with me (he is a 6 month old unneutered cat). I was just falling off to sleep when he woke me up meowing very loudly and clawing at the side of my bed, I tried ignoring him but he persisted and started scratching at the front door mat which he never usually does, he is also normally very quiet and will stay indoors all night normally. So I got up and opened the door for him and he shot outside. I went back to bed and tried to get to sleep, which wasn't easy as I had a bit of an upset stomach (had had this all night like indigestion) I was just getting to sleep when the earthquake struck.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 4Sept 2010 0400 hrs ; two minutes ; 20; Leeston township

20 year old house cat jumped on my bed until I awoke then yowled all round the house for a while. The cat NEVER gets on my bed normally.

Animals/Birds/Plants day before quake (3 Sept 2010) at around 9:30 am 5 minutes more or less ; 40; Riccarton, Christchurch City

A bird which regularly visits my garden to eat worms was uncharacteristically dragging both its wings close to the ground while walking around.

Animals/Birds/Plants 2 days before the quake (2 September 2010) at night around 10 pm more than an hour ; 40; Riccarton, Christchurch City

A whole host of birds chirping loudly all at the same time. It was pitch black and I found it strange that they would chirp in the middle of the night.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 4th sept just b4 the rumble ; about 10 secs ; 30; southshore, Chch

was woken from a sleep to hear my 2 cats were howling louder than the norm, both with different pitch and the neighbour's dog was barking like crazy...I half sat up wondering, wtf...from the time I woke, it would've been a good 10 secs of them howling and then they stopped (obviously they had scurried for cover somewhere) then heard the rumble like it was coming from the sea straight into my bedroom and then it hit with brutal force

Animals/Birds/Plants ; At about 10.00pm ; 20mins ; 320; Dunedin, Otago

The cat was hipo and was scratching on doors, hiding in cupboards and jumping up and down from high surfaces

Animals/Birds/Plants Sometime after 4am Sat 4 Sept Not sure as went to sleep then woken by quake 200 Hokitika

My dog woke me up, more insistently than normal and when I looked at the time, it was only 4:?? (I now wish I had checked the minutes). He usually wakes after 7am so I told him to lie down. He went to his bed then immediately came back and again indicated he wanted me to get up. I was annoyed as he is normally very obedient and firmly told him to lie down. I went back to sleep, had a dream, and was then woken by the quake. It was the worst I'd experienced with things falling in most rooms of

the house. What surprised me, however, was that the dog 'knew' something was happening before I had any sign of it.

Animals/Birds/Plants 4/9/2010 a couple of seconds before the 7.1 quake at 4.35 strange leading up to quake, then just reacted to the quake ; 40; islington/hornby suburb of chch city

I have 2 cockatiels in a parrot cage in lounge next to my bedroom. About 3-5 seconds before the booom/noise and before the shaking started my birds began to fly into and thrash against the wire of their cage. I was almost out of bed heading to the door to check on them when the earthquake started. I have 2 cats but they were asleep on my bed when the birds reacted.

Animals/Birds/Plants all night, then went mad 2 mins before the quake & got me out of bed ; 40; kaiapoi

My three dogs, were up and down from my bed from 10.30pm. all night, then went mad 2 mins before the quake & got me out of bed

Animals/Birds/Plants Friday 4th Sept 10.00pm Dogs sent out for last toilet stop before going to bed in garage; 2; Darfield

Dogs (2) put out for last toilet stop before bed. usually back in voluntarily within 5 mins, however this time did not want to come inside. Left out for 20mins and had to make them come inside to bed in garage. (attached to house)

Animals/Birds/Plants About an hour before the September 4th Earthquake About a minute or so it seemed; 120; Rolling Ridges Road. Rosewill, RD4, Timaru

My Siamese cat Moses, gently pawed my face as I slept. I tried to ignore him and drifted in and out of sleep. He was persistent but I stupidly ignored him until suddenly the house began to rattle and everything seemed to be vibrating. Moses vanished and was later found downstairs behind an armchair. Since the initial earthquake Moses has been frequently waking me before aftershocks. My friend who lives at Motukarara near Christchurch told me her donkeys and ponies go to the top of the hill before an aftershock hits.

Animals/Birds/Plants I was woken by my dog at 4.22am, on 4th Sept From approximately 4.20am til the mainshock at 4.35am so... 15 minutes? ; 40; Kaiapoi

I am a profoundly deaf single parent, so my dog has been a big part of my everyday life and he sleeps at the end of my bed (for my own security!). He woke me at 4.22am, very agitated and pacing up and down the hallway. I found out later that the town fire alarm had gone off approximately 4.20am (not sure on exact time), but only briefly and this doesn't normally startle Max to this extent. I was a bit grumpy at being woken at an early hour (who wouldn't be?) so I got up and let Max outside to toilet, while I poured myself a glass of water, drank it and went to the toilet myself. I let Max back in and he shot up the hall and jumped onto my bed (this isn't normal - he usually waits for the "Up" command given by me) and couldn't seem to settle down - he circled and circled around in one spot, while looking upwards. I got into bed and pulled the covers up and felt a slight rumble. My first thought was "Oh, earthquake" - in a very blase way, as most Kiwis are! But Max jumped to all fours and started whining, circling around and then he jumped off the bed and shot up the hall. At this moment, the M7.1 hit with an almighty roar. Max had disappeared but my first thought was to reach my children and get them to safety. Max was a bit agitated but fine after a long walk later that morning. The aftershocks didn't seem to bother him but it wasn't until they really started rolling in that afternoon that he became quite agitated, pacing back and forth, and looking at the ceiling, minutes

before any aftershock would rumble along. He does this every time. For me, he's been a lifesaver as I feel more 'prepared', especially at night, but the poor dog is a bundle of nerves at times! He certainly does not like the aftershocks and his demeanor does change several minutes before one hits. Apologies for the novel! I hope this helps in your study. Dallas

Animals/Birds/Plants I am on the morning of the earthquake. about 10-15 minutes 320 Home-Brooklyn, Sugarloaf Road, Wellington

Our cat, A Burmese female who is normally very placid, almost did vertical takeoffs. She ran discriminately around the house & appeared to be quite distressed. When we opened up the door to go into our bedroom, she darted ahead of us and ran under the bed. It was very difficult to get her out to her electric blanket in the family room. When we did get her out, she wanted to be cuddled & reassured. We heard about the earthquake at about 5am..

Animals/Birds/Plants 04 36 04 09 2010 very difficult longest ever experienced est 30 to 50 seconds; 20; Just east of Orana park Mcleans Is Rd at "Steam scene"

We, Wife self and three pet dogs at a NZ Motor Caravan weekend rally at steam scene. Dogs sleep in the van with us and if we don't make any abnormal movement while sleeping, speak or get out of bed dogs remain in their beds until around six thirty or later if we are lucky. If they are disturbed they jump out of bed and demand attention till one of us gets up and takes them outside for a pee then back to bed with a treat while we might make a cup of tea then all goes quiet again. On the 4th they became demanding at around 04 00 so man of the house takes them out and all three dogs have a pee, back to bed with a treat, cuppa for us but they didn't settle. After around 10 minutes mrs R gets up and repeats program and two of the three do number 2s, third declines then back to their beds. the next 10 or so minutes they did not settle in any way then two jumped on our bed as the quake started, the third is a vertically challenged miniature dachshound, the other two are miniature poodles. Cant give any info after the onset of the quake as it was rather violent and terrifying. I would say mrs R and I had probably the longest embrace for many years, (married 47 years on Oct 16th). The behavior of the dogs was definitely abnormal and we have discussed the incident and are reasonably certain it was quake related. Have not noticed any out of the ordinary behavior with all the after shocks but the more sensitive poodle does get quite nervy with the larger aftershocks but have no knowledge of any pre shock signs from them. BTW we returned home here to Akaroa on Sat morning of the quake.

Animals/Birds/Plants just prior to earthquake long enough for the dog to pee ; 40; Christchurch

I am reporting what I have been told by a friend, who got up to let the dog out for a pee. She said that the air was unusually still and warm. They had just got inside the house when the quake began.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; sept 4 , about 4.30am ; forever ; 10; Rolleston/Burnham

Our dog woke us to let him out which we don't have to do as the front door is always open for him to come and go as he pleases. I got out of bed to let him out as he was whinging loudly and he would not go outside for a good 30 seconds, as I just got back into bed the quake started. The noise and being unable to stand was something that is so terrifying. The share force that you could feel was amazing.

Animals/Birds/Plants Friday evening 3 September About 1-2 hours 35 Avonead/Russley, Christchurch

My cat who usually just eats what she is given, ate all her soft meat, then kept running into me in the computer room, meowing, then running down the hall to the lounge. I eventually gave in and gave her more meat. Within a few minutes she was back into my office doing the same thing. I came out and

saw that she had not only eaten all the soft meat, but she had also eaten all the cat biscuits that would usually last her several days. I decided she must have worms, so forced her to eat a worming pill. She continued to behave energetically for a while then calmed down. I went to bed, the earthquake happened and I didn't see her again until Sunday late afternoon. She has not done that again since that night.

Animals/Birds/Plants 4.30ish am on the morning of the quake about 30 mins; 800; Auckland Pakuranga

Our family of four were all woken by our 2 dogs. Normally they sleep until we rise but they were agitated, "talking" whining and running around the house. We believed there was someone outside as this is their usual reaction to visitors or people near the house. We let the dogs out to investigate - there was no-one. The dogs were very unsettled for about 30 mins. they calmed down and we went back to bed. Only at 9.30, when we heard the news, did we think the dogs had known something that we didn't. I'm surprised at the distance but this was extremely bizarre behaviour for these two dogs.

Animals/Birds/Plants Thursday 3rd 6pm onwards From then and still occurring ; 40; St albans Christchurch

Thursday nite our dog was whimpering like she had been told off or scared. We tried to calm her down. She would sit right beside me and quietly cry. For the 1st time ever I had to get up with her as she wanted to go outside. When I went to come back in she cried and I had to pick her up. We thought she may be sick so just cuddled and given water. Went to work fri and she was unsettled neighbours informed us as not usual. Again once home she shadowed me and would quietly whimper. If she didn't improve we were going to take her to vet sat morning for her unexplained illness. We now believe she was sensing something in relation to the quake.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 10s before 7.1 earthquake ; 2min ; 40; bishopdale

Animals/Birds/Plants about 2 or 3 minutes before the earthquake Until the quake stopped; 70; Longbeach, Ashburton district

Our family cat ran into my daughters bedroom - furthest room in the house- jumped onto her bed , ran up the length of her waking her, then jumped off and ran into the main bedroom disturbing my husband and myself. He then continued running around that end of the house until after the quake ended. My daughter was stroking him just before the first aftershock and he suddenly started reacting as if he had seen a mouse and stood there darting his head from side to side as if unsure of where to go. The aftershock happened seconds later. He remained unsettled, not leaving the house for more than few minutes at a time preferring to use his cat box, something he usually hates, for about 10 days after the first quake. He is very much a farm cat that hates being indoors for any length of time.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 2 weeks prior to the event ; until the event ; 7.5; kirwee

Our 14yr old cat began sleeping in odd places where he had never before, behind our bed, behind the couch and behind the log burner and in our storage nook. we thought something was wrong with him as he is a very active member of the family and never does things like that.

Animals/Birds/Plants

I'd worked all night and thought it only perhaps 2.30 am for some reason. I came back inside and sat at my pc again. It was then I first noticed that my cat was sitting under my desk and rubbing her head all over my chair. Sitting down, about five minutes later, she growled this low moaning sort of way I'd never heard her do. It reminded me of the sound some cats make when they catch birds and bring them in. I actually wondered if I had been hearing things, so still, I kept ignoring it and working

into the night. The cat went out the door and then I heard the first rumbles of the foreshock I presume. For 3 days after the quake my cat would not come indoors and the slightest vibration would send her like a bullet through the cat door. In fact she's been going through the same cat door for 15 years. And it's only now she's been able to break it. She cries in the hallway at night and twice I have woken to her 'warbling' or yodelling and soon after we get an A shock. My family have come to rely on her as a sort of barometer lately. If she is in, it's all ok. If she's out and refuses to come in. There might be an aftershock soon. So far, she has been right. I hope this has been of some help to your studies. I

Animals/Birds/Plants Thurs 2 Sept - overnight and Friday rd during day 36 hours 10 Waddington

Animals/Birds/Plants Weekend 21/8/2010 For the 2 weeks before earthquake 60 Ashburton

Cat started getting edgy, going in/out of the house all day, every day. Any thump, bang she would take off.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; Friday 3 Sept ; 50; New Brighton

Starlings which normally fly at building - tree height were flying very high late on the Friday afternoon/early evening.

Animals/Birds/Plants approx 4.30am on morning of quake 3-4 mins 40; Tunara Park Burwood

My German Shepherd dog (Kazz) woke me at about 4.30am she was restless and seemed uncharacteristically agitated. I opened the bedroom ranchslider for her however unusually she wouldn't get out. I stood at the open door for a minute or so and the quake struck

Animals/Birds/Plants Friday 3rd September about 10pm About 30 minutes ; 40; Christchurch city

We were looking for the dog in order to put him in his bed only to discover that he had hidden under a spare bed, something he never does. He also leapt onto any available knee moments before each aftershock on the Saturday.

Animals/Birds/Plants 4th sept 2010 seemed like a 5 minutes ; 40; Cashmere hills, Christchurch

The cat woke me at just after 4am and wanted to go out. I then went back to bed and then about 25 minutes later we were hit with the earthquake. Every time a quake is about to hit the cat wants to get outside, his ears suddenly prick up and he sits bolt up right like a guard dog.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; two hours before ; ongoing ; 50; banks peninsula

dog displayed unusual behaviour not seen in the seven years we have owned him, he was restless, wanted to keep going out , and constantly checking us and drawing our attention. also just prior to the aftershocks he will come into our rooms and snort to wake us . also two hours before the quake hit on my way home at 2am noted cows etc were tightly packed in groups beside fences away from the hillsides

Animals/Birds/Plants ; Early in winter...maybe May ; All winter ; 20; Halswell

I live in a barnhouse and ALWAYS have a mouse problem, they come into the ceiling space for the winter. Start of this winter the mice arrived...for about two -three weeks and then I noticed there were no mice sounds...none all winter and thats so strange.

Animals/Birds/Plants 4.09.2010 @ 4;40am 1min 320 Waikouaiti East Otago

One of my cats came in and jumped on top of me and she kept touching my face with her paws. She never does that as a rule. When I never woke she bit me on the chin and woke me up. She then hopped off the bed and proceeded into the sitting room and hopped up on the computer table and looked at the wall. As I have 2 cats they were both facing the wall to the west side of the house.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 04.35 09/04/2010; all night ; 3500; Melbourne

The first one is about my friend John in Melbourne. His cat always sleeps on his bed. On the morning of the quake here in Christchurch the cat hid under the bed and wouldn't come out.

Animals/Birds/Plants 04.35 am 04/09/2010 all night ; 40; Phillipstown Linwood Christchurch

My friend Valerie had an experience with her cat who always sleeps on the bed. The cat went missing at 9pm prior to the quake that happened at 4.35am.

Animals/Birds/Plants Friday 3rd Sept late evening - from memory around 2300 - 2330 perhaps 5-7 minutes ; 40; Christchurch City in the suburb of Spreydon

We have an 8 month old curly coated retriever. Prior to the earthquake, we had only ever heard her vocalise in any form on about 4 or 5 occasions, each of which was a couple of simple "boofs". On the evening of 3rd September sometime between 11pm and 11.30 or thereabouts she became extremely alarmed and started to bark - barking loudly perhaps for 5-7 minutes - perhaps longer (I can confirm with my fiancée more precise timings if required). She was extremely agitated and it took us much effort to calm her down. Anyway we thought given her prior lack of vocalisation, we thought this was very peculiar behaviour and my partner and I both commented on it. We were woken by her barking again just a minute or two before the earthquake hit at about 4.30 am on 4th Oct. She has since barked at/just before subsequent aftershocks.

Animals/Birds/Plants 04/09/2010 60 seconds 250 Blenheim, Marlborough

My two cats woke me, which is very unusual, by jumping on top of me. I got up went to the loo got back into bed, turned the light out and when I thought the cats were fighting on the bed, turned the light on to see a pot plant swinging and a door that was not quite shut banging, no cats in sight

Animals/Birds/Plants The night hours of Fri 3rd and early sat 4th sept Through from about 9 pm till the quake hit ; 40; Upper Riccarton ChCh

Summer my 14 yr old domestic cat would not settle and kept running in and out her cat flap quite noisily which is unusual for her. She sleeps on my bed, but I was unable to get to sleep until I took medication to knock me out about 3.30. (Because of her noise)

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 4.30am saturday morning ; at lest 30 minuites ; 40 ; christchurch

(animals) the house was shacking like crazy, the walls were moving back and forward.

Animals/Birds/Plants 1 min before quake Dog jumped up and ran outside, continues with aftershocks. ; 40; Christchurch, North New Brighton

My dog was sleeping on my bed. He jumped up startled, jumped off bed and ran outside. This was about 1min before the earthquake. Thinking it was a cat outside he was about to chase I got out of bed and was near the doorway when the quake hit. Since the main quake he has been on edge and has had the same behaviour with each aftershock. He senses most of them from 3.5 above (as noted on Geonet website) especailly since my house is weatehrboard and I live on sand. He listens out and his ears go back before a quake. It is the 16th Sept and he is still showing the same behaviour.

Animals/Birds/Plants about 4 hours before the quake on and off for about half an hour ; 40; At home

My cat went nuts running around the house jumping all over the furniture, running in and out of the rooms and under beds in house. Running along sofa all at a very quick darting pace. We wondered what was wrong with her. She did not settle down on the bed to sleep but kept going from the window to bed all night until just before the quake. When it happened she just sat up and looked around.

Animals/Birds/Plants aprox 7pm on the friday night when we arived home may have been befor this we were only home for 30 mins so difficult to say ; 40; marihau

When we araved home there was no sign of the cats this is very odd as it it biscuit time. after a surch of the house we found them hiding under the bed very odd we couldnt work out what had possibly spooked them

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 4.40am ; 20 sec ; 300; Blenheim

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 04/09/2010; few seconds ; 400; invercargill

before any earth quake comes[about 5 mins] our cockateal [bob] he just starts flatterring around in his cage and chirping, and dosnt stop till earthquake has finished.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 4.20 saturday 4th September ; 1 min ; 40; Sydenham

Birds began chirping and the dog barked

Animals/Birds/Plants ; after abservation ; Na ; 25; Weedons

I looked for one of our cats afterwards and it was already under the bed...our bed -same place he goes when I vacumn - his safe place.He went there before the event. AND we live on land. I didnt notice the horses pacing before...They were calm and still unusually calm with the power of the after shocks.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; about 3 days before ; about a week after ; 40; shirley christchurch

my cat started to get really depressed and lay at the top of the stairs for about 3 days before the quake. she wouldn't even look up and talk or even open her eyes. a few hours before the quake she started to act strangely. we found her hiding in the wardrobe in our bedroom. then when we put her out she starting crying at the door and she would start scratching to get in. I had to spend alot of time with her

after the big quake and when i was brushing her and there was a quake coming she would look up at the ceiling. but now if they aftershocks are not too big she looks up then goes back to sleep. As i am typing this we had a small quake and now it doesnt bother her like it used to.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 1st of september ; 3 days ; 40; chritchurch city

cat running around back yard climbing trees (generally going a bit crazy) . cat normally sleeps all day.

Animals/Birds/Plants 31-08-2010 card lost in ATM machine ; 40; near Colombo street CBD as tourist

Wife noticed no birds sounds I couldn't explain why bank card disappeared

Animals/Birds/Plants 5 -10 minutes before quake at 4:35am 4/9/2010 A few minutes ; 40; Linwood

Animals/Birds/Plants 04 Sept 2010 3 minutes before the quake occurred I had the one dog sleeping with me and she started growling first then just went crazy barking 3 minutes before it hit. I got up went down to get the other dog out of his cage and as I was heading back to my room I could hear what sounded like two 747's Boeing heading towards our house and the quake just rocked and rolled for what seemed like minutes. ; 40; Mairehau East Ellington drive

As I stated the dog started growling and barking for three minutes. I got up turned the light on and went down to get our other dog out of his cage. On the way back to my bedroom I could hear the noise of the earthquake approaching After the quake there were no birds to been seen in the sky for about three days. Bloody freaky if you ask me.

Animals/Birds/Plants Approximately 3am (half hour before the earthquake) About 30 minutes 320 Dunedin

I was woken up because one of my cats had urinated in the room (not common, but it has happened a couple times in the past) and one of the dogs was awake and investigating. The cat and dog were restless and would not settle down back to sleep. This was very usual, especially for the dog who settles and sleeps soundly through the night, even when disturbed.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 03/09/2010; 5 minuets ; 30; Rolleston

When i put our cat outside for the night, she was sniffing the ground unusually. Then she started scratching at the door (which she has never done in her 14yrs) and meowing strangely. When i went to let her back in she had run off.

Animals/Birds/Plants noticed 4.36am when awoken by the quake Two hours after quake and again during the greater aftershocks. ; 40; Avonhead/Russley area

I have two chihuahuas. When the quake struck and woke me, the dogs didn't bark or growl. They were still like statues and didn't move from the bed for two hours after I had gathered my children. These dogs bark at anything to the point it annoys, but they were wide eyed and scared. Each aftershock following for several days, their ears came forward initially then they went still and lowered their bellies to the floor submissively. Once the aftershock passed they began to shake for about two to three minutes and burrowed into me. Everyone else I spoke to who had dogs said they barked and went crazy a minute or so before an aftershock. Mine did a Medusa and went rock still.

Animals/Birds/Plants A couple of minutes before the earthquake Until and during the earthquake ; 40; Ilam, Christchurch

I was asleep, and then my pet budgie started squaking very loudly, like she does when disturbed in the dark. She continued to squak very loudly right up to the earthquake and during it.

Animals/Birds/Plants Thursday 2 Sept. 12.30pm ish couple of minutes ; 40; Halswell
Flock of sheep ran from one corner of a paddock to the other then back again

Animals/Birds/Plants ; Moments before ; a few seconds ; 700; Near Opotiki
Just before we have earthquake, pheasants squawk and take flight (we live on a farm and this often happens). I heard them do this in the middle of the night and when I got up I was thinking that we may have had another earthquake. I visited the Recent Earthquakes site and discovered that we had not but CHCH had one at about that time. I suggest that it was detected by the pheasants .

Animals/Birds/Plants ; About 8:30; All evening ; 40; Christchurch city

Cat came flying through the cat door, hid between the fridge and the wall space, flew out to the couch, attacked the couch and then flew out the cat door again. He was doing this and becoming overly affectionate most of the evening. He was also quite wound up.

Animals/Birds/Plants a couple of weeks before the earthquake, ages ; 40; christchurch

well, i noticed every night at around 10pm onwards that birds were chirping. i said at the time this is really weird! since the earthquake there has been no night time chirping

Animals/Birds/Plants ; A week b4 approx ; Approx 2-3 weeks.; 40; Burwood, CHCH

The birds in my garden were very unsettled. I have a friendly blackbird and they were not as trusting etc. Would put food out and the atmosphere outside was very eerie 24 hours b4 EQ especially. The birds were very freaked out up until 2 days ago. they seem different now, more normal.

Animals/Birds/Plants 4/9/10 0435 15sec ; 40; Cashmere Christchurch

I was awake prior to earthquake. Cat asleep on bed. Cat started to make startled noises. I thought he was having a dream. Then cat made growling noise. I thought he was having a bad dream. Then the earthquake started.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; Friday afternoon/evening ; until the quake hit ; 40; Redwood

My cat was acting really strange, darting up and down the hallway, just wouldn't stay still

Animals/Birds/Plants 3rd Sep. 2010 between 1630 and 1730 A couple of minutes; 4; Hoskyns rd West Melton

Our jack russell dog started sniffing frantically around our sofa, I moved it out and she started scratching, biting licking and salivating a certain spot on a floor board. It was very strange and then she stopped and didn't show any further interest again.

Animals/Birds/Plants about 10pm on 3rd September until 8 pm on the 4th September ; 40; at home Hornby, Christchurch

At about 10pm on the 3rd of September, our cat who normally comes in to sleep for the night was skitish and wouldn't come to us when we called her. As we approached her, she would move about 5 metres and wait for us to follow her. We got some of her favourite cat treats to entice her in, which did not work as she was hesitant/fearful to come into the house. We ended up leaving her outside for the night and went to bed. Being a cat of routine, we expected to see her for breakfast, then lunch and then dinner. She only returned at about 8pm the following night, the 4th of September.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; night before ; 280; Gore

Cat which never slept inside got in through a window and curled up on bed near owner "Huh, perhaps she does like me after all!"

