



Public
Libraries
of New Zealand

ANNUAL REPORT

20
25



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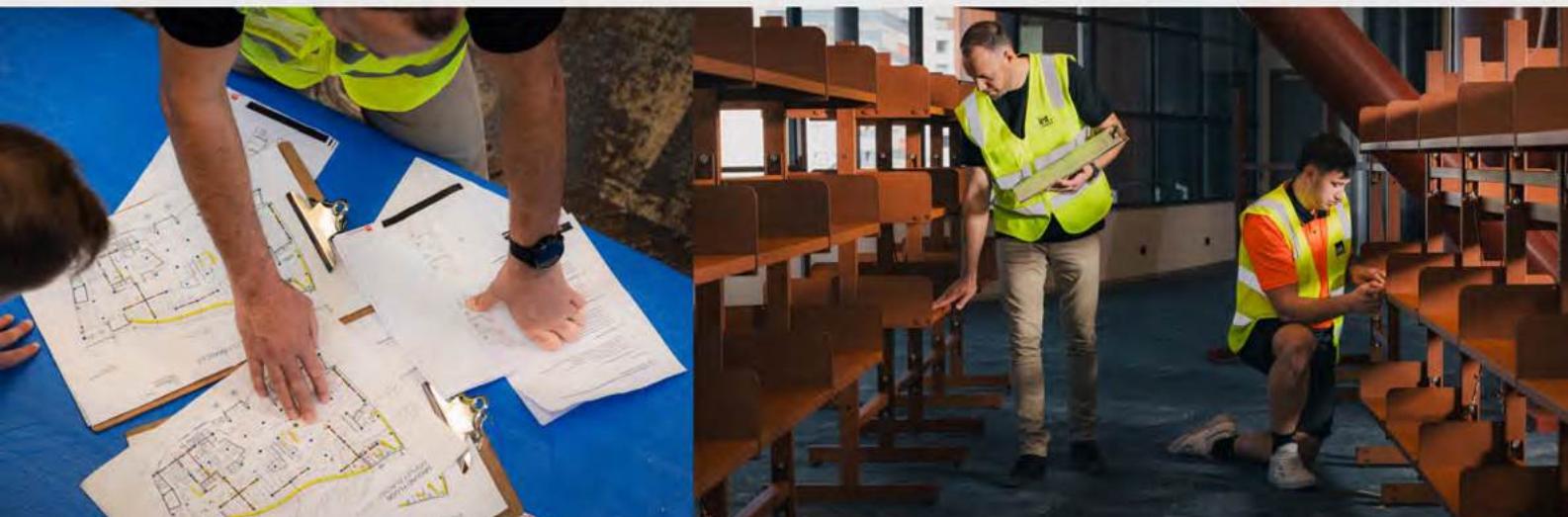
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WHAKATAU | WELCOME



Nau mai ki te Pūrongo ā-Tau a Public Libraries New Zealand (PLNZ) mō te tau 2024–25.

I tēnei tau, kua ū tonu ngā whare pukapuka tūmatanui o Aotearoa hei poutokomanawa mō te hapori, ahakoa ngā hau kino o te ao pūtea me ngā tai o te rerekētanga. Kei te tiaho tonu hei rama arataki, hei puna mātauranga e rere nei te wai o te mōhio, hei kāinga mō te hinengaro, mō te wairua, mō te tangata.

Ko tā PLNZ he whakapakari i te aho o te kaiārahitanga, kia whatu tahi ai te kakahu o te rāngai. Kua whiria ngā whakaaro, kua herea ngā ringa, kia kotahi te manawa. Nā konei i puāwai ai ngā kaupapa huhua te pae hou e whakanuia ana te aroha ki ngā whare pukapuka, te hui nui i Rotorua i whakakotahi i te rāngai, me te rangahau i whakaatu i te tapuwae o ngā whare pukapuka ki te oranga tonutanga o te iwi.

E titiro whakamua ana tātou, e mōhio ana he nui ngā pae maunga kei mua, engari he kaha ake tō tātou ngākau kotahi. Mā te mahi ngātahi, mā te kotahitanga o te wairua, ka whakatupu tonu ngā whare pukapuka tūmatanui hei pou herenga mō te mātauranga, hei kaitiaki mō ngā taonga o te kupu, hei puna oranga mō Aotearoa whānui.

Welcome to the Public Libraries New Zealand (PLNZ) Annual Report for 2024–25.

This year, our libraries have continued to demonstrate resilience and adaptability in the face of financial pressures and rapid change. Across Aotearoa, public libraries remain a constant, providing inclusive spaces, trusted information, and a sense of belonging for their communities.

PLNZ has focused on strengthening sector leadership, evidence-based advocacy, and connection. Highlights include the launch of the Love Your Library website, the success of the National Forum in Rotorua, and reporting of the inaugural Community Impact Survey, showing not only how much libraries do, but the real difference they make.

As we look ahead, the challenges are real, but so too is our collective commitment. Together with our members and partners, we will continue to champion the essential role of public libraries in building resilient, connected, and thriving communities across Aotearoa.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Joann Ransom
Hutt City Libraries
Chair



Rob Baigent
Hamilton City Libraries
Immediate past Chair



Judy Ryder
Tauranga City Libraries
Treasurer



Glenn Davidson
Whangārei District Libraries
Regional Rep
Northland



Dany Kareko-Miller
Auckland Council Libraries
Regional Rep
Auckland



Julianne Wilkinson
Rotorua District Libraries
Regional Rep
Waikato/Bay of Plenty



Lois Haddon
HB Williams Library,
Gisborne
Regional Rep
Central North Island



Siren Deluxe
Kāpiti District Libraries
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Wellington/Wairarapa
& Chatham Islands



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Tūranga
Christchurch City Libraries
Regional Rep
Upper South Island



Saniya Thompson
Invercargill City
Libraries
Regional Rep
Lower South Island

OPERATIONS TEAM



Bernie Hawke
Executive Director



Alan Collins
Finance Manager



Tania DeJonge
Executive &
Sponsorship Assistant



Fiona Brooks
Projects Coordinator



CHAIR'S OVERVIEW

It is my pleasure to present this Annual Report for 2024-25.

This year has again shown both the pressures on our sector and the resilience of our people. Across Aotearoa, libraries have adapted to fiscal challenges, shifting expectations, and rapid technological change, while holding true to their role as inclusive community spaces.

PLNZ exists to strengthen the leadership of public libraries. We provide advocacy, evidence, professional development, and connections across the sector. These activities make a real difference to the ability of libraries to serve their communities well.

Already we are seeing libraries under strain, with managers seeking support from the PLNZ as councils consider funding cuts and service model changes. The Executive Committee anticipates an even tougher environment in the coming year and is focused on ensuring PLNZ provides practical help and advocacy for members navigating these challenges.

Community Impacts Survey

A distinctive strength of PLNZ is our focus on evidence. Our national data collection now provides consistent, comparable measures across libraries.

This year we expanded from measuring “how much” libraries do to “how well” and “what difference they make”. The National Community Impact Survey, undertaken in November 2024, provided compelling evidence of the wellbeing outcomes delivered by libraries. It confirmed what we have long known: that libraries are essential contributors to social connection, inclusion, learning, and resilience.

The survey findings provide decision-makers with robust evidence of libraries’ alignment with national priorities, such as digital inclusion and community wellbeing. We will run the survey again in 2025 and encourage members to promote it widely to secure statistically significant responses. Those who achieved this last time received tailored results for their council, an invaluable tool for advocacy and planning.

‘Love Your Library’ advocacy portal

A highlight of the year was the launch of the Love Your Library website at the 2025 National Forum. This national advocacy and storytelling platform is a major achievement, developed by a dedicated working group. It showcases research, case studies, and community stories, and has already become a powerful tool for members in local advocacy and for building a shared public narrative about the value of libraries.



Above: Joann Ransom, PLNZ Chair

Connections

Our advocacy has extended into direct engagement with central and local government. We have supported members with submissions, provided tailored advice, and ensured that the voice of libraries is heard in policy development and in the media. We have also strengthened relationships with partners including LIANZA, SLANZA, Te Rōpū Whakahau, the National Library, DIAA, Museums Aotearoa, LGNZ, and NSLA. These networks are vital for ensuring libraries are represented in national conversations and for creating opportunities to work together.

National Forum

PLNZ continues to connect library leaders through regional networks, online ‘Taking Care of Business’ sessions, and our annual Forum. These opportunities allow members to share insights, support one another, and celebrate collective success.

National Forum contd

The PLNZ National Forum, held at the Sir Howard Morrison Centre in Rotorua in May 2025, was our most ambitious yet, with record attendance and an energising programme.

Keynote speakers included Cory Doctorow, who addressed the risks of digital platforms, and Brian Pichman, who explored the potential of artificial intelligence in libraries. While their perspectives differed wildly, both underscored that responsible use of technology will be critical as libraries navigate the future. The keynote address by Paula Morris reinforced the importance of reading as well as the depth of New Zealand literature, with libraries as a repository and point of access for New Zealand writing.

The Forum also showcased innovation through the Digi-Coaches pilot. Run in partnership with DIAA and supported by MSD, the programme placed job seekers in libraries to provide digital support while gaining valuable employment experience. Thirty participants across Canterbury, Wellington, and Waikato delivered 7,000 hours of support to nearly 5,000 learners. The pilot's success has prompted expansion to nine regions in 2025–26, with up to 90 new Digi-Coaches expected to be placed in libraries and community spaces.

Governance and People

Alongside programme work, PLNZ has advanced organisational development. The Tūmatakahuki te Tāngata project has refined the new values for our governance framework and prepared the way for constitutional reform that strengthens Te Tiriti o Waitangi alignment, including dedicated Māori representation on the PLNZ Executive Committee.

