

Rotorua Library

The Friends of the Library have offered to purchase a van equipped with digital technology as part of a plan to replace the current mobile library service.

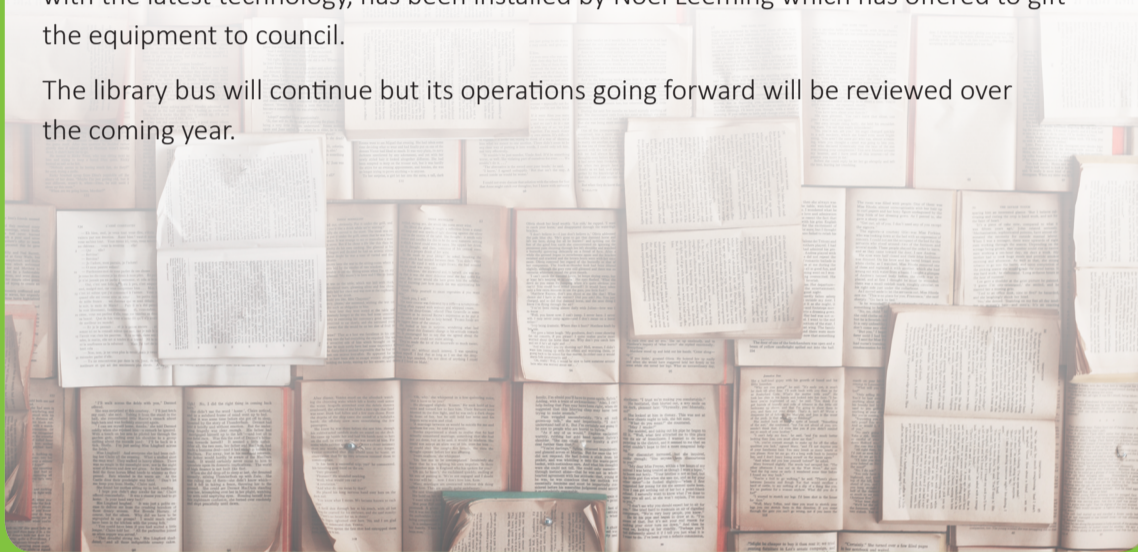
Rotorua Library has been reviewing its mobile library service, and is proposing to replace the aging bus with several smaller vehicles.

The replacement would help broaden its reach to rural communities, schools, retirement and other communities groups.

The service would be more cost-effective as a librarian with a full-drivers licence could operate the van compared to the current bus service which requires a staff member to have a heavy vehicle licence.

Equipment in the van, previously used for visiting low decile schools to familiarise children with the latest technology, has been installed by Noel Leeming which has offered to gift the equipment to council.

The library bus will continue but its operations going forward will be reviewed over the coming year.



Easter Trading

A hearing on the submissions, mostly supporting the proposed Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy for Rotorua, begins today.

Strategy, Policy and Finance Committee is expected to hear from three of the submitters before it considers all the feedback next Thursday.

The committee's recommendation will go to the full Council meeting on 27 February for a final decision.

Council received 123 submissions, 79 of them in support of the proposed policy and 44 opposing it.



Hemo Gorge

A contractor is soon to be selected to build the iconic sculpture at the Hemo Gorge entrance.

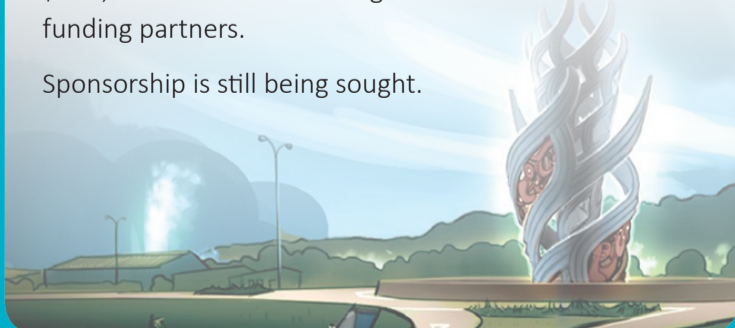
It was inspired by the story of Te Arawa chief Ngatoroirangi, who was responsible for the safe passage of people to Aotearoa.

New Zealand Transport Agency and its contractor Fulton Hogan are currently building the roundabout at the intersection on State Highway 30 and State Highway 5.

The sculpture is estimated to cost about \$570,000 with NZTA committing \$200,000 and the council providing \$150,000 – half of which was contributed in the 2015/2016 financial year with another \$75,000 set aside for the project from the 2016/2017 arts budget.

Full Council agreed in December to seek the estimated \$120,000 shortfall of funding needed from outside funding partners.

Sponsorship is still being sought.



Aquatic Centre

The Aquatic Centre's learner pool has reopened and more than 1000 people have booked swimming lessons for the first school term.

The pool was closed for eight weeks last year to allow contractors to carry out maintenance work on underground pipes and replace old pool floor tiles with special non-slip matting.

The changes will make it safer for young children and families.

The centre has also implemented new guidelines for eating food near the pool, reserving three dedicated eating areas for people who bring in food.

A permanent coffee cart has also been set up. The changes have been readily accepted by pool users.

