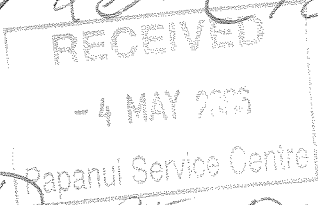


① 4<sup>th</sup> May 2006  
Re: Closure of Libraries



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Dear people,

I strongly oppose the closure of any Christchurch public libraries (e.g. Redwood, Bishopdale, Spreydon plus the Mobile Library Service) for many reasons.

Libraries are of immeasurable worth to our local communities — far, far outweighing any costs gained thru closure.

Books — & libraries provide invaluable informat<sup>n</sup>, entertainment, sources of inspirat<sup>n</sup>, solace & learning — a true source of comfort & educat<sup>n</sup>!! They are a real treasure to people of all ages.

Libraries provide a real sense of local community, a warm, stimulating, non-commercial environment for people to go & enjoy both the books (& the many other resources available) plus the company of others. For many older & lonely folk, visiting a library may be

their only friendly, human contact in a <sup>(2)</sup> day.

Local libraries make good sense, also, in a world of increasing petrol & transport costs & traffic congestion.

Not everyone can afford a car - or even to bus to a more distant library. Easy access to local libraries is very important, therefore, to elderly folk, those unwell or with restricted mobility, people on low incomes/benefits, parents of young children, school-age children - students & books-loving citizens of all ages.

The 3 libraries the Christchurch City Council has proposed closing i.e. Redwood, Bishopdale, Spreydon plus Mobile - are all in relatively low income areas - w/ lots of elderly folk & parents w/ young children.

This is patently unfair & unjust!! No-one is proposing/suggesting closing Fendalton or South libraries!!

&& a vital resource for kiddies learning to read & school-kids doing

homework & researching school projects.)  
(\* Not to mention libraries also being <sup>3</sup> good places for community notice boards)

As an avid book reader & lover of libraries, I myself have used & enjoyed all 3 threatened libraries over the years - especially Redwood as I live nearby. It's a lovely library - w/ lovely staff. I would be devastated to see it closed. It has meant a lot to me especially when I was unemployed.

Nowadays I work at Marralameda - a Residential Community for people w/ intellectual disability in Redwood. Every week I take a couple of the women I assist to the Redwood library for an outing. Michelle, in particular, gets great pleasure out of choosing new picture books for herself!! She's been going to Redwood library for years now & she's known & liked by the staff!!! People like Michelle cannot protest threatened library closure but it would be a big loss in her life.

One of the things I have always <sup>been</sup> most proud of as a citizen of Chch. has <sup>have</sup> been our wonderful suburban libraries - both their quality & number!!

Along w/ many, many other people, I would hate to see these local libraries closed. Please Don't do it!!

Once again, the value of these libraries to their local communities is hugely greater than their (monetary) cost - an invaluable resource & treasure / taonga for all!

I would be more than happy to speak for this (letter) my submission.

thank you,

Melba  
Bernhardt

my address is:

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Papapui

Ofautahi / Chch. 5.

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