

January - March 2015 District Libraries Quarterly Report

TO	Mercury Bay Community Board
FROM	Linda Hayfield - Library Coordinator
DATE	22 April 2015
SUBJECT	January - March 2015 District Libraries Quarterly Report

1 Purpose of Report

To report on the activities and performance of the district libraries (Thames, Mercury Bay and Tairua) for January, February and March 2015.

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 General

We hear comments about everything being available online these days so libraries are no longer needed. This is a very narrow and ill-informed view of the role of libraries. Any move to a greater reliance on digital tools at the expense of full access to print resources must be undertaken with caution. It must be remembered that while the current trend is for electronic access to information, reading for pleasure is key to literacy, irrespective of the medium.

Access to digital tools is not universal in New Zealand. Any change that reduces access to print resources will impact hugely on education outcomes, particularly for rural students and in areas of high deprivation. There are still many areas of New Zealand where half of the families with children do not have access to the internet at home.

Reading engagement is a vital part of education and is a key step in becoming digitally fluent. Libraries play key roles in literacy development through their many and varied programmes. Liaising with schools and other local organisations fosters community engagement and the summer reading programmes have been proven to address the reading slide that occurs over the six week summer holiday period.

Focussing on circulation figures alone results in a very unbalanced view of the success of libraries. The impact on our communities is a key consideration as libraries move increasingly into the arena of community hubs.

4 Highlights

APNK computer use

There is a noticeable increase in people using the public computers to write CVs, apply for jobs, look for places to rent and access government sites. WINZ offices refer their clients to the libraries regularly so library staff are providing increased support as these people often lack the most basic computer skills.

Creative writing and mental health

Stepping Out Hauraki have picked up on the success of the creative writing anthology we produced. The coordinator, Hawkwind, sees creative writing as a way to improve and enhance the wellbeing of mental health patients, in the same way as it had beneficial effects

on the aged care residents we had worked with. Emma facilitated an initial workshop and shared techniques for Hawkwind to be able to offer future sessions herself. As Hawkwind has given her time to sing at functions at Thames Library in the past this is a great example of the synergies between the libraries and our communities.

Chinese New Year was celebrated in each library. Children made dragons and learnt about the traditions of China. In Mercury Bay, a local Chinese lady Qi Ni Su spoke and shared photos and videos from her friends in China. People commented how much they enjoyed the exposure to other cultures and both adults and children enjoyed these afternoons.

Thames Heritage Week

A scavenger hunt for children, a display and a quiz for adults marked Thames Heritage week. The scavenger hunt was an opportunity for kids to learn about the library as they had to solve library based clues, while the quiz challenged people's knowledge of Thames history. Friends of the Library donated a book as the prize for the quiz.

5 Circulation and membership

	Thames	Mercury Bay	Tairua
Items issued Jan - Mar 2015	36,189	18,064	6,332
Items issued Jan - Mar 2014	39,853	18,749	6,746
*Variance	-9.19%	-3.65%	-6.14%
Internet usage by user numbers (excluding Wi-Fi sessions) Jan-Mar 2015	2,721	2,347	1,059
Internet usage by user numbers (excluding Wi-Fi sessions) Jan-Mar 2014	3,088	2,432	1,267
Variance	-11.88%	-4%	-20%
Wi-Fi sessions Jan-Mar 2015	7,503	6,045	7,877
Wi-Fi sessions Jan-Mar 2014	6,736	4,631	6,663
Variance	11%	31%	18%
Membership	6,557	4,364	1,492
Number of requests placed	927	762	476

4 Suggested Resolution(s)

That the Mercury Bay Community Board:

1. Receives the report.