

Kuaotunu Library Committee Report for the public KRRR Meeting 7 January 2018.

Until April last year the Kuaotunu Community Library operated in the back of the hall where it was opened on Monday afternoons with the craft group managing it, under the very capable guidance of chairperson Jeannie Morton.

The library as it is today is very small, dark and not easily accessible and largely unknown by many in the community.

At the AGM of the KRRR April '17 The hall committee raised the question- *"Did the community required a library and if so would there be people willing to run it and where and when it would operate?"*.

This came about mainly and as previously discussed because

- TCDC had advised that they were concerned with the lack of patronage for the library and would withdraw the yearly funding unless it started to show more regular use,
- The craft group had expressed their wish that they no longer wanted to run it.
- The hall committee had advised it was no longer practical to have public access to the library

A large majority voted for a library and a steering committee was formed to continue the Kuaotunu Library which has been in existence since 1894.

At following meetings, the committee discussed what the preferences for a new library would be.

- To seek out an alternative site or building
- To be fit for the purpose
- To be easily accessible for both pedestrians and vehicles
- Be attractive and user friendly as well as meeting all council and health & safety requirements
- Ways to fundraise
- **Above all affordable.**

Over the last 9 months the committee has visited local libraries and are very grateful to the Town Library for their assistance and array of different genre of books they have given us for future use.

The Tairua Library has also been very generous in giving us an array of shelving.

We started fund raising with the Rock n Roll party in the town hall in conjunction with the KVFF; and the Meet the Authors & Artists evening in October. And I do add a big thank you to Isabel Gilbert Palmer and Marguerite Mullers especially for this very successful event, as well as the strong local support.

We have had meetings with TCDC and appreciate and thank them for their time and expertise in advising us on different sites around Kuaotunu. In September after looking at a site here at the hall they then suggested the underutilised changing rooms at the Domain could be a very good site for conversion.

After viewing this site, we were impressed with the potential of this building.

By removing the sports shed at one end there would be a floor space of 8.4m X 2.6m.

Following this idea, we are extremely grateful to the Domains Board who have generously granted us \$30 000 dollars toward this build. This would include removal of the existing storage shed, a refit of the building and installing new doors and windows, reroofing the whole building and adding a covered a wooden deck allowing for sheltered outside access and seating.

A new larger storage shed would be built on the south end for community sports gear and the food forest equipment.

We feel we have been diligent in sourcing all potential sites and building requirements and the benefits of this site are:

- Utilising an existing building – recycling!
- Identifiable as a library
- Aesthetically pleasing
- Easy access & existing parking
- No huge fund raising necessary
- Convenient area
- Up and running in a shorter time span
- TCDC support
- Public support from the KRRRA newsletter

Our thanks go to Dugald Hoyland who has been working with Scott Farrell & Heather Bruce TCDC and has produced a concept plan at their request which I have copies of for viewing.

We are still waiting for a reply from DOC to see if this project is possible on this land before we are able to venture further.

So with the continuing goodwill and support from our community we will hopefully achieve a new library facility of which we may all feel proud.

Maxine McRobbie