

Notes from Metropolitan Library Tour – Tuesday 19 April 2016

Attendees: Mayor O'Loughlin, Cr Lee, Cr Barnett, Cr Bowman, Cr Harris, Cr Standen, Cr Evans (from 6.00pm at Campbelltown)

PROSPECT OVAL PRECINCT:

North Adelaide Cricket Club clubrooms – 700m² total floor area on 350m² footprint– major building issues with cracking etc.

Croquet Club - 600m² – Prospect own the premises and would have to evict the club. There is nowhere obvious in the City of Prospect area to relocate them.

RSL- have shown no interest since late 2014 when their leadership changed.

The general location has poor comparative exposure but is blessed with reasonable access to two main roads and is in the geographic centre of the city.

However, it is not a vibrant location and Libraries perform best and add most to an already vibrant location.

If the Library was located on the eastern side of the oval it would not be connected to the Playground and in looking at the overall precinct, there is no real obvious best location. Consideration needs to be given to how well the two main uses (Sport and Library) will cross pollenate (if at all). Would there be issues competing with the Football game day crowds during winter?

The Darren Lehmann Cricket Academy is also interested in developing something.

TRAM BARN/DEPOT:

Heritage listed and not large enough for a Library area – it is only 1/8th of the size needed at 300m².

Could we use the barn section for the library and build one or two levels on the lean to sections to use for the Hub etc? Potentially yes but need to recognise the tram barn, whilst a feature, does represent a significant constraint that will impact on build cost.

The barn would not be good for a gallery space – damp walls, ventilation not consistent - galleries need a controlled atmosphere.

The site has good exposure to Main North Road and is close the current location. It would require off-street parking of at least 30 – 40 spaces.

The site could work but we would need to relocate the Depot which adds a further complexity. Could we sell the site and do a 100 year lease or something similar? All options remain on the table but will depend on market take-up.

With either of the above two locations, we should consider the danger of a busy road. Do not put the Children's area near automatically opening doors to the main road.

Crossing Main North Road is an important consideration for ANY site in our city.

STRATHALBYN: (Alexandrina Council)

Built / Upgraded in 2011 for a cost of around \$5 million. It is a branch of the main library at Goolwa.

Had an inviting feel about it both inside and outside.

Three staff work there each – One Customer Service (Council services) and two Library staff.

The addition to the old building (which was previously a school) has been done well with floor to ceiling windows which let in lots of natural light. It is Eco Friendly with windows that open at certain temperatures.

250 – 260 visits per day. (Just under half the average of Prospect)

Shelving is a good height and on wheels for easy movement and flexibility.

Two meeting rooms, a Local History Room and Separate Reading Room – away from children's area and quieter.

Community Centre also attached.

Tea / Coffee making facilities with communal microwave.

Flooring is a mix of carpet (in the children's area) and terrazzo, but didn't seem too noisy.

Metal roof – acknowledged as noisy when it rains.

Children's Art/Craft area had storage shelves which could be hidden away by push button operated doors.

Consistent design language and clever signage helped with the positive feel that most of us experienced.

COVENTRY LIBRARY – STIRLING: (Adelaide Hills Council)

Built in 2011. The Library Manager was strongly involved in the design.

Fabulous location and outlook onto a park connected to the vibrant Main Street which separates the Library from the Main Road.

Autumn colours flow through to the interior colourings giving it a warm welcoming feel with the design orientated as best it can to capitalise on the vista into the active park.

Provides Library and Council Services at separate desks (separate heights) – however, one large flow on desk would work much better.

Tuesday has the highest number of visitations – 1200 – as it is closed on Monday. Other weekdays average 800 visits, and the weekend 600-800 visits. Approx double the Prospect visitation.

A Central 'engine room' where staff can look out on to all areas of the library, which a Returns Bin that raises the books up for easy use by staff instead of bending down.

Near front entrance can be used as a function room – accommodates up to 200 people with some events held outside on the lawned area.

Tea / Coffee making facilities with tables and red chairs – called REFRESH.

The library shelving is not on rollers for easy movement, but the open shelving (at the bottom) gives the appearance of space. Several comments suggested open at the top would be a preferred option.

The Children's and Youth areas are quite separate – the children's areas has shelving on wheels, flexible design, carpet and can be locked off from front function space.

Business Centre – computer desks/seats and quite close together. Small businesses can advertise on computer screens FREE for 4 weeks.

The Community Room is free for use by Community groups, with a small fee for businesses.

Separate Training Room with computer and a pull down screen and projector.

