



MARLBOROUGH  
DISTRICT COUNCIL



Library - Holiday Afternoon Activities

Information Package  
**Economic, Finance & Community**  
19 March 2024

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# Marlborough District Libraries Activity Report – January/February 2024

(Cllr S Arbuckle) (Report prepared by Glenn Webster)

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## Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the operations of the Library service.

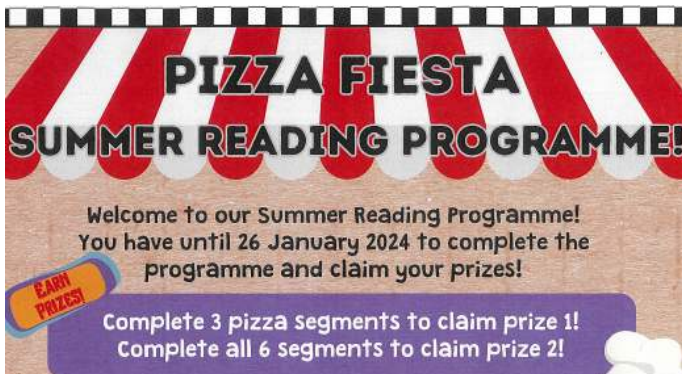
## Te Kahu o Waipuna

Visitor numbers exceeded 300,000 in February, since opening on 12 May 2023.

To celebrate this milestone, the lucky visitor, Diane, was congratulated with a coffee and cake voucher from the CBD @ the Library Café. Diane visits the facility regularly, and on Tuesday 20 February came in with her husband to attend the Harakeke Hub session.



## Summer Reading Programme – Pizza Fiesta



The theme of this year's Summer Reading Programme was "Pizza Fiesta".

This theme was very well received by families as everyone loves pizza. It provided a programme that crossed all age groups from young school to teens.

Seven hundred children participated in the programme across the district, 406 reached the halfway point, winning themselves an ice block and 377 children totally completed it winning themselves a book of their choice.

Children signed up to read over the holidays and for every 15 minutes reading completed they create and compile their pizzas, with various paper-based toppings. Children also participated in other Library holiday activities; weekly code cracker hunt, Lego building etc., that went towards completing this year's programme.

The programme was simplified this year following feedback from parents, saying they sometimes struggled to find time in their busy summer schedules to visit the library. The programme was designed so that it could be completed in two visits, if necessary.

Parents rated the **Motivation to read** as the most valued aspect of the programme.

Other comments included:

*"My child is not an everyday reader, so this was great encouragement."*

*"We are very grateful to be able to do this and look forward to the programme every year".*

*"This challenge really motivated my son to keep reading in the holidays when there was so much else to do. He looked forward to going to the library to do his pizza toppings. The sweet pizza cooking class was a real incentive".*

## Tween / Teen Bingo Reading Challenge

Eighty seven Tween / Teens enrolled in the programme across the district. The format of the programme was a 25 square bingo sheet, with a variety of reading and activity challenges. All complete bingo cards went in the draw for a bookstore gift voucher.

## TV1 Breakfast

Marlborough Libraries Manager joined fellow Library Managers from Gore, Opotiki, and Whakatane on TV1 Breakfast on Wednesday, 21 February 2024 to talk about how, particularly new libraries, are Community Hubs. This was as a wider story to one from Opotiki District Council who were considering reducing the services and hours that their library was open to the public.

## Marlborough Libraries Usage Statistics

### Membership

#### New Members

- 12 May 2023 – 29 February 2024  
**TOTAL 3,841**

#### Renewed Memberships

- 12 May 2023 – 29 February 2024  
**TOTAL 4,493**



### Visitor Numbers (Door Count)

The number of people who visited **Te Kahu o Waipuna**, recorded via the RFID entrance gates, was:

Visitor Numbers	Total Visitor Numbers
1 January 2024 – 29 February 2024	12 May 2023 – 29 February 2024
<b>57,269</b>	<b>310,351</b>

*12 May 2022 – 28 February 2023 comparison (Marlborough District Library) = 128,478 visitors*

The number of people who visited **Picton Library and Service Centre Waitohi Whare Mātauranga**, recorded via the RFID entrance gates, was:

Visitor Numbers	Total Visitor Numbers
1 January 2024 – 29 February 2024	1 May 2023 - 29 February 2024
<b>18,354</b>	<b>76,072</b>