Board renewal has also been a theme Mallory Mattmuller was farewelled as Wellington Wairarapa representative, and Siren Deluxe stepping into this role. I would like to thank all members of the PLNZ Executive Committee for their dedication and contribution to the effective governance of PLNZ.

I want to particularly thank our Treasurer Judy Ryder and Finance Manager Alan Collins for their careful financial stewardship, Tania DeJonge and Fiona Brooks for their outstanding operational support, and the many working groups who have delivered outstanding work while juggling day jobs: Love Your Library, Fines Free Aotearoa,

Community Outcomes, Brilliant Data, and Tūmatakahuki te Tāngata.

I want to thank Rob Baigent as Immediate Past Chair who has been so generous and supportive in bringing me up to speed; I'm not sure his workload dropped noticeably after handing over the reins as he has remained involved in getting significant pieces of work completed this year.

I also want to acknowledge our Executive Director: Bernie's leadership, professionalism, and deep sector knowledge have been invaluable in strengthening PLNZ and supporting library managers.

We are fortunate to benefit from this as he has guided us through a period of growth and positioned the organisation strongly for the future.



Above: Moerā Neighbourhood Hub in Lower Hutt which includes library services

Looking Ahead

The year ahead will bring both challenges and opportunities. Public libraries will continue to face financial pressures and growing community needs but they are also uniquely placed to deliver solutions. From digital inclusion and lifelong learning to cultural equity and wellbeing, libraries are central to building resilient, connected communities.

PLNZ will remain focused on equipping members with the tools, evidence, and advocacy they need to thrive in this environment. Together, we can continue to shape a vibrant and forward-looking public library sector that delivers lasting value to the people of Aotearoa.

Nga mihi
Joann Ransom
Chair

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Tēnā koutou

2024/25 has been a full and successful year for Public Libraries New Zealand with the fulfilment of a number of key projects and a deepening of PLNZ's engagement with its members and across the library sector.

Based on the investment of NZLPP funding, PLNZ successfully developed the Love your Library website (www.loveyourlibrary.org.nz) which merged its previously separate organisational and Fine Free Aotearoa websites while providing a detailed directory of New Zealand libraries and their services.

This project was coordinated by the Smart Data & Advocacy Project Working Group, inspired and led by Rob Baigent and also supported by the Data Visualisation Working Group which was established to grow and share expertise with the Flourish data visualisation application for which PLNZ had taken a two-year licence.

The Love Your Library website has been prioritised as the primary source to promote public library stories, achievements and access PLNZ reports and data on library usage and impact.

In November 2024, PLNZ conducted its inaugural Community Impact Survey with all New Zealand public libraries participating and over 10,000 responses nationwide. The survey collected data on and demonstrated the impact, value and fundamental importance of public libraries in local communities.

During 2024/25, PLNZ continued to engage with its membership to provide advice and support with internal Council reorganisation (Waitaki, Tararua and Wairarapa) as well as advocating for the value and importance of public libraries in formal Council consultation processes (Napier, Tasman).

PLNZ also continued to support and advocate for Fine Free Aotearoa with a further two Councils discontinuing overdue charges during 2024/25 (Hurunui, Gore) with 98% of libraries fine free for youth and children, and 91% fine free for all members as at 30 June 2025.



Above: Bernie Hawke, PLNZ Executive Director

Sector engagement has been a priority for PLNZ to leverage partnerships and amplify its impact.

During 2024/25, PLNZ strengthened its relationship with LIANZA through regular meetings, joint submission to government processes and the endorsement of a joint Statement on Safety in Public Libraries which was promoted to the media and distributed to all local Council Mayors and CEOs.

In addition, PLNZ has been working with SLANZA, LIANZA, PLNZ & Te Rōpū Whakahau to strengthen the relationship with sector partners and explore opportunities for collective impact.

Further afield, PLNZ has strengthened its international relationships through the delivery of an IFLA training module on Library Measurement and Performance Evaluation in May 2025, and through a benchmarking project initiative between New Zealand and Australian public libraries with NSLA (National and State Libraries Australasia).



Above: The South Dunedin Library and Community Complex - Te Whata o Kaituna provides flexible reading, learning, creative and community engagement spaces.

Strengthening governance has also been a priority for PLNZ with development of a draft new Constitution and associated member Consultation Brief undertaken during 2024/25 in response to the government requirement to comply with the Incorporated Societies Act 2022. It is intended to consult with PLNZ Members and seek endorsement of the new Constitution in 2025/26.

Associated with the development of a new Constitution, PLNZ consulted with its Members on appropriate Values to embed in the new Constitution and underpin all its activities. Additionally, PLNZ has created and/or updated administrative documentation to meet the requirements of the Incorporated Societies Act 2022.

In addition, PLNZ developed a Risk Management Framework and associated Risk Management Policy based in the Creative New Zealand Risk Management Toolkit which was endorsed by the PLNZ Executive Committee in February 2025, to further support and strengthen its governance capacity.

In February 2025, PLNZ reset and expanded the composition of its Tūmatakahuki te Tāngata Working Group to strengthen and further develop its alignment with the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. This Working Group has set an ambitious agenda to build on the membership survey of cultural capacity and confidence undertaken in June 2024.

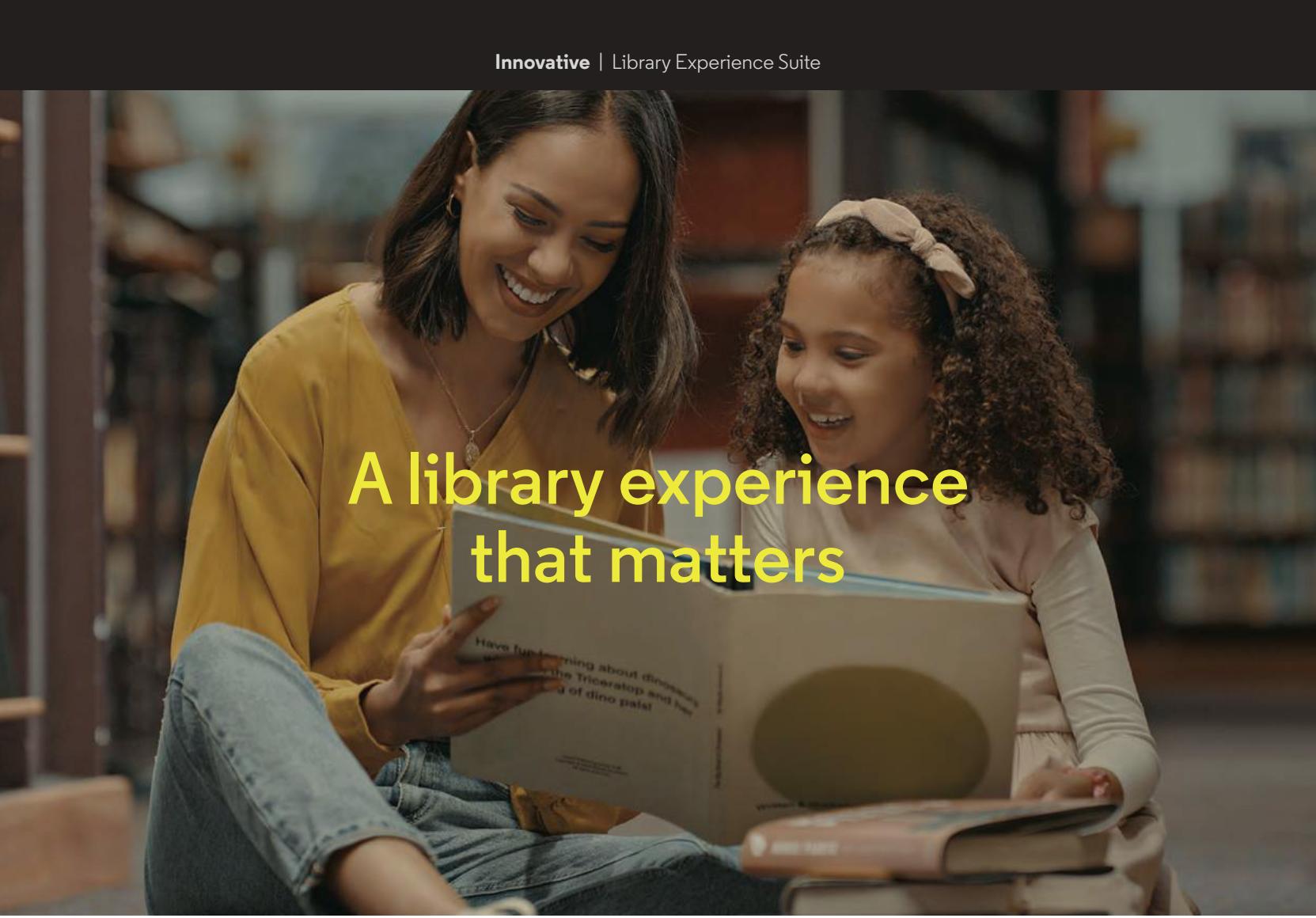
During 2024/25 membership participation in PLNZ events increased with registrations for the 2025 National Forum reaching an all-time high of 141 delegates and 36 sponsors as well as participation in the five Taking Care of Business sessions conducted in 2024/25 (Dementia Friendly Libraries, Navigating Challenging Behaviour in Libraries, Libraries as Health & Wellbeing Hubs, Managing Rainbow Events and Libraries Supporting Local Elections).

On the basis of its achievements during 2024/25, a deepened engagement with its membership and the sector, and a strengthened governance capacity, I look forward to PLNZ enhancing its profile and impact in the year to come.

