

Tūranga



Christchurch has had a central library since 1859. In 2011 the previous Central Library, located on the corner of Gloucester St and Oxford Terrace, was badly damaged in the earthquakes. Following an extensive planning and consultation process, work on this new central library began in 2016 and Tūranga was opened in October 2018.

The building was designed by New Zealand company Architectus and Danish library design experts Schmidt Hammer Lassen, with significant input from the community and local hapū. Architectus also worked on the new Christchurch bus interchange. Southbase Construction Ltd were the contractors and are one of the major partners. Other major partners are Taranaki Savings Bank (TSB) and Spark.

With a floor area of over 9,500 sq m, Tūranga is the largest public library in the South Island, and the second largest in New Zealand.

Tūranga

Tūranga is named after the place the ancestor Paikea landed when he travelled to New Zealand from Hawaiiki. When he arrived, he built a house and named it Whitireia. As Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga has gifted the name Whitireia to Cathedral Square, the name Tūranga is a fitting companion.

The Ngāi Tūāhuriri influence on the design and build of Tūranga is centred on the notion of mātauranga mana whenua – the body of knowledge that originates from the people of this place. A dual language approach to signage and naming was adopted for Tūranga.

Artworks - The Ascent of Tāwhaki

There are many artworks in the building. Among them is Mātauranga – The Ascent of Tāwhaki. This feature is wrapped around the lift exterior on each level. The installation uses imagery relating to the journey of Tāwhaki through the heavens to obtain knowledge or Mātauranga.

The birds that feature at each level are:

- He Hononga | Connection, Ground Level - Pukeko
- Hapori | Community, Level 1 - Tītī
- Tuakiri | Identity, Level 2 - Kākāpō
- Tūhuratanga | Discovery, Level 3 - Tūī
- Auahatanga | Creativity, Level 4 - Kūkupa (Kereru)

Further information about the artworks and cultural narrative of Tūranga is available here: <https://my.christchurchcitylibraries.com/turanga/turanga-artworks-and-cultural-narrative/>

General information

This self-guided tour will take you through all five levels of Tūranga. As you explore the building, you can be guided by our wayfinding kiosks located near each stairwell. Use the touchscreens to navigate through the building, by choosing a destination and then following the designated pathways. You can even scan the code for each destination and use your phone to find your way.

The five levels offer different resources, spaces and technology. On all levels there are:

- Public computers
- Kiosks for issuing books and other items
- Copiers/printers
- Charging points
- Wifi
- Bookable rooms
- Lockers for public use

The library website, and staff, can provide you with information about membership, events, and booking spaces.

Ground Level – He Hononga | Connection

The team on the Ground Level are here to connect you with things already of some interest to you and things that may be new and surprising.

While on the Ground Level you can return items you have borrowed, pick up your holds, check out magazines on all sorts of subjects, and enjoy a coffee from the Foundation Café.

The large tables are popular places to pause, play a game, attend a drop-in session, or just wait for friends and family.

Pause and admire the artwork wrapped around the lifts on He Hononga – the bird is the Pukeko.

Be sure to explore Christchurch's past and present at the Discovery Wall. Send yourself a postcard or take a selfie with the wall. You can also add your own memories to the digital collection. You can find out more about the Discovery Wall and submit your own images here: <https://discoverywall.nz/>

Behind the main stairway you will find Spark Place – used for a range of business and community activities. Spark is a founding partner of the Christchurch Foundation, and is supporting the establishment of Tūranga.

Now it's time to take the lift to the fourth floor and walk down the stairs through the building, or make your way to Level One – Hapori.

Level One – Hapori | Community

On this level you will find Children's and Young Adults collections and spaces.

There is a lot to do and see here! You can play on the Playstations, join in a Storytimes session, attend an event in the TSB Space, pick up a coffee from the Espresso Bar or hang out in the Imagination Station and create a LEGO masterpiece.

Imagination Station has joined with the Library to make LEGO playtime a permanent feature. They offer free play as well as more structured programming and events.

TSB is another of our major partners. The TSB Space enables people to come together for meetings, events and functions. Adjacent to the TSB Space is the Activity Room. You can make enquiries about booking these, and other rooms in Tūranga, by phoning the Christchurch City Council on 941-8999.

As you walk around Hapori, check out the slide and glow-worm cave, and the Creative Space where you can join in with some great family programming and events. Play a game of foosball, find some great reads or have a look at the current exhibition in the Youth area, stopping to admire the artwork – the bird is the Titi - before making your way back to the next level.

Level Two – Tuakiri | Identity

Tuakiri tells the story of identity in Christchurch and Canterbury. The “signature colour” on this floor is Rata and the bird is the Kākāpō.

At the western (Colombo Street) end, you will find Waruwarutū - a community space which holds the Ngā Pounamu Māori collection, a collection with special emphasis on Te Ao Māori.

A dedicated exhibition space – the Southbase Gallery – houses internal and travelling exhibitions that reflect our cultural identity and history.

At the eastern end of Tuakiri you will find The Pasifika Collection, Family History and Local History Collections, Archives and Heritage materials, a Research Room, Teaching Room, and meeting rooms.

