



# BOOKLINE

October 2025

Newsletter of Friends of the Tauranga City Libraries Incorporated

Chairperson: Jill Best

Patron: Bill Holland

## NEWSLETTER FOR OCTOBER 2025

**Greetings – there have certainly been plenty of wet and windy days over the last few weeks to tuck our legs up and read a new or favourite book.**

All too soon we will be seeking the shade of a tree or having the aircon on full blast to reduce the heat – still, no excuse to put away your book!

### **LIBRARY VISIT - ROTORUA**

**A very different library visiting experience this time.**

Set in an old brick building owned by the council (rent free), the Friends house thousands of books and hold an enormous book sale. We were warmly welcomed and invited into the bowels of the building where they have a kitchen and a teeny tiny tearoom. The table was arrayed with truly delicious home-made food (even scones with cream and jam).

Over morning tea, Patricia Moore and members, explained what they did, which was centred around the book sales. These are held on the first and third Saturday of every month with at least 4 members to help. They turn up at 7am to set up quite a large area with tables and stands plus boxes of books and haul up two enormous banners saying BOOK SALE. The first buyers arrive about 8.30 to see if there is anything special. The books are all individually priced from \$1 to \$150+. They check online for the prices of older or rare books and price them accordingly. There is a PayWave EFTPOS facility or cash. The sale is from 9 – 1pm but after that everything needs to be tidied up and brought indoors – very physically demanding but they really seem to enjoy it all.

Many of the books are donated because Rotorua doesn't have the Op Shop trade that we have here or large annual sales. The Friends have been holding their book sale for so long everyone knows where to go to buy books and there is quite a large general market on the same grounds.

The other half of the building is absolutely crammed with books and magazines. Uncatalogued, but sorted into subjects with the overflow in maybe 50 boxes floor to ceiling. Somehow the stock is rotated and at Christmas they have a special

day when some of the harder to sell books are put out for people to have at no cost, so parents and children especially, have free books to read over the holidays.

These tireless Friends are just amazing in their dedication to making books available to the public and as a result they raise up to \$35,000 a year which is used to provide equipment and nice to haves for the library.

We spent some time buying books ourselves and because Jill was not well enough to travel with us, the Friends loaded 4 boxes of books into Terry's car for Jill to send to the Islands.

## **GENERAL MEETING FOR OCTOBER**

Our speakers, Corrine Lynskey and Melanie Doel, were from Baybus OnDemand. This is an initiative run by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council, and they set up a trial to run 4 electric minivans in a designated area to help the public be more connected. The trial period was for an initial 18mths, which has come and gone but they have secured enough funding to extend it to April 2026 and more than likely to December 2026.

Any plans to extend the service to other areas will not be considered until the end of the trial period as it was explained that public bus services never pay for themselves. Mercury is sponsoring the trial, which includes providing electric chargers for the fleet (four 8-seater electric minivans and one 5-seater equipped with ramps and a wheelchair hoist). This support, as well as funding from NZ Transport Agency, technology from Via and experienced operator Ritchies, played a crucial role in bringing this vision to life. Any possible extension would be based on usage figures from the trial. Although cost obviously will be part of the consideration as buses are considered a community service that never make sufficient money.

The area they chose was from Tauranga South to the Lakes area. Landmarks include the Historic Village, Tauranga Hospital, Grace Hospital, Greerton and The Crossing. It also includes 2 retirement villages and several gated communities. The system works by having an App on your phone to book a ride immediately or up to 7 days in advance. Or phone 0800 4229 287 if you have a Bee Card. The bus fare is \$5 to go anywhere within the designated area, \$4 with a prepaid Bee card and with a SuperGold Card it is free after 9am and on weekends. Cash will not be accepted.

After the presentation several of us went outside to try out the bus they had brought along. An interesting exercise! Quite challenging to get off the bus, which we commented on, but they were pleased to have any feedback as that's part of the reason for the trial period.

All in all, it was an interesting meeting with 19 attending including some visitors. Many thanks to Barbara for organising the speakers.

## **LIBRARY REPORT**

Several activities were held at the Central library and other branches over September. A book launch by Heather Haylock, a creative workshop with teens designing library bags. *[Go to the library home page to see all the things that are on now or coming up]*

### **Elle – our Library Representative, reports -**

In late September we launched a small collection of six durable, interactive bilingual te reo Māori and English Vox Books titles, featuring embedded audio readers that allow children to listen and read along, enriching their encounters with story and language while improving their ability to recognise sight words.

### **Heritage & Research**

Our monthly genealogy drop-in sessions continue to be popular:

On Friday 12 September we hosted a successful “Antics Roadshow” event at the City Library/He Puna Manawa to showcase a few items from our archive collections and invite members of the public to share some of their own treasures.

Planning for our offsite archive is making good progress. The design work is complete, and construction is due to start in the coming weeks.

In July we received a Lottery Environment and Heritage grant which we’re using to digitise A/V material and images from the Vince Heperi collection – the first batch of this material is currently away for digitisation and being processed by our team as the digitised files become available (we’ve processed 231 digitised A/V files), so you will start to see some of this on Tauranga Archives Online/Pae Korokī in due course.

As we work our way through disposing of the remaining Vertical Files from the old library, we’re also regularly adding new articles to the Stories section of Tauranga Archives Online/Pae Korokī. We’re keen to get feedback on these articles if you get a chance to have a browse and read through some of it. Our Libraries are supporting Wheelers with their commitment to adopting sustainable practices by piloting a new environmentally conscious self-adhesive product derived by Ocean Bound Plastics (OBP) for the covering of many of the libraries soft-cover books.

We held two events last week as part of the Young at Heart Festival - a talk by Heritage Specialist Harley Couper and a digitising drop-in event – it was encouraging to see a demand for scanning treasured photographs and slides with families and community.

## **TOP TIP FOR USED BOOKS**

Eliminate Insects and their eggs!

For those who like to rummage around in Op Shops or book sales for a second hand treat you might give a thought to what else the book may contain other than print or pictures. Used books can contain unwelcome pests like booklice, silverfish, and beetle larvae, which feed on mould, glue, and paper. Even if no pests are visible, freezing also halts mould growth, which is often what attracts bugs like booklice. First, place the books in a zip-lock bag to prevent moisture from entering, and to keep everything (pages and pests) contained. Put the book in the freezer and keep it sealed for at least 48 hours, but preferably a week. When you're ready to take it out, let it thaw slowly. Allow the book to come back to room temperature while still sealed to prevent condensation.

## **NEW**

Tucked away in an online newsletter giving an update on the development of Tauriko West, was an announcement that TCC will be funding a new library/community centre! There was no indication of a time frame so there is some likelihood that many of us may not be here to celebrate the opening but it's great news for the younger generation. [Notice the asterisks – might be an opportunity for Friends to lobby council]

### ***What Tauranga City Council will deliver\*:***

- *A community centre and library, providing meeting and events spaces alongside library and council services*
- *\* All community facilities are subject to funding being confirmed in future Long-Term Plan budgets.*

The Friends are in regular contact with the library staff and we will be there to fundraise and/or give our support to anything that can enhance the interior of any library or community centre.

## **AGM**

Our AGM was held at Greerton Library on 25<sup>th</sup> September.

We would like to thank Rita Carter for offering to join the committee so we could continue to function.

## **CHRISTMAS**

We will again have a Christmas party at Greerton with delicious food and beverages on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November.

**HAPPY READING**