I congratulate the PLNZ Chair Joann Ransom, Immediate Past Chair Rob Baigent and the PLNZ Executive Committee for these achievements and thank them for their unwavering support. The New Zealand public library sector is by far the better for their dedication and passion for public libraries.

Noho ora mai

Bernie Hawke
PLNZ Executive Director



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REGIONAL REPORTS

Northland

Far North District Libraries | Whangārei District Libraries | Kaipara District Libraries



Over the past year, libraries across Northland have delivered a wide range of positive outcomes for their communities. Despite facing numerous challenges, the passion, resilience, and dedication of library staff have shone through. It has been fantastic to see Northland libraries working together and engaging meaningfully with their communities.

Improved Knowledge and Skills – Foundational and information literacy:

All libraries in the region added to their library-of-things collections. Far North expanded their Toibox collection to include board games and have plans to include dementia friendly collections. They also have plans to create digital literacy school kits to support the digital curriculum. Whangārei created a brand-new collection called He Kākano. They greatly appreciated support from Kaipara and Far North who freely shared advice and knowledge. In Kaipara, several new items were added to the Tutu Collection including Ti Rakau sticks, stud finders, and a full-sized electronic keyboard.

Increased Resilience – Helping people and communities adapt and thrive:

This year brought significant changes across all library teams. Notably, Lisa Salter concluded her tenure as Kaipara Libraries Manager, and Paula Urlich, long-serving Manager of Whangārei Libraries, retired. Both Lisa and Paula have made outstanding contributions over many years, and their leadership and dedication will be greatly missed. Paula Guy Stuve was appointed as the new Manager for Kaipara and Glenn Davidson appointed as manager for Whangārei.

Far North trialled service centre functions on the mobile library which enabled their communities more access to council services with mobile payments and council information.

Opportunities for Lifelong Learning – Digital inclusion, creativity, growth:

Far North upgraded their public computers to provide windows operated devices, enabling the addition of Microsoft applications, with free access further enhancing services to support lifelong learning and accessibility.

Both Far North and Whangārei ran successful summer reading programmes centred around trading cards. Far North created a Taniwha Trading card programme called Raumati Toa which enabled tamariki to complete quests and collect cards.

Taking inspiration from Far North's previous programme, Whangārei delivered a popular Dragon Trading Card programme that encouraged reading, crafts, visits to all district libraries and other local places of interest.

Interestingly both libraries made use of AI to create their trading cards and programmes. All Northland libraries partnered with Digital Inclusion Alliance Aotearoa to have Digi-coaches.

Kaipara noted the Digi-Coaches are making a positive impact on the community seeking support, as well as being beneficial to the library staff by allowing them time to focus on other tasks.

Enhanced Self-Esteem and Social Cohesion – Confidence and community connection:

Far North adult programmes increased this year with more opportunities for their community to come together with adult craft, knitting, bookclubs, cookbook clubs and sewing programmes to name a few.

In Dargaville, while the library was being re-painted, the artist who gave the library their first mural offered to paint a second one.

Whangārei worked with a passionate community group to put on three successful Night Library and Café events. These events involved opening the library after hours to provide people with a free, welcoming place in the evenings. These events created a real buzz and included live music, interactive art, story reading, library tours and opportunities to socialize in the cafe.

The first permanent StoryWalk® was launched in the Kaipara. This project was years in the making and was a community collaboration, including volunteers from the Mangawhai Shed who produced the boards.

Support for Māori Aspirations – Engagement and responsiveness to Māori needs

Both Far North and Whangārei collaborated with their communities to deliver successful events and programmes for Puanga Matariki and Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori. Far North have plans underway to create a significant Mātauranga Māori book collection.

Reduced Isolation and Loneliness – Libraries as inclusive, welcoming places:

Procter library in Keri Keri had a renovation which resulted in the combining of the Council service centre within the library as well as housing an extra 26 hot desks for wider council staff. A newly configured space has made it a more welcoming environment for the community.

A new branch was opened Mangawhai Branch Library in August 2024. The reception has been phenomenal with stats skyrocketing.

The process of building a new library in Kaikohe is full swing. This past year engagement with the community, design and demolition of the old building has happened. The new library is expected in late 2026.

Auckland

Auckland Libraries



Across Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland Libraries has invested in both heritage and futureproofing, restoring beloved facilities and reshaping services with our communities. From major capital works to whānau-centred design and award-winning engagement, the common goals are deeper connection, and inclusive access for Aucklanders.

In the lead-up to local elections, our libraries played a key role in supporting democratic participation by becoming voting locations, providing information about special voting, and deploying staff to assist whānau with enrolment and participation. This reflects our commitment to civic literacy and libraries as enablers of democracy. This work aligns with Auckland Council's recent move to empower local boards with greater decision-making powers and budgets, a significant shift in how local democracy functions across the region.

He Kupenga Horopounamu, led by Te Waka Kerewai and funded through the NZLPP, is reimagining how we partner with whānau. Through kōrero and co-design, we are hearing how past experiences shape library access behaviour, and what aspirations look like for the future. Two major outcomes we are celebrating include a whānau-centred Māori service delivery model, and a kaimahi capability framework. This is a transformative shift toward libraries as places that enable whānau wellbeing to thrive.

Through pride month and beyond libraries across our region have hosted dozens of inclusive events from drag story times and

literary salons to community picnics and arts workshops. Auckland Council affirms that libraries are places of safety and belonging. Senior leadership reinforced this stance publicly, affirming that libraries are for everyone, places of tolerance, acceptance, inclusion. Safe spaces where all are welcome.





We launched a new regional team, Whānau Learning | Te Ako ā-Whānau, to embed learning across a lifetime from early literacy to whole-whānau engagement, digital upskilling for adults, and civic and cultural participation.

This new team has already delivered a significant milestone for the region through the creation of our new Literacy Plan 2025–2028. This is a new framework that establishes literacy as a foundation of community wellbeing and lifelong opportunity. It sets our 3-year vision for strengthening literacy across Tāmaki Makaurau.

The plan focuses on three critical areas:

- Early Literacy, equipping tamariki with strong foundational skills, revitalising early learning programmes, and building confidence among parents and caregivers.
- Lifelong Learning, supporting adults to grow knowledge and skills over a lifetime, with new pathways for literacy and learning that align with changing community needs.
- Digital Literacy, ensuring equitable access to digital services, tools, and training, including initiatives to address misinformation, disinformation, and emerging technologies.

The plan aims to increase access to literacy initiatives by 15% across all three areas through key cross-sector partnerships.



Our publishing programme continues to uplift unique stories. *Rere Atu Taku Poi* (Auckland Council x Oratia Books), authored by Tangaroa Paul, was a finalist in the 2024 NZ Book Awards. *Toitū Ngā Marae* (Auckland Council), documenting the COVID stories of marae across Tāmaki Makaurau, featured at the 2025 Auckland Writers Festival. We also released three new titles in the Stories of our Lives: *Tō Mātou Ao, A Mātou Pūrākau* adult literacy series. These works strengthen cultural knowledge, visibility, and pride.

2025 marked the 3rd year of the We Read Auckland festival, our annual celebration of Auckland writers, readers, and storytellers. The festival showcased the richness of local voices through author talks, workshops, and community events held across the region with strong participation from schools, whānau, and many local libraries.

From Western Park, Te Komititanga Square, Darby Street, Strand Arcade, and the Heritage Gallery in the Central City Library, Auckland comes alive with Pasifika heritage, indigenous knowledge, and collections. The initiative, titled *Lupe I Vao Ese* encapsulates the journey of measina (cultural treasures) and their ability to foster a sense of home within new environments. In the Samoan language, the term "Lupe" refers to doves, "vao" indicates grass or pastures, and "ese" translates to different, which collectively signifies doves in distinct pastures.

Building on our implementation of Lyngsoe's IMMS and our regional automated sorter, we've focused on practical improvements like re-measuring shelving to improve accuracy and launching 'Exhibitions' to support floating collections. This means staff spend less time on manual logistics and more time with customers.

Finally, we launched a new board game collection, designed to bring whānau and friends together for social connection. The collection has been met with overwhelming popularity, quickly becoming one of our most borrowed offerings across the region.

Through restoration, co-design, learning, storytelling, and smart operations, Auckland Libraries continues to innovate. We strive to create welcoming, inclusive places where people build skills, confidence, connection, and where whānau aspirations are realised.

Waikato & Bay of Plenty

Hamilton City Libraries | Hauraki District Libraries | Kawerau District Library | Matamata-Piako District Libraries | Ōpōtiki District Library | Ōtorohanga District Library | Rotorua Library Te Aka Mauri | Ruapehu District Libraries | South Waikato District Libraries | Taupō District Libraries | Tauranga City Libraries | Thames- Coromandel District Libraries | Waikato District Libraries | Waipā District Libraries | Waitomo District Library | Western Bay of Plenty District Libraries | Whakatāne Libraries and Galleries

Improved Knowledge and Skills – Foundational and information literacy

Revamped reading programmes across Waikato and Bay of Plenty have been an absolute hit, with record book numbers and soaring activity attendance. Fun, innovative challenges have reignited enthusiasm for reading across all ages. Matamata-Piako received glowing feedback, including one parent who shared: "It has completely invigorated my three boys' interest in reading again. Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would see this happen at their age, as they are very active boys. I love having little book worms!!"

Supporting our communities to improve their financial literacy and keep their hard-earned savings safe online has been a common theme. Rotorua and Hamilton partnered with businesses and agencies to provide advice and guidance across various financial topics through events and drop-in sessions. A powerful reminder that successful businesses struggle in the beginning, Dinsdale library was fortunate to have Mamas Donuts share their story of humble beginnings to a thriving franchise. Practical insights were shared motivating attendees to take the next steps in their financial journey with advisory services on hand to provide guidance, and library staff recommending quality titles for further reference.

