

## STAFF REPORT

**TO:** Community Services Committee

**FROM:** District Librarian

**REFERENCE:** L407

**DATE:** 12 June 2008

**SUBJECT:** District Librarian's Report

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### AOTEAROA PEOPLES' NETWORK

On 9 May, I was invited to Wellington to a meeting of the Aotearoa People's Network. I learned a great deal about how this exciting programme is developing around the country and although we are still waitlisted for the second wave, we have a lot of information and contacts that will help us to implement this really well.

*The Aotearoa People's Network is about providing free access to broadband internet services in public libraries so that all New Zealanders can benefit from creating, accessing and experiencing digital content. It is funded by the Community Partnership Fund of the New Zealand's Digital Strategy and by other government funding through the National Library of New Zealand.*

I continue to be hopeful that our "waitlist" status will be lifted and we'll be included in the wave two roll out. If/when this happens we will receive free computers in all four libraries, with high-speed connectivity solutions provided and paid for by the People's Network. For our part, we must provide the desks and chairs and also the cabling inside the building. We must also commit to providing free access to the computers. (See attached news articles)

### TOP OF THE SOUTH DIGITAL STORIES

Tasman District Council libraries along with Nelson and Marlborough District Libraries and NMIT Library, have received money via the Community Partnership Fund for the creation of a Top of the South Digital Stories web project. This project has been 2.5 years in the planning and this month we are hoping to contract writers and web developers to implement the site. This will be a collaborative, library led project to create internet accessible local history, heritage and cultural content – much of which is currently "locked up" in books, museums, people's memories etc. The terms of the funding mean that the content and website will be developed over the next 12 months and go live in about a year's time.

## **COMING HOME PROJECT**

We will be trying to get grant money to buy the recording gear to participate in this national project – recording the stories of ex-servicemen and women in our district for inclusion in this national initiative.

**Coming Home** – (from the National Digital Forum web page)

11th November 2008 will be the 90th commemoration of Armistice Day. This event offers great potential and collective leverage for digitising content to showcase efforts in collectively building New Zealand's culture and heritage online. .... has decided to follow the lead of the Ministry of Culture and Heritage and adopt the theme of "Coming Home". This is to distinguish the 90th anniversary of the Armistice from other First World War events (such as Anzac Day), by focusing on the return of troops and the post-war impact on this country. The shift in emphasis from "war" to "peacetime" also allows more opportunity to include other significant content from this era, such as the 1918 influenza epidemic that accompanied the end of the war.

The NDF Board requests partner organisations consider now how their own existing or proposed digitisation projects in 2008 could link to this theme. The goal is to media launch a national discovery exemplar at the NDF conference in Auckland in November, which will simultaneously connect all New Zealanders to a rich digital information resource on this theme and contribute to a real example of collaborative digitisation.

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR LIBRARIES STAFF- RICHMOND**

Tasman District Council Libraries are hosting the regional professional development day for our association (LIANZA) on 14 June. Cathy Vaughan is this year's organizer. 53 people from Christchurch to Nelson registered making this the most successful of these events ever.

## **SERVICES TO RURAL TASMAN DISTRICT**

We have been investigating two possible services of potential interest/benefit to our rural customers. The first is with NZ Post for establishing a postal service of books. The second is a trial of two different Agricultural Databases which can be delivered via the libraries website. We hope to have both of these implemented in the new financial year.

## **REGIONAL COLLABORATION INITIATIVES**

On 20 May I attended the Top of the South Library Managers Meeting – in Kaikoura.

Two collaborative projects were on the agenda. One (already in existence) was the shared Talking Books collection. Waimakariri library are responsible for soliciting funding this year and have applied to *Transpower Community Care Fund* for \$40,000 to purchase +/- 300 new talking books to be rotated through the 6 districts in the group.

The other item was the initial discussion of a consortium approach to buying new library management software. Christchurch City Libraries were invited to the meeting for this discussion and have agreed to take a lead role in investigating the possibilities for collaborative buying of this software. Tasman will need new Library Management software in the next 12–18 months and by joining a consortium there are potential savings to be made in both the short and longer terms both on capital outlay as well as ongoing costs. Christchurch City libraries will be meeting the potential vendor before the end of the calendar year and will report back.

## **REGIONAL COLLABORATION**

More locally, Nelson City Council have approved a plan to remove existing subscription charges for Tasman District residents to use their libraries, conditional on TDC doing the same for Nelson City residents. The recommendations that were passed on 10 June 2008 by the Nelson City Council regarding libraries services were:

**THAT staff work with counterparts in the Tasman District Libraries to enhance day to day collaboration between the two library services;**

**AND THAT, contingent on Tasman District Council passing a similar resolution, staff trial reciprocal borrowing for one year and report further on a proposed process to investigate establishment of a regional library service;**

This is a positive move which will improve access to library services to residents of both districts. Weekly, Richmond library receives inquiries from Nelson district residents who wish to join our library as they are here conducting business, shopping or collecting children from schools. Equally, Tasman residents who work in Nelson city frequently present to the Nelson library seeking membership there.

I propose that Tasman District Council remove the out of district charges for the residents of Nelson District. Members of the public from each district can then join the other library under the terms and conditions of that library. We would have a start date of 1 August for these charges to be removed. Tasman District Council will retain our holiday category of membership for those from the rest of

New Zealand who wish to have a temporary membership to our libraries whilst holidaying here.

