
From: Kylie Holmes
Sent: Monday, 22 January 2024 12:06 pm
To: Julianne Wilkinson
Subject: Rainbow Story Time
Attachments: Rainbow Story Time request 2024.docx

Kia ora,

Attached is the information about the Rainbow Story Time.

Thank you

Kind regards,
Kylie



Kylie Holmes Youth and Early Learning Lead- Kaiurungi Ako Taiohi
P: 07 351 7028
E: kylie.holmes@rotorualc.nz | **W:** rotorualibrary.govt.nz
A: 1127 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand
PART OF ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL



Rainbow Story Time

Date Between March and June 2024

Cost- \$600

Te Aka Mauri, Rotorua Library, have been offered the opportunity to host two Drag Queens, Erica and Coco Flash, for a Rainbow Story Time. They are based in Taranaki and have been touring New Zealand since 2019. Other libraries have shared how much they enjoyed hosting them and that families enjoyed the experience. We have had them booked on two previous dates, but sadly had to cancel due to the COVID 19 lockdowns.

Erica and Coco will read picture books acceptance of difference, inclusion and being confident to express yourself. They will be dressed in colourful flamboyant outfits and it is a storytelling experience like no other.

Around New Zealand and the world story times like this have been gaining popularity. Traditionally Libraries have reflected their community and offered experiences and materials that allow people to see themselves represented, and better understand the experiences of others. We think the Children and their families will get a lot out of this experience.

They have been featured on TVNZ Breakfast and their visits to other libraries have received positive coverage in the New Zealand Herald.



Rainbow Storytime in Taranaki

From: [Joanne Dillon](#)
To: [Kylie Holmes](#); [Julianne Wilkinson](#)
Subject: RE: [SUSPICIOUS MESSAGE] Rainbow Storytime Tour Booking - Kylie Holmes
Date: Thursday, 25 January 2024 11:14:00 am
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Thank you Kylie, I've added it to the Event spreadsheet. I hope the Friends agree to support it and we're finally able to bring Sunita and Erika to Rotorua Library.

I'm sure Eliza would be excited to come.

Ngā mihi nui,

JD

Joanne Dillon, ALIANZA

Adult Learning, Programmes and Promotions Lead - *Kaiurungi Whakatairanga Pakeke*

Ako

P: 07 351 7064

M: 027 263 0484

E: joanne.dillon@rotorualc.nz | W: rotorualibrary.govt.nz

A: 1127 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand
 PART OF ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL



From: Kylie Holmes <Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 25 January 2024 8:58 am
To: Joanne Dillon <Joanne.Dillon@rotorualc.nz>; Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: FW: [SUSPICIOUS MESSAGE] Rainbow Storytime Tour Booking - Kylie Holmes

Kia ora,

We have a tentative date for the Rainbow story time. I have added this to the programmes calendar.

Kind regards,

Kylie Holmes Youth and Early Learning Lead- *Kaiurungi Ako Taiohi*

Rotorua District Library P: 07 351 7028 | E: kylie.holmes@rotorualc.nz | W: www.rotorualibrary.govt.nz

From: HOF Bookings <bookings@hausofflash.co.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 24 January 2024 9:52 PM
To: Kylie Holmes <Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: Re: [SUSPICIOUS MESSAGE] Rainbow Storytime Tour Booking - Kylie Holmes

Can we please pencil in 21 March while I work out the rest of the locations and dates?

Sunita



On 19/01/2024, at 4:20 PM, Kylie Holmes <Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz> wrote:

Kia ora,

Yes! We are very keen.

My preference would be for a Saturday date, but I understand these might be popular. We could also accommodate Tuesday, Thursday or Friday.

Do you have an approximate performance fee for a story time on this tour? I'm just putting a proposal to our Friends of the library to request funding.

Many thanks

Kind regards,

Kylie Holmes Youth and Early Learning Lead- Kaiurungi Ako Taiohi
 Rotorua District Library P: 07 351 7028 | E: kylie.holmes@rotorualc.nz | W: www.rotorualibrary.govt.nz

From: HOF Bookings <bookings@hausofflash.co.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 17 January 2024 9:54 AM
To: Kylie Holmes <Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: [SUSPICIOUS MESSAGE] Re: Rainbow Storytime Tour Booking - Kylie Holmes

This Message contains suspicious characteristics and has originated outside your organization.

Kia Ora,

So we have had a big change as Erika is now off to the UK in April/May for a few months.
 So we are seeing if there is any chance of squeezing in a mini North Island tour in March 2024 instead.

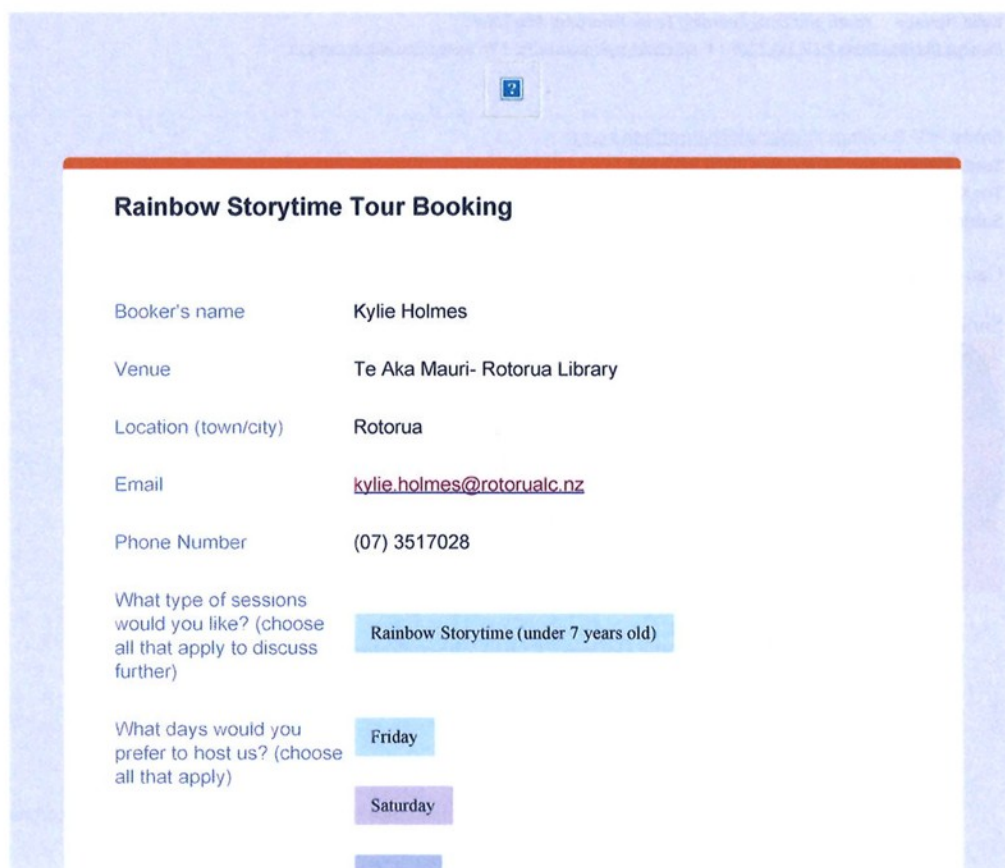
Please let me know if you would have space and ability if we were to do this and any preferred days/dates you have.

Thanks

Sunita (CoCo)

<image001.png>

On 19/06/2023, at 11:30 AM, Te Aka Mauri- Rotorua Library <noreply@jotform.com> wrote:



The screenshot shows a JotForm titled "Rainbow Storytime Tour Booking". The form contains the following fields and values:

Booker's name	Kylie Holmes
Venue	Te Aka Mauri- Rotorua Library
Location (town/city)	Rotorua
Email	kylie.holmes@rotorualc.nz
Phone Number	(07) 3517028
What type of sessions would you like? (choose all that apply to discuss further)	Rainbow Storytime (under 7 years old)
What days would you prefer to host us? (choose all that apply)	Friday
	Saturday

Sunday

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.

Subject: Comms and Management plan for Rainbow story time
Location: Utuhina Meeting Room (Ground Floor)

Start: Wed 7/02/2024 11:30 am
End: Wed 7/02/2024 12:30 pm
Show Time As: Tentative

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Not yet responded

Organizer: Julianne Wilkinson
Required Attendees: Suzanne McNicol; Kathy Nicholls; Joanne Dillon; Kylie Holmes
Optional Attendees: Jean-Paul Gaston
Resources: Utuhina Meeting Room (Ground Floor)

Kia ora team,

We have been offered the opportunity and secured the funding to have Rainbow Story Time at the Library on Thursday 21st March at 10.30am.

Rainbow story time is hosted by two drag queens called Erica and Cocoa and the focus of their stories are about acceptance, inclusion and being confident to express yourself.

Story times like these are gaining in popularity and fit nicely with the purpose of the Library, but they are also unfortunately providing opportunity for strong anti-trans and anti-queer groups to express their views in a very negative fashion, including protests and in some cases vandalism. <https://www.nzherald.co.nz/bay-of-plenty-times/news/dozens-attend-tauranga-librarys-rainbow-story-time-despite-complaints/D5GG42ZMMNE7HJIDBMAYEEM26I/>

We believe the positive messaging and fun experience offered by this event should be provided to our community, however there is some risk here and so we need a strong comms and management plan. We have discussed some initial measures but would appreciate your expertise and support.

Attached is some info that maybe helpful leading into our meeting. <https://www.lianza.org.nz/resources/freedom-to-read/rainbow-and-takatapu/>

Thanks
 Julianne



From: Kylie Holmes
Sent: Thursday, 8 February 2024 4:27 pm
To: Joanne Dillon; Julianne Wilkinson
Subject: RE: Rainbow storytime factsheet
Attachments: Rainbow storytime fact sheet.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Kia ora,

Thank you for your feedback JD, I have included a bit about them being performances for families etc. and about registration.

Julianne is going to take some parts from the LIANZA article to further support it before it goes on to Ingrid to be formatted.

Many thanks 😊

Kind regards,

Kylie Holmes *Youth and Early Learning Lead- Kaiurungi Ako Taiohi*
Rotorua District Library P: [07 351 7028](tel:073517028) | E: kylie.holmes@rotorualc.nz | W: www.rotorualibrary.govt.nz

From: Joanne Dillon <Joanne.Dillon@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 8 February 2024 3:25 PM
To: Kylie Holmes <Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz>; Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: RE: Rainbow storytime factsheet

Kia ora Kylie,

That looks really good – thank you.

Could we please change our name to Rotorua Library at Te Aka Mauri? I would also add that the registration gives us an indication of numbers attending so we can best prepare for the size of the audience.

Should we elaborate on “Drag Queens” as drag queens who specialise in presenting to children and at family friendly events (or something along those lines)?

Do we need to share our plans to respond to any issues?

I have been in touch with Lois about their experience – when they last hosted Erika and Coco Flash they had no pushback whatsoever. They are hosting them again in March and this time are expecting some negativity (due to a national movement mobilising unpredictable people in the community) so are having contracted security on site and are considering turning off commenting on social media.

Ngā mihi nui,

JD



Joanne Dillon, ALIANZA
 Adult Learning, Programmes and Promotions Lead - *Kaiurungi Whakatairanga Pakeke Ako*
 P: 07 351 7064
 M: 027 263 0484
 E: joanne.dillon@rotorualc.nz | W: rotorualibrary.govt.nz
 A: 1127 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand
 PART OF ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL



From: Kylie Holmes <Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 8 February 2024 2:35 pm

To: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>; Joanne Dillon <Joanne.Dillon@rotorualc.nz>

Subject: Rainbow storytime factsheet

Kia ora,

Attached is the draft factsheet for the upcoming Rainbow Storytime.

Please let me know if it needs updating or changing.

Thank you

Kind regards,
 Kylie



Kylie Holmes Youth and Early Learning Lead- Kaiurungi Ako Taiohi
 P: 07 351 7028
 E: kylie.holmes@rotorualc.nz | W: rotorualibrary.govt.nz
 A: 1127 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand
 PART OF ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL



Rainbow Story Time

- Rotorua Library, Te Aka Mauri
- 10.30am, Thursday 21 March 2024
- Cost- \$600, kindly paid for the Friends of the Library
- Attendance- 60-150 pre-schoolers and their caregivers
- Registration- to attend this event families will need to register their interest



Te Aka Mauri, Rotorua Library, have been offered and taken the opportunity to host two Drag Queens, Erika and Coco Flash, for a Rainbow Story Time. They are based in Taranaki and have been touring New Zealand reading at libraries since 2019.

Other libraries have shared how much they enjoyed hosting them and that families enjoyed the experience. We have had them booked on two previous dates, but sadly had to cancel due to the COVID 19 lockdowns and event restrictions.

Around New Zealand and the world storytimes like this have been gaining popularity. Traditionally Libraries have reflected their community and offered experiences and materials that allow people to see themselves represented, and better understand the experiences of others. We think the Children and their families will get a lot out of this experience. The key messages are inclusion, anti-bullying and about having the confidence to be yourself.

Erika and Coco will read picture books acceptance of difference, inclusion and being confident to express yourself. They will be dressed in colourful flamboyant

outfits and it is a storytelling experience like no other. All the books they share are published by large publishing houses and many of the titles will be in our collection. Both of them are experienced entertainers who have developed an engaging family friendly show.

“There’s no questioning about our sexuality or gender. It’s just people in fabulous frocks doing cool performances and reading cool books.”- Erica Flash, interview with bFM, 7 March, 2023

We are expecting that this could be a very popular event, as performers have traditionally drawn in higher than usual attendance. To ensure that we have the space set up correctly we will be asking families to register for the event.

Media Coverage of Erika and Coco Flash

[Waikato Rainbow Storytime events teach kids about anti-bullying and inclusion - NZ Herald](#)

[Dozens attend Tauranga library’s Rainbow Storytime despite complaints - NZ Herald](#)

[Demystifying drag storytime | 95bFM](#)

Media Coverage of New Zealand Rainbow or Drag Storytimes

[Revealed: What actually happens during the library’s Drag Storytime | The Spinoff](#)
(does not feature the performers visiting us)

From: Kylie Holmes
Sent: Saturday, 10 February 2024 12:48 pm
To: HOF Bookings
Subject: Re: [SUSPICIOUS MESSAGE] Rainbow Storytime Tour Booking - Kylie Holmes

Kia Ora,

Can you please provide us with the following:

- the name (or trade name) and GST number of the supplier
 - Invoice must be addressed to Rotorua Lakes Council, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046
- Screen dump of the bank details or a deposit slip

We would like to check we have copies of the books you will be reading in our library collection. Do you have a book list? I can see them being very popular following your visit and if they are older titles we may no longer hold them.

Thank you

Kind regards,
 Kylie

Sent from my iPhone

On 9/02/2024, at 2:40 PM, HOF Bookings <bookings@hausoffflash.co.nz> wrote:

Wonderful! Are there any processes I need to do to for invoicing and the such?

Sunita

<hof.png>

On 5/02/2024, at 9:17 AM, Kylie Holmes <Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz> wrote:

Kia ora,

How exciting!

Can we please have one Story time session, starting at 10.30?

Many thanks

Kind regards,

Kylie Holmes Youth and Early Learning Lead- Kaiurungi Ako Taiohi

Rotorua District Library P: 07 351 7028 | E: kylie.holmes@rotorualc.nz | W: www.rotorualibrary.govt.nz

From: HOF Bookings <bookings@hausoffflash.co.nz>

Sent: Saturday, 3 February 2024 11:55 AM

To: Kylie Holmes <Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz>

Subject: Re: [SUSPICIOUS MESSAGE] Rainbow Storytime Tour Booking - Kylie Holmes

21 March is all go, can you please confirm the sessions you would like?

Sunita

<image001.png>

On 25/01/2024, at 7:25 PM, HOF Bookings
 <bookings@hausoffflash.co.nz> wrote:
 Amazing!!! We will just confirm the other locations to make
 sure it's all going to work out and let you know asap.
 Sunita
 <hof.png>

On 25/01/2024, at 4:57 PM, Kylie Holmes
 <Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz> wrote:
 Kia ora,
 Our Friends of the library have kindly agreed to
 fund your visit. I look forward to hear from you
 when you are able confirm the date and time.
 Thank you
 Kind regards,

Kylie Holmes Youth and Early Learning Lead- Kaiurungi Ako Taiohi
 Rotorua District Library P: 07 351 7028 | E: kylie.holmes@rotorualc.nz | W: www.rotorualibrary.govt.nz

From: HOF Bookings <bookings@hausoffflash.co.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 25 January 2024 9:02 AM
To: Kylie Holmes <Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: Re: [SUSPICIOUS MESSAGE] Rainbow
 Storytime Tour Booking - Kylie Holmes
 Perfect thank you.
 Hear from you soon.
 Sunita
 <image001.png>

On 25/01/2024, at 8:30 AM,
 Kylie Holmes
 <Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz>
 wrote:
 Kia ora,
 Thank you 😊
 Our funding request will be
 considered by our Friends of the
 Library this afternoon.
 Kind regards,

Kylie Holmes Youth and Early Learning Lead- Kaiurungi Ako Taiohi
 Rotorua District Library P: 07 351 7028 | E: kylie.holmes@rotorualc.nz | W: www.rotorualibrary.govt.nz

From: HOF Bookings
 <bookings@hausoffflash.co.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 24 January 2024
 9:52 PM
To: Kylie Holmes
 <Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz>

Subject: Re: [SUSPICIOUS MESSAGE] Rainbow Storytime Tour
 Booking - Kylie Holmes
 Can we please pencil in 21
 March while I work out the rest
 of the locations and dates?
 Sunita
 <image001.png>

On 19/01/2024, at
 4:20 PM, Kylie
 Holmes
 <[Kylie.Holmes@r
 otorualc.nz](mailto:Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz)>

wrote:

Kia ora,
 Yes! We are very
 keen.
 My preference
 would be for a
 Saturday date, but I
 understand these
 might be popular.
 We could also
 accommodate
 Tuesday, Thursday
 or Friday.
 Do you have an
 approximate
 performance fee
 for a story time on
 this tour? I'm just
 putting a proposal
 to our Friends of
 the library to
 request funding.
 Many thanks
 Kind regards,

Kylie Holmes *Youth and Early Learning Lead- Kaiurungi Ako Taiohi*
 Rotorua District Library P: [07 351 7028](tel:073517028) | E: kylie.holmes@rotorualc.nz | W: www.rotorua.govt.nz

From: HOF
 Bookings
 <[bookings@hausoff
 lash.co.nz](mailto:bookings@hausofflash.co.nz)>

Sent: Wednesday,
 17 January 2024
 9:54 AM

To: Kylie Holmes
 <[Kylie.Holmes@rot
 orualc.nz](mailto:Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz)>

Subject:

[SUSPICIOUS
MESSAGE] Re:
Rainbow Storytime
Tour Booking - Kylie
Holmes

**This Message
contains suspicious
characteristics and
has originated
outside your
organization.**

Kia Ora,
So we have had a
big change as
Erika is now off
to the UK in
April/May for a
few months.
So we are seeing
if there is any
chance of
squeezing in a
mini North Island
tour in March
2024 instead.
Please let me
know if you
would have space
and ability if we
were to do this
and any preferred
days/dates you
have.
Thanks
Sunita (CoCo)
<image001.png>

On
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Rainbow Storytime Tour Booking

Booker's name	Kylie Holmes
Venue	Te Aka Mauri- Rotorua
Location (town/city)	Rotorua
Email	kylie.holmes@rotorua
Phone Number	(07) 3517028
What type of sessions would you like? (choose all that apply to discuss further)	☒ Rainbow Storytime (un
What days would you prefer to host us? (choose all that apply)	☒ Friday ☒ Saturday ☒ Sunday

16
17
18
19
20

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view](#)

From: Julianne Wilkinson
Sent: Tuesday, 13 February 2024 3:33 pm
To: Ingrid Tiriana
Subject: RE: Rainbow story time info

Lol maybe both!

No probs will do.

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri

P: [+64 7 3517640](tel:+6473517640)

M: [+64 0272426235](tel:+640272426235)



From: Ingrid Tiriana <Ingrid.Tiriana@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 13 February 2024 3:33 pm
To: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: RE: Rainbow story time info

Gumboots? I was thinking wine ...

Get JP to direct you re getting the info to elected members. He or Gina may share it with the mayor and they could discuss how best to get it to other elected members for their info, if they consider that necessary.

