

STAFF REPORT

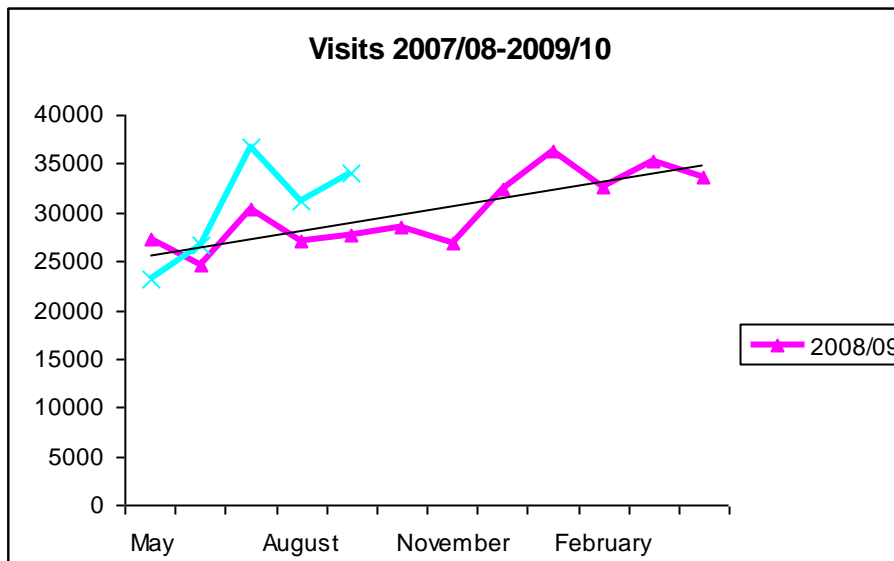
TO: Community Services Committee
FROM: Libraries Manager
DATE: 24 October 2009
SUBJECT: Libraries Manager's Report

STAFFING

Our Motueka Librarian, Karen Dickerson, has accepted the position of part time Local History & Genealogy Librarian, and initial interviews have been carried out for a replacement. Karen continues to fill the role until someone suitable becomes available.

TRENDS

Visits for September were 23% above the same time last year. We expect that when we overlap with the beginning of the Aotearoa Public Network start date last year that the comparison percentage will converge, while the overall number of visits remain at an average +22% compared to pre-internet. With the libraries being utilised as social hubs, it is critical that, in the future, physical space is recognised as an important component of the overall library experience.



HIGHLIGHTS

Richmond Building Project - building work continues with structural elements having been completed in the Wrightson's area and demolition completed in the upstairs area and the stationery and stack rooms. The transfer of our IT data conduits went smoothly, with the next phase requiring the relocation of the switchboard. The entryway in from Queen Street and the construction of the new returns slots has begun and should be completed mid to late November. When this is completed, the existing entry will be closed to allow the builders to begin work on the external fire stairs. The working area required by the builders meant that we had to shift and pack down more non fiction earlier than we had planned. Staff are working to provide material electronically and via reserves.

Our initial aim of relocating upstairs and across to the finished section in mid December seems unlikely to be met, and our contingency plan is to carry out this phase in the last week of January 2010, to avoid impacting on our summer reading business and allow for the children's reading programme, and staff absences. This phase will require at least a seven day closure to relocate all the stock, staff and office furniture.

Regular articles are being written for *Newsline*, a Fresh FM interview has been carried out, and the *Nelson Mail* has included our project in a feature on the changing role of libraries. Staff have been issued with earplugs and the building crew endeavours to keep their noisiest work outside of working hours.

LMS - Library Management System - LSynCNZ aims to provide business case data by December to enable Councils to debate the benefits of joining the shared system. See attached document.

Aotearoa Peoples Network - Initially, the project has expected to call for financial contributions from partners after 18 months. They have recently announced that due to savings made with suppliers, and external fundraising efforts that they can continue to provide APN to their partner libraries for free for another year. This is a great achievement.

3M Innovation finalist - the Prow project finished second in the 3M Innovation in Libraries awards, and won \$1,000 prize money, to be used for professional development. Congratulations to Cathy Vaughan and Louise Gribbon, and staff at Nelson and NMIT for the hours of voluntary work they put in to make the project a success

Monopoly Reading Board - our Children's and YA department developed this reading game for which players receive a token for each type of genre they read. This encourages broad reading, and has been so successful that 14 other public libraries have asked for a set.

Murchison Library - as part of a review of the Murchison Recreation Centre, a proposal has been put forward to relocate the library into the Centre. We would be open to investigating this option to quantify the risks and the benefits of such a move. Space is a prime consideration for libraries, both to fulfil current roles and to future proof service, and any proposal would need to move the service forward in this, and other areas.

Shared Services - Nelson City is taking the lead in the construction of a library wiki. Although the three regions, Marlborough, Nelson and Tasman libraries, already work together well and share resources, this will allow quicker and more flexible collaboration. [A wiki is a website that listed partners can all edit to share documentation, work together remotely on documents and hold discussion forums etc]. Marlborough has completed a preliminary report on the issues and options in purchasing Large Print together, and Tasman has collated a list of possible specialty topics which may be able to be developed on a regional rather than local basis. There is more work to be done on the operational details of these projects.

Motueka Space Constraints - as previously mentioned, Motueka is struggling to provide a level of service that is consistent with the population it serves. It currently has approximately 450 m² of space, while minimum LIANZA standards recommend 70 m² per 1000 population.

A conservative population figure from the 2006 Census for Motueka is 12,519. [This excludes Ngatimoti, Tasman Village and Mapua and does not allow for intervening growth since 2006, which figures show range from around 1.48% in the township to 0.5% in outlying areas.] These figures conservatively highlight a deficit of 425 m².

If we use the more realistic figure of 14,355 from Census 2006 + probable growth indices, the population is currently around 14,780 which means the amount of space lacking is around 579 m². With the probable rezoning of Motueka West and other subdivisions, plus predicted growth patterns the problem will be exacerbated even more over time. A working party of staff will be established to put together a project brief for consideration by the Committee at a future meeting with a view to commencing formal investigations.

Marlborough has recently recognised the role of libraries in CBD revitalisation, and looked holistically at Blenheim township to identify the best position for their new library. It would be reasonable to consider the library options in tandem with current and future development of Motueka township.

UPCOMING

We have put aside some collection budget this year to seed a small DVD collection at Motueka Library. This has often been requested by their customers and the collection at Richmond is extremely popular, although perceived to be expensive by some clients.

Investigation into a mail delivery service has been completed and a trial service, named **Library@yrdoor** will be rolled out in November/December. The launch will be primarily at Golden Bay to test uptake from geographically remote customers, and is a fees based system. Customers can register for this service and receive their reserved items direct to their door for a small charge. The trial will run for six months and then progress will be reviewed to ensure we are meeting costs.

Catherine Bryham
Libraries Manager

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