

Closure of libraries Page 86 full plan

Dear Sir or Madam,

I would like to submit that the plan to close a number of suburban libraries is ill conceived.

My local library is the one in Bishopdale.

This is a well-frequented library, serving the local community admirably. The staff are ever helpful and knowledgeable. It is a meeting place for senior citizens, who are also voters, as well as young children getting introduced into the wonderful world of the written word.

In this day and age where there is so much concern for the low level of literacy among teenagers, to remove a resource such as a library is absolute folly.

To suggest that the Bishopdale community use the Papanui library instead is beyond the scope of the mobility scooters that some of the Bishopdale patrons are confined to.

I, as an able-bodied user of this library, will not be dictated to by short-sighted bureaucrats, looking to save a few dollars somewhere. I am old fashioned enough to still believe that the City Council has been elected to serve the people of the city. Closing libraries does not serve anyone but the accountants.

I would not use the Papanui library.

I am also not alone in this. Of course if one of the reasons for this plan is to reduce the number of users, then it will serve well indeed.

There must be thousands of voters affected by this plan. For some of these the libraries constitute part of their social life. Every person, young or old, needs to keep exercising their mind. Libraries provide a valuable resource and an alternative to television, reading.

Even if a person only reads fiction, they still gain in understanding grammar, no matter how badly a novel might be written.

Closing a library is closing off people to resources, such as books, newspapers, Internet, magazines, copying facilities, and data just to mention a few. For some it is their only access to these resources.

I have noticed that the Bishopdale library is increasingly used by customers whose native language is not English. Would you deny them the means to become adept in our language?

I very much hope that this plan will not be executed. (When is the next election?)

Sincerely,

Ron van Lindt