SCAM awareness sessions were held across Western Bay, in partnership with banks and IT professionals, to educate communities about fraud. In Rotorua, cyber safety advocate John Parsons delivered sessions focused on protecting both teens and older adults online. Strong attendance and positive feedback from participants clearly demonstrate the value and ongoing need for this essential knowledge.

Like most libraries, staff provide encouragement and guidance to patrons to make the most use of various library apps. Ōtorohanga have stepped it up by running 'Appy hour sessions, providing in depth knowledge to ensure people are getting the most out of their apps.

Increased Resilience – Helping people and communities adapt and thrive

Throughout the year, libraries across the Waikato and Bay of Plenty have continued to deliver inclusive events and expand their collections to support communities in navigating change. From silent discos and sensory-friendly activities in Tauranga, to STEM kit





lending in Ruapehu to the introduction and growth of “Library of Things” and Makerspaces in Ōpōtiki and Ōtorohanga, libraries have been at the forefront of innovation and inclusion. Rotorua proudly achieved accreditation for ‘Working Towards Becoming Dementia Friendly,’ while the DORA Health Bus made its presence felt across the region.

These initiatives not only foster literacy and strengthen social cohesion but also empower communities to adapt and thrive in a changing world. Recognising the importance of accessible, fit-for-purpose spaces, library refurbishment projects have been approved in Tokoroa, Ngatea, and Mangakino. Meanwhile, the absence of existing facilities in Waihi Beach led to the development of a brand-new library Te Ara Mātauranga, which officially opened in July 2025.

A fantastic example of working with our communities to help them adapt and thrive was demonstrated in Hamilton over Welcome Week where the library contributed to an event welcoming newcomers to the city, and celebrating the contribution migrants make to their community through a trail of events over the week. 15+ languages are spoken in Hamilton City Libraries, how cool and how welcoming is that!

Opportunities for Lifelong Learning – Digital inclusion, creativity, growth

Providing free access to public computers and Wi-Fi and offering digital support has become a standard service in most libraries, ensuring equitable access to the digital world. Libraries throughout the district have inspiring stories that highlight the opportunities this access creates and the meaningful impact it has on people's lives. In Hauraki, for example, several students rely on free internet to pursue online studies, one even completed a floristry course thanks to this support.

It's a wonderful illustration of how libraries contribute to lifelong learning. A heartwarming highlight in Waitomo was when a customer was able to undertake a job interview online with assistance from staff who alleviated his technology fears. He later returned to share that he had gotten the job!



Te Tāhuhu o Te Rangi have been curating resources for their staff and patrons and making available tutorials on AI. This is a learning journey for their community and for the Ōpotiki team...the truth being we are all on that journey!

Limited resources in some libraries can restrict their ability to expand programmes. To address this, Te Puke has partnered with Tu Mai Digital to deliver digital skills classes, while Hamilton is working with Digital Inclusion Alliance Aotearoa to pilot a Digi-Coach initiative, with coaches sourced through the Ministry of Social Development. These programmes not only enhance digital literacy in the community but also create employment pathways through the professional development of the coaches—a win-win. More locations across the region are expected to join this partnership soon.





Enhanced Self-Esteem and Social Cohesion – Confidence and community connection

Board games never get old! A revitalisation of game lending and clubs has sprouted up across the region creating opportunities for young and old to have fun, challenge their brains and most importantly connect with others in the safety of a library.

Matamata-Piako incorporated this sense of fun, competition and connection into their Summer 'Collectathon' with participants collecting cards from various locations, re-igniting community connection and pride. They are also riding on the wave of successful escape rooms alongside Thames-Coromandel and Ōtorohanga who incorporate these into their holiday programme, engaging the whole whanau in this fun activity.

Whakatāne's Te Kōputu came alive on National Poetry Day with Voices Unleashed—a vibrant showcase of creativity featuring performers aged six to 70+. From slam champs to student songwriters, the event blended poetry, music, and connection, earning glowing feedback and calls to make it a regular fixture. A standout moment came from Colin, a regular patron recently released from prison, who shared a powerful piece written in solitary confinement. Since then, he's shown greater engagement and pride in the library space he now calls his own.

Support for Māori Aspirations – Engagement and responsiveness to Māori needs Libraries across the region have embraced the importance of deepening community understanding of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, te ao Māori, and te reo Māori.

This commitment has been reflected in a range of events and activities during key celebrations such as Te Wiki o te Reo Māori and Matariki, alongside ongoing efforts to integrate te reo and tikanga into library spaces, resources and activities. Thames-Coromandel, for example, placed a strong emphasis on everyday use of



te reo Māori, encouraging patrons with practical tools like starter bookmarks. Staff capability is also being strengthened, with Hamilton launching the Te Koopu Maania Capability Framework, and Ōpōtiki staff participating in Te Tiriti and leadership workshops. These initiatives are building knowledge and confidence, enabling teams to connect more meaningfully with their communities.

Reduced Isolation and Loneliness – Libraries as inclusive, welcoming places

Delivering services to isolated people remains a vital part of library outreach, especially in districts with widely dispersed populations. In Ōtorohanga, a new housebound service complements rural deliveries, offering lifelines to those with limited social contact. One patron undergoing cancer treatment formed a heartfelt bond with staff through handwritten notes—bringing comfort and connection during a difficult time.

New robotics and craft programmes in Waitomo and Tokoroa foster creativity and engagement. Waihi Library's Senior Film Sessions and Book Chat Group continue to thrive, while Rotorua's Dementia Reading Group offers steady support. These initiatives show how libraries reduce isolation and build meaningful community connections.



Central North Island

Central Hawke's Bay District Libraries | Gisborne District Library | Hastings District Libraries | Horowhenua District Library | Manawatū Community Hub Libraries | Napier Libraries | New Plymouth District Libraries | Palmerston North City Library | Rangitīkei District Council Libraries | South Taranaki District Libraries | Stratford District and Centennial Library | Wairoa Centennial Library | Whanganui District Library

The library services that comprise the Central North Island region continued to build and develop a wide range of creative and collaborative services for their communities. In addition they contributed to the Library Service Outcomes evaluated in the PLNZ Community Impacts Survey in the following ways.

Improved Knowledge and Skills – Foundational and information literacy

Public libraries are one of the key access points for the wider community to the works by New Zealand authors and publications by New Zealand publishers.

In support of this HB Williams Memorial Library was proud to launch Te Uru Whārangi Library Writers Festival. International authors and local writers contributed to a programme with a strong bi-cultural focus and content for all ages.

This focus on fundamental literacy and creativity was well supported by the community and will become an annual event moving forward.



Increased Resilience – Helping people and communities adapt and thrive

The completion of the Ōmāhū School Library project was a highlight of the year for Hastings District Libraries, alongside the continued engagement with migrant communities residing in Heretaunga Hastings—recently including Chinese, Vietnamese, Punjabi, and Filipino groups. Pasifika Language Weeks have seen strong attendance, and engagement with RSE workers in the region has included culturally tailored events and opportunities to welcome them into library spaces.

Opportunities for Lifelong Learning – Digital inclusion, creativity, growth

Napier Libraries worked to expand opportunities for lifelong learning through creative programming for adults. Centred in their

makerspace, and Creation Station, which was launched in 2024. In 2025 larger, multi-session projects were introduced to allow participants to build knowledge and skills over time. More than 20 adults took part in these sessions where they learned to design and sew a collared shirt and skirt from scratch. In addition to developing practical skills, creative confidence, and a foundation for ongoing personal growth.

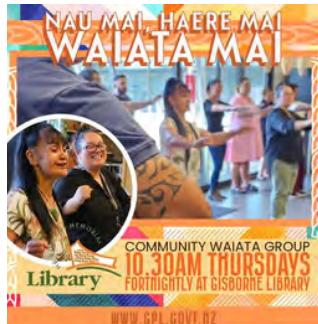


Hastings District Libraries have successfully run their CuppaTech programme for the past few years at both Flaxmere and Hastings libraries. This initiative offers older adults the opportunity to receive support with tech-related questions over a hot drink in a relaxed and welcoming environment. HDL has also been actively supporting Flaxmere Digital, a new community-based initiative designed to help Flaxmere residents of all ages learn and thrive in the digital age.

Enhanced Self-Esteem and Social Cohesion – Confidence and community connection

Hastings District Libraries recently collaborated with Prisoners Aid and Rehabilitation Services (PARS) to deliver the Dads 'n Books project at Hawke's Bay Regional Prison.

This unique initiative, which ran successfully for over a decade in the Manawatū, helps build and strengthen the bond between incarcerated fathers and their children through the shared power of storytelling. Library staff visited regularly to support each dad in writing, illustrating, and recording a personalised book, which was then sent home to their children. The experience was emotional and deeply rewarding—a vital way to maintain connection and whānau identity during a challenging time.



HB Williams Memorial Library's fortnightly Waiata Mai sessions continue to bring together and uplift the wairua of the community. Inviting other community groups like IDEA Services to lead sessions has been particularly successful and improved the confidence and sense of community connection for those attending.

Support for Māori Aspirations – Engagement and responsiveness to Māori

With the appointment of a new Pou Ārahi, Hastings

Enabling all participants - including those with sight-related disabilities - to experience the stories in Te Reo. HB Williams Memorial Library continued to reflect Māori aspirations and priorities on a daily basis.

Bi-lingual programming and daily use of Te Reo Māori by library staff are integrated organically. This year the library team enthusiastically led the delivery of Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori activities for council.

Ranging from hosting Taonga Puoro and Poi Making workshops to playing Taonga Tākaro Traditional Māori Games with Whiti Ora Tairāwhiti.



