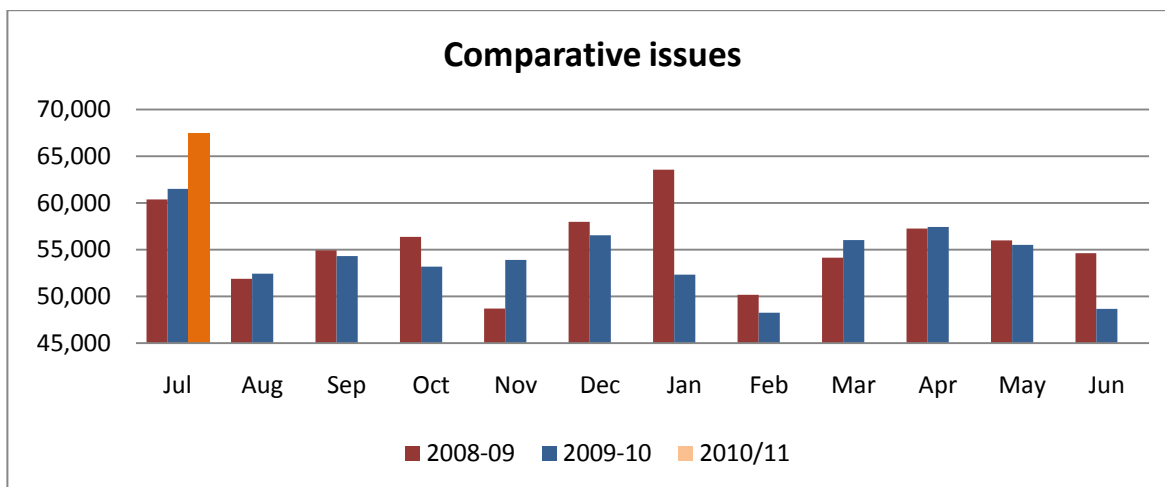
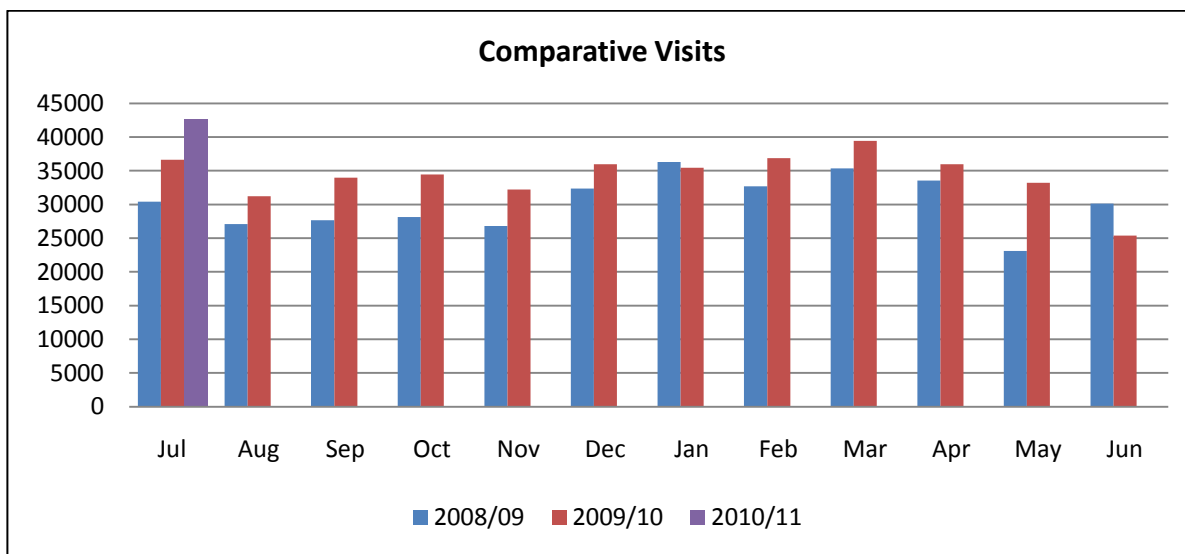


STAFF REPORT

TO: Community Services Committee
FROM: Libraries Manager
DATE: 16 August 2010
SUBJECT: Libraries Manager's Report RCS10-08-04

TRENDS

The July school holidays are traditionally a busy time of the year for the District's libraries. The reopening of the refurbished Richmond Library also had an impact on issues and visitor numbers. Issues were up by 10% overall, with issues at Richmond up by 15% and renewals via our web site up by 53%. Visits for July were 16.2% higher than last year, this is around 220 more visits per day. Visits to the Richmond Library were up by 31.4%. Visitors to Richmond averaged 974 per day, last year the July daily average was 686. The increased level of demand in Richmond is in line with our expectations.



