

Friends of the Christchurch City Libraries - Strategic directions

Purpose:

Why are we here?

- Supporting the work of libraries
- Advocating the value of libraries
- Encouraging the use of libraries
- Promoting the visibility of libraries as a community asset and part of our cultural heritage
- Providing social connections for book and library lovers

Values:

What is really important to us?

- Being a non-profit organisation
- Having excellent library services for Christchurch
- Having libraries available for people of all ages to access
- Having a free public library service
- Being involved in library activities
- Being part of a literate community

Strategic goals:

What can we do to make a difference?

Making a voluntary contribution through:

- being involved in the annual booksale and any smaller sales held in community libraries
- delivering 'Books for babies' packs on a weekly basis to new mothers in hospital
- being prepared to write an article for the newsletter when requested
- promoting activities of the Friends to other members of the community informally
- participating in any new library initiatives that will benefit from an involvement of the Friends
- taking an active role on the committee

Advocating the value of libraries and exerting political influence through:

- Making submissions to the CCC Annual plan, and any other local government documentation requiring feedback
- Supporting groups with similar philosophies eg. Save our libraries

Highlighting literacy and reading through:

- presenting lunch time book talk sessions to showcase local authors. These sessions to be held on the first Tuesday of every month from March to October at Fendalton Library.
- providing members with a two page newsletter three times per year. Content to focus on activities for the Friends, and any developments in the library and

literary world. Suggestions to be put forward at committee level. Members to be asked for contributions. Newsletters to be posted

- promoting Friends' activities through brochures and fliers in libraries and via the library website

Enhancing the library experience through:

- supplying libraries with extra equipment or resource to make it easier for customers to access or use facilities eg. wheelchairs, trolley baskets, SMART reader, soft chairs. Criteria based on resource that is not provided via library budget. Friends will tell the library when they have money to distribute – usually once a year. Applications are prioritised and submitted via the Libraries Manager. Committee makes decision. Library purchases. Friends are acknowledged on the piece of equipment.
- donating a lump sum payment for any new library opened
- keeping a database of gifts made
- providing a social connection for people to interact and discuss the value of reading, books and libraries at meetings and other activities

Contributing to the financial well-being of the Friends through:

- fundraising for specific projects or services eg. Books for babies, ESOL material. This can include making applications to trusts and other community-based funding
- developing a list of potential sponsors from the local businesses community who could benefit from being associated with the Friends
- exploring opportunities for sponsorship eg newsletter, specific events
- retaining a structured membership fee due each year at the end of March

Promoting and extending our membership through:

- looking at how current information on the Friends is displayed and promoted at each library and on the library's website
- sharing information and strengthening relationships with other similar groups in the community eg. Friends of the Museum, Friends of the Art Gallery, Poets Society, Friends of the Hurunui Libraries
- negotiating with the library to continue having a Friends preview session at the annual book sale
- providing name badges for Friends to wear when involved in any specific events
- exploring possibility of a 'Friends' bookmark, information on date due receipts

Planning for future growth and development through:

- reviewing goals regularly
- encouraging the involvement of members in the various activities. This includes being on the committee
- having an interesting speaker at the AGM
- gaining feedback from members and library staff on a regular basis