
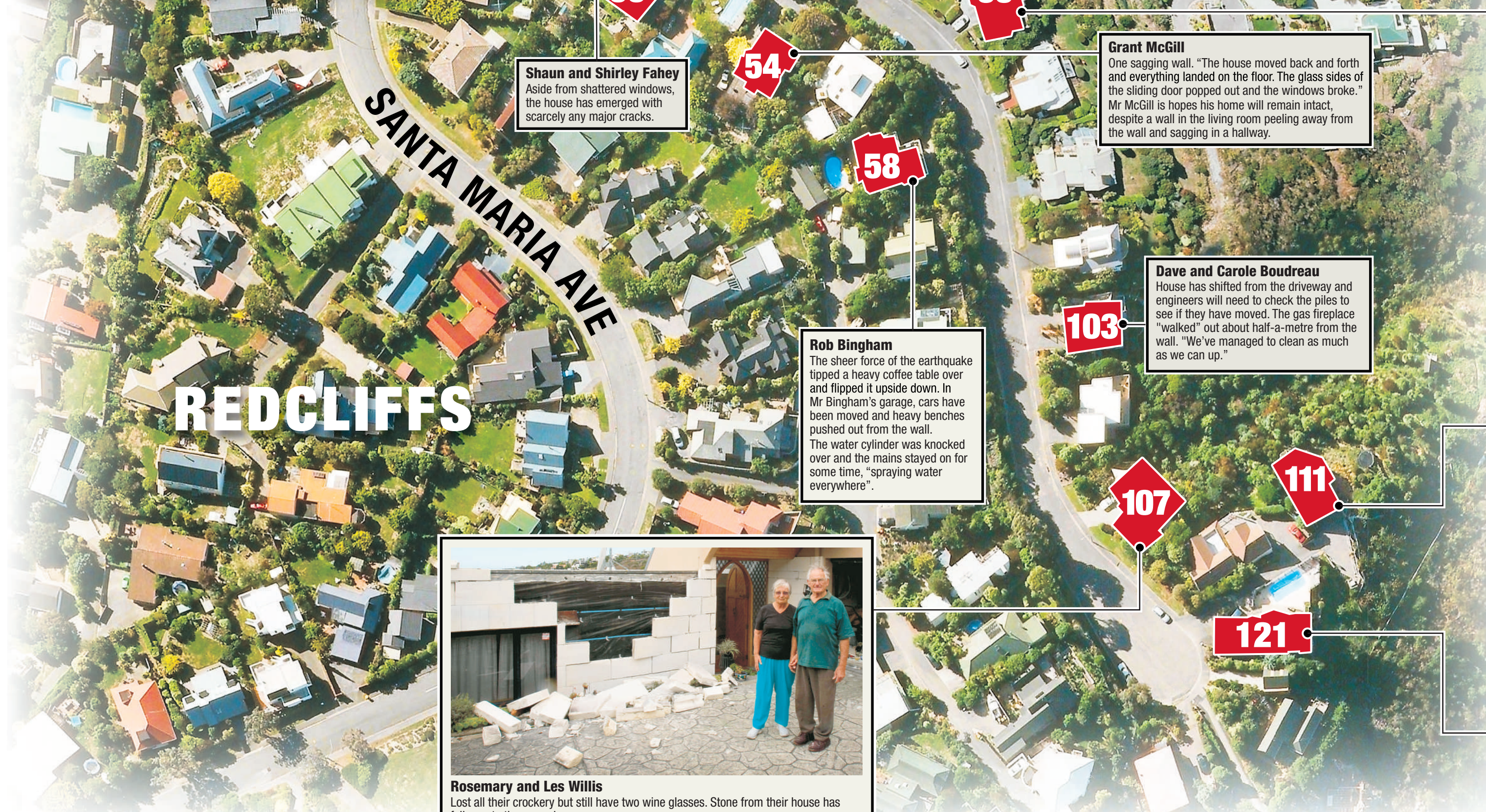


ONE STREET'S MISERY



Ian and Anne Harris
One wall has separated from the house and ceiling tiles have fallen down. The Harrises have slept in their car and had to wash with water from the swimming pool. "We've lived here a long time. This is heart-breaking, at least we are in one piece though."

Eve and John Chaplin
Hours after the earthquake, rain fell and Eve Chaplin didn't waste the opportunity. Like much of Christchurch, Santa Maria Ave has no water supply, so she pulled part of the spouting away to divert the rain water into a bucket.
They have been spared major damage, but fear a big window in the lounge could cave in. The force of the earthquake has pulled part of it away from the house.

Grant McGill
One sagging wall. "The house moved back and forth and everything landed on the floor. The glass sides of the sliding door popped out and the windows broke." Mr McGill is hoping his home will remain intact, despite a wall in the living room peeling away from the wall and sagging in a hallway.

