

STAFF REPORT

TO: Community Services Committee
FROM: District Librarian
REFERENCE: L407
DATE: 3 May 2006
SUBJECT: District Librarian's Report

COMPETENT CHILDREN, COMPETENT LEARNERS

The importance of reading as a factor in educational success for children was highlighted in the recently published results of the Ministry of Education's Competent Children, Competent Learners research project.

The report states that "factors associated with a positive effect on performance included – an enjoyment of reading, starting early and continuing over time". In discussing the value of reading, the report goes on to state that "it is not enough just to learn to read – one of the strongest indicators of positive engagement in school and learning was the enjoyment of reading. Those who enjoyed reading also had higher average scores for positive relationships with family and friends, and showed less risky behaviour." The survey showed children to be great public library users with two-thirds of 14 year olds and three quarters of 12 year olds using libraries.

"High performers were more likely to read widely, use a library, have access to books in their home, and enjoy reading."

The research was undertaken by the New Zealand Council for Educational Research (NZCER), with Cathy Wylie leading the research team.

RECENT TASMAN DISTRICT LIBRARIES STATISTICS - January-March 2005 compared to January-March 2006

	2005	2006
Issues	162,168	165,736
Door count	83,388	86,616
Reservations*	2,793	3,557
Reference queries	3,680	3,736

* February and March only

Detailed figures for each of the branches will be provided in the final report for the financial year 2005-2006.

ACTIVITIES

Brian Paterson and Cathy Vaughan participated in a meeting of interested parties to discuss problems and possibilities regarding the Council Technical Library.

Lloyd Kennedy, Jim Frater, Brian Paterson and Jay Robinson held meetings with the architect and project manager to finalise concept drawings for the new Takaka Memorial Library building. They later attended a meeting of the Golden Bay Community Board on 11 April to present information about the building project to the Board. The Board expressed its support for the building of a new library in Takaka.

Architects were appointed for the remodelling of the District Library building in Richmond and an initial meeting was held to brief them on the Library's requirements.

Brian Paterson attended the annual meeting of the South Island Library Managers which was held in Gore. The meeting highlighted the great progress which is being made by libraries working together and thereby achieving more.

Cathy Vaughan has entered into discussions with the Waimea South Historical Society in order to explore options for improving the management of the jointly owned Bint Collection which is housed in the District Library. The collection contains unique materials which are often consulted by those doing genealogical and local history research.

The Libraries' redesigned webpage was inaugurated by His Worship the Mayor at a function in the District Library on 19 April. The website offers customers a wide range of services ranging from access to their own Library records to top quality information sources. The website has been designed not only to be visually attractive but to offer ease of use and maximum functionality.

The Friends of the Tasman District Libraries hosted a meeting on 16 March at which Auckland University academic and expert on children and reading, Wayne Mills, spoke to a packed room on motivating boys to read.

The Libraries' children's programmes continued as usual with numerous school class visits and story time sessions for pre-schoolers and school aged children during the holidays.

Brian Paterson
District Librarian