HIGHLIGHTS

School Holiday Programmes

During the school holidays the Richmond, Motueka and Takaka libraries all ran very successful storytime programmes. Storytime sessions are a mixture of story reading and craft activities and are aimed at children between the ages of 4 and 8. As this was the first time in a year that a school holiday programme was offered at the Richmond Library the sessions there were particularly popular.

As a complement to the storytime sessions for younger children the libraries offered "Hands-on" workshops for older children. These are practical workshops aimed at children aged between 8 and 14. Motueka Library ran a lantern-making workshop in conjunction with the Motueka Rudolf Steiner School and Richmond Library ran songwriting and art workshops.

Total attendance at the 14 holiday programme sessions held throughout the District was 443.

Murchison Library has been unable to offer a regular school holiday programmes for the last two years due to the unavailability of a suitable local presenter. However we now hope to be able to offer a storytime programme in the September/October school holidays.

Children's Services

In addition to school holiday programmes the District's libraries offer a range of preschool storytimes, class visits and outreach programmes. During July seven preschool sessions were held in the libraries with a total attendance of 92 children.

During the first few weeks of the new school term the libraries hosted almost 400 children on school or preschool class visits and library staff undertook ten outreach visits to local schools and preschools.

Following the reopening of the Richmond Library staff have been particularly busy with school visits and by mid-August all students from Marahau and Ranzau Schools had been on guided tours of the new library facilities.

Richmond Building Project

The Richmond Library refurbishment project was successfully completed at the end of June. After a two week closure the library reopened with a Grand Opening on Saturday July 3rd. Over 1250 people visited on the opening day and by the end of the first week more than 7000 people had passed through the doors. Responses from the public have been overwhelming positive with a number of patrons saying that they are visiting the library more frequently and staying longer because the library is now such a welcoming place to be.

As well as increases in issues and visitor numbers there was a 31% increase in enquiries dealt with at the Information desk and a 130% increase in new member enrolments.

There has been significant interest in the Imaginarium, the library's content creation suite. During the school holidays Community Recreation Officer Paul McConachie used the facilities to offer a series of music production workshops to local music groups. Further workshops are planned for the coming months. The Imaginarium has also been used by individual patrons for music production and editing, scanning family history documents and producing posters and leaflets.

Information Services staff are in the process of creating information skills training programmes which will be run in the new Learning Pod. The first course is "Introduction to Family History" which was run in early August. There is sufficient interest in the course that it will be run again in late August and early September.

Use of the Constance Barnicoat meeting room was generally limited to school visits and holiday storytime sessions during July. However there have been a number of enquiries regarding use of the room by community and commercial groups and the bookings calendar for the next few months is beginning to fill up.

Library Week

Staff throughout the district have been preparing for Library Week which runs from August 16 to 22. The theme this year is “Ask me... you might be surprised”, in keeping with this we have planned a number of demonstrations and talks on the treasures which can be found within the Tasman District Libraries, with a particular focus on technology. In Richmond there will be demonstrations on using the equipment in the Imaginarium. There will also be a session on writing your own story for The Prow, the Top of the South Libraries’ local history website. The Takaka Library will host demonstrations on using our online databases. The Motueka, Richmond and Takaka will all take part in this year’s “Big Read”. Each year during Library Week libraries all around the country read aloud the same New Zealand children’s book – all at the same time on the same day, making it New Zealand’s biggest Storytime.

LMS - Library Management System

Tasman District Library is one of 23 public libraries which have signed a letter of intent to subscribe to the Kōtui LMS consortium (formerly LSyncNZ). A series of RFP briefs for the system were issued in early August, these are currently being evaluated. Once evaluations have been completed and vendors have been selected the final proposal and pricing structure will be released to participating libraries. It is expected that contracts will be signed in September.

General

Tasman Talks Titles book group reconvened after a year in recess. The book group meets monthly at the Richmond Library and has a faithful and enthusiastic following.

Author Anne Harvey held a talk at the Motueka Library on 27 July. Anne talked about her recently published book “Sons to Men”.

Takaka Library began their “Winter Series” - a six week programme of daytime talks and music performances. Sessions are run each Friday at lunchtime and attendances to date have numbered over 30 at each session.

Richmond Library received a donation from Chase Perry and Don Cooper (ex NZ Forest Service) of the Golden Downs historic records and photographs. These will be added to the Waimea South History Collection which is housed in the Research Room.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Libraries Manager’s Report RCS10-08-04 be received by the Community Services Committee

**Glennis Coote
Libraries Manager**