*1 May 2022 – 28 February 2023 comparison = 68,432 visitors*

### Items Checked Out (Issued) and Checked In (Returned)

Checkouts and Renewals	February 2024	February 2023	Variance
Marlborough Library	31,945	30,168	+1,777
Picton Library	4,669	4,523	+ 146
E-Resources	4,742	3,482	+ 1,260
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42,811</b>	<b>37,981</b>	<b>+ 4,830</b>
Check-ins	February 2024	February 2023	Variance
Marlborough Library	28,749	26,029	+ 2,720
Picton Library	4,473	4,178	+295
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>33,222</b>	<b>30,207</b>	<b>+ 3,015</b>

### Room Bookings

The number of rooms booked by groups and individuals in February 2024 was:

February Room Bookings	Community Use	Commercial Use	TOTAL Use
Te Kahu o Waipuna	238	21	259
Picton Library	58	2	60
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>319</b>

## Holdings (Items Reserved)

The number of holds placed on items in February 2024 was: **3,346**



## Internet Usage Sessions – Aotearoa People’s Network Kaharoa (APNK)

The following usage statistics were recorded in February 2024

	In-Library Computer Sessions	Wi-Fi Sessions
<b>Marlborough Library</b>	1,539	5,908
<b>Picton Library</b>	693	3,190
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,232</b>	<b>9,098</b>



Riverside reading session



Holiday afternoon activities

## Marlborough Art Gallery

Kia ora koutou,

I am very pleased to provide a summary of recent and coming programmes at Marlborough Art Gallery.

Over summer we had the privilege of hosting an extremely special exhibition, *Kura Pounamu – Our Treasure Stone*. *Kura Pounamu* was an exhibition created by Te Papa working with Ngāi Tahu and featured more than 200 pounamu taonga. The exhibition told the story of this precious stone, its significance for Māori and its enduring value from ancient times until today. It filled the entire gallery and was extremely well-supported. We held a fabulous public opening event on Saturday, 2 December led by our Mayor and local iwi with Te Papa staff. The exhibition had over \$1,000 visitors a week and was an outstanding demonstration of the potential of the Gallery's purpose-built spaces.

We recently opened an exhibition of famous New Zealand paintings by renowned artist, Rita Angus (1908 – 1970). *Rita Angus: New Zealand Modernist* is a Te Papa touring exhibition that we booked several years ago in anticipation of having a gallery space suitable to present it. Rita Angus created a distinctive vision of a new, Modern New Zealand and is one of the country's most iconic artists. Over the course of her life, she produced a remarkable body of paintings. In her portraits and landscape paintings, she created a unique image of 20<sup>th</sup> century Aotearoa. This exhibition is proving popular with all ages. Several school groups are visiting. Another free public book and art event is being hosted at 2pm on 16 March when writer and Rita Angus Curator, Lizzie Bisley, comes to Te Kahu o Waipuna to talk about the exhibition.

Alongside the Rita Angus exhibition is an exhibition I have curated. *Contemporaries* features a selection of works from the Gallery's collection (community-owned works) of artists who had connections with Rita Angus. These artists exhibited or published with her or were her tutors.

Moving into winter we will be presenting the biennial *Folio* exhibition. *Folio* is an initiative of the Marlborough Youth Council and a partnership between the Marlborough Art Gallery, colleges, and Marlborough District Council. It's a major presentation of glorious NCEA folio artwork by Marlborough students.

After *Folio* we have more collection-based exhibitions and an exhibition telling the story of the people and events surrounding the Treaty settlement between Ngāti Rarua and the Crown. This exhibition is curated by Dr Lorraine Eade and it will be on show during the anniversary of the Wairau Incident (17 June) and Matariki.

The gallery is currently only open 30 hours a week, a reflection of staffing resources, security and safety needs. We continue to collaborate in all our programmes, especially with our Marlborough Library neighbours. We joined Marlborough District Libraries information stand at the Marlborough Seniors' Expo on 5 March and celebrated welcoming the 300,000<sup>th</sup> visitor through the doors of Te Kahu o Waipuna on 20 February. Other local collaborators include our museum and Council colleagues. A particularly exciting event next month is the Art Foundation's *All in for Arts 2024* roadshow which is coming to Blenheim for the first-time and will be hosted at Te Kahu o Waipuna. We have contributed to the development of the Marlborough District Council's new Arts, Culture and Creativity Strategy 2024-2034 and look forward to supporting its implementation.

Thank you and we look forward to your next visit.

Cressida Bishop, Director

Record No: 2452745