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The purpose of this report is to brief the Board on the business of the Halswell Library and inform them of our goals and objectives for the 1999/2000 year.

Halswell Library is one of the oldest libraries in the Christchurch area having celebrated 100 years of service to the community in 1997. Refurbishment and extension of the library occurred during 1996 and this gave the library a wonderful new life and made working conditions fare more pleasant.

The library is open from Monday to Thursday from 10.00am to 5.3pm, Friday from 10.00am to 8.00pm and on Saturday from 10.00am to 1.00pm. The library is staffed by one full time person (the Community Librarian) and four people who work part time with hours ranging from 13.5 through to 24.5 with extra people employed to work Saturdays. This gives the library a staffing level equivalent to 3.3 FTE.

Over the past five years the circulation figures have risen from 108,000 to a predicted figure of around 180,000 at the end of this financial year. This is an increase of 66% in business over that time. The number of people who enrol with the Canterbury Public Library through Halswell remains steady at around 500 per year. In the time I have been at Halswell I have noticed the number of people who use more than one library. Instead of people being for example, Spreydon customers, they are customers of the network.

#### **CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS**

Halswell Library has decided to focus on reading and information literacy from preschool to adult as its main goal for the 1999/2000 year with a particular emphasis on preschool. To help achieve this the library is offering a regular monthly bedtime stories session on Friday evenings as well as visiting preschool institutions in the immediate vicinity. The Preschool Outreach Librarian also visits three of the local preschools and offers a programme of stories and rhymes as well as providing parents and caregivers with information about literacy and the resources of Canterbury Public Library.

A class from Ladbrooks School visits on a regular basis and these visits help to establish the library and its resources in the community and create a relationship between the library and the community it serves.

Children's borrowing accounts for approximately half of the total number of issues at Halswell which gives an indication of the community we serve. Children's resources include picture books, story and information books, magazines, videos, cassettes, CDs and CD-ROMs. Through a generous grant from the Canterbury Community Trust we have been able to provide a children's MAC which is very popular with various CD-ROMs loaded into it including interactive stories.

Services to young adult borrowers include answering many study enquiries as well as providing recreational reading of which the graphic novels and other fiction for this age group prove very popular. Many of the students attend either Hillmorton or Lincoln High School as there is not a local high school in Halswell.

#### **ADULTS**

The resource we have available for adults include novels and non-fiction books, cassettes, CDs, CD-ROMs, videos, talking books, magazines, a best seller collection of new popular titles, large print, adult reading assistance books to help develop reading and writing skills, the nga Taonga Maori collection, newspapers from some New Zealand centres, New Zealand telephone directories, local electoral rolls and Council information.

We are able to provide customers with information on various classes and courses available throughout the city as well as on particular interest groups through our database.

A popular publication eagerly sought after at the beginning of each month is the Canterbury Public Library publication *Bookmark*. This contains a selected list of new titles as well as some interesting articles and library news.

#### **HAPPENINGS THIS YEAR**

- The introduction of a public Internet computer has increased our ability to answer enquiries markedly and a wonderful new tool for the customers to play with! It gives us duplicate sources of some material as well as being a very up to date reference tool to answer the enquiries about very recent events.
- The introduction of EFT-POS has been a significant benefit to our customers in an age when less and less cash is carried.
- The Harold Lester Wilson bequest to the library enabled Halswell to purchase two art works by local artists: Marion Maguire and Kate Buess.
- Halswell Library hosted New Zealand writer Jane Buxton who conducted a writing workshop at the local hall and local schools were invited to participate.
- Finally Halswell Library is looking forward to being able to continue providing all customers with excellent resources, a professional and friendly service and being a vital part of the Canterbury Public Library network.

**Recommendation:** That the information be received.

#### **Chairperson's**

**Recommendation:** That the information be received.