



TOTAL | cover

Renting your house this Christmas?

PLEASE let us know if you intend letting your holiday home or own home out, as this is considered a "Material Fact" and can affect your insurance!

Don't take the risk - most House and Contents policies will restrict cover if the home is let, and in the case of contents policies there will be no cover for theft or malicious damage by occupiers.

Bridges will attempt to get you the best cover possible **HOWEVER YOU MUST ADVISE US FIRST!!!**

Ahhh It's Over.. or is it?

As this year draws to a close, we can almost hear a collective sigh of relief. It has been a challenging time for individuals, New Zealand and the global insurance industry as wave after wave of events beyond our control have dominated the headlines and people's lives.

As a nation, we have followed the Christchurch quake and given our support both of a financial and emotional nature.

And we have begun to acknowledge that things are changing.

Change around ensuring how buildings are built, how insurance companies deal with old buildings and the rapidly escalating insurance costs. The NZ government has also announced a tripling of EQC levies to cover the cost of rebuilding Christchurch as well as building the fund back up for future requirements.

These changes affect not only the individuals concerned but also the Insurance companies and their re-insurers.

Some insurers have gone broke and others have

struggled. The struggles come when the margins are so small, that when faced with major events such as Christchurch, there is little else to do but put your hand up and say "we're in trouble".

This is the very reason that as Brokers, one of our key roles and one that we are always actively involved with, is looking at the marketplace and being able to find the most appropriate insurer for each of our clients. One that is there to support you and provide you with the risk protection you need.

This is a KEY BENEFIT of having a BROKER as opposed to an agent or going direct. When changes occur, you have the power of advocates on your side, pushing for your best interests!

If you know anyone that needs help with their insurance, whether they are in the Waikato or further afield, we are happy to talk with them and use our expertise to find them some solutions.

Tell them to give us a call on 07 839 7880.

Your team at Bridges!

4 more years...

YES 4 MORE YEARS!

We have the CUP - the BIG one, the one that matters most!

After waiting 24 years we've finally got something to cheer about. Yes I know that was in October ladies, and you have probably moved on, but come on guys, we haven't have we? We are still raving about it!

It has provided a lift to this fantastic country of ours. Not only did we win the thing, but as a country we raised the bar on what it is to host an event. We came together and provided an occasion that tourists will be talking about for years to come and as a Kiwi I am damn proud of that!

We might disagree on the political hustings, we might dismay at the cost of living, but we come together when it comes to showing off our country!

And it got me thinking - 4 more years before we

get the right to defend the CUP.

That's two elections, an Americas Cup (hopefully), an Olympic Games as well as the Commonwealth's, and I am sure that in four years we will see a new Christchurch emerge from the rubble.

Business will rise and fall because that is the nature of an economy such as ours - a free economy; an economy that allows people to make choices. And we're proud of the choices that we have made as a business. To stick to what we are good at - Fire and General Insurance. To employ some of the best in the industry and to continue as we have for the past 22 years of giving you the best damn service we can.

It's good to be a Kiwi!

Ron



Crucial Keys to Claim Time

Domestic insurance:

When was the last time you measured the square meterage of your house? Can we suggest

- When you first moved in
- When you applied for insurance

Now ask yourself – did you get it right? Did you include the out-buildings, the decks, the garage...?

The Christchurch earthquakes have highlighted for the industry that many people haven't measured correctly and are now being forced into living in a smaller house than previously, simply because they didn't include the entire square meterage.

So here is a very simple method of measuring your house. (We do recommend a professional valuer perform this service, however this guide will get you started)

Commercial Insurance:

Specific to insuring buildings, Insurance

companies now want to know how OLD your building/premises is. For most of you we will have already asked this question or will be doing so soon – but for others that perhaps aren't catered for by Bridges, it is a timely reminder to check and advise the appropriate person.

Both premiums and excesses are now based upon the age and construction of a property and this can result in a big change to your policy from renewal

The Law of Averages:

A key principal of Maritime Law known as 'general average' often applies in marine disasters. NOTE RENA at Tauranga

When general average is declared, all parties to the voyage must contribute proportionally to the expenses incurred such as salvage or refloating of the vessel. In the case of a total loss, such as the ship sinking with no hope of salvage, then general average would not apply.

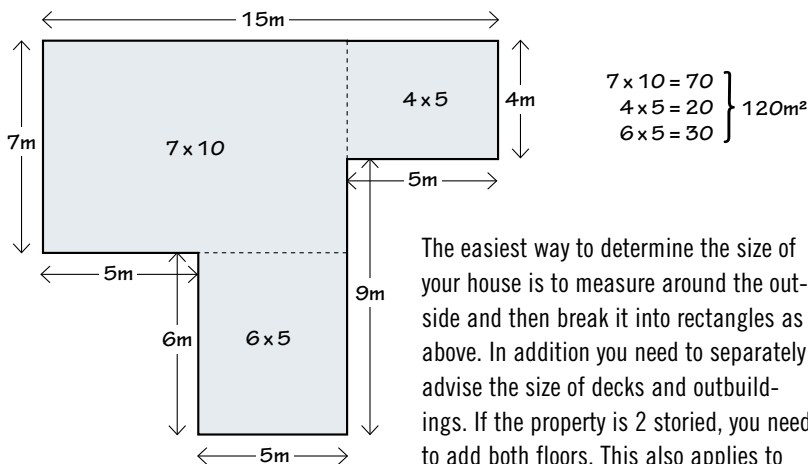


This could invariably mean that someone with their life's possessions on board Rena may be given an invoice for a part of the recovery effort.

For anyone insured, this isn't an issue as this is typically covered in the insurance... For those that aren't insured, not only may they lose their entire life's possessions, they may also still face a bill for the efforts to date.

A strong reason to insure. After the fact is just too late.

The simple method of measuring your house



You can be reassured that you have put your trust and your insurance in some of the safest hands. Bridges Insurance Services were proud finalists of the recent Westpac Waikato Business Excellence Awards. We entered for the simple reason that we wanted to benchmark ourselves, not just against our industry but other Waikato Businesses. We did it and did it well.

The team work hard on your behalf. The very purpose of our business is to put you first at every step whether it is to find a fair premium or advocating on your behalf during a claim, or even to update you on industry issues and changes via our newsletter.

Thank you for your support, not just for the last year, but for the clients and colleagues you send to us and for your continued trust in allowing us to help protect what is important to you.

Make sure that you are protected against the unexpected – be insured. Bridges are here to help you get it sorted in the way that works best for you!

If you would prefer not to receive these information newsletters, simply give us a call and we will remove your details from our distribution listing.



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It's About Getting It Right!

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