Level Three – Tūhuratanga | Discovery

Tūhuratanga is an information rich floor and it is all about discovery.

The Tui makes its home here.

Here you will find non-fiction books on an extensive range of subjects. Use a catalogue to look for books and information or talk to a friendly specialist to find what you need.

Tūhuratanga is a great place to ask about eResources and other online material, spend some time browsing the shelves, or just enjoy the ever-changing views across the city.

Make your way towards the double-height windows on Colombo Street and check out the building activity on the Convention Centre site. On the way you will see study and meeting rooms – some of these can be booked, while others are for casual drop-in use.

Another feature of this floor is Wahi Mauritau – the Quiet Place. One of the most requested features for a new library was a quiet space for study or reading. Here you can find study tables or comfy chairs to stop and relax and enjoy some time out.

Level Four – Auahatanga | Creativity

Auahatanga is the centre of innovation and creativity.

The ascent through the forest ends here and so the bird is the Kūkupa (Kereru).

On Auahatanga you will find collections of:

- Fiction
- Large print
- English language skills
- World languages collections
- Music.

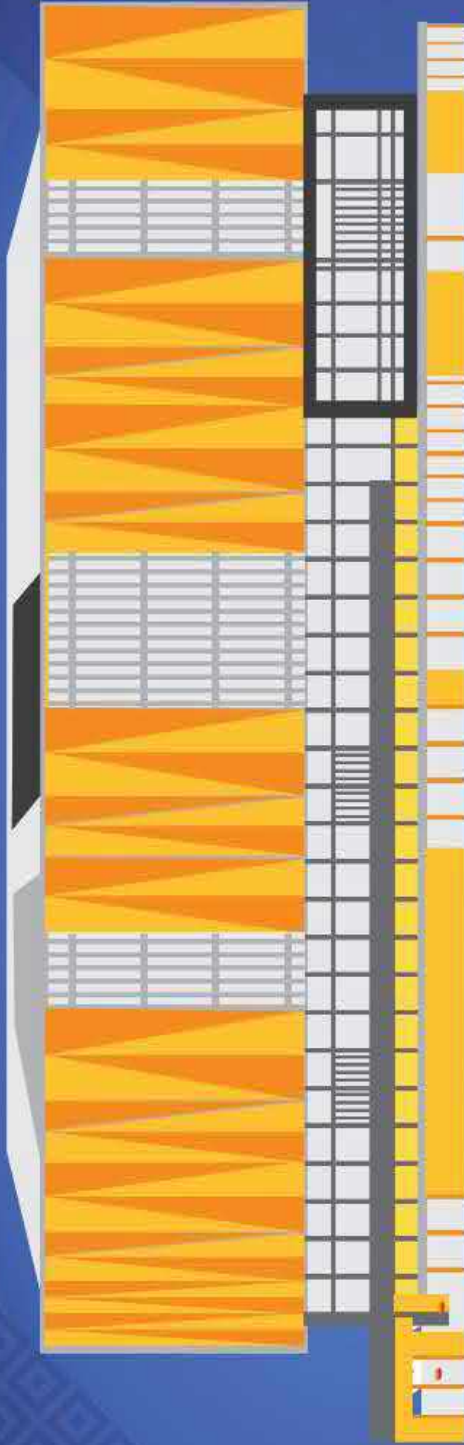
Creative spaces on this level include a Production Studio, an Audio/Visual Studio, a Computer Lab and a general meeting/activity space. These spaces are used for a wide range of activities – some require customers to book in, others are just drop-in. Activities include: 3D design and printing; laser and vinyl Cutting; virtual reality experience; audio and video production, sewing machines and more.

There are two roof terraces on this level and on a clear day you can enjoy the views to significant landscape points:

- Kā Tiritiri o te Moana – Southern Alps
- Aoraki / Mt Cook
- Horomaka / Pātaka o Rākaihautū – Banks Peninsula
- Maungatere – Mt Grey.

Floor by floor overview

Come and find us when you visit Tūranga and we can help show you around.



EVERY LEVEL

- Lifts
- Toilets
- Information Desk
- Public Computers

He Hononga
Connection

GROUND

- Café
- Reception
- Returns
- Magazines
- DVDs
- New Arrivals
- Spark Place
- Discovery Wall

Hapori
Community

LEVEL ONE

- Family Place
- Imagination Station
- Creative Space
- Youth Space
- Espresso Bar
- TSB Space
- Activity Room
- Parenting Room

Tuakiri
Identity

LEVEL TWO

- Waruwarutū
- Nga Pounamu Māori
- Pasifika Collection
- New Zealand Reference
- Family History
- Archives
- Southbase Gallery
- Teaching Room
- Research Room
- Meeting Rooms

Tūhurātanga
Discovery

LEVEL THREE

- Non-fiction
- Quiet Place
- Boardroom
- Meeting Rooms
- Study Rooms

Auahatanga
Creativity

LEVEL FOUR

- Fiction
- Large Print
- Music
- World Languages
- Production Studio
- Audio/Video Studio
- Computer Lab
- Roof Gardens
- Meeting Rooms
- Study Rooms

See you soon!