District Libraries have increased outreach to local Māori communities and educators. There has also been a stronger focus on Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori this year, which included the delivery of Te Reo lessons to both the public and council staff. This year Napier Libraries placed a strong focus on supporting Māori aspirations by continuing to grow Te Reo Māori literature through their Storywalk which showcased a wide range of bilingual and full Te Reo texts, creating opportunities for whānau and tamariki to engage more deeply with the language. To ensure equitable access, bilingual audio translations were introduced. Enabling all participants - including those with sight-related disabilities - to experience the stories in Te Reo.



Reduced Isolation and Loneliness – Libraries as inclusive, welcoming places

Wairoa Library had amazing success with their 'Run away with a Treat' adult reading programme.

Patrons could choose to take a box containing treats like hot chocolate or flat white sachets and marshmallows of course! Also included were either a craft or a puzzle lock to solve. Patrons could keep what they made or bring to a catch-up session to share. The inclusiveness this brought to patrons especially the elderly was significant.



Wellington, Wairarapa & Chatham Islands

Hutt City Libraries | Kāpiti Coast District Libraries | Masterton District Library | Porirua Public Library | Wairarapa Library Service | Tararua District Library | Upper Hutt City Library | Wellington City Libraries

Improved Knowledge and Skills – Foundational and information literacy

In the Lower North Island: Tararua to Wellington, Libraries are progressively embracing a Hub identity offering a multiplicity of ways to engage with our services, but at our molten core is a passion for literature and promoting literacy. The Lower North Island's bread-and-butter stats relating to our traditional paper-based books shows steady usage increase, accompanied with explosive growth in the demand for eBooks.

This year's Books Alive event in Wellington connected kids with talented New Zealand authors and illustrators. The August event led by Wellington libraries and supported by Te Puna Tauranga o Aotearoa, brought 23 nominees for the 2025 Book Awards in direct contact with their target audience – Rangatahi and Tamariki from local schools. Author talks, illustration workshops and queues to get copies signed ensured kids who loved books could also contemplate a future in which they created books.

Increased Resilience – Helping people and communities adapt and thrive

This year the Lower North Island has benefitted from the launch of a small but perfectly formed library hub build (Moerā Community Hub), major upgrades of existing hubs (Walter Nash Library in Taita), extensive renovations and extensions about to start (Masterton Library) and of course Te Matapihi ki te Ao Nui is tantalising the public with sneak peaks of the brand new interior of the long awaited City's central library scheduled to open mid 2026. In Porirua, Lower Hutt and Kāpiti, commitments to new builds (Cannons Creek Library), completion of major new hub builds (Te Awe in Waikanae) and remedial work (Petone Library) are planned for next year.

Opportunities for Lifelong Learning – Digital inclusion, creativity, growth

Digital inclusion, creativity and Lifelong Learning are in expert hands in our Lower North Island Libraries. "Digi Coaches" and "Digital Seniors" have been stalwarts in the libraries helping people in the community with digital growing pains.



Lower Hutt's War Memorial Library hosted a 12 week course 'Books & Bass', which is New Zealand's only free DJ school for young people, bringing the buzz of beats and basslines amongst the bookshelves. It presented an opportunity for those aged 8-plus to master spinning the turntables, learn how to break down songs into beats, bars and structures, and come to grips with using the latest mixing technology. Kāpiti's Makerspace (Paraparaumu) delivered a successful Pasifika program in which 20-25 regular visitors from Paraparaumu College learned some new techniques for making ei lavalava using digi tools. They then went on to teach this to students and parents at 4 primary schools reaching close to 150 people in total and then celebrating with a fono event for everyone involved on an evening at Paraparaumu College.





Enhanced Self-Esteem and Social Cohesion – Confidence and community connection

Libraries remain a place that supports the Rainbow Community. Libraries continue to champion science, inclusivity and diversity, and promote critical thinking. Masterton walked the walk of allyship by creating a display of rainbow-affirming literature and winning first place in the 2025 Out On The Shelves Display Competition this year.

Paraparaumu library hosted a Pride Youth Ball for 70 queer youth from local colleges supported by 20 community volunteers, which was the first time the library floor has become an afterhours floodlit dancefloor with a live band paying homage to Joan Jet- The Godmother of Punk.

Reduced Isolation and Loneliness – Libraries as inclusive, welcoming places

If you live in Upper Hutt then the local library has been working to ease social isolation in the surrounding community for an impressive 50 years with their mobile Library service. This milestone anniversary was celebrated in September 2025 with a function for past staff members/drivers and invited guests.



Support for Māori Aspirations

Rawa (or mahi toi/artwork) in Te Matapihi has set a new standard for embedding cultural narrative within the build of the renovated facility. Painter Darcy Nicholas' towering ancestral figures called 'Earth Mothers' in the Spirit Room and the poem 'Brown Optimism' by CJ Sturm installed on an exterior wall are strong statements claiming space for Māori past present and future in this library Hub.



Upper South Island

Ashburton Public Library | Buller District Libraries | Christchurch City Libraries | Grey District Library
 Hurunui District Libraries | Kaikōura District Library | Marlborough District Libraries | Mackenzie District |
 Nelson Public Libraries | Selwyn Libraries | Tasman District Libraries | Timaru District Libraries |
 Waimakariri Libraries | Waimate Public Library | Westland District Library



The Upper South region stretches across top half of the South Island from Waimate in the south to Golden Bay in the north.

Public libraries across this part of Aotearoa are ensuring their facilities are fit-for purpose and resilient to the climate and seismic risks affecting thism. This benefits communities, through the provision of safe and resilient community-owned public buildings.

Libraries also help reduce social isolation and loneliness by creating inclusive, welcoming spaces for all.



And finally, they are a key contributor to lifelong learning for their citizens through the programmes, events and educational opportunities they offer.

Increased resilience

A beautiful new Library will open in Greymouth in 2026. The library will be open six days a week, will have two additional staff, a floor area that is double the size of the existing library, and will feature a dedicated young adult area. (See below)





Above: Ōmōkihi, named after the traditional water craft once used by Māori to navigate the nearby river. Expected to open in early 2027.

- In the fast-growing Selwyn District, a new integrated facility in Leeston, named Whata Rau, is expected to open in 2027. The name Whata Rau recognises the many platforms and storage houses of knowledge and resource to be found throughout the district.
- At Waimakariri District Libraries, the Rangiora Library received a substantial refit this year. A large scale extension is planned for 2027/28, which will help cope with visitation numbers that regularly exceed 1000 people a day.
- In Christchurch, the earthquake-damaged South library was demolished in early 2025. Its replacement is called Ōmōkihi, a name that is derived from the water craft that Māori once used to traverse the adjacent river. Expected to open in early 2027, the it is being built on the same site, but its design and layout will be quite different to its predecessor.
- Following a seismic assessment, Richmond Library in the Tasman District was closed for repairs and strengthening during the middle of 2025. The council also used this time to address some wider issues with water tightness, resulting in a more resilient and comfortable building for the people of Richmond.

Lifelong Learning

- At Waimakariri District Libraries, the Rangiora Library has launched the Tinker Zone, an integrated makerspace suite that's proving to be very popular.
- Westland District Library launched a year-long reading challenge for junior and middle school students on Beanstack, in partnership with Westland High School. They hope to apply this model in their work with other schools across the district.

Reduced Isolation and Loneliness

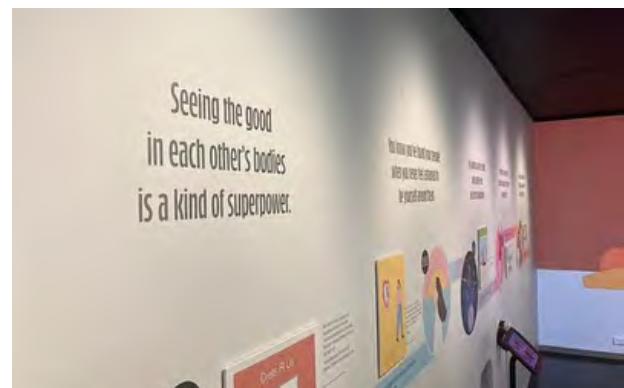
- Westland Library's community engagement programs this year have included the Women's Conversation Café and library talks

on a variety of fascinating topics. These have been highly successful in bringing people together and fostering social connection.

- Christchurch City Libraries' Tūranga hosted the Like Bodies, Like Minds exhibition. The exhibition celebrated stories of survival and struggle, hope and healing. The aim was to reduce shame around mental health and body image and increase understanding of life inside someone else's skin.



Above: Like Minds Exhibition at Tūranga, Christchurch.



Some leadership changes [this section is optional]:

- Ashburton Library Manager Jill Watson retired in August 2025 after 50 years working in the organisation. Her final achievement was the opening of their new library in late 2024. She is succeeded by Jane Riach. Jane has worked in libraries in Christchurch, Feilding and Wellington, and has been involved in various volunteer and governance roles across Mid-Canterbury.
- The Head of Christchurch City Libraries, Carolyn Robertson, retired this year after twenty years in the role. She oversaw the massive challenges following the earthquakes and the subsequent rebuilds, including of Tūranga and several other damaged libraries. Carolyn is already enjoying spending time family locally and overseas.