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 435; 10s ; 300; Dunedin

Siberian Huskie woke up and made a racket and jumped on my bed.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 433; 2m ; 360; Ngakawau

Dog barking (unique)

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 432; 3m; 40; Chch

Cat left bed

Animals/Birds/Plants ; Thursday 20:30; few minutes ; 50; Governor's Bay

My daughter regularly checks her chooks at night, to see if they are all inside the coop. On Thursday evening she checked them at about 20:30 and came back inside the house and reported that the chickens were restless, standing up, ruffling their feathers and making clucking noises. This was the first time ever, as far as we know, that they were not asleep around that time. She did not check the chickens on the Friday night.

Animals/Birds/Plants Friday 3 Sept, from about 8pm onwards 5h ; 40; St Albans

strange behaviour lasted about 5 hours from 8pm until 1am when i went to bed. My older cat about 7 yrs, is usually very settled and sleeps on the bed most evenings away from people and tv noise. From about 8pm on the Friday evening before the quake he appears in the lounge and is very vocal, meowing a lot, but I know he's not hungry or hurt, he starts scratching at the door to go out, even though he usually goes out an open window. From this first time for the next 5 or so hours he would scratch at the door every 5 or 10 minutes to be let inside then outside again continuously, when he was in he would pace around the lounge, clean himself or smooch up to me very unusually and then demand to be let out again, he wouldn't just sit down or doze like normal. When i did go to bed he sat right up next me, but didn't really sleep like normal, was very alert and woke me up by biting my arm about 30 seconds before the quake. when the quake struck he leap up onto the window sill watching outside and stayed there for 2 hours before going outside.

Animals/Birds/Plants Started approximately six weeks before 7.1 earthquake on September 4th; with noticeable increase in occurrence frequency and intensity 2- 3 weeks prior. Lasted up to the large earthquake Sept 4, and re-occurs before each sizeable 'aftershock'. ; 40; St Albans

Keeshond breed dog displays loud 'alert' barking without any (humanly) observable stimuli that would trigger this type of response; paces and pants; itches at his ears; wants to go outside, and once outside won't want to come inside. My Partner and I had been continually disturbed by one of our dogs constant barking and signs of distress in the weeks prior to 7.1 event. We couldn't understand why our dog kept barking, what was 'bugging him'. Our dog Nico will also bark the same way before sizable aftershocks.

Animals/Birds/Plants 230am several minutes 120 timaru

I went outside for a smoke (I dont smoke inside) on the chair i have. I live opposite the Timaru Botanical Gardens. As I was having the smoke the birds in the park all started chirping, agitated like it was NOT a normal bird chirp. I knew it was strange but my initial thought was must be a cat up one of the trees but then realised no, birds dont fly for cats and especially not at night (Yes the birds were flying out of the trees as could see them in the street lighting). As I know most daytime birds do not fly at night except for unusual circumstances I knew something was happening but to be honest I never even thought of an earthquake and yet have read enough about it i should have clicked. To me anyway especially now have thought about it yes it was a clear sign something was either happening or going to happen, and well, we know what did happen about 2 hours later.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 435; tens of seconds ; 5; Near Darfield

Pigs first then cows thejn birds which stopped 10-20sec? Then quake.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 4 Sept 10 4.35am ; 2minues ; 40; St Albans ChCh

THE CAT GOT UP ABOUT 2 MINUTES BEOFRE SO WOKE ME UP. THEN AN ALMIGHTY NOISE AND THE BED STARTED SHAKING AND IT GOT WORSE AND WORSE, FELT LIKE IT WOULD NEVER END.

Animals/Birds/Plants Sept 4 approx 30 minutes before Quake A moment or two, two or three times. ; 40; Spreydon Christchurch

I was awake at my computer prior to the Quake. I heard an animal growling. It didn't sound like my cat but I thought she might have been fighting another cat outside. At first I ignored it, til the growling sound happened again about ten minutes later. It made me get up and go outside to see. I noticed how still it was outside, no sounds at all. But no sign of any cats fighting at all. I wondered what time it was in the morning, I'd worked all night and thought it only perhaps 2.30 am for some reason. I came back inside and sat at my pc again. It was then I first noticed that my cat was sitting under my desk and rubbing her head all over my chair. Sitting down, about five minutes later, she growled this low moaning sort of way I'd never heard her do. It reminded me of the sound some cats make when they catch birds and bring them in. I actually wondered if I had been hearing things, so still, I kept ignoring it and working into the night. The cat went out the door and then I heard the first rumbles of the foreshock I presume. For 3 days after the quake my cat would not come indoors and the slightest vibration would send her like a bullet through the cat door. In fact she's been going through the same cat door for 15 years. And it's only now she's been able to break it. She cries in the hallway at night and twice I have woken to her 'warbling' or yodelling and soon after we get an A shock. My family have come to rely on her as a sort of barometer lately. If she is in, it's all ok. If she's out and refuses to come in. There might be an aftershock soon. So far, she has been right. I hope this has been of some help to your studies.

Animals/Birds/Plants 10.30pm Friday 3rd Sept but new 3 nights before until the 7.1 quake hit and continued; 30; ChCh, Bishopdale

Went outside to toilet dogs, dry, chilly, airey, night, very crystal clear close bright stars, see breath in air, but air felt dry and electrical. I knew things were a miss, something felt as though it was warning me. I told myself there would be an earthquake and there was. This has happened to me before. It is almost an aura. Pitch black and galaxy was closer than normal, with venus extremely bright than previous weeks as had been observing planets. There was no noise from anything - deathly. My DOGS PICKED UP ON THE EARTHQUAKE BEFORE I DID AS IT BEGAN AND ARE STILL DOING SO WITH THE AFTERSHOCKS

Animals/Birds/Plants 2 September - early evening a few minutes ; 40; Heathcote, Christchurch

I had a phone call from my sister-in-law in connection with a family event happening in Rangiora the next night (3rd). Having been almost house bound for 3 months over winter due to sickness she knew that I hadn't stayed at their place (a regular thing when I'm well) for 3 months and offered to come and get me and bring me home afterwards. I would have said yes, but I really felt I wanted to stay there. I wasn't sure why, because I knew I'd have to sleep on a sofa, due to other relatives also staying and it wouldn't be a good nights sleep. Even they were surprised that I'd prefer to stay there. We all went to bed about midnight and as I lay down on the sofa I looked up and saw about 5 big paintings lying on top of the tall bookshelf near the sofa, and thought, hell if there was an earthquake and those things fell they would nearly kill be because they'd be really heavy, and wouldn't just fall between the bookcase and sofa, but would shoot out and land on me. I felt uneasyish but went to sleep and when the quake struck I've never moved so fast. The first thought was those paintings, but actually they never moved, as you know Rangiora didn't get it so bad. Then it hit me that I'd felt so strongly to stay out there. (Which I did for a week !!!). Their dog also was an earthquake detector.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 4am ; 10mins approx ; 40; Christchurch

My cat sleeps on the bed snuggled in to me and when she is alarmed she tends to make enough movement to wake me. On the morning of the quake she sat up and woke me, then I was sure I heard a rustling noise. She jumped off the bed and I thought I heard it again. Thinking there was maybe another cat in the house I got up and had a look, even turning the lights on. There was nothing there but the cat just sort of sat looking around then went out through the cat door. I went back to bed but was still kind of awake when the quake struck. On the morning of the big aftershock she was outside also where as normally she sleeps this time of morning.

Animals/Birds/Plants A couple of minutes before 7.1 quake 4/9/10 ; 40; At home, Spreydon, CHCH

Our 9 month old black labrador cross came in to our bedroom & hit my wife in the head with her paw. She has done this in the past to get our attention for her to go outside to go to the toilet, but has never hit my wife in the face (it's normally on the body) and there was obviously some urgency in her actions. When my wife got up to open the door, she just sat in the hallway. When my wife was on her way back to bed, that is when the earthquake struck.

Animals/Birds/Plants The night before the earthquake One incident 16.5 Homebush area. 8.5 km out of the Darfield township

We had 7 dairy goats. They are highly intelligent. When we were feeding them the evening before the earthquake, they stayed near their shelters and wouldn't come to eat their feed. Normally they ran to the food in excitement. After feeding, they normally wander back to their shelters but I had to literally lead them back to where they were. They kept close to each other all the time.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; few days before 4/9; COUPLE DAYS ; 40; SOUTHBRIDGE

One of our nearly 1 yr old kittens started slinking around doorways, being quite jittery. i thought she was acting very strange.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 4/09/2101 04.30; 5 mins ; 40; Hei Hei

My dog, 6 months old, woke me by standing on it's back paws and pawing at me with it's front paws. I thought it needed to go to the toilet and got up to let it out. But hadn't got far when the quake hit.

Animals/Birds/Plants 6/09/2010 approx 6pm About 5 mins ; 40; Spreydon, Christchurch

My dog started barking and wouldn't stop, then another aftershock which had a notably loud bang with it. After that she stoped barking

Animals/Birds/Plants noticed around 11.30pm fri 3rd sept up to 8 days after quake; 30; cust north canterbury

Retired to bed around 11.30pm on friday 3rd sept. Noticed that the lambs and ewes in the paddocks were deadly silent, we can wake with our 3year old at 3am and there is always something bleating, so this was quite unusual so much so that i meantioned it to my husband. the next morning i noticed that all the stock was on the higher ground of the paddocks our place is quite undulating

Animals/Birds/Plants The Friday afternoon of September 3, Briefly observed it on the Friday afternoon while driving past a paddock; 150; Rural area on road between Fairlie and Geraldine

What I saw was a paddock of cattle and they were all lying down. I knew for a fact that this was a precursor because in the book of Job in the bible it says that the cattle know of an approaching storm. Maybe they are reserving themselves dry ground. Maybe the definition of a storm extends to more than what we might classically describe as a storm

Animals/Birds/Plants 0230hrs Saturday 4th September 2010 Until the earthquake started ; 40; Richmond Christchurch

When I came home after late shift Friday night my Chihuahua was waiting at the door as usual. I let him out and gave him his usual treat for the evening. I then watched some programmes I had recorded earlier in the week. Maxi was unusually hyperactive. Instead of lying down beside me he spent the time nudging, pawing and demanding attention. I took little notice and switched on my computer to catch up on my email and forums. Shortly before the earthquake Maxi started racing around the dining room table that I was sitting at. Every morning I get up, put Maxi on the floor and come downstairs to let him out. He is much faster than I am and when I get to the dining room he is doing laps of the table until I unlock the door and he races outside for his morning constitutional. Needless to say when he started doing that I thought it strange as he has only ever done that first thing in the morning . I got up and opened the french door. I was standing with one hand on the left doorframe and my right on the right door handle holding the door open and telling Maxi to "Be Quick" but he was under the table and wouldn't come out. Right at that moment the shaking started.

Animals/Birds/Plants 4th September 2010 4.15am about 15 to 17 mins leading up to the quake ; 40; Avonside Wainoni

I was asleep in the spare room when our small dog junior who slept the night with my wife in the main bedroom came into the spare room about 4 15am jumped onto my bed which woke me. This I thought was his normal routine and got up to let him out to do an early morning wee's. He normally goes outside, triggers the security lights and I watch him do his wee's and he comes tearing back inside. However, that morning when he finished he took off down to the end of our section and no matter how hard I tried he wouldn't come back when called. I had to physically go out in my night attire to pick him up and get him back inside. He was like shivering and shaking when I picked him up but that didn't stop me from growling him for not obeying my call. By this time it was about 4 35am and we were back in bed and I had him on my chest still shivering and shaking and thinking it was because I had growled him that he was doing this. I was patting him and telling him it's alright when the quake started 4 38am. Maybe he had an inkling of what was about to happen I don't know, it was certainly unusual behavior for him

Animals/Birds/Plants I noticed the city birds up on the Port Hills about 12 hours prior to the earthquake I do not know how long they had been there. Friday 3rd Sept was a rainy day, so I did not notice when they first left the city. ; 40; St Martins, Christchurch, NZ

I was walking up Rapaki Track (city side of the hills). When I came up to the saddle I noticed a number of birds (100 or so) that I have not seen up on the hills before, but have seen in the city on a daily basis. The birds were in tussock grass alongside the track. As I drew near they took flight. As I kept walking more and more birds (all of the same variety) took flight. Most had been concealed by the grass. By the time they had all taken flight I realised there must have been hundreds upon hundreds of them. I have walked this track regularly over the previous 20 months, usually 3 times per week. I had never seen any of this type of bird up on the hill before. I thought it very unusual. The birds were brown in colouring and looked similar to the common blackbird. The time was approximately 4.00pm (about 12 1/2 hours prior to the earthquake)

Animals/Birds/Plants Ten minutes before the quake until a couple of minutes before the quake 20 Dunsandel

Animals/Birds/Plants the day before the quake and up to 48 hours after the whole time ; 40; Sydenham

Our cat Wallace all of a sudden did not want to stand on the floor, he would jump from furniture to furniture and was very vocal, we noticed he was more agitated within half an hour of an aftershock

Animals/Birds/Plants 1600 previous evening several minutes 240 Richmond, Nelson

A usually quiet calf, went crazy, charging around its paddock

Animals/Birds/Plants About 1 minute or 2 before the earthquake til the earthquake ; 40; Charleston/waltham

Our Kitten who sleeps up near our heads woke me up by walking across/by my head to jump down to the floor. I only really just realised that he wasn't doing his normal midnight feast. I think he must have gone straight under the bed, as I probably would have tripped on him when the earthquake hit and I got out of bed. Because of him waking me, I was aware enough to immediately get myself and my fiancée to the doorway before the bigger shocks hit and knocked things off the wall that would have otherwise knocked us down causing injury (a glass frame and a mirror).

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 10pm night before quake ; 2 minutes ; 40; Inside our home

Our dog started howling inside for no apparant reason

Animals/Birds/Plants Saturday morning, about 4.30am About a minute ; 40; Phillipstown, Christchurch

I woke up to my cat pawing at my face. I thought someone was in the house, as my cat generally shows me no attention. I got up and had a look around but there was no-one there. I went back to bed and about 20 secs later the earthquake hit.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; aftershocks ; 30 minutes ; 40; Christchurch

If the aftershock is more than 4 the cat will leave the house, if it is less she will stay inside. It's almost like she knows it is

Animals/Birds/Plants No birds came to feed in the morning before the earthquake - and we feed hundreds of birds on a daily basis right through the winter and early spring; 320; opoho Dunedin
We feed hundreds of birds bread and sugar water from 1 June every year. No birds came to eat or drink on the morning of 3 September which was very unusual. I remember commenting that there must be enough natural food around and that we should stop feeding. On the Saturday morning they were back in full force for breakfast.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; Friday afternoon ; many minutes ; 40; Christchurch

I know this is after the event but driving to school today and going past Travis Wetlands I thought ,yes I remember seeing huge flocks of birds on the Friday afternoon coming home from school. I had never seen so many birds together but thought well it's Spring and maybe migratory birds, but they probably weren't.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 10-11 Friday night ; 20 seconds ; 40; Redwood

sound of geese flying (possibly seagulls) away

Animals/Birds/Plants 4:15 2 to 3 minutes I guess. It is hard to be accurate at that time of the morning when woken from a deep sleep; 5; Sandy Knolls

The two dogs who sleep in our bedroom started a low growling interspersed with a quite but sharp 'yip'. The sound was clearly not a bark. The combination of the low growling and the unusual yip sound was out of character. The dogs will react with a clear bark or loud growl if there are hares, possums or hedgehogs on the lawn at night.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; Sunday before quake ; hour ; 40; Hagley Park
All ducks anywhere refused to eat

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 4:15; 20mins ; 20; West melton

We have 2 English Springer Spaniels aged 7 months. At 4.15 they woke up and were very agitated and would re-settle. They wanted to get out of the room they sleep (attached garage) so eventually I let them into my bedroom but they were still agitated. Then the earthquake started.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 3rd at 9pm ; all night till quake ; 50; Heathcote

I have a small dog that does indeed do this. Imagine those small dog toys that yap and back flip! On the 3rd September Ozzy just about did my head in with constant growling and short quiet barks all night. Nothing I did would settle him. It is completely out of character as if there is anyone around he will just bark like mad and you can calm him down. When ever there is largish (over 3 if is very close or over 4 if it is out near the Greendale Fault) he will start with the short bark and constant growling. Nine times out of ten he is spot on. With the constant aftershocks and mayhem in the first week I never really thought much about it and took no notice. But once the aftershocks got further apart it is now that I notice it. Actually one night he started the constant growl and short barks. There was one point he completely nutted off and then calmed down as what I assumed was nothing. I just thought you stupid dog but when I was looking at Geonet later on the barking nut off coincided with a 4. something in Hanmer. Bizarre but true.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 434am ; 45s ; 30; chch to darfield

Our little dog (Jack Russell x) woke me up acting strangely. He was whining, whimpering and running up and down the passage, around the bed, opened the curtains with his nose looking out the sliding glass door, very distressed. His behaviour was unusual as he didn't bark very much which he would have if there had been another animal (cat or doy) etc in driveway. Just before the earthquake hit, he stopped absolutely still cocked his head to one side and then the other. This was all in about a 45sec to 1minute time frame as I looked at the time on my cellph. Then the earthquake hit! It was horrific. Huge bang like a semi truck had hit the side of the house, followed by huge jolting, banging, shaking. Almost like a gigantic jack-hammer was being used on the roof. I woke up my husband and we ran down the hallway being thrown from one side to the other. The floor seemed to be coming up literally under my feet. Very difficult to stay upright but I ran so fast I think thats what kept me stable. We went outside into the driveway as I was too scared to stay in th house. Everything was being shaken out of cupboards I could hear this. I thought the end of the world was upon us. Absotlutely terrifying, never want to experience this again in my lifetime!

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 4th 130am ; 40; chch

Driving to ChCh from Darfeild at 9.30pm on Friday 03/09/10 (the night of the Quake). Saw a strange halo / ark of light over the city of Chch. It was Blueish i guess. dont know how long it went on as I was concentrating on driving. Not to sure if connected to Quake but did seem odd at the time. also at around 1.30am on Saturday 04/09/10 was woken up by my cat who was acting strange ie. meowing loudly, running around the house scratching at doors, walls and windows. This cat is old and never behaves like this, ever. Also noted that same cat did not eat her dinner that night. Which was also odd.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 29-Aug ; 40; Rangiora

Diging a hole about 400mm deep,found 2 large earthworms about 600mm long 15mm dia

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 1pm 3rd ; hours ; 10; Linwood

My cat was very unsettled he would come round the room settle for a while then come round the room again this went on right untill the earth quake struck.Since the earth quake he has still been unsettled but keeping on the couch rather than the floor and has become very frightened when the after shocks happen also he will lash out at me giving me the impression he thinks its me rocking the house . He is 15 years old .

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 1030 3rd ; hours ; 40; North new Brighton

Our cat is a nice friendly cat. At 10:30 friday night she started hissing at us, even when we were simply walking past her. I was that worried about her I checked her for injuries and considered taking her to the after hours vet. She then decided she wanted to go outside around 11pm and seemed desperate to get out. As she ran out, she hissed again. This also happened the following night (around the same time) 8 hours before the 3x aftershocks, and 20mins previous to the 5.1 aftershock on the morning of Wednesday the 8th September. Since then she hasn't been so upset. There is NO DOUBT in my mind that she knew.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 3 days before ; days ; 40; Christchurch

Odd animal behaviour - my cat suddenly started drinking a lot more water than usual about 3 or 4 days before the quake. He usually drinks about a third of his bowl a day, but for a few days in a row he emptied it. I took him to the vet on the 3rd and his urine test was fine and the vet said he appeared to be in good health. After the quake he resumed drinking his normal amount of water. The cat also woke us approximately 2 minutes before the 7.1 earthquake by frantically scrabbling at the wall. Although, he has been known to do this if he runs out of biscuits in the middle of the night, which he had done that night, so the timing could be coincidental!

Animals/Birds/Plants ; about 12 days before ; hour ; 290; W. of Omarama

I was driving along Henburn Rd, west of Omarama, and I think that it must have been about the 20-24th July as I was on my monthly meter walk for Delta and have a meter to read at the very end of the road, after coming through the gorge and coming over the rise on the western side I noticed quite a few birds taking off as I approached. The closer I got to the birds the more flew up until there seemed to be hundreds taking flight, I thought at the time that it seemed rather odd as I have never seen a concentration of birds in the Mackenzie at that time of year, it was mainly Matagouris and brown top grass that they took off from and neither of those seed or flower at that time of year either, but even if they did it was still a very large concentration of birds in a very small area. They were on the west face of the hill, and as far as I could make out they were mainly on the ground, I do remember thinking that it was odd for them to be on the fault like that and I could only think that maybe the ground was warmer there, rather than anywhere else!

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 1hour ; minutes ; 500; Dannevirke

The cat woke me up wanting to go out, I stepped onto the porch as I let him out as the light seemed strange. I looked across at the moon which was hanging oddly low in the sky for the time of the morning, and also very bright, with an eerie orange tint to it, which tainted the sky around it. It was very still and I thought "earthquake weather". Living in "Earthquake Alley" we get many earthquakes and live only a km or so from the epicentre of the 1990 Mother's Day Quake. About an hour later I was stunned to be woken by a fairly strong shake. Then subsequently even more amazed to wake to the news of the incredibly strong quake in Christchurch.

Animals/Birds/Plants 4 days all day; 20; Edwards Road, Rolleston

We have 5 or 6 magpies resident on our farm. These usually start squarking about dawn. Four days before the quake I mentioned to my wife that the magpies were most unusually squarking from about dark until well after midnight at which time I went to sleep. This was on each of the 4 days prior to the quake. Since the quake the birds have disappeared.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; ca 4pm ; 20 min ; 450; Palmerston North

I awoke to find my dog struggling around the bedroom unable to walk properly. I turned on the light to discover she had wet herself. She was in considerable distress and seemed unconsolable. Finally she vomited a little and then started to gradually recover. When I had finished cleaning up the mess I turned on the radio to hear that they were getting reports of a considerable quake in Christchurch. I have never seen this behaviour before in my four year old dog, not have I seen it since. In the morning she was completely her usual self.

Animals/Birds/Plants about 7pm Friday before quake ?4 h ; 40; Linwood

Our two indoor rabbits went on a chewing rampage the night before. Every few minutes one of them would be at it again, chewing on windowsills, doorframes, furniture. We had to keep telling them to cut it out. It was about a month's worth of naughty chewing condensed into several hours.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 30-45 seconds before ; 45 sec ; 20; Oxford

The cat sleeps on my bed and she woke me urgently asking to be let out, she seemed to be showing some signs of fear - meowing, pawing at the window, moving backwards and forwards. I couldn't understand her distress and was trying to calm her as I couldn't be bothered to get up. Then the earthquake started. I was not able to hear much in the way of pre-strike noise, but perhaps she did. She has behaved the same way for all the bigger quakes we have felt at Oxford including the one in the morning of the 4th Nov. She woke me about a minute before that as well.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; Saturday 4:40; 3-5minutes ; 90; Orari

Animals/Birds /Plants ; 2-3am on morning of the Chch quake ; 40; CHCH

Also a friend in Chch told me her 2 dogs (German Shepherds) woke her about 15 mins before wanting to go outside - most unlike them.

Electronic during the afternoon and evening of the 3rd (Friday) minutes at a time ; 40; Rangiora

While watching TV, it kept going blank during the aft/evening the day before

Electronic ; noticed after eathquake ; still going ; 600; Napier

Time sync with digital camera and computer keeps changing, IT staff unable to figure out why. & clinic's thru' out NZ have been effected and It staff still have no idea why.

Electronic ; 3rd September 17.45; About 20 minutes ; 30; Christchurch

Interference with the digital television signal. The picture pixellated (if that is right word) intermittently but more annoying was sound-picture mismatch to a huge degree whereby at one stage the sound was actors talking (Friends) and the last credits were rolling on the picture. I changed to analogue because it was so out of kilter and could not watch it.

Electronic Friday 3rd am, not sure about the time it started I re-programmed the alarm on the advice of the alarm company; 90; Carew in Mid Canterbury

Alarm system at the school at Carew was behaving erratically When I arrived at the school in the morning 7.45am. I contacted the alarm company about the problem and they commented that things were going strange up and down the region (Canterbury)

Electronic ; 42; Dorie Rakaia
the lights would flicker too.

Electronic 08/25/2010 Just one morning, although did occur again during the week after the first earthquake - not sure of date as I dismissed it as 'well it came right last time it will come right again'
35 Avonhead/Russley, Christchurch

One morning I turned on my computer monitor (an old CRT) and it was discoloured with purple all around the edges and moving through a few shades/hues to be mostly yellow in the centre. The only other time I had seen something similar to this was when I was a child and held a strong magnet up to a tv screen. (The purple patch on that television stayed for weeks, to my dismay - couldn't hide it from my dad.) I thought my monitor was dieing and prepared to replace it when I got home from work. However when I turned it on after work, it was back to normal. It has behaved well ever since, except one morning the week after the intial big earthquake (can't remember which morning it was though). But again it came right. Of course, as I expected, it could just be the monitor - it is very old!

