

STAFF REPORT

TO: Community Services Committee
FROM: District Librarian
REFERENCE: L407
DATE: 14 June 2006
SUBJECT: District Librarian's Report

PUBLIC LIBRARIES OF NEW ZEALAND – A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

This document, which is the result of a collaborative project between the National Library of New Zealand, Local Government New Zealand and the Library and Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa, was released during May. The framework provides an overview of the role public libraries play in New Zealand communities today and looks at the challenges presented to public libraries by the demands of the future.

The report is densely written but readable. There is a chapter on background which describes the public library sector in New Zealand, a chapter on context which places New Zealand public libraries in the international library context and within New Zealand society and structures. The chapter on the role of public libraries today describes the services and features provided by public libraries today while key challenges looks at issues to be confronted and addressed. The bulk of the discussion is contained in the chapter on outcomes and is summarised as follows:

To realise the vision for the future, public libraries need to focus on four areas of strategic development. They are:

- accessing information, ideas and works of the imagination
- supporting independent lifelong learning and literacy
- enabling online access to the digital world
- building community participation and development.

To ensure that development happens in these four strategic areas, public libraries will also need to focus on three areas critical to success. They are:

- library staff: resources and development
- formation of strategic alliances
- funding and sustainability.

The document concludes with an agenda for action in which it is stated that the process of consultation and debate has only begun with the release of the strategic framework. A call is made for an early summit meeting of representatives including those of local government in order to explore the implications of the strategic framework and the appropriate approaches to be taken to achieve the framework's vision and outcomes.

We have some printed copies of the framework document and it is also available on-line at http://www.lianza.org.nz/library/files/store_011/StrategicFramework2006.pdf

RECENT TASMAN DISTRICT LIBRARIES STATISTICS

ISSUES:

	April 2005	April 2006	May 2005	May 2006
District Library	31,333	28,171	30,145	29,537
Motueka Library	15,002	14,414	14,822	15,482
Murchison Library	882	758	752	685
Takaka Library	8,796	7,225	8,578	7,932
WWW	461	856	560	997
TOTAL	56,474	51,424	54,857	54,633

Easter fell during April in 2006 resulting in fewer issues.

DOOR COUNT STATISTICS:

	April 2005	April 2006	May 2005	May 2006
District Library	15,553	13,484	14,979	14,691
Motueka Library	7,709	7,445	7,955	8,291
Takaka Library	6,403	5,442	5,879	6,255
TOTAL	29,665	26,371	28,813	29,237

Easter fell during April in 2006 resulting in fewer Library visits.

OTHER STATISTICS:

	April 2005	April 2006	May 2005	May 2006
Reservations	1,568	1,666	1,672	2,030
Reference queries	1,472	1,205	1,414	1,399

ACTIVITIES

Management of the Council's Technical Library has been taken over by the District Libraries at the request of the Chief Executive. Glennis Coote has been appointed on contract to compile a collection management policy and to remove unneeded items from the collection. The policy has been completed and good progress is being made with the weeding of the collection, with the assistance of Council staff.

New web pages specifically designed for teenagers and for younger children have been added to the Libraries' redesigned website. Much positive comment has been received on the site, particularly with regard to its usability.

The Tasman Visual Arts Group has hung the first of an ongoing series of exhibitions of original art work in the District Library.

The Friends of the Tasman District Libraries presented a one woman play with Helen Moulder "Playing Miss Havensham". The sell-out show was held in the District Library and was very well-received and financially successful.

Eight staff members from the Libraries attended the LIANZA Weekend School held at the Nelson Public Library. Those attending were particularly impressed by the contribution of guest speaker Paul Reynolds.

Story time sessions were held during the April school holidays and Richard de Hamel of Touch the Sea Aquarium featured as a guest at one session each at Motueka and Richmond. At Takaka the big event for young people in May was the author talk by David Hill, writer of award-winning young adult fiction. Friends of the Library sponsored the talk and a capacity audience of 39 attended this very successful evening. Sue Hovenden visited the Motueka CWI to talk to them about the story time sessions she runs at the library and also to demonstrate some storytelling techniques. The annual New Zealand Post winners were announced on 17 May and the libraries have been promoting those children's and young adult books. Lucy Brunwin assisted with the related Winners on Wheels event at Founders' Park at which 10 years of New Zealand award winning children's books was celebrated.

Tasman District Councillors took a quick tour through the Takaka Memorial Library and to the proposed new library site on 11 May.

Brian Paterson
District Librarian

http://tdctoday:82/shared_documents/meetings/council/committees_and_subcommittees/community_services_committee/reports/2006/rcs060614_report_district_librarian.doc