From: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 13 February 2024 3:23 pm
To: Ingrid Tiriana <Ingrid.Tiriana@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: RE: Rainbow story time info

Yikes sound like you need your gumboots.

If you think the format is fine I can send to JP and Gina for a final check before supplying to Mayor. Is there a process to get o Mayor and Councillors?

Thanks
Julianne

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri

P: [+64 7 3517640](tel:+6473517640)

M: [+64 0272426235](tel:+640272426235)



From: Ingrid Tiriana <Ingrid.Tiriana@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 13 February 2024 3:14 pm
To: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: RE: Rainbow story time info

Hi Julianne,

Greg T said you were looking for me? Sorry, doodoo deep in LTP stuff today.

This info looked good to me and I think it could go to the Mayor as is.

Was there something you needed from me before we hear back from JP?

Apologies if I've misunderstood.

Ing

From: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Monday, 12 February 2024 3:07 pm
To: Ingrid Tiriana <Ingrid.Tiriana@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: Rainbow story time info

Hi Ingrid

Attached is a base document with some information to create a one pager for the Mayor and Councillors and develop a FAQ's document.

Once JP has taken this to Gina and through to Councillors we will then start marketing as per any other event.

Below is some additional information relating to Libraries managing these events. It may have some helpful information too.

<https://www.lianza.org.nz/resources/freedom-to-read/rainbow-and-takatapui/>

Let me know if you need anything further or have any questions.

Thanks

Julianne



Julianne Wilkinson

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri

Te Aka Mauri | Rotorua Library

P: [+64 7 3517640](tel:+6473517640)

M: [+64 0272426235](tel:+640272426235)

E: julianne.wilkinson@rotorualc.nz

A: Civic Centre, 1061 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

W: rotorualakescouncil.nz



Rainbow Story Time

Rotorua Library @ Te Aka Mauri:

- Community Pride Space on the ground floor
- 10.30am, Thursday 21 March 2024
- Anticipated attendance 60-150 pre-schoolers and their caregivers
- Registration will be required so we can understand numbers and implement appropriate management
- Event management plan will be in place to cover various scenarios should this event be more popular than anticipated or receive negative feedback or be challenged
- Cost to Rotorua Library is \$600 for a one-hour event. This has been sponsored by Friends of Rotorua Library

Background

Rainbow Story time is hosted by two drag queens called Erika and Coco Flash. They are based in Taranaki and have been touring New Zealand reading at libraries since 2019. While both Erika and Coco offer various hosted events, Rainbow Story time is aimed at toddlers and younger children. They incorporate story books, dancing and songs focussing on acceptance, anti-bullying, inclusion and having confidence in yourself.

Erika and Coco will be dressed in colourful flamboyant outfits and create a family friendly storytelling experience like no other. All the books they share are published by large publishing houses and many of the titles are already in our collection. They are professional entertainers with experience and qualifications in educating and entertaining young children. Both are police vetted and certified in working with young people.

"There's no questioning about our sexuality or gender. It's just people in fabulous frocks doing cool performances and reading cool books." - Erica Flash, interview with bFM, 7 March, 2023

Other information

Other libraries have shared how much they enjoyed hosting this event and that families enjoyed the experience. Rotorua Library had them booked on two previous dates, but had to cancel due to the COVID 19 lockdowns and event restrictions.

We know the event has been hosted in Taranaki, Auckland, Tauranga, Hamilton, Nelson, Wellington, Christchurch

Around New Zealand and the world story times like this have been gaining popularity. Traditionally Libraries have reflected their community and offered experiences and events that allow people to see themselves represented, and better understand the experiences of others. Rotorua Library is no different and wish to provide positive experiences that share different perspectives and encourage a sense of acceptance and belonging to all members of the community.

Media Coverage of Erika and Coco Flash

Waikato Rainbow Storytime events teach kids about anti-bullying and inclusion - NZ Herald

Dozens attend Tauranga library's Rainbow Storytime despite complaints - NZ Herald

Demystifying drag storytime | 95bFM

<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/online-backlash-to-rainbow-storytime-drag-performers-shocks-community-we-still-have-a-long-way-to-go/ZL6VLHKGDW4NCQLYLDKGOJZQXU/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8oMQLFTONEE>

Media Coverage of New Zealand Rainbow or Drag Storytimes

Revealed: What actually happens during the library's Drag Storytime | The Spinoff (does not feature the performers visiting us)

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/crime/132861645/queenstown-mayor-calls-out-transphobic-sign-at-rainbow-reading>



From: Julianne Wilkinson
Sent: Monday, 19 February 2024 1:34 pm
To: Jean-Paul Gaston; Gina Rangi
Subject: FW: Rainbow story time information
Attachments: Rainbow storytime information.docx

Ahi ahi marie,

Just checking in to see if this has been brought to the attention of the Mayor (and councillors)?

We would like to start promoting soon if all is good to go.

Let me know if you need anything additional from me.

Thanks
 Julianne

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri

P: [+64 7 3517640](tel:+6473517640)

M: [+64 0272426235](tel:+640272426235)



From: Julianne Wilkinson
Sent: Tuesday, 13 February 2024 3:41 pm
To: Jean-Paul Gaston <Jean-Paul.Gaston@rotorualc.nz>; Gina Rangi <Gina.Rangi@rotorualc.nz>
Cc: Ingrid Tiriana <Ingrid.Tiriana@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: Rainbow story time information

Kia ora JP

As discussed here is the information regarding Rainbow Story time. Ingrid is happy with the format.

Please let me know if you have any questions or require further investigation/information. We are still chatting with Library staff, but so far concerns have only related to on-line, which is easily manageable.

We will continue to work on the event management plan and await your lead on when we should start advertising.

What is the best approach to get this to the Mayor (and elected members if required)?

Ngā mihi
Julianne



Julianne Wilkinson

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri

Te Aka Mauri | Rotorua Library

P: [+64 7 3517640](tel:+6473517640)

M: [+64 0272426235](tel:+640272426235)

E: julianne.wilkinson@rotorualc.nz

A: Civic Centre, 1061 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

W: rotorualakescouncil.nz



Rainbow Story Time

Rotorua Library @ Te Aka Mauri:

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Background

Rainbow Story time is hosted by two drag queens called Erika and Coco Flash. They are based in Taranaki and have been touring New Zealand reading at libraries since 2019. While both Erika and Coco offer various hosted events, Rainbow Story time is aimed at toddlers and younger children. They incorporate story books, dancing and songs focussing on acceptance, anti-bullying, inclusion and having confidence in yourself.

Erika and Coco will be dressed in colourful flamboyant outfits and create a family friendly storytelling experience like no other. All the books they share are published by large publishing houses and many of the titles are already in our collection. They are professional entertainers with experience and qualifications in educating and entertaining young children. Both are police vetted and certified in working with young people.

"There's no questioning about our sexuality or gender. It's just people in fabulous frocks doing cool performances and reading cool books."- Erica Flash, interview with bFM, 7 March, 2023

Other information

Other libraries have shared how much they enjoyed hosting this event and that families enjoyed the experience. Rotorua Library had them booked on two previous dates, but had to cancel due to the COVID 19 lockdowns and event restrictions.

We know the event has been hosted in Taranaki, Auckland, Tauranga, Hamilton, Nelson, Wellington, and Christchurch.

Around New Zealand and the world story times like this have been gaining popularity. Traditionally Libraries have reflected their community and offered experiences and events that allow people to see themselves represented, and better understand the experiences of others. Rotorua Library is no different and wish to provide positive experiences that share different perspectives and encourage a sense of acceptance and belonging to all members of the community.

Media Coverage of Erika and Coco Flash

[Waikato Rainbow Storytime events teach kids about anti-bullying and inclusion - NZ Herald](#)

[Dozens attend Tauranga library's Rainbow Storytime despite complaints - NZ Herald](#)

[Demystifying drag storytime | 95bFM](#)

<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/online-backlash-to-rainbow-storytime-drag-performers-shocks-community-we-still-have-a-long-way-to-go/ZL6VLHKGDW4NCQLYLDKGOJZQXU/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8oMQLFTONEE>

Media Coverage of New Zealand Rainbow or Drag Storytimes

[Revealed: What actually happens during the library's Drag Storytime | The Spinoff](#) (does not feature the performers visiting us)

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/crime/132861645/queenstown-mayor-calls-out-transphobic-sign-at-rainbow-reading>



From: Kylie Holmes
Sent: Tuesday, 20 February 2024 2:05 pm
To: Joanne Dillon; Julianne Wilkinson
Subject: RE: Rainbow story time

Kia ora,

Thank you both for the updates.

I have reached out to them to organise payment and requested the book lists too. I will enquire about images or a press kit.

Frankie is planning a 'diverse books' display for the month. Here will feature any of the books used by the performers and any other books that feature books with diverse characters and families. We have some great books in the collection where the main characters choose to wear different clothing, have visible disabilities or have families that are a bit different too.

Looking forward to catching up tomorrow.

Kind regards,

Kylie Holmes *Youth and Early Learning Lead- Kaiurungi Ako Taiohi*
 Rotorua District Library P: [07 351 7028](tel:073517028) | E: kylie.holmes@rotorualc.nz | W: www.rotorualibrary.govt.nz

From: Joanne Dillon <Joanne.Dillon@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Monday, 19 February 2024 2:21 PM
To: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>; Kylie Holmes <Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: RE: Rainbow story time

That looks awesome and I'm relieved it has been okayed and we can get on with planning and promoting.

I can start working on an event management plan and layout plan.

In terms of reservations, we have a few options:

- Monitor Online Orders – we own this, it's free and some parents will be familiar with using it. However it's not always a positive user experience. Monitor does have some new marketing functionality that we haven't looked into yet. It allows you to send an email to people who have booked to attend an event with event-related information. You can also send post-event surveys.
- Humanitix – this is a web-based ticketing platform that is free to use for free events. It's growing in popularity nationwide (Kupu used it in 2022/2023) and it does allow you to scan tickets if we wanted to do that (but could be time consuming).
- Email RSVPs – advertising our email address could result in more unwanted emails but I'm thinking anyone who wants to voice their opinions about the event will find a way to communicate with us.

Happy to organise a quick catchup.



Joanne Dillon, ALIANZA

Adult Learning, Programmes and Promotions Lead - *Kaiurungi Whakatairanga*

Pakeke Ako

P: 07 351 7064

M: 027 263 0484

E: joanne.dillon@rotorualc.nz | W: rotorualibrary.govt.nz

A: 1127 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand
PART OF ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL



From: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>

Sent: Monday, 19 February 2024 2:03 pm

To: Joanne Dillon <Joanne.Dillon@rotorualc.nz>; Kylie Holmes <Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz>

Subject: Rainbow story time

Hi Ladies

Here is the information I sent to JP and Gina. It has been passed by the mayor and deputy mayor.

I will pull together some FAQ's and "response statements" and run these passed you guys and Kathy to ensure we have everything covered.

I think we need to finalise our promo and also our registration process.

Kylie will they provide us material for promo (i.e specific photos/images?) and will they advise which books they will read at our session? Was wondering if we could 'theme' the session from one of the books and also promote the books prior as a lead in.

I think we need to have everything finalised by the end of the month.

Shall we have another quick get together to make sure we have everything captured and tasks allocated.

Thanks
Julianne



Julianne Wilkinson

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri

Te Aka Mauri | Rotorua Library

P: +64 7 3517640

M: +64 0272426235

E: julianne.wilkinson@rotorualc.nz

A: Civic Centre, 1061 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

W: rotorualakescouncil.nz



Rainbow Story Time

Rotorua Library @ Te Aka Mauri:

- Community Pride Space on the ground floor
- 10.30am, Thursday 21 March 2024
- Anticipated attendance 60-150 pre-schoolers and their caregivers
- Registration will be required so we can understand numbers and implement appropriate management
- Event management plan will be in place to cover various scenarios should this event be more popular than anticipated or receive negative feedback or be challenged
- Cost to Rotorua Library is \$600 for a one-hour event. This has been sponsored by Friends of Rotorua Library

Background

Rainbow Story time is hosted by two drag queens called Erika and Coco Flash. They are based in Taranaki and have been touring New Zealand reading at libraries since 2019. While both Erika and Coco offer various hosted events, Rainbow Story time is aimed at toddlers and younger children. They incorporate story books, dancing and songs focussing on acceptance, anti-bullying, inclusion and having confidence in yourself.

Erika and Coco will be dressed in colourful flamboyant outfits and create a family friendly storytelling experience like no other. All the books they share are published by large publishing houses and many of the titles are already in our collection. They are professional entertainers with experience and qualifications in educating and entertaining young children. Both are police vetted and certified in working with young people.

“There's no questioning about our sexuality or gender. It's just people in fabulous frocks doing cool performances and reading cool books.”- Erica Flash, interview with bFM, 7 March, 2023

Other information

Other libraries have shared how much they enjoyed hosting this event and that families enjoyed the experience. Rotorua Library had them booked on two previous dates, but had to cancel due to the COVID 19 lockdowns and event restrictions.

We know the event has been hosted in Taranaki, Auckland, Tauranga, Hamilton, Nelson, Wellington, and Christchurch.

Around New Zealand and the world story times like this have been gaining popularity. Traditionally Libraries have reflected their community and offered experiences and events that allow people to see themselves represented, and better understand the experiences of others. Rotorua Library is no different and wish to provide positive experiences that share different perspectives and encourage a sense of acceptance and belonging to all members of the community.

Media Coverage of Erika and Coco Flash

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[Demystifying drag storytime | 95bFM](#)

<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/online-backlash-to-rainbow-storytime-drag-performers-shocks-community-we-still-have-a-long-way-to-go/ZL6VLHKGDW4NCQLYLDKGOJZQXU/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8oMQLFTONEE>

Media Coverage of New Zealand Rainbow or Drag Storytimes

[Revealed: What actually happens during the library's Drag Storytime | The Spinoff](#) (does not feature the performers visiting us)

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/crime/132861645/queenstown-mayor-calls-out-transphobic-sign-at-rainbow-reading>



From: Kylie Holmes
Sent: Thursday, 29 February 2024 3:16 pm
To: Joanne Dillon
Subject: RE: Rainbow Storytime

Kia ora,

I have just asked to confirm our themes as; acceptance of difference, inclusivity and being yourself.

I will forward the cute display/ signage I saw in Hamilton last week. They went with a rainbow with 'beYOUtiful' over laid. It was really effective.

Kind regards,

Kylie Holmes *Youth and Early Learning Lead- Kaiurungi Ako Taiohi*
Rotorua District Library P: [07 351 7028](tel:073517028) | E: kylie.holmes@rotorualc.nz | W: www.rotorualibrary.govt.nz

From: Joanne Dillon <Joanne.Dillon@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 29 February 2024 2:09 PM
To: Kylie Holmes <Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: RE: Rainbow Storytime

Kia ora,

Thanks for those Kylie. Julianne mentioned to me a photo of a display at another library. I didn't see it in this folder of events but would love to see if you could send it to me at some stage.

Also, just confirming, are we going with the more generic inclusive sessions or the pride ones?

Ngā mihi nui,

JD



Joanne Dillon, ALIANZA
Adult Learning, Programmes and Promotions Lead - *Kaiurungi Whakatairanga*
Pakeke Ako
P: 07 351 7064
M: 027 263 0484
E: joanne.dillon@rotorualc.nz | W: rotorualibrary.govt.nz
A: 1127 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand
PART OF ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL





From: Kylie Holmes <Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz>

Sent: Monday, 26 February 2024 9:36 am

To: Joanne Dillon <Joanne.Dillon@rotorualc.nz>; Sue Heke <Sue.Heke@rotorualc.nz>; Thomas Daly <Thomas.Daly@rotorualc.nz>

Cc: Hannah Swale <Hannah.Swale@rotorualc.nz>; Te Aroha Rangi <TeAroha.Rangi@rotorualc.nz>; Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>

Subject: FW: Rainbow Storytime

Kia ora,

Below is a link to photos of our Rainbow story tellers images, bio's and a cute video that can be used for promotion. Unfortunately the videos are from 2021 ☹️

I have requested a book list from them again so we can include the books in our planned display.

Thank you

Kind regards,

Kylie Holmes Youth and Early Learning Lead- Kaiurungi Ako Taiohi

Rotorua District Library P: [07 351 7028](tel:073517028) | E: kylie.holmes@rotorualc.nz | W: www.rotorualibrary.govt.nz

From: HOF Bookings <bookings@hausofflash.co.nz>

Sent: Monday, 26 February 2024 1:28 AM

Subject: Rainbow Storytime

We look forward to catching up with you all and doing some story times with you in the next few weeks.

You have the choice of a a "Pride" themed Storytime as it is Pride season in Aotearoa, or to have our more generic sessions. Totally up to you which you choose.

Please create Facebook events and include our accounts as co-hosts so we can share it around on our socials.

Haus Of Flash
Rainbow Storytime NZ
Flash Mob Entertainment

Here you will find the link to our assets to use, photos, bios, images. Please send us copies of your artwork you make for us to share also :)

Rainbow Storytime NZ Assets – Google
Drive
drive.google.com



From: [James Dolan](mailto:James.Dolan@nasa.gov)
To: [Edie Johnson](mailto:Edie.Johnson@nasa.gov)
Subject: RE: Display for Rainbow story line
Date: Thursday, 28 February 2020 3:24:00 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

I wonder if we could get a giant rainbow flag from Jerry. ☺

1

Joanne Dillon, AIA/2A
Adult Learning Programmes and Promotions Lead - Educating Whānau/ongoi Parents
Ago
P: 07 351 7344
M: 07 351 0486
E: joanne.dillon@nzta.govt.nz | www.nzta.govt.nz
A: 1121 Humeau Drive, Level 302, Airpark M+ Centre, Airpark 3300, New Zealand
PART OF ROTORUA UNUS COLLEGE



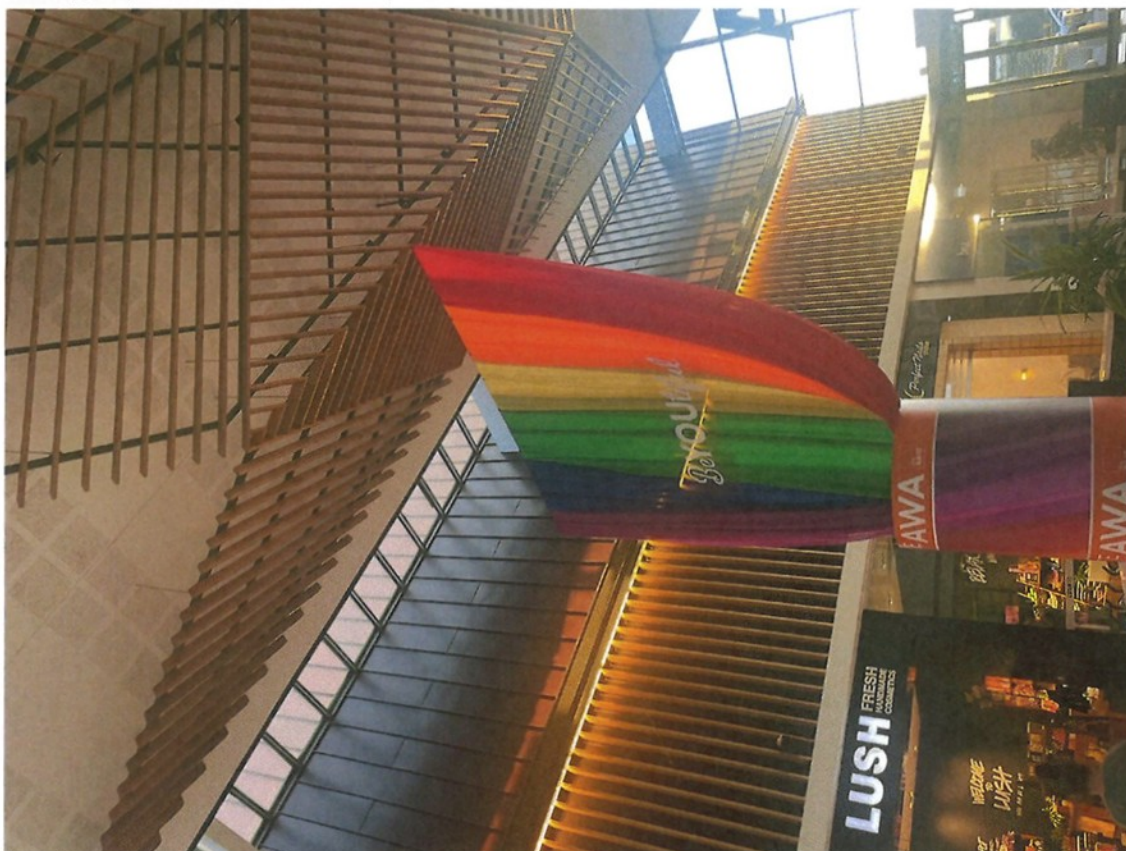
From: Kyle Holmes <Kyle.Holmes@utorusuk.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 29 February 2024 3:16 pm
To: Joanne Dillon <Joanne.Dillon@utorusuk.nz>
Subject: I.W. Display for Rainbow story time

Kylie Holmes Youth and Early Learning Lead, Kaununga-Āro Tochi
Rātana District Library P. 01 331 2019 E. info@ratonadistrict.co.nz W. www.ratonadistrict.co.nz

From: Kyle Holmes
Sent: Thursday, 29 February 2024 9:51 AM
To: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@natureuk.org>
Subject: Display for Rainbow story time

Kia Ora

This is the cute display that was up in the base last week. I think it would be cute to link with rainbow story time



Sent from my iPhone

From: Julianne Wilkinson
Sent: Wednesday, 6 March 2024 10:52 am
To: Kylie Holmes; Joanne Dillon; Sue Heke
Subject: RE: Rainbow Storytime planning

Coolio, we need to add this to the poster and in the auto response to the registration please.