Electronic 335am; 170; Ross Westcoast South Island

May be nothing but was unusual. A battery clock stopped exactly an hour before the big quake. Always kept on time as I drive a school bus.

Electronic At least one month before the earthquake Still continuing now ; 40; Halswell, Christchurch

Our TV remotes started playing up. We watch most of our TV through SKY digital and found that what we pressed on our remotes is not what happened on the TV e.g. press Channel 5 and the volume may go up etc. There was crossover also e.g. increase the volume on the television remote may change the SKY channel or volume and viceversa i.e. the SKY remote was affecting the television set and the television remote was affecting the SKY set.

Electronic ; friday 3rd ; on/off all day ; 50; woodend \$lots off static electricity kept getting shocks touching metal things

Electronic 2 weeks before the quake The alarm for the villa my mother lives in went off and also her TV was experiencing interfrance ; 40; New Brighton Christchurch City
My mother lives in a retirement village (Kate Sheppard) in New Brighton Road. Christchurch. I live in Auckland and she told me how her alarm which connects to the village went off in both her bathroom and her bedroom. (This happened 2 weeks before the quake) When the electrician came to fix it she also mentioned that her TV had been have interference. I mentioned to her that maybe in was caused through Mars being so close to the moon and wonder if this was the case and maybe had some connection to the quake.

Electronic Found strange change after earthquake unknown ; 40; Christchurch
Immediately after the earthquake I discovered that not only had my watch stopped at 3.17am but so had my clock radio i.e. well before the quake struck. Both were on the bedside table.

Electronic early June when we moved to Canterbury; still going; 50 Leeston

Both me and my parter keep getting these electric shocks: turning appliances on and off, touching doorknobs, kitchen bench, each other(!) It was really bad close to the quake, but there's still some 'sparking' left now.

Electronic ; week before ; brief electric shocks ; 40; Burwood/Parklands
Electric shocks (static electricity) before main (week before and almost constant). Also similar before aftershock

Electronic ; Friday 3rd Sept 11am ish ; Varied, probably seconds, as it happened several times and each time we fixed it ; 30; West Eyreton

The TV lost it's signal several times, maybe 6 or 7 times, from 11am ish to 11:30pm ish when we went to bed. It kept displaying "no service" and could only be resolved by turning the TV off and on again. This was the first time this sort of thing had happened and we thought it was weird as the TV is only a couple of months old. Thought maybe it was faulty, but it hasn't happened again since the quake.

Electronic ; 08/31/2010; Ran normally for a few hours on Wed. 1st Sept ; 250; Nelson NZ

Our clock went into reverse on Tues 31 Aug ran normally for a few hours on Wed. 1st Sept & stopped completely either late pm on 1st or early am 2nd. Earthquake happened @ 4.35 Sat 4th Sept.

Electronic ; 0340 on day of earth quake ; 4 min ; 250; Ruby Bay , Nelson
Security lights came on, never happend before, we thought it woule have been quail or other wild life moving around as we were on a ten acre wooded section a long way from the road or possible intruders

Electronic ; 31-08-2010; card lost in ATM machine ; 40; near Colombo street CBD as tourist

Wife noticed no birds sounds I couldn't explain why bank card disappeared

Electronic ; September 4'th 04:20; From 04:20 till the earthquake occurred ; 40; Aranui, Christchurch

My computer was running real slow, and giving erratic responses to my inputs; no matter what I did I couldn't get it to settle , so I thought I will have to reboot it, that is when the quake hit!

Electronic ; Probably around 2 weeks preceding the initial earthquake ; On and off several times when we were on the phone.; 16.5; Homebush area, 8.5 km from the Darfield township. Around 16.5 km from the epicentre.

Our cordless phone (not cellphone) played up while we were talking on the phone. The other person's voice would become suddenly quiet for no reason. We could tell the person was still speaking but we couldn't make out what he/she was saying. Then it would come right again after a few seconds. The incidents happened on several occasions, and we thought the phone was no good and needed replacing.

Electronic ; About 3.30am on the morning of the earthquake, i.e. Sat 4 September.; N/A: it was something I noticed, rather than a time-based thing.; 40; Ilam, Christchurch

I woke at about 3.30am, feeling a bit cold. The heating system in my building is timer-based in-ceiling heating, with the timers lasting about four hours. I had turned the heating on just before I went to bed, so it should still have been on. When I woke up, cold, I checked the heating and it was off. I tried to turn it back on but it just wouldn't. I then stood on a chair so I could actually touch the

ceiling; if heating's been on recently, it's usually quite warm. It was stone cold. I tried a couple more times to get the heater to turn on, but it wouldn't, and I assumed a fuse had gone or the timer had shorted. I thought nothing of it, but then figured that I might as well send the informant on, as the heater has been fine since after the earthquake; no timer or fuse had blown.

Electronic ; 420 4/9/10; brief ; 40; Kaiapoi

I am a profoundly deaf single parent, so my dog has been a big part of my everyday life and he sleeps at the end of my bed (for my own security!). He woke me at 4.22am, very agitated and pacing up and down the hallway. I found out later that the town fire alarm had gone off approximately 4.20am (not sure on exact time), but only briefly and this doesn't normally startle Max to this extent. I was a bit grumpy at being woken at an early hour (who wouldn't be?) so I got up and let Max outside to toilet, while I poured myself a glass of water, drank it and went to the toilet myself. I let Max back in and he shot up the hall and jumped onto my bed (this isn't normal - he usually waits for the "Up" command given by me) and couldn't seem to settle down - he circled and circled around in one spot, while looking upwards. I got into bed and pulled the covers up and felt a slight rumble. My first thought was "Oh, earthquake" - in a very blase way, as most Kiwis are! But Max jumped to all fours and started whining, circling around and then he jumped off the bed and shot up the hall. At this moment, the M7.1 hit with an almighty roar. Max had disappeared but my first thought was to reach my children and get them to safety. Max was a bit agitated but fine after a long walk later that morning. The aftershocks didn't seem to bother him but it wasn't until they really started rolling in that afternoon that he became quite agitated, pacing back and forth, and looking at the ceiling, minutes before any aftershock would rumble along. He does this every time. For me, he's been a lifesaver as I feel more 'prepared', especially at night, but the poor dog is a bundle of nerves at times! He certainly does not like the aftershocks and his demeanor does change several minutes before one hits. Apologies for the novel! I hope this helps in your study.

Electronic ; 3rd sep 7-8pm ; 1-2 min ; 40; Redwood

Electronic ; tv went off air - one channel on two Tvs in ouse - TV 2 ; 3rd 1130-1200; 40; Kaiapoi

And one more interesting phenomenon is the electrical current or static electricity prior to the quake. I had a wrap around blanket which I took off just before jumping into bed at around 11.30-12 midnight and the crackling and static electricity coming off that little blanket was very loud and extreme compared to normal. Yes we are starting to understand and predict quakes of this magnitude and it would be great to measure the static electricity to see if there is an unusual hike in current which in this case was about 4-5 hrs prior to the christchurch quake.

Electronic ; 420 on 4th ; 10min ; 40; Northwood

Woke up to notice the lightbulb above my side of the bed flickering. It's an energy saver lightbulb and was going flash, flash, every 2 - 3 seconds or so. Not a bright light, just a flash. A flicker so to speak. I woke the man up and said I didn't want to be a pain, but what was the light doing. I was scared the house was going to burn down. He got up on the bed, unscrewed the lightbulb. hoped off the bed, turned the lights on and off at the switch and hoped back on the bed and screwed the lightbulb back in. No flickering. 2 minutes later I was being dragged into the doorway.....

Electronic ; 3rd Sept 2010- Friday 4.30pm to 9pm ; Approx. Every half hour this would happen ; 40; Mandeville 6km from Kaiapoi

Television -Full high definition . TV 1 -Picture froze. Tried other channels. The words "No Service" came up. One time it got stuck on a picture of a religious ad of Jesus with no words on it. I said look God is looking at us, after 1 minute we switched it off because it was starting to freak us out the image stayed with us, just felt like something was different. We are not religious so it was strange.

Other ; 03/09 about 3pm ; Around 20 seconds ; 40; Christchurch city - cbd

I hear a sharp highpitched ring all around me. Like when you first switch on a tv but much louder

Other ; Entire night ; Until the time of the earthquake ; 40; Papanui ; Dream maybe 10 minutes?

Maybe is just a coincidence but I couldn't sleep the whole night woke every 30 min with my heart racing even updated facebook few minutes before the quake and I do not have sleeping problems I am a very good sleeper

Other ; 6.30pm night befor quake ; 3 hours ; 190; kiakoura

I was hunting in mountains for deer,all set to stay the night and keep hunting on saturday,after dark i had a real feer that my family was in danger,packed up my gear walked out in the dark,drove back to christchurch stopping to have a quick snooze on the way,all the time thinking this is crazy i have been planing this hunting trip for weeks,got home went to bed (wife very surprised to see me back two days early)coupple hours later earthquake!

Other ; wednesday september 1st 2010; 1 hour ; 40; Linwood, Christchurch

A sudden panic attack, the out of the blue feeling that we didnt have enough food stock piled at home, worried about our survival...yet we had enough food to get through the week, and I am not prone to panic attacks. This was a very out of the blue event.

Other ; 3rd Sept 2010 Friday ; Morning ; 40; Mandeville

In the morning a photo of an old tapestry of a young Christ with Mary and Joseph, my great grandmother had made, fell out of a drawer I opened I was going to email it to a brother when I felt the word "danger" come into my mind I got such a fright I did not send it but hid it under the sofa.

Other ; Just after midnight 4th September 2010; About 15 minutes ; 40; Burwood, Christchurch

Just after 12am on Saturday 4th September I was just starting to go to sleep when I heard glass breaking. It sounded like window glass being smashed... many windows. It was very loud and I lay in my bed terrified. I felt so scared I froze for a good few minutes. After it stopped I got the courage to get out of bed but couldn't see anything by peeping through the curtains. I was too scared to go outside. I waited for the sound of sirens as the noise was very loud and seemed to go on for a long time and I couldn't believe I was the only person to hear it. But no sirens came. I finally went back to bed and drifted in and out of sleep until I was shaken awake by the big earthquake. My flatmate and I both came running into the hall when the earthquake struck then went and sat in the lounge to calm down when it stopped. I asked him if he heard the breaking glass last night - it was so loud - but he didn't hear a thing. Later that morning we went to check on our neighbours but no one had had their windows broken. My flatmate believes I had a premonition about the earthquake coming and the damage it would do. I am very sensitive and have "known" things before they've happened before... but nothing as huge as this. I still feel scared when I think about it, it actually scared me more than the earthquake!

Other ; 3:45 a.m. on 4 September (i.e. 50 minutes before the quake); Until the earthquake started ; 40; Mt Pleasant

We had been out for dinner, I went to bed, and was feeling tired and uncomfortable and wanted to sleep alone so my fiance went to sleep in a spare bed in another room. After I fell asleep, I had terrible and very vivid dreams. At 3:45 I woke up and was convinced that there was a burglar in the house. I was very frightened and lay awake listening to what I thought was a burglar creep around on the floorboards which seemed to be creaking a lot. Eventually I got up and got my fiance, who checked the house and then got back in to bed with me, but I couldn't settle and just felt very uncomfortable and an impending sense of disaster. I'm not sure if this is the sort of thing you are after, but my fiance thought I should fill in the survey.

Other ; About 3 months before event ; still going ; 40; Christchurch

The "nesting" instinct that describes the busyness of a mother before child is due to be born, but I'm not pregnant. I felt like I had to get "things ready", but did not think of updating or checking the water in my emergency kit. Just a feeling of needing my house to be in order. I'm normally a disorganised, messy person. I had to get things "completed".

Other ; 3rd Sept ; All Friday night ; 50; Heathcote Valley

Why did I shift all my alcohol to the very bottom cupboard?

Other ; Friday 3rd Sept. 2010 late evening about 11 pm ; Only a couple of minutes, everything seem quiet sort of too quiet. The air was very still, calm even nothing was stirring.; 40; Bryndwr/Papanui

I was crossing the road by myself at night and the atmosphere was very eerie, like there was nothing in it, odd even. I put it down to being by myself at that time of night and that was it but later when talking to others I remembered how I felt.

Other ; noticed 31st august ; stayed on figure for a long time ; 8; charing cross darfield

The weather barometer on the wall went all the way around to about 1050 hpa at bthe time thought it very strange when the weather pattern was more to winter / spring conditions

Other ; friday 3 sept ; all day ; 40; cashmere

this is an account my daughter gave me, she works with severe dementia patients at princess margaret hospital, all day they were very upset, out of the ordinary upset, i think 4 had to be put in secure rooms, a number had to be placed in chairs that they couldn't get out of, the dr there said it wa s the worse day he had had in all his time working there.

Other ; Several days before the earthquake ; Something within me for days ; 330; Wanaka

I had a feeling that would not leave me that an earthquake was going to happen. A few days before it happened I stocked up at the supermarket, buying extra quantities of rice, pasta, tinned food. Lots of dry food supplies. I knew why I was doing it from somewhere deep inside.

Other ; 2 mins before quake ; 2 mins ; 40; Woolston, Christchurch

Woke up prior to earthquake, stayed in bed then decided to open door and stand there, then quake began.

Other ; 6 hours before earthquake ; for a few days ; 50; Woodend

I had a headache (pressure) and it was very hot/sticky heat while trying to go to sleep.

Other ; 9 p.m. evening before earthquake ; less than 1 minute ; 40; Christchurch ;

Animals/Birds/Plants ; friday 3 september 11.30 pm ; half an hour ; 40; Bromley Christchurch

Mischief the cat 14 years Sitting with 11 year old son - our usual habit of night time prayer - 99% of time we pray 'The Lords Prayer' at other times he says a small random prayer. That evening his only prayer was VERY OUT OF THE ORDINARY - he simply prayed "Dear Lord, please keep us safe and that noone will get hurt, Amen" - I said amen and noted that the prayer was different = when the quake started only hours after this was immediately what i thought of and felt that it was a warning. (I am a 39 year old very down to earth sensible person). I think children should also be listened to in these exceptional circumstances.

Other ; After I had gone to bed the evening before the quake I woke up an hour or so later with an incredible itchy feeling all over my torso ; I had to get up from bed and I just walked around the bedroom rubbing myself down for about fifteen minutes give or take then I went back to bed and just put up with it and had a restless sleep. I've never had this feeling before.; 40; South West Christchurch. Aidenfield

As I said previously. I had this itch sensation all over my torso, which I've never experienced before. I wouldn't have thought anything about it until I saw your interview on Close Up when at the end you mentioned the animals fleeing because of the Itch sensation.

Other ; 60; Leithfield

Some years ago there was a prophetic word that there was going to be a very large earthquake in chch no date was given but all details about quake come true no loss of life etc

Other ; 21st of May I had a dream....a terrible nightmare that my house was invaded and left ramshacked ; dream time ; 40; St Albans

Then I had another dream before the quake of a terrible stench, a terrible smell

Other ; friday (day before earthquake) 4:30am ; not long ; 40; bishopdale

At 4:30am on friday morning (day before the earthquake) i woke, normally i sleep during this time.

Other ; about 4 days before ; about 4 day; 40; Christchurch

My spleen chakra was beating like a heart beat. I have never had such body experience

Other

40;

tension headache

Other ; c4pm 2/9/10; 2-3 minutes ; 140; Mt Cook

I felt we were going to have an earthquake and said so to the people i was travelling with- I knew it was coming.

Other ; 04/09/2010; 2sec ; 40; chch

awakened by sound like snow sliding on a roof. however our roof is flat.

Other ; 1 September 2010 just after 7pm ; Still having symptoms prior to aftershocks ; 40; Christchurch

Felt a strong pressure in my head, similar to when you are increasing in altitude with blocked ears, it would not release when holding your nose with fingers and trying to blow to release pressure. This pressure continued in my head/ears until the night we experienced several aftershocks of over 5. I now get the pressure feeling in my head prior to a cluster of aftershocks of which we have experienced at night. During the day when there is a lot of human activity with noise, planes large trucks etc I can feel the pressure also.

Other ; 2 September - early evening ; a few minutes ; 40; Heathcote, Christchurch

I had a phone call from my sister-in-law in connection with a family event happening in Rangiora the next night (3rd). Having been almost house bound for 3 months over winter due to sickness she knew that I hadn't stayed at their place (a regular thing when I'm well) for 3 months and offered to come and get me and bring me home afterwards. I would have said yes, but I really felt I wanted to stay there. I wasn't sure why, because I knew I'd have to sleep on a sofa, due to other relatives also staying and it wouldn't be a good nights sleep. Even they were surprised that I'd prefer to stay there. We all went to bed about midnight and as I lay down on the sofa I looked up and saw about 5 big paintings lying on top of the tall bookshelf near the sofa, and thought, hell if there was an earthquake and those things fell they would nearly kill be because they'd be really heavy, and wouldn't just fall between the bookcase and sofa, but would shoot out and land on me. I felt uneasyish but went to sleep and when the quake struck I've never moved so fast. The first thought was those paintings, but actually they never moved, as you know Rangiora didn't get it so bad. Then it hit me that I'd felt so strongly to stay out there. (Which I did for a week !!!). Their dog also was an earthquake detector.

Other ; weeks before ; weeks ; 40; christchurch

On the radio they said to mention anything - because it might be useful for a survey !!! I'm not into psychic stuff as a way of life - I'm a practicing Catholic that trusts God to look after me - but for weeks before the quake I was always thinking before going to bed that I should make sure there was nothing on the floor that I could trip over if I had to make a quick exit in the dark/night. I had also put rubber matting under several things. Those were the things that didn't fall over (my house was quite a mess to clean up from other things). The thought was always running through my mind also that I should repack my garage so that nothing would fall on my new car - which it didn't in the big one , because I wasn't there, but was a real mess. (I should have done it!! I have now !!)

Other ; Friday 3 September sometime between 2.45 & 2.55pm ; A few seconds approximately 5 -10 seconds ; 40; Christchurch

I was driving down the road and felt like I was on a rolling wave for a few seconds. I pulled over because I thought I may faint, although that would be strange because I have never fainted and this was highly unusual for me.

Other ; 03/09/2010; kept going till I went to sleep, around 1pm ; 40; Papanui CHCH

We have built a new home, which has 96 piles, with a depth of 7.5 metres. The house is two storey, full height brick, with double glazing windows. We feel no draughts, and don't have banging doors. We went to bed on the second floor to be bothered by a banging of the internal sliding door in our bedroom. It bothered me, so I went downstairs, and made sure all doors and windows were closed. They were all closed. I went back to bed, it was still banging. I went and checked upstairs, and found a small window slightly open. Thought I had found the problem. Went back to bed, and still the door was banging. {Like hearing a tap dripping}. Annoying. I finally fell asleep around 1pm. to the earthquake. My brain told me that this was happening before I went to sleep, and I found it hard to wake up, because I thought it was just the door banging. The door bands back and forth, every time there is an aftershock now. But at no other time.

Other ; 2nd september 2010 around 9.30am in the morning ; for the next two days leading up to the quake ; 40; Aranui chch

Im a clairvoyant medium here in christchurch and for months ive been telling people we are about to get the big one two days prior to the quake my guides were telling me to secure items within my house{something i have never done in my entire life} i ended up over the next three hours doing this and saying well when the quake hits this wont get broken, also 7 hours before the event i was at a friends place in bexley and when outside to have a smoke i knew it was raining prior to this, but when i went outside there was not a cloud in the sky and a strange feeling about,so calm and quite very strange so i called my friend outside to take a look, she said to me whats it mean, my reply was an earthquake,

Other ; a few weeks leading up to the quake ; a feeling of intense anxiety/ sensing somethings wrong ; 250; Blenheim

I have often have warning signs - its a strange internal awareness I find hard to explain - its a feeling that makes me stop, look and listen to my body and surroundings (I sense it just like the animals, and if I tell people they find me strange)I seem to connect with nature and 9 times out of ten I'm always right- I wish I didn't have this connection as I find it disturbing and wish it would go away.

Other ; 4.13am 6 month old baby woke, which is highly unusual (usually she sleeps through the night).; We live at Rolleston, Canterbury ; 30; Rolleston

Our baby girl (6 months old) woke with an unusual moan at 4.13am. She also woke prior to this at approximately 11pm with an unusual moan. It was not a cry of hunger which I can usually identify. In fact I said to my finace "that is an unsual cry". It was a cry (more of a low moan than a cry) I have not heard before or heard since. She usually sleeps throught the night (7pm to 6am) so we were surprised when she woke at both 11pm and then 4.13am.

Other ; The week proceeding the earthquake.; a Couple of days ; 30; We live at Rolleston

I felt very itchy for a couple of days prior to the earthquake and extremely anxious and had difficulty sleeping; waking in the night and unable to get back to sleep. To the point I had made up a bed in our spare room to see if I slept somewhere different I would get a better night sleep. The itchiness was all over my body, particularly my back.

Other ; about three days before the quake ; about two days ; 20; Upper Riccarton (about 20km)

My husband and I had a pressure head ache. Relentless and not responding to panadol. It lasted for about two days. It was the kind of headache where when I bent down by head throbbled

Other ; 09/04/2010; 2 mins ; 40; St Albans

My son woke screaming and wailing at 4:25am and took a couple of minutes to console

Other ; From about 3am ; 30minutes ; 25; Weedons

I was restless and not able to sleep.I got up and watched tv for 30 mins then wen back to bed. Husband was awake then. I made him a cup of tea. We remember hearing the angry roar and we held each other.

Other ; 4.38 am ; 30 seconds ; 40; Hoon Hay

I woke up about ten seconds before the quake because I needed the bathroom and then the shaking started.

Other ; 2 days before the quake ; off and on until the quake ; 40; Christchurch

2 days before the quake I had a feeling of dread. It came and went and I told myself not to be silly. Also, about 10.30 on the Friday night, I had this vibrating, buzzing sensation inside of me. I thought my daughter sitting next to me had something going, and i looked around, shifted positions, but it was still there for about 2 or 3 min. I wondered at the time what on earth would cause that, but forgot about it when it ceased. I know this sounds silly, but i have never had that sensation before, and did wonder if it had something to do with the earthquake. I also noticed very unusual cloud formations in the sky late Sunday afternoon, but that was of course, after the earthquake, not before it.

Other ; During the night of the quake ; A couple of minustes ; 440; Invercargill

I had a dream that I was in an earthquake, it was a very sharpe jolt where I went under the table and called out to my daughter. Woke up in the morning to find out about the quake. Quite spooky

Other ; Not sure but @ 10/15 minutes before quake ; about 3 hrs ; 40; Mt Pleasant

Got out of bed to chase stray cats out of house, could barely walk. Very light headed & almost like i was drunk (8 months pregnant so def not drunk!), could not walk in a straight line & kept bumping into everything. Got back to bed, still feeling light-headed, then nauseous... then quake struck. Got the same light-headed feeling & nausea with subsequent aftershocks until about 7:00 or 8:00am. Have not had this feeling since - thank goodness!

Other ; woke a minute or so before then heard noise followed by initial waves ; one minute before four quakes so far got the feeling or woke ; 25; Wigram, Christchurch

woke to feeling then noise followed by ripples. have had it before with earthquakes & other danger & seen it happen in others half an hour or more before danger. sleeping well through most quakes just some have caused me to wake prior followed shortly after by particularly strong ones in our area. you just know they are different/something is about to happen

Other ; 7pm 3rd September 2010; 40; Stewarts Gully

I never lock my back door & I felt unsafe on the night of 3rd September 2010 & locked it.

Other ; 3rd of Sep. 2010 about 10pm ; A minute ; 40; Christchurch

For some reason I asked the woman beside me if she had an emergency kit in her home, she said no but her sister did as does mine. I said that there was supposed to be a big earthquake in the soon. (I didn't think in a few hours!!!)

Other ; Friday 3rd September Mid afternoon ; Still going a little bit as think not over yet ; 40; Aranui Christchurch

Not scientific but a definite premonition of something bad going to happen on the Saturday. Told people I work with to make sure they have plenty supplies and are safe and warm siad didn't know what but felt something bad was going to happen I said nothing very exciting weather wise happens very often in Christchurch but tomorrow (Saturday) is different.

Other ; Friday ; all day ; thought something was going to happen

Other ; Friday 7pm ; till sleep ; 40; Harewood

I have fibromyalgia and the pain in my body worsens during particular types of weather-especially autumn & worst is in the spring time. i was working from my computer at home and the pain in my body was excruciating and more than I could handle & much more than "normal".

