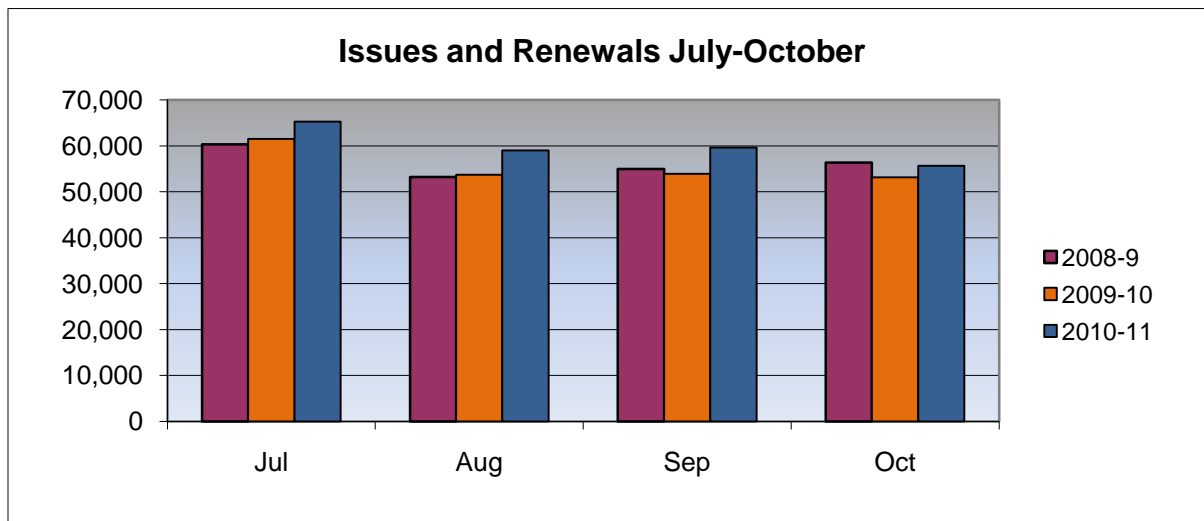
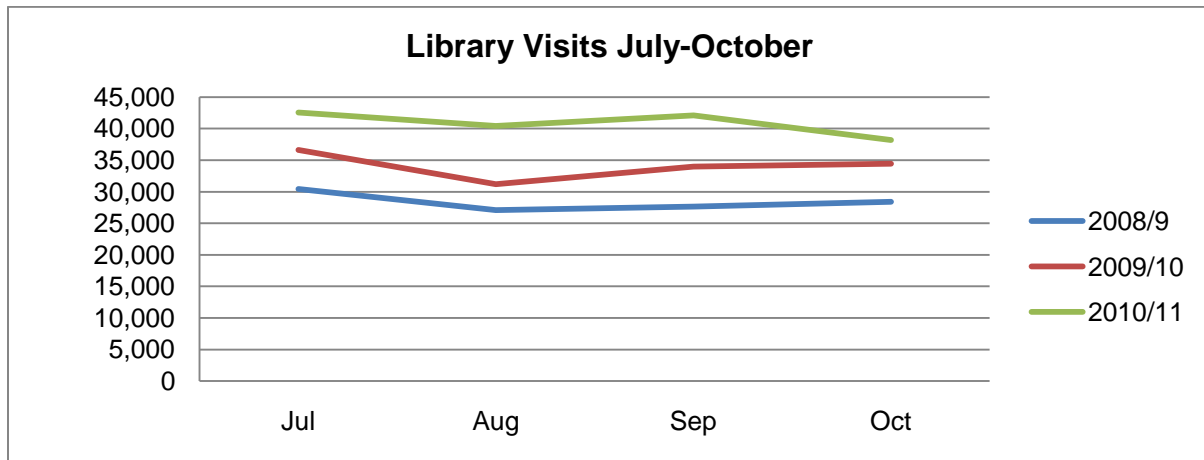


STAFF REPORT

TO: Community Services Committee
FROM: Libraries Manager
DATE: 5 November 2010
SUBJECT: Libraries Manager's Report – RCS10-11-02

TRENDS



Visits for July to October were up 20% compared to 2009 – the major contributing factor was a 36.7 % increase in visitors to the Richmond Library. On average an additional 240 people visit the Richmond Library each day.

District-wide approximately 17,000 more items were issued during the July to October period compared to 2009. Issues in Motueka and Takaka showed a small increase while Murchison's issues were 11% lower for this period. As anticipated, issues in Richmond showed a marked increase of 15%. Another significant trend is the increasing use of the Library website for renewals of loans. While renewals via the website account for only a small percentage of the total renewals they have increased by 40% in comparison to last year.