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri

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M: +64 0272426235



From: Kylie Holmes <Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 6 March 2024 10:45 am
To: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>; Joanne Dillon <Joanne.Dillon@rotorualc.nz>; Sue Heke <Sue.Heke@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: RE: Rainbow Storytime planning

Kia ora,

I would like to 😊 I think it would be fun to have more colour that usual in the library.

Kind regards,

Kylie Holmes Youth and Early Learning Lead- Kaiurungi Ako Taiohi
 Rotorua District Library P: 07 351 7028 | E: kylie.holmes@rotorualc.nz | W: www.rotorualibrary.govt.nz

From: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 6 March 2024 10:30 AM
To: Joanne Dillon <Joanne.Dillon@rotorualc.nz>; Sue Heke <Sue.Heke@rotorualc.nz>; Kylie Holmes <Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: RE: Rainbow Storytime planning

Hey team,

Will we encourage kids to come dressed up 'as they like'?

J

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri

P: +64 7 3517640

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From: Joanne Dillon <Joanne.Dillon@rotorualc.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 5 March 2024 8:35 am

To: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>; Sue Heke <Sue.Heke@rotorualc.nz>; Kylie Holmes <Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz>

Subject: Rainbow Storytime planning

Mōrena,

I have attached three versions of a poster for Rainbow Storytime, one that Sue created and two of my attempts. Sue has access to all of them in Canva so can make changes to your preferred one or come up with something different. I also had a go at the BeYOU concept Julianne.

I've tried both Humanitix and Survey Monkey as ways of taking registrations. Humanitix is a bit more than we need for this event and may lead attendees to think we need them to print their tickets or bring an eTicket for scanning (which we won't be doing) and Survey Monkey's free version is a bit limited. Our other options that I can think of are: Monitor Online Orders or good old email to library@rotorualc.nz with the number of adults and children you will be bringing (then create a spreadsheet of these people). I was going to create an event page on our website which links to the chosen booking method and add this to the poster (instead of the temporary URL that's on the posters). Also a QR code perhaps.

Once we have a confirmed poster and means of taking registrations we need to add the event to our website and social media then start actively monitoring replies. If need be you can switch off commenting on an individual Facebook post.

Ngā mihi,

JD

P.S. I'll check my emails again a bit later in case you need anything from me.



Joanne Dillon (JD) (ALIANZA)

Kaiurungi Whakatairanga Pakeke Ako | Adult Learning, Programmes and Promotions Lead

Hunga Te Aka Mauri | Rotorua Library

P: +64 7 3517064

M: +64 272630484

E: joanne.dillon@rotorualc.nz@rotorualc.nz

A: Civic Centre, 1061 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

W: rotorualakescouncil.nz



From: Joanne Dillon
Sent: Thursday, 7 March 2024 5:21 pm
To: Kylie Holmes
Subject: RE: Rainbow storytime poster

Thanks Kylie.
I'm happy with tomorrow. It's not too hard to keep an eye on comments.

Ngā mihi nui,

JD

From: Kylie Holmes <Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 7 March 2024 5:20 pm
To: Joanne Dillon <Joanne.Dillon@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: Re: Rainbow storytime poster

Kia Ora,

Many thanks, love this poster.

It would be great to start promotion as soon as tomorrow, but I know we had discussed the need to keep an eye on comments online. Which is tricky over the weekend. I would really like to have fliers and posters printed ready to go for our sessions starting Monday.

Happy to chat in the morning.

Kind regards,
Kylie

Sent from my iPhone

On 7/03/2024, at 5:07 PM, Joanne Dillon <Joanne.Dillon@rotorualc.nz> wrote:

Kia ora Kylie,

Just confirming this is your preferred poster? If so I will go ahead and create flyers and digital content for the website, Rotorua Nui and Facebook and schedule promotions to start on Monday. Or would you prefer we started promoting from Friday?

JD



Joanne Dillon (JD) (ALIANZA)

Kaiurungi Whakatairanga Pakeke Ako | Adult Learning, Programmes and Promotions Lead

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E: joanne.dillon@rotorualc.nz@rotorualc.nz

A: Civic Centre, 1061 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

W: rotorualakescouncil.nz



<Rainbow storytime (1).png>

From: Julianne Wilkinson
Sent: Friday, 8 March 2024 2:25 pm
To: Kathy Nicholls; Joanne Dillon; Kylie Holmes
Subject: RE: Rainbow story time
Attachments: Rainbow storytime FAQ's.docx

Thanks Kathy that sounds like a great plan.

JD and Kylie, attached are the FAQ's. We need to add how to register.

Also, is there anything that stands out as missing?

If not I wonder if these are made available with the event information on the website (this might answer some initial enquiries or it may generate more!) or do we keep these as a reference?

I also wonder if we do a wisdom Wednesday on this next week? Creating a level of understanding and expectation with staff will assist us to manage any issues that may come up. What do you think?

Julianne

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri

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M: [+64 0272426235](tel:+640272426235)



From: Kathy Nicholls <Kathy.Nicholls@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Friday, 8 March 2024 10:10 am
To: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: RE: Rainbow story time

I think this all sounds perfect, awesome!

I guess advise if you have any media enquiries just pass to me and we will work on them here.

With regards to digital comments with FB posts. I would suggest you would respond only once in the comments using the FAQ notes you have. Anything super negative you can hide, or let me know if any comments you are unsure on how to respond.

Many thanks!

Kathy Nicholls

Kaitohu Whakatairanga | Marketing Advisor

Te Kaunihera o ngā Roto o Rotorua | Rotorua Lakes Council

P: +64 7 351 8456 **M:** +64 27 6741 898

From: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, 6 March 2024 10:36 am

To: Kathy Nicholls <Kathy.Nicholls@rotorualc.nz>

Subject: Rainbow story time

Hi Kathy,

Just catching you up on an event coming to the library shortly called Rainbow Story time.

We had a meeting on the 7th of February, which Ingrid attended but you must have been otherwise engaged. Sorry I haven't caught you up earlier.

Following that meeting I put together a brief for Gina and the Mayor who have confirmed they are ok with the event. (document provided is attached).

We are currently putting together the promo which will be as per any event held in the library.

However like the Treaty of Waitangi exhibition this may attract some with alternative views so I have prepared some FAQ's. I would really appreciate your keen eye and feedback on these. In particular a statement re Council support which will need some added content.

While the event is listed in this month's C&DD report as a one liner without any context so I wonder if it might be a good one to put in the Councillors heads up prior to the event?

Give me a yell if you'd like to discuss.

Thanks
Julianne



Julianne Wilkinson

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri

Te Aka Mauri | Rotorua Library

P: [+64 7 3517640](tel:+6473517640)

M: [+64 0272426235](tel:+640272426235)

E: julianne.wilkinson@rotorualc.nz

A: Civic Centre, 1061 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

W: rotorualakescouncil.nz



What is Rainbow Story time?

Rainbow story time is a family friendly event aimed at younger children incorporating book reading, singing and dancing. The event is focussed on acceptance, anti-bullying, inclusion, being kind and having confidence in yourself. It will be full of colour, sparkle, flamboyance and fun, with children encouraged to come dressed up for the occasion. Erika and Coco Flash are the storytellers who will host the event.

Who are the storytellers and what are their backgrounds?

Erika and Coco Flash are professional drag queen entertainers who have been reading at Libraries since 2019. They have many years' experience and qualifications in educating and entertaining younger children, teens and adults. Both are police vetted and certified to work with children and young people.

What books will they be reading?

The books will be selected from a range of published titles that are already in the Rotorua Library children's collection. The children's collection is managed under the Library Collections Policy, which complies with the Films, Videos and Publications Act 1993, Copyright Act 1993 and is guided by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions Statutes.

When is Rainbow Story time and who can attend?

Rainbow Story Time is scheduled for Thursday 21 March 2024 at 10.30am in the Community Pride Space on the ground floor.

While the event is targeted at pre-schoolers and their caregivers, any member of the public is welcome to attend. Like many events registration is required to ensure those attending have an enjoyable and safe experience. To register please [xxx](#)

The Community Pride Space is part of the open plan nature of the ground floor. This means people in other spaces may hear the event. Users can choose to either head to a quieter space within the Library or come back at another time.

Why is the Library hosting Rainbow Story time?

The Rotorua Library provides materials, services and information about a wide range of topics that contain different viewpoints, respecting people's right to freedom of information. As such, we hold events and activities that reflect the diversity in our community. We aim to provide positive experiences, share different perspectives and encourage understanding, a sense of acceptance and belonging to all members of the community.

We recognise that not everyone will share the same beliefs. It is not the role of a Library to hide or withdraw access to challenging ideas or topics. As a dynamic part of the community, the Library provides information in a variety of ways to stimulate learning and an exchange of information. The Library aims to present information in a respectful way that enables individuals to make their own decisions about what read or attend.

Does Council support this event?

The Council supports the Library to be an inclusive and safe space that encourages understanding and tolerance in our community.

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Friday, 8 March 2024 7:29 pm
To: Library Generic
Subject: Rainbow 🌈 Storytime

To whom it may concern,

Rotorua Homebased Childcare would like to attend Rainbow Storytime please. Looking at 5 adults 24 children.

Regards s7(2)(a)

Sent from my iPhone

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Friday, 8 March 2024 7:53 pm
To: Library Generic
Subject: Re: Rainbow 🌈 Storytime

Sorry can we change Rotorua Homebased to 3-4 adults and 12 children, one has decided not to come now.

Regards s7(2)(a)

Sent from my iPhone

> On 8/03/2024, at 7:28 PM, Tracey Ann Eagle <trayz1@hotmail.com> wrote:

>

> To whom it may concern,

>

> Rotorua Homebased Childcare would like to attend Rainbow Storytime please. Looking at 5 adults 24 children.

>

> Regards s7(2)(a)

>

> Sent from my iPhone

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Friday, 8 March 2024 9:07 pm
To: Library Generic
Subject: Rainbow story time

Hello

I would like to register myself and 3children to the rainbow story time

Thanks s7(2)(a)

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Saturday, 9 March 2024 3:32 pm
To: Library Generic
Subject: Rainbow Storytime

Kia Ora

Can I register one 15yo to attend in support please - s7(2)(a)

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Saturday, 9 March 2024 4:05 pm
To: Library Generic; Office Mayor; todd.mcclay@national.org.nz
Subject: Kids Drag Story Reading

I hope this letter finds you all well. As a member of our community, I wanted to reach out to you with a message of love and concern.

I understand that your library has planned an event where drag queens will be reading to young children. While I appreciate the intention to promote literacy and inclusivity, I kindly urge you to reconsider this decision.

As we navigate the complexities of our modern society, it's crucial to uphold values that prioritize the innocence and well-being of our children. While diversity and acceptance are important, it's equally important to ensure that the content and context of events are age-appropriate and respectful of parental concerns.

Exposing impressionable young minds to adult-themed entertainment, such as drag performances, may inadvertently introduce concepts and ideas that they are not yet equipped to fully understand. Children should be allowed to develop at their own pace, free from potentially confusing or inappropriate influences.

Moreover, many parents in our community may have strong objections to such events, feeling that it conflicts with their beliefs and values. It's essential to respect the diverse perspectives within our community and to create spaces that are welcoming and inclusive for all, without inadvertently alienating certain groups.

I humbly urge you to reconsider hosting this event and instead focus on providing programming that celebrates diversity in ways that are suitable for all ages. Let's work together to create a library environment that fosters learning, understanding, and respect for everyone.

Thank you for considering my perspective. I look forward to seeing positive changes that reflect the best interests of our community.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Julianne Wilkinson
Sent: Saturday, 9 March 2024 4:48 pm
To: Joanne Dillon
Subject: Re: Rainbow storytime Facebook post

Oh far out! Hope you day gets better.

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Joanne Dillon <joannedillon@xtra.co.nz>
Sent: Saturday, March 9, 2024 2:13:04 PM
To: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: Re: Rainbow storytime Facebook post

out of scope



On 9/03/2024, at 1:25 PM, Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz> wrote:

Thanks JD for the update. Great response and agree it should stay at this point. If it sparks too much of a heated debate or further comments are added then agree we should hide it and stop people commenting. Appreciate your thoughtful approach especially the sensitive nature and closeness of this topic.

Let me know if you need anything from me.

Enjoy your weekend and the bees today.

Julianne

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Joanne Dillon <joannedillon@xtra.co.nz>
Sent: Saturday, March 9, 2024 11:30:08 AM
To: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>; Kylie Holmes <Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz>; Kathy Nicholls <Kathy.Nicholls@rotorualc.nz>
Cc: Sue Heke <Sue.Heke@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: Rainbow storytime Facebook post

So far the comments on the Rainbow storytime post have been positive with people excited or disappointed they can't come because they will be at work.

One person has used the "wow" emoji which could be "wow that's amazing" or "wow that's awful. Five have used the 🤔 emoji so they're not fans of the event which is fine.

One person has commented this:

<image0.jpeg>

Initially I hid the comment but I decided she is entitled to have and share an opinion but commented the following as a response:

"Kia ora Sarah, Erica and Coco are children's storytellers dressed in costume just like one who may be dressed as a magician, fairy or clown.

They will be sharing stories and songs about kindness, anti-bullying and accepting others who may be different, i.e., people from another country, those with a disability or with different religious beliefs.

Rotorua Library provides materials, services and information about a wide range of topics that contain different viewpoints, respecting people's right to freedom of information.

As such, we hold events and activities that reflect the diversity in our community. We aim to provide positive experiences, share different perspectives and encourage understanding, a sense of acceptance and belonging to all members of the community."

I will continue monitoring it over the weekend and if it gets unpleasant I have the option to hide comments or switch off commenting. Looking at the other comments, she is a clear minority so her comment on it's own isn't too much of a concern at this stage.

On a personal level it can be difficult to read comments that are unkind about the LGBTQIA+ community I'm part of but at the end of the day I know it comes from a place of ignorance as they have never personally been confronted with issues around their own gender or orientation or that of a loved one, or they themselves have been indoctrinated to believe what they do.

Anyway, so far the response is about 97% positive.

JD

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Sunday, 10 March 2024 9:05 am
To: Library Generic
Subject: Rainbow story time

Hi there,

Could I please register 2 children and 1 adult for this?

Many thanks

s7(2)(a)

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Sunday, 10 March 2024 12:42 pm
To: Library Generic
Subject: Rainbow Storytime

I would like to register to attend please

X2 adults

X1 child

Under the name s7(2)(a)

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 11 March 2024 4:05 am
To: Library Generic
Subject: Adult entertainers for children

Hello I've come across your event for kids

I just wanted to find out,why would you invite adult entertainers to read stories to kids?

Thanks

s7(2)(a)

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 11 March 2024 5:45 am
To: Library Generic
Subject: Rainbow Story Time

To who it may concern....

Question - why are you using two men dressed up as women to teach children about diversity? Drag Queens....real Queens would never read to children in drag....never.

I await your response but I suspect you're too 'liberal' to have the decency to respond.

Thank you

Concerned Citizen

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 11 March 2024 11:24 am
To: Library Generic
Subject: Rainbow Story Time

Kia Ora,

Just to confirm that we would like to attend - 2 adults and 1 child.

Thanks,
s7(2)(a)

From: Julianne Wilkinson
Sent: Monday, 11 March 2024 12:07 pm
To: Suzanne McNicol; Kathy Nicholls; Ingrid Tiriana
Cc: Joanne Dillon; Kylie Holmes; Nikoletta Michael
Subject: RE: emails re Rainbow story time

Great thanks team!

JD – lets work on a response and we will respond using the generic Library email address.

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri

P: +64 7 3517640

M: +64 0272426235



From: Suzanne McNicol <Suzanne.McNicol@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Monday, 11 March 2024 11:51 am
To: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>; Kathy Nicholls <Kathy.Nicholls@rotorualc.nz>; Ingrid Tiriana <Ingrid.Tiriana@rotorualc.nz>
Cc: Joanne Dillon <Joanne.Dillon@rotorualc.nz>; Kylie Holmes <Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz>; Nikoletta Michael <Nikoletta.Michael@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: RE: emails re Rainbow story time

Hi

I have spoken to Ing about this and I don't think the first email needs a response. For the second two I think we craft a generic response which uses JD's as a base and emphasises that this event is not compulsory and parents can choose whether or not to have their children attend. Anyone would think the DQs were going to be reading naked by the tone of these queries!

S

From: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2024 9:37 AM
To: Kathy Nicholls <Kathy.Nicholls@rotorualc.nz>; Suzanne McNicol <Suzanne.McNicol@rotorualc.nz>

Cc: Joanne Dillon <Joanne.Dillon@rotorualc.nz>; Kylie Holmes <Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz>; Nikoletta Michael <Nikoletta.Michael@rotorualc.nz>

Subject: emails re Rainbow story time

Hi team,

We have received a few emails relating to this. I see one has also gone to Mayor and Todd McClays office.

I am happy to generate a response statement to emails (we could use JD's from facebook which is great) and attach our FAQ's if you think this is appropriate.

In your experience is there a preference to respond/not respond, craft individual responses or use a generic response?

Thanks
Julianne



Julianne Wilkinson

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri

Te Aka Mauri | Rotorua Library

P: +64 7 3517640

M: +64 0272426235

E: julianne.wilkinson@rotorualc.nz

A: Civic Centre, 1061 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

W: rotorualakescouncil.nz



From: Library Generic
Sent: Monday, 11 March 2024 9:26 am
To: Julianne Wilkinson
Subject: FW: Rainbow Story Time



Emily Sansom Tiheru – Administration Support, Library

Waea: 07 3517046

Imera: Emily.Sansom@rotorualc.nz | **Pae tukutuku:** rotorualibrary.govt.nz

Pae tukutuku: 1127 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

Rotorua Reo Rua – Aotearoa/New Zealand's First Bilingual City – Tatau tatau – We Together

ROTORUA
LAKES COUNCIL

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 11 March 2024 5:45 AM
To: Library Generic <Library@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: Rainbow Story Time

To who it may concern....

Question - why are you using two men dressed up as women to teach children about diversity? Drag Queens....real Queens would never read to children in drag....never.

I await your response but I suspect you're too 'liberal' to have the decency to respond.

Thank you

Concerned Citizen

From: Library Generic
Sent: Monday, 11 March 2024 9:25 am
To: Julianne Wilkinson
Subject: FW: Adult entertainers for children



Emily Sansom Tiheru – Administration Support, Library

Waea: 07 3517046

Īmera: Emily.Sansom@rotorualc.nz | **Pae tukutuku:** rotorualibrary.govt.nz

Pae tukutuku: 1127 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

Rotorua Reo Rua – Aotearoa/New Zealand's First Bilingual City – Tatau tatau – We Together

ROTORUA
LAKES COUNCIL

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 11 March 2024 4:05 AM
To: Library Generic <Library@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: Adult entertainers for children

Hello I've come across your event for kids

I just wanted to find out, why would you invite adult entertainers to read stories to kids?

