



LOWER HUTT PLUNKET COMMUNITY TOY LIBRARY Newsletter

Epuni Performance Art Centre, Mitchell Street, Lower Hutt

lhtoylibrary@gmail.com

May/June 2010

 From our Chairperson, Megan Skelly:

Keeping our Toy Library Alive – We urgently require help

We are seeking members to join our committee. After many years of outstanding service, our Treasurer and Grants Officer are resigning later this year and we will be sorry to see them move on. The good news is that we have found someone keen to take on the role of Treasurer. Many thanks to Jeremy Trotter for offering to do this. We are still looking for someone to step up and be our new Grants Officer. Can you help? A brief description of this role can be found in this newsletter. Full training and mentoring will be given and I can speak from experience when I say there will be a few laughs along the way being trained by Tasha! We require more people to join our committee. It involves one meeting a month plus an hour or two here and there doing various things. You get the chance to improve the library so it works better for both you and your children. Plus, you don't have to do duties! Please give this serious consideration. The toy library is not a business, it's run by members for the benefit of members. If members are not willing to help run the library, then it will cease to exist. If you want to know more or are keen to come along to a committee meeting to have a look, please call Megan on 970-6715 (evening is best).

OPENING HOURS

Wednesday	9:15 – 11:15 am
Wednesday	7:00 – 8:30 pm
Saturday	10:00 – 12 noon

Please ensure that you arrive with plenty of time to get your toys returned and new toys issued as no toys will be issued to those who arrive in the last ten minutes of the session.

Win Toys for Your Library
... Simply complete a survey ...
See page 4

Contacting the toy library outside library hours

If you need to contact the toy library to advise us about broken or missing toy pieces or for general enquiries, remember you can email us at lhtoylibrary@gmail.com

**Changes to membership
and toy rental period,
see page 5**

INSIDE THIS EDITION:

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- Why do they do that?? - Intro to Schema
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Hate Queues???? Like to browse in peace???
Wednesday mornings are a nice quiet time to come to your Toy Library!

Library Hours – What do you think?

Do the library hours suit you? What changes would you suggest? If hours were extended, what would you prefer: nights, weekdays, weekends?? We would love your feedback so please drop us a line and let us know what you think: lhtoylibrary@gmail.com

Dropping off Toys? – Please stick around!

When returning toys to the library, please wait until they are checked and counted. That way any questions or issues can be addressed straight away. If you are not around the librarians will need to contact you, and that makes things harder for all concerned.

Why do they do that?

Have you noticed your child passionately repeating a particular theme in their play? Like my son, who currently seems obsessed by burying items under cushions and blankets, stashing toys in bags, and painting one colour on top of the other. Perhaps you are wondering what this odd repetitive and almost obsessive (at least from a parents perspective) is all about.

Such behaviour can often be explained as your child exploring a Schema. Schemas are repeating patterns in children's play. 'A thread of thought which is demonstrated by repeated actions and patterns in children's play or art'. Becoming a schema spotter can help you better understand some of the more perplexing aspects of your child's play, and importantly, help you support their play through providing appropriate play opportunities, including TOYS! Here are some of the common schemas, but don't be surprised if your keen observation leads you to define a brand new one unique to your child!

Transporting – moving objects from one place to another in trucks, bags, buggies etc.

Assembling – gathering things together in ordered piles or random heaps.

Circular, Rotation – circles in painting, turning knobs and taps, running in circles, fascination with wheels, cogs etc.

Enclosure – Builds enclosures with blocks, lego etc. Drawing borders around pictures. Painting over thing. Covering dolls, bears, etc.

Ordering and Sorting – Ordered lines, dabs, sequencing colours and sizes.

Enveloping – Objects, space or child themselves is completely covered. Can be seen in children who paint themselves top to toe given the chance!

Containing – Fills, puts objects and materials into containers.

Transforming – Interest in materials that change shape, colour, consistency e.g. ice melting, food cooking, balloons being blown up and deflated.

There are more. The key is to look for a repeated theme. Children will work through a schema and move onto another. Just go with the flow and let them work at their own pace.