Other ; week before ; 40; Christchurch

Probably about a week prior to the "big one" I had terrible pain in all my bones, like I have never felt before, I could hardly open my fingers. My hips and knees and ankles were aching, all joints, everywhere. I put off my walking, and thought it must be some horrible attack of arthritis or the like. Also very deep pressure came into my head, which was so strong and scary. I am usually very active, hill walking, gardening and yoga, and never had such strong "feelings" like this, and thought it really strange. After the big one, this pain just disappeared and I am back to "normal".

Other ; Friday 6pm ; hours ; 50; Diamond Harbour

For the first time in my whole life I believe I experienced a migraine that I had to leave work because of and ended up vomiting a few times before going to sleep.

Other ; Late August ; Re-occurring, continues to occur.; 40; St Albans

Low pitched sound/sensation in ears observed when laying down with head pressed to pillow. Note I do not suffer from Tinnitus. I first noticed this late August. Sometimes the sensation/sound is more noticeable, particularly nights when there are lots of quakes.

Other ; 400h ; split second ; 250; Nelson

I was doing my thing watching some music dvds around 4am when i decided to pause and get high, as soon as i had stood up i had the weirdest sensation hit me, and the word earthquake pop in to my

mind, -This all happened within a split second... i couldn't figure out where the sensation came from or why i thought earthquake... so i dismissed the thought from my mind and went for a joint, 30min or so later i felt the earthquake but it was so mellow where i was at the time i thought mayb the joint i had just smoked was fucking with me and went to sleep, the next day i woke up had a joint for lunch with a friend who told me chch had been struck by a earthquake.... i was shocked, not because of the earthquake itself but because of the fact i had a 6th sense instinctive sensation... i knew it was coming before it did... i smoked some more dope and thought nothing of it until i told a chick of my experience and the very next day she txts me saying that sumone was on campbell live asking people that knew it was gonna happen b4 it did to complete a survey and gave me the link to this survey...

Other ; Friday before ; 16h ; 100; Temuka

Dear Dr Whitehead, story about dream: snakes on the ground and action. [See notes later on]. No dogs barked before.

Other ; 3 am 4th september ; approx 1 hour ; 120; timaru

i awoke at approx 3am with a very rapid heart beat this lasted for about 1 hour and i had a feeling that not everything was not right dont know if this is related to quake but have not had this symtom before

Other ; Very early Saturday morning ; Just a few seconds for the dog, a few hours for me ; 320; Breaker Bay, Wellington

My dog started barking very loudly for no reason in the very early hours of the morning...the sort of bark she only uses for people knocking on our door. I listened to see if someone was there then drifted back to sleep. I don't know the exact time this happened. I woke about half an hour later with a real tension headache, in my temples and back of my head. I don't get headaches at all usually, so I lay in bed trying to relax my head or try to see what thoughts were bothering me...There were none...so I decided the best thing I could do for my headache was to get up and meditate. I meditate every day but have never got up that early to do it because of a headache. (Who knows if this was anything to do with electro-magnetic forces...but your interview on Close Up made me wonder.)

Other ; Several days before the earthquake.; Until about a week after the earthquake.; 8.5; Homebush area. 8.5 km out of the Darfield township.

I had diarrhea for no good reason. No infections, no colds. Did everything as normal and ate and drank the same. Did everything I could to stop it. Not severe but the symptoms reappeared each day. Right after the initial earthquake, the first thing I had to do was to make a dash to the toilet twice within a few minutes because of this problem. It disappeared spontaneously after about a week following the initial earthquake.

Other ; A few months ago ; Has eased off now ; 40; Waltham, Christchurch

I have been hearing deep pulsing/buzzing noise when it is quiet at night. (A bit like a helicopter or airplane a long, long way away.) It is so deep I can almost feel rather than hear it. I have turned everything electrical off in the house and could still hear it. The rest of my family can't hear it. When I go outside I can't hear it. It stops and starts and often wakes me up in the night suddenly. I thought it was tinnitus so had my hearing checked by an audiologist who said my hearing is very good and that maybe I could hear things other people can't hear. A week or so ago I was talking to my neighbour and mentioned the noise and she said she has been hearing it too, and so has several of her women friends, and their families also think they are imagining it. Since the earthquake it has almost

stopped although I do hear it still sometimes. I wonder if it is something to do with the earthquake although it was over several months rather than just before it.

Other ; It started 4.32am Saturday 4th September ; It felt like a long time, at least 2 or 3 minutes or more ; 20; Between Halswell and Hornby, Christchurch

I had gone to bed after 1pm as I had been working late, and had accidentally put my electric blanket on high, so had over-heated myself. I turned this off, got up to get a drink and go to the toilet. When I got back into bed I was very restless, and I remember thinking that I hadn't felt an earthquake in a long time, then I drifted into this bad dream, where there was an earthquake in the Recall building where I do cleaning, and all the boxes started falling down onto people below. When the quake actually struck, I knew immediately what it was, and yelled to my family to get out of bed and get to the doorframe. It was very very noisy and seemed to shake for a very long time. I really wondered if the house would stand up for much longer.

,

Other ; 03/09/10 - Friday afternoon around 4pm ; all of 5 seconds ; 40; christchurch city

Walking home from work, I crossed the intersection of Barbadoes and Worcester Street. Just as I got onto the footpath again I veered really hard to the left without control. It was almost as if I was drunk and couldn't walk straight - I had no control over my legs. It was all over in a matter of seconds but was definitely weird

Other ; About a month leading up to the earthquake at 0430 every morning ; Couple minutes ; 40; Christchurch City

I would wake up at 0430 every morning for about a month before the quake

Other ; At 3:30am on 4th September ; 10 or 15 minutes ; 350; Mosgiel
2 of my cats woke me running up and down the hall and around the house. I actually thought it quite strange at the time. I also woke with a pounding heart at that time and the night before for no apparent reason. Connected? I'm not sure.

Other ; 6weeks prior ; 6w ; 50; Heathcote

It's like having a headache but not the pain of a headache just pressure. Not medical just feels like a weight that can't be shifted and it is more noticeable just before a big aftershock

Other ; 4th 4:30; few minutes ; 40; Bexley

My wife and I both woke suddenly at the same time, the bedroom seemed slightly lighter than usual. we both were thinking 'whats going on/whats going to happen?' kind of half expectant of something major happening. I also had thoughts about was there some load noise or disturbance outside on the road near our house. there was definately a sense of eeryness/disquiet almost forboding, a kind of premonition. Then the quake kicked in.

Comments on Aftershocks from Sep 4 on

Earth/Ground/Water ; 09/17/2010; Loud thump ; 15; Rolleston

A loud thump or bang heard by several of our neighbours

Earth/Ground/Water ; 09/17/2010; 10 seconds before the actual quake ; 40; Rangiora ;

I was woken by a distant rumbling It sounded like a train getting closer

Earth/Ground/Water ; 630; About two minutes ; 40; Hoon Hay CHCH

Woke to very loud rumble thought it was thunder, then shaking started woke family and crouched in doorway

Earth/Ground/Water ; 6.34 4th ; 15 sec ;40; ; Burnside

In bed, woken by noise and shaking. Then crashing noise. The silend. After shock not long after

Air/Sky/Clouds ; During aftershocks 16/9/10; During entire period of strong aftershocks 1hr approx ; 40; Southshore

Wind died completely, Could here birds chirping/flying away right before aftershocks began about 10:50 pm on 16th sept. Went on for about an hour then the wind began again and aftershocks stopped.

Air/Sky/Clouds ; Since the earthquake hit. Before we get a after shock my family, friends & I have noticed a drop in temperature.; It starts maybe around 5 minutes before we get a after shock, normally quite large.; 40; Christchurch

Before aftershocks my family, friends & I notice a temperature drop. It just gets so cold! Even with the heat pump going you still feel the cold. Almost like ice. This happens around 5 minutes before.

Air/Sky/Clouds ; 09/17/2010; 1-2 hours ; 40; Rangiora

Erratic, edgy clouds. They almost looked like they had a buzz to them.

Air/Sky/Clouds ; 05/09/2010 evening ; hours ; 40; Phillipstown Christchurch

The night before the big aftershock 5.9 the sky was the color of copper I tried to photograph it but the photo was just black sky. even with the flash off. I will email the photos

Air/Sky/Clouds ; EQ moment ; This goes back to the time of the event.; 40; Burwood, CHCH

A astrological chat shows powerful gravitational connections to powerful plants. This refers to earth and water. After the EQ the crescent moon looked an odd shape. Almost an oblong crescent shape.

Air/Sky/Clouds ; During aftershocks 16/9/10; During entire period of strong aftershocks 1hr approx ; 40; Southshore

Wind died completely, Could here birds chirping/flying away right before aftershocks began about 10:50 pm on 16th sept. Went on for about an hour then the wind began again and aftershocks stopped.

Air/Sky/Clouds ; not stated ; 40; CHCH

before the big aftershock was a strange orange sky

Air/Sky/Clouds ; 7-Sep 1730; 40; Mt Pleasant

sunset

Air/Sky/Clouds ; 40; CHCH

copper sky

Electronic ; 15 .09.2010. from 11:00pm ; about 15-20 minutes ; 320; Brooklyn, at home

Mt computer started to change font colour, indiscriminantly. It went from blue to black & when I tried to correct it, it started to go from light blue to dark blue, and different each time with something I had not chosen. Some parts were in bold print. Today it is behaving normally as usual.

Electronic ; 15 Sept ca 1040 at night ; few seconds ; 40; Burwood/Parklands

TV sound went to maximum several seconds before quake

Animals/Birds/Plants ; During aftershocks 16/9/10; During entire period of strong aftershocks 1hr approx ; 40; Southshore

Could here birds chirping/flying away right before aftershocks began about 10:50 pm on 16th sept

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 11/09/2010; 15 minutes; 22.5; springfield Canterbury

sheep in our paddock suddenly all rushed over to the trees calling to each other until we had a tremor once that had shot through they all came out again

Animals/Birds/Plants ; last night ; all night long on and off ; 22.5; springfield canterbury

since the quake my dog has been a bit on edge but last night we had loads of earth rumblings and today she is shaking and will not go outdoors when she does come out with me she is shaking all over. i must admit we thought that the rumblings last night might have been another quake starting as it seemed to be exactly like the start of the quake, hopefully not. My dog has not up until yesterday and last nigh,not too bad but today she is very worried and upset.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; just before an aftershock happened on Friday 10 Sept ; a few seconds before the aftershock happened ; 40; Tree lined street, Phillipstown, Christchurch

Animals/Birds/Plants ; This was auctually after the first earthquake, it was with the after schocks. Our dog would wake us up by tapping us or she wouldn't let us sleep, then we got a big after schock.; The times before large after shocks.; 40; Christchurch

Before the large aftershock our dog seemed to know before they happened. She would tap us until we wake up if we were asleep or she comes right up to us when we're awake before a large aftershock.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; Saturday 11th September ; 2/3 minutes ; 40; Southbrook . Rangiora ;

I have a orientle Havana Brown Simese cat called Amber. i was awakened by her sitting on my chest meowing and smaking me on my face with her paw. then I heard the rumble coming so I got out obed and rolled under my bed the funny bit was Amber came with me. the funny thing is that Amber still senses the aftershocks even though I cant feel them and hops onto my lap crying. regards John Doran

Animals/Birds/Plants ; Not long after the initial quake 4th September ; About 20 seconds ; 50; Woodend

The siameses cat started to wail then approximately a minute later the tremor occurred. The cat has continued to give a warning every time a tremor occurs right up to this time 16th September. She has been quite freaked out and when I let her out of her bed in our wash house when a tremor occurs during the night she makes a mad dash for our bed and straight down under the covers. Every time at least a minute before the tremor occurs. I know by her wail what is happening.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; Before aftershocks ; 1 minute approx ; 30; Templeton Broadfields

Two parrots acting strangely in their cages, flapping wings, climbing round cages in circles, having tantrums

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 12th September 17.02; 25 minutes ; 15; At home in Halswell

My Jack Russell dog had her ears go flat against her head, tail curled tightly round between her legs and she tried to get to an area of the house where she would not normally go and stayed there until the aftershock at 17.27

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 17.42 Sunday 12th September ; About 22 minutes ; 56; At home in Halswell

Same as second event

Animals/Birds/Plants ; the aftershocks happened numerous times since the big one ; a few seconds ; 20; christchurch distance 5-10k

We have noticed that just before an aftershock the dogs in our neighborhood all start barking. Our cat also starts to look very alert and his pupils get very large. Not long after this happens we have an aftershock

Animals/Birds/Plants ; just as the sound started ; 5 seconds before the shaking started ; 40; Rangioia

the 3 cats in my room sat up & looked upset, they didn't run outside until the room actually started shaking

Animals/Birds/Plants ; the cat was acting strange most times before an aftershock ; first about 40sec or more ; 50; Lyttelton

Over the whole time since the main quake I have noticed the cat is checking for me before an aftershock and if it is at night she will come and lay beside me in bed with in 10 or so mins an after shock happens and that has happened 80% of the time if it is a mild one or nothing that night the cat is away outside

Animals/Birds/Plants ; About ten seconds before every aftershock ; about 5 seconds ; 30; Rolleston

The dog would whine and go to the nearest door and try and get outside before every aftershock. She seemed to be able to feel them before us.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; Following the quake, about 25% of the volume of water sloshed out of our goldfish tank. The goldfish were huddled in the corner of the tank in a completely uncharacteristic manner ; Four days. The fish barely fed and hardly moved from the tank corner ; 25; Oxford foothills, 2km from town centre towards Ashely Gorge

About 25% of the volume of water sloshed out of our goldfish tank during the quake. The goldfish were huddled in the corner of the tank in a completely uncharacteristic manner and refused to eat later that morning when I normally feed them. This had me wondering about Japanese research I'd read somewhere, that aftershocks might be coming. I emailed friends later on the day, following several aftershocks, and I quote: "The goldfish are cowering in the corner of the tank. Suspect aftershocks could be nasty - hm...do I detect a research paper on the correlation between goldfish behaviour and seismic events??" It took several days before they began behaving normally again

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 7.9.10 4.35am I was in bed asleep ; It seemed like 3 minutes ; 40; Halswell, Christchurch

I was awoken with the cat sitting on my head meowing, she never does this. I was very cross as she had given me a fright, I just started to pick her up and push her down to the foot of the bed when she buried her head down my shoulder under the bed clothes. The earthquake struck at that moment.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; just before aftershocks in chch quake ; few seconds ; 40; Shirley Christchurch \

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 5th onwards ; ongoing ; 40; at home, Hornby, Christchurch

During one of the stronger after shocks the cat was lying on the couch and as the shock began, she jumped down from the couch and went straight under the coffee table until the house stopped shaking. Once things had settled, she jumped back up on the couch and lay down again. After that, we have started to use her as a barometer as to whether we need to be concerned.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; Noticed it the same day following the quake. 4/09/2010; About six days ; 40; Avonhead/Russley area

We always hear birds chirping away from early morning to late afternoon. They sit on the powerlines around us and grace the trees. We had no birds around us until Friday morning when I opened a window and heard the noisy chipper as if nothing had happened. I had seen them driving to the

supermarket, sporadically, but not at my home. It had been eerily silent until that morning. Surprisingly I felt better once they came back.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 40; CHCH

Before the 4 biggest aftershock (5.9) the dog snuggled into my sleeping bag (which is very unusual) and then started running around.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 4:30am, between initial quake and first aftershock ; 30sec ; 40; Addington/Barrington

After the first large shake, me and my partner proceeded to go outside and stand in our back lawn as we felt safer there. I noticed a large grouping of birds in our Totara tree. I couldn't tell what type of birds. There are usually birds in this tree but at a guess I would say there were around 60-100 birds. The birds all of a sudden began to spiral upwards from the tree and began to fly around in an anti-clockwise direction. I was quite hypnotised by them and watched them for about 15sec, then a large aftershock hit. I only just remembered this yesterday and was thinking about how the birds maybe felt the vibrations way before I could.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 3rd at 9pm ; all night till quake ; 50; Heathcote

I have a small dog that does indeed do this. Imagine those small dog toys that yap and back flip! On the 3rd September Ozzy just about did my head in with constant growling and short quiet barks all night. Nothing I did would settle him. It is completely out of character as if there is anyone around he will just bark like mad and you can calm him down. When ever there is largish (over 3 if is very close or over 4 if it is out near the Greendale Fault) he will start with the short bark and constant growling. Nine times out of ten he is spot on. With the constant aftershocks and mayhem in the first week I never really thought much about it and took no notice. But once the aftershocks got further apart it is now that I notice it. Actually one night he started the constant growl and short barks. There was one point he completely nuttered off and then calmed down as what I assumed was nothing. I just thought you stupid dog but when I was looking at Geonet later on the barking nut off coincided with a 4. something in Hanmer. Bizarre but true.

::

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 1030 3rd ; hours ; 40; North new Brighton

Our cat is a nice friendly cat. At 10:30 friday night she started hissing at us, even when we were simply walking past her. I was that worried about her I checked her for injuries and considered taking her to the after hours vet. She then decided she wanted to go outside around 11pm and seemed desperate to get out. As she ran out, she hissed again. This also happened the following night (around the same time) 8 hours before the 3x aftershocks, and 20mins previous to the 5.1 aftershock on the morning of Wednesday the 8th September. Since then she hasn't been so upset. There is NO DOUBT in my mind that she knew.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 11 min before M4.8; minutes ; 40; Willowbank; Takahe preened.

Other ; Since the quake ; 40; christchurch

I'm sure other people will also have faith stories - when it's important to them, so I'm mentioning this. As I said in last event, I'm a strong intelligent Catholic, who has my feet firmly on the ground and while earnestly trusting God with my life am not some weirdo/ whatever just looking for strange events. But last year while on a pilgrimage, bought a small statue in Fatima, Portugal. It sits on top of a high bookcase, with other ornaments including a glass cross. All the ornaments other than these 2 things fell off. The cross simply tipped over lying down, but the statue from Fatima instead of shaking forward and falling off to the ground like everything else, had turned round and moved backwards to the wall undamaged. Also the nights I sleep with my Rosary and the small cross in my hand are my best nights - last night there were about 11 quakes, but I gratefully only woke for the 4.4. Actually I couldn't believe there were so many quakes.

Other ; 15th september 2010; seconds ; 40; Cashmere hills, Christchurch

On the evening of the 15th I suddenly got a strange sensation through my body and up through my head and I knew straight away that we were about to get an after shock and a split second later it happened.

Other ; not stated ; 40; CHCH

rf sensitivity. Crippled by symptoms the evening before an aftershock. But nothing for main quake.

Other ; Aftershock ; Taupo

I didn't have any premonitions as such re the earthquake, but did wake up at around 5.20 am (the second shock) on the morning of the Chch quake, thought that something had happened, looked at the time and went back to sleep. This is a very unusual hour for me to wake - I thought that something important had happened but had no idea what it was until I heard the news later that morning.

Data following, collected from 6-Sep-2011. It is often quite ambiguous which earthquake is referred to.

Air/Sky/Clouds ; 7am on 22 February 2011; 1 hour (6 hours before 6.3 quake); Christchurch

The whole sky had a red haze to it and I remember thinking it was spookily eerie

Air/Sky/Clouds ; September 4 2010 about 5 minutes before the 7.1; I noticed strange coloured bright lights about 5-10 minutes before the 7.1; Sheffield, Canterbury

I was lying in bed with the curtains open and was awake. I saw yellow/red/orange lights over the wind breakers towards town (Christchurch city) and thought god It's almost daylight I have to go to sleep. But when I checked my phone I realised it was only 4.30am and thought it was strange and sunrise wouldn't be for another 2 or so hours. I felt anxious and uneasy because I thought it was really strange and maybe this happens all the time and I'd never noticed it. Then 5 minutes later the earthquake struck.

Air/Sky/Clouds ; 08/29/2011; My family noticed it for at least 5 mins ;Earthquake not yet happened Christchurch Papanui
; We noticed a formation in the sky that looked like a small piece of an entire rainbow. There was no rain that day (or after we saw it) and thats why I think I took particular notice of it.

Air/Sky/Clouds ; Morning of EQ - sky was a pinky red February ; It did not stay long, it was on sunrise it disappear. EQ at 12:40 pm.; 7 kms ; Phillipstown - Close to CBD

That morning the whole sky was pinky red, completely. I thought it was odd, I have never seen this before.

Air/Sky/Clouds ; Recorded at 04:54 Facebook time 22 Feb 2011; Not sure ; Friend who posted it lives in Bishopdale, Christchurch ; I'm in Wellington
My friend posted this on Facebook "What is with the strange light outside this morning?" as I said before at 04:54 but not sure if that is NZ time

Air/Sky/Clouds ; Feb 22nd 630am ; 5 mins ; christchurch city ; redwood, christchurch

i looked out the window at 630am and the sky was a strange orange colour, very cloudy but the clouds looked really smooth and the whole sky was one colour.

Air/Sky/Clouds ; Morning of 13th of June ; Did not notice it after got to work but others at work said the same ; Christchurch City ; CBD by south city

It just felt strange. I start work at 7am and am living in woodend. I noticed it felt different when I got up. Very calm and eerie. Hard to describe but remember saying to my partner it feels like earthquake weather

Air/Sky/Clouds ; 2.30am the morning of 4th September ; the small hours ; Spreydon ; Christchurch

I was up at 2.30am feeding my baby, and thought the light outside was quite bright. I got up every night at that time, as it was a regular feed time. But I remember that during and after the quake, it was particularly dark, like there was no moonlight. I said to my husband in the morning that it was so dark cos it must have been new moon, but he said that no, it was actually first quarter according to the calendar. Then I remembered looking out the window while waiting for the baby's milk to warm, and it was bright.

Air/Sky/Clouds ; 02/21/2011; Walked past it, and was unable to see it from my house due to other buildings obscuring the view ; about 335km ; Lower Hutt

Interesting shaped clouds. Very thin streaks splashed across the sky to the west.

Air/Sky/Clouds ; 12.30pm 22 February 2011; Noticed it as I was walking from my office to the supermarket - a few minutes ; 320km ; Wellington

As I walked to the supermarket, I looked up at the sky and at the buildings on Willis St and thought, everything's very still. There's an odd pressure in the air. Is this what they mean by earthquake weather?

Air/Sky/Clouds ; Monday 29th August 2011 approx 4.50pm ; Not sure - unusual rainbow segment in sky in same quarter as sun ; Seen from Selwyn Street shopping area by Brougham Street intersection, Christchurch ; As above

As previously, woman stopped me on my way home and said she'd just seen a rainbow right next to the sun and wanted someone else to witness it. She walked back with me for about 20 metres in the direction I was going anyway then stopped and pointed to what she had seen. It was unusual - a rainbow segment close to the sun (but I wouldn't have said it was right next to the sun as she did.) Looked pretty but nothing more than that. This evening (Saturday 3 September 2011), at about 5.30pm I saw a similar, though not exact, sight while in the car with husband and daughter driving on Blenheim Road, Christchurch in a westerly direction - we all agreed it looked like there were two suns in the sky - the "real" sun which was in a more northerly direction than the "second" sun which was a very bright patch of clouds. When I put my sunglasses on, they filtered out some of the light effects and the cloud had a definite rainbow effect on it. It reminded me of the woman who had stopped me on Monday and what we had seen then. (There were no clouds that time - it was a straight rainbow that we saw, whereas today it was rainbow-like clouds.)

Air/Sky/Clouds ; The Friday afternoon 3rd Sept ; Just noticed as I was driving ; Sumner ; Christchurch

Noticed very unusual clouds over the port hills, to the point that I told my husband it looked like it might snow

Air/Sky/Clouds ; 22/02/11 I noticed it about 7am ; I noticed it for about 10 minutes. the quake happened that day at 12:51pm ; Christchurch city ; At home in Garden Road, Christchurch

I looked out the window around 7am and noticed that the light outside was very red. Not pinky red like a red sky in the morning but more of a brick red. It reminded me of a dust storm when we were living in Australia. I thought it was unusual because it was a cloudy morning so definitely not from the sunrise.

Air/Sky/Clouds ; Night before 3rd September ; Throughout the night ; 30kms ; Rolleston

Everything was very still, no movement or wind, felt very high pressure and I had a pressure headache like you get in Canterbury with a Norwester.

Air/Sky/Clouds ; feb 21st ; a day ; rangiora, 7400; rangiora

noticed high brooding clouds with unusual heat on the day before the quake. it felt exactly the same as sept 2nd. I thought then it was earthquake weather (but had no idea what that meant!) also experienced pressure in my chest and head for weeks beforehand and a feeling of anxiety and restlessness i couldn't explain. (am starting to feel it again in the last week- 1st week sept 11)

Air/Sky/Clouds ; Feb. 21 about 4pm ; 30 minutes ; about ; 40; kms from Christchurch city ; between Springfield and West Melton

The day before the Feb. 22 quake I was driving from the West Coast to Christchurch. Had come down from Arthurs Pass and onto the Canterbury Plains. Looking to my left I saw clouds and my immediate thought was "earthquake clouds". Growing up in Southern California my mother and grandmother would say its "earthquake weather" or those were earthquake clouds. I could never remember what they thought eq clouds looked like but from somewhere in my subconscious I knew those were eq clouds. I thought about pulling over and taking a photo and then defaulted to "no, you're being silly". Plus the highway was busy and it didn't seem safe to pull over. The only way I can describe them is that they were mini lenticular clouds like little roundish space ships, the sky to my left was filled with lots of them.