Thanks

s7(2)(a)

From: Library Generic
Sent: Monday, 11 March 2024 9:24 am
To: Julianne Wilkinson
Subject: FW: Kids Drag Story Reading

Emily Sansom Tiheru – Administration Support, Library

Waea: 07 3517046

Īmera: Emily.Sansom@rotorualc.nz | Pae tukutuku: rotorualibrary.govt.nz Pae tukutuku: 1127 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand Rotorua Reo Rua – Aotearoa/New Zealand's First Bilingual City – Tatau tatau – We Together

-----Original Message-----

From: s7(2)(a)

Sent: Saturday, 9 March 2024 4:05 PM

To: Library Generic <Library@rotorualc.nz>; Office Mayor <Office.Mayor@rotorualc.nz>; todd.mcclay@national.org.nz

Subject: Kids Drag Story Reading

I hope this letter finds you all well. As a member of our community, I wanted to reach out to you with a message of love and concern.

I understand that your library has planned an event where drag queens will be reading to young children. While I appreciate the intention to promote literacy and inclusivity, I kindly urge you to reconsider this decision.

As we navigate the complexities of our modern society, it's crucial to uphold values that prioritize the innocence and well-being of our children. While diversity and acceptance are important, it's equally important to ensure that the content and context of events are age-appropriate and respectful of parental concerns.

Exposing impressionable young minds to adult-themed entertainment, such as drag performances, may inadvertently introduce concepts and ideas that they are not yet equipped to fully understand. Children should be allowed to develop at their own pace, free from potentially confusing or inappropriate influences.

Moreover, many parents in our community may have strong objections to such events, feeling that it conflicts with their beliefs and values. It's essential to respect the diverse perspectives within our community and to create spaces that are welcoming and inclusive for all, without inadvertently alienating certain groups.

I humbly urge you to reconsider hosting this event and instead focus on providing programming that celebrates diversity in ways that are suitable for all ages. Let's work together to create a library environment that fosters learning, understanding, and respect for everyone.

Thank you for considering my perspective. I look forward to seeing positive changes that reflect the best interests of our community.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Julianne Wilkinson
Sent: Monday, 11 March 2024 12:57 pm
To: Emily Sansom
Cc: Tori Williams; Joanne Dillon
Subject: Rainbow Storytime responses
Attachments: Rainbow storytime FAQ's.pdf; Generic email response.docx

Hi Emily,

Attached is a generic response for any enquiry related to Rainbow Story time.

Can you please copy text from the word doc and pop into the body of the response email. The address should be personalised. (e.g Kia ora Daniela) and it needs to be sent from our generic email address. Please make sure the responses are reply to all, so those cc'd will also receive the response.

- Please can you sign off as well. (Nga mihi, Rotorua Library Team or something similar), making sure your signature is removed.

If any further responses come in can you send to me and I'll assess as to whether we respond or not. Some may not need a response or may need a special response.

Any questions give me a yell.

Julianne



Julianne Wilkinson

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri

Te Aka Mauri | Rotorua Library

P: [+64 7 3517640](tel:+6473517640)

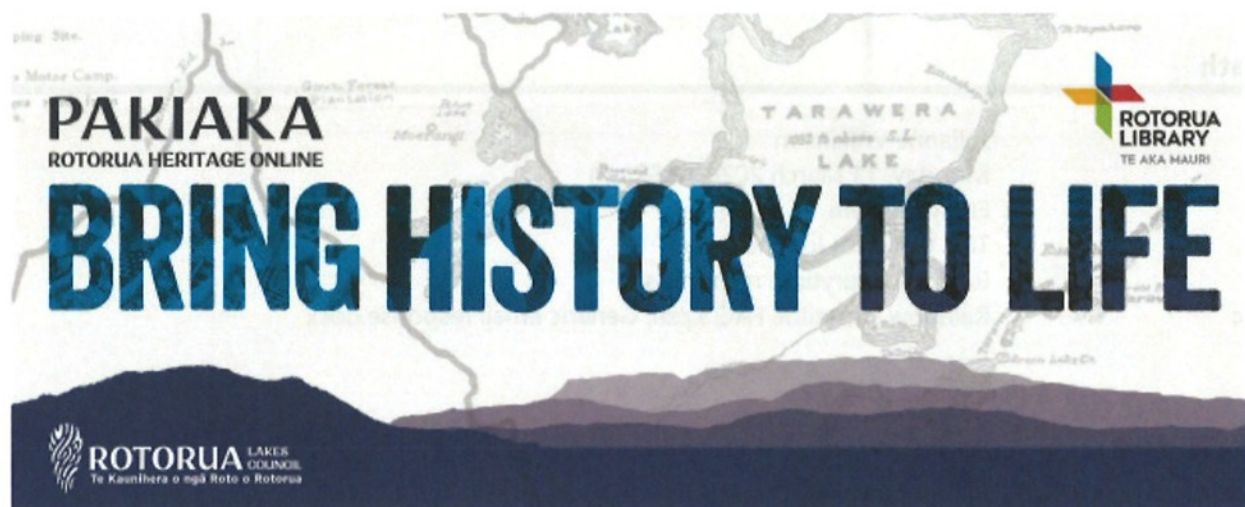
M: [+64 0272426235](tel:+640272426235)

E: julianne.wilkinson@rotorualc.nz

A: Civic Centre, 1061 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

W: rotorualakescouncil.nz





What is Rainbow Story time?

Rainbow story time is a family friendly event aimed at younger children incorporating book reading, singing and dancing. The event is focussed on acceptance, anti-bullying, inclusion, being kind and having confidence in yourself. It will be full of colour, sparkle, flamboyance and fun, with children encouraged to come dressed up for the occasion. Erika and Coco Flash are the storytellers who will host the event.

Who are the storytellers and what are their backgrounds?

Erika and Coco Flash are professional drag queen entertainers who have been reading at Libraries since 2019. The male and female duo of Daniel Lockett and Sunita Torrance have over 20 years' experience as entertainers, actors, event organisers and educators. They have qualifications in educating and entertaining younger children, teens and adults. Both are police vetted and certified to work with children and young people.

What books will they be reading?

The books will be selected from a range of published titles that are already in the Rotorua Library children's collection. The children's collection is managed under the Library Collections Policy, which complies with the Films, Videos and Publications Act 1993, Copyright Act 1993 and is guided by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions Statutes.

When is Rainbow Story time and who can attend?

Rainbow Story Time is scheduled for Thursday 21 March 2024 at 10.30am in the Community Pride Space on the ground floor.

While the event is targeted at pre-schoolers and their caregivers, any member of the public is welcome to attend. Like many events registration is required to ensure those attending have an enjoyable and safe experience. To register please email library@rotorualc.nz with the number of people attending.

The Community Pride Space is part of the open plan nature of the ground floor. This means people in other spaces may hear the event. Users can choose to either head to a quieter space within the Library or come back at another time.

Why is the Library hosting Rainbow Story time?

The Rotorua Library provides materials, services and information about a wide range of topics that contain different viewpoints, respecting people's right to freedom of information. As such, we hold events and activities that reflect the diversity in our community. We aim to provide positive experiences, share different perspectives and encourage understanding, a sense of acceptance and belonging to all members of the community.

We recognise that not everyone will share the same beliefs. It is not the role of a Library to hide or withdraw access to challenging ideas or topics. As a dynamic part of the community, the Library provides information in a variety of ways to stimulate learning and an exchange of information. The Library aims to present information in a respectful way that enables individuals to make their own decisions about what read or attend.

Does Council support this event?

The Council supports the Library to be an inclusive and safe space that encourages understanding and tolerance in our community.

Generic email response:

Thank you for your email.

Erika and Coco are a male and female storytelling team dressed in vibrant costumes for entertainment purposes, just like one who may be dressed as a magician, fairy or clown. Rainbow Story time is a family friendly event aimed at younger children incorporating appropriate book reading, singing and dancing. It will be full of colour, sparkle, flamboyance and fun, with children encouraged to come dressed up for the occasion.

They will be sharing stories and songs about kindness, anti-bullying and accepting others who may be different, i.e. people from another country, those with a disability or with different religious beliefs.

Rotorua Library provides materials, services and information about a wide range of topics that contain different viewpoints, respecting people's right to freedom of information.

As such, we hold events and activities that reflect the diversity in our community. We aim to provide positive experiences, share different perspectives and encourage understanding, a sense of acceptance and belonging to all members of the community.

The Library holds various events at various times throughout the year that appeal to different parts of the community. Those that object at any time to any of the events can choose not to attend.

Attached are some Frequently Asked Questions about Erika, Coco and the event.

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 11 March 2024 3:03 pm
To: Library Generic
Cc: todd.mcclay@national.org.nz; Office Mayor
Subject: Re: Kids Drag Story Reading
Attachments: Rainbow storytime FAQ's.pdf

Drag queens are performers who often use exaggerated costumes, makeup, and personas to entertain audiences. While their performances can be fun and colorful, they also frequently involve themes of gender identity, sexuality, and adult-oriented humor, which may not be appropriate for young children. Unlike characters such as fairys or clowns, whose portrayals typically focus on whimsy and fantasy without delving into sexual or gender-related themes, drag queens often explore more complex and mature concepts.

Therefore, it's crucial to acknowledge that while promoting diversity and acceptance is important, it's equally important to ensure that the content presented to children is age-appropriate and respectful of their developmental stage. Repackaging drag queens as simply another form of entertainment akin to magicians or clowns overlooks the unique aspects of drag culture and the potential implications of exposing young children to its more adult-oriented elements.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Mar 11, 2024, at 1:10 PM, Library Generic <Library@rotorualc.nz> wrote:

>

> Kia Ora s7(2)(a)

>

> Thank you for your email.

> Erika and Coco are a male and female storytelling team dressed in vibrant costumes for entertainment purposes, just like one who may be dressed as a magician, fairy or clown. Rainbow Story time is a family friendly event aimed at younger children incorporating appropriate book reading, singing and dancing. It will be full of colour, sparkle, flamboyance and fun, with children encouraged to come dressed up for the occasion.

> They will be sharing stories and songs about kindness, anti-bullying and accepting others who may be different, i.e. people from another country, those with a disability or with different religious beliefs.

>

> Rotorua Library provides materials, services and information about a wide range of topics that contain different viewpoints, respecting people's right to freedom of information.

>

> As such, we hold events and activities that reflect the diversity in our community. We aim to provide positive experiences, share different perspectives and encourage understanding, a sense of acceptance and belonging to all members of the community.

> The Library holds various events at various times throughout the year that appeal to different parts of the community. Those that object at any time to any of the events can choose not to attend.

>

> Attached are some Frequently Asked Questions about Erika, Coco and the event.

>

> Nga mihi,

>

> Rotorua Library Team

> Pae tukutuku: rotorualibrary.govt.nz

> Pae tukutuku: 1127 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre,

> Rotorua 3046, New Zealand Rotorua Reo Rua - Aotearoa/New Zealand's

> First Bilingual City - Tatau tatau - We Together

>

>

>

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>

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: s7(2)(a)

> Sent: Saturday, 9 March 2024 4:05 PM

> To: Library Generic <Library@rotorualc.nz>; Office Mayor

> <Office.Mayor@rotorualc.nz>; todd.mcclay@national.org.nz

> Subject: Kids Drag Story Reading

>

> I hope this letter finds you all well. As a member of our community, I wanted to reach out to you with a message of love and concern.

>

> I understand that your library has planned an event where drag queens will be reading to young children. While I appreciate the intention to promote literacy and inclusivity, I kindly urge you to reconsider this decision.

>

> As we navigate the complexities of our modern society, it's crucial to uphold values that prioritize the innocence and well-being of our children. While diversity and acceptance are important, it's equally important to ensure that the content and context of events are age-appropriate and respectful of parental concerns.

>

> Exposing impressionable young minds to adult-themed entertainment, such as drag performances, may inadvertently introduce concepts and ideas that they are not yet equipped to fully understand. Children should be allowed to develop at their own pace, free from potentially confusing or inappropriate influences.

>

> Moreover, many parents in our community may have strong objections to such events, feeling that it conflicts with their beliefs and values. It's essential to respect the diverse perspectives within our community and to create spaces that are welcoming and inclusive for all, without inadvertently alienating certain groups.

>

> I humbly urge you to reconsider hosting this event and instead focus on providing programming that celebrates diversity in ways that are suitable for all ages. Let's work together to create a library environment that fosters learning, understanding, and respect for everyone.

>

> Thank you for considering my perspective. I look forward to seeing positive changes that reflect the best interests of our community.

>

> Sent from my iPhone

>

>

From: Joanne Dillon
Sent: Monday, 11 March 2024 4:00 pm
To: Julianne Wilkinson; Kylie Holmes
Subject: Posts on other pages

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I have been monitoring for posts on public parts of Facebook and have these two to share with you. There is a video that I haven't watch yet – I'll do that later.

Might be worth reaching out to Dunedin to see how the event went from their perspective.

JD

**No Whey**

54 m · 🌐



PLEASE SHARE

Rotorua Public Library - I hope you're not introducing Drag Queen storytelling to the children in public like Dunedin and other councils..

Update. They are, Thursday 21 March at 10.30am at Rotorua Library. Lets all turn up and make a hell of a racket.



6 comments



Like



Comment



Share

Most relevant ▼

**Lynne Wylie**

WTF are Men dressed as Women so interested in Children..

39 m Like Reply

**Anna Colyns**

Lynne Wylie exactly its pretty much pedophile conditioning

17 m Like Reply

**Linda Helen Green**

I will be there to protest this sick 🤢 act

25 m Like Reply

**Sovereign Being**

Omg they've done 2 readings at kapiti library

18 m Like Reply

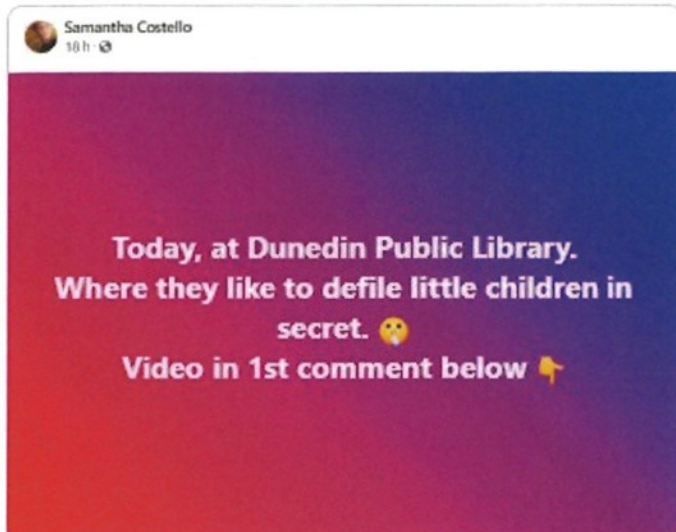
**Anna Colyns**

Doing this in Dunedin now

17 m Like Reply

Lola's post

Lola Paul
 Rotorua Public Library - I hope you're not introducing Drag Queen storytelling to the children in public like Dunedin and other councils.
 Update. They are, Thursday 21 March at 10.30am at Rotorua Library. Lets all turn up and make a hell of a racket.



6 comments 2 shares
 Like Share
 All comments ▼

Janet Elliott
 Horrific isn't it. Grooming our grandkids. And getting their "kicks" at the same time. WTF.
 5 h Like

Lola Paul
 Janet staff made to cross their values and be a part of this or lose your job.
 5 h Like

Janet Elliott
 Lola Paul staff need to step up and be vocal about it.
 5 h Like



5 h Like

Lola Paul
 Thursday 21 March, 10.30am to 11.30am. On the Equinox to boot.
 5 h Like

Steph Anie Audrey
 So wrong
 5 h Like

Joanne Dillon, ALIANZA

Adult Learning, Programmes and Promotions Lead - *Kaiurungi Whakatairanga*

Pakeke Ako

P: 07 351 7064

M: 027 263 0484

E: joanne.dillon@rotorualc.nz | W: rotorualibrary.govt.nz

A: 1127 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

PART OF ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL





From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 12 March 2024 1:36 am
To: Library Generic
Subject: Re: Adult entertainers for children

Thanks a lot for your response,
Unfortunately this is wrong they can present themselves as sparkly and colourful all they want and wear pretty dresses, they're still adult entertainers.
Would you invite porn stars to do story time to children because they dress sparkly and colourful dresses?

On Mon, 11 Mar 2024, 12:13 am Library Generic, <Library@rotorualc.nz> wrote:

Kia Ora s7(2)(a)

Thank you for your email.

Erika and Coco are a male and female storytelling team dressed in vibrant costumes for entertainment purposes, just like one who may be dressed as a magician, fairy or clown. Rainbow Story time is a family friendly event aimed at younger children incorporating appropriate book reading, singing and dancing. It will be full of colour, sparkle, flamboyance and fun, with children encouraged to come dressed up for the occasion.

They will be sharing stories and songs about kindness, anti-bullying and accepting others who may be different, i.e. people from another country, those with a disability or with different religious beliefs.

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As such, we hold events and activities that reflect the diversity in our community. We aim to provide positive experiences, share different perspectives and encourage understanding, a sense of acceptance and belonging to all members of the community.

The Library holds various events at various times throughout the year that appeal to different parts of the community. Those that object at any time to any of the events can choose not to attend.

Attached are some Frequently Asked Questions about Erika, Coco and the event.

Nga mihi,

Rotorua Library Team



Rotorua Library Team

Pae tukutuku: rotorualibrary.govt.nz

Pae tukutuku: 1127 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

Rotorua Reo Rua – Aotearoa/New Zealand's First Bilingual City – Tatau tatau – We Together

ROTORUA
LAKES COUNCIL

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 11 March 2024 4:05 AM
To: Library Generic <Library@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: Adult entertainers for children

Hello I've come across your event for kids

I just wanted to find out, why would you invite adult entertainers to read stories to kids?

Thanks

s7(2)(a)

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 12 March 2024 7:41 am
To: Library Generic
Subject: Storyline for preschoolers

Hi

Just want to say how sad that you find this acceptable as I do not and neither do thousands of other parents. You talk about tolerance but this is intolerable exposing young minds to strange men who like to dress in women's clothes and wear ghastly makeup, this is the worse role model for any impressionable young mind. Is there payment to you from government or councils or are you told you must use drag queens. Why are all the libraries world wide in lockstep doing the same thing?

It's an agenda that's why to groom children at a young age, to confuse their minds and get them questioning their gender.

So it started in 2019, so what else started in 2020?

Covid BS started and how discriminatory was that? All the libraries went along with banning certain people and closing up.

I would feel ashamed working in a place that is discriminating then changes later and allowing a drag queen to read to preschoolers. Just think about what you are doing?

Crazy world we live in and how low people will go just to have a job. 🙄

s7(2)(a)

(Long time ex resident of Rotorua)

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Kylie Holmes
Sent: Tuesday, 12 March 2024 10:32 am
To: Julianne Wilkinson
Subject: RE: Rainbow Storytime

Kia ora,

Jo has confirmed she has ordered these. They will not be here until after the event, but we will have them in the near future.

Sometimes we would buy copies from local stores to get the books quicker. I looked online and unfortunately McLeods and Whitcoulls only have Giraffe's Can't Dance in stock, the other two are not.

Kind regards,

Kylie Holmes *Youth and Early Learning Lead- Kaiurungi Ako Taiohi*
 Rotorua District Library P: [07 351 7028](tel:073517028) | E: kylie.holmes@rotorualc.nz | W: www.rotorualibrary.govt.nz

From: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 12 March 2024 8:08 AM
To: Kylie Holmes <Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: RE: Rainbow Storytime

Thanks Kylie, that will be great, and thank you for your persistent follow up with Sunita.

I think I might add these into the FAQ's once you confirm Jo has ordered them.

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri

P: [+64 7 3517640](tel:+6473517640)

M: [+64 0272426235](tel:+640272426235)



From: Kylie Holmes <Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Monday, 11 March 2024 4:39 pm
To: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: FW: Rainbow Storytime

Kia ora,

Unfortunately we only have one of the titles in the collection at the moment. I know we will have had the others, but they are likely to have been withdrawn due to their age and condition. I will ask Jo to order them for us as they will be popular following the event.

