

Our City

Introduction

As part of the planning process we have identified a number of City operating principles, trends and changes in Palmerston North that impact on the City Library's service environment. To meet these changes the Library must adapt to meet the challenge.

Demographics

Currently, Palmerston North has an estimated population of 77,100. This is projected to grow by 8,000 to 10,000 over the next ten years. During this period there will be a significant increase in the elderly and catering for their needs will require more of the City's resources. Palmerston North's educational institutions have a long tradition in attracting students to the City for education resulting in a disproportional population in the 15 to 24 years range requiring education and recreational support and services. Palmerston North is a culturally diverse City with more than 100 nationalities adding to the multicultural mix. The City has a tradition of active support of ethnic groups and encouragement of their participation in the City. The City has a large and growing population of Maori children under 15 years old requiring educational and recreational support.

A Digital Future

There is an increasing emphasis on accessing digital information for day-to-day living and business needs. So much so, that success in the future will be obtained by access to and use of digital information. This knowledge-based revolution is dramatically changing our skill requirement and the nature of how we obtain and process information. Palmerston North with an educated workforce is in a position to exploit this revolution.

Social Inequalities

There is inequality in the City between those who have access to services and information and those who do not. While this divide is principally based on income, there are other factors such as literacy and health that can contribute to inequalities. The vulnerability of those residents who do not have access to educational and recreational services, will increase as our dependence on digital information becomes more widespread.

A Culture of Reading and Literacy

It is believed that Palmerston North has a largely literate population requiring easy and on-going access to a range of material in varying formats for education and entertainment. In the future there will be increasing demand from a growing and diverse population (see demographics).

Local Information

Palmerston North has a rich and diverse history from both Maori and European times. As a City we also want access to local information that is current and forward looking/thinking. The challenge for the City is to have this information readily available, in an appropriate format and for easy retrieval, for not only the professional researcher, but also the local resident and the visitor to the city.