

SAVE OUR LIBRARIES

The Christchurch City Council has proposed closing three suburban libraries, Bishopdale, Redwood and Spreydon plus the Mobile Library Service as cost-cutting measures to keep rates down.

This would be a considerable blow to those who use these libraries, the loss would fall directly on these residents while the rest of the city would gain very little benefit.

The Council estimates \$530,000 would be saved yearly, which is about \$1.52 per resident. While not all residents are library users and not all ratepayers are domestic residents, the whole city and business community benefit from an educated and well-informed public. Public libraries are a basic ingredient in a worthwhile society and an important part of the civic amenities which give citizens pride in their city and a sense of belonging. To start closing these would be a destructive and extremely short-sighted act.

Those who use our libraries do so seeking information and entertainment. They include students of all ages, children, parents, the elderly, the disabled and those with limited incomes or access to other resources. Immigrants to New Zealand use the libraries to learn about this country's culture and values while locals have a window onto the world beyond our immediate neighbourhood.

People are able to obtain information on technical matters, or hobbies, sports, crafts, on history, on other places and societies, on cultural subjects and on all sorts of other areas of knowledge which enrich our lives. Fiction - light, escapist or serious - helps provide the relaxation and stimulation necessary to a healthy mental life.

Specialised magazines and newspapers from other centres enable us to keep up with developments elsewhere. In addition CDs, videos, DVDs and talking books expand the resources beyond the written word.

Transport costs and other constraints will make local self-sufficiency more and more important in the years ahead. Strong neighbourhood communities will help buffer us against economic and other stresses. Once we lose libraries and other public facilities we stand very little chance of getting them back.

If the Council succeeds in closing the libraries under threat at present they will have a precedent for nibbling away at others. If you value your local library, for yourself or for others, help stop this move now. Write to the Mayor, contact your councillors or community board members, write to the newspapers, phone the radio stations. We still live in a democracy, more or less, and if we want to protect things which make our city worth living in we must send the message to those elected to serve us.

The Mayor, councillors and community board members C/o Chch City Council P O Box 237 CHCH e-mail info@ccc.govt.nz Fax 941 8786 Ph 941 8999

The Press Pvt Bag 4722 letters@press.co.nz Fax 364 8492 Ph 379 0941
Christchurch Star P O Box 1467 barry.clarke@starcanterbury.co.nz Ph 379 7100

Handwritten signature

Handwritten: 1/20/06

Handwritten: 20.00, 13.50, 2.7

SAVE OUR LIBRARIES

We the undersigned oppose the Christchurch City Council proposal to close public libraries at Bishopdale, Redwood, and Spreydon plus the Mobile Library service - or any other city libraries. Their value to the community greatly exceeds the claimed saving in costs.

NAME

ADDRESS

SIGNATURE

D.B. Bishop	49B Shannon Place	Belfast	
L. McBurney	62 Daniels Rd	Redwood	
L. Moody	1106 Regency Cres	Redwood	
M. Leckey	RD1 - Westport		Meckey
W. Saunders	44 Barnes Rd	Redwood	
lit # + RD How	158 Grimneys Rd	Redwood	
Joy Matthews	2/9 Saunders Pl.	Redwood	
M. Mulvey	3a Wakelin Place	Redwood	Mulvey
P. Alexandre	4 Jenkins Ave	Redwood	
C. Beattie	10 Wingate St	Redwood	
K. Davison	36 Tuckers Rd	Redwood	Davison
S. Davison	36 Tuckers Rd	Redwood	S.D.
J. Eaton	50 Prestons Rd	" "	Eaton
I. Ingram	140 Grimneys Rd	" 110	Ingram
C. Aitken	102 Englefield Rd	Belfast	Aitken
Rayleen Douglas	15a Proctor St	Papanui	Douglas
Glenda Porter	1/12 STRACK PI	Redwood	Porter
D. Atkinson	58 Surreys Rd	Redwood	Atkinson
G. Goff	52 Daniels Rd	Redwood	Goff
P. G. Gilligan	5 Urbridge St	Northcote	Gilligan
M. Higgins	6 Furrows	Redwood	Higgins
CHRIS WARREN	97 B MEMORABLES CRESCENT	Redwood	Warren
Kew Cross	12 Redfern St	Northcote	Kew Cross
G. T. White	24 Ramore Place	Christchurch	White
P. Storer	5/41 Cluedon Place	PSA	Storer