

July 2016 - September 2016 Thames -Coromandel District Council Libraries Quarterly Report

TO Tairua - Pauanui Community Board
FROM Linda Hayfield - Library Coordinator
DATE 30 September 2016
SUBJECT July - September 2016 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 July, August and September 2016

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

This report aims to define the role of public libraries and provide an understanding of what we do and why.

Library operations are informed by several documents including: Public Libraries of New Zealand; A strategic Framework 2012-2017 and the 2013 International Library Statistics (ISO 2789). The framework identifies five roles that libraries play in their communities:

- Collecting, curating and providing access to knowledge, ideas and works of the imagination
- Fostering the joy of reading and supporting the development of literacy in all its forms
- Enabling independent lifelong learning, research and innovation
- Providing community based services for all in places that are at the heart of their community
- Collecting, creating and making available local content and history.

The ISO lists an exhaustive number of aspects of library operations, including events organised by the library.

Council's Ten Year Plan defines libraries this way:

Council owned libraries have a shared district collection and have comprehensive digital access offering free Internet access to customers. These libraries run a variety of community programmes and services to schools and the homebound.

We fulfil these roles by:

- Collection development through considered selection and acquisition of materials in both physical and digital format
- Offering programmes to children and adults that encourage a love of the written and spoken word as well as all other forms of literacy.
- Providing a wealth of digital information through database subscriptions, providing an Inter-loan service to access the collections of other libraries both within New Zealand and Australia and facilitating workshops conducted by those with specialised expertise.
- Providing services to all sectors of the community including housebound, those with disabilities, youth, and senior citizens, both within the library and in the community

- Sourcing and maintaining a local history collection.

For people used to libraries of the past being quiet places full of books, it may seem strange that we run programmes for babies, children and adults but these are simply new ways of delivering information and fostering a love of reading.

Our challenge is to deliver these programmes as close to cost neutral as possible which is where the use of volunteers and community expertise comes into play. The library profession is unique in that we share ideas and resources willingly. We are not competing with each other but work collaboratively often taking on a facilitation role to connect our customers to the people who can provide what they want.

4 Highlights

Around the branches

Tairua

- The recent recruitment process failed to attract a suitably qualified and experienced librarian so Tairua casual, Atawhai Whatu, has accepted a fixed term contract to act as Community Librarian until such time as a permanent appointment is made. Re-advertisement is expected to take place in the early New Year. Thames staff are supporting Atawhai in her role. A very successful school holiday programme, designed by Children's Librarian Shannon Loney (Thames) and managed in Tairua by Atawhai, attracted 20-30 children in the first week.
- The Tairua meeting room is an exhibition space used by a number of local artists.

Tairua artist Heidi Turner is the latest person to exhibit in the space at Tairua Library.

It is Heidi's only second-ever exhibition of works and it followed her attendance at a Figjam creative workshop held in Tairua Library.

Heidi paints stunning mandelas on canvas, paper and rocks.



- A celebration of Roald Dahl's 100th birthday was held at each of the libraries.



Room 3 from Tairua School came to the library to create dream jars, inspired by Roald Dahl's book 'The BFG'.

Children could also enjoy a Roald Dahl story in the Matilda reading corner in the children's area of the library.

- The contribution volunteers make to our library was recognised with a visit by MP Scott Simpson on Friday September 9th. Scott met with some of our volunteers over an informal morning tea in the library.

Mercury Bay

- The July school holiday programme attracted 20-30 children to each activity session. The library scavenger hunt proved particularly popular with one young boy who exclaimed it was the most fun he'd ever had in a library. It was designed to teach children about the library while having fun.
- The September holiday programme was equally successful with similar numbers attending each session. Activities supported the focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering, maths) which is very topical at the moment.
- Strong winter winds caused problems with gusts entering through the automatic doors and lifting light covers, causing some to crash down. Until this could be rectified the doors had to be kept closed and customers directed to the back door to access the library. A solution has not yet been found
- Staff attended a Fear Free workshop in Thames. This was organized to address the increasing challenges library staff face from abusive and challenging customers and was considered a useful course by all of the attendees.
- Lesley Preece and Heather Bruce have held discussions with Jeannie Morton, the volunteer who currently manages Kuaotunu Library, regarding its Library. Currently there are problems with access, an apparent conflict of interest with hall users and a lack of interest from the community to manage the library should Jeannie decide to step down. Heather and Lesley are to pursue some options following a recent meeting.
- The current air conditioning system is no longer fit for purpose with no fresh air inlets, resulting in poor air quality and complaints from customers regarding smell. An Annual plan requirement document has been submitted seeking approval to investigate a solution.

Thames

- A considerable amount of time has been spent with the recruitment process for Tairua. Failure to appoint after the first process resulted in a second advertisement and round of interviews. With no acceptable outcome from the second round, a decision was made to offer a fixed term contract to Atawhai Whatu who was a Casual Library Assistant at Tairua. Atawhai's lack of experience requires ongoing support and training but she is enthusiastic and willing.
- Shannon Loney, Children's Librarian at Thames must be recognized for the success of the school holiday programmes offered in all three libraries during July and September. After some mediocre programmes in the recent past Shannon is certainly rising to the challenge of being appointed Children's Librarian. Attendance was consistently between 20-30 children at each activity and feedback from parents and grandparents was very positive. Acknowledgement also to Christine and Atawhai at Mercury Bay and Tairua for running the programmes in those libraries. Shannon also offers a Young Library Champs programme at Thames, with an average attendance of 9 children per week.
- The winter adult reading programme was also one of the most successful of recent years. Based on feedback from past participants we identified social interaction and sharing book experiences as the two factors people wanted. With that in mind we ran it as a weekly book club and had regular attendance of 14-15 people. Everybody was keen to share their reading over a cup of tea or coffee and as a result other people were encouraged to read based on their suggestions. By the end of the programme everyone decided they wanted to continue so a monthly book club has grown from this. This is separate from the monthly book club hosted in the evening. Mercury Bay Library also offered this programme with lower numbers than Thames, but still enough enthusiasm to continue as a

monthly book club. Tairua failed to attract interest owing to there being no-one leading the library at this point.

5 Thames Library Functionality project

Stage Two to transform the current staff room into a public meeting space is well underway. Construction work on the meeting room and the new staff kitchen upstairs is almost complete. We are now waiting for the sub-contractors to undertake the plastering, painting, light installation etc before work commences in the back workroom.

6 Membership and circulation

Membership:

Thames	6,835	68% of the population in the Board area
Mercury Bay	4,774	66.5% of the population in the Board area
Tairua	1,572	69% of the population in the Board area
Whangamata	854	22% of the population of the Board area

Circulation:

Thames	35,050
Mercury Bay	17,838
Tairua	5,235
Whangamata	7,729

Additionally: 277 e-books issued and 216 database sessions

7 Suggested Resolution(s)

That the Tairua - Pauanui Community Board:

1. Receives the 'July - September 2016 District Libraries Quarterly Report' dated 30 September 2016.