

a little CRC...



Northcliffe Tel: 9776 7330
 Community Fax: 9776 7338
 Resource PO Box 133, Northcliffe
 Centre nrcr@northcliffe.org.au

The Future of Northcliffe CRC, the Library and the Visitor Centre by Graham Evans

In September 2010 the Council passed a motion asking for the investigation of a merger between Northcliffe CRC and the Northcliffe Library.

At a council meeting in December 2014 the council has now taken this a step further and passed a motion recording their intention to collocate Shire libraries in Walpole, Pemberton and Northcliffe.

The council's stated objectives are:

- a) improving operational efficiencies;
- b) extension of operating times; and
- c) maximising the use of local resources, particularly information technology and communications."

Merger of regional libraries with CRCs is a state-wide trend.

The council motion of December 2014 also infers that, if the Northcliffe Visitor Centre is to close, that Northcliffe CRC

may be able to continue a visitor information service.

Merger with the NVC is not something which council staff have discussed with Northcliffe CRC. The combining of CRCs and Visitors Centres was suggested in the August 2014 Haeberlin Report, commissioned by our State Government to investigate the future of WAs many struggling Visitor Centres. The report provides no ideas how to make this arrangement financially viable.

We have made it clear to the council and to the NVC that our clear preference is for the NVC to survive in its own right. We hope our community finds a way to keep the Visitor Centre up and running. We think it is too soon for the CRC to be planning for the worst case of the NVC closing.

Returning to the proposal of a merger with the library, here is an extract from the Northcliffe CRC Business Plan:

Projects/Tasks and brief description	Purpose/aims of activity	Key person responsible	Timeframe
1. To redevelop the Northcliffe CRC, to integrate the space with the local library, to provide additional meeting and multipurpose space and conference/event facilities where viable. 2. Take over management of the local library, under contract from the Shire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To extend opening hours of the library from current 12 hours per week to CRC's opening hours of 42 hours per week. • To provide an additional form of revenue, and in particular funding for staffing, at the Northcliffe CRC. • To increase the long term viability of the Northcliffe CRC. • To realise benefits of colocation and commonality of services between a library and a CRC service. 	Committee Manager	1. Progress in space planning, community engagement and discussions with council by June 2015. 2. Significant tangible progress by July 2017.

Libraries Lose Their Reference

The invention of the internet has been as significant, in effecting the way ideas are shared, as the invention of the printing press.

Reference materials, once the business of libraries, have largely moved to the internet: encyclopedias, genealogy and public records, general research and reference materials, scientific research and medical information, dictionaries and thesauruses, 'how to' and DIY literature. Reference materials need to be searchable and kept up-to-date. The internet is the new research tool of choice.

This makes providing CRC type services in the context of a library essential. For many large central libraries providing internet access has become a major part of the library role.

Without these internet access terminals libraries can become venues for literature and entertainment alone. A combined CRC / Library service is an opportunity to reunite our library with its reference and research functions.

Other drivers of future change in libraries are also open to speculation and interpretation:

- When will the shift to electronic books happen on a scale which fundamentally change the nature of libraries?
- How long will printed newspapers and magazines last?
- At what rate will internet media replace CDs and DVDs?

Are you noticing nothing is standing still?

I Wish...

As Manager of your CRC, my wish list for a Library merger is:

- to open the Northcliffe Library 6 days per week
- to redevelop the space of the CRC and the Library to provide a foyer which is a combined entrance, library checkout counter and CRC cashier space
- to add more space to the NIVC building in the form of a multipurpose meeting room / conference room for the use of the community, possibly with a catering space.
- to continue employment of our current librarian by the Shire (this arrangement has been used at other CRCs)
- CRC staff trained to check out books and assist with other library tasks under direction of the librarian.
- The CRC to conduct programs connecting with library services: reading and writing groups, author talks, etc.
- to offer a greater variety of public working spaces as part of the combined CRC/Library environment including quiet work and study spaces, social work spaces, family friendly spaces and private meeting spaces.
- To make the combined CRC/Library a hub for Northcliffe to meet, exchange ideas, to study, to socialise, research and to build our future.

NCRC is proudly supported by...



Government of **Western Australia**
 Department of **Regional Development**



ROYALTIES
 FOR REGIONS

