

MACKENZIE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

REPORT TO SI PUBLIC LIBRARY MANAGERS' MEETING - MARCH 2007

As I write this it is back to winter and we are still recovering from the horrific weather last June. The Library was closed for 2 1/2 days until the main roads were cleared and I could dig out the 4WD. When I did return, there was no electricity and my dress code was Ugg boots, hat, scarf and fingerless gloves inside! I settled for using my tramping pole to navigate the carpark although I considered using my crampons..... There was no way my staff could get here until roads and driveways were cleared, and power restored. Later we had burst water pipes in the library entrance foyer but we soldiered on.....

Borrower numbers continue to increase and with the new enrolments come more issues. The public library/ school library combination continues with its usual difficulties but we now have a staff member present at the morning teacher briefings and this is proving a useful communication forum. We have had the school proportion of our budget slashed but luckily the Council have kept their share intact as they do not want us to reduce any of our services. I believe the Council and BoT are to renegotiate their contract soon.

A library survey was delivered to all homes in the Fairlie and districts area (1000) including Lake Tekapo and 78 were returned. The majority of folk were very happy with our service and we had some very positive comments. One outcome was the establishment of a board book collection. (Thanks to those of you who contributed your thoughts via the Listserve.)

We have also begun a "Books for Babies" service, with the help of the Masonic Lodge which is providing funding.

We are grateful for the support of the Christchurch and Timaru District Libraries who support us with interloans and Large Print Material. Paid staffing has remained constant but our volunteers come and go.

We continue to run the E.C.Read'N Summer Reading Programme which is sponsored by the Fairlie Lions Club but have reduced the number of 'writers' evenings' we offer, due to lack of interest from the community.

Joan Gill
Manager