This is the 'Shake my sillies out song, [Looking for a perfect job match? Just seek and you shall find \(youtube.com\)](#)
 It is very popular at our house ☺

Kind regards,

Kylie Holmes Youth and Early Learning Lead- Kaiurungi Ako Taiohi
 Rotorua District Library P: [07 351 7028](tel:073517028) | E: kylie.holmes@rotorualc.nz | W: www.rotorualibrary.govt.nz

From: HOF Bookings <bookings@hausoffflash.co.nz>
Sent: Monday, 11 March 2024 4:02 PM
To: Kylie Holmes <Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: Re: Rainbow Storytime

Awesome,

So the books we would do for this will be:

The Book With No Pictures- not in the collection (too old) [B. J. Novak reads from The Book With No Pictures \(youtube.com\)](#)

Perfectly Norman not in the collection (too old) [Perfectly Norman by Tom Percival \(youtube.com\)](#)

Whitney & Britney The Chicken Divas, in collection, on loan, [Whitney and Britney The Chicken Divas - Google Search](#)

Giraffes Can't Dance, not in the collection, [Giraffes Can't Dance - Giles Andreae \(youtube.com\)](#)

We will also do a song from Moana and one from Frozen.
 And two dances with kids to Shake My Sillies Out and baby Shark.

Sunita



On 11/03/2024, at 3:51 PM, Kylie Holmes <Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz> wrote:

Kia ora,

A more general focus please. We are so excited to have you here so soon.

Kind regards,

Kylie Holmes Youth and Early Learning Lead- Kaiurungi Ako Taiohi
 Rotorua District Library P: [07 351 7028](tel:073517028) | E: kylie.holmes@rotorualc.nz | W: www.rotorualibrary.govt.nz

From: HOF Bookings <bookings@hausofflash.co.nz>
Sent: Monday, 11 March 2024 2:58 PM
To: Kylie Holmes <Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: Re: Rainbow Storytime

Did you want a Pride theme or a more generic focus?

Sunita

<image001.png>

On 29/02/2024, at 3:11 PM, Kylie Holmes <Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz> wrote:

Kia ora,

Many thanks for the update.

Can I please confirm which theme we are booked in for? In our promotions we are focusing on inclusivity, being yourself and acceptance of others.

Kind regards,

Kylie Holmes Youth and Early Learning Lead- Kaiurungi Ako Taiohi
 Rotorua District Library P: [07 351 7028](tel:073517028) | E: kylie.holmes@rotorualc.nz | W: www.rotorualibrary.govt.nz

From: HOF Bookings <bookings@hausoffflash.co.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 27 February 2024 8:35 PM

To: Kylie Holmes <Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz>

Subject: Re: Rainbow Storytime

We will not know this until we get all the themes wanted from the libraries and then we will be choosing our books from there.

Sunita

<image001.png>

On 26/02/2024, at 2:04 AM, Kylie Holmes
<Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz> wrote:

Kia ora,

Many thanks for the linked set of materials.

When I last reached out I asked if you had a book list. I am really keen to have this to ensure our collection has these titles before you come.

Many thanks

Kind regards,

Kylie Holmes *Youth and Early Learning Lead- Kaiurungi Ako Taiohi*

Rotorua District Library P: [07 351 7028](tel:073517028) | E: kylie.holmes@rotorualc.nz | W: www.rotorualibrary.govt.nz

From: HOF Bookings <bookings@hausoffflash.co.nz>

Sent: Monday, 26 February 2024 1:28 AM

Subject: Rainbow Storytime

We look forward to catching up with you all and doing some story times with you in the next few weeks.

You have the choice of a “Pride” themed Storytime as it is Pride season in Aotearoa, or to have our more generic sessions. Totally up to you which you choose.

Please create Facebook events and include our accounts as co-hosts so we can share it around on our socials.

Haus Of Flash
Rainbow Storytime NZ
Flash Mob Entertainment

Here you will find the link to our assets to use, photos, bios, images. Please send us copies of your artwork you make for us to share also :)

Rainbow Storytime NZ
Assets – Google Drive
drive.google.com

<image001.png>

<image002.png>

From: Julianne Wilkinson
Sent: Tuesday, 12 March 2024 12:35 pm
To: Joanne Dillon; Kylie Holmes
Subject: RE: Rainbow posts, etc.

Hi Kylie,

Please can you contact Sunita and ask if they can provide us with their security procedures? We would like to ensure our expectations are all aligned.

Also if you can advise her that we have now turned off comments on our Facebook page as it is generating on line debates that may not be helpful to us in managing event and are leading to discussions that detract from the family focus of this event.

Thanks
 Julianne

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri

P: [+64 7 3517640](tel:+6473517640)

M: [+64 0272426235](tel:+640272426235)



From: Joanne Dillon <Joanne.Dillon@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 12 March 2024 8:45 am
To: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>; Kylie Holmes <Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: Rainbow posts, etc.

A few updates this morning:

- The event held in Dunedin Library this weekend wasn't Coco and Erika Flash – I learned that by reading through the comments on their Facebook page in which Sunita was getting angry with them for using "Rainbow Storytime" which she has trademarked.
- In those comments I also learned that they have some security procedures they might be happy to share with us "I have literally emailed this library asking if they want help with security and handling situations because we have written procedures for all of this."

- Also, last night I switched commenting off at 9:30pm as "Rainbow Storytime NZ" was inflaming some of the discussions which isn't helpful. I've turned it back on this morning and Sue is taking care of the page today.

 Michelle Washington
Rainbow Storytime NZ glad to hear it and if you re-read my post you'll see it is a question not a statement. Given that you have actively supported shutting out women's voices in the past, what is the inclusivity to intend to support? Standing For Women NZ - Local

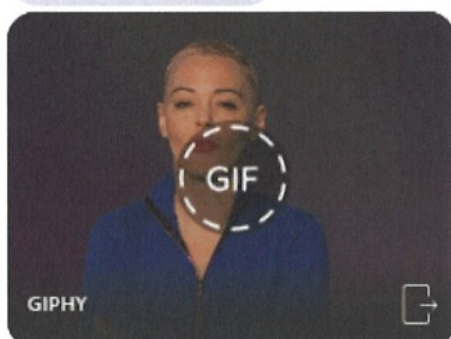
12 h Like Reply [Send message](#) Hide Edited 2  

 Michelle Washington
Rainbow Storytime NZ perhaps you should read this - it's in the library



12 h Like Reply [Send message](#) Hide 

 Rainbow Storytime NZ
Michelle Washington



12 h Like Reply Hide 2  

 Rainbow Storytime NZ
And this is coming from a cis-gendered woman who is tired of the selective statement of "shutting down women's voices" trans women have voices too

12 h Like Reply Hide 

 Rainbow Storytime NZ
Michelle Washington if this book supports our trans community too then we would love to add it to our repertoire. But we aren't about excluding anyone.

Joanne Dillon, ALIANZA

Adult Learning, Programmes and Promotions Lead - *Kaiurungi Whakatairanga*

Pakeke Ako

P: 07 351 7064

M: 027 263 0484

E: joanne.dillon@rotorualc.nz | W: rotorualibrary.govt.nz

A: 1127 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand
PART OF ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL



From: Julianne Wilkinson
Sent: Tuesday, 12 March 2024 1:02 pm
To: Jean-Paul Gaston
Cc: Suzanne McNicol
Subject: Rainbow Story time
Attachments: Generic email response.docx; Rainbow storytime FAQ's.docx

Hi JP

As requested here is the FAQ's and out standard response to email enquiries.

The key points:

- Family focussed event focussing on acceptance, anti-bullying, inclusion, being kind and having confidence in yourself.
- Having someone you may not see every day delivering the event emphasises the messages (and kids love colour!)
- They are reading material that has a general acceptance focus, nothing related to sexuality or gender
- People can chose to attend or not to attend

Why is the Library hosting Rainbow Story time?

The Rotorua Library provides materials, services and information about a wide range of topics that contain different viewpoints, respecting people's right to freedom of information. As such, we hold events and activities that reflect the diversity in our community. We aim to provide positive experiences, share different perspectives and encourage understanding, a sense of acceptance and belonging to all members of the community.

(Good examples of this would be the Multicultural Lunches, the Te Atawhai Aroha Compassionate Communities Convesations about Death and Dying series which included assisted dying, He Aka Pikirangi which is a full Te Reo pre-school programme)

We recognise that not everyone will share the same beliefs. It is not the role of a Library to hide or withdraw access to challenging ideas or topics. As a dynamic part of the community, the Library provides information in a variety of ways to stimulate learning and an exchange of information. The Library aims to present information in a respectful way that enables individuals to make their own decisions about what to read or attend.

Update: - there has been some online debates that we are not happy with so have turned off comments on our facebook post. We have also identified some chatter on other Library posts. We will meet tomorrow to revisit our event management plan. (see below)

Let me know if you need anything else.

Thanks
 Julianne


No Whey

54 m · 🌐

...

PLEASE SHARE

Rotorua Public Library - I hope you're not Introducing Drag Queen storytelling to the children in public like Dunedin and other councils..

Update. They are, Thursday 21 March at 10.30am at Rotorua Library. Lets all turn up and make a hell of a racket.

👍👎 8

6 comments

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share

Most relevant ▼



Lynne Wylie

WTF are Men dressed as Women so interested in Children..

39 m Like Reply

2 👍



Anna Colyns

Lynne Wylie exactly its pretty much pedophile conditioning

17 m Like Reply

👍



Linda Helen Green

I will be there to protest this sick 🤢 act

25 m Like Reply

❤️



Sovereign Being

Omg they've done 2 readings at kapiti library

18 m Like Reply

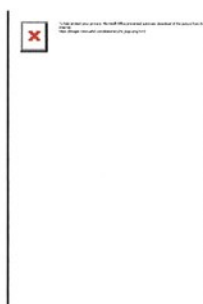
👍



Anna Colyns

Doing this in Dunedin now

17 m Like Reply



Julianne Wilkinson

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri

Te Aka Mauri | Rotorua Library

P: [+64 7 3517640](tel:+6473517640)
M: [+64 0272426235](tel:+640272426235)
E: julianne.wilkinson@rotorualc.nz
A: Civic Centre, 1061 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

W: rotorualakescouncil.nz


Generic email response:

Thank you for your email.

Erika and Coco are a male and female storytelling team dressed in vibrant costumes for entertainment purposes, just like one who may be dressed as a magician, fairy or clown. Rainbow Story time is a family friendly event aimed at younger children incorporating appropriate book reading, singing and dancing. It will be full of colour, sparkle, flamboyance and fun, with children encouraged to come dressed up for the occasion.

They will be sharing stories and songs about kindness, anti-bullying and accepting others who may be different, i.e. people from another country, those with a disability or with different religious beliefs.

Rotorua Library provides materials, services and information about a wide range of topics that contain different viewpoints, respecting people's right to freedom of information.

As such, we hold events and activities that reflect the diversity in our community. We aim to provide positive experiences, share different perspectives and encourage understanding, a sense of acceptance and belonging to all members of the community.

The Library holds various events at various times throughout the year that appeal to different parts of the community. Those that object at any time to any of the events can choose not to attend.

Attached are some Frequently Asked Questions about Erika, Coco and the event.

What is Rainbow Story time?

Rainbow story time is a family friendly event aimed at younger children incorporating book reading, singing and dancing. The event is focussed on acceptance, anti-bullying, inclusion, being kind and having confidence in yourself. It will be full of colour, sparkle, flamboyance and fun, with children encouraged to come dressed up for the occasion. Erika and Coco Flash are the storytellers who will host the event.

Who are the storytellers and what are their backgrounds?

Erika and Coco Flash are professional drag queen entertainers who have been reading at Libraries since 2019. The male and female duo of Daniel Lockett and Sunita Torrance have over 20 years' experience as entertainers, actors, event organisers and educators. They have qualifications in educating and entertaining younger children, teens and adults. Both are police vetted and certified to work with children and young people.

What books will they be reading?

The books will be selected from a range of published titles that are already or have been in the Rotorua Library children's collection. The children's collection is managed under the Library Collections Policy, which complies with the Films, Videos and Publications Act 1993, Copyright Act 1993 and is guided by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions Statutes.

The books are:

- The Book With No Pictures
- Perfectly Norman
- Whitney & Britney The Chicken Divas
- Giraffes Can't Dance

The music will be:

- Songs from Moana and Frozen
- Shake my Sillies Out
- Baby Shark

When is Rainbow Story time and who can attend?

Rainbow Story Time is scheduled for Thursday 21 March 2024 at 10.30am in the Community Pride Space on the ground floor.

While the event is targeted at pre-schoolers and their caregivers, any member of the public is welcome to attend. Like many events registration is required to ensure those attending have an enjoyable and safe experience. To register please email library@rotorualc.nz with the number of people attending.

The Community Pride Space is part of the open plan nature of the ground floor. This means people in other spaces may hear the event. Users can choose to either head to a quieter space within the Library or come back at another time.

Why is the Library hosting Rainbow Story time?

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[Does Council support this event?](#)

The Council supports the Library to be an inclusive and safe space that encourages understanding and tolerance in our community.

From: Julianne Wilkinson
Sent: Tuesday, 12 March 2024 1:29 pm
To: Joanne Dillon
Subject: RE: Rainbow storytime FAQ's
Attachments: Rainbow storytime FAQ's.docx

That's perfect cause here is an updated updated FAQ! (has the book names in it)

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri

P: +64 7 3517640

M: +64 0272426235



From: Joanne Dillon <Joanne.Dillon@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 12 March 2024 1:28 pm
To: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: RE: Rainbow storytime FAQ's

Sorry I didn't get back to you yesterday. I've read the update and will upload this new one to our website/teams.

JD



Joanne Dillon, ALIANZA
 Adult Learning, Programmes and Promotions Lead - *Kaiurungi Whakatairanga*
Pakeke Ako
 P: 07 351 7064
 M: 027 263 0484
 E: joanne.dillon@rotorualc.nz | W: rotorualibrary.govt.nz
 A: 1127 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand
 PART OF ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL





From: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>

Sent: Monday, 11 March 2024 9:26 am

To: Joanne Dillon <Joanne.Dillon@rotorualc.nz>; Kylie Holmes <Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz>

Subject: Rainbow storytime FAQ's

Hi updated FAQ's mentioning additional info about Erika and Coco...what do you think?

What is Rainbow Story time?

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Does Council support this event?

The Council supports the Library to be an inclusive and safe space that encourages understanding and tolerance in our community.

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 12 March 2024 5:54 pm
To: Library Generic
Subject: Drag queens

Hi there.

Drag Queens reading to children is disgusting and supports pedophilia. This needs to be cancelled and if any children are exposed to anything sexual, the police will be called and on stand by.

Ngā Mihi

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 13 March 2024 9:25 am
To: Library Generic
Subject: Rainbow Storytime

Morena,

As a grandmother to 3 beautiful mokopuna seeing the facebook post of Rainbow Storytime that is happening on the 21st of March at your library disturbs me immensely. Our children don't need to be more confused about the things that go on in this world. So, seeing a man dressed up in women's clothing trying to sound like a woman reading them a story is ridiculous to me. I mean I'm all for educating people about this but wait until they are of an age of understanding, not our children who find it hard already just waking up early to get ready for school. I am a very concerned member of the community and do not agree to this happening in my city. I would appreciate a response to this email.

Nga Mihi

s7(2)(a)

From: OneCouncil
Sent: Wednesday, 13 March 2024 9:45 am
To: Julianne Wilkinson
Subject: Request has been reassigned to you

The task outlined below has been assigned to you from Tori Williams

Library - Complaints & Compliments

Request Summary

Reference Id: REQ24-3031979
Tracking Number: REQ24-3031979.XYG
Received: 12-Mar-2024 16:24:23
Priority: High
Status: Active
Stage: New Request
Address:
Detail: Drag Queens reading to children.
Caller believes this is inappropriate.
main issue is the makeup and costumes.
Influencing young people.

Categorisation

Request Type Library

Request Category Library - Complaints & Compliments

Stage Updates

Date Completed	Stage
12-Mar-2024	New Request

Caller Details

Caller ID: s7(2)(a)
First Name:
Surname:
Email Address:
Phone Number:
Address:
Notification By:
Notify On:

To view this in Ci Anywhere, [click here](#).

Subject: event management for rainbow story time
Location: Te Aka Mauri Staff Meeting Room

Start: Wed 13/03/2024 10:00 am
End: Wed 13/03/2024 10:30 am
Show Time As: Tentative

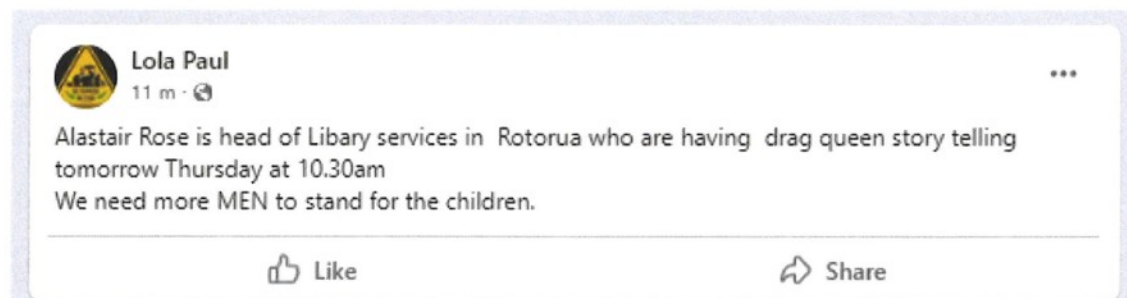
Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Not yet responded

Organizer: Julianne Wilkinson
Required Attendees: Joanne Dillon; Kylie Holmes; Tori Williams; Kim Heke
Resources: Te Aka Mauri Staff Meeting Room

Quick catch up to look at on the day event management. I feel like we may need to amp it up a bit.

From: Joanne Dillon
Sent: Wednesday, 13 March 2024 12:45 pm
To: Julianne Wilkinson
Subject: From Facebook



Joanne Dillon, ALIANZA
 Adult Learning, Programmes and Promotions Lead - *Kaiurungi Whakatairanga*
Pakeke Ako
 P: 07 351 7064
 M: 027 263 0484
 E: joanne.dillon@rotorualc.nz | W: rotorualibrary.govt.nz
 A: 1127 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand
 PART OF ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL



From: Joanne Dillon
Sent: Wednesday, 13 March 2024 12:56 pm
To: Julianne Wilkinson
Subject: FW: FB messages to date
Attachments: Rainbow FB Messages.docx; Facebook posts - Rainbow Storytime.docx

Here are the messages that have been seen directly to us and some of the comments I have seen on other pages. There are more that I'll add to the document and send to you.

JD



Joanne Dillon, ALIANZA
 Adult Learning, Programmes and Promotions Lead - *Kaiurungi Whakatairanga*
Pakeke Ako
 P: 07 351 7064
 M: 027 263 0484
 E: joanne.dillon@rotorualc.nz | W: rotorualibrary.govt.nz
 A: 1127 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand
 PART OF ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL



From: Sue Heke <Sue.Heke@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 13 March 2024 10:23 am
To: Joanne Dillon <Joanne.Dillon@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: FB messages to date

Ngā mihi

Sue Heke
 Adult Learning, Programme and Promotions Coordinator
 Kaea Whakairanga Pakeke Ako
 Rotorua Library, Te Aka Mauri

Ph. 07 351 8023
sue.heke@rotorualc.nz
www.rotorualibrary.govt.nz

1127 Haupapa Street, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046
Aotearoa New Zealand

Sunday 10 March 2024

Monday



Vasiliki Vaiese
Assign conversation ▼



Sun 11:25

Hi, why do you think it's ok to have men dragging as women - making a mockery out of women and parading this to children while reading children's books? What are you trying to promote? That men are women, that children can no longer trust their own innate knowing that a penis represents a man? You are grooming children and are celebrating the grooming of them under the guise of kindness. Kindness doesn't lie or try to manipulate. It especially doesn't try to manipulate children. Shame on you for continuing the lie that a man can be a woman with a wig and grotesque makeup. Your moral compass is gone. V



Kia ora, thanks for your message. Our Facebook messages are monitored 8am-5pm Monday to Friday. We will get back to you as soon as possible during these times. You could also check our website for information or give us a call on 07 348 4177.