Air/Sky/Clouds; 4/09/2010 about 4.35am Saturday; About a second or two before 7.1 earthquake; 35kms; Hornby

Air/Sky/Clouds ; 10 or 11pm 3 Sept ; seconds ; 50km ; Pigeon Bay

Flashes of light, lighting up our bedroom, but no storm

Air/Sky/Clouds ; 22-Feb-11; less than 1 hour ; Not centered Darfield, centred Banks Peninsula about 4 km away ; christchurch

No wind at all - normally strong winds along sea coast

Air/Sky/Clouds ; 03/09/2010; Only noticed for 10 minutes that morning ; 40km - Rangiora ; Rangiora Main Street

My friend from work and I had dropped our cars at Beaurepaires in Rangiora. Then walked to work. During the walk we both noted there was a very strong sulphur smell in the air. We have never noticed this before. When we left work again at lunchtime we couldnt smell it.

Air/Sky/Clouds ; Feb22&Jun ; days ;40; Merrivale

The weather is still, mild and the sky is clear and it is quiet with no sound.

Air/Sky/Clouds week B4 CHCH

Clouds. It seems we have had warm weather before earthquakes, during this warm weather the sky is sunny and clear. I have noticed that there are wispy lines often intersecting in the sky before quakes. I have noticed some just hours or less before many after shocks. On the day of the june quake i remember seeing a very long twisting cloud across the sky, almost like a vapour trail or snake.

Air/Sky/Clouds Earthquake Lights over Darfield approx. 430am, Sept 4th ; not cited ; Templeton

An unusual glow similar to an aurora, blueish green and quite bright to the southwest.

Air/Sky/Clouds ; On Feb 22 quake ; until the main event

; Over the Port Hills ;Cathedral Square

There was a blueish green glow in the sky just before the quake started.

Air/Sky/Clouds ; Early March ; there was an earthwquake then tsunami in japan, and the 5.0 in christchurch : march 20th ; Chch

We were sitting in the lounge looking out the sliding door window, and my mum said "look in the sky" And there in the sky was this rainbow coloured cloud. We took a picture of it and thought nothing about it. And then, there was a tsunami and earthquake in Japan (its said it to be in the bible- that the rainbow cloud is a symbol of Noah's Ark, and nothing good happens.) And there was also the 5.0 in christchurch on March 20th 2011

Air/Sky/Clouds Feb before 22nd

Chch

My cats were acting weird, doing stuff they never usually did, jumping around, staring at things, and trying to push stuff off shelves, cabinets. Also birds were awfully quiet. In the sky the moon was quite low down and BIG!

Air/Sky/Clouds ; 02/01/2020; hours ; 45km ; Lowburn Rangiora

I seem to remember the skies were very still and oppressive and silent and grey, I imagine meteorological records would say whether this was just my imagination

Earth/Ground/Water ; 10-15 seconds before Sep 4 quake ; 10-15 seconds ; 40km ; Pigeon Bay

As we were staying at the end of a valley (Holmes Valley, Pigeon Bay) the roar was deafening. We thought it was a massive landslide at 1st and then the violent shaking started. It seemed to be the ground noise of the earthquake before it split to the surface and then the noise reverberated around the hills as the valley acted like an amphitheatre. At least that's how we read it. Apparently there was little noise heard in ChCh before Sep 4.

Earth/Ground/Water ; 1 hour before 22 Feb quake ; 10 seconds ; 1km ; Mt Pleasant

A loud rumble which lasted approximately 10-12 seconds and then died off slowly. At first we said 'earthquake!' as it was similar but no way near as the loud deep earth roar before 4 Sept however as we prepared to dive into doorways it faded away. The only other possibility for the noise was a train going through Heathcote Valley but that doesn't add up as it's only a faint sound heard at night and this was loud, more urgent. After the quake happened an hour later (approx) when we were huddled in the park talking to neighbours I asked if anyone else had heard the rumble and most didn't, however 2 neighbours agreed they had heard the sound as well

Earth/Ground/Water ; Couple of days before 4 September earthquake ; Continued until physically remedied several weeks/months later ; 40km ; Christchurch, along side the Waimakariri River. A few kilometres west of the Waimakariri Bridge over the motorway.

An irrigation well suddenly started spouting water about a metre into the air. Normally this well level was well below surface level.

Earth/Ground/Water ; 06/13/2011; from about an hour before the 5.8 quake until after the quake ; Christchurch City ; Sydenham Christchurch

There was a strong smell of sulphur in the air.

Earth/Ground/Water ; I went to the toilet at approx 3.30am(I am not a good sleeper)on the 4th september and noticed that the water level was really low in the toilet,i had never noticed if this had ever happened before.; I have never seen the water low again ; 20kms in Hornby,Christchurch ; Hornby,christchurch

It was just that the water in my toilet bowl was very low enough for me to think there was something wrong with it and i had never noticed this before

Earth/Ground/Water ; 03September 2010 between 10pm and 1am ; Just a few seconds and the shake followed at 4.35am ; christchurch city ; parklands, home

I remember it like it was y'day as it stuck in my mind at the time as being something that has never happened before. The shower in my ensuite turned on and water just came out at quite a pace as the noise on the shower floor gave me such a fright. I went in to the bathroom but could see no reason as to why this would happen.

Earth/Ground/Water ; 12:45ish on the 22nd February 2011; a few seconds long - the quake was 6 minutes later ; within 5kms ; Linwood, Christchurch

I was in a supermarket, when I heard a 'boom' sound, I thought it was a wee aftershock, I turned to my partner and asked him if he felt/heard it - he did not. So I assumed someone had dropped a large pallet of food out the back of the supermarket, as this was the only logical explanation. The earthquake happened around 6 minutes later. I checked geonet etc to see if there had been a small quake before the big one, but there was not... I now think what i heard was maybe a sonic boom.

Earth/Ground/Water ; More an observation of ground motion and sound before the activity affected me ; a few seconds before ; 40 Km ; Fendalton Road CHCH removing shopping from my car

I was removing shopping bags from the rear seats of my SRV when the brick area of the parking bay in the street rattled like a set of dominoes clattering and falling - I was thrown out of my car by the bucking motion of the vehicle and landed on my rear on the pathway -this was a passing seismic wave and subsided directly after the event . no subsequent action - Another separate event in the Fendalton shopping area Carpark at another time - saw small amount of wave action of vehicle roofs across the parking area and felt the event

Earth/Ground/Water ; 15 mins before quake on 4th sep ; until the quake ; christchurch ; summer ; christchurch

Woke 15 mins before the quake thinking i could hear running water. Looked out of window. lovely clear night. Very disturbed that there may be a burst pipe somewhere in the house. Checked all visible connections but found nothing. Then still convinced that the hissing sound was running water went round every wall in the house putting my ear to it to see if it was inside the walls. Even went downstairs in the middle of the night which i would NEVER do. Would always send husband but thought he would think i was crazy if i woke him to listen to walls. Could not find the source so reluctantly went back upstairs and got in bed and the earthquake immediately kicked off. Also on feb 22nd i was so unsettled that i spent half an hour on the internet looking to see if another earthquake was expected or could be forecast and was on an earthquake site when the big quake struck. That could just be coincidence i think but my first experience was definitely connected to the earthquake. Perhaps during the early hours of the morning our senses are heightened?

Earth/Ground/Water ; 9am ; don't know ; 20; Kaiapoi

I'd had two hip ops last year, Feb and early July, then shingles well stopped in one week. I'm a zoologist, very observant, and this was a momentous and glorious day. I had travelled along Park Terrace several times a week over 61 years and i have never seen a river flow like that, or that mid-brown opaque look to the water. The river was within its normal banks at the top edge. the force of the flow was unprecedented, so it rose up in hillock-like lumps over the full width and length. I was amazed as it was in such contrast to the swathes of daffodils along the banks and the serenely resting pairs of paradise ducks picturesquely spaced along the opposite bank. The scene was beautiful and paradoxical.

Earth/Ground/Water ; Nov-10; Till Feb22; 5km?; Halswell

It started with a strange whining sound that came from our water pipe in the bathroom. It would whine randomly maybe once a day until we opened a tap and it would stop. In January it got worse and by February we were constantly hearing high pitched whining and then a strange morse code like sound. Plumbers were stunned at what we described and couldn't provide any answers as to why the pipes were getting worse. It all stopped immediately after the 22nd Feb quake and has never returned. We believe it was a build up of pressure.

Earth/Ground/Water ; Jan-10; hour ; 0; sumner christchurch

Approximately 9 months before I felt the ground humming while I lay in bed. The humming was so subtle that I often fell asleep to it which didnt take long

Electronic ; About Sept 1; Three days later ; 10km ; St Albans Christchurch

When ever I touched metal or even the i would get a shock..the cat was getting shocks from me

Electronic ; about 10.30 lights were flickering ; 1 min ; tai tapu ; tai tapu

About 10.30 lights were flickering

Electronic ; At least 5 seconds before shaking started with the first of the big EQ's in Feb ; Continued during the first shake ; Christchurch City ; Middleton (near Addington)

Static on radio in car - signal dropped out

Electronic ; 2-3 weeks prior to each major earthquake ; finished after each major earthquake ; Christchurch City ; Christchurch

My hair was very static, unusual for me in that I don't normally have that problem. It was bad before September earthquake and I remember commenting to my hairdresser prior to February quake , how annoying it was and i could not do anything about it.

Electronic ; Morning 22nd ; several hours ; 40km ; Woodend

My texts messages were playing up I kept loosing service on my cell phone, and the television in that preceding 2 hours would freeze and do strange things

Animal 3-Sep 15km Belfast

My Auntie delivers pamphlets in letterboxes and noticed hundreds of worms out of the ground around factory road in Belfast on Sept 3rd 2010.

Animal ; eight hours prior to Sept eartquake ; one hour ; 40km ; Redwood Chch

A normally placid adult cat began caterwauling from a neighbour's open area garden from 2000 hrs. Could'nt be lured back onto property, highly agitated, inconsolable.

Animal 1982 10min Close Apia

While working in Western Samoa up on Mt Vai near the forest, I noticed the birds suddenly start to quieten down. Then there was a deadly silence with no bird chatter. 5 minutes later there was a rumble from the mountain and a solid earthquake. It was over 30 minutes before the birds started to sing again.

Animal ; 22 february 2011 mid morning ; about 2 or 3 hours ; 5km ; North Beach

Food scraps for birds put out about 9am not eaten by 10.30 not even by neighbour's cat. Drove to new brighton along sea-front about 12 noon no seagulls near dunes

Animal ; Quake event followed by Turbid water in Selwyn River System ; Turbidity in the river was very quick after the seismic event ; This was an event after the Initial one At Charing cross It was one of the Subsequent aftershocks but i cant remember the date ; Fishing the Selwyn River Below Coes Ford - Selwyn District - Got home later and read about the quake on TV

Cant remember any "Silence" or movement of cattle /Birds - Only that the fishing "went off" and didnt return (no fish activity subsequently) PS- I'm a retired Life Scientist and used to noticing detail but in this instance this is all i can offer - sorry

Animal ; Last week on Wednesday 31st August.; 10 km ; CBD, walking along the Avon River down from the Bridge of Remembrance.

I saw a large mountain trout swimming. That afternoon there were two earthquakes in succession of the other, one occurred from the East and the other EQ was from the West.

Animals

on feb 22nd our cat also was discovered sleeping on top of the coffee table- something she had NEVER done before. I took a photo of her because it was so odd. My brother, who is a farmer called two days before the june 13th shakes to say his cows and others on neighbouring farms were being stupid and running off from milking- he was in Rakaia. A client told me her and her husband were in the doctors office on june 13th and the fish in the tank in the waiting room clustered together at the top of the tank moments before the first shake hit.

Animals ; around midday on the day of the June aftershocks ; around a minute ; within 10km ; Christchurch, New Brighton

A large flock of birds flying in all directions in the sky, They were really going crazy! I watched them for about a minute and actually commented to someone how bizarre it looked and wondered if it meant there was going to be an earthquake that day. It worried me enough that I put on hold my plans for the rest of the day so I could be at home and near to the childrens school.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; after Feb. 22; days ; about 8 to 10 km from CHC city centre ; Yaldhurst

I have always been interested in animal behaviour as precursory predictors. Even though I was busy in the cattery I tried to watch the cats and their actions prior to an aftershock. Some seemed to get vocal just before, but to be fair, we (the cats and I) were all pretty traumatized by the recent events and these were cats whose normal personalities I didn't know. There was one kitten, less than a year old, who would howl very loudly and climb the chain link fence before most aftershocks. My own cats who were in CHC for both Sept. and Feb quakes are much jumpier. They were always very calm, now the littlest noise makes them jump. Abby sometimes seems agitated before an aftershock but I can't really say if its true or not. We don't feel the aftershocks here on the West Coast but the house pops whenever there is one in the eastern suburbs but not Darfield/Greendale.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 16/4/2011 5:40 am ; 6mins ; Christchurch ; Landy Street, Dallington, Christchurch

Was woken by the ducks on the Avon. I'm from Wellington and noises I'm not used to (ie ducks quacking at night) will wake me up. The noise was amazing and lasted at very high volume for at least 5 or 6 minutes (I checked my watch)! Then it stopped very suddenly. About a minute or so later there was a very low rumble (more felt than heard) and the house shook like it had gone over a cattle stop.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; September 4th approx 4am ; Until the 7.1 quake (4.30?); 40k ; Addington, Christchurch

I am a vet nurse, I work in an after hours emergency clinic. I was at work. I had very few patients in that morning. A beagle (spinal patient) I was nursing became very agitated around 4am, vocalising, attempting to stand etc. I assumed he had become painful. I was in his kennel with him, administering pain relief and cold packing his surgical site, which did not settle him, when the 7.1 struck. So as the earthquake rocked the building I lay over him, he became calm and we rode it out together. Once the quake finished he was settled and affectionate. Another spinal patient I was nursing that night had been agitated all night, but I assumed it was behavioral (wanting attention) as her pain was not great.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 4/9/10 from 1-2am ; Continued until the quake, increasing in intensity (about 2.5-3 hrs); 30km ; Weedons

I was awake all night reading as I was getting into the right sleep pattern to begin night shifts the following night. Directly behind my bedroom there is a paddock that had several horses in it that night. I gradually became aware from about 1am that they were restless & often running the length of the paddock, very unusual behaviour for them at night. It was a little after 4am when their running became constant and started to sound panicked. I was concerned that something was seriously wrong, perhaps they were being chased by a dog, & had just got dressed to go outside when the earthquake began. The horses were moving at such a speed & creating such a noise at this stage that in the first few seconds of the earthquake I thought it was them shaking the house.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 13 June 2011 about 20 minutes before first quake 5.5.; About 20 minutes ; < 10 km ; Lyttelton

The same cat that had reacted on 22 Feb, changed her behavior 20 minutes before the 5.5 quake on June 13 2011. She jumped up on to a table near me, that she had never sat on before, sat down and faced away from me. Was too weird so phoned the wife and warned her the cat was predicting a quake. This was 15 minutes before the event.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; Approx 10.30am Feb 22 2011; Till shortly before the quake ; < 5km ; Lyttelton

One of our two cats decided to sit on my computer keyboard while I was trying to use it. Was in my face most of the late morning. Wife came home after 12pm. Started using her computer, cat did the same thing. Wife thought it was weird so took some photos. This was about 10-15 minutes before the quake struck.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; Friday 3rd September ; unknown ; 40km ; Central City Christchurch

We had an infestation of mice in our office on the morning of 3rd February. They appeared from nowhere and they were everywhere in the office which was on the first floor (top floor of the building) - we could even see them trying to hide. Their were mice droppings all over the office.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; day of Big February earthquake around 3pm ; probably from 30 seconds to a minute ; 20 km south of Oamaru ; Herbert North Otago \$I was in a shed containing 30 thousand chickens. They are always noisy but just as the aftershock started they all went dead quiet for at least 30 seconds, we got out of the shed so don't know exact time but verified later that there was an aftershock at this time. My workmates were in another chicken shed and the same thing happened in there.[not a precursor, but indicative of reactions]

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 22 February 2011 before 9.30am About 10 minutes. The quake was about 3 and a half hours later ; Christchurch City At home in Sydenham, Christchurch

The cat went crazy, throwing himself into walls and tearing around inside the house like in a real panic. This was my daughter's cat and there had been a smallish quake after he had done this but my daughter rang me and warned me there was going to be a big quake as her cat doesn't go berserk for the small ones.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 09/04/2010; 10 minutes ; 10km ; West Melton \$

the owls scream, a different sound to their normal call. They did this before the September 4 earthquake, and also before all big aftershocks. By the February event, they began to scream 2 hours before any big aftershock

Animals/Birds/Plants ; Immediately before September 4th earthquake ; Until the shaking started ; Christchurch city ; Burnside

Our cat at the time woke several people in the house, running up and down the hallway and clawing the carpet

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 2nd September 2010; 2nd and 3rd September ; 20km ; Rolleston

Out walking at 7.30 am on the mornings of 2nd and 3rd September, my daughter in law and myself noticed the pavement and road were covered in worms. There was no where to put your feet without standing on them. Thousands more than would normally appear after a shower of rain.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 2 - 3 days prior to a large aftershock ; 1-2 evening before the evening or morning of the earthquake ; 10km ; Rolleston

We have 3 cats. Only one has exhibited abnormal behaviour. 2 to 3 nights before a "sizeable" aftershock, he will walk to every window and meow to be let out - which he does not normally do. The night of or before the earthquake, he stops and acts perfectly normal. This has been mostly true of the aftershocks in the high-5's and 6.3 earthquakes. I am now watching his behavior to try and tie it to these events.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; Sept 4 2011 about 5-ten min before EQ ; about a minute ; 200km ; Westport, Buller

We were still up outside at the time of the Darfield quake. About 5-10min before EQ hit the coast all the birdlife (such as Weka Pukeko etc) which were quiet woke and a loud birdsong was heard all the way down the coast. This happened for about 1-2mins. It was very strange we thought. 5-10 min later we felt the quake.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; I don't know! Sorry ; I don't know ; 10 km ; New Brighton central

The birds seemed to vanish. It was summer, so I wasn't putting out bird seed and fat as I do in the winter, but AFTER the Feb shock there were few to no birds in my garden for at least six weeks. And I realised they'd been missing from beforehand. My neighbour went to look after his sister, leaving his grapevine uncovered. For weeks, the ripe grapes stayed on the vine. There were no birds to eat them. Did the birds stay away - where? - until the level of activity meant it was safe for them to come back? A friend said that his garden usually has bellbirds, and similarly, they'd gone. This lack of birds lasted at least six weeks.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 09/03/2010; 6hours ; 40k ; bromley, chrstchurch

this time the dog was digging in her kennel, growling and has a particular warning bark

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 09/02/2011; few minutes ; 40; bromley, christchurch

we live behind the cemetery and are used to the sound of birds, on this evening it sounded like hundreds have congregated into the trees to squawk their heads off very loud, the morning there were no birds at all. All the dogs in neighbour hood (kennels in maces road) could be heard barking and howling including our own dog. today 04 sep nothing has happened yet

Animals/Birds/Plants ; February 22nd 2011 between 12 midday and 12.51pm. Specific time I am unsure of due to shock from the earthquake ; The incident was brief about 30 seconds and was within 45 minutes of the 6.3 shake ; Christchurch CBD approx 10 kms ; Christchurch City Central, Victoria Street

I was working at my desk on the 2nd floor of the NZCECE building 50 Victoria St, Christchurch. I face west. I saw what I thought was wind blown small leaves and stood up to get a better view. A swarm of bees came west from Peterborough St, crossed Victoria St and moved up high in the air then swooped down again and continued East along Peterborough St. The swarm was closely packed and about the size of a bus. I thought at the time this was very strange and I was fascinated. I called a work colleague over to look out the window. I cannot recall the exact time but know it was within 45 minutes prior to the quake. I forgot about it for several days as was mildly traumatised by the event. I have never seen this in the city before.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; It was exactly one week before the 22nd's earth quake ; the whole week before the 22nd of February ; Christchurch, We live 4.3 km's from the epi center of The 6.3 on the 22nd of February ; Woolston, Christchurch City

My one year old cat started to display strange behaviour, he eats in the kitchen and normally eats all his food, but that week he only ate if someone was in the kitchen with him, if we left the room he left his food and came out of the room. He also started meowing with a distressed sound, he is not normally a cat that meows a lot. Also at night he sleeps with us in Our bedroom, the week before the 6.3 hit, he refused to come into Our bedroom. Another thing which alarmed me was We couldn't go out of his sight, if We did he started his distressed meowing. I had said to My husband on the Saturday that Our cat's behaviour was making me nervous and I didn't want to be in the house alone. Since the February earthquake, before aftershocks hit Us he freezes up and stares.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; June 13th ; 5 mins ; Rolleston 30kms ; Rolleston

Dog started growling and ruffing in low tones at the ground for the 10 mins leading up to the 5.7 & 6.3 quakes, we started calling him the doggy earthquake alarm and worrying when this same behaviour happened

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 4/9/2010 and about 20-25mins before the quake ; About 15-20minutes. About 5-10minutes later ; Lyttelton 25km ; Lyttelton

Our cat Lucy started scratching at our window from outside to be let in. Sometimes she does scratch at the window to be let in. We usually ignore her as she can be really annoying once she is inside, and usually she will stop scratching after a while. On this occasion my son had already woken me up so I was already awake. Lucy kept scratching and scratching she was being very insistent. It got to the point where I was thinking perhaps it was snowing outside and she was desperate to get inside. I was worried she was going to wake up everyone else so I decided to get out of bed go upstairs and give her some food to keep her quiet. So I opened the door and she ran inside. I gave her some food but she wasn't keen on going outside again but finally I coaxed her outside again. I went down to bed and a very short while later probably 5mins I heard the roar of the earthquake coming (I actually thought it was a hurricane and our roof was going to be ripped off).

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 06/13/2011; 1 hour ; 10km ; Halswell - Kennedys bush

I was walking our dog in Kennedy's bush and she was dragging me so hard down the hill that in the end I had to let her off lead. The cows were also making tons of noise what was very strange.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 09/04/2004; 20 min before ; Redwood 25km ; christchurch

Our cat and our dog would not stay of the bed, cat was meowing loudly and dog was barking, both kept this up until the shaking hit

Animals/Birds/Plants ; feb 22 - 12:45 dog sat at my feet barking ; 6 min ; 10k in redwood ; christchurch

My dog would not leave me alone for 5 min she barked and followed me everywhere when the shaking it she stayed with me - it was as if she knew it was way worse this time and she barked til it stopped - and started again before each aftershock, even if we were in the car

Animals/Birds/Plants ; Approx 12:15pm, February 22nd 2011; Don't know - only saw it as I was driving ; 10km ; Casebrook

I study butterflies. Butterflies that emerge in Summer are usually only active when its warm and/or sunny. Butterflies that emerge in Autumn and overwinter will fly in much cooler, or overcast conditions. On my way to work at my business in The Palms on Feb 22nd, I noticed several Monarchs flying and thought it odd. Feb 22nd was overcast, and cooler than the day before, and it was actually drizzling quite heavily. Definitely not the sort of weather for summer butterflies to be flying in. I also noticed them on the wing on the way home after the earthquake, moments after the biggest aftershock (5.9) at about 2:50pm.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; Approx. 12:55pm on 13 June ; Approx. 7 minutes ; 25km ; West Melton \$I was on Currags Road, picking grass for my horse, with a fantail flitting around as I disturbed insects. The fantail was very noisy, peeping flat out. At approx. 12:55pm on 13 June the fantail went quiet, and the chattering blackbirds in the hedgerow went quiet also. Suddenly the blackbirds screamed and took to the sky and the fantail disappeared. At 1pm I heard a loud rumble, felt the ground move, saw

the road snake, my car bounce and heard the houses rattle. After the movement stopped I carried on and about 2 minutes later the fantail came back, peeping and eating insects and the blackbirds began chattering again like normal.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 4/9/10 about 3am ; an hour or so ; 40km ; Rangiora

My cat woke me around 3am on the 4/9/10. She was crying, but did not want food or outside. Very unusual for her.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 3:30am 4th September ; On and off for 45 minutes before the quake ; 40km ; Somerfield, Christchurch

The dog (5 month old puppy) woke us up. She sleeps in the sun room, and we were awoken by her hurling herself against the door, scrabbling and crying. We went to her, let her into the garden to see if she needed to relieve herself but nothing would stop her distress. After about half an hour of going back and forth to her, we decided to bring her into bed with us, just so we could get some sleep. We had never had to do this before - her behaviour and distress were very out of character. Five minutes after we had brought her into our room, the 7.1 earthquake hit.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 2-3 weeks in advance of Sept 4 2010; continuously restless and hyper alert , not wanting to be locked up temporarily in their yards for feeding ; within 10 km from the epicentre, ~700 m from Greendale fault line ; Between Dunsandel and Hororata/Karanga Road

Horse were very restless and didn't want to come and stay close to their place of feeding. They would come, take a mouthful, run away again. Usually feed them hard feed in separate yards, temporary locking the horse away for the hard feed. There were 6 different groups to be yarded, which had never been a problem. Couldn't do it anymore, and actually gave up feeding them hard feed ...! I got irritated with their restlessness and even carried their hay further toward were they seemed to congregate. It was only 2 weeks after the 4 Sept quake that I started to realize the relationship of the restlessness with the quakes and aftershocks. Now, when they do a lot of galloping around I know to secure some breakable things that are not always stored safely in daily life.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 08/31/2011; It didn't occur for this one event, which is abnormal, as the horses have been restless for all the other ones - large and small ; within 10 km from the epicentre of the Darfield quake, 700 m fro the Greendale fault line ; Between Hororata and Dunsandel

The horses where standing/relaxing/sleeping in the area where up till then they hadn't want to linger for any longer than quick business of drinking, grabbing hay. I heard the rumble coming and actually started studying the horses' dynamic to see how they would fare in this spot they had previously evaded in all the other quakes - as I was surprised at their non-reactivity. Still not sure why there was no response to a fairly good shake, as they have become restless again for other aftershocks.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; Friday the 3rd of September 2010, in the evening ; 4.35 am September 4 2010.; 40km ; Christchurch city, Christchurch

My cat, Shadow, is elderly and has a set routine. I come home from work, feed her, she goes outside for a bit and then comes back in after about an hour later. I feed her again around 10pm and then we go to bed. She always sleeps on my bed. On the Friday, I came home, fed her, and she went outside to visit a neighbour, which was unusual. She left the neighbour at 8pm when she suddenly wanted outside. I left the window open for her all night but she was not back when the earthquake hit and the neighbour said she hadn't seen her after 8pm either. After the quake I left the house to stand outside on the street. Shadow ran up to me about ten minutes later. She was covered with dust (our apartment

was not very damaged, I don't know where she'd been). A little big-eyed and spooked at first, she calmed down within half an hour and was fine again. After that night she went right back to her old routine and has not behaved any differently for the other quakes (in February she hid under the bed, but the others she does not appear to notice and remains on the bed while I dive into the doorframe).