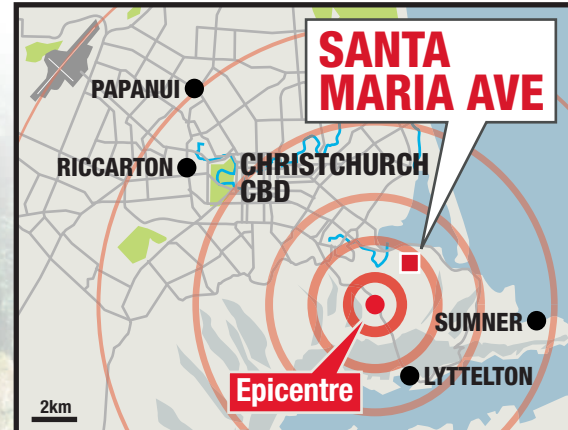
Dave and Carole Boudreau
House has shifted from the driveway and engineers will need to check the piles to see if they have moved. The gas fireplace "walked" out about half-a-metre from the wall. "We've managed to clean as much as we can up."

Rob Bingham
The sheer force of the earthquake tipped a heavy coffee table over and flipped it upside down. In Mr Bingham's garage, cars have been moved and heavy benches pushed out from the wall. The water cylinder was knocked over and the mains stayed on for some time, "spraying water everywhere".

Shaun and Shirley Fahey
Aside from shattered windows, the house has emerged with scarcely any major cracks.



Rosemary and Les Willis
Lost all their crockery but still have two wine glasses. Stone from their house has fallen onto the ground.



June and Brent Sullivan
One of the worst hit houses in the street and one which poses a danger for other homes in a street below. It is teetering near the edge of a bank, and houses below have been evacuated. Yesterday urban search and rescue team members visited and confirmed what they already knew: their home of 24 years was doomed. "I don't want to stay here it's too unsafe," Mrs Sullivan said. Mr Sullivan: "This was our family home... All our life is on the trailer."



Emlyn Wright and Annette Thomson and their children Heather, Logan and Campbell
It's a waiting game for the Wright family. The retaining wall by their driveway has collapsed and the land around them appears unstable. "It all depends on what's happening next door... It looks like it's moving."



Jane Potts
House virtually split in two, one floor crashing down onto a garage, tiles falling from the roof and part of the house crumbling away. Mrs Potts blames the concrete tiles for inflicting more damage. "It's the weight of them. We'll never build with them again."

Damage splits street in two

In the minutes after Tuesday's devastating earthquake, the people of Santa Maria Avenue, Redcliffs, gathered at the top of the street, hugged and cried.

Still in shock from the violent shaking, they scrambled from their shattered houses and sought comfort from each other — many will never be able to live in their homes again.

One side of the street has several homes cracked beyond repair. Others have been almost split in half and are in danger of falling on to a street below.

Pets are missing from many houses but by last night were slowly returning to their owners.

Some quake-weary homeowners were still waiting for visits from the Earthquake Commission assessors relating to the magnitude 7.1 September 4 shake; EQC staff were on Santa Maria Avenue when the 6.3 aftershock hit and took one shaken woman, Carole Boudreau, to a welfare centre to wait for her husband Dave to come home.

No-one was home at the Potts house when the quake struck. Part of the daughter's room fell on the garage and the house started to slip away from the hill towards the bank where a retaining wall has crashed down.

Jane Potts was driving home and could see tiles missing from her roof but had no idea of the extent of the damage.

The first she knew of it was when she met neighbours who were worried she could be trapped inside.

She nearly was. "You could say TradeMe saved my life... Someone was buying something off me from TradeMe. They were on time and I went out after they'd been."

Otherwise, she would still have been waiting at the house.

The family won't live there again but don't where they will settle — it may not be in Christchurch. "Somewhere in New Zealand... The kids are keen to leave."

Ian and Anne Harris are another couple who may never again live in their home of 23 years. When the *Herald* visited yesterday they were recovering as many possessions as possible.

They were standing in the kitchen when the quake hit. "We were holding on to the side of the bench. Everything was thrown on to the floor. You just knew it was major," Mrs Harris said.

The kitchen bench sank and ceiling tiles rained down. In their daughter's old room a wall came completely away; her wedding dress was hanging out of the side of the gaping hole.

Mr Harris said they were pooling resources with people on the street but had spent a night in their car.

Their side of the street appeared to have fared worst. The land has not only cracked open but has slumped forward and subsided.

On the other side the houses don't appear to have suffered structural damage and their owners are hopeful they will be able to stay.

— Andrew Koubaridis