Monday 11 March 2024



Pasa Советский
Assign conversation ▼



Mon 09:46

pedophiles you should not be aloud near children 🙄



STOP LETTING MAN 🙄 AS FUCKN WOMEN GROMMING CHILDREN YOU SICK FUCK 🙄

Tuesday 12 March 2024



Gina Hedge
Assign conversation ▼



Tues 19:35

Rotorua Library you should be ashamed of yourselves getting sucked into this Rainbow perversion but even more so encouraging the exposure to young children who I might add will know there's something weird going on with the adults 🙄 they will feel it in their own gut but feel they have no power to say so because you're all prancing around being okay with it 🙄 you need to stop pushing your stupidity onto our next generations otherwise it will come back and bite you on the ass 🙄



Kia ora, thanks for your message. Our Facebook messages are monitored 8am-5pm Monday to Friday. We will get back to you as soon as possible during these times. You could also check our website for information or give us a call on 07 348 4177.



Jods Myszewski
 Assign conversation ▼








Tues 20:01



child grooming sickos. Drags (men in dresses) reading to children is ok ?? WTF is wrong with you subhumans.

Kia ora, thanks for your message. Our Facebook messages are monitored 8am-5pm Monday to Friday. We will get back to you as soon as possible during these times. You could also check our website for information or give us a call on 07 348 4177.





Helena Fredericks
 Assign conversation ▼








Tues 21:22



who pays the drag queens to do storytime in the library?

Kia ora, thanks for your message. Our Facebook messages are monitored 8am-5pm Monday to Friday. We will get back to you as soon as possible during these times. You could also check our website for information or give us a call on 07 348 4177.



Wednesday 13 March 2024



Kate Skinner
 Assign conversation ▼








07:43



Kids don't need to see drag queens this is so unnecessary unhealthy behaviour

Kia ora, thanks for your message. Our Facebook messages are monitored 8am-5pm Monday to Friday. We will get back to you as soon as possible during these times. You could also check our website for information or give us a call on 07 348 4177.





90 dislikes 6 likes read the room



- Overview
- Performance
- Feed preview

Performance

Reach ⓘ		Engagements ⓘ		Negative interactions ⓘ	
Total		Reactions		Total	
10,540		679		0	
Organic		Comments		Unique	
Paid		Shares			
10,540 (100%)		405			
0 (0%)		55			

Boost

...

X

We're excited to announce the popular Rainbow Storytime is co...
8 March 2024 at 19:08
ID: 803328061833660

Interactions

👍 679 reactions

💬 405 comments

➦ 55 shares

Facebook post

Facebook post

Posts on other Facebook pages/profiles

Joe's post



Joe Joseph

2 d · 🌐



Rotorua Public Library - I hope you're not introducing Drag Queen storytelling to the children in public like Dunedin and other councils..

Update. They are, Thursday 21 March at 10.30am at Rotorua Library. Lets all turn up and make a hell of a racket.



Samantha Costello

2 d · 🌐

**Today, at Dunedin Public Library.
Where they like to defile little children in
secret. 🤔
Video in 1st comment below 👉**

👍👎👤 5

3 comments



Like



Comment



Share

All comments ▼



Kerry Brady

No comment

2 d Like Reply



Tanya Ban

The liars have removed the comment because it wasn't relevant it the note... 🤔

1 d Like Reply



Aly Learmonth

Sick fucks

2 d Like Reply

No's post



No Whey

1 d · 🌐



PLEASE SHARE

Rotorua Public Library - I hope you're not introducing Drag Queen storytelling to the children in public like Dunedin and other councils.

Update. They are, Thursday 21 March at 10.30am at Rotorua Library. Lets all turn up and make a hell of a racket.



31

12 comments 2 shares



Like



Comment



Share

All comments ▾



Lynne Wylie

WTF are Men dressed as Women so interested in Children.

1 d Like Reply

3 🌐



Anna Colyns

Lynne Wylie exactly its pretty much pedophile conditioning

1 d Like Reply

2 🌐



Linda Helen Green

I will be there to protest this sick 🤢 act

1 d Like Reply

2 🌐👍



Jaylee Dollman

Tell them to go try read to the elderly and see how far they get. Disgusting 🤢🤢

1 d Like Reply



Sovereign Being

Omg they've done 2 readings at kapiti library

1 d Like Reply

🌐



Gabrielle Ridgway Evans

Sovereign Being are these new ones? We had them last year at Paraparaumu where I was intimidated by a rainbow person as I was filming it.

1 d Like Reply

2 🌐👍



Sovereign Being

Gabrielle Ridgway Evans no those are the same ones

1 d Like Reply



Anna Colyns

Doing this in Dunedin now

1 d Like Reply

👍



Tania Kinder

Perverts and predators

1 d Like Reply

🌐



Rachel Freedom

Grooming, part of the Agenda is to normalise pedophilia.

1 d Like Reply



Hal Reynolds

Your Councils like all of ours in Aus have been infiltrated by WEF activists probably in the 80s, now they're not even hiding their compliance to this 2030 agenda. Councils and Schools even more than Government, are the real enemy within. Wake up to that fact.

1 d Like Reply



Marty McCallum

They should be brought up on child abuse charges

17 h Like Reply

**Lola Paul**

11 m · 🌐

...

Alastair Rose is head of Library services in Rotorua who are having drag queen story telling tomorrow Thursday at 10.30am

We need more MEN to stand for the children.



Like



Share

From: Joanne Dillon
Sent: Wednesday, 13 March 2024 1:30 pm
To: Julianne Wilkinson; Kylie Holmes; Tori Williams; Kim Heke
Subject: FW: Safety plan info

Kia ora,

I just received this very helpful email from my contact at Rotorua Chamber of Pride.
 Some of them are planning to be at the event.

Ngā mihi nui,
 JD



Joanne Dillon, ALIANZA
 Adult Learning, Programmes and Promotions Lead - *Kaiurungi Whakatairanga*
Pakeke Ako
 P: 07 351 7064
 M: 027 263 0484
 E: joanne.dillon@rotorualc.nz | W: rotorualibrary.govt.nz
 A: 1127 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand
 PART OF ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL



From: Alyssa Rogers [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 13 March 2024 1:21 pm
To: Joanne Dillon <Joanne.Dillon@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: Safety plan info

Kia ora Joanne,

This is what I received, I think wires got crossed about who was running the event but the info is still good.

Hope you're staying safe and well,

Lyssa.

Tēnā koe Lyssa,

lovely to hear from you :) and great that you're doing safety planning for your event. I'm getting used to sharing what we did now, and also, no doubt you will have other ideas too. There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that the far right are specifically targeting libraries - we met with Hamilton Library today to debrief, and that's their belief too. But they are super committed to being accessible to our communities, which I love :)

Our safety planning included:

- contacting our local Diversity Liaison Officers and asking for a visible police presence before the event
- contacting the NZ head of Diversity Liaison Officers, Sharon Johnston, and asking for police resource to be allocated to support the event Sharon.Johnston@police.govt.nz
- meeting with our local police to describe our assessment of risk (far right groups and transphobic feminists)
- posting on our social media that the police would be present, so it wasn't a surprise for our communities
- preparing the actual attending officers beforehand (I met with both our local DLOs and the officer in charge on the night) by talking about risks for people outside the venue and in the venue. They set up outside the front door of the library 30 minutes before the event was due to start. We also explicitly asked that if we identified any risk, they would come into the venue and monitor
- controlling who could enter and leave the venue (library staff via a separate entrance as our event was after hours). With hindsight, I would also recommend a bag search at entrance if this is possible – it may not be, depending on the venue. Bag searches can identify anyone seeking to bring in banners, microphones or other disrupting equipment, and potentially weapons
- contacting City Safety officers (council roles with responsibility for safety) and asking for their presence – again, they set up outside the library, 30 minutes before the event
- on the morning of the event, we received an email from someone telling us not to host Sophie. This email was passed to NZ Police immediately
- on the actual night, having 8 librarians, 3 people from SEED Waikato, 3 people from Hohou Te Rongo Kahukura, two police officers and two City Safety staff present. I would recommend a brief security discussion at this point – for our event, this was mostly held by me with the police – it would be better if everyone involved was involved I think.
- having someone responsible for taking photographs of any intruders and sharing with the police. This was done by a librarian at our event. The library have also been able to share footage from CCTV inside and outside the event with the police.
- asking the police to move inside when we noticed the young men who later caused the intrusion (because they looked uncomfortable, suspicious and like they were not part of our communities)
- when the far right intruders began their disruption, they were each trespassed by a librarian. This literally involved the librarian saying “I trespass you”, after which the police could remove them. This process happened pretty quickly at our event, with all the intruders being removed by police and City Safety officers within minutes. With hindsight, I would also suggest the police ask each intruder for their name and address once outside the venue, as legally, those trespassed have to comply with this, which means they can

be stopped from coming in a venue for a set period of time, and also helps with identification. If the trespassed person refuses this, they can be arrested.

- asking the police to increase their presence after the initial intrusion, so a third officer joined before people began leaving the event
- allowing attendees to leave via a back entrance, rather than the front door. The intruders at our event began filming people as they were leaving, and shouting abuse. Having multiple entry and exit points helped manage this, again with police support
- being in constant and ongoing risk management conversations with NZ Police during the actual event
- as part of the formal closing, identifying two people that audience members could talk to if needed about the intrusion. We have those kinds of trauma and violence informed skills in our team, which may not be true for everyone
- asking the police to escort Sophie to her car, which they did
- we also had formal opening and closing processes – mihi whakatau, karakia and waiata tautoko. Our audience spontaneously burst into Te Aroha as the intruders were kicked out, and this filled the room. And we've offered Rongoa Māori to our volunteers afterwards, to clear the wairua violations

The very best of luck with your event - and with holding the visibility and safety of our communities with deep care.

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 13 March 2024 1:36 pm
To: Library Generic
Subject: Registering for rainbow story time.

1 adult and 2 toddlers.

Thank you for hosting a rainbow event. We are are a queer family and really appreciate it. We also enjoyed your book display today. We picked up the 'tōku whānau rerehua' book and my daughter loves it, a māori girl with two mums like her.

From: Joanne Dillon
Sent: Wednesday, 13 March 2024 1:42 pm
To: Julianne Wilkinson; Kylie Holmes
Subject: Some more intel

Brian Tamaki

@BrianTamakiNZ

The LEGITIMATE page of Brian Tamaki,
President of Freedoms NZ
Founder of TFRC, Destiny Church & ManUp

 Auckland New Zealand  briantamaki.com  Joined September 2010

284 Following 9,290 Followers



Followed by Rotorua Daily Post

Posts

Replies

Media

Likes

**Brian Tamaki**  @BrianTamakiNZ · 2h

So the First Wave of Trans/Drag/Gay Rainbow Brain Washing is hitting Public Libraries through out NZ..

Today its Rotorua..But my Men from Destiny Church Rotorua are "Drawing a Line in The Sand" and will Close Down the Library if need be to Protect the Innocence of all Children.



ne has kids 'absolutely en

 18 21 73 1.4K 



Joanne Dillon, ALIANZA

Adult Learning, Programmes and Promotions Lead - *Kaiurungi Whakatairanga*

Pakeke Ako

P: 07 351 7064

M: 027 263 0484

E: joanne.dillon@rotorualc.nz | W: rotorualibrary.govt.nz

A: 1127 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

PART OF ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL



From: Kylie Holmes
Sent: Wednesday, 13 March 2024 5:11 pm
To: 'HOF Bookings'
Subject: RE: Rainbow Storytime

Kia ora,

Many thanks 😊 I will update out our run sheet now.

Kind regards,

Kylie Holmes Youth and Early Learning Lead- Kaiurungi Ako Taiohi
 Rotorua District Library P: [07 351 7028](tel:073517028) | E: kylie.holmes@rotorualc.nz | W: www.rotorualibrary.govt.nz

From: HOF Bookings <bookings@hausofflash.co.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 13 March 2024 5:09 PM
To: Kylie Holmes <Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: Re: Rainbow Storytime

We are absolutely fine with anything, as long as it's not too low for us. We tend to perch on the edge.

Usually the two chairs and a display table or such in middle to pu the books and bubble guns on.

Sunita



On 13/03/2024, at 5:03 PM, Kylie Holmes <Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz> wrote:

Kia ora,

Thank you so much for sharing your vetting forms.

Your advice and guidance below is appreciated. Our management team met this morning to discuss the risks and plan our mitigations to these. Your email will be very helpful in preparing our final plan. We are planning for every possibility in the hope we don't have to use it. But we would rather be well prepared and have nothing happen than the opposite occur.

We have been in touch with our local chamber of pride and some of their members are planning to slip away from work to be part of the event. They are excited about the event from what a colleague has shared.

On another note; how do you like your performance space set out and what sort of chairs do you like to sit on while reading? I was going to set out our comfortable armchairs, but these are unlikely to be comfortable if you're in a gown, as they are narrow. We also have regular dining style chairs, stools or ottomans available if they would be comfortable for you.

Kind regards,

Kylie Holmes *Youth and Early Learning Lead- Kaiurungi Ako Taiohi*

Rotorua District Library P: [07 351 7028](tel:073517028) | E: kylie.holmes@rotorualc.nz | W: www.rotorualibrary.govt.nz

From: HOF Bookings <bookings@hausoffflash.co.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, 13 March 2024 11:09 AM

To: Kylie Holmes <Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz>

Subject: Re: Rainbow Storytime

Kia Ora Kylie,

So in regards to safety and security. The best mindset to have is that this is a children's event. What you don't want children exposed to can't fly.

That includes being yelled at outside the premises or inside. Antisocial behaviour, inappropriate signs and flyers. Some libraries have had members of the pride community act as escorts for people entering the library.

Look out for TERF flyers in bathrooms.

Look out for people roaming around prior to the event. We've had people put timed alarms in bookshelves around where the session was being held to go off at different times. Had people remove books they deem evil so people can't find them.

We do not allow video and photography outside of library staff and participating parents so maybe that can be said during the housekeeping before CoCo is introduced on.

Vocal disruptions not be tolerated from adults. There needs to be a zero tolerance. Anyone can come watch but once they become disruptive or are caught taking footage etc, they need to be removed.

Pre-registering is great but be aware some anti groups load these up with their own or fake details to try and ensure there is barely any audience on the day.

Engage with your local Pride community. Just to stand out front and counter any possible anti behaviour outside.

Be strict on your policy. The library is for everyone so long as it's not harming and/or excluding individuals or communities. TERFs will argue they can't hold their meetings there, but that's because they actively hate on the trans community and exclude them. A trans person doing a book talk or the such is not actively telling the audience certain people shouldn't exist and there lies the difference.

Hope this helps

Have attached our vetting etc.

Sunita

<image001.png>

<image002.png>

On 12/03/2024, at 2:09 PM, Kylie Holmes <Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz> wrote:

Kia ora,

Thank you for your time on the phone earlier. If you are able to send me your security protocols and advice that would be very helpful for our team.

As I mentioned parking close by can be tricky some days. I would recommend first trying the one street parking on Haupapa St and then the Haupapa St carpark, opposite the library. Both are paid and metered parking spaces. Myself or one of the team will meet you at the back doors, these are at the rear of the building and on Arawa Street. Our building runs the width of a city block and there is a wide walk way between us and the Māori land court.

If these spaces are all taken I would recommend parking on Arawa Street near the Sir Howard Morrison Centre. Again this is paid parking, but is slower to be taken than other spots. This is about a block from the Library. More information about local parking can be found here: [Where to Park - Rotorua Lakes Council](#)

Our local media is very through and quick to ask questions on behalf of the community. Can we please have copies of your Police Vetting responses? This is so we are able to front foot any questions that may come to us or if we get a LGOIMA (Local Government Official Information and Meeting information request).

On the day if you need to get hold of me quickly my cell phone number is: 0274697095

I have just asked Hannah from my team who leads our preschool programmes in the Library to introduce you and begin the fun. She's very excited to be part of the event too.

Thank you

Kind regards,

Kylie Holmes Youth and Early Learning Lead- Kaiurungi Ako Taiohi
Rotorua District Library P: [07 351 7028](tel:073517028) | E: kylie.holmes@rotorualc.nz | W: www.rotorualibrary.govt.nz

From: HOF Bookings <bookings@hausoffflash.co.nz>

Sent: Monday, 11 March 2024 4:02 PM

To: Kylie Holmes <Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz>

Subject: Re: Rainbow Storytime

Awesome,

So the books we would do for this will be:

The Book With No Pictures
 Perfectly Norman
 Whitney & Britney The Chicken Divas
 Giraffes Can't Dance

We will also do a song from Moana and one from Frozen.
 And two dances with kids to Shake My Sillies Out and baby Shark.

Sunita

<image001.png>

On 11/03/2024, at 3:51 PM, Kylie Holmes
 <Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz> wrote:

Kia ora,

A more general focus please. We are so excited to have you here so soon.

Kind regards,

Kylie Holmes *Youth and Early Learning Lead- Kaiurungi Ako Taiohi*
 Rotorua District Library P: [07 351 7028](tel:073517028) | E: kylie.holmes@rotorualc.nz | W: www.rotorualibrary.govt.nz

From: HOF Bookings <bookings@hausoffflash.co.nz>
Sent: Monday, 11 March 2024 2:58 PM
To: Kylie Holmes <Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: Re: Rainbow Storytime

Did you want a Pride theme or a more generic focus?

Sunita

<image001.png>

On 29/02/2024, at 3:11 PM, Kylie Holmes
 <Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz> wrote:

Kia ora,

Many thanks for the update.

Can I please confirm which theme we are booked in for? In our promotions we are focusing on inclusivity, being yourself and acceptance of others.

Kind regards,

Kylie Holmes *Youth and Early Learning Lead- Kaiurungi Ako Taiohi*

Rotorua District Library P: [07 351 7028](tel:073517028) | E: kylie.holmes@rotorualc.nz | W: www.rotorualibrary.govt.nz

From: HOF Bookings <bookings@hausoffflash.co.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 27 February 2024 8:35 PM

To: Kylie Holmes <Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz>

Subject: Re: Rainbow Storytime

We will not know this until we get all the themes wanted from the libraries and then we will be choosing our books from there.

Sunita

<image001.png>

On 26/02/2024, at 2:04 AM,
Kylie Holmes
<Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz>
wrote:

Kia ora,

Many thanks for the linked set of materials.

When I last reached out I asked if you had a book list. I am really keen to have this to ensure our collection has these titles before you come.

Many thanks

Kind regards,

Kylie Holmes *Youth and Early Learning Lead- Kaiurungi Ako Taiohi*

Rotorua District Library P: [07 351 7028](tel:073517028) | E: kylie.holmes@rotorualc.nz | W: www.rotorualibrary.govt.nz

From: HOF Bookings

<bookings@hausoffflash.co.nz>

Sent: Monday, 26 February 2024

1:28 AM

Subject: Rainbow Storytime

We look forward to catching up with you all and doing some story times with you in the next few weeks.

You have the choice of a a “Pride” themed Storytime as it is Pride season in Aotearoa, or to have our more generic sessions. Totally up to you which you choose.

Please create Facebook events and include our accounts as co-hosts so we can share it around on our socials.

Haus Of Flash
Rainbow Storytime NZ
Flash Mob Entertainment

Here you will find the link to our assets to use, photos, bios, images. Please send us copies of your artwork you make for us to share also :)

Rainbow Storytime NZ
Assets – Google Drive
drive.google.com

<image001.png>

<image002.png>

From: Julianne Wilkinson
Sent: Wednesday, 13 March 2024 5:50 pm
To: Jean-Paul Gaston
Subject: RE: thnaks for prep info

Just watched the meeting. Cannot believe it was brought up as a matter of urgency!

Was dealt with well I thought.

We are ramping up levels with the safety plan on the premise that we are well prepared but hopeful we are over prepared and won't have too much of an issue.

Main focus is on keeping those participating, our regular customers and staff safe.

We have ideas to mitigate visibility of protestors and will also talk to Mihi about options with support from Police.

P.S – all four books being read are published books by known children's authors that we have had or currently have in our collection. None are related specifically to gender or drag queens...one is about a giraffe that cannot dance! They are all very very innocent and fun.

Will keep you in the loop.

