

# October - December 2014 District Libraries Quarterly Report

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<b>TO</b>	Mercury Bay Community Board
<b>FROM</b>	Linda Hayfield - Library Coordinator
<b>DATE</b>	6 January 2015
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>October - December 2014 District Libraries Quarterly Report</b>

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## 1 Purpose of Report

To report on the activities and performance of the district libraries (Thames, Mercury Bay and Tairua) for October, November and December 2014.

## 2 Background

Thames-Coromandel District Council fully funds and operates libraries in Thames, Tairua and Mercury Bay. Council also provides support for a number of community libraries by way of grants.

## 3 Performance Measures

### Circulation and membership

.	Thames	Mercury Bay	Tairua
Items issued Oct - Dec 2014	35,877	17,477	6,084
Items issued Oct - Dec 2013	38,602	18,771	5,812
*Variance	-7.06%	-6.89%	+ 4.68%
Internet usage by user numbers (excluding Wi-Fi sessions) Oct-Dec 2014	2,946	2,122	998
Internet usage by user numbers (excluding Wi-Fi sessions) Oct-Dec 2013	3,352	2,441	1,170
Variance	-12%	-13%	-15%
Wi-Fi sessions Oct-Dec 2014	6,974	4,520	5,043
Wi-Fi sessions Oct-Dec 2013	5,725	3,275	2,985
Variance	+22%	+38%	+69%
Membership	6,436	4,224	1,446
Number of requests placed	923	764	528

\*Declining issues is a national trend as more information is accessed online, particularly via

mobile devices.

## Highlights

Although issues are declining, libraries are becoming busier and lack of space is a challenge, particularly in Thames and Mercury Bay. This is being addressed through a critical evaluation of the collections with irrelevant and dated material being removed. The book budgets have been reduced by around a third so the decreased volume being added, combined with the removal of dead material should result in gaining some public space over time.

Following a meeting at Mercury Bay Area office earlier last year, Thames and Mercury Bay staff visited Ferry Landing, Hahei and Kuaotunu libraries to foster a closer working relationship and gain a better understanding. It was a delightful day, meeting a number of enthusiastic volunteers. A few items of concern were identified at Kuaotunu, which have been followed up by Heather Bruce, who accompanied us on the day. We look forward to continued contact from time to time.

Halloween was celebrated at Thames and Mercury Bay libraries as a Spooky Storytime event. Thames has run this event for a number of years now and it grows in popularity every year. Parents appreciate having a safe place for their children to dress up and have fun. Several parents get into theme by dressing up as well. The library in Mercury Bay was listed at the top of the safe places to trick or treat list.

Mercury Bay Library's slow network speed is in the process of being remedied. Our new IT manager, Rob McNaughtan has organised cable to replace the line of sight connection and new equipment is ordered. This is great news for the library staff and customers who have struggled for years with a very slow connection, impacting on customer service.

Volunteers at each library were recognised at Christmas time and thanked for their support. All together there are around 70 volunteers across the three libraries and they undertake a range of activities including; shelving, mending, processing new books and delivering to housebound customers. Their help is invaluable, allowing library staff to focus on customer service.

The youth volunteer and youth achievement awards initiative was promoted at Tairua Library in collaboration with Sophie Dickinson from Whangamata Area Office and under the directive of Community Development Officer Marlene Perry. In cooperation with Tairua Youth Group two young fine arts graduates; Ryder Jones and Ophelia Mikkelson were engaged to offer free mentored creativity workshops in November and December to a small group of local youth. Known as The Afternoon Academy they facilitated a series of three free creativity workshops in November and December to eight Tairua Youth aged eleven and up. The group participated in sand-casting, pasta making, and sketch-drawing workshops and developed a positive mentor relationship with their tutors

Children's programmes and events have included:

- Connect Four: designed as a library reading activity for children which encouraged them to connect with others through sharing stories.
- Story Time and Crafts: always popular, children's craft and story activities attracted a consistent number of children at all four activities, and utilised volunteers to assist library staff with the crafts.
- Author Visits: Nicola Muir read her book 'Baba Didi and the godwits fly' and Bruce Gilberd launched his book 'Ka the falcon'
- Universal Children's Day: mural art activity workshops were held to celebrate children on November 20<sup>th</sup>.

- Book an adventure summer reading programme was launched just after Christmas for the duration of the school holiday period.

#### **4 General**

Book theft of the same genre continues at Thames, with torn book covers still being found regularly. In excess of 20 books have now been stolen over the past 12 months.

Another flood at Mercury Bay Library after heavy rain and wind resulted in more damage to the carpet and items in the Librarian's office. This has again been attributed to blocked gutters, so monthly checks will be carried out until this is resolved.

#### **5 Suggested Resolution(s)**

That the Mercury Bay Community Board:

1. Receives the report.