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 2am Dec 26th ; 20 mins, the event happened 8 hours later ; 3km from Barbadoes St, which has now been identified as the fault line that caused the Boxing Day EQ ; Opawa - Christchurch - NZ

Our visitors dogs were making low growling noises. Not like usual barking or growling at unaccustomed visitors/intruders. Just a low grumbling sound.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 3am Feb 22nd 2011; 20/30 mins, the subsequent EQ was 10 hours later ; This was the Lyttelton Quake and we were 7km from the Epicenter ; Opawa - Christchurch - NZ

Dogs in the neighborhood were making the same sort of low growling noises that I had heard from my visitors dogs on the morning of Dec 26th. When I mentioned this to a colleague at work later on that day she mentioned how her cats had been acting completely nutso (her words) that morning.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 2nd sept, 2011. 3.29am - ten minutes before quake ; ten minutes before earthquake; 60km Eyrewell ; At home in bed, Eyrewell, North Canterbury

Cat woke me by pawing face and licking me on the face. I stirred but ignored the cat. Cat turned on touch lamp twice and returned to pawing me awake. This was unusual behaviour for cat, When earthquake hit, cat pushed in against me - as if providing comfort. All previous earthquakes at night, the cat has been beside me as I have been very frightened after being in CBD in feb. It seems the cat forewarns me which reduces the fear when they occur. The cat always becomes alert and gets my attention before earthquakes occur.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 22nd February 2011, around 12.30pm ; 20 or so minutes before the 12.51pm aftershock ; approx 10km ; Hereford St, CBD, Christchurch

My work colleagues bring their cat into our office premises regularly, a tonkinese cat, he is usually a cruisy cat, no fuss, but this day, she was jumping around all over the place, meowing at the ceiling, we thought the may have been a mouse up there, but he kept jumping around and meowing which is out of character

Animals/Birds/Plants ; late evening on 3rd September, 11pm onwards ; repeatedly until about 1am``; Prebbleton, approx 30km?; Prebbleton, Selwyn

Our dog normally goes to sleep quietly. The night before she would not settle, she kept getting up, pacing around, circling. I had to lie on the floor with her to get her to settle down. However she did this repeatedly through the night.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; Maybe not relevant to Sept and Feb events, but the following occurred on two nights in the fortnight before June quake ; Late evening, early morning on two nights in the fortnight before the June quake ; 40km ; Lyttelton

My partner and I live on Lyttelton Harbour and on two nights, one a weeknight (can't recall the day), and a Saturday night (we think maybe the Saturday night before the June quake), we went outside as we heard the sea birds that nest on the cliffs of Quail Island calling in a very distressed and united

manner. This went on for several hours into the night, without pause. We remarked to each other that it was unusual and unnerving.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; about 10 mins before quake ; about 20 mins ; 30 ks ; doyleston

Sheep and pigs sounded like they were being slaughtered, lots of bleating and squealing

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 15 minuste before the EQ ; 10 minutes ; Christchurch - 30 klm ; Chch

The dogs starting barking & made me certain there was going to be an EQ because they never bark at this time of night. They stopped 5 mins before the quake

Animals/Birds/Plants

Four days prior to the EQ in February (Thursday Before) I saw a large very pale grey, almost white eel swimming in the Avon River. It was very old and would have been completely blind. It was a sunny day. Due to the size of the eel it was very unusual, it would have lived very deep in a lake or deep river.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; Feb-11; around that time with the 22nd Earthquake in CHCH ; Chch
My cats were acting weird, doing stuff they never usually did, jumping around, staring at things, and trying to push stuff off shelves, cabinets. Also birds were awfully quiet. In the sky the moon was quite low down and BIG!

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 20th Feb ; hours ; 45km ; loburn Rangiora

I remember thinking how silent the birds seemed to be. With 4/9 I remember there being no birdsong until much later in the day after the morning shakes

Animals/Birds/Plants ; many aftershocks postsepfef ; hours ; 45km ; loburn Rangiora

one of our dogs would pretty much always go into our room earlier in the evenings on nights when we subsequently had decent aftershocks.

7 sep

Animals/Birds/Plants 7.48 minutes 4km Hillsborough

I was walking thru the dining room and the persian cat slunk low to the ground and his eyes were wide with fright. He then proceeded to run fast out the cat door. I thought is there going to be another aftershock so went into the bathroom and stood under the door and it hit. Wham....did quite a bit of damage to house...wall oven came out, sash window fell out and was leaning on the flashing....The epicentre of this earthquake was just near the epicentre of the 22 February event.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; 22nd Feb 30mins before ; 30m ; 40km ; Woodend

I was staying with my children at my parents, when there dog went beserk barking and growling. She kept running up to me and growling and then she would lay down on her side on the ground, get up race to my 2 young children whinge and then sprint from one end of the house to the other and she did this repetitively in the half hour leading up to the february 22 shake. In the final two minutes my son was asleep on my parents couch by there wall unit and the dog actually got up next to him on the couch and put her head across his tummy. I had just got up to shoo her off when the earthquake struck

Animals/Birds/Plants ; Dec 3rd midday ; several hours ; 250; Nelson

Picton Quake: I noticed that the birds were constantly raucous for a long period of time. I went outside to check for cats. I did not think of it til the day after when I was told of another similar experience probably 2km from my home. Same time.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; Midday 9th? Wqellington quake ; several hours ; Bnelson

The birds were not quite as raucous as the last one, but several hours. At midday, 2 hours after the Wellington quake they are quiet. I will try to be more I feed the birds (in Town) so am accustomed to their calls. Yesterday I noticed that all the birds were calling constantly. But they were not as raucous as the previous quake which I felt. I did not feel this one. bobservant in the future!

Animals/Birds/Plants ; Midnight 3rd ; Sefton near amberley ; 50km ; Sefton near amberley

All our 4 dogs howled from just after midnight. (they sleep inside) We got up at 3am and let them out. Terrier wouldn't go out. Put them back to bed and then they howled again until earthquake struck. After Sept 3, one of our dogs would bark before each aftershock.

Animals/Birds/Plants ; Few seconds before Feb22; few seconds ; 60km Eyrewell ; Oxford

I noticed the birds went quiet and all the horses put their heads up and alert

Other Few sec few seconds Chch

A brief but very distinct feeling of pressure in my inner ears, like the feeling when a door is closed or opened quickly in a room. I always feel it and then think 'quake' and an aftershock hits. I always assumed it was some sort of wave of pressure from the P wave of a shock.

Other ; All 3 & day B4; 12h ; 40; Chch \$Before all three major earthquakes. The day before I have felt randomly incredibly depressed with headaches. This seems to last half the day.

Other ; 22-2-2011 an earie feeling ; 4-6 hours ; ch-ch city ; chch public hospital

22-2-2011 an earie feeling

Other ; midnight Sept 4th ; 2 x 5 min intervals apart ; Fendalton Christchurch ; Christchurch

I had a sharp pain in my head & then another 5 minutes later. I thought it was a sign of EQs as electromagnetic forces. The dogs barked 10 minutes before the EQ

Other ; Friday Sept 3rd, approx 9pm ; 2-3 hours ; 40 km ; Children's ward CHCH Hospital

Easiest way to descibe it is I felt 'odd' and so un at-ease. My 7 year old had been to hosp 2 days prior being unwell. That evening we transferred to a different room in the ward. I am someone who would unpack his bag into the cupboard, set up home but I did not unpack anything, infact I repacked our bags with all essential winter things on top. I placed our jackets out, filled our water bottle, recharged the phone, checked the torch several times to reconfirm it was working and put them in very easy reach, something I had never done before. I did a 'feel test' to make sure that when I reached out to where I thought they were, I could immediately locate them. When I tucked my son in although I was exhausted I could not switch off which the nurse noticed. She came over to my bed and started talking. We laughed when she noticed what I had done, everything on the ready. I too had postioned

his inhaler ready to find in the dark although the night light was on at the time. I said I felt this amazing urge to keep my shoes on in bed. Over the years I had spent several nights in that hospital and never felt like nor did any of those things any of the other nights. This night felt so different to the others. We spoke of this. She tried to assure me that I would not need to jump up, grab my son and run out of the hospital later that night although she said she understood I felt I would need to. I was totally ready. It was the first time in my life I had gone to bed with my shoes on, I said I felt I needed to have them on. When I took them off I placed my sons shoes and mine pointing out ready to jump into directly beside the bed doing the feel test. She commented that I was right ready to 'go' in the night and how strange that was. She laughed, I laughed at my own absurdity. I think she thought I was mad... but I was ready. 5 hours later it arrived.

Other ; September 3, morning ; All day through to September 4 quake ; 40km ; Lyttelton

Woke feeling uneasy, irritable and distressed - not able to attribute these feelings to anything, and by the end of the day felt stressed and exhausted.

Other ; approximately 2 weeks prior ; it was a vivid dream 2 weeks before sept 4 also had dreams before Dec, Feb, June and August ; N/A ; Christchurch for all except boxing day dream - was in Scotland

Dreams Also have ears that want to 'pop' like on an airplane, and sharp, stabbing head pains, light-headedness and occasionally a pain in chest

Other ; sept4 at about 11.30pm ; about 5 and a quarter hours.the quake struck at 445am ; 40kms ; christchurch

I had a major bowel operation about june last year and thought i wasnt coming out of hostipal,was in there for 7 weeks and since i was in hostipal ive had and still do have major problems sleeping,getting about 3-4 hrs of sleep per nite,but for some reason on sept 4 i sleep like a log until the earth shook me to bits.

Other ; 02/20/2011; about a day and a half. 22nd February 12.51pm ; Christchurch city ; Christchurch city centre at work

Felt very light headed, nauseous and just weird, like there was pressure inside my ears

Other ; Three days before for one aspect and on and off for some time for the second ; 4th sept 2011. A feeling of doom and a desperate need to get home to my kids three days before, discharged myself from hospital post surgery ; Christchurch city ; Christchurch city

I became quite emotional and out of character. I made a comment on Facebook. I had a desperate need to leave the hospital even though I was far from ready post surgery. Although I couldn't drive I felt the need to stock my cupboards and buy warmer outdoor clothing the day before the quake, I recall being in pak n save looking at certain items thinking they would be good emergency supplies. I can only say I had a feeling of doom. On and off well before the quake I would experience a feeling of explosions in my head, I can only compare it too the sound of a high speed car crash or gas explosions. It was only when that this sound would happen occasionally before a large aftershock that I realized there may be a link... And I would tell the odd person we were about to have a large quake. February 22nd I was at work and again became overwhelmed, I left the building and sat in the car having a cry, I'm not the type to cry easy, and definitely not at work. I spoke to the head nurse and said I felt really emotional and out of sorts, the earthquake hit within the hour while we were in surgery with a patient.

Other ; After the initial September quake I now get very earthquake obsessed just before a decent sized aftershock, I start checking the house. The last time being Wednesday 31 august

Having issues doing this on iPad sorry for repetition. To sum up, 1. A sense of doom or really emotional before the big quakes. 2. A banging explosion sound that is weird and hard to explain. 3. Since the quakes, now get hypervigilant and check house etc just before quakes, told my niece before last two on wednesday of last week. Not psychic per se just a sensory thing I think.....

Other ; Feb. 22 about 10am ; From about 10am until about two hours after the quake ; 8 to 10 km from CHC city centre ; Driving from Yaldhurst to Riccarton

Had just arrived in CHC the night before to work at a cattery. The owners weren't ready to leave that morning so I had a free morning and decided to go to Riccarton Mall to get a Starbucks coffee. As I drove into town from the west I started feeling dizzy with a headache. Got to the mall, parked (outside, grew up in S. California and never go into parking structures) and sat in my car for a few minutes trying to feel better. Went into mall, where I have gone many times, but seemed confused and disoriented, couldn't find Starbucks even though I always go right to it. Walked around a bit and felt so "off" that I went into the ladies room, sat on a toilet and put my head between my knees because I thought I might pass out. I started thinking I might be having a stroke and wondered if I should call someone for help. After a few minutes of sitting there I felt a bit better and got coffee and a sandwich. As I made my way back to the car (felt too weird to be in public so went to car to eat) it felt like one eye was higher than the other, that is the only way I can describe how everything was just a bit off. Sat in car and ate and had coffee. Being from the West Coast I am always excited to get into the city and go to Scorpio Books on Hereford. After eating I felt a bit better and had convinced myself that I had just been hungry (although I had a good breakfast only a couple of hours earlier) and decided to continue with my plan to go into the CBD to the book shop. I backed my car out of the parking space, approached the intersection, turned on the right hand blinker to turn toward the city. The light turned green and my car turned left. Luckily the person in the left lane who I cut off didn't hit me but certainly let their feelings be known about what an idiot I was. I have been a perfect driver for many years and don't do stupid things like that. I am not a religious person but someone other than me turned me away from the long anticipated trip to the book store and the CBD which I would have reached about 12:30 or 12:40. I pulled over, shaking, because I had not turned the steering wheel that way. I was so angry at what I thought was my stupidity even though I didn't turn the wheel that way. The incident shook me up enough that I decided to go back to the cattery and lay down. I arrived back there, went upstairs to my room, laid down but was very dizzy again (no, I had not been drinking...) so sat up and turned on my laptop. Within a few minutes the quake happened. Having worked over there very soon after the Sept. quake I was pretty used to aftershocks so when it started shaking I just sat there. As it got bigger I ran to the doorway and braced myself there, pulled a shoulder muscle and banged my knee pretty hard. Once the shaking stopped the owners of the cattery jumped in their cars to go find their daughters at school and I ran to the cattery. Cats and building were fine then the dizziness hit me and I couldn't even stand up. There is a grassy area between the house and the cattery and I laid there for at least an hour even though it was drizzling. I was sick to my stomach and extremely dizzy. In the days that followed I don't remember getting dizzy with any aftershocks but the cattery got so busy, filled to capacity with just me to run it, that I was working 15 hour days and so tired that I slept through most night time aftershocks. Since then I have experienced ear tones and dizziness before many of the very small aftershocks, even from over here on the West Coast. I thought maybe it was my imagination or that something was wrong with my ears but last month (July) I went home to the US and as soon as we landed in LA I noticed there was no ringing in my ears and I didn't hear one ear tone or feel dizzy ever during my 5 week stay. Now back on the West Coast and having ear tones and dizziness again.

Other ; approx 1 month prior to sept quake ; continuouse up until the sept quake ; epicentre ; Rolleston

I heard a strange very low pitched buzzing noise, similar to the noise from an electric fence but the pitch was much lower than that.I heard it more clearly at night.I asked my husband many times if he could hear it and he could not, which was frustrating because I thought it was very loud.After the Sept quake the noise was gone.

Other ; the night of the sept quake ; approx 2hours prior ; epicentre ; Rolleston

I was working late on some paperwork not unusual as i'm a bit of a night owl,I felt as if there was no air!,cant explain it,other than a very heavy feeling then I felt very nausea's so went to bed at approx 2.30am

Other ; Sept 4th 2010 about 5-6 mins before quake ; about 5 mins ; 30-40km ; Christchurch-Somerfield

I was asleep on Sept 4th 2010, but I woke up about five minutes before the quake, as I had a feeling something was wrong, I cannot tell you why, a feeling of danger and something else like dread, I can only say it felt something like a feeling of weight or tension in my head and pressure on me, a heaviness inside me, the closest I could say it felt like was when you dive down deep in a pool, similar but not same. (sorry to sound so vague) I lay there in bed wondering about the strangeness I was feeling, it was pitch black (good curtains) and I heard it first, I have always been quite sensitive to low frequency sound and it was like a very low sub, and with it my bed start to move and rock. I just knew it was quake as it was now growing in intensity (this was all happening in about 2 secs). I have had these feeling before Other quakes have hit, but no were near as intense as this as this is the biggest quake I have been in. I immediately leapt from my bed. My partner had gone to sleep on the couch in our lounge and my first thought was to get to her as she was sleeping near a large bay window and our house is double brick, she was in a very weak part of the house and I had time to leave my bed run thru my room across my hallway and across my lounge about 12 metres in the pitch dark and tried to wake her up to drag her to the doorways where our hall and lounge met (I renovated our home and knew this was the strongest part of my home) By this stage the shaking was extreme I could hear stuff falling and breaking, the noise was horrific like a freight train going through the house, I had time to shout and shake her (she is a very deep sleeper) and she thought someone was attacking her and started to fight me as I was trying to pull her off the couch, by now the house was just bucking and shaking throwing us from side to side and then the shaking threw us both to the floor beside the couch, despite our best efforts we couldn't stand. Then all was quite and I could hear my dogs outside barking madly and went to let them in. We got torches and when the aftershocks hit seeing our brick walls move the way they did I am glad I didn't see it when the 7.4 hit.

Other ; Friday 3rd Sep ; N/A ; N/A ; Christchurch

Husband leaving to Waimate for Weekend, both had a strong feeling he should not go, did not know why

Other ; approx 2 weeks prior to Feb22; 2 weeks ; 10km ; Sydenham

Feb: Feelings of panic/nervousness & dread, then urgent desire to get water. Couldn't settle at night I spent most evenings hovering around the kitchen close to the back door.Then day before very bad mood which is out of character for me.

	June			
Other	2/3rd	1 week	?	Sydenham

About a week prior I had again the overwhelming need to get water, I mean it was an all consuming need. I also got ratchet straps to tie our emergency bins down to a pallet. At the time I didn't know what a ratchet tie was.

Other ; 1 February, could possibly have been earlier.; Until the 22nd February quake ; 320-335km ; I live in Lower Hutt and work in central Wellington

I had headaches and felt restless. I initially blamed it on the late summer warmth. By mid February I started to feel a real sense of foreboding, as if something was going to go really wrong soon. I even told my mum over the phone that I thought there would be an earthquake.

Other ; 5 days before the February Earthquake on the Thurs morning 16/2/2011; Perhaps a minute or less ; about 20 km from epicentre ; Prebbleton

I was at a meeting with about 12 other people in an informal meeting at someone's house. I suddenly felt a bit faint and a strong feeling overcame me that what was happening was too normal. There was an overwhelming feeling that something was going to happen. When I came home after the meeting I told my husband about the feeling I had had. When the February earthquake happened my husband was in Wellington and I managed to speak to him briefly after the earthquake. The first thing he remembered was what I had said.

Other ; the morning of the quake ; 6 hours , the quake was Feb 22; 1 km ; Heathcote valley, Christchurch

I was going to go into town on the 22nd of Feb. I had a shopping list all made and had planned which shops to go to, all were in the CBD of Christchurch. About 7am I had a strong feeling to change my plans and go out to Charteris Bay, about 30 km away,, where we have a small guest house. I was there when the quake struck and was safe.

Other ; 4 days before the September 4th quake ; 4 days ; 40 km ; Heathcote valley, Christchurch

For the 3-4 days before the quake my husband and I both had a strong and unpleasant feeling of pressure. He said to me: there's going to be an earthquake. I said to him, something's got to change. Things felt stuck. Once the quake happened, we felt a kind of relief, like the air had cleared.

Other ; 09/03/2010; 4.30am 4 September 2010; 40km ; Ilam Christchurch

Couldn't sleep felt as if something was wrong

Other ; 02/19/2011; all day on the 19th ; Tokoroa ; St Martins, Christchurch

I have a friend who contacted me from Tokoroa. This friend is very psychic and often has messages. She told me to fill all my water bottles as we would need them! and we did. I filled all the empty bottles I could find and sure enough we needed them.

Other I next awoke at 4.35am on Sept 4th when the earthquake struck

Sometime before the Sept 4th earthquake I woke up with classical migraine symptoms, Not sure, the distance between Cashmere in Chch and the Sept 4th epicentre

altered visual field and tingling fingers and beginnings of a migraine headache. I took some painkillers and must have gone back to sleep. unfortunately I never looked at the time.! I went to bed much later than usual as we had stayed up watching Avatar and it was very late. So I am guessing it was after 2am.I have had a migraine before but not for at least 5 years.

Other ; After Sept's 7.1; It is still happening now. Even today I can feel it ; 10km ; St Albans Christchurch

From around 3 days before a quake I can feel the ground vibrating not as moving but like little constant electric pulses, which get stronger just before a quake

Other ; Since the Sept quake ; Ever since ; 10km ; St Albans, Christchurch

I feel tingling, pricklings sensations mostly on my face and feet, a day or two before earthquakes

Other ; 2 minutes before EQ; 1 min ; 30klm ; chch ; chch

Husband was dreaming & he turned to me & said I have a secret to tell him. I was doubting my thoughts of EQ predictions so told him to go back to sleep. EQ happened 5 mins later

Other ; Three weeks before 04/09/2010; Dream lasted a few seconds. Sept Quake happened 3 weeks later ; 40km ; Burwood,. Christchurch

I was asleep and in my dream thought there was a massive Earthquake., I woke up and immediately ran to my daughters room., My wife yelled out 'what are you doing?' I replied 'its an Earthquake' She said 'no its not you are only dreaming' I said 'you are right its just a dream'

Other ; Morning of February 22nd ; Until the earthquake hit ; Christchurch City ; University of Canterbury

Head ache, feeling of uneasiness and need to be around family and friends

Other ; Two weeks before 04/09/2010; Was in a dream,. hard to determine,. possibly 20 minutes?; 40km ; Burwood, Christchurch

i dreamt that I was standing in my old house in Stillwater on the West Coast and there was a major Earthquake ., I was standing under a doorway and the house started collapsing around me and I was hopeless to do anything about it.

Other ;; 40km ; Burwood, Christchurch

While I am sleeping I can hear the earth grinding and moving in an extreme way., Its loud and awesome.

Other ; 30/08/2010; Started at about lunchtime on Monday, Mainshock early Saturday ; 420km ; Cromwell

A group of colleagues and I (all normally Chch based) had travelled to Cromwell for the week to work. Approximately lunchtime on Monday, I said to two colleagues 'I think we're going to have a big earthquake this week'. This surprised me, as it wasn't a conscious thought, it was more like the words just tumbled out of my mouth. It shocked my female colleague who asked me why I would say that, to

which I replied 'I don't know, it just feels like it's about time'. I also told her not to worry, that it would be bad, but not for deaths. This event worried me, as I've 'sensed' two previous small earthquakes about a day prior to them happening, but I'd never been 'compelled' to tell anyone about them. I was uneasy the entire week, I looked up information on the Alpine Fault a number of times thinking that it would have to be the AF that went for a large damaging fault such as I was anticipating. I arrived home (Christchurch Central City) about 1.30am on Saturday the 4th of Sept 2010, and went to bed. My cat was unusually pleased to see me, but I put this down to having been away for a week.

