

Sneak peak at library

The Advertiser was last Friday treated to an exclusive walk-through of the new Bairnsdale Library, which is set to open on April 10.

Construction of the new library has gone smoothly according to council's planning and community development director, Kate Nelson.

A month out from its opening, the library is already an impressive space.

The Mechanics' Institute Hall has been restored to its former glory, with touches of the 21st century added.

A window on its south side doubles as a projector screen, allowing people to gather in the plaza outside to view a presentation.

Fronting on to the plaza is a new meeting space, which will be available for community groups to use, and has extensive folding doors which open to the plaza.

The plaza also features a children's play area, but the eye is mainly drawn to the entry to the new building, which has been constructed impressively from copper.

The foyer's solid timber desk sits near a kitchenette where a coffee machine will be available for members of the public to buy a coffee and relax while waiting in town for friends.

It's hard to look past the staircase that snakes its way to the upper level. The glass elevator provides access for those not able to take the stairs.

The Mechanics' Institute Hall retains its old world charm, with the ceiling roses replicated from those which originally featured in the building.

The new library hosts a family friendly area, with change tables and associated facilities.

The temporary library will be closed from Tuesday, March 25, while resources are moved to the new library, which will open on April 10.

"The main challenge is moving the service into a completely different space," council manager community, Anna Cook, said. "It's about moving the material, but also about understanding the space."

Ms Nelson said the new building had been specifically designed to accommodate the flow of books and information.

In the office space there is an area for book covering, for example.

The building is also more environmentally friendly, with high mounted windows, which open automatically to let hot air out at opportune times to cool the building.

Activities on its opening day will be planned to showcase what the new building is capable of, and how it can be used.

While the temporary library is closed, borrowers can return their items through the existing after hours return chute at the temporary library.

Pictorial tour of the new Bairnsdale Library page 11.



No Star (Michael Coxon, Richard Allanson and Andrew Gavenlock), of New South Wales, That's Life (Ian Crisp, Fergus Forbes and Marcus Sill), of Victoria, and Fifteen+ (David Clark, Will Northam, Alice McClure and Sean O'Rourke), of New South Wales, put their spinnakers to use during the 2014 Etchells Victorian Championship at Metung on Saturday. The event was held across the weekend and attracted a class field of about 30 One Design etchells. Also running out of Metung across the weekend was the International Cadets State Titles. Day one report and pictures in Sport. K177-53

Jet-powered water cops

Infra-red imaging equipment, radar and side-scan sonar used during search and rescue operations are just some of the features of a state-of-the-art \$2.2 million jet-powered boat now servicing the region.

The 14.9-metre (5.6m) wide vessel is an aluminium catamaran, which can cruise at 32 knots (nearly 60km/h) and has a range of up to 600 nautical miles (nearly 1100 kilometres).

Fitted with jets rather than propellers, the cabin cruiser can work in shallow water, making it ideal for Gippsland's lakes and rivers.

Twin 850HP Scania engines power Hamilton jets.

The open deck at the stern has room for a jet ski or dinghy to be winched aboard.

It can carry up to six personnel

for short patrols or four personnel during longer operations and was designed by Teknicraft and built in New Zealand by Q-West.

The vessel, 'VP09', was officially handed over to the Gippsland Water Police by Member for Gippsland East, Tim Bull, on Friday and a ceremony at Fisherman's Wharf, Paynesville, which, fittingly for such a new piece of equipment, had all the bells and whistles.

Mr Bull said the acquisition had provided the region with a valuable resource.

"Whether performing general police duties, helping our local fishing boats, passing yachts or bigger vessels that get in to trouble, or taking part in a major search and rescue operation, Gippsland's water police play a

vital role," Mr Bull said.

"This new high-speed boat will provide Gippsland's water police with even greater capacity to perform their critical work."

The new vessel will help the Paynesville-based water police unit, whose area stretches from Inverloch to Gabo Island on the NSW border, improve its search and rescue capacity and response times in the area.

"Any time of the day or night, the water police can be called out to assist those experiencing trouble on the water," Mr Bull said.

Officer-in-charge of Gippsland Water Police, Alan Rice, said the vessel would meet the most demanding of tasks in severe weather conditions in local offshore waters.

"It has the capability of providing assistance and aid to multiple patients and allows for fast deployment to a critical incident," he said.

"In summing up VP09 will provide an outstanding platform for general marine law enforcement and search and rescue duties," he said.

He also heaped praise on his fellow officers and the support the project has received from Victoria Police and the financial contribution from the State Government.

"Although the project has taken close to three years to complete, for the members at Gippsland Water Police, the project actually started some six years ago," he said.

