



CHRISTCHURCH SPECIAL NEEDS LIBRARY

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News from our Chair

Hello,

On Saturday 25 November we celebrated 40 years of service to the community from the Special Needs Library. The library has grown from a small classroom in Christchurch East School to the current building because of the efforts of a wonderful group of people.

We said goodbye to volunteers Henny and Rob Moot who contributed so much over the 40 years. There are not enough words to show our appreciation.

Goodbye to Carolyn Bentley, our every second Saturday staff coordinator, who has been a client and staff member. She now has a great full-time job and we wish her all the best. Frances will now work as coordinator every Saturday.

We are lucky to have a fundraiser courtesy of Desiree Moot. She decorates her home with her amazing Christmas lights collection and opens it to the public. Give your children a Christmas treat with a visit to 11 Tullamore Place, Casebrook which is open from 19 to 23 December from 7 to 11pm for a gold coin donation.

Thanks to the staff and volunteers for their valuable input over the year.

Wishing our families a very happy Christmas and great 2018!

Cheers, Gina M

New Resources



10354 Bead Chain in a Box

When the bead chain is touched, it triggers lights, music and vibrations. It helps teach cause and effect and increases visual, auditory and tactile sensory awareness.



10342 Mystery Sensory Balls

This set of six mirror balls look identical but all do different things such as wobbling, spinning rattling or not rolling in a straight line. The surface of the balls gives a distorted fish eye reflection. The balls encourage imagination.

Extended Opening Hours

We are pleased to announce our new opening hours for next year. For the first six months of the year we'll be trialling a late opening evening on Tuesdays with the library closing at 6.30pm instead of 4.30pm. This is in response to feedback from a number of clients who struggle to get into the library within the current hours. We'll be monitoring the popularity of this extension.

Holiday Closure

"The library is now closed for the year and we will re-open on Tuesday, 30th January.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT WITH RESOURCE ADVISOR CHARLOTTE

Hello everyone. Summer is definitely here and I hope it stays for the school holidays.

We have a large number of new resources which is exciting, ranging from new switching devices to an aromatherapy fan to highly sensory tactile items.

I have greatly enjoyed my time with each of you during the year and I look forward to assisting you again next year.

I would like to wish you all a wonderful and safe Christmas and summer holiday.

Charlotte 😊



Letter From Client Thanks Library For Inclusivity

This letter from a client shows that the library is doing more than just being a place to hire resources; it is also acting as an inclusive community space.

Hi Charlotte

Thank you so much for your support with Mark* this morning. It's so difficult juggling Mark's needs, which are always pressing, with the wants and needs of [his siblings] who often have their outings either cut short or not happen at all as a result of Mark being "out of sorts".

There is always hindsight and I perhaps should have not come into the library and gone home instead, but sometimes Mark will come around, and it is this unpredictability which makes seemingly simple outings so stressful. I find the hardest part of going out is often the perception I have that I'm being judged as a parent for the way I manage Mark - after all he appears very "normal", his disability cannot be seen. With the support of others, I'm learning (slowly) to let go of this perception. It is people like yourself, who are so accepting and embracing of Mark for who he is, that gives me the courage to engage in our local community. The SNL is one of the few places we can go where we always feel welcome, and not judged.

Thank you so much Charlotte, you are a gift to the children and parents that you support.

Kind regards, [Mark's mother]

*Name changed



10335 Matching Expressions

For emotional and social development, the wooden lotto tiles with facial expressions on, help users to learn about feelings and identify their own and other people's emotions.



10357 Cyclone

Whipping up glittery coloured shapes and sounds of wind, rain, thunder and music encourages visual attention, reaching and sensory stimulation.



10364 Aroma Therapy Fan

The fan blows out several different fragrances at the touch of a capability switch. This encourages sense of smell and improves sensory awareness.



40th Birthday Celebration

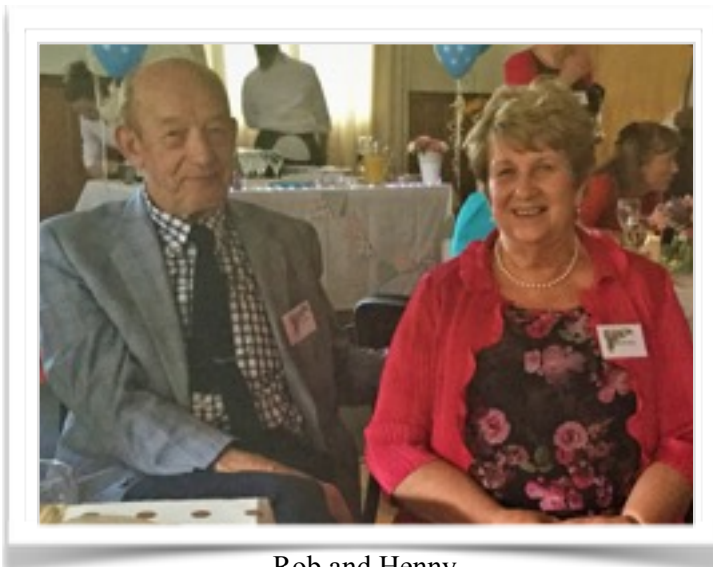
Above left: A delicious 40th birthday cake, donated by volunteer Sharon Sweetman, is ceremoniously cut by 40-year volunteer Henny Moot, patron Belinda Mortlock and chair Gina Mintrom. Above right: Volunteer twins Mandy and Vivien are carrying on the family connection with the library, taking over the cataloguing work done by their Aunt Henny over the past 40 years.



Arch and Anne



Simon and Tom



Rob and Henny



10360 Elmo Peak a Boo

Operated with a capability switch, Elmo, encourages imaginative play and social skills development. He giggles, moves his blanket up and down to hide his face and speaks 13 different phrases.



10343 Fresh Picked Fruit & Vege Tote

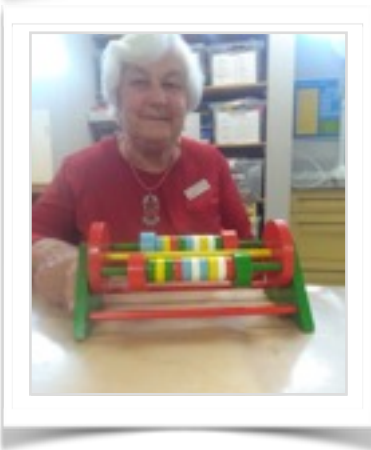
The canvas tote of fruit and vegetables encourages language development, dramatic play and social interaction including conversations about recycling and healthy food.



Entry to the Christmas House is a gold coin donation and the money raised this year will be shared with the Special Needs Library and Emmanuel Christian School.

WOODEN RESOURCES GIFTED BY WOODTURNERS' ASSOCIATION

Members of the Christchurch Woodturners' Association presented the library with a box-full of beautiful hand-crafted wooden resources. The items, which are still to be catalogued, were made by members including Ann and association president Rick (shown doing a handover to resource advisor Charlotte below left). They include a wooden naughts and crosses game, a spinning top and several colourful quoits-type resources. Many clients have commented on their preference for wooden resources, and, these will increase our collection.



Left: Long-time volunteer Ngaire Good comes across a wooden resource made for the library by her husband Fred 40 years ago. It's still in good working order!



Upland Unit

Staff and students of Hillmorton High School's Upland Unit pose for a photo with library staff after handing over a certificate of appreciation. The certificate thanks the Special Needs Library for its "invaluable contribution" to students and for "contributing to an inclusive society"

