

## Late Council Agenda Item 2 – Visit from Libraries Board of SA

**REPORT TITLE:** Visit from Libraries Board of South Australia  
**DATE OF MEETING:** 12 October 2010  
**AUTHOR:** Janice Nitschke  
**AUTHOR'S TITLE:** Library Manager  
**FILE NUMBER:** Nil  
**ATTACHMENTS:** Nil

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### **PURPOSE**

To adopt the report presenting information on the visit from the Libraries Board of South Australia to the Robe Public Library.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**That Council adopt the report to Council as presented.**

### **BACKGROUND**

Prior to the Libraries Board of SA's visit I was requested to compile a presentation for the Board on the Robe Public Library. I have attached the complete report for your information.

Two key indicators requested were the

- Year in Review
- Strategic Focus for Library Services 2010-2011

#### Year in review

A review of the library and tourism services was undertaken and as a result of this review a management agreement was drawn up with Wattle Range Council.

The review was undertaken to address:

Management of the Information Centre, given there had been rapid changeover of staff

Ensure that emerging trends in libraries were taken on board and aligned to community and forward planning for the Robe Information Centre

Provide strategic management and overview of the Robe Information Centre

Instigate and Implement a change process at the Centre

Review the layout of the library and review the collection.

As a result of the collection analysis:

Weeding has commenced and the library is better for it.

Children's programs were implemented.

Volunteer's program implemented.

New Volunteers have commenced volunteering at the centre, supporting staff and the community.

Ability to support staff over lunch breaks and training.

#### Strategic focus for library service 2010-2011

The Robe Information Centre aims to provide and build on its current services to be a place where locals and tourists alike will be able to meet, participate in a variety of interesting educational programs, borrow books, CDs, videos, DVDs, or magazines participate in local history and be in a safe environment.

It is intended that community space will be developed: a social space. In order to do this a comprehensive weed will be undertaken and as of April 2010 has commenced. The weed is focusing on the requirements of the community and the close proximity of larger libraries and collections and the ability to borrow from those libraries through the library management system.

- Planning will include:  
Space for a business/computer center for word processing and research and computer learning/assistance.  
A small children's area including a craft/story room area, enabling children's programming  
  
A lounge area and Quiet study area.
- The layout will be reviewed and discussion is focused around shifting the library and the tourist centre in order to achieve a social space and community and lounge areas.
- Develop further children's services and activities leveraging off those held at the Millicent Public Library.
- Digitisation of Local (Social) History:  
Processing of all Local History resources and revamping of the display.  
Increase and train additional volunteers in the digitisation of the collection.  
Ensure that the history of Robe continues to be collected, made accessible, digitised and a discussion is held around collecting the oral history of the area and a strategy is put in place to collect.
- Continue to provide appropriate training for staff and enable them to be aware of and participate in network activities and programs.
- Continue with volunteer program and provide appropriate support and training.

Whilst Ms Wendy White was on leave the accreditation program for the Robe Visitor Centre along with supporting documentation was completed and the accreditation review undertaken by the SATC was successful. The accreditation enables us to display the Yellow i, receive brochures and pamphlets and be listed on the relevant websites along with \$6,000.

I also note that the two new staff members have settled in well and I compliment them on how they worked whilst Wendy was on leave, very obliging and professional. Several positive comments have been received.

It is pleasing to note the change in the Robe Information Centre brought about by the weeding project that has taken place. Already the Centre looks brighter and more inviting and many favourable comments have been received. Congratulations to all

concerned in what was a challenging process but well worth the effort. . This is but the first step in revamping the Centre.

An analysis of the loan figures indicates that there has been a 5% increase in loans with 4380 loans for the three months July to end of September and 35 new members have joined. 159 reservations were placed and 118 reservations issued. And 300 new titles were added to the collection of 11,615 items.