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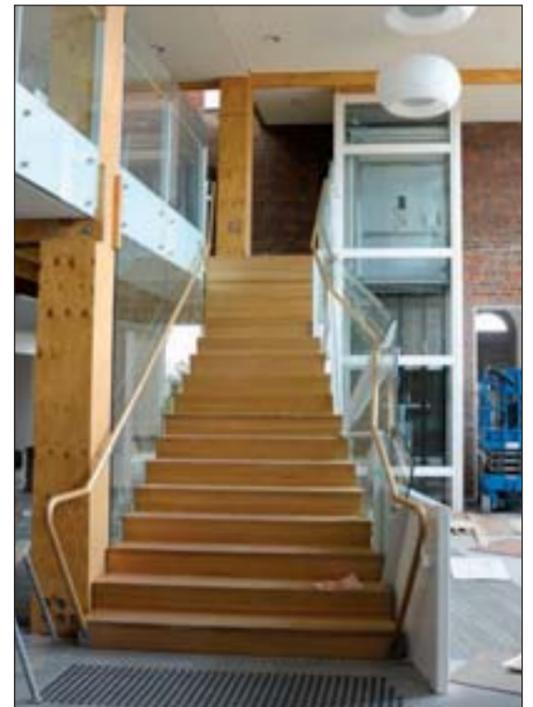


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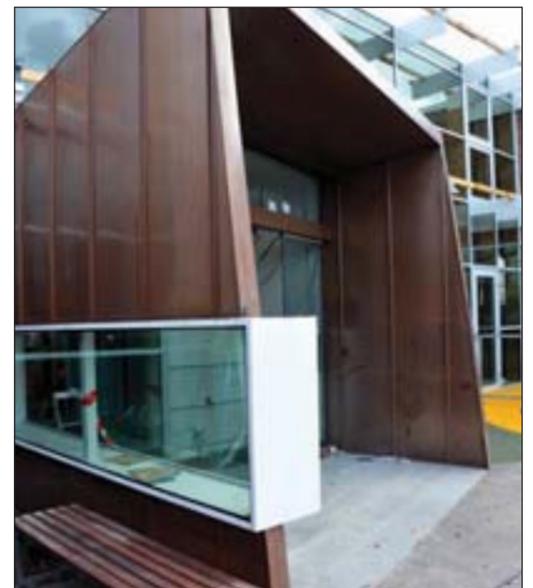




East Gippsland Shire Council director planning and community, Kate Nelson, and manager community, Anna Cook, treated the *Advertiser* to an exclusive tour of the new Bairnsdale Library last Friday. The new building will open on April 10, however the temporary library will be closed from 1pm on Tuesday, March 25 to allow for the relocation. K173-315



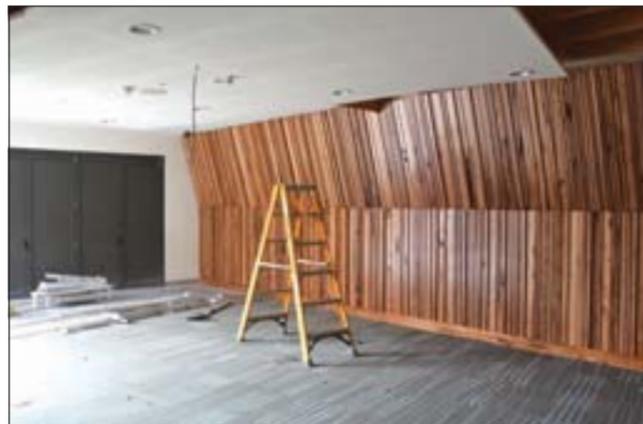
A solid timber staircase makes its way up to the top level. K173-272



The main entry to the new library is a copper construction, housing double doors and an after hours return chute. It is set back from the street, with a new public space in between. K173-267



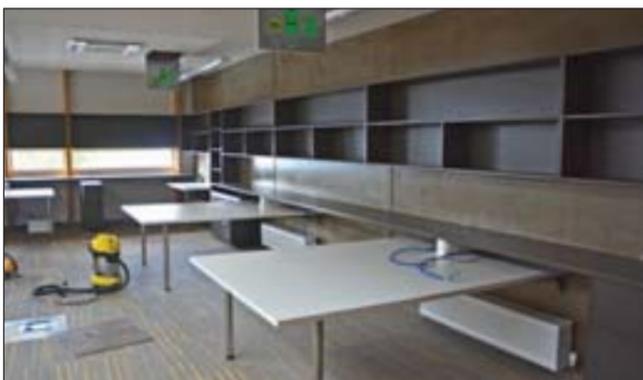
The returns desk. K173-275



A new meeting room will be available to community groups. It features a data projector, and opens on to the plaza area. K173-268



A kitchenette will be home to a coffee machine, where members of the public can buy a coffee and wait for friends to arrive. K173-276



The building has office space for approximately 10 staff. K173-285



The Mechanics' Institute Hall building has been renovated. New shelves have been ordered, and the ceiling roses are replicas of the originals. K173-284



Extensive glass fronting Service Street ensures there is a lot of light in the building. K173-303



The building is complete with a glass elevator. K173-273



The ceiling roses are replicas of the originals in the Mechanics' Institute Hall. K173-304



There's still work to be done on the building. Blinds were being installed when the *Advertiser* visited last Friday. K173-297