Other ; December or January (unsure of date); Long duration event ; Christchurch central city ; Christchurch central city

I heard The Edge (I think) radio station talking about unusual animal behaviours before quakes, and I rang to recount my own 'premonition' (described in first precursor event answer) to them. They then questioned me about whether I thought it was over. My answer was no, definitely not over. They asked me if I thought there was another big one coming, and I said there was. They asked me how bad I thought it would be and I said that many people would die. They asked me when it would happen and I can't remember exactly what I said, but I had the feeling it was within a month. I'm happy for you to seek a copy of this recording if you wish to verify it. I'm not sure if my call went to air or not, as it could have been censored due to public fear, but it should still be on the radio stations archive somewhere.

Other ; approximately 25th August 2010; up to the 4th September earthquake ; 40km ; Sumner - home/ Central City Christchurch -work

I had this bad feeling'. I even talked to others about it but all I could identify was that something bad was going to happen. I had a nightmare, I felt uneasy, I felt agitated.

Other ; approx. 18th Feb 2011; have had a number associated with each significant EQ/AS ; 40km ; Sumner (home)/ Central City Christchurch

I am amazingly accurate at sensing when there is going to be an earthquake/ aftershock. It started as per the first experience submitted about 10 days prior to Sept 4th 2010 which at that time I explained to others was a feeling that something bad, I had no idea what, was going to happen. I am now starting to trust my senses more and more. I sensed there was going to be another large earthquake and on the 20th February said to my sister she should move her clock off the piano as there was going to be another big earthquake. I have come to realise that it is like a tension in the air or some sort of pressure in my head. Again prior to 13th June I sensed a build up of this tension/pressure. I often now sense aftershocks for example, on Thursday evening last week I was working late at my computer and around 12 midnight I could feel a tension in the air/ pressure in my head, then several hours later there was an aftershock close by to Sumner of 4.9 The next morning the tension/ pressure had gone. There was another aftershock on the Saturday night 27th August and again I had the same feeling beforehand. If I am asleep I don't wake prior to the earthquakes/ aftershocks. Unfortunately there is not a lot of good that I have been able to do with my knowledge to date - I lost my sister in the 22 Feb earthquake in the CTV building - hopefully this information will be of some use to you...

Other ; 10p 3rd Sept ; Until the quake 4.30a ; 40k ; Addington ChCh

I started work at 7pm. All was normal. but as the night wore on I began to feel a little "silly", giggling a lot and generally feeling weird. I remember thinking that the atmospheric in the clinic felt different, much like the feeling you get as the pressure changes before a storm.

Other ; 12:00am September 4th ; Short dream of an Earthquake in Christchurch ; Auckland 800; Auckland CBD Bottom of Queen Street \$\

Dreamt I was in the Theatre at Hagley Community College when an earthquake struck and hid under the seats. Saw Red bricks crash to the ground.

Other ; some minutes before the Sept quake ; don't know ; ChCh city ; Bowenvale Avenue, Cashmere, Christchurch

I was asleep in a dark bedroom on the night 3/4 Sept and for some reason I woke up, sensed something different, opened the curtains of a large ranch slider window system, and opened the ranch slider. I walked outside and listened and looked but it seemed a normal night situation. I went back inside and stood inside the room with the sliding door open. Shortly afterwards the earthquake struck. This was really weird.

Other ; 2-3 hours before an earthquake ; In September it was almost constant feeling while the aftershocks were continuing. In June the pressure was experienced for 2-3 hours prior to the main quake and continued post quake ; about 20 km from the epicentre ; Hornby Christchurch

The 'event' was pressure in my ears similar to pressure experienced when flying - refer to it as "aeroplane ears" . This regularly occurred for around 2-3 prior to an earthquake.

Other ; 4 days before earthquake ; 4 days ; christchurch city ; CHRISTCHURCH

Before the Feb. 22nd earthquake I had an intense 4 day atypical migraine which disappeared within an hour of the quake

Other ; 8 hours prior to 5.5 on 6th June ; Most of the evening ; 3.3 km ; Rolleston

Rather than an "event" as such, the best way I can describe it is an overwhelming sense of thickness. Only a matter of hours before the 5.5 in June, I said to my wife "We have an earthquake coming". As a smoker, I tend to stand outside. On several occasions, I have felt a thick, heavy atmosphere that would leave almost an impending "sense of doom" as they say. This has occurred multiple times as late as last night about 30 minutes prior to the 4.4 in Rolleston (04/09/11). Having lived in other cities in NZ also, I know when the thought of earthquakes becomes almost constant on my mind, we are a matter of hours or days away from one.

Other ; 3 September midday ; 5 minutes ; 20kms?; Ilam, Christchurch

I was in a local Asian gift shop and was purchasing a scarf. The guy at the counter said to me, "would you like to buy one of my torches? They are very good and you never know when you might need one"? (No one has ever offered me a torch). I said, "I'm sure they are good but no thanks". Stumbling around later than night in the dark when the earthquake struck - no power - where was my torch? The conversation still sends chills down my spine and I believe it was a warning.

Other ; 22/2/11; All morning ; Christchurch City ; At work in Christchurch

woke up on the 22nd with a feeling a "been off centre!" Put it down to not wanting to go to work!! as mentioned felt off most of the morning and when it got closer to the event I became quite tense.

Other ; 09/04/2011; not applicable ; 35 kme ; Prebbleton

I have a five year old child. She never, ever wakes during the night. However at 4am she woke and came through into our room. I must stress how unusual this is - apart from the occasional illness, she has never woken during the night (in the last 4 years) and never walks to our room.

Other ; all morning before earthquake ; until earthquake happened ; Rangiora 40km ; At home

Despite normal nights sleep, woke feeling extremely tired, lethargic and feeling like I wanted to stay home. This was very unusual, as it was my day off and I had things planned I was looking forward too. Had to collect son from central CBD area so reluctantly decided to just collect him and return home. This was a strange decision as I had no reason to cancel plans except this heavy feeling of tiredness I felt.

Other ; In time leading up to earthquakes ; A day or two before a swarm of earthquakes ; Rangiora 40kms ; At work in early childhood centre, rangiora

Increase in parents reporting children not sleeping, waking often in the night and being clingy. This has happened prior to all the big earthquakes, currently parent shave started recently to report this again.

Other ; Approximately 3 days before the event ; It lasted until the event occurred ; 120km ; Timaru

I experience slight trembling / tingling coming initially in my legs and feet. Then it becomes more widespread through my body - arms shoulders. Through this time, when lying in bed my hearing is also affected - as though thudding, rumbling. Initially I thought it was blood pressure however it disappears after a quake. It has happened on quite a number of occasions now and associated with quakes in the region of over 4.5M. My mother also has experienced similar tingling in her legs.

Other ; approx 10 minutes prior ; about 10 minutes ; St Martins Christchurch city ; St Martins

I woke with a pressure in my abdomen. Kind of like needing to pass urine but not the same. I lay there deciding whether to get up or not. Decided to stay where I was. Glad I did :-)

Other ; Morning of Feb 22 2011; At least until 10am, probably until the quake ; Spreydon ; Christchurch

When I woke up, I went to put my rings on my fingers, as I do every morning, around 7.20am. I could not get them onto my ring finger, I forced them down, and ended up having to use moisturiser to slide them the last bit past the knuckle, they were so tight. I thought it very strange, but supposed I was retaining water from eating Chinese with rice the night before or something...I have never before had to use moisturiser to get these rings on, except for the last month of my pregnancies, and I was not pregnant in Feb! I wondered about it the night of the quake, but said nothing to colleagues, as I work as a research scientist at a CRI, so look for reasonable explanations first. I haven't been able to find a reasonable explanation for this though...next morning, the rings fitted fine, BTW...

Other ; the day of the June 13 magnitude 5.5 and 6.0 quakes, 2011 in Christchurch ; all morning until the first shake happened at around 1.30pm ; about 12 km from the earthquake centre at Taylor's Mistake ; I was in Riccarton in Christchurch

My hold body felt extremely tense all morning, waves of anxiety flowing up and down my back and shoulders. An extreme flight mechanism, feelings of a need to leave town. I took the morning off work and went to see one of the counsellor's supplied by my workplace as part of employee assistance

post-quakes. This was unusual for me as I had not done this before. As soon as the quake hit - I felt relief of all the tension in my back and shoulders and was released from the feelings of heightened anxiety.

Email: (Sept 4 event) John Wise near Rolleston makes dogs tractable and specializes in calming them down. None of his current 18 (outside) reacted at all. But at 7 in the morning afterwards there was domestic fowl cacophony (neighbours). Wife Gill saw a curious horizon blue light, not typical of the twilight, sometime 6-9 the night before, over a pine hedge. This was steady, therefore lasting a minimum of many minutes.

Email: We have Dudley Creek running through our property. Normally the water is very clear. The day after the earthquake (Saturday) it was an opaque concrete white colour - which I'm guessing was from debris following the earthquake. The Friday before the earthquake however I noticed the water was a murky blue/white colour - I thought the neighbours had put detergent in the water (cleaning car) - however as it continued all day I discounted this - and had considered calling the council to find out why the water was this colour. [Sept event]

Email: I was not in the earthquake in Christchurch but have been in many earthquakes in New Zealand, especially in the Hawkes Bay and as you are keen to hear of animal behaviour prior to an earthquake I wondered if you were interested in people sensing them too.

I have on quite a few occasions foretold of an earthquake to friends, sensed a plane crash a week before it happened in NZ.. and each time, I have experienced extreme pressure around my head, felt heavy and uncomfortable and generally an uneasy feeling, particularly once in 1990 in May heading towards the Mangaweka to visit friends. I accurately predicted a large quake, told my friends to stand in the doorway, noticed also a huge flock of sheep racing down a hill and then the quake struck. I had this pressured feeling all day and I suspect that is what animals also feel. The quake broke the sewerage system around the farm cottage.

I think in general sensitive aware people can tell when one is coming if they listen to their intuitive side, I had been feeling uncomfortable all day prior to the Mangaweka quake and a relative told me that he was very uneasy all day on Friday and felt something was going to happen before the Christchurch quake.

So besides animals I thought you might like to be aware that people can sense something is going to occur as well.

Email: Hello Neil

The red colour made me think the whole of Christchurch had blown up.

It was like a fire red, that you would see in a distance only it was right across the sky in a line.

I think there were 2 flashes close together. There was the light of the sky above that.

We have trees in our yard and I can say it was bright enough to see through them.

That brightness frightened me as if we were next to blow up.

The noise was a cracking noise very loud.

I yelled at my husband the city is blowing up. Then realized it was an earthquake.

I am sorry I cannot describe it better than that. [Sept event]

Email: Dear Dr Whitehead - the farm opposite my land next to the radio tower used to sell free range eggs but for some time the hens stopped laying - my neighbor tells me immediately after the quake they started laying again and after 'being all shook up' have not stopped since and they are now back in business selling the free range eggs - these neighbors did not experience any harm at all from the quake - best wishes

Random dialling: Sister's dog reacted at least 30 seconds before aftershocks, but often 60-90 seconds. He saw a flash of orange light from Burwood looking to the E.

Email: Dear Dr Whitehead,

On the Friday morning before the earthquake I had a dream of snakes coming out of the ground and someone was trying to tell me something. I said in the dream

" But we don't have snakes in NZ."

Then I was made to understand that, if we did, even if they were scarce, they would be coming out of the ground. In the dream I said

" Oh I get it, a really big earthquake is coming" I was pleased I understood and so was the personality trying to tell me.

If I had been paying full attention I would've also clicked that because my Grandson Braidon was in the dream that the earthquake was going to affect ChCh, but I didn't click to that and only saw the importance afterwards.

Consequently when I got up that day, I spent most of it getting ready for the earthquake. I got extra groceries including some glace ginger because I usually get nausea up to 2 hours before a big earthquake. I bought a lot of softdrink in case the water got cut off. My neighbour Don Patterson from over the road asked what the softdrink was for and I said I had got extra because of the big quake coming.

I put a great deal of canned food in my caravan with softdrink, bottled water, a radio, torch and made up a bed in there. I checked the first-aid kit. In my bedroom I put two tins of biscuits, softdrink and water, a bucket and tissues and by the bed were two torches, my cellphone, my handbag full of all my medicine(I am diabetic) and put my clothes ready to jump into.

Then I checked there was bottled water in the laundry and filled three kettles in the kitchen even though i thought if I needed it, that the kettles would probably end up on the floor. I kept my car and caravan keys handy by my handbag and got the house all tidy and then said out loud.... well get on with it! I rang a schoolfriend of mine Malti Lal in Wellington and told her about the premonition dream (she knows I am psychic and we both find it very interesting and amazing)

I went round the whole property shifting things and reckoned I couldn't do any more than that. I didn't light the fire on purpose and used the heatpump instead. I sat and watched tv until I got a bad headache with nausea that I put down to the earthquake approaching and decided to go to bed with a hotty. I took codeine and ate some ginger and tried to read a book while I waited but I eventually fell sleep feeling bloody awful. When it hit I wasn't afraid because I had a gut feeling I was safe and everyone I knew was safe. I sleep in a fourposter bed so that made me feel extra safe incase the ceiling collapsed. I felt a gentle sway down and up and sideways a little and then an occilating flexing movement like a needle on a compass and then the violent shaking side to side in an east west direction. One particular jolt sideways made me say

" Oowh that was enough to snap brickwork"

I hate to admit I am fascinated by earthquakes and always have been.

My concrete block and plank bookcase fell down with its hundreds of books and that was the only annoyance. It blocked the entire passage to the laundry and toilet. The bucket came in handy and then the gindger was good as the spate of aftershocks began to line up. I felt sick before each one and when it hit the nausea disappeared until another was about to come.

I was in touch with my daughter in ChCh within a couple of hours and by the time I got up the aftershocks were not causing anymore nausea. Neither did the 5.1 on the Wednesday morning when I was in ChCh.

The other thing that was strange about the Friday night preceding the earthquake was that every time I laid my head down on the pillow and shut my eyes I felt like I was falling. And no I haven't developed a middle ear infection. This sensation was only apparent when I was lying down. When I got up to the toilet I was fine and not dizzy or stumbling.

I know I can feel very low voltage and am sensitive to electromagnetic fields. And by the way, the snakes in the dream were from a poster which I had seen two months previously in a book about earthquakes. The chapter was on predictions and showed a Chinese poster with horses and pigs playing up, waterfowl leaving the water, a well changing levels and snakes coming out of the ground.

I was in Temuka for the earthquake. None of the neighbourhood dogs barked beforehand and only one barked after and then the birds who had been silent were really extra noisy afterwards.

You can contact me at my friends email address.

Contact: Employee of Synlait reported 4 m change at 4am on the day of the quake. Water level in bore (100m deep).

Random Dialling: clock went crazy (radio clock) with digital readout 30 y old, not any seconds indication. Crazy prior to quake. Not seen to go backwards, rather jump backwards of 3 hour (for example.) Also stopped extended times. Now wrong time but no erratic behaviour.

Email: I read the report in today's Press and thought I would pass this on. It does not relate to the recent Canterbury quake but to the Murchison quake 1929.

My wife's Auntie and Uncle were on a farm in Murchison and their son was a keen photographer who later made a film about the quake. In that film he says that his father was milking a few cows just prior to the quake and two horses that had been in a paddock closer to the hill came racing to near the farmhouse and raced about snorting. Completely unusual behaviour.

This is another example of how animals seem to be able to sense a quake coming before humans feel the movement.

Email: I lived in Karamea during the Westport series of earthquakes that lasted 18 months during the 1970's. There was no major initial quake but many sizable shakes sometimes a couple a day of the whole 18 months.

I was farming at the time and we became very used to our horse and dog acting strangely for about 5 to 15 mins before a shake. The horse would look up, shake its head, neigh and often bolt across the paddock. The dog would get up suddenly bark or even howl and begin to run around or head for its kennel. We thought it was coincidence at first but this became so regular that we became convinced that the animals were discerning some reaction prior to the quake.

Hope that helps your research. If it helps my credibility I held a national position in Federated Farmers at the time and was a director of a couple of local companies.

Email: I did not notice any prediction behaviour in animals or other people myself, but in a couple of the strongest aftershocks I did notice perhaps about half a second of extraordinary calm which of course I realised after the shock itself may well have been my brain processing "before and after shots." However I am open to the idea that this calmness may have been my brain's response to an electro-magnetic pulse.

Email: Hi there, we live in Edgecumbe and went thru the big one, and got vey sensitive to the tremors, and before this ChCh one, all afternoon and evening the day and nite before, if i lay back on our lazyboy with its elephant memory foam, i could feel all these fine vibrations, magnified thru the foam, and I said, I wonder who is goiung to get an earthquake next?

Prior to our Edgcumbe one I lay in a water bed and could hear/feel the pre earthquakes all nite and the earthquake struck 1ish next day...

Email: I have a bit of third hand info regarding a quake precursor that may be of use. A friend of mine was talking to one of the Avon Punters who said they were on the water the day before the earthquake when an American tourist stated that by the colour of the water there was going to be an earthquake. The punter responded that Christchurch doesnt get earthquakes. I can get some names if this will help your research.

Email: hello Neil.

As my observations are from years back, they don't fit your survey but may interest you anyway.

I grew up in the fairly quakey Bay of Plenty, born 1951, living there until leaving school. We lived on a dairy farm on which no bird shooting was allowed, at about 900feet above sea level. I roamed around very freely and came to recognise that just before a tremor there would be a complete eery silence pierced only by the call of a solitary pheasant. The call was always a single hoot, not the repetitive call they usually give.

I had forgotten all about this having lived overseas and in northland for about 20 years, but was reminded about 18months or so back, (I'm guessing how long ago) when out on my lifestyle property at Motukara, near Chch. It was early morning, the birds in our eucalyptus trees were singing their heads off, and suddenly there was total silence and the solitary hoot again, followed by a gentle quake. It took me straight back to my childhood.

During this Sept 4 quake we got under the table for a couple of hours of constant aftershocks, and I commented to my partner when the birds began to sing (no dawn chorus) that maybe the worst was over. Days later I was disturbed one night that there were seabirds on the wing and screeching in the dark at about 9-10pm, plus a lone pheasant call again (we are close to Lake Ellesmere) and later that night (birds silent by then) we had a series of very big aftershocks (night of Thurs 16 I think.)

I hope this is of some interest.

Sincerely,

Email: Hello Neil,

I read the article on page A10 in today's Press about animal behaviour just before an earthquake. Having learned that animals may display strange behaviour perhaps days before an earthquake I have been prompted to pass on to you the story of Shihad, our son's Staffordshire Bull Terrier bitch. She is a very good friend of our daughter's Miniature Schnauzer, Toby. On Friday 3rd September Shihad escaped from her place on Trevor Street in Hornby and an hour or two later she turned up at our daughter's house on Bella Rosa Drive on the far side of Hornby. Shihad's journey would have required her to cross the Main South Road, the Main Trunk railway line and Carmen Road at a very busy time of day. On arriving at Toby's house, Shihad somehow leapt over a six foot fence and then tried to break through a cat door (unsuccessfully) to be with Toby. Shihad has only travelled between the two homes by car and has never walked the route, so it is a mystery to us how she found her way there. Since the 4th September earthquake we have wondered whether Shihad sensed that an earthquake was imminent and wanted to be with her friend.

Email: Hi Neil

This is not about the Chch earthquake but one in Greece in about 1980. I was living in Athens at the time and the earthquake hit around 9pm with an epicentre about (if memory serves me right) about 90k away from Athens near Corinth. Considerable damage occurred in the Corinth area although in Athens itself just frayed nerves and heart attacks. The quake was reported in Greece as being 6.7 but

later the world was told it was 7.1 (the Greek government of the time treated anything over a 7 as a disaster and paid out on damage – under 7 no disaster and no payout. This the lower broadcast rating)

Shortly after the first tremor I was walking along a narrow street and noticed a flock of birds peacefully sitting on the power lines. Suddenly the birds all took off at the same time and almost maniacally flew off. By the time the birds had flown 50 metres a huge aftershock hit and the buildings where the birds were started swaying and as we looked back down the road noticed they were almost touching. The birds were nowhere to be seen.

My mother actually hears then a good 3 or 4 minutes before they hit even if they are considerable distance away although has not heard any of the Christchurch ones (she is in Wellington)

Email: We live in Patterson Terrace, Halswell, a couple of houses away from Halswell Junction Road and the morning of the 7.1 earthquake my wife heard the cattle in the paddocks on the other side of Halswell Junction Road making an awful din and thought it must be the cows bulling. This just before the earthquake hit. She was in the process of telling me this but unfortunately, I was still asleep and awoke to the earthquake.

Secondly, we have an inground fish pond with about 60 odd gold fish and after the earthquake they all remained completely out of site on the bottom of the pond for three days before we saw them again. They have also disappeared on other days when we have had a large after shock. I cannot be sure though whether this is a reaction to an earthquake or if they are pre-empting one.

Finally, an anecdotal story, the value of which you can determine. I was in Borders book shop just after opening this morning to purchase a copy of the Press earthquake book. As I was the only customer at the time the shop assistant and I were talking about the earthquake and the strange events around it, including the flashes of light seen over the city and reportedly, from inside the Lyttelton Road Tunnel. She mentioned that around the time of the earthquake (sorry, I cannot be sure if it was before or after), she was working upstairs in the store and noticed the "air seemed full of static electricity" and customers hair was frizzed out on their heads. But the odd effect that really puzzled her was the stickers on the books kept lifting off and she had to keep pressing them down again, something she had never encountered before. I am sure I could find out the name of the assistant if you wished to follow this up as I have the sales docket that includes the sales assistant ID.

Email: In relation to the survey - this was my experience. NB I live in Taupo.

I didn't have any premonitions as such re the earthquake, but did wake up at around 5.20 am (the second shock) on the morning of the Chch quake, thought that something had happened, looked at the time and went back to sleep.

This is a very unusual hour for me to wake - I thought that something important had happened but had no idea what it was until I heard the news later that morning.

I have had my dog bark for a minute or so during a previous earthquake - this is also unusual as I have trained her not to bark more than once or twice otherwise.

My thoughts (as per often quoted evidence) are that animals are more sensitive / have other senses, compared to humans and that we should be paying more attention to their reactions.

I have premonitions on a regular basis - usually they are warnings of events (dangerous events e.g. rocks falling, car crashes) that happen later. They seem to have a pattern of being a certain time from the event which relates also to the distance I am from that event.

My theory is that the future has already happened - we are just a bit slow in realising it.

Email: Kia ora Neil,

Thank you I will look into it. I never got back to you with the deer story I mentioned as it was not about this event.

Spoke to my father about what he had said & yes the night before the big shake off Milford sound last year he came home to find all the deer in the area standing on the roads. Now that area is all swamp. He went off to bed then of course few hours later a big shake hit.

I have also been hearing off & bumping into a lot of people who woke before the big quakes like I did & not all of them have been in the army or worked in places like Iraq. So some of us still have that animal instinct.

Funny thing is Ken Ring the astrolger talked of the old timers talking of earthquake weather which is what I was told when young in the country yet none of the people I knew had experienced an earthquake in canterbury.

Ok seen those strips on cars for years to stop car sickness. well the road in the swamp is heavy with stone from local rivers. I know when they have gone to fix bridges made using stone in concrete from those rivers they have found they are the hardest concrete they have ever come across. a lot of silica in all river & beach shingle there. If I remember rightly they have been told they now have to use shingle from Canterbury in building any new bridges or concrete structures. My Uncle is one of the consultants they use for works down that way. Ex Ministry of works

Email: I was driving along Henburn Rd, west of Omarama, and I think that it must have been about the 20-24th July as I was on my monthly meter walk for Delta and have a meter to read at the very end of the road, after coming through the gorge and coming over the rise on the western side I noticed quite a few birds taking off as I approached. The closer I got to the birds the more flew up until there seemed to be hundreds taking flight, I thought at the time that it seemed rather odd as I have never seen a concentration of birds in the Mackenzie at that time of year, it was mainly Matagouris and brown top grass that they took off from and neither of those seed or flower at that time of year either, but even if they did it was still a very large concentration of birds in a very small area. They were on the west face of the hill, and as far as I could make out they were mainly on the ground, I do remember thinking that it was odd for them to be on the [Ostler] fault like that and I could only think that maybe the ground was warmer there, rather than anywhere else!

Email: I just heard with interest, the interview on National Radio's Country Life'

It seems prudent to pass on a little information for you that pertains specifically to the the 1931 Napier earthquake though I have no doubt it may be found to apply to other quakes.

My father was a seven-yr-old schoolboy at the time of the Napier quake.