J

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri

P: [+64 7 3517640](tel:+6473517640)

M: [+64 0272426235](tel:+640272426235)



From: Jean-Paul Gaston <Jean-Paul.Gaston@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 13 March 2024 5:22 pm
To: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: thnaks for prep info

Julianne

Thanks for being so well prepared for the inevitable chip at rainbow talk. Helped me enormously.

Please make sure you have a serious safety plan in place – I really don't want any children attending to have a traumatic/scary experience because of protestors in some form or another.

Cheers

Jp



Jean-Paul Gaston

Manahautū Takiwā Whakaritorito | Group Manager, Community & District Development

M: [+64 27 655 4415](tel:+64276554415)

E: jean-paul.gaston@rotorualc.nz

A: Civic Centre, 1061 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

W: rotorualakescouncil.nz



From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 13 March 2024 6:55 pm
To: Library Generic
Subject: Rainbow storytime - register

Kia ora

Could I register two adults and two toddlers for the rainbow storytime session?

Thank you so much!

Ngā mihi,

s7(2)(a)

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 13 March 2024 7:46 pm
To: Library Generic
Subject: Rainbow Storytime Registration 

Hi there,

Can I please register for 2 adults?

We're part of the rainbow community and have friends with young children attending too.

Thank you so much for hosting this. It's so important and great for Rotorua.

Thanks,

s7(2)(a)

Sent from s7(2) iPhone

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 13 March 2024 8:23 pm
To: Library Generic
Subject: Rainbow storytime

Kia ora! Can I please register two mum's and one four year old for rainbow storytime 🌈

Ngā mihi!

645

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 13 March 2024 10:44 pm
To: Library Generic
Subject: Rainbow Story Time

I would like to register me an my 3 tamariki.

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 13 March 2024 11:24 pm
To: Library Generic
Subject: RAINBOW STORYTIME

Hi there

I would like to ask what the reason is any child or adult needs to feel comfortable or what the need is for this type of reading in our Library?

I am a very disappointed



Parent right now. Quite upset that this is so openly being accepted by the Library & also the Council.

Regards

s7(2)(a)

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 14 March 2024 7:28 am
To: Library Generic
Subject: Fun storytime

2 adults attending please 😊

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Julianne Wilkinson
Sent: Thursday, 14 March 2024 8:12 am
To: Suzanne McNicol
Subject: RE: Rainbow Story time elevating concerns

Thanks Suzanne 😊

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri

P: [+64 7 3517640](tel:+6473517640)

M: [+64 0272426235](tel:+640272426235)



From: Suzanne McNicol <Suzanne.McNicol@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 13 March 2024 4:31 pm
To: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>; Jean-Paul Gaston <Jean-Paul.Gaston@rotorualc.nz>;
Mihikore Owen <Mihikore.Owen@rotorualc.nz>
Cc: Ingrid Tiriana <Ingrid.Tiriana@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: RE: Rainbow Story time elevating concerns

Hi Julianne

Thank you for this very thorough and well presented summary of the risks that we need to mitigate in hosting Rainbow Story Time. I tautoko completely the rights of children and their parents to enjoy this programme within the main library area. No one is being forced to attend and I'm aghast at the thought that a vocal minority are trying to prevent freedom of speech. I had a chat with JP before and he has advised that a security plan will be created to ensure that children and parents get to enjoy this event in peace. Please let me know if there is anything extra you need from MarComms.

I would also like to say that the measured way you have highlighted this reputation risk and the proactive steps you have taken to mitigate it are deeply appreciated. Your timeliness and consideration make you my favourite briefing unit at this point in time!

S

From: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 1:57 PM
To: Jean-Paul Gaston <Jean-Paul.Gaston@rotorualc.nz>; Mihikore Owen <Mihikore.Owen@rotorualc.nz>
Cc: Suzanne McNicol <Suzanne.McNicol@rotorualc.nz>; Ingrid Tiriana <Ingrid.Tiriana@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: Rainbow Story time elevating concerns
Importance: High

Kia ora koutou,

We have been monitoring feedback across Facebook including other Libraries that have hosted same/similar events recently.

Dunedin hosted an event on 10th of March where they had protestors moved from the square outside the event and doors of the Library to the street. Someone videoed the event and staff response and has posted on line targeting a staff a member in further posts. [Facebook](#) for the video. (before you judge, note Mr Pusskin is kids book about a cat!) They have also identified Rotorua Library in their posts.

2d Like Reply



Graham Dawson
 Share the hell outa this pic
 Pedogroomer/supporter advocate



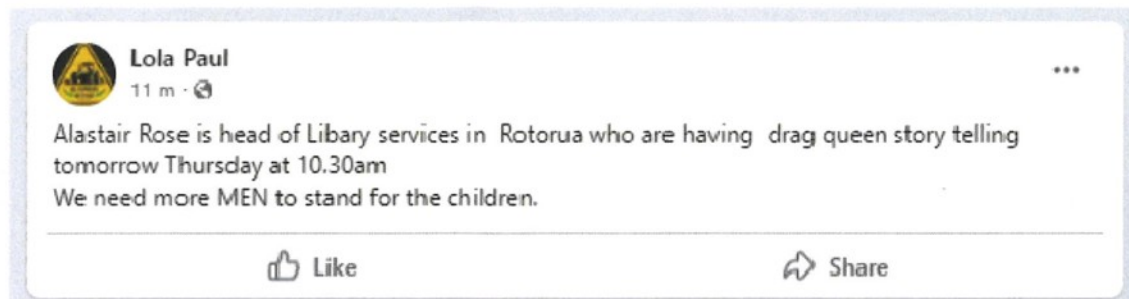
2d Like Reply

We have been in touch with Dunedin and apart from the protests the event went really well and they had to turn people away due to restrictions on space. They gave us a few tips and we met today to add more to our event management plan including increasing event staff on the day (we may need some help) and organising for two additional guards, one inside and one outside. We have a number of mitigations in place to manage the space and also manage people should anything arise. We hope to have the plan finished by Friday. We will also be running a couple of staff sessions to ensure roles and responsibilities are clear and make sure everyone is comfortable with the topic plus a debrief after (I think we will all need it!). We already have one staff member who while she is not opposed to the event she feels uncomfortable. We have found an offsite task for her. She is a member of Destiny Church, who seem to be significant contributors to the comments and who have now shared as a tweet and are planning something.

I am loathe to move the event from the ground floor up to the Makerspace and give in to these people. Also I feel like 'hiding' it away may perpetuate the perception that something dodgy is going on. But am open to discussion if safety requires it.

I have shared with you three documents compiling comments seen on line (facebook, messenger and twitter) . While we have turned comments off our post people have shared and are commenting on various other pages. People are also now sending us messages via Messenger (doc attached). We have received six emails and one RFS. Some we have responded to, others we have not. We also understand Customer Centre has received calls. They have a copy of the FAQ's.

Of major concern is the following:



Note that in Auckland Police had to attend to move protestors on and graffiti occurred in Queenstown. It appears Hamilton had issues and Libraries are being targeted.

Attached is also an email from one of our Rotorua Pride contacts who has been very helpful and they intend to attend the event.

Suzanne, in case we get a media request (I am surprised we haven't yet) we have received the Police vetting info from Erika and Coco, so all relevant boxes ticked there. I have also updated FAQ's with books being read.

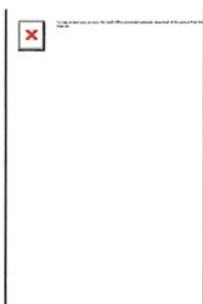
Mihi, for your benefit I have attached the FAQ's.

I was hoping that most of these people would be keyboard warriors but I am getting more concerned that there will be significant disruption at the event. I am concerned for excited/happy customers attending the event including little kids, our other regular customers, some who are vulnerable, and am concerned for staff.

Mihi, can we see if some Guardians can be on hand in JBS and have CCTV eyes on. I think it would also be good to connect with Police and seek support. Would it be helpful to organise a meeting on Friday or early next week at the latest?

Sorry but of a jumbled email as I am juggling a few balls, but am keen to see if we need to do anything further re comms and if Comm Safety can assist?

Thanks
J



Julianne Wilkinson

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri

Te Aka Mauri | Rotorua Library

P: [+64 7 3517640](tel:+6473517640)

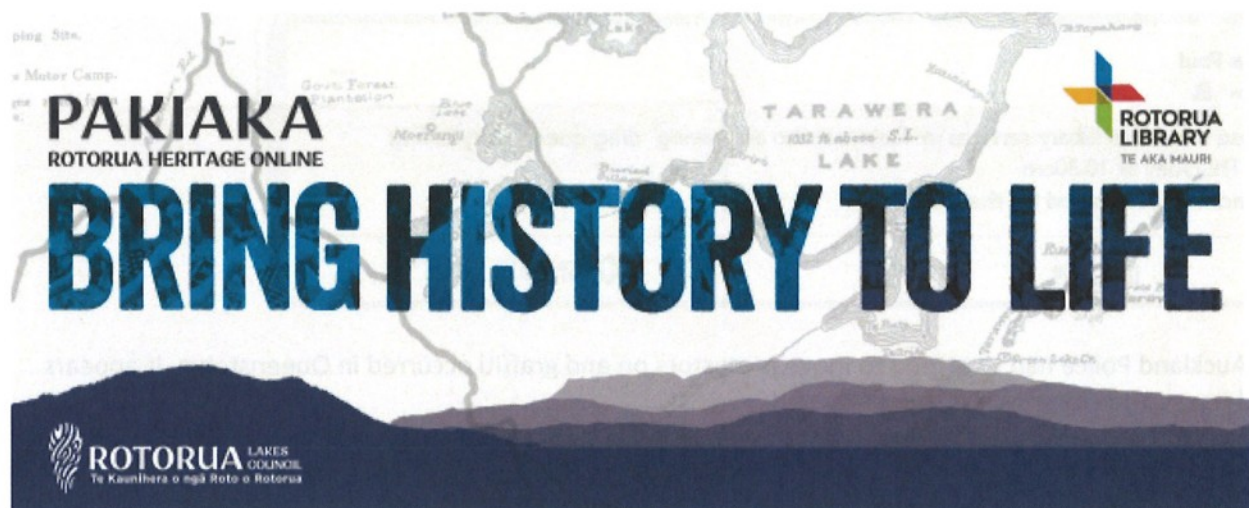
M: [+64 0272426235](tel:+640272426235)

E: julianne.wilkinson@rotorualc.nz

A: Civic Centre, 1061 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

W: rotorualakescouncil.nz





Sunday 10 March 2024

Monday



Vasiliki Vaiese
Assign conversation ▼



Sun 11:25

Hi, why do you think it's ok to have men dragging as women - making a mockery out of women and parading this to children while reading children's books? What are you trying to promote? That men are women, that children can no longer trust their own innate knowing that a penis represents a man? You are grooming children and are celebrating the grooming of them under the guise of kindness. Kindness doesn't lie or try to manipulate. It especially doesn't try to manipulate children. Shame on you for continuing the lie that a man can be a woman with a wig and grotesque makeup. Your moral compass is gone. V



Kia ora, thanks for your message. Our Facebook messages are monitored 8am-5pm Monday to Friday. We will get back to you as soon as possible during these times. You could also check our website for information or give us a call on 07 348 4177.

Monday 11 March 2024



Раса Советский
Assign conversation ▼



Mon 09:46

pedophiles you should not be aloud near children 🙄



STOP LETTING MAN 🙄 AS FUCKN WOMEN GROMMING CHILDREN YOU SICK FUCK 🙄

Tuesday 12 March 2024



Gina Hedge
Assign conversation ▼



Tues 19:35

Rotorua Library you should be ashamed of yourselves getting sucked into this Rainbow perversion but even more so encouraging the exposure to young children who I might add will know there's something weird going on with the adults 🙄 they will feel it in their own gut but feel they have no power to say so because you're all prancing around being okay with it 🙄 you need to stop pushing your stupidity onto our next generations otherwise it will come back and bite you on the ass 🙄



Kia ora, thanks for your message. Our Facebook messages are monitored 8am-5pm Monday to Friday. We will get back to you as soon as possible during these times. You could also check our website for information or give us a call on 07 348 4177.



Jods Myszewski
 Assign conversation ▼








Tues 20:01

child grooming sickos. Drags (men in dresses) reading to children is ok ?? WTF is wrong with you subhumans.

Kia ora, thanks for your message. Our Facebook messages are monitored 8am-5pm Monday to Friday. We will get back to you as soon as possible during these times. You could also check our website for information or give us a call on 07 348 4177.



Helena Fredericks
 Assign conversation ▼








Tues 21:22

who pays the drag queens to do storytime in the library?

Kia ora, thanks for your message. Our Facebook messages are monitored 8am-5pm Monday to Friday. We will get back to you as soon as possible during these times. You could also check our website for information or give us a call on 07 348 4177.

Wednesday 13 March 2024



Kate Skinner
 Assign conversation ▼








07:43

Kids don't need to see drag queens this is so unnecessary unhealthy behaviour

Kia ora, thanks for your message. Our Facebook messages are monitored 8am-5pm Monday to Friday. We will get back to you as soon as possible during these times. You could also check our website for information or give us a call on 07 348 4177.

90 dislikes 6 likes read the room



- Overview
- Performance
- Feed preview

Performance

Reach ⓘ		Engagements ⓘ		Negative interactions ⓘ	
Total		Reactions		Total	
10,540		679		0	
Organic		Comments		Unique	
Paid		Shares			
10,540 (100%)		405		0	
0 (0%)		55			

Boost

...

X

We're excited to announce the popular Rainbow Storytime is co...
8 March 2024 at 19:08
ID: 803328061833660

Interactions

👍 679 reactions

💬 405 comments

➦ 55 shares

Facebook post

Facebook post

Posts on other Facebook pages/profiles

Joe's post



Joe Joseph

2 d · 🌐

...

Rotorua Public Library - I hope you're not introducing Drag Queen storytelling to the children in public like Dunedin and other councils..

Update. They are, Thursday 21 March at 10.30am at Rotorua Library. Lets all turn up and make a hell of a racket.



Samantha Costello

2 d · 🌐


5

3 comments

 Like

 Comment

 Share

All comments ▼



Kerry Brady

No comment

2 d

Like

Reply



Tanya Ban

The liars have removed the comment because it wasn't relevant it the note...🤔

1 d

Like

Reply



Aly Learmonth

Sick fucks

2 d

Like

Reply

No's post



No Whey

1 d · 🌐



PLEASE SHARE

Rotorua Public Library - I hope you're not introducing Drag Queen storytelling to the children in public like Dunedin and other councils.

Update. They are, Thursday 21 March at 10.30am at Rotorua Library. Lets all turn up and make a hell of a racket.



31

12 comments 2 shares



Like



Comment



Share

All comments ▾



Lynne Wylie

WTF are Men dressed as Women so interested in Children.

1 d Like Reply

3 🍌



Anna Colyns

Lynne Wylie exactly its pretty much pedophile conditioning

1 d Like Reply

2 🍌



Linda Helen Green

I will be there to protest this sick 🤢 act

1 d Like Reply

2 🍌🍌



Jaylee Dollman

Tell them to go try read to the elderly and see how far they get. Disgusting 🤢🤢

1 d Like Reply



Sovereign Being

Omg they've done 2 readings at kapiti library

1 d Like Reply

1 🍌



Gabrielle Ridgway Evans

Sovereign Being are these new ones? We had them last year at Paraparaumu where I was intimidated by a rainbow person as I was filming it.

1 d Like Reply

2 🍌🍌



Sovereign Being

Gabrielle Ridgway Evans no those are the same ones

1 d Like Reply



Anna Colyns

Doing this in Dunedin now

1 d Like Reply

1 🍌



Tania Kinder

Perverts and predators

1 d Like Reply

1 🍌



Rachel Freedom

Grooming, part of the Agenda is to normalise pedophilia.

1 d Like Reply



Hal Reynolds

Your Councils like all of ours in Aus have been infiltrated by WEF activists probably in the 80s, now they're not even hiding their compliance to this 2030 agenda. Councils and Schools even more than Government, are the real enemy within. Wake up to that fact.

1 d Like Reply



Marty McCallum

They should be brought up on child abuse charges

17 h Like Reply

**Lola Paul**

11 m · 🌐



Alastair Rose is head of Library services in Rotorua who are having drag queen story telling tomorrow Thursday at 10.30am

We need more MEN to stand for the children.



Like



Share

From: Julianne Wilkinson
Sent: Thursday, 14 March 2024 10:08 am
To: Joanne Dillon; Kylie Holmes
Subject: updated plans for Rainbow

Hi ladies

I have a short notice meeting this arvo.

Can you please email me your most update to date planning docs for Rainbow by 1.30pm.

Thanks
Julianne



Julianne Wilkinson

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri

Te Aka Mauri | Rotorua Library

P: [+64 7 3517640](tel:+6473517640)

M: [+64 0272426235](tel:+640272426235)

E: julianne.wilkinson@rotorualc.nz

A: Civic Centre, 1061 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

W: rotorualakescouncil.nz



From: BETCHETTI, Simon s7(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 14 March 2024 11:18 am
To: Julianne Wilkinson
Subject: Potential protest action

Morena Julianne,
Please forgive the direct email.

Police have received anecdotal information that indicates possible protest action at the Library next Thursday in relation to a book reading or event the library is running this day.
Can you confirm for me the nature of the event? Information we have is the protest is aimed at LGBTQ community. If this is news you to you I don't intend to create panic. Police will attend in a pre-emptive observation role if required. I am just looking ahead around this.

Thanks Julianne.

Senior Sergeant Simon Betchetti
Community, Youth, Family Harm, Murupara
Rotorua Police
| New Zealand Police

s7(2)(a)

1190 - 1214 Fenton Street, Rotorua www.police.govt.nz



=====

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From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 14 March 2024 11:28 am
To: Library Generic
Subject: Story time next Thursday

Hi there my family of 2 adults & 1 child would love to be at storytime . As well as my mother & her 6 children 🐼

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 14 March 2024 12:59 pm
To: Library Generic
Subject: Register for rainbow story time

2 adults please 😊

Naku noa, na

s7(2)(a)

From: Julianne Wilkinson
Sent: Thursday, 14 March 2024 1:52 pm
To: bookings@hausofflash.co.nz
Subject: Rotorua Rainbow Story Time event management

Kia ora Sunita,

You will have been communicating with my team member Kylie regarding the event next week. We are very excited about the event and sharing the message of inclusiveness and acceptance. We are currently putting together a revised event management plan based on the negative feedback and potential received threats through our social media channels, emails and calls to Council.

While we have turned the comments off on our Library post, we see that like us, you (Sunita and Rainbow Storytime) are actively monitoring social media and comments related to the event. I know this is an incredibly sensitive topic and obviously very personal to you, so I feel very conflicted asking if you could refrain from reacting and debating with some of these people who are so far down a rabbit hole they will never return.

The reason I ask is that we are doing everything possible to put in place mitigations to manage any risk and ensure we make this a positive and safe experience for all involved. While some of these people are keyboard warriors there is a risk that action will be taken on day. I am conscious that we do not want to incite any action by responding to these comments even though like you we disagree with not only the comments but the disrespectful approach and personal attacks.

I hope you understand where I am coming from with the safety of all our main priority.

Please feel free to give me a call if you want to discuss.

Ngā mihi nui,
 Julianne



Julianne Wilkinson

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri

Te Aka Mauri | Rotorua Library

P: [+64 7 3517640](tel:+6473517640)

M: [+64 0272426235](tel:+640272426235)

E: julianne.wilkinson@rotorualc.nz

A: Civic Centre, 1061 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

W: rotorualakescouncil.nz





From: Joanne Dillon
Sent: Thursday, 14 March 2024 3:55 pm
To: Library Management Team
Subject: Interesting Facebook stats

Since we posted about Rainbow Storytime on 8 March our Facebook usage has skyrocketed:

Reach - up 794.1%
 Visits – up 708.9%
 Follows – up 237.5%

Growth (mostly) also on Instagram:

Reach – up 47.8%
 Profile visits – up \$400%
 Follows – down 25%

JD



Joanne Dillon, ALIANZA
 Adult Learning, Programmes and Promotions Lead - *Kaiurungi Whakatairanga Pakeke Ako*
 P: 07 351 7064
 M: 027 263 0484
 E: joanne.dillon@rotorualc.nz | W: rotorualibrary.govt.nz
 A: 1127 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand
 PART OF ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL



From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 14 March 2024 8:09 pm
To: Library Generic
Subject: Rainbow story time

To whom it may concern

I am writing this email in regards to an advertisement I've seen on your social media page.