NEW TOYS

Recently Added:

- ★ Costumes: Bella dress, a Queen dress, a Prince costume, the lizard cape, and a swan fairy and spring fairy.
- ★ Singalong Star Microphone (M003);
- ★ Littlest Pet Shop(LPS) Get Better Centre(T008)
- ★ LPS Paw Power Car(T011)
- ★ My Little Pony (MLP) Ponyville Ferris Wheel(T009).

Coming Soon:

- ★ FP Little People Airport(T010),
- ★ Little Tikes Excavator(V002),
- ★ MLP Ponyville Gumball House(T012),
- ★ Rock Star Guitar(M004)
- ★ ELC Emergency Service Centre(P004)
- ★ Thomas Roundhouse(E876).



Littlest Pet Shop(LPS) Get Better Centre(T008)



FP Little People Airport(T010)



My Little Pony (MLP) Ponyville Ferris Wheel(T009).

Sneaky Little Toys

Every now and then a toy comes back with a Stowaway or two – toys that do not belong to the Toy Library. Please check the shelf above the librarians desk to see if any of your toys have escaped and need a ride home!

Meet your Committee – Grants Officer – Tasha Black

1. What is involved?

I write the grant applications so we have extra money for high quality toys and other things like sturdy containers, post-paid envelopes and labelling equipment. These grants are mostly from local gaming trusts and government organisations. I gather the supporting material, signatures, source quotes, get letters of support and of course, fill out the application forms. Other committee members help me with this too; it's not all on my shoulders.

2. How much time does it take?

It's a bit of an on and off affair, my first year I was successful in gaining over \$6000 for the Toy Library, which meant I was fairly busy writing applications. It's tailed off in the past few years, mostly because we have no room for more toys. This will change with our new premises!

3. What are the best and worst bits of the role?

Having an application declined is always a bit of a downer, but you learn something new each time, and the effort is never wasted as there's always another agency to apply to! And of course, when an application is accepted, everyone gets to hear about it!

4. What have you enjoyed/got out of doing the role / being involved with the committee.

I have been on the Toy Library committee for 6 years now, starting off gently as our Plunket Liaison, and then became Grants Officer for a year. I tackled the Chair's role for 3 years, before handing over the reins to Megan at the last AGM. I'm back doing Grants, and now my daughters are (almost!) both at school, I am happy to train up a keen successor over the next year.

5. Anything else you'd like to say on the subject!

Being on the Toy Library Committee is a great way to introduce yourself to Committee life, it's a fun night out once a month, we have a few laughs while the business gets done and we are always back home in time for Outrageous Fortune! This is an exciting time to join the Committee as we get our new building ready to move into, ok it's a little bit scary but once we're finished we are going to have the best toy library in the country and I've seen a few!

*Our thanks to Tasha for her long service on the committee – she is keen to hand over the reins - **We need a new Grants Officer – can you help??***

2009 / 2010 Committee

lhtoylibrary@gmail.com

Chairperson	Megan Skelly	970 6715
Treasurer	Chris Chambers	973 9250
Secretary	Isobel Franklin	977 9591
Librarians	Jackie Fuimaono	021 055 6697
	Sherril McNabb	566 7503
Toy Preparers	Elizabeth Carver	
	Karnabie Weitzel	
	Chauncey Ellis	
	Heather Mawby	
Grants	Tasha Black	
Plunket Liason	Chauncey Ellis	
Maintenance	Joseph Aoina	
Sewing/Costumes	Lyndell Boaden-Trotter	
Newsletter	Jo Clendon	
Cataloguer	Susanna van der Gulik	
Toy Buyer	Chris Chambers	
Committee	Keryn Townsley	
	Carolyn Morris	

Please come join us!!!!

New Committee Position – Fundraising Coordinator

Our need for new premises is driving the need for more \$\$\$\$. Your Toy Library committee needs someone creative and imaginative who can take on the challenge of raising funds for our new premises. A coordinator to lead the charge, *plus* willing helpers are needed. If this sounds like you or someone you know then please talk to us!!!

