

Arts & Culture

Community Outcomes

Mana Tangata/Social Well-being - Safe, connected communities where people feel happy and proud of where we live.

Mana Mauri / Cultural well-being - Creative, diverse communities that enhance the mauri of our people.

Why we do it

Arts, Culture and Heritage allows us to build creative, diverse communities and enables people to be connected and informed through opportunities to participate in creative outlets and by honouring and protecting the past. Professional support, coordination and facilitation for creative activities enhance our cultural diversity and District heritage services increase our communities' sense of identity and encourages the protection of our heritage.

Arts

What we do

We provide a point of co-ordination for the creative community and offer professional advice and facilitation to increase the visibility of art throughout the District. Established annual activities including the Council Art Lease Programme, curated exhibitions at community art galleries and a quarterly arts newsletter. On-going collaborative projects include the Taranaki National Art Awards, Arts in the Park, Paepae in the Park and the Creative Communities Funding Committee. Projects include public art, workshops and supporting performance and visual arts initiatives and groups, as well as building and sustaining relationships with regional art agencies and events, such as the Taranaki Arts Trail and Creative Taranaki.

Looking Ahead

While there is continued demand for more assistance it is not anticipated that there will be any increase in the level of service currently being provided. We will continue to deliver a range of events and activities and provide a point of co-ordination over the term of the Plan. We will work with the Lysaght Watt Art Gallery as it transitions to a new gallery space in Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga.

Heritage – Aotea Utanganui – Museum of South Taranaki

What we do

We partner with the South Taranaki District Museum Trust to provide District heritage services through the management of Aotea Utanganui Museum of South Taranaki. The Trust owns the Museum and the collection, and we manage the Museum operations through a formal partnership.

We provide professional advice and support to the Trust, as well as to individuals and groups that wish to preserve their tāonga, objects and archives. Through collaboration with Māori, we ensure history is preserved and showcased within the Museum. We actively promote the wider District's heritage, the Museum and its activities. There is also provision for travelling exhibitions around the District to take the Museum to the people.

Looking Ahead

There is an increasing expectation for heritage information to be available online and the Trust may need to seek funds in the future to achieve this.

The space available for archival materials has been increased significantly but, as clubs and organisations close, the demand for space to store records and memorabilia will continue to grow. There may be a need to consider providing more space for archive storage. The Trust has completed Stage Two, a large low-tech space suitable for housing and displaying larger collection items including agricultural machinery. Previously, many large pieces of the collection were held off site and this new building means the collection can all be onsite, and in the direct care of Trustees and staff.

LibraryPlus

What we do

Our seven LibraryPlus centres provide access to a wide range of free services, information and recreational resources to all residents. Services include literacy, housebound book service, local history and heritage, book clubs, activities and programmes for all age groups. They also provide local access to a range of Council services (such as dog registrations and rates payments) and a public space that is warm, safe and inviting. There are no overdue fees on any of the collections available from the LibraryPlus centres.

The libraries provide an online presence through www.southtaranaki.com, which enables borrowers to reserve and/or renew items, check the catalogue, access online newspapers, and other resources. Users can communicate with the libraries on Facebook. A partnership with the Aotearoa People's Network Kaharoa enables free internet access for all residents and visitors. We have a library management software service with the Stratford Library through a shared services agreement that allows users to seamlessly borrow from any South Taranaki or Stratford Library and return items to any branch.

Looking Ahead

Libraries, and the world they exist in, are in a transitional print/digital state and, particularly in smaller communities, this is likely to exist for many years to come despite the rapid pace of technological change. The range of ways people can use library resources both internally, and externally through digital access, is increasing. The drive for localism, will further impact on people's need to access information and connection at a local level.

The library as the *third place* is important for studying, business meetings and connection with people. The pandemic of recent years has seen people's desire for human connection increase, as the isolation of COVID restrictions reinforced the value of face-to-face contact. This is a worldwide trend we expect to continue.

While the trends might show fewer people borrowing physical items, interactions with our residents will be more time consuming and intensive as we play a greater role in educating and supporting the public to flourish in a hybrid digital world. There is an increasing push for people to access government services online and the use of eBooks and eAudio is increasing. At the same time, we are finding people have a desire for no-or-low tech programming and events. This means in coming years our LibraryPlus centres will maintain a diverse online presence, remain current with digital technologies, and ensure our event and programming schedule meets a wide range of needs. We will actively pursue partnerships with other organisations to enhance service delivery.

The building of Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga is underway; this is a multi-purpose district centre for Heritage, Arts, Library, Culture and Information in Hāwera. The facility will provide library, arts and cultural services to all of the District’s residents. It is anticipated that this facility will open in Spring 2024.

A Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) system is being implemented alongside the current barcode system and will offer another method of inventory management and self-service checkout by patrons. These systems have become less expensive as technology has improved and most libraries are moving in this direction, especially when extending or building libraries.

Key Projects

Description	Year	Total (\$)
Books and resources	Year 1 to 10	\$3.4m
Kaponga LibraryPlus	Years 4 & 5	\$102k
Self-checkout & Smart returns shelving for libraries	Year 1	\$26k

Non-Financial Performance Measures

LibraryPlus

Level of Service	Performance Measure <i>C=customer measure</i> <i>T=technical measure</i>	Target 2024/25	Target 2025/26	Target 2026/27	Target Years 4 - 10
LibraryPlus materials and resources are relevant to current information and leisure needs of the community.	(C) % of customers satisfied with materials, resources and information provided.	≥ 96%	≥ 96%	≥ 96%	≥ 96%

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