

10. BURWOOD AND SOUTH NEW BRIGHTON COMMUNITY TOY LIBRARIES ACCOMMODATION

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The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with information or seek direction on the accommodation requirements of the Burwood Toy Library, and the South New Brighton Community Toy Library.

In common with a recent citywide trend, both libraries are in need of larger premises, and in particular space is required to accommodate increasing demand for "big toys", ride ons, etc, which affects the organisation's ability to accept more members and to open more often and for longer hours.

BACKGROUND

Toy Libraries operate along similar lines to public libraries. Toys are borrowed for a fixed time period, for a fee, and there is generally a limit on the number of toys that can be borrowed at each visit. They cater for children from birth and up to approximately 10 years of age.

Toy Libraries are supported by the Toy Library Federation of New Zealand, which advises on toy selection and maintenance, all aspects of running a Toy Library, and convenes an annual conference. The Federation can assist in obtaining grants from Lottery Youth etc. Toy Libraries are not funded by the Ministry of Education.

There are 19 Toy Libraries in Christchurch, four of which are based in local schools, two are run in combination with churches, and three in partnership with Plunket.

Apart from Burwood Toy Library and South New Brighton Community Toy Library, since 1997 three other Toy Libraries have been supported by Burwood/Pegasus Community Board funds:

Pegasus Toy Library

Based at Parklands Community Centre, Queenspark Drive

Number of members: 150
Annual subscription: \$25 if fully rostered through to \$75.
\$15 for limited membership (usually for grandparents).
Age group: Birth to eight years.
Charge: 50c through to \$5 for big toys, ride-ons etc.
Opening hours: Wednesday 10.00-11.30 am.
Saturday 10.00-12.30 pm.
Paid workers: Librarian seven hours per week at \$12 per hour.

Puddleducks Toy Library

Based at Shirley Methodist Church, cnr New Brighton Road and North Parade, serving the Richmond/Shirley area.

Number of members: 60 families.
Annual subscription: \$20 reducible if willing to be rostered.
Age group: Mostly pre-school.
Charge: 50c to \$3.
Opening hours: Thursday 10.30 am - 12.00 pm.
Paid workers: No paid workers.

Avon Toy Library

900 Avonside Drive, Bickerton Reserve (former Plunket Rooms)

Number of members: 35
Annual subscription: \$25 if a rostered member \$40 if non-rostered.
Age group: Birth to eight years.
Charge: 50c to \$2.
Opening hours: Saturday 10.00-11.30 am (weekly).
Wednesday 9.00-10.00 am and 7.00-8.00 pm (fortnightly).
Paid workers: Two paid workers for five hours week.

COUNCIL POLICY

Toy Libraries fall under the Early Childhood Education Policy, although there is no specific policy on what type of support the Council will provide.

COUNCIL FUNDING

All Toy Libraries based in Christchurch City Council buildings are effectively partially subsidised, and until now, the three toy libraries in Burwood/Pegasus have been housed in Council owned buildings.

Riccarton/Wigram Community Initiatives Fund

The Hornby Toy Library, previously housed in a 52m² Council owned building adjacent to the Hei Hei Community Centre, has relocated to the grounds of the Sockburn Primary School. In 2002 the Riccarton/Wigram Community Services Committee resolved to grant up to a maximum of \$14,300 from the Community Initiatives Fund towards the purchase of a \$33,000 purpose-built unit from Versatile Garages. The Hornby Toy Library also received \$2,600 from the Council's Loan Scheme towards construction of the new building at the Sockburn Primary School.

Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board

The Opawa/St Martins Plunket Toy Library had been located in a 30m² disused workshop/shed on Risingholme Park grounds and had applied to the Board for funding to assist with the cost of extending their premises with a 6.5 x 5.4 metre garage.

Although this application was not supported the Board decided to consider two other options for relocating the Toy Library:

1. To extend the Landsdowne Community Centre at a proposed cost of \$70,000.
2. To request usage of the Beckenham Voluntary Library, which was due to be closed in 2003 when the new Beckenham Library and Service Centre opened.

After following the process of the "property decision-making flowchart", in 2003 the Toy Library successfully obtained the empty library building at 65 Sandwich Road, the cost of refitting to be borne by the Toy Library. This option was considered "cost neutral" to the Council, as the \$12,000 rent and \$6,632 operational costs were included in the 2003/04 financial budget.

Community Development Fund

Since 1997 Christchurch Toy Libraries have received funding from the Community Development Scheme usually of amounts up to \$1,000, but occasionally for amounts up to \$3,000, for the following:

- Toys/replacement toys/outdoor toys.
- Widening of doorway/wheelchair access ramp.
- Toy Library Federation Conference attendance.
- Safety fencing.
- Office equipment.
- Shelving.
- Administration costs.
- Power and phone/call minder.
- Promotions.
- Rental subsidy (\$600).