Grandparents, Aunties, Uncles, Caregivers, Community minded people – all welcome to join the friendly Toy Library Committee.

If you would like to join the committee or help in the running of the toy library in any fashion please contact our chairperson Megan Skelly on 970 6715.

Would you like to advertise in this Newsletter??? Contact jo@clendon.org

Toy Library Research at the University of Canterbury

Please help complete a survey into Toy Library use and benefits. The toy library that has the greatest level of participation in the survey will receive a voucher of \$200, which can be used to purchase toys from the Toy Express. In addition, three other toy libraries will be drawn at random and given vouchers of \$100 to purchase toys.

The survey is easy to complete, totally confidential, and takes only about 10 to 15 minutes.

We would be happy to answer any questions you might have; please contact us at lucie.ozanne@canterbury.ac.nz or 03-364-2987 ext. 3068.

Go to the following website to take the survey
www.surveymonkey.com/s/toylibrarysurvey

PLAY IDEA - Microwave Puff-painting

Encourage your children to be creative with this recipe, which makes a fabulous paint that 'puffs up' when cooked in the microwave.

- 1 tablespoon self-raising flour
- 1 tablespoon salt
- few drops food colouring

Mix the ingredients together using enough water to make a smooth paste. Make 3 to 4 different colours - empty yoghurt pottles are handy containers. Paint on to thick paper or cardboard, then microwave on high for about 10 seconds or until the paint is dry.

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Winter Woolies

Winter is nearly upon us, and for some, it creates challenges in wardrobe department. Many of my clients say that they can 'get through' summer, but by the time winter rolls around they are panicking about their winter clothes.

A good rule of thumb for most people, it is go with FINE wools. Cable knits, chunky or fluffy wool jerseys or cardigans all add bulk. The key to looking good during winter is keep warm with fine wools like Merino and layering.

Winter is the season where you can go mad with texture. Velvet casual jackets, fur and leather are all excellent luxurious looking fabrics. A great corduroy skirt with leather boots, denim jeans and a velvet jacket. Keep these items classic and in great cuts and you can't go wrong. These fabrics swing round every winter season so there is no chance of you buying something and not being able to wear it next year.

Carrying on this texture theme, it is always a great idea to have bottom layers in varying materials. Bootcut cords are one of my favourite winter staples. They are usually always made of stretch and are incredibly comfortable. Plus they look great with a leather, wool or denim jackets.

I believe a pair of knee-high boots is essential to any woman's wardrobe. If the boots are flattish and again a classic shape you can wear them under trousers and branch out into winter skirts. Winter stockings, boots and skirts are a really comfortable, warm and stylish option for working women and mums at home.

Other ways of adding extra colour to those existing black coats is a great coloured scarf, hat or handbag. All accessories add a touch of individual style to outfits and these are no exception. Enjoy winter, enjoy colour, enjoy texture. If that sounds too scary, give us a call here at Wardrobe Flair and we will be more than happy to help you.

To see a stylist from Wardrobe Flair costs \$195 for two hours. This includes your colours, body-shape analyses, wardrobe re-vamp, shopping list, colour chart and consultation summary. Shopping trips are \$80 per hour. "This services cost the same as couple of pieces of clothing you bought and never wore". Trudi Bennett - www.wardrobeclair.com Ph: 977 1247 / 021 236 4738

BOX Needed Please!

Do you have a large plastic crate or similar box that you could donate to the Toy Library. We have a large toy that needs a box before it can come into the library. Box does not need a lid. Approx: 60 cm x 60 cm (width & depth). Please call Chaucey 577 3877

Changes to our membership structure

Last month we held a special meeting to discuss our membership structure. The purpose of this was to ensure we continue to offer the best possible service to current members, sustain a steady flow of new members joining and to run the library more efficiently. Three changes for our membership structure were decided upon:

1) The introduction of a third membership type, to be known as a **'Deluxe Membership'**. The Deluxe membership costs \$120 per year. Up to six toys may be borrowed at any one time with **no rental fees and no duties**. This eliminates the need to have cash on hand when borrowing toys. Please note, deluxe memberships still incur normal fines for toys that are late, broken or missing pieces. Bonds for borrowing the new costumes must also be paid at the time of issue.

