

STAFF REPORT

TO: Community Services Committee
FROM: District Librarian
REFERENCE: L407
DATE: 20 October 2005
SUBJECT: District Librarian's Report

ISSUES TO BORROWERS (includes renewals)

	July 2004	July 2005	August 2004	August 2005	September 2004	September 2005
District Library	32545	31039	29099	29879	31209	30201
Motueka	14691	16049	14306	15385	14533	14665
Murchison	802	753	700	713	944	759
Takaka	9124	8867	8489	7969	9119	8359
Webpage	6	573	88	708	196	682
Total	57168	57281	52682	54654	56001	54666

Over this first quarter, issues presented a mixed picture with a very good increase at Motueka, a reasonable increase at Takaka and small decreases at Murchison and the District Library. Overall issues remained at the same level.

DOOR COUNTS

	July 2004	July 2005	August 2004	August 2005	September 2004	September 2005
District Library	15747	15501	14017	14531	15044	14669
Motueka	7861	8384	7487	8036	7929	7750
Takaka	6089	6149	5877	5503	6485	5594
Total	29697	30034	27381	28070	29458	28013

Small decreases in numbers at Takaka and the District Library were balanced by increases at Motueka.

RESERVATIONS

	July 2004	July 2005	August 2004	August 2005	September 2004	September 2005
District Library	740	875	909	859	734	874
Motueka	268	385	366	424	337	410
Murchison	41	67	59	61	32	65
Takaka	381	345	300	315	332	322
Webpage	NA	11	NA	15	NA	5
Total	1430	1683	1634	1674	1435	1676

The number of reservations placed increased overall and at all branches other than Takaka.

INFORMATION SERVICE

Requests for assistance in finding information:

	July 2004	July 2005	August 2004	August 2005	September 2004	September 2005
District Library	730	750	722	669	689	673
Motueka	231	353	284	295	276	307
Murchison	86	86	119	76	56	112
Takaka	286	167	237	206	223	171
Total	1333	1356	1362	1246	1244	1263

CHILDREN'S SERVICE

Story time sessions for preschoolers were held in July, August and September in Motueka, Richmond and Takaka.

Story time sessions for older children were held during the school holidays in Motueka, Murchison, Richmond and Takaka.

A programme of school class visits was carried out in Motueka and Richmond.

Our first reading programme for teenagers was held in the winter holidays. Named Odyssey, the programme attracted 117 entrants. This was a good first attempt and we intend to use the experience to build this programme up in future years.

A writing workshop was held on 12 August at the District Library as part of Nestlé Write Around New Zealand. The guest author was Bill O'Brien.

A group from Takaka Scouting came on a visit to the Takaka Library on 12 September. Motueka Arts Council sponsored two puppet shows by John Crick in the Library during the school holidays which were very well attended.

ACTIVITIES

In August Jay Robinson attended a meeting of the Golden Bay Community Board at which representatives of various organisations spoke about possibilities for the new library building.

Friends of the Tasman District Libraries held a very successful art auction on 14 July in the District Library. The art works which were sold were displayed in the library for two weeks before the auction and were the subject of much favourable comment. The Friends also held a book review evening with their AGM on 8 September in the District Library.

The District Library hosted a meeting of the Nelson-Tasman-Marlborough Librarians' Group on 26 July.

STAFF

Jay Robinson took up his duties as Takaka Branch Librarian on 7 July. Murchison Library staff was saddened by the death of Deana Blick.

INFRASTRUCTURE

New signage was installed in all the libraries. The signs all conform to the same standard and style and are a first step towards creating a more helpful and professional system of signs in the libraries.

A new issue counter was installed in the Motueka Library. The counter is height adjustable.

LIBRARY OPEN HOURS

Following up on suggestions made in the focus groups of library customers, library senior staff have considered what improvements can be made to the library open hours which are cost neutral. The following changes will be communicated to library customers to offer them the opportunity to comment on their suitability:

District Library, Motueka and Takaka will all open at 9.30 am instead of 10.00 am on Wednesdays. The current 10.00 am opening is different from the other days of the week and causes confusion and frustration for customers.

District Library will close at 7.00 pm instead of 7.30 pm on Thursday. This late opening night is not well used. Only 15 items on average were issued in the last half hour of each of the last three Thursday nights.

Motueka Library will close at 5.00 pm instead of 6.00 pm on Thursday night. This late night is not well used. Only 17 items on average were issued in that hour on each of the last three Thursday nights.

Motueka Library will remain open until 1.00 pm on Saturdays instead of 12.30 pm. Saturdays have become increasingly busy and remain so right up to the current closing time.

The effect of these changes will be that the same number of open hours are offered to customers (half an hour extra a week in the case of Takaka), but potentially at times that will be more suitable for a larger number of people. There is no extra cost involved for the libraries.

Brian Paterson
District Librarian

http://tdctoday:82/shared_documents/meetings/council/committees_and_subcommittees/community_services_committee/reports/2005/rcs051020_report_district_librarian.doc