

28th March 2013

CHL Staff recognised by New Zealand Police for efforts during Canterbury Earthquake

Members of the Canterbury Health Laboratories Mortuary Team, have been awarded the “2011 Canterbury Earthquake Citation” by the Commissioner of Police.

The Citation, also known as a dress distinction is a police award created to recognise employees of the New Zealand Police who had worked at least one shift during the Civil Defence Emergency period following the February 22nd Earthquake.

CHL Mortuary employees; Rod Smith, Bo Tindall, Dr Martin Sage and Dr Mark Dagger were all presented with this accolade.

Mortuary Section Head Rod Smith says Bo Tindall and myself were instrumental in helping police set up a temporary mortuary facility at Burnham Military Camp, and along with Drs Martin Sage and Mark Dagger were part of the Police Disaster Victim Identification operation which identified victims of the February Earthquake.

We worked at Burnham for the duration of the mortuary phase of the operation which took about ten days. This was a very tiring and trying time, but we had excellent support from the CDHB Supply Department and the CHL management team Says Rod.

“Obviously we are not employed by the NZ Police, but the NZ Police Commissioner also recognised non Police employees who assisted during the emergency period and within the eligibility zone with this citation, at his discretion. “

Commissioner of Police, Peter Marshall says the 2011 state of emergency may seem like a long time ago, but a lot of careful thought has gone into the best ways in which police can be recognised for their outstanding contribution during one of New Zealand’s darkest times.

Mr Marshall says it’s important that the contribution of these individuals made during a time of uncertainty, risks imposed by aftershocks and the demanding working conditions is recognised.

The 2011 Canterbury Earthquake Citation features four red stripes on a black background representing Canterbury colours and is within a silver metallic surround which can be worn by recipients.



Bo Tindall receiving his 2011 Canterbury Earthquake Citation from Canterbury District Commander; Superintendent Gary Knowles.