Back Staff Office - all the work is done here – the other library branches offer front-line services only. There is a daily courier run between branches.

Back room storage is an issue.

BURNSIDE: 16 years old – 2,220m²

Burnside was the first re-developed Library in SA and is the second busiest library after Tea Tree Gully with 1,000 visits per day and 780,000 – 800,000 loans per year.

The Library is about to start **RFID** (Radio Frequency Identification) for self-serve check out kiosks.

At the moment the entrance to the Library looks like a factory, with manual book return happening at the front and with customer service somewhat concealed behind it.

Shelving is too high and not on wheels so it has no flexibility.

The ceiling is low and the air conditioning blocks the view of the windows and natural light.

There is a Computer Training Room and a Local History Room

Good size Children's Library with Parenting Lounge adjacent which leads on to a large Toy Library and Events Area and separate Youth Room.

There is a computer section in the centre with 4 pods of 4 computers.

The semi-circular hallway which has the Library, Council Customer Service, Meeting Rooms, and Coffee shop leading off it, looked a bit like a train station with chairs against the walls and a stand of bus timetables.

CAMPBELLTOWN: Finished in 2010 – it took 14 months to complete

Size increased from 1,282m² to 2,375m²

4,000 people joined the Library in the first 12 months and as a result there was a 25% increase in loans and the Toy Library doubled its borrowings.

They went from 11 to 50 public PCs.

25 Staff – 13 FTEs – large staff office with lots of storage space.

Not yet RFID.

The Youth Area has a pull-down scree and projector, lots of bean bags and cushions, but not particularly well used. It needs more youth events to activate it rather than a change in design. Area is not able to be closed off for noisy active group events.

Separate WiFi space and Quiet Study Area.

The Children's area also needs to be closed off as the noise carried from the Baby Bounce and similar sessions. A big metal tree (artistic statement piece) with multi coloured lighting was a feature in the Children's area with a chair at the base of the tree for story telling.

Large separate Toy Library.

Shelving was not on wheels except for the children's area.

Outdoor Garden area with Shade Sails and tables and chairs (recently replaced with plastic finish as the timber had warped in the weather). Second fence installed to stop theft opportunity. No utilisation at time of visit.

Large open Computer / Office type area for public use – photocopying, scanning, printing etc – all at a cost.

IT Suite / Training Room contained 15 computers stepped on three levels. There is a Kids Computer Club once a week.

The Local History room had windows that looked into the room from the library area. There is a Local History Officer in the centre three days a week.

The room had a fabulous feel with an old table and chairs in the centre but glass on display cabinets would help them to manage the space.

Multi-Media / Audio section with large lounge chairs and head phones.

The Art Display area was very bland – library staff have stated they had nothing to do with the displays. Artists do all the set up and arrange sales themselves but only pay a nominal amount to use the space to promote their work.

The meeting room can be divided into one or two rooms, however, it is not large enough for public meetings or to have invited Authors.

DEBRIEF:

Campbelltown

- lighting too bright and stark
- Floor plan good and functional
- Not enough room for authors' talks or public meetings
- Not keen on the colours – masculine, not modern

Strathalbyn

- Service Desk at the entrance in good location - easy to find but not intrusive.
- Open Vista windows – lots of light
- Great design language, consistent throughout

Stirling

- The park is an existing much loved open active space which becomes a feature of the library through its design to focus the views and natural light

Burnside

- The parents area was inviting and useful but some opportunities have been missed to have the design and layout easy to follow (without signage)

GENERAL COMMENTS:

- No cafes really worked in a big way across all libraries we have visited (other than the Dock and Melb CBD but that was more due to the busy space and ground level activation)
- We need a space for craft projects which can be left to come back to in a week's time. Need a wet area as part of a 'makers space'
- We need to engage kids, not just the older demographic
- History in Burnside foyer was quite good. History is a very important part of leaning
- Outdoor areas – inviting – roof top garden in Adelaide CBD was excellent
- Outdoor Space – have we seen one as good as Adelaide CBD? No. Many appear as an afterthought and that's their failure.
- Could we have multiple levels for books / IT Hub / Business Areas / Meeting Rooms / with a Roof Top Garden
- Youth Spaces are important – how do we engage the 12-25 year olds? Adelaide Uni Hub is fantastic for this age group

WHAT WAS AWESOME:

- Strathalbyn – had lots of little nooky place for kids / people to read
- The colours blended, not too complicated, signs were all in lower-case
- Great integration from old to new; however, the verandah area hasn't worked because they ran out of money.