

Palmerston North Public/City Library: Historical Highlights

1876	'Reading Room' - 1 st public library - located in the Town Hall (Corner of The Square and Fitzherbert Ave.)
1879	Borough Council assumed responsibility for the public library after a ratepayer poll strongly supported such action
1885	Town Hall building destroyed by fire
1890-1894	Public library collection is deposited with Palmerston North Working Men's Club
1894-1900	Subscription library run by the PN Volunteer Fire Brigade (Coleman Place)
1900	2 nd public library housed in the Colonial Bank building (site of the current Square Edge)
1905	3 rd public library 'relegated' to the Municipal Council offices (Main St.)
1910	Andrew Carnegie, American philanthropist, rejects funding request of the Palmerston North Borough Council.
1929	4 th public library built on the site of the first public library after the destruction of the Occidental Hotel by fire (Corner of The Square and Fitzherbert Ave.)
1938	City Council abolishes the subscription system and introduces 'free' membership for all residents of the city
1952	First branch library established at Roslyn
1956	Takaro & Hokowhitu Branches opened
1965	5 th public library (i.e. Central Library) opened (Corner of The Square and Main St.)
1966	Roslyn Branch Library re-sited at Corner of Tremaine Ave and Vogel Street
1967	Mobile Library service initiated
1968	Takaro & Hokowhitu branch libraries closed
1972	Housebound service launched
1973	2 nd Mobile Library launched
1979	Public Library's circulation system computerised
1987	Awapuni Branch Library established at Pitama Road shopping complex
1989	Ashhurst Community Library becomes a responsibility (previously known as the Ashhurst Public Library - 1899) 3 rd Mobile Library launched
1990	City Library contracted to provide library service to the Manawatu Prison (Linton) Archives transfers to the Central Library
1996	6 th public library (i.e. Central Library) established in the CM Ross building. City Library launches its own website
1997	Issues for year exceed 1.5 million for the first time
2002	Mobile/Branch library revitalisation project begins Roslyn Branch Library celebrates 50 years of service
2003	Community Languages collection launched
2004	Palmerston North City Library turns 125 years old
2004	Visits for year exceed 1 million for the first time