Lower South Island

Central Otago District Libraries | Clutha District Libraries | Dunedin Public Libraries | Gore District Libraries | Invercargill City Libraries | Queenstown Lakes District Libraries | Waitaki District Libraries | Southland District Libraries



Improved Knowledge and Skills – Foundational and information literacy

- Central Otago: Growing Vox Books and dementia-friendly resources, alongside strong school holiday programmes, supports literacy and information access for all ages.
- Clutha District: The launch of the new LMS (Polaris) has enhanced access to library services and improved user experience.
- Invercargill: Joining the Kōtui consortia and expanding online resources with Comics Plus, Find My Past, and the Bridget Williams Waitangi Collection has enriched access to learning and discovery.
- Gore: Moving to Spydus has streamlined systems and allowed staff to focus more on delivering literacy and learning programmes.
- Lower South Island Regional Collaboration: Libraries across the region are working closely together to build capacity and share best practice. Collections staff joined library managers at regional meetings, and programming staff gathered for a hui in Invercargill in October. These meetings provide valuable opportunities for professional development, networking and collaboration.





Increased Resilience – Helping people and communities adapt and thrive

- Southland (SDC): The completion of the mobile service delivery project demonstrates adaptability in meeting community needs across dispersed areas.
- Gore: The creative Book Nook tasting event, run in collaboration with local businesses, boosted local engagement and economic resilience.
- Invercargill: The Strength and Balance class featured in ACC's national campaign highlights the library's contribution to wellbeing and community resilience.



Opportunities for Lifelong Learning – Digital inclusion, creativity, growth

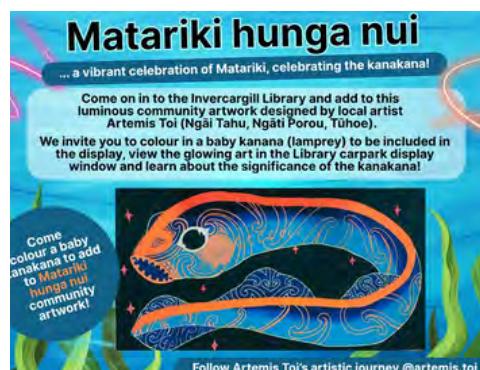
- Dunedin: The new South Dunedin Community Library, Te Whata o Kaituna, offers innovative facilities including a makerspace, recording studio, and Tangata Moana Collection, fostering creative learning and digital inclusion.
- Queenstown Lakes: The Library of Things launch in October will allow community members to borrow tools for creativity and exploration such as sewing machines, telescopes, and podcasting kits.
- Invercargill: Online resources and family history programming provide ongoing opportunities for discovery and lifelong learning.

Enhanced Self-Esteem and Social Cohesion – Confidence and community connection

- Waitaki: The 50th birthday celebration of Oamaru Public Library brought together past and present staff, local artists, and the wider community, reinforcing the library's place as a cherished community hub.
- Central Otago: The surprise visit from "Dog Man" brought joy to local families and fostered community spirit.
- Gore: The wedding hosted at Mataura Library reflects the deep community connection and welcoming nature of the library space.
- Queenstown Lakes: Monthly "Staff Dress-Up Days" and senior movie events foster belonging, creativity, and intergenerational connection.

Support for Māori Aspirations – Engagement and responsiveness to Māori needs

- Dunedin: Te Whata o Kaituna incorporates Kāi Tahu design and community input, demonstrating meaningful engagement with mana whenua.
- Waitaki: The unveiling of a plaque featuring a waiata by local artist Liz McAuliffe celebrates local culture and identity.
- Invercargill: The Matariki community artwork created with a local artist highlighted the significance of kanakana (lamprey) for mana whenua and strengthened cultural understanding.



Reduced Isolation and Loneliness – Libraries as inclusive, welcoming places

- Central Otago: Dementia-friendly resources and inclusive programming ensure all community members feel welcome and supported.
- Invercargill: Programmes such as Strength and Balance and Family History Month bring people together and reduce isolation.
- Queenstown Lakes: Senior movie events and themed community activities foster connection and belonging across age groups.





FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



I am pleased to present the Treasurer's Report for the budget year ending 30 June 2025.

This year, PLNZ continued to operate with financial prudence while delivering its strategic goals. The organisation achieved a modest surplus of \$12,135.

Revenue

Total revenue for the year was \$454,665, sourced primarily from:

- Membership fees and subscriptions: \$195,525
- National Forum and sponsorship: \$177,532
- Remaining NZLPP funds: \$71,415
- Investment (Interest) income: \$10,194

While overall revenue decreased slightly from the previous year (\$480,633 in 2024), the organisation maintained strong income from core activities, particularly membership and sponsorship.

Expenses

Total expenses amounted to \$449,232, with key areas of expenditure including:

- Employee remuneration and contractor fees: \$177,580
- National Forum expense: \$138,005
- PLNZ Projects (e.g., NZLPP, Love Your Library portal, Tūmatakahuki te Tāngata): \$97,373
- General operating expenses: \$36,273

Conclusion

PLNZ experienced a net cash outflow of \$51,331, primarily due to reduced grant income and increased prepayments in the prior year. The reduction in project expenses compared to the previous year reflects the completion or winding down of NZLPP projects.

PLNZ will need to continue to show strong financial stewardship, balancing investment in strategic initiatives with careful cost management with any new initiatives requiring new funding to support these.

The modest surplus and stable reserves position the organisation well for the coming year, as it continues to advocate for and support public libraries across Aotearoa New Zealand.

Ngā mihi

Judy Ryder
Treasurer

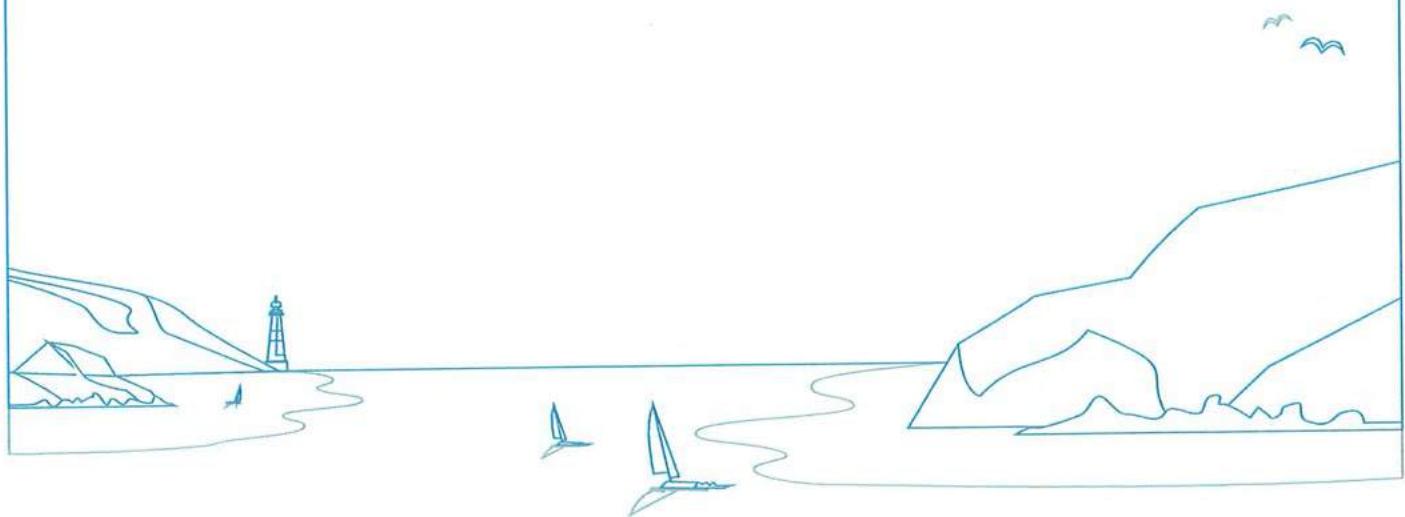


DM&Co.

Public Libraries New Zealand

Financial Report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 June 2025



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Entity Information

Public Libraries New Zealand For the year ended 30 June 2025

1. Legal Name & Type of Entity

The Association of Public Library Managers Incorporated is a registered charity and Incorporated Society.

2. Registration Number

CC51415

3. Entity's Mission

To support the development of consistently excellent public library services throughout Aotearoa New Zealand.

4. Entity's Structure

Our Executive Committee controls the affairs of the Association. The Committee consists of three executive officer positions (chair, chair elect/immediate past chair and treasurer) elected by all members with voting rights and six regional representatives elected at a local level.

Our operations are managed by our Executive Director (ED). Contractors are engaged by the ED as required to provide services that assist with programme delivery. In addition our members and volunteers support us with a range of projects and events throughout the year.

5. Entity's Governance Arrangements

The organisation is governed by a voluntary Executive Committee, chosen by our members (with the exception of the Executive Director, a part-time paid position) consisting of:

Chair
Elect/Immediate Past Chair
Executive Director
Treasurer
2 Maori Advisors
7 Regional Representatives

6. Entities Controlled by the Entity for Financial Reporting Purposes

There are no other entities controlled by the organisation.

7. Source & Methods of Obtaining Cash, Resources

Main Sources of Income

We are funded through a mixture of membership fees and self-generated revenue.

Volunteer Involvement

Volunteers contribute to all significant projects as required, including the governance of the Association.

8. Contact Details

Postal Address: PO Box 1138, Manners Street, Wellington 6142

Phone: 022 643 8579

Email: info@publiclibraries.org.nz

Website: www.publiclibraries.org.nz

Statement of Service Performance

Public Libraries New Zealand For the year ended 30 June 2025

The objectives of Public Libraries New Zealand (PLNZ) as per our Constitution are:

1. To determine and communicate the views of PLNZ to stakeholders, local government, national government, and the wider public.
2. To advocate the role and contributions that public libraries make to Aotearoa New Zealand society and the information economy.
3. To articulate the strategic direction for the public libraries of Aotearoa New Zealand.
4. To develop and foster strong relationships with stakeholders and strategic partners that will benefit public libraries and the communities they serve.
5. To promote the development of public library resources and services across Aotearoa New Zealand.
6. To promote equity of public library service for all New Zealanders.