I would like to express my concern as a parent. I can not stress enough about my worry, frustration and disappointment towards the local Rotorua library, which has been a family environment for many years in our community. And how this place is supporting this type of nonsense. An ideology put into the minds of our innocent children.

I think the parents, staff and any member who support this behaviour have completely lost their minds, and a true way of life. The responsibility to protect those more vulnerable that enter your public establishment has been jeopardised. Since when did the priority of protecting children in our community loose it's importance? Its a shame to see this being condoned by the rotorua library.

I hope you can find a reasonable explanation to the public on the day of your event, from concerned parents who won't tolerate this type of absurdity. I am not a hater of trans people, I accept and love all people. And the way they choose to live their lives, is their choice. But indoctrinating our children with this sick and perverted ideology to bring in cross dressers who originated from the sex industry is horrendous. And it has to stop. I'm calling a stop to this nonsense. And asking that you take my complaint seriously or further action will be taken. On behalf of the concerned parents fighting to raise their children right.

Regards,

s7(2)(a)

Subject: FW: HARM TO ROTORUA CHILDREN: CONCERNS RAINBOW STORY TIME.
Attachments: IMG_0255.jpg
Importance: High

From: Robert Lee <Robert.Lee@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 9:26 AM
To: Karen Barker <Karen.Barker@rotorualc.nz>; Rawiri Waru <Rawiri.Waru@rotorualc.nz>; Trevor Maxwell <Trevor.Maxwell@rotorualc.nz>; Lani Kereopa <Lani.Kereopa@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: FW: HARM TO ROTORUA CHILDREN: CONCERNS RAINBOW STORY TIME.
Importance: High

Good morning Councillors

FYI I have forwarded this email on to you. Karen has brought it to my attention that you were not on the list of Councillors who received this email which was sent to some of us during Wednesday's Council meeting.

Cheers
 Robert

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 11:01 AM
To: Tania Tapsell <Tania.Tapsell@rotorualc.nz>
Cc: Sandra.KaiFong@rotorualc.nz; Gregg Brown <Gregg.Brown@rotorualc.nz>; Robert Lee <Robert.Lee@rotorualc.nz>; Conan O'Brien <Conan.O'Brien@rotorualc.nz>; Don Paterson <Don.Paterson@rotorualc.nz>; Fisher Wang <Fisher.Wang@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: HARM TO ROTORUA CHILDREN: CONCERNS RAINBOW STORY TIME.
Importance: High

Kia Ora Mayoress Tapsell and Councillors,

As a mother, grandmother, local rate payer and major contributor to community housing providers, I am deeply concerned as to why is the Rotorua Public Library hosting an event for children by a man dressed in drag as a woman?

The story teller at this event called **Erika Flash** has public promotional material that is very harmful to children.

Please see the public link attached: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yu9AHGcn8rQ>

Is Erika and Coco Flash choosing the book they will read to children and are these story tellers going to use props like in the promotional material.

Where is the safety and well-being for children? This is NOT OK!

I devote my whole life to the well-being of families and children. Why is our public library providing space for a pathway for potential child abuse.

This is wrong, please put a stop to this nonsense. "LEAVE KIDS ALONE"

Please consider my concerns.

Much appreciated.

s7(2)(a)

s7(2)(a)

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the majority of the top section of the page, starting below the 's7(2)(a)' label and extending across the width of the page.**CONFIDENTIALITY**

This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential information intended for the use of the addressee. The confidentiality of the email and attachments is not waived, lost or destroyed by the reason that it has been transmitted other than to the addressee. If you are not the intended recipient of this email you are hereby notified that you must not disseminate, copy or take any action in reliance. If you no longer wish to receive emails from the sender, please contact the above sender and advise.

From: Joanne Dillon
Sent: Friday, 15 March 2024 11:41 am
To: Julianne Wilkinson
Subject: FW: Safety plan info
Attachments: Screenshot_20240315_113331_Messenger.jpg; Screenshot_20240315_113334_Messenger.jpg

Alyssa was concerned that Sunita wants people to put themselves in a vulnerable position where they (or their children) could be targeted later. Reaching out to the Rotorua Chamber of Pride last weekend has been one of the most positive things I've done in planning this event.

JD

From: Alyssa Rogers s7(2)(a)
Sent: Friday, 15 March 2024 11:35 am
To: Joanne Dillon <Joanne.Dillon@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: Re: Safety plan info

Here are the message and our reply.
My number is s7(2)(a)

Thank you!

11:33

LTE1 5G 82%



Sunita Torrance

10:32 AM

A callout out for help please. We are needing a counter group to provide a barrier from protests to ensure the safety of the families coming to our Rainbow Storytme session in Rotorua next week.

<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/kahu/destiny-church-leader-brian-tamaki-wants-drag-queens-banned-from-public-spaces-just-like-gang-patches/7GSEMQMOKJDXBJ3S4REAFL5K5A/?fbclid=IwAR3SxcCpsSk0nBhuxn-TzWjUGhlpZsoBxd4C9TBbW1yPYwwbYOFrZeCTAk8>



Brian Tamaki plans protest and disruptions at rainbow events



Message



11:33

VoLTE 5G LTE1 82%



Sunita Torrance

Priority



-TzWjUGhlpZsoBxd4C9TBbW1yP
YwwbYOFrZeCTAk8



Brian Tamaki plans protest and
disruptions at rainbow events



10:52 AM

Kia ora Sunita, thank you for
reaching out, most of us are
currently at our day jobs so we
want to help but might take a
little to respond properly.

I've personally been messaging
with Joanne from the library
and we're trying to tautoko as
much as we can, but I'll get
back to you ASAP with what we
can do 😊

11:02 AM

thank you so much xx



Message



Subject: FW: From volunteer regarding protest
Attachments: Screenshot_20240315_122417_com.facebook.lite.jpg; Screenshot_20240315_122847_com.facebook.lite.jpg; Screenshot_20240315_122824_com.facebook.lite.jpg; Screenshot_20240315_123046_com.facebook.lite.jpg; Screenshot_20240315_122650_com.facebook.lite.jpg; Screenshot_20240315_123117_com.facebook.lite.jpg; Screenshot_20240315_122856_com.facebook.lite.jpg; Screenshot_20240315_123057_com.facebook.lite.jpg; Screenshot_20240315_122839_com.facebook.lite.jpg; Screenshot_20240315_123015_com.facebook.lite.jpg; Screenshot_20240315_122738_com.facebook.lite.jpg; Screenshot_20240315_122757_com.facebook.lite.jpg; Screenshot_20240315_122711_com.facebook.lite.jpg; Screenshot_20240315_122931_com.facebook.lite.jpg; Screenshot_20240315_122951_com.facebook.lite.jpg; Screenshot_20240315_122904_com.facebook.lite.jpg; Screenshot_20240315_122723_com.facebook.lite.jpg; Screenshot_20240315_122913_com.facebook.lite.jpg; Screenshot_20240315_123027_com.facebook.lite.jpg; Screenshot_20240315_122808_com.facebook.lite.jpg; Screenshot_20240315_123301_com.facebook.lite.jpg

From: Graeme Cash <Graeme.Cash@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Friday, 15 March 2024 12:44 pm
To: Joanne Dillon <Joanne.Dillon@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: From volunteer regarding protest

Kia ora JD,

This was sent to me by our volunteer Trish who is admin on some local Rotorua Facebook pages.

The first screenshot is regarding the protest. Others are screenshots relating to comments.

Ngā mihi,

Graeme Cash *Pūkenga Rangahau-Taonga - Heritage and Research Specialist*
 Rotorua District Library P: 07 351 8116 | E: graeme.cash@rotorualc.nz | W: www.rotorualibrary.govt.nz

From: Trish Bailey s7(2)(a)
Sent: Friday, 15 March 2024 12:36 PM
To: Graeme Cash <Graeme.Cash@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: Re phone call

Hi Graeme
 As per our phone call
 The post they want me to OK to post (I will be deleting it) plus some of the posts of Councillor Robert Lee
 Have a great weekend
 Trish

STOP SEXUALISING CHILDREN

We are alarmed to learn that on Thursday 21 March at 10:30am, our local public library is hosting an event for children called Rainbow Storytime with story tellers Erika and Coco Flash.

It is important to recognise Erika Flash has public material promoting one of his shows that demonstrates the use of food in an erotic manner and in that same promotional ad, he is holding a baby and is chasing a small child who looks in fear. Is that not sexualising children?

Why is the Rotorua Lakes Council and the Rotorua Public Library in support of creating a space for children to be exposed to storyteller Erika Flash?

This is a CALL TO ACTION to every concerned parent, grandparent, guardian and community member to stand with us.

STAND WITH US
THURSDAY 21 MARCH
AT 9.30AM

MEET OUTSIDE THE ROTORUA PUBLIC LIBRARY



ERIKA FLASH PROMOTING HIS SHOW. PROMOTION CONTAINS A BABY, A CHILD AND EROTIC REFERENCE USING FOOD

Emma Jane Jacquet

1h • 🌐





Replies



needed in dresses as well.
They will be sitting down
reading stories not
parading about like the
video above.

15 hrs Like Reply  1



Barbara Phillips

[Trish Keen Bailey](#) dressing
up in drag is for an erotic
experience. Playing mum
for your preschool is to
make up the numbers.
Families these days have
so few kids and therefore
few cousins, neighbours
etc that parents are
obliged to fill in the gaps
(which I think fair enough)
There is a huge difference
in what motivates the
dressing up 😞

2 hrs Like Reply



Barbara Phillips





Robert's post

**Robert Lee**

1d •

Do you remember when libraries used to be for borrowing books? These days you can also use computers with an internet connection, or play chess with the chess club, or just chill and hang out in a safe, family friendly environment while you wait for a bus.

Well, next Thursday at 10:30 am you could go to our local library and watch a couple of drag queens read a story to children.

Here's one of the performers: "Erica Flash" strutting his / her stuff.

So who's bringing their children along?
I'm not.



Comment as Trish
Keen Bailey





Robert's post



couple of drag queens read a story to children.

Here's one of the performers: "Erica Flash" strutting his / her stuff.

So who's bringing their children along?
I'm not.



YOUTUBE.COM

**Erika Flash Promotional video 1 for
PRISCILLA QUEEN OF THE DESERT - ...**

👍👎 Stephen McLeod and 26 others

👍 27

💬 66

➦ 7

Most relevant ▾



Comment as Trish
Keen Railov





Replies

**Tanya Zohs**

Definitely not taking my boys to that -totally inappropriate for children

on Wed Like Reply  6

**Robert Lee**

[Tanya Zohs](#) not the sort of role-model you are looking for them?

on Wed Like Reply  3

**Tanya Zohs**

[Robert Lee](#) no, definitely not

on Wed Like Reply  1



Reply as Trish Keen
Railay





Replies

**Katrina Weller**

Who thought this was a good idea?

on Wed Like Reply   4

**Robert Lee**

[Katrina Weller](#) It was a Council staff decision, starting with the library manager. The Mayor and Councillor Wang seems to think it is a good idea as well - though we didn't vote on it.

on Wed Like Reply

   4

**Katrina Weller**

[Robert Lee](#) hope it's a flop

on Wed Like Reply  4

**Johan Aarts**

Reply as Trish Keen
Railay





Replies

**Johan Aarts**

Why am I voting in our local body election if people who were not elected get to make decisions like this. I am not being represented. Surely this is completely undemocratic.

on Wed **Like** **Reply****Jared Adams**

[Robert Lee](#) Fisher doesn't even have children .

...

22 hrs **Like** **Reply****Remko Schipper**

[Robert Lee](#) it shows how perverted they are. They should be fired for

Reply as Trish Keen
Bailev



Replies

**Remko Schipper**

[Robert Lee](#) it shows how perverted they are. They should be fired for bringing this into the community.
Stupid perversions

22 hrs Like Reply  3**Craig Tiriana**

[Johan Aarts](#) [Robert Lee](#) should be able to explain the different roles of governance (politicians) and operations (staff) and how that works.

20 hrs Like Reply  1**Robert Lee**

Actually [Craig Tiriana](#), I asked this very question at Council yesterday. My question was: "when is an

Reply as Trish Keen
Railev



Replies

**Robert Lee**

Actually [Craig Tiriana](#), I asked this very question at Council yesterday. My question was: "when is an operational matter not an operational matter"? Curiously, the learned people in our midst were unable to provide an answer. Link provided below.

At present the distinction, if there is one, seems to be being applied arbitrarily. I understand Taupo Council have a clear policy relating to renewing leases. If a lease is just being rolled over for less than 10 years then staff deal with it. Otherwise, it becomes a 'governance' matter that



Reply as Trish Keen
Railay





Replies



staff deal with it.

Otherwise, it becomes a 'governance' matter that the Elected Members deal with.

It appears we have no such clear demarcation at RDC.

I note the purpose of the Local Government Act is to enable democratic local decision-making. When Elected Members make decisions there is democratic accountability. If the public don't like the decisions being made they can replace the Elected Members. Not so when staff make a decision.

I would think the staff



Reply as Trish Keen
Railey





Replies



I would think the staff should be making decisions for 'Business as usual'. In this case the Library Manager knew this was going to be controversial and gave her boss a "heads up". I think it might have been a good idea to run this one past the Elected Members to protect herself.

https://youtu.be/_DvtNeSWcsg?t=6950



youtube.com

Community and District20 hrs Like Reply  2**Craig Tiriana**[Robert Lee](#) the answer isReply as Trish Keen
Railey



Replies

**Craig Tiriana**

Robert Lee the answer is probably in the matters delegated to staff. I thought there was something around leases within the delegations but from what you say it seems not.

20 hrs Like Reply  1**Robert Lee**

Craig Tiriana, yeah, I think you're right. From my reading of the LGA, I would think that all decision-making power is vested in the Elected Members in the first instance. They can then delegate to staff as they see fit. We haven't viewed or reviewed any

Reply as Trish Keen
Bailey



Replies

**Robert Lee**

[Craig Tiriana](#) then we've got that unfortunate problem of Protocol Committees with unelected members acting in some sort of governance role as well. They're renewing leases and all sorts of things that we Elected Members knew nothing about.

20 hrs Like Reply



4

**Craig Tiriana**

[Robert Lee](#) exactly. The delegations do get reviewed in cycles but I don't recall it being following elections. And I would imagine that, like long term plans, is to allow for some

Reply as Trish Keen
Railey



Replies

20 hrs Like Reply  2**Robert Lee**

I could understand in Chadwick's three terms, with having the same Mayor and most of the same Councillors, it might not be a priority to review the delegations. With a new Mayor and a new Council, I think we're starting to see the need for that review now.

I think I have successfully flagged this issue with the new Chief Executive / Mayor. I have been told they would get back to me with a response.

20 hrs Like Reply  3Reply as Trish Keen
Raiay



Replies



say that the elected Councillors will do what the ratepayers want, but at least there is some visibility and accountability.

12 hrs Like Reply  1



Jan Stevenson

Robert Lee that is insightful, but very concerning as to how the mayor (and not surprising who is supporting her) is fitting in with the larger socialist globalist agenda and the increasing destruction of so much we have come to value. Is this what she thinks is appropriate for children to witness? Tragic

5 hrs Like Reply  1



Reply as Trish Keen
Railey





Replies

**Leon Moore**

Absolutely disgusting that this is allowed. And it just goes to show how sick these individuals are, to even want to do this in front of kids.

on Wed Like Reply  4

**Mike Baird**

[Leon Moore](#) they are not doing THIS in front of the children. Cr Lee has decided to show a clip. They will simply be reading to the children..... take it or leave it. Perhaps Cr [Robert Lee](#) would like to clarify his post?

on Wed Like Reply

  2

**Leon Moore**

Reply as Trish Keen
Bailey





Replies

**Leon Moore**

[Mike Baird](#) reading to children in drag. I get the concept. It is perverted

on Wed Like Reply  5

**Leon Moore**

[Mike Baird](#) why do they have to be dressed in drag to do it?

on Wed Like Reply  4

**Stella McLeod**

[Mike Baird](#) In the clip he was doing it in a supermarket and young children are shown. Sure he may not be so overtly sexual at the library but do you really want preschoolers indoctrinated into the false idea that they can



Reply as Trish Keen
Bailey





Replies

on Wed Like Reply  4**Stella McLeod**

[Mike Baird](#) In the clip he was doing it in a supermarket and young children are shown. Sure he may not be so overtly sexual at the library but do you really want preschoolers indoctrinated into the false idea that they can one day change their sex/gender (the words used to be interchangeable)? Read the longer article I've posted elsewhere in the comments.

on Wed Like Reply  5**Robert Lee**

[Mike Baird](#) I'm not sure

Reply as Trish Keen
Railey



Replies

**Robert Lee**

Mike Baird I'm not sure what you want me to clarify. Here's an interview with the man behind the Drag Queen "Erica Flash" if that helps.

I did ask yesterday if Council knew what book he was going to read - and they didn't. I'm pretty sure it won't be Charlie and the Chocolate factory though.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mGgnGGkLv3A>



youtube.com

**DRAG QUEEN
INTERVIEW -**

23 hrs

Like

Reply

Reply as Trish Keen
Bailey



Replies

**Stella McLeod**

[Robert Lee](#) I'm aware, because I've looked through them, that there are books in the children's section of our library that tell young children that it is possible and of course okay for a boy to be a girl and probably vice versa.

23 hrs Like Reply 😞 3

**Robert Lee**

[Jared Adams](#) I understand this has been funded by the Friends of the Museum. Just the Council venue is being used.

22 hrs Like Reply

2

**Jared Adams**

[Robert Lee](#) thanks for

Reply as Trish Keen
Bailey



Replies



alternate modes of kinship. Here, DQSH is 'family friendly' in the sense of 'family' as an old-school queer code to identify and connect with other queers on the street." That is, the goal is not to reinforce the biological family but to facilitate the child's transition into the ideological family..."

<https://www.city-journal.org/article/the-real-story-behind-drag-queen-story-hour>



city-journal.org

The Real Story Behind Drag Queen Story

on Wed Like Reply  8



Robert Lee

Thanks [Stella McLeod](#).

That is a most helpful and insightful article. I liked



Reply as Trish Keen
Railav



From: Joanne Dillon
Sent: Friday, 15 March 2024 1:41 pm
To: Julianne Wilkinson
Subject: Facebook posts
Attachments: Facebook posts - Rainbow Storytime.docx



Joanne Dillon, ALIANZA

Adult Learning, Programmes and Promotions Lead - *Kaiurungi Whakatairanga Pakeke Ako*

P: 07 351 7064

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E: joanne.dillon@rotorualc.nz | W: rotorualibrary.govt.nz

A: 1127 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand
PART OF ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL



Posts on other Facebook pages/profiles

No's post



No Whey

1 d · 🌐

...

PLEASE SHARE

Rotorua Public Library - I hope you're not Introducing Drag Queen storytelling to the children in public like Dunedin and other councils.

Update. They are, Thursday 21 March at 10.30am at Rotorua Library. Lets all turn up and make a hell of a racket.



31

12 comments 2 shares

 Like

 Comment

 Share

All comments ▼



Lynne Wylie

WTF are Men dressed as Women so interested in Children..

1 d Like Reply

3 



Anna Colyns

Lynne Wylie exactly its pretty much pedophile conditioning

1 d Like Reply

2 



Linda Helen Green

I will be there to protest this sick 🤢 act

1 d Like Reply

2  



Lola Paul

11 m · 🌐

...

Alastair Rose is head of Library services in Rotorua who are having drag queen story telling tomorrow Thursday at 10.30am

We need more MEN to stand for the children.

 Like

 Share

Shane's post



Shane Mataira

10 h · 🌐

Filthy!



Rotorua Library

Published by Joanne JD Dillon · 4 d · 🌐

We're excited to announce the popular Rainbow Storytime is coming to Rotorua Library. Erika and Coco Flash are professional drag queen entertainers who have bee... See more



7

5 comments 2 shares



Like



Comment



Share

All comments ▼



Gina Hedge

I recommend we flood these libraries and places who allow this in your face ideology with messages of protest about how they are supporting the perversion of young children and grooming them to give up their own gender identity 🙄

8 h Like Reply

3 🙄



Matthew Steadman

Throw them out!

People who