

Staffing

The new permanent Wairarapa Library Service Manager commenced her role on 26 February 2024. SWDC branches are continuing to operate on an amended schedule with each site closed one day a week and all sites open until midday Saturday. Tight permanent under-staffing continues to be mitigated through the employment of casual staff.

SWDC Library Review

The SWDC review of the Wairarapa Library Service (WLS) was positively received by the Strategy Working Committee Meeting on 10 April 2024.

Spydus 11 Upgrade

The current focus of WLS is the update of its library management system to Spydus 11. This update is coordinated with SMART consortium partners and system providers CIVICA. The upgrade will go live in early June 2024 and will provide an enhanced platform for staff and patrons.

Circulation

During 1 January to 30 March 2024 a total of 29,411 print items were issued across the WLS network. Of these SWDC branches issued 16,081 print items.

239 new members joined the WLS during 1 January to 30 March 2024 with 138 of these joining at SWDC libraries.

10,763 ebook, audiobook, and emagazine items were borrowed through WLS online platforms and 170 new devices connected to the WLS mobile app during 1 January to 31 March 2024.

Programming

All libraries were busy with activities and events over the 1 January to 31 March period including regular children's sessions of Wā Kōrero, Build with Bricks, and class visits. Community Group Divine River also ran Creativity and Connection workshops for youth in February attended by 51 young people.

The WLS collaboration with Wai Word continues to provide quality author talks and literacy events in its libraries and during March WLS also partnered with Aratoi to bring a pop up museum to the Featherston Library. Further pop up museums will be staged at the remaining WLS sites over 2024.

Budget

The WLS budget is on target for the end of the financial year.