Our Objectives

Objective 1

To determine and communicate the views of PLNZ to stakeholders, local government, national government, and the wider public.

The views of PLNZ reflect and are responsive to its membership which was:

PLNZ membership	2021/22 (Members)	2022/23 (Members)	2023/24 (Members)	2025/26 (Members)
Full Members	65	65	66	66
Additional Members	230	303	353	369
Associate Members	2	2	4	6

PLNZ communicated with the following organisation during the year:

PLNZ communicated with	2021/22 (Contacts)	2022/23 (Contacts)	2023/24 (Contacts)	2024/25 (Contacts)
Non-members	207	496	457	526
Local Councils	58	176	133	136
Media	3	14	14	14
Industry stakeholders, including sponsors and suppliers	136	302	310	172

Objective 2

To advocate the role and contributions that public libraries make to Aotearoa New Zealand society and the information economy.

PLNZ advocated for the role and contribution of public libraries through the distribution of the annual Analysis and Insight report on library performance as follows:

Distribution of Analysis & Insight report to	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Library Managers	65	66	66	66

Library 2IC & Emerging leaders	221	19	32	362
Local Council Mayors & CEOs	-	127	132	136
Stakeholders, Suppliers, Sponsors	2	-	8	68

Objective 3

To articulate the strategic direction for the public libraries of Aotearoa New Zealand.

The annual National Forum event convened by PLNZ provides a forum for articulating the current and emerging strategic directions in the New Zealand public library sector. Participation with this event has been as follows:

Participation in National Forum	2021/22 (17-18 August 2022)	2022/23 (3 - 4 May 2023)	2023/24 (2 - 3 May 2024)	2024/25 (1-2 May 2025)
Delegates (in person)	101	112	125	121
Delegates (virtual)	4	4	13+	23+
Sponsors	13	21	34	31
Speakers	10	9	17	15

Objective 4

To develop and foster strong relationships with stakeholders and strategic partners that will benefit public libraries and the communities they serve.

PLNZ has actively engaged with the following stakeholders and strategic partners in collaborative activities and/or formal partnership projects:

Strategic Partnerships	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA)			✓	
Coalition for Books			✓	
Digital Equity Coalition Aotearoa (DECA)			✓	
Library and Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa (LIANZA)	✓	✓	✓	
Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ)	✓	✓	✓	
Ministry of Social Development (MSD)			✓	
National Library of New Zealand (NLNZ)	✓	✓	✓	
New Zealand Society of Authors (NZSA)	✓	✓	✓	
School Library Association of New Zealand Aotearoa (SLANZA)	✓	✓	✓	
Taituarā (Association of Local Government Managers)	✓	✓		
Te Rōpū Whakahau				
The Values Trust			✓	

Toitū te Mātauranga				✓	
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Objective 5

To promote the development of public library resources and services across Aotearoa New Zealand.

PLNZ has actively used its website and social media to engage with members and the wider community to promote public libraries as follows:

Engagement through	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Visits to PLNZ website	13,000+	18,522	8600+	
Facebook followers	4,140	4,500+	4,517	5,527
Twitter (X) followers	296	790	765	
LinkedIn followers				213

Objective 6

To promote equity of public library service for all New Zealanders.

PLNZ has actively promoted equity of library service for all New Zealanders through its Fine Free Aotearoa campaign and the Fine Free Aotearoa Toolkit (<https://finefreeaotearoa.org.nz/>). The number of libraries which have discontinued overdue charges were:

Overdue charges discontinued for	2021/22 (Libraries)	2022/23 (Libraries)	2023/24 (Libraries)	2024/25 (Libraries)
Youth members	54	59	62	64
Adult members	23	38	51	60

As at 30 June 2025, a total of:

- 3 libraries have discontinued overdue charges for youth members (95% of all New Zealand public libraries), and
- 13 libraries have discontinued overdue charges for adult members (78% of all New Zealand public libraries).

Statement of Financial Performance

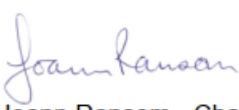
Public Libraries New Zealand
For the year ended 30 June 2025

	NOTES	2025	2024
Revenue			
General Grants	1	-	3,841
Government Service Delivery Grants/Contracts	1	71,415	113,474
Interest, Dividends & Other Investment Revenue	1	10,194	12,563
Membership Fees & Subscriptions	1	195,525	185,550
Revenue from Commercial Activities	1	177,532	165,205
Total Revenue		454,665	480,633
Less Expenses			
Employee Remuneration & Other Related Services	2	177,580	166,789
Expenses Related to Commercial Activities	2	138,005	128,643
Other Expenses Related to Service Delivery	2	90,672	127,903
Other Expenses	2	36,273	32,943
Total Less Expenses		442,530	456,277
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		12,135	24,356

Statement of Financial Position

Public Libraries New Zealand
As at 30 June 2025

	NOTES	30 JUN 2025	30 JUN 2024
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash & Short-Term Deposits	3	105,119	156,451
Debtors & Prepayments	3	18,566	93,541
Investments	3	112,005	106,590
Total Current Assets		235,690	356,582
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant & Equipment	5	98	195
Total Non-Current Assets		98	195
Total Assets		235,788	356,777
Less Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Creditors & Accrued Expenses	4	21,245	85,174
Deferred Income	4	-	71,415
Employee Costs Payable	4	9,475	7,254
Total Current Liabilities		30,719	163,843
Total Less Liabilities		30,719	163,843
Net Assets		205,069	192,934
Accumulated Funds			
Accumulated Surpluses (or Deficits)		205,069	192,934
Total Accumulated Funds		205,069	192,934


Joann Ransom

11/12/2025

Joann Ransom - Chair


11/12/2025

Robert Baigent
Immediate Past Chair

Statement of Cash Flows

Public Libraries New Zealand
For the year ended 30 June 2025

	2025	2024
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Cash was received from:		
General Grants	-	3,841
Gross Sales from Commercial Activities	177,503	169,585
Interest, Dividends & Other Investment Receipts	10,194	12,563
Membership Fees & Subscriptions	195,525	185,550
Other Cash Received	7,445	2,885
Total Cash was received from:	390,666	374,424
Cash was distributed to:		
Employee Remuneration & Other Related Payments	175,478	159,519
Payments Related to Commercial Activities	131,457	131,347
Other Payments Related to Service Delivery	93,245	140,439
Other Payments	36,402	37,174
Total Cash was distributed to:	436,582	468,478
Total Cash Flows from Operating Activities	(45,916)	(94,055)
Cash Flows from Other Activities		
Cash was received from:		
Sale of Investments	-	149,951
Total Cash was received from:	-	149,951
Cash was distributed to:		
Payments to Purchase Investments	5,415	-
Total Cash was distributed to:	5,415	-
Total Cash Flows from Other Activities	(5,415)	149,951
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash	(51,331)	55,897
Bank Accounts and Cash		
Opening Cash Balance	156,451	100,554
Net Change in Cash for Period	(51,331)	55,897
Closing Cash Balance	105,119	156,451

Statement of Accounting Policies

Public Libraries New Zealand For the year ended 30 June 2025

Statement of Accounting Policies

Reporting Entity

These Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the rules of the Association and generally accepted accounting practice.

The Association of Public Library Managers Incorporated has been incorporated pursuant to the Incorporated Societies Act 1908.

The accounting principles recognised as appropriate for the measurement and reporting of earnings and financial position on an historical cost basis have been used, with the exception of certain items for which specific accounting policies have been identified.

Statement of Compliance and Basis of Preparation

The Association of Public Library Managers Incorporated has elected to apply Tier 3 (NFP) Public Benefit Entity Simple Format Reporting - Accrual (Not-For-Profit) on the basis that it does not have public accountability and has total annual expenses of equal to or less than \$5,000,000. All transactions in the Performance Report are reported using the accrual basis of accounting. The Performance Report is prepared under the assumption that the entity will continue to operate in the foreseeable future.

The Association of Public Library Managers Incorporated has elected to use Tier 3 reporting.

Changes in Accounting Policies

There have been no changes in accounting policies during the financial year (Prior year: nil).

Presentation Currency and Rounding

The financial statements are presented in New Zealand dollars (\$) and rounded to the nearest dollar.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Bank accounts and cash in the Statement of Cash Flows comprise cash balances and bank balances (including short term deposits) with original maturities of 90 days or less.

Term Deposits

All term deposits are initially recognised at cost, being the fair value of the consideration given. After initial recognition the financial instruments are defined as financial assets at amortised cost.

Depreciation

Depreciation of property, plant and equipment, other than freehold land, is calculated based on the useful life of the assets held. The following rates have been used:

Account	Method	Rate
Website	Diminishing Value	50%
Plant & Equipment	Diminishing Value	50%
Leasehold Improvements	Straight Line	10%

Accounts Receivable

Accounts Receivable are stated at their estimated realisable value. Bad debts are written off in the year in which they are identified.

Financial Liabilities

The Company's financial liabilities include trade and other payables, which are measured at fair value.

Revenue

Revenue from Goods and Services

Revenue from goods and services is measured at the fair value of consideration of received or receivable.

Revenue from Subscriptions

Revenue from subscriptions is recognised on an accrual basis.

Income Tax

Under Sections CW 42 of the Income Tax Act 2007 The Association of Public Library Managers Incorporated is exempt from income tax on business income derived for charitable purposes in New Zealand. The Association of Public Library Managers Incorporated is also exempt from income tax on income under CW 41 of the Income Tax Act 2007. The Association of Public Library Managers Incorporated is registered with Charities Services. The date of registration was 27th January 2015.

