



Vision for the Upper Riccarton Community / School Library

The Upper Riccarton Library will be an important community focal point for a catchment of about 30,000 residents from the Riccarton, Avonhead, Ilam, Sockburn, Wharenui and Wigram communities. The library will also be the Learning Information and Communication Centre (LINC) for the school population of approximately 1,100 students and staff.

The 1,500 square metre building will be located on the Riccarton High School grounds, fronting Main South Road. This location is central to the catchment area, close to the Church Corner and the Bush Inn shopping areas. It is within walking or biking distance from local schools, adjacent to informal local pathways and well serviced with public transport. The road frontage location will give excellent street visibility and will lend itself to drive-by library service. The Upper Riccarton Library will be enhanced by its placement on the green space that is part of the Riccarton High School grounds. The site will provide safe parking and safe access for cyclists and pedestrians.

The building will be light, lively and welcoming and will appeal to people of all ages and from a variety of backgrounds. It will have a high profile as both a school and community facility, and its location and design will attract and invite people to use it. It will provide a safe environment for the whole community it serves, particularly children and the elderly. Adequate ramps, automatic doors and external lighting will be important.

The library will offer a range of complementary opportunities. It will house a book and audio-visual collection of 50,000 items, and provide facilities for residents and students to study, access information, acquire information and communication technology (ICT) and information literacy (IL) skills. Customers may read, meet friends over coffee, listen to music or watch a video. Families will use the library to share learning and recreation experiences. Therefore, the environment will include areas for individual and small group study, comfortable furniture, a small café, and display areas for community artwork, notices and city information. Public toilets and a parenting room will be required.

Because it is also Riccarton High School's LINC centre, the library will connect well with other school buildings, providing easy access for students and staff. The extended school community will be eager to use this modern and inviting learning facility. The library will provide an ICT enriched, supportive learning environment for teachers and students. It will include four flexibly designed spaces (approximately 500 square metres in total), including a computer laboratory, which will accommodate 30 computers. These high-use school areas will be used for resourced based learning and IL programmes and will be an obvious place for community learning during out of school hours and school holidays.

A team of librarians and library assistants will provide the Upper Riccarton Library user groups with professional library and learning and information services. The team will work together to ensure friendly and quality service is delivered to the community and the school.

The final design will allow for spaces to be used flexibly and integrated and separated to suit the needs of the school and community.