



# From my ~~pen~~ paw: Welcome back!

It's been a bit of a break between newsletters (whaddaya mean you didn't notice??) so a new Editor has quietly taken the helm (moi!) and until I'm caught you will once again get all of the news that is fit to print from your local libraries. I'm a Library expert thanks to my job of sitting around on a shelf and watching what happens here - sometimes I'm called on to help with children's story sessions but otherwise my eyes are everywhere. Every two months I'll be putting together a collection of the latest news and goss for you to catch up on - and gee there is already so much to tell that it wouldn't all fit so I've already got an itchy paw to get the next one written...



Mr SnuggleGrump, your humble Editor

## Mobile Library rebuilt & re-launched



Selwyn's first Mobile Library hit the roads in 2001, housed in a 1987 bus imported from Japan and modified to hold books. The average lifespan of a busy mobile library bus is about 7 years, so time had well and truly come to check out how it was doing when Librarians came to this last year. It turns out the Mobile Library in Selwyn is very well used and appreciated so there was no question of stopping the service so eyes turned to the future. New buses are prohibitively expensive and even recent second-

hand models are in high demand so after two independent mechanical checks confirmed that the '87 bus was tired but in surprisingly good shape and likely to continue to serve well with due care, a re-fit was planned. Featuring striking new paintwork, 15% more space for books, door, carpets, seating, wall covering, air con, desk, lighting, stereo, skylights, generator, computer system, stairs, safety rail, passenger window, and more, the virtually new Library was officially launched by the Mayor in front of a large crowd in Rolleston on March 19th 2010.



Mayor Kelvin Coe and Mobile Librarian Anita Lewis cut the ribbon



### Library Buildings - update

With the booming use of public libraries, the Council's decision in 2008 to begin upgrading the library buildings in Selwyn is proving very timely. The new **Leeston Library** opened in April 2009, allowing many new types of use in the enlarged space and the number of books issued has increased 80% with the new people coming in to use it.

**Darfield Library** - as noted in *Council Call* this project has had a long gestation but is now moving quickly along. Detailed plans are nearly complete for the revamp and extension of the old Council service centre building and tenders will be requested from construction companies in April, with the building scheduled to open before the end of the year.

**Lincoln** - a site plan for the new building and associated features on Gerald street is being created currently for public consideration and, all going well, the new facility will open in 2011.

**Rolleston** - it is planned to enlarge or replace this library in 2013



Part of the new Leeston Library/Service Centre

### Interesting Statistics (yes, really!)

This is the fastest growing district in the country, with our population increasing at nearly 4% per year. With that in mind, look at the increase in use of the Selwyn Libraries - people are catching on to all the great things on offer!

	2008/9	2009/10	Change
Books etc issued	307323	330915	+7.6%
Visits	285267	318347	+11.6%
People joining the library	2649	2938	+10.8%

and that is on top of very large (15%) increases the year before!





# Expensive awesome internet stuff for FREE @ your Library

The internet is an amazing collection of stuff but sometimes when you want good quality information it can be really hard to find amongst all the dross and the really good stuff is often subscription only. Knowing this, the Library has subscribed to some brilliant stuff on your behalf and you can find it using the ONLINE tab on our library website [www.selwynlibrary.co.nz](http://www.selwynlibrary.co.nz).

Two examples of premium resources that you can access for free with your library card number and a PIN (call in at your library if you don't have a PIN yet) are:

## Ancestry.com and PressDisplay.

**Ancestry** is one of the world's leading resources for doing Family Histories and genealogical research. Search thousands of sources including censuses and shipping records, embarkation logs from airports, wartime movements, there are incredible depths of information here to be found. When you have a records to share about your family, you can add it to the online info and make it available for others to find! Ancestry has particular strengths in the UK and USA but records from other parts of the world continue to be added and NZ information is also beginning to appear.

**PressDisplay** offers live access to the latest copies of 1500 newspapers and magazines from around the world. You can read the entire thing online, all laid out exactly as if it were the printed version in front of you. From today's The Press or Sunday Star Times to The Times of London, the Washington Post, or South China Morning Post, you can have it all, as quickly as anyone in the world. All for free @ your library.



## FREE OFFER

### Library Membership

*Membership of the Library is free to people who live in Selwyn District. Join one branch and you join them all !*

*There are no age limits, from 1 day to 150 years, all are welcome!*

*Books, papers, magazines, CDs, DVDs, talking books, jigsaws, internet...*

**100,000 items, waiting for you!**

## Free Library Access at Waimate and Hurunui District Libraries

Selwyn Library has entered into a reciprocal membership arrangement with the Libraries in Waimate and the Hurunui District. This means that if you are a member of Selwyn Library and are spending some time in Waimate, or Cheviot or Hanmer or Amberley etc, you can sign up to use those libraries at no charge, using the same card! You just need to fill in your details for them and follow the borrowing rules for those Libraries - including the one about returning books to the library system you borrowed them from, eg not Rolleston!

Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog it's too dark to read. - Groucho Marx

## DiJaNo? Bite-size info nuggets

(get it? "Did You Know?")

- You can **rate and review books** in the Library catalogue—tell the world what you thought of the latest John Grisham or book on Buddhism - or find someone who has reviewed a book that you've read and see what else they recommend!  
<http://opac.selwyn.govt.nz> ★☆☆☆ 2 ratings Add your rating  
1 reviews
- The Libraries (except the Mobile bus) are all Council **Service Centres** as well so you can find SDC info, pay rates and water bills, register your dog and buy rubbish bags when collecting some books!
- The Library can now send you a reminder **email BEFORE books are due** - if you would like this, just ask to have it turned on for you at your local library!
- STROLL & CHAT is happening every 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month (during term time) at the Leeston Library/Service Centre - join us for a stroll around the area and for **guest speakers** (contact the library for times and dates)
- Join in with **free** Saturday weaving lessons at Leeston - call us for more info!