I recall him saying at various times that for several weeks before the quake, the peacocks which were "wild" in some of the parks around Napier were severely noisy - enough apparently to be annoying to the general populace.

But on the day of the earthquake it was noted that there was silence - none of the birds were singing anywhere.

Email: I was a boarder at Wellesley College in Days Bay, Wellington during the big 1940 earthquakes. Most of us had not experienced an earthquake prior to the first one. On that occasion,

one of the students in my dormitory declared that he thought that there was going to be an earthquake, when asked why he thought so, he rightfully pointed out that all the crickets and night-time sounds had stopped and it was deadly quiet. Ten minutes later all hell broke loose with Windows breaking, kids screaming and chimneys tumbling down through the roof!

Over the next two months or so many of the after-shock's were quite accurately predicted by the students in my group by listening for the cues given out by the birds and insects sometimes half an hour before an event.

Email: This is not related directly to the Christchurch quake, but just observations we made while living for some years in the heart of the New Guinea highlands in the late 1960's. We were living beside a small lake where there were hundreds of little frogs around the lake edge. It took us some time to get used to their continual noise, but we got used to it as you do, and never thought anymore about it.

However, we began to notice that sometimes we would wake up unexpectedly in the night, and wonder what was wrong because of the deathly quiet and stillness. Then we would realise that it was the absence of the frogs' croaking noise that woke us up. This would be followed some minutes later by an earthquake and it would take quite some time for the frogs to be comfortable enough to begin their noise again.

Email: You might be interested in a wee story concerning the boxing day shake here in Christchurch .We have a parrot next door whose owner is currently not in residency and who we look after .He is in a large aviary and makes no noise unless someone arrives or maybe if some ducks decide to walk on his lawn. On the morning of the twenty sixth December I uncovered his cage as normal and went home ,he then started to squawk and would not stop .I checked him out but found nothing was wrong and he continued to make a noise for at least four hours until finally the four point nine struck. From that point onwards he was quite this is something new although we did notice he carried on before a smaller shake back in September .

Email: A couple of strange phenomenon I'd like to share with you regarding the ChCh 4 Sept. quake. As an artist I am an avid sky watcher, always have been since I was very young. My dad used to tell me that you see more than just weather up there.

On September 3, 2010 I was driving home north up Moorhouse Avenue (towards the Port Hills). I noticed an eerie 'late' sunset and a feeling of 'hell, this isn't right', a gloomy foreboding air of 'doom' if you like. So I pulled over and took this photo. Unfortunately at the time my camera had no date and time set, so the exact date/time is not recorded in the photo under 'properties'. It wasn't until the 23 Sept that I realised this and set the camera date settings. The time photo was taken was probably 1745hrs approx. The clouds above the port hills had an almost fluorescent red glow to them, but the sky above me very little 'red' sunset.

The other scary occurrence I would like to mention is, I awoke before the shaking, to the sound of what I can only describe as 'amplified static electricity' coming from my roof (it is iron), which at the time I retorted to my wife 'Jeez, what's that, hail?'. We then jumped out of bed and heard the 'train like rumble' people often now compare the EQ noise to.

My son, downstairs, had his curtains drawn and was awake prior to the quake, he reported seeing blue flashes of light in the sky prior to the quake.

The other point I would like to mention is on the Burwood weather station site under 'all time records' in the weather data, is the recording of 'lowest soil temperature recorded' (5.1deg C at 0430am 4 September 2010.) I have investigated this further and see there is some correlation between soil temperatures dropping rapidly prior to a major earth tremour, and studies have been made on this anomaly (I googled it).

Personal communication: That night her daughter was off colour and she had sat up with the TV on

but fallen asleep. She was woken up 10 minutes before the quake because the set was making unique groaning noises and the changing of channels did not help. The screen periodically went black.

Email: Mine, however was not during the recent ones here in Canterbury (Our four lazy cats appeared to wake in fright about the same time as my partner and me !)

In 1968, I was 12 years old and lived on a high country station in the Lewis Pass at the time of the Inangahua quake.

On that morning (24th May) , ponies and station horses began cantering up and down, my fathers` dogs went mad and would not stop barking, and the birds also began making a racket. About five or so minutes before we heard the rumble, they all stopped and went totally silent....I recall the sudden silence being quite spooky at the time. My Mother had been up for some time, as she felt something was about to happen. My Father, not believing that, was soon convinced otherwise !

Perhaps being in the high country, with absolute stillness and none of the sounds etc of a city, animals may be better able to detect whatever it is that may alert them

Email: The event took place on a farm alongside the Waimakariri River a few kilometres west of the Waimakariri Bridge over the motorway north of Christchurch.

A couple of days before the earthquake on 4 September 2010 an irrigation well suddenly started spouting water about a metre into the air. This water continued to flow until it was physically dealt with several weeks later. Normally the water level of this well is below ground level and this has never happened before.

Email: My half brother Jack saw something odd that he remembered all his life.

From his scrappy memoirs written when he was 85 & internal evidence : "Just before the war broke out I met my lovely affectionate wife." And "Lucy and I were engaged for about 4 years."

It must have been about 1943 because they were on their honeymoon. On state highway one before Kaikoura, the road leaves the seaside & heads inland crossing the Karhutara river. In those days the bridge used was the old one a bit upstream of the present bridge. There was a quake on 08 May 1943 "widely felt throughout the South Island."

Well, they saw seagulls - masses of them - clustered under the bridge & none flying. It was unusual enough for them to park & have a look, then the earthquake struck.

That's all. I don't know the exact date, magnitude, epicentre, how long they were stopped before the quake (though probably not long), just the above.

Incidentally one incident mentioned in your Press article - ducks perching on ridge tiles is not uncommon. We live next to a high pitched tile roof & a pair of Paradise ducks practically live there, often including overnight. Not just the same pair, others visit. This is right beside the Heathcote river, about the highest roof around, gets all the sun there is.

Email: This story goes back to 24 June 1942. I had recently been posted as a WAAC to the NZ School of Artillery, situated at Melrose Wellington, the former premises of the Karitane Hospital, and was immediately above the Wellington Zoo.. On the Saturday night we held a dance in the assembly hall, a number of people went to the movies and then returned to the dance, and all were commenting about the noise from the animals in the Zoo, we went outside and listened, and it was amazing.

The lions were roaring and the birds were screeching, something we had never heard before that night, and as far as I can remember never after that night. I suppose we retired to bed after midnight, and not too long after were woken by the Wairapara earthquake. I will always remember that night because I leapt from the top bunk and cut my leg on a chair as I fell, but more so because some said "give her a cigarette," it took me 50 years to give up the habit. Seriously, it was very frightening. There are only one or two of us alive today, but whenever we are in contact, our conversation goes back to that night.

Email:

I am a tuna fisherman, been doing it for 22 years, nearly all on the West Coast.

We are all coming into port, because we can't catch the fish that we can still see out there. We are acutely aware of fish behaviour, and in particular their sensitivity to increased seismic activity.

There are a few of us that are noticing the current behaviour as just that, an increase in seismic activity, but the fish will normally 're-set' themselves within 24hrs. This period is continuing, now into day 5 or 6. The current period started with the two earthquakes between the two islands, 90k south of Opunake, and 70k northeast of Collingwood, and is getting steadily, but very noticeably, worse.

Would you like to give me a call, when it suits you, and I can pass on whatever we are seeing. More importantly, is this a precursor? We are saying yes. This is the best season we have had in my 22 years, and we have never seen this amount of fish just stop as suddenly as they have. Especially leading up to a moon period, which would normally excite the fish to bite.

Earthquake Lightning

Includes Comments that came in to **Philip Duncan**, http://www.nzherald.co.nz/natural-disasters/news/article.cfm?c_id=68&objectid=10673092&ref=twitter

When I was in the big Christchurch quake two Saturday's ago I noticed three or four brilliant blue flashes that lit up the sky (but didn't light up the city itself, as normal lightning would do). My first instinct was that it was power transformers exploding.

-Philip Duncan Sep 13 "Earthquake Lightning"

Email: 1:01 p.m., a correspondent wrote:

Hi. I am 65 years old. I have been driving for 50 years.

I was driving into Christchurch on the morning of the quake. I was placed on the motorway at the point where the road divides into two, and I southbound, towards Christchurch. Speed, exactly 100 ks. One car behind me by about 500 metres, and a large truck about 1 mile behind. No one else around.

I observe silly things, for example, on the way *out of town*, I observed a vehicle heading west along the north shore of the Waimak, below the bridge, the vehicle had its hazard lights flashing. Time 4.21 am.

4.35am. The sky lit up with an incredible lighting display. I knew it was an aurora. I know what causes an aurora. Radiation interacting with the magnetic field of the planet.

To my left, east, the flashing dark green to light green as it moved away from me. To my right, west, light blues to dark blue. The display was 'sheeting'. I have seen auroras on TV, and that is what it was. This was not lightning.

My car clock clicked over 4.36am, just seconds into the aurora, and the car lurched and tipped and shuddered. The force was enough to have tipped my car over, but due to experience I managed to steer into the shudders. The lights of the motorway were still on. 'Rivulets', or riggles, were flashing towards me from the south west, like a giant spider web, or 'radials', and the motorway was drifting from side to side. I would guess that the centre of the spiderweb would have been around Springfield. Two 'rivulets' flashed passed me on either side, straight into Kaiapoi which was on my immediate left, east. The lighting display suddenly became incredibly intense, and was not 'in the distance', it was all around me. Then with the violent shuddering of the car, there was a HUGE flash of brilliant white light, and the display vanished, and the whole city sank into blackness. It was gone. No light anywhere. The driver behind me must have stopped because I didn't notice him again.

My first impression was that there had been an atomic explosion. I believe that the aurora was caused by intense radiation, hence my instinctive belief that the city had been subject to some kind of atomic explosion.

I was careful to check each bridge for tell-tale cracks, but they seemed at a rapid glance to be OK. When I drove over the Chaney's Overbridge it was not damaged. The lane under the bridge was not in the range of my headlights. But the motorway on both sides of the overbridge was dead flat at that time. The damage to the area must have occurred AFTER the initial shock.

The first lights I saw were at Countdown in Northlands, and it occurred to me they would have a generation backup system. Lights on the west side of Papanui Road flickered here and there, but Merivale was in darkness. I usually stop at Paul's coffee shop, and I paused there to check he was OK, but his blind was down, so I assumed he was not at work yet.

Followup: Hi Dr Neil. The light display appeared first, then maybe a second later I felt the car jolt. My car was kicked to my left, as if the front right wheel had been hit, then the next bump was the other way.

The lighting moved away from me, or appeared to move away, to the south west. As the colours changed they moved away, or, as they moved away the colours changed. Greens on my left, east, blues on my right, west. The brilliant white light was directly over the city. The range of the light extended right out to sea, east, into the whole distance I could see. I was 'inside' the light.

I am not initiated to say, but I suspect we might eventually find that the greatest shock of the earthquake was actually out to sea. Is it possible to check for huge cracks in the sea bed?

The spiderweb effect was the movement of the earth itself. If you could imagine a flat concertina. The radials advanced across the road in front of me, from southwest to northeast, and they moved as fast as I could take in the spectacle. The radials were not uniform in that I saw some which appeared to be behind/ahead of others. Each radial, and I am trying to be helpful, was each, ker-bump, and a ker-bump, with me travelling south at 100ks per hour. On each side of each radial, the road moved in opposite directions, like a push-pull effect. As I passed over each radial, the car lurched the other way. Each radial looked strangely like the pictures of gophers burrowing along, where they leave a little upraised trail. But there were no open cracks as appeared later. I would guess that the

motorway was swaying inside a channel of about one metre overall in the distance I could see. The lights of the motorway were still on until the last tremor. The lights of the city vanished basically simultaneously with the aurora.

If the earthquake was somewhat 'selective' in its destruction, I am guessing that anything directly over each radial got a hell of a hiding, but in between the radials, much less destructive.

I saw the lighting display which riveted my attention immediately. I thought it was an atomic explosion. Then the car lurched to the left with a hell of a bang, and I thought the front suspension had collapsed. The force was sufficient to have rolled the car over, but I immediately spun the wheel to the right. (The car behind me vanished, quite possibly because his lights were now across the motorway and no longer along it.) If I guess at an appropriate time, and I am watching my clock right now, with my eyes half shut, reliving the experience ...5 seconds from the lighting display until the first shock.

I understand that the quake lasted around 30 seconds. The white flash occurred AFTER the ground stopped shaking. So I had, if the official report is correct, 38 seconds of lighting display ending in an incredible white sheet. I have seen arcing. It wasn't arcing. Wrong colour. The colour was 'too' white. If the lighting was somehow linked to the cracks appearing, it would explain why lighting appeared in sheets?

I heard nothing. Everything happened at once. I saw these 'things' racing diagonally towards me, and I thought, "What the XXXX is that?" I have referred to these 'things' as radials. I don't know what they were, but they were there. I have seen sharks swimming just below the surface, and it crossed my mind that they were 'shark trails'. And the light was appearing in front of me as these 'things' raced through. The motorway lights were still on and disappeared at the END of the white flash. That would give you a very accurate time frame, because other reports will tell you when the power went off. Visibility was surprisingly good. I have driven over that stretch of motorway several times since, and I realise I must have travelled over a kilometre during the 'quake, 40 seconds at 100kph. Directly behind the factory (slightly south of Kaiapoi), which backs on to the motorway, there are still marks of these radials in the tarseal.

10:00AM Tuesday, 14 Sep 2010

If you're looking for another eyewitness to the flashes you have two more here. I live up in Westmorland and because my bedroom is impossible to see into often sleep with the curtains open so I can look at the pretty lights at night. We saw several flashes out to the west side of the city but because it was about the time the power cut out I also thought it was transformers shorting or the insulators on the pylons shifting and causing short circuits. (from Duncan weather watch)

Vil3 (New Zealand)

10:00AM Tuesday, 14 Sep 2010

I seen exactly that, at least 3 all in about 2 kilometers of each other and maybe 5 kilometers west of Parklnads. I was deciding weather I should jump out the window when I looked up from the first bright flash and observed the next two, one of which I swore had an arc of lightning leading too it. Until a friend pointed out this article I just assumed it was transformers blowing up as the power went out at the same time and all the light came from the ground. The one I got a good look at made an amazing amount of light in the form or a sphere on the ground.

Marius (New Zealand)

10:01AM Tuesday, 14 Sep 2010

My wife and I saw these lights too and like you we first thought it was caused by electricity equipment exploding, but the lights were far too bright and lit up the sky exactly like a strong

thunderstorm. Except there were no clouds and the light seemed to originate from the ground. We live on Dyers Pass and could see flash after flash in the direction of the airport. When we listened to the radio later, a lady recounted her quake experience and also mentioned these bright lights. I guess we can consider ourselves lucky to have witnessed this phenomena and lived to tell the tale.

Will (New Zealand)

10:01AM Tuesday, 14 Sep 2010

It would be interesting to see IF there was a momentary magnetic flux in the Earth's magnetic field at the time that this occurred. An in-law who was also awake in Redwood at the time of the quake reported seeing the flash as well.

For several months where we live in Rangiora, we have had small globules of mud being displaced from the ground.

This is the first year that we have noticed this. In addition, we have also noticed a high-pitched, high frequency whine which seems to be more intense at night.

Even when I have cut the main power switch to the house, the whine continues. (Project haarp or VULF side-wave maybe?) This has been on-going for months. Lastly, we have noticed that our 5 year old our house which is on high and firm ground popping at the seams for a number of months, a possible indication that small, rapid and incessant quakes have been active, yet unnoticed by most unless one has taken note of this geophysical occurrence.

There are many scientist and specialists here studying the quake, but no one can give a confirmed answer as to whether it is safe or not to remain in the Canterbury region, which is quite similar to the costs of issuing hurricane evacuations.

linda (New Zealand)

09:15AM Thursday, 16 Sep 2010

I was in the christchurch quake and noticed another phenemenon. Has anyone else heard of a cold wind just prior to the sound of the quake. We were staying about 6-8 kilometres from kaiapoi and have one account of a very cold wind then the sound of the quake that followed straight afterward. I have read one more account of a wind just before the quake. What makes this interesting is that there was absolutely no wind that night at all. And one more interesting phenemenon is the electrical current or static electricity prior to the quake. I had a wrap around blanket which I took off just before jumping into bed at around 11.30-12 midnight and the crackling and static electricity coming off that little blanket was very loud and extreme compared to normal. Yes we are starting to understand and predict quakes of this magnitude and it would be great to measure the static electricity to see if there is an unusual hike in current which in this case was about 4-5 hrs prior to the christchurch quake. The third interesting fact is the animals usually whine for a large tremour about 18-25mins beforehand BUT make no sound before or after a large quake of this scale of 7.1.

Davena (New Zealand)

09:15AM Thursday, 16 Sep 2010

I definitely saw the lights (looked a lot like lightening), freaked me right out coz I thought OMG not a storm as well. We live in Broadoaks, Cashmere and what I saw was a blue red colour flash backwards & forwards across the sky and yes your right only in the sky. Very very frightening experience keep safe everyone

NZchinchin (United States)

11:59AM Thursday, 16 Sep 2010

We lived in the hills above Hollywood in the early 70s when a BIG earthquake hit. Standing on the driveway the whole family saw pulsing greenish lights all over the city. People thought we were crazy. It definitely wasn't transformers.

sunshinemegs (New Zealand)

01:31PM Friday, 17 Sep 2010

I was driving friends to the airport when the quake happened and we saw the light but thought it was just power lines touching or similar.

It was very bright and eerie.

wxchaser12 (United States)

01:31PM Friday, 17 Sep 2010

These are arcing power lines caused by wires contacting or collapsing during the shaking. They are indeed as bright as described. HV-side arcs can reach 100,000 amps and light up the entire sky, particularly if there is a cloud deck to reflect the light.

There are videos of the Chile quake where you can see multiple arcs across the city. During a strong thunderstorm, sometimes it is hard to distinguish lightning from arcing lines as their brightness levels are almost identical.

The Great Insignificant (New Zealand)

11:40AM Monday, 20 Sep 2010

On Saturday night of the big quake my wife and I spoke with a work friend who said he was out driving at 4:35am when he saw numerous blue flashes in the sky. I was skeptical about what he had seen until the following night. My wife and I were driving back from Blenheim home to Christchurch when just south of Amberley we both saw two blue flashes in the sky ahead of us. One slightly to the left and the later one to the right. A definitive earthquake phenomenon in our opinion.

HMRB (New Zealand)

11:40AM Monday, 20 Sep 2010

The Lyttelton Road Tunnel cameras caught blue flashes after the quake - maybe these are examples of Earthquake Lightning? HMRB

Karen (New Zealand)

11:40AM Monday, 20 Sep 2010

I live in Tai Tapu, about 15 ks from chch as the crow flies, and I saw the lights over Christchurch mid quake from my bedroom window. Startled awake from the gasping heaving house, god-awful ground rumbling and shaking and the smashing of items, I jumped out of bed and saw massive flashes of white/blue lights from the city. For a split second I thought chch had been bombed. I will never forget those images and those ghastly first few moments.

Cathy (New Zealand)

11:40AM Monday, 20 Sep 2010

We live in Redcliffs and also saw the bluish white flashes in the sky - glad to know we weren't imagining them! What we couldn't understand though is that our lights also flashed like crazy with blue/white flashes as if it was a power surge - but all our appliances are ok, which would indicate that wasn't the case at all.?

June A (New Zealand)

08:54AM Monday, 27 Sep 2010

We live on the Port Hills above Christchurch city and our neighbour watched the blue/white arcs flashing into the sky as the earthquake occurred. He thought it was caused by swaying Pylon power lines crashing together and arcing.

Stephen (New Zealand)

09:35AM Tuesday, 28 Sep 2010

Hell yeah, I saw all the lights in the sky during the Earthquake of Sept.4 ,as I was up dealing with the symptoms a cold since 4a.m. I live on a hill in Ashley(NW of CHC) @ 600 ft. Altitude with a view of the city and all of the Banks Peninsula. At first I thought it was very bright lightning ,but then realized it was an exceptionally clear sky.

Then up until now assumed it was substations and power lines shorting out, as I witnessed the whole city blacking out straight after it. It really shows how much power is released into the atmosphere during such an event. And it seems such a rare thing to actually witness it ,let alone film it. And can you see it if the Earthquake happens in the day time.

Sue (New Zealand)

10:57AM Wednesday, 29 Sep 2010

I went outside straight after quake to listen to car radio for tsunami warnings, the aftershocks were bouncing car all over drive way, just as I got in car I saw blue lightening both in the east and western skies. Thought Armageddon had arrived.

Web: Hi Everyone, I don't know much about the technical side of geology and I think I understand what you are all talking about a tiny bit. Please excuse me for changing the subject a little.... I was at work when the earthquake struck, in fact I was in the control room at the Lyttelton Road tunnel. What was interesting and some thing that we don't quite understand, was that just before the quake hit, there appeared to be what looked like a shock wave travel through the Tunnel from East to west. (From Lyttelton through the 2km long tunnel and exit at Heathcote, the Christchurch end). The shock wave looked similiar to a very fine dust cloud, however it dissipated way to fast to be dust. Anyway, given that the quake was beleived to have originated south east of darfield I would have expected a shock wave, if any, to have travelled west to east. After the quake we went back and viewed the cctv footage and noticed that the shaking started in Lyttelton (East) before it started in the Heathcote end (West).. thus confirming the visable shockwave. The other thing we observed on the cctv footage was what appeared to be a type of lightning (Earthquake lightning)?? Only it appeared to be comming out of the ground. Now that sounds weird I know, but members of the police on duty that night also reported it.. Maybe you can help me out with an explanation to these occurrences

Email: Just a note to add to reports of very bright lights in the sky during the September 4th earthquake.

We live at 46 Waiora Lane in between Woodend and Rangiora. The view from our bedroom is of the western sky. Within a few seconds of the start of the earthquake there were several very bright flashes

of light in the sky that lit up the south-western sky. These appeared to continue for much of the time of the earthquake. When the earthquake stopped I went outside to check that the house was still standing and the sky was clear and full of stars – no clouds that I could see for arcing power lines to reflect off. Both my wife and I saw these lights and wondered what they could be.

Further to my earlier email and to answer your questions –

The colour of the flashes was a blue-white, definitely white like lightning, but more like the sheet lightning we occasionally see in the mountains. There did not appear to be a specific source like a concentrated point or jagged lightning flash, more of a bright round glow in the sky. The position of the glow changed with each flash. Our arc of view was south around to west and the variation was in this range. Also the elevation would have been below 55 degrees, so it would be possible that the source was arcing power lines although the nearest of those to us would be about 5 kms away. A hedge restricts our elevation view to above 20 degrees so if the source was arcing lines then we could not see this directly.

The duration of the flashes was confined to the period of the earthquake and the number would have been at least six and each lit up a large part of the sky. In other words each flash was not confined to a small circle. I am not sure how long the earthquake lasted, but I would have thought it was at least 60 seconds. There was no moonlight and afterwards the sky was very dark and clear because the power had gone off. Power was restored here within five minutes of the earthquake.

Email: I live in Christchurch and experienced the 7.1 quake.

Nothing to report re precursors, apart from second hand yesterday when I spoke to a guy who said he was walking home @ time of quake and saw and experienced the road in waves followed by lightning which lit up the sky.

Don't know the fellow and did not think to enquire further.

Email: During the quake, I thought I saw flashes in the sky in the west, a like weak lightning. Not very sure though, I was a bit distracted.

(Ex survey) I was awake at the time of the Christchurch earthquake on September 4th. I remember it being very still outside when I went to let the cat out before going to bed. When the Earthquake struck I spent approximately half of the earthquake duration inside as I was struggling to get to the door in my bedroom that exited out onto the (north facing) front yard. when I got outside I remember watching the street lamps bouncing from side to side and dimming with the lights in my bedroom. However, the most vivid memory of the earthquake happened when I looked towards the city and witnessing flashes of light up in the sky. looking back on it I know it wasn't power lines breaking as it was too high above the city for that to be a likely explanation. the flashing went on for about 10 seconds and then everything went dark and quiet.

Secondhand anecdote from ChCh resident: mentioned that acquaintances had seen purple light in the sky the night before the September quake. No further info.

Email:

Also we looked out over the Wellington Heads and out to sea, and for hours after the earthquake there were coloured flashes in the sky right out asfar as the eye could see. (WWII earthquake)

The flashes after the Wellington earthquake were more like explosions than lightning, and yes I think there was some colour with them, they seemed to cover a curved line from above Wellington Heads, and some distance apart out to what in daylight would probably be the horizon. As it was dark I am not sure about this. (August '43)

Email from a correspondent 29th May 1995 travelling from Christchurch to Westport. From Lewis pass (ca 7pm) to Rahu Saddle the road was covered with every small creature imaginable but then none. Otira, M5.97, 29th May 1006pm. Seemed to be a precursor by a few hours.