- We stand to lose virtually no revenue from this action as we've got very few subscription borrowers from Nelson.
- We stand to gain increased custom from the new members who may join our library
- Our ratepayers who work in Nelson and find it difficult to use our own services will have access during their working week to the library services in Nelson.

I anticipate that there may be a surge in memberships and possibly circulation initially but expect that this would stabilize fairly quickly. Nelson has proposed a one year trial for this service.

I therefore recommend that:

**Tasman District libraries remove the subscription charges for the residents of Nelson District as from 1 August 2008.**

I think that we should initiate a similar agreement with Marlborough District as well as this would have a minor impact on our services but would be a positive gesture towards more regional collaboration which I see as greater than Nelson/Tasman only.

## **TDC LIBRARIES STATISTICS**

### Children's Services - May

Richmond	six visits to schools,
Motueka	eight visits to schools, preschools, one holiday programme, four story times
Takaka	nine visits from schools, two holiday programmes, weekly story time sessions
Murchison	four visits from schools, one story time session. Lucy and Cathy prepared and delivered an information literacy lesson to two classes from Murchison High school at the Murchison Library

### Takaka Library usage

#### **Foot Traffic**

April '08 saw an increase of 26% on April '07.

May '08 saw an increase of 15% on May '07.

## Issues

April '08 saw an increase of 27% on April '07.

May '08 saw an increase of 17% on May '07.

## LIBRARY STATISTICS

### Visitors to the library

	Jan 2008	Feb 2008	March 2008	April 2008	May 2008
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,675</b>	<b>24,097</b>	<b>24,717</b>	<b>28,098</b>	<b>27,070</b>
Richmond	16,483	11,932	12,541	14,385	13,086
Motueka	8,442	6,903	7,137	7,752	7,750
Takaka	7,750	5,262	5,039	5,961	6,234

### Transactions via the website

Month	Number
May	1,243
April	1,151
March	1,272
February	1,022
January	1,505

### Value added services

	May 2008		April 2008		March 2008	
Reference Queries	1303		1442		1243	
Interlibrary loans	98 borrowed/28 lent		116 borrowed/37 lent		69 borrowed/26 lent	
Housebound visits	Richmond	12	12		12	
	Motueka	18	24		31	

### Visits to the Library Website

December	6,528
January	7,334
February	5,400
March	8,734

April	12,877
May	9,996

### New Library Members

<b>May</b>	<b>251</b>
April	259
March	221
February	188
January	212

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#### Libraries to get free broadband

**Edition: 1, Section: NEWS--NATIONAL, pg. 10**

Sean GILLESPIE

FREE broadband internet is to be made available at Southland District Council libraries from June.

The government initiative, known as **Aotearoa People's Network**, is a collaborative effort between the council libraries and the National Library of New Zealand.

National Library deputy chief executive Sue Sutherland said the aim was to have all public libraries connected to the internet so all New Zealanders could benefit from accessing and experiencing digital content. "We're also seeing library customers use the service in lots of different ways: from researching family histories to catching up on social **network** services like Bebo." Free broadband is to be available from June at libraries in Winton, Te Anau, Riverton, Otautau, Lumsden, Wyndham and possibly Stewart Island. Libraries in Invercargill and others in Southland and Central Otago are yet to apply for the service.

The project is funded mainly by the Government's Community Partnership Fund and the National Library of New Zealand.

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**Title:** *Hi-tech initiative* Press, The, Apr 15, 2008

SOUTH ISLAND DIGEST

RANGIORA -- Libraries in the Hurunui, Waimakariri and Selwyn districts have joined the **Aotearoa People's Network**, which offers free internet resources, computers and training. The **network** provides high-speed internet and local and central government information.

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**Title:** *Libraries netting international chat set* By: EVANS, Ryan, Taranaki Daily News, Mar 29, 2008

**Edition: 1, Section: NEWS--NATIONAL, pg. 03**

Ryan EVANS

FREE international video telephone calls are now a reality in North Taranaki libraries.

And the computers providing access to the digital world, including broadband Internet and Skype, are proving a hit with library-goers.

Skype is a computer programme which allows free international video calls, as long as the person on the other end of the line also has Skype.

The 26 computers were installed around the district last month during the roll-out of the Aotearoa New Zealand **People's Network**.

Puke Ariki has 10 computers, the rest are in the Oakura, Bell Block, Inglewood, Waitara and Urenui public libraries. New Plymouth District Council team leader community library services Judy Thompson says the computers are being highly used by people young and old.

"It's been very well taken up by the public. In the community libraries they are very popular.

"We've got older people, mums with children and children on their own.

"It's great to see."

Mrs Thompson says she thinks the new computers are particularly popular in the smaller towns because of their broadband Internet capability, often difficult or impossible to get hold of in rural areas.

"Another factor is that people who don't have Internet at all can come in and use use them.

"There's still quite a lot of those."

Taranaki was one of the first regions to be involved in the **People's Network**, funded by the Community Partnership Fund and the National Library of New Zealand, along with Wairarapa, the West Coast, Canterbury and Kawerau.

National Library programme leader John Truesdale says the **network's** aim is to have every public library in New Zealand connected to the Internet

"New Zealanders from all communities, both large and small, will be able to benefit by creating, accessing and experiencing digital content," he says.

"With the **people's network** in place, libraries are set to become a hub for the next digital wave, catering to patrons who are tech-savvy as well as giving those who are not yet familiar with the online world an opportunity to participate."

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