

CLUTHA DISTRICT LIBRARIES

SOUTH ISALND PUBLIC LIBRARY MANAGERS MEETING – 26TH – 27TH MARCH 2007

Statistics

Clutha District Libraries	2004/2005	2005/2006
Issues:	215,186	210,467
Visits:	64,702	68,418
Registered members:	8,541	9,170

Staffing

Staff developments have included:

- Re-grading of a library assistant position to a professional Technical Services Librarian role.
- The development and appointment of a new Information Centre Officer / Library Assistant position in Owaka.

Collections

The “Support” collection processing has been streamlined. Where previously staff exchanged and issued all support loans, they now just exchange. The issuing of these loans inflated the annual issue figure by approximately 10,000 and generated unnecessary workload.

More material is being displayed in the recent return / new books areas. This is proving very popular.

Weeding Project

A district wide weeding programme commenced mid-2006 with the goal of creating a younger, more attractive and more relevant collection. The process is thorough. With a ‘quick and dirty’ initial pull from the shelves, then a careful checking of holdings, usage and condition resulting in books being withdrawn, transferred to another branch or returned to the shelves. It is slow, as constraints of staffing and space mean that it is undertaken mainly within our existing work. The project commenced in Tapanui where it proved frighteningly easy to remove hundreds of books. We have moved on to Owaka and Lawrence where it is much more difficult, as surplus books are in very good condition. The local communities have been very supportive of this project.

Children’s and Young Adult Services

The children’s programme continues to be popular. In particular the various holiday events which are run throughout the district. These included craft days, reading programmes as well as story time and schools and early childhood groups visits.

Community events

The libraries participated in the 2006 Mad March Market day, Rural Women’s Week and the Lawrence Summer Festival. Book sales were held in Tapanui, Lawrence and Owaka with many books also going to community book sales in Milton and Balclutha.

The Balclutha Inner Wheel donated \$1,200 for the purchase of new talking books. Clutha District Libraries also won the Library Supply prize at LIANZA conference – 10 talking books. We were delighted to the boosting of this collection. In fact, the collection had grown sufficiently large to warrant classifying and labeling. A little project which we could tick off.

Renovations

The refurbishment of the Lawrence Library/Service Centre is still in the planning stage – but a little closer.

The Information Centre building in Owaka has been renovated and substantially extended to accommodate the Catlins Information Centre, Owaka Library and the Owaka Museum. This project has been managed by the Owaka Museum. A new, part time position was created by the Council combining 2 part time fixed term contracts with a top up of extra hours. This has allowed us to employ someone for 32.5 hours a week throughout the year. The Library has a similar capacity as the previous site, but is a much more user friendly and pleasant space. The Information Centre / Library service opened on December 22 just in time for the Christmas tourists. Although open, we are still waiting for some minor work to be completed. The Museum is still unfinished.

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Collaboration

Invercargill City Libraries invited us to consider a collaborative venture for a new library management system. This has provided much information for future consideration both in terms of systems and collaboration.

The Southern Region Reciprocal borrowing pilot commenced in August. To date few Clutha borrowers have actively participated and we have not registered any borrowers from the other districts.

Library Systems

We had a rather eventful few weeks in February 2007 when the Balclutha Library's wireless connection failed and needed a component replaced. After a few days of scanning, faxing (because of course we lost email) to branches and then typing in barcodes, we came back to life only to discover that our rather flakey sever was very definitely needing the last rites. We successfully nursed it along for the 48 hours it took to get a new (temporary – the real new one goes in another few weeks) server installed. All went well and the old server was gently put to rest.

We are now in the midst of upgrading the Library management system to the latest version of Liberty. Installation Wednesday evening! Web pages and offsite services (e.g. EPIC) next on the hitlist!

LIANZA

Hydestore Professional Development award

One of our staff was fortunate to receive this award in 2007 allowing her to attend the 2007 LIANZA conference in Wellington.

Otago /Southland Weekend School

The Otago / Southland Regions LIANZA Weekend School was held in Balclutha in March 2007. Clutha District Library staff were involved in planning, hosting and participating in this event. By hosting it we were able to have all district library staff attend either both days or one day.

Vicki Darling,
Library / Service Centre Manager, Clutha District
March 2007