2) **As of 1st July the toy rental period will change to two weeks** (currently it is three weeks). This decision is very much in line with most other local toy libraries. This benefits members because it means there will be more toys available to choose from when you visit the library and it will increase the toy circulation. We also avoid increasing the cost of toy rentals or membership fees to cope with the increasing financial demands of the running the library.

3) **All membership are now non refundable**. If you join the library and decide that you want to cease your membership before it expires, no refunds will be given for the remainder of your membership period.

Below is a quick summary of our membership's types....

Membership Type	Cost per year	Number of Duties per year	Toy Rental	Rental Period (effective 1 st July)
Duty	\$30*	2	Yes, cost is indicated on each toy	2 weeks
Non Duty	\$60*	Nil	Yes, cost is indicated on each toy	2 weeks
Deluxe	\$120*	Nil	Nil	2 weeks

* All membership types are non refundable and subject to fines for overdue, broken or missing pieces. Fines for not showing up for a duty may also be given. Full details are at the library.

Newsletters via Email + =

Where we have members email addresses we will be sending out the newsletter by email. Other members *may* continue to receive a printed copy every second edition; so as to save printing and postage costs. Some hardcopies will be made available in the Toy Library. Please check and update your email address next time you are at the Library.

New Premises Update

The hall which will become our new premises sits on Hutt City Council owned land. In order to get a lease from HCC, the land must be reclassified by the Department of Conversation. We are now in the beginning stages of this process.

For background on why we need new premises and how you might help, see page 6

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Lower Hutt Office: Level 2, Gibson Sheat Centre, Corner Queens Drive & Margaret Street
Telephone:(04) 570 0442; Facsimile:(04) 569 4260

Your Toy Library—

Questions & Answers

Why Move to New Premises?

1. We don't have enough space for all our Toys. Some are in storage off site. Having toys crowded into the library makes it harder to browse and find what you are looking for.
2. More space would mean we could have more people on duty, meaning less queuing and crowding during our opening hours.
3. Addressing these issues will enable us to increase our membership which will help us remain viable and provide funds to increase our range of Toys.

What might stand in our way of moving?

The reclassification of the land is going to cost us money which we will need to raise. We won't be able to get grants for those 'pre-purchase' costs, so will need our members to help us fundraise. We'll also keen to hear from any community groups, businesses or individuals who can help us.

Where does our membership and toy hire money go?

The money members pay in Toy Hire and Membership is used to pay the running costs of the library – mostly wages to our staff librarians. Most of our Toy Purchases are funded by Grants. We don't have much in the bank; which is fine most of the time, but challenging when it comes to a big project like securing new premises.

How can our members and community help?

Fundraising – we need your support to our fundraising efforts

Time – we need committee members and people who can assist with fundraising

Money – donations are most welcome

Skills – when the new premises are secured they will require renovation and set up. Many skills will be required, and many hands needed.

If you are keen to help please call Megan on 970-6715 (evening is best); or email lhtoylibrary@gmail.com.

Editors note: The committee are friendly and welcoming – please come join us!!!!

The Toy Store

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Radio Flyer's My 1st Scooter™ won "Outdoor Toy of the Year" award during the Toy Industry awards. This showcases Radio Flyer's commitment to quality products and innovation for kids & families. The TOTYs are the "Oscars" of the toy industry ... the "best of the best" as selected by industry experts.



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Check us out on Facebook under "The Toy Store NZ" (where you'll find our full product and price list)

Hello from The Toy Store: Alongside the Radio Flyer products, we stock a wide range of other toys for 0 – 8+ year olds. We aim to make your toy shopping easy and affordable. As well as ensuring you get great toys with an educational value, we make sure they are ones that kids love too! (With a play area!) The Toy Store is becoming known for toys not typically found elsewhere in the Hutt – and the fact that we **do not** stock the plastic, licensed items sold by everyone else.