Higher amounts have been granted for librarian or co-ordinator wages, for example:

Addington Toy Library

	1997/98	1998/99	2000/01	2001/02
Wages	\$1,000	\$1,300	\$1,700	\$1,500

BURWOOD TOY LIBRARY

Background

The Burwood Toy Library serves the area bounded by Marshland Road, Mairehau Road, Anzac Drive, New Brighton Road, and Locksley Avenue to Banks Avenue. Neighbouring Toy Libraries are Avon, Pegasus and Puddleducks Toy Library. Burwood Toy Library became an incorporated society in March 1993. It is a non-profit organisation which seeks to provide a range of safe, educational and non-violent toys at an affordable cost.

Number of members:	140 families.
Annual subscription:	\$25 if rostered and up to \$75 if no other contribution.
Age group:	Birth to eight years, extending to games suitable for entire family.
Charge:	\$1 to \$3, depending on cost and expected life of the toy.
Opening hours:	Saturday 9.30-11.30 am. Wednesday 9.30-11.30 am and 6.30-8.00 pm.
Paid workers:	One librarian each session.

Since 1993 the Burwood Toy Library has shared the premises of the Burwood Playcentre at 241 New Brighton Road. The Playcentre is supported by the Council at the rate of \$20,000 annually (rent free accommodation), and the Toy Library has benefited from this allocation by having free accommodation from the Playcentre.

Current Proposal

The Burwood Toy Library has the opportunity to relocate to a building at 16 New Brighton Road. This building has required alterations including a paraplegic toilet, an access ramp, opening up of two adjoining rooms for space to display toys and provision of car parking space for four cars. To date the landlords have paid all expenses, including the resource consent, on the understanding the Toy Library will pass on any grants received.

The Board has allocated \$5,000 towards the cost of making the building operational, namely interior painting, providing an accessible toilet, access ramp, opening up of two rooms, and interior painting. (Discretionary Funds \$3,500 and Community Response Fund \$1,500.)

The Toy Library has secured a lease of the building and four car parks for a period of two years, and seek a commitment from the Board for assistance with the rental of \$150 per week.

SOUTH NEW BRIGHTON COMMUNITY TOY LIBRARY

Representatives of the South New Brighton Community Toy Library made submissions to the Board meeting on 28 June 2004.

The South New Brighton Community Toy Library is a non-profit organisation and has been an incorporated society since April 1994.

Number of members:	68
Annual subscription:	Sliding: Between \$30 and \$60 depending on voluntary contribution.
Age group:	Birth to seven years.
Charge:	\$1 for most toys, \$2.50 for toys costing more than \$150, \$2 for videos.
Paid Worker:	Six hours per fortnight at \$10.50 per hour.
Opening hours:	Saturday 9.30-11.30 am (fortnightly).
Catchment Area:	Southshore, South New Brighton, New Brighton to Bowhill Road, Bexley and Aranui to Breezes and Pages Roads.

The Toy Library currently uses the supper room of the South New Brighton Community Hall, and stores the toys in a large cupboard (1.8 x 4 metres). Because of other bookings in the supper room, the Toy Library is unable to open more frequently. The size of the storage cupboard also limits the number of toys available for lending, and consequently, the number of members.

Subject to having exclusive use of premises (thus removing the need to set up and put away their displays every time) and a larger supply of toys, the Toy Library expect to have a larger membership, larger pool of volunteers, and to be open two to three times per week.

The Toy Library is seeking assistance from Council to find new premises, which ideally would incorporate the following:

- Exclusive use of an area approximately 9 x 6 metres, with a small kitchen area, work area and toilet.
- Have car parking, and be accessible for prams and pushchairs as well as wheelchairs.
- Be in South New Brighton, New Brighton, or Bexley residential area.

All Council-owned facilities in the area have been considered, but are either not available or not suitable. Other options including churches, schools, and vacant buildings have been investigated with members of the Toy Library Committee but are either not available or do not meet the needs of a Toy Library.

The balance of the Board's 2004/05 Discretionary fund is \$15,456 and the Community Development Scheme fund is \$27,176.

There is no provision in the Long Term Council Community Plan for either project.

Staff

- Recommendations:**
1. That the Board consider further support for the Burwood Toy Library from its 2004/05 Discretionary funds to assist in meeting the rental of \$150 per week.
 2. That officers investigate further options for the South New Brighton Community Toy Library, including the purchase of a property or provision of a relocatable building, such as that for the Hornby Toy Library.

Chairperson's

- Recommendations:**
1. That recommendation 2 be adopted.
 2. That the Burwood Toy Library's request for assistance towards rent be considered by the Funding Assessment Committee as an urgent item.
 3. That the General Manager Community Services be requested to prepare a report on the wider issues involved with the Council's role in the funding and development of Toy Libraries.