

Waikato District Libraries: Inspiring curiosity – Enriching lives – Connecting communities

We provide information, ideas, stories, experiences and spaces for learning, engagement and creativity, and access to the digital world anywhere, anytime

Building the reading experience



To achieve this we will:

- Enable every child to be a reader
- Provide great collections for reading, listening to and viewing
- Open up new possibilities for readers
- Support adult literacy
- Remove barriers to use, e.g. fines, holds

Connecting Communities



To achieve this we will:

- Provide 'cool' spaces for recreation, engagement, creativity and learning
- Work in partnership with Iwi to deliver services for hapu & whanau
- Strengthen relationships with local groups to meet specific needs
- Have programmes and events that connect the generations & cultures

Bringing the library to you



To achieve this we will:

- Launch a mobile vehicle to take services to small towns, villages, marae and district events
- Expand eResources for online access and help users get started
- Strengthen services to the housebound, rest homes and early childhood centres

Developing knowledge & skills



To achieve this we will:

- Develop and promote our libraries as community innovation and entrepreneurial hubs
- Provide opportunities for people to 'learn by doing'
- Help people grow their digital literacy and digital citizenship abilities
- Partner with schools & others working with young people to grow their talents

Outcomes

- Increased literacy
- Best start in life for children
- Improved job prospects and productivity for our young people
- Greater social cohesion and reduced isolation
- Stronger communities
- A more tolerant & inclusive society
- More people are able to access and benefit from services
- Greater fairness & equity of access
- Greater return on investment
- Digital inclusion and personal cyber safety
- More informed decision making
- New skills leading to new opportunities

To succeed we need:

Fit for purpose spaces

- Develop a ten year plan for asset improvement and extension so that our libraries are able to fulfil their role as community hubs
- Rethink our service strategy, including the best way to deliver on the differing requirements of council and library services
- Meet the growth needs of the north of the district through a new library at Pokeno

Technology and collections

- Develop a plan and budget for rolling out digital technologies for customer use, experience and loan
- Introduce RFID technologies to improve customer service and efficiency
- Establish eAudio collections and broaden our range of eCollections

Skilled and capable staff

- Develop a learning culture that encourages & empowers staff to explore and acquire new skills and responsibilities
- Be customer-driven and focus on understanding community needs and building relationships
- Be agile and responsive to change
- Make the case for additional staff resources to address growth in service demand and to deliver on the strategy

A partnership approach

- Leverage expertise in Council and locally
- Seek sponsors and funders for appropriate initiatives
- Work with other literacy, learning and social services providers for greater impact
- Work with Hamilton City Council to serve residents in the southeast of the district
- Be alert to opportunities for greater regional cooperation where that improves services

Principles & service values

- Equity of access
- Freedom of information
- Trust
- Partnership
- Manaakitanga – hospitality, welcome
- Kaitiakitanga – guardianship, stewardship
- Whanaungatanga – relationships, sense of family connections

Key priorities

Develop a 10 year investment plan that ensures delivery of the strategy, including:

New initiatives

- A new mobile vehicle service with targeted collections, staff and technology
- Customer access to technologies such as 3D printing, VR, robotics, both to borrow and use in libraries
- RFID circulation and collection management technology for greater efficiency
- A new library/community hub in Pokeno

Existing services and resources

- Expanding the purchase of and access to eResources
- A reconfiguration and refresh of Huntly Library
- Extensions or new builds of the libraries in Ngaruawahia and Raglan
- Additional staff resource to accommodate growth in service demand

- Review how best to deliver council and library services from libraries
- Work with the Council's Funding and Partnerships Manager to seek sponsorship for the purchase and fit out of a vehicle or vehicles for mobile services

