

Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub

Fact Sheet - The need for a new library
September 2017



“(We) need a bigger library with bigger study spaces, more computers, more space for the mothers and playtime... separate space for silent reading, separate meeting rooms, separate rooms for languages, activities and groups, access for disability, more parking and ease for disability use of facilities and resources.”

Library user, 2017 survey

The Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub will better service the needs of our community, with greater convenience, community connections and access to resources and information, all with the same high quality service the community has come to expect from Ivanhoe’s librarians.

The need for a new library

The proposed new library is designed to meet all the requirements of our diverse and growing community. By providing space, resources, access and specialist areas for different community needs we can better support learning, a love of reading, and community engagement.

A larger library

“Make it bigger - it’s a lovely 60s building but it’s trying to cope with huge demands and additional service offerings that didn’t exist when it was built.”

“I would like more room to read newspapers and magazines.”

“More quiet study desks and places to study both with and without computers.”

~ Library users, 2017 survey

The current library provides 551 square metres of space, while the proposed new development provides 2,640 square metres, including 1,035 square metres for a new library, 310 square metres for meetings and work, 180 square metres for community use, and 375 square metres for amenities and services.

By almost doubling the dedicated library space, the library collection can expand to meet community demand. Improved shelving will make it easier for people

to find what they need, as well as encouraging discovery, and improving access to a greater range of materials.

The new library will also offer more spaces for comfortable reading, study areas, computers, and access to power for people’s devices. Overall, the library will offer flexibility and versatility for a variety of uses.

An accessible library for all

“The layout of Ivanhoe library is very poor. Older people and the disabled can’t access half of the books! This is just not good enough.”

“Easier access to upper floors for those with mobility issues or babies in prams. ~ Library users, 2017 survey

The proposed new library will vastly improve access for all community members, including families with strollers, the elderly, and people with a disability. While the library will be over two levels, with the children’s area on the ground floor, generous and accessible lifts will service each level.

Meeting the needs of children and families

“If Ivanhoe library is renovated, the children’s reading area space could be bigger to allow more kids to sit and read and explore books. It’s a tiny space for reading currently.”

“A downstairs story time space at Ivanhoe would be fantastic. Climbing those stairs with a large group of toddlers is not ideal.” ~ Library users, 2017 survey

The new ground floor children’s area will provide 161 square metres of indoor space, which will enable it to become the inspirational space that the community has

long wanted. Improved shelving will encourage young readers to explore and discover their love of reading, and along with comfortable seating, the area will be a welcome space for young and old to read, play and spend time together. A secure, covered outdoor area will also be accessed from the children's area, providing yet more opportunities to spark children's imaginations.

Importantly, a large parents' room, with dedicated pram and stroller parking space, and a theatrette for story times and other performances will also feature.

Quieter spaces and places

"Reduce the noise level (uncontrolled children, sound proofing of activity rooms, inconsiderate conduct of talking loudly) as I love the library as a resource place to read and work in peace." ~ Library user, 2017 survey

Everyone uses a library in different ways so a cleverly designed library takes this into account and ensures everyone, whatever their need, can find a suitable space. The library's design makes the best use of modern building materials to ensure noise doesn't travel where it shouldn't. Quiet spaces have also been physically separated from social meeting areas, either by distance or by barriers.

More areas, more activities

"Comfortable quiet community 'meeting' spaces - free or low cost."

"More meeting rooms as sometimes the rooms are booked out." ~ Library users, 2017 survey

A modern library is a community hub providing access to places where people can socialise and support each other. The proposed new Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub will not only have more meeting rooms and quiet spaces within the library itself but also in the other areas of the building. Flexible spaces on the ground floor suit a variety of purposes.

"I used to use the genealogy room for microfiche or ancestry research, but the facilities diminished and the room filled up with other kinds of users."

~ Library user, 2017 survey

Given the popularity of genealogy, the new library will also provide a specialist local history and genealogy room, much larger than the current room and set away from the main library area to suit concentrated study and contemplation, with beautiful views of the historic and architecturally significant town hall.

"Greater access for members to use the equipment in the MakerSpace at Ivanhoe."

~ Library user, 2017 survey

Banyule has a long and rich history of artistic endeavor, which continues today as community members get artistic and creative, and learn new skills within the

library's popular Design MakerSpace.

In the current library, this space comprises eight computers with design software, a 3D printer, a 3D 360° video camera, and a laser cutter. In the proposed new library, this space will include more computers as well as secure equipment storage.

Register for updates and keep informed

If you want to keep up to date with this project:

- Visit www.banyule.vic.gov.au/IvanhoeHub
- Visit shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/ivanhoehub and sign up to be kept informed about the project's progress.

If you have any questions about the project, contact Robbie Colosimo on 9457 9943 or via roberta.colosimo@banyule.vic.gov.au