STAFFING

Debbie Bowden has been appointed to the Customer Services Librarian position which has been vacant since mid-August. Debbie is currently Branch Librarian at Nelson Public Library and was previously Collections Librarian here at the Richmond Library; she will take up her new position on 29 November.

E-BOOKS AND E-AUDIO

The popularity of downloadable content in the form of e-books has expanded rapidly over the last two years to the point where many people are predicting that they will become more popular than printed books. There has been much discussion in the library profession about the impact of e-books on library services and there is general agreement that libraries cannot afford to ignore the trend towards e-books. Forward-thinking librarians see e-books not as a threat to our traditional services but an alternative means of delivering those services to our community.

Not everyone who has an e-book reader wishes to purchase their own e-books, many want to be able to borrow e-books from their public library in the same way that they can borrow printed books. Our customers have begun asking if we have e-books available for borrowing.

In 2008 we investigated the possibility of making downloadable content available to our borrowers in the form of e-audio. At that time the costs were too high for us to subscribe to any of the available services. Earlier this year the Association of Public Library Managers established a working group to investigate consortia subscription to downloadable content. Initial discussions with likely vendors have provided a pricing model that we feel is affordable and we have indicated our interest in becoming part of a Top of the South consortium. The consortium would include Tasman, Nelson, Marlborough, Buller, Grey and Westland libraries. Initially we would provide access to e-audio and e-books, in the future this could be expanded to include downloadable music and video.

Negotiations are ongoing but we hope to introduce this service in 2011.

MOTUEKA LIBRARY

Lack of space at the Motueka Library continues to impact on the service we offer our users. Currently the library is unable to accommodate a collection of sufficient size to meet the community's needs. The collection is considerably smaller than is recommended in the LIANZA standards. District-wide our collections achieve 81% of the standard but the collection in Motueka achieves only 67% of the standard.

Public space in the building is cramped with insufficient space for study areas, seating, display spaces and library programming.

Library staff are also working in cramped conditions. The Motueka Librarian is investigating options for adjustments to the circulation desk area to create more workspace for staff, this will only be a short-term "fix" however and a long-term solution to the space problems needs to be found.

HIGHLIGHTS

School Holiday Programmes

School Holiday programmes at each of the branches were well attended as usual. Highlights in Richmond were the "Hands on" sessions which included a comic strip workshop, art workshops and a music workshop using the Imaginarium. The highlight in Motueka was a performance by professional storyteller and performer Liz Weir. Liz engaged with the audience of 55 children with an exciting range of stories, songs and puppetry.

Richmond Library New Facilities

In addition to coping with increased visitor numbers and circulation duties, library staff have been kept busy helping people make the most of the library's new facilities.

In conjunction with the Community Recreation Officer we have been offering weekly music production workshops for young people. These are proving to be very popular and are almost always fully subscribed. Bookings by individuals continue to rise each month as more people become aware of the facilities available.

Our Information Services team utilise the Learning Pod computer suite to deliver family history courses. These have proven to be so popular that it has become difficult to keep up with the demand. Other training courses are currently being developed.

The Library meeting rooms have been used by a wide range of groups, large and small, for a variety of purposes. Uses have included business meetings, cake decorating workshops and public lectures. When not in use for a meeting the downstairs meeting room is made available for quiet reading and study. We are finding that this works well with the room seldom being left unused.

Friends of the Library

The Friends of Tasman District Libraries was established in 1999 with the aim of supporting and promoting the library. During the last 10 years the group has donated more than \$10,000 to the libraries. Due to falling membership numbers the group has been in recess since November of last year. In an effort to attract new members and elect new office-holders the "Friends" held an AGM on 19 October. The meeting attracted a moderate level of interest but unfortunately no one present was willing to be elected to office. Unless more interest in the group can be generated it is likely to be disbanded.

Summer Reading Programme

Children's library staff are preparing for the launch of this year's summer reading programme which has the theme "The Big Bush Read". Enrolments for the programme will open on 6 December and the last day of the programme will be 21 January. This year there will be 425 places available throughout the district with 200 places available in Richmond. Last year we were only able to offer 100 places in Richmond due to constraints imposed by the building project.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Libraries Manager's Report RCS10-11-02 be received by the Community Services Committee

Glennis Coote
Libraries Manager

g:\tara\agendas\community services\2010\november\racs10-11-02 libraries manager.docx