Goods and Services Tax

These Financial Statements have been prepared on a GST exclusive basis with the exception of Accounts Receivable and Accounts Payable as the entity is registered for GST.

Notes to the Performance Report

Public Libraries New Zealand
For the year ended 30 June 2025

	THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR
1. Analysis of Revenue		
General Grants		
Grant Income Received	-	3,841
Total General Grants	-	3,841
Government Service Delivery Grants/Contracts		
NZLPP Income	62,100	95,055
NZLPP Admin Fee	9,315	18,418
Total Government Service Delivery Grants/Contracts	71,415	113,474
Interest, Dividends & Other Investment Revenue		
Interest Received	10,194	12,563
Total	10,194	12,563
Membership Fees & Subscriptions		
Subscriptions Received	195,525	185,550
Total	195,525	185,550
Revenue from Commercial Activities		
Advertising Revenue	1,696	1,383
National Forum Dinner Registrations	8,019	6,035
National Forum Refunds Admin Fee	87	-
National Forum Registrations	56,980	54,787
National Forum Sponsorship	110,750	103,000
Total	177,532	165,205
Total Analysis of Revenue	454,665	480,633
	THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR
2. Analysis of Expenses		
Employee Remuneration & Other Related Expenses;		
ACC Levies	-	61
Salaries	89,115	83,401
Salaries (Contractors)	88,465	83,327
Total	177,580	166,789
Expenses Related to Commercial Activities		
National Forum Expenses	138,005	128,643
Total	138,005	128,643
Other Expenses Related to Service Delivery		
Key Activity: Fine Free Aotearoa	-	360
Marketing & Communications	-	3,000
Meetings & Conferences	-	3,146
NZLPP Travel Grant Expenses	-	3,841

	THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR
NZLPP Project Expenses	62,100	95,055
Smart Data & Advocacy Portal	9,822	-
Project: Tumatakahuki te Tangata	18,750	22,500
Total Other Expenses Related to Service Delivery	90,672	127,903
Other Expenses		
Accountancy Fees/Xero	3,593	3,510
Annual Report	-	500
Audit/Review Fee	6,673	6,012
Bank Fees & Charges	255	119
Computer & Application Expenses	(23)	544
Depreciation	98	195
Executive Committee Expenses	8,546	6,099
Fundraising Expenses	200	-
General Expenses	60	44
Insurance	2,692	3,404
Office Costs	3,120	2,950
Postage	243	243
Subscriptions & Licences	9,062	7,430
Teleconferencing	270	273
Telephone	-	131
Translation Service	-	70
Travel Expenses	-	254
Website Hosting/Domain Name	1,484	323
Website Maintenance	-	840
Total	36,273	32,943
Total Analysis of Expenses	442,530	456,277

3. Analysis of Assets

	THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR
Cash & Short-Term Deposits		
ASB Cheque Account	11,287	11,261
ASB Debit Card - Bernie Hawke	4,000	136
ASB Fastsaver	89,832	145,054
Total	105,119	156,451
Debtors & Prepayments		
Accounts Receivable	33	1,429
GST Receivable	44	16,618
Prepayments	18,489	75,494
Total	18,566	93,541

	THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR
Investments		
ASB Operational Reserve (Term Deposit 75)	55,801	52,847
ASB Operational Reserve (Term Deposit 82)	56,204	53,743
Total	112,005	106,590
Total Analysis of Assets	235,690	356,582

	THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR
4. Analysis of Liabilities		
Creditors & Accrued Expenses		
Accountants Accruals	8,287	8,838
Accounts Payable	6,409	76,337
Sundry Payables	6,548	-
Total Creditors & Accrued Expenses	21,245	85,174
Deferred Revenue		
Income in Advance	-	71,415
Total Deferred Revenue	-	71,415
Employee Costs Payable		
Annual Leave Accrual	9,475	7,254
Total Employee Costs Payable	9,475	7,254
Total Analysis of Liabilities	30,719	163,843

5. Property, Plant and Equipment

This Year					
Asset Class	Opening Carry Amount	Purchases	Sales/Disposals	Depreciation and Impairment	Closing Carrying Amount
Plant & Equipment	183			92	92
Website	12			6	6
Total	195			98	98

Last Year					
Asset Class	Opening Carrying Amount	Purchases	Sales/Disposals	Depreciation and Impairment	Closing Carrying Amount
Plant & Equipment	366			183	183
Website	24			12	12
Total	391			195	195

6. Accumulated Funds

This Year				
Description	Capital Contributed by Owners or Members	Accumulated Surpluses or Deficits	Reserves	Total
Opening Balance		192,934		192,934
Capital contributed by owners or members				
Capital returned to owners or members				
Surplus/(Deficit)		12,135		12,135
Distributions paid to owners or members				
Transfer to Reserves				
Transfer from Reserves				
Closing Balance		205,069		205,069

Last Year				
Description	Capital Contributed by Owners or Members	Accumulated Surpluses or Deficits	Reserves	Total
Opening Balance		168,578		168,578
Capital contributed by owners or members				
Capital returned to owners or members				
Surplus/(Deficit)		24,356		24,356
Distributions paid to owners or members				
Transfer to Reserves				
Transfer from Reserves				
Closing Balance		192,934		192,934

7. Audit of Accounts

These Financial Statements have been subject to an audit, please refer to the Auditor's Report.

8. Transactions with Related Parties

There was no related party transactions (Prior year: nil).

9. Contingent Liabilities and Guarantees

There are no contingent liabilities or guarantees as at balance date (Prior year: nil).

10. Events After Balance Date

There were no events that have occurred after the balance date that would have a material impact on the Performance Report.

Independent auditor's report

To the Members of The Association of Public Library Managers Incorporated

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying performance report of The Association of Public Library Managers Incorporated on pages 2 to 16, which comprises the entity information, the statement of service performance, the statement of financial performance and statement of cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2025, the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2025, and the statement of accounting policies and notes to the performance report, including material accounting policy information.

In our opinion:

a) the accompanying performance report presents fairly, in all material respects:

- the entity information for the year then ended
- the service performance for the year then ended in that the service performance information is appropriate and meaningful and prepared in accordance with the entity's measurement bases or evaluation methods, and
- the financial position of The Association of Public Library Managers Incorporated as at 30 June 2025, and its financial performance, and cash flows for the year then ended

in accordance with the XRB's Tier 3 (NFP) Standard issued by the New Zealand Accounting Standards Board.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit of the statement of financial performance, statement of financial position, statement of cash flows, statement of accounting policies and notes to the performance report in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand) (ISAs (NZ)), and the audit of the entity information and statement of service performance in accordance with the ISAs (NZ) and New Zealand Auditing Standard (NZ AS) 1 (Revised) *The Audit of Service Performance Information*. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the performance report' section of our report.

We are independent of The Association of Public Library Managers Incorporated in accordance with Professional and Ethical Standard 1 (Revised) 'Code of ethics for assurance practitioners' issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other than our capacity as auditor we have no relationship with, or interests in, The Association of Public Library Managers Incorporated.

The Board's responsibilities for the performance report

The Board are responsible for:

- a) The preparation, and fair presentation of the performance report in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework;
- b) The selection of elements/aspects of service performance, performance measures and/or descriptions and measurement bases or evaluation methods that present service performance

- information that is appropriate and meaningful in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework;
- c) The preparation and fair presentation of service performance information in accordance with the entity's measurement bases or evaluation methods, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework;
 - d) The overall presentation, structure and content of the service performance information in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework; and
 - e) Such internal control as the Board determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a performance report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the performance report, the Board are responsible on behalf of The Association of Public Library Managers Incorporated's for assessing The Association of Public Library Managers Incorporated's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Board either intend to liquidate The Association of Public Library Managers Incorporated or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the performance report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the performance report is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (NZ) and NZ AS 1 (Revised) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the decisions of users taken on the basis of the performance report.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (NZ) and NZ AS 1 (Revised), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the performance report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of The Association of Public Library Managers Incorporated's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Obtain an understanding of the process applied by the entity to select its elements/aspects of service performance, performance measures and/or descriptions and the measurement bases or evaluation methods.
- Evaluate whether the selection of elements/aspects of service performance, performance measures and/or descriptions and measurement bases or evaluation methods present an appropriate and meaningful assessment of the entity's service performance in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.
- Evaluate whether the service performance information is prepared in accordance with the entity's measurement bases or evaluation methods, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting by the Board and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our report to the related disclosures in the performance report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our report. However, future events or conditions may cause the entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the performance report, including the disclosures, and whether the performance report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Board regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

This report is made solely to the members of The Association of Public Library Managers Incorporated. Our audit has been undertaken so that we might state to the members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the members for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Moore Markhams Wellington Audit | Qualified Auditors, Wellington, New Zealand
12 December 2025

Independent auditor's report

To the Members of The Association of Public Library Managers Incorporated

Opinion

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Basis for Opinion

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- information that is appropriate and meaningful in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework;
- c) The preparation and fair presentation of service performance information in accordance with the entity's measurement bases or evaluation methods, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework;
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Moore Markhams

Moore Markhams Wellington Audit | Qualified Auditors, Wellington, New Zealand
15 December 2025

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SPONSORS



The 2024/25 year has been another milestone in the PLNZ journey, one made possible through the continued support of our valued sponsors and partners.

Your commitment to our vision and your generosity help bring the National Forum to life each year, creating opportunities for connection, innovation, and shared impact across Aotearoa's public libraries.

Ngā mihi nui for being part of our story and for helping us build stronger, more connected library communities. We look forward to continuing this partnership in the year ahead.



James Bennett
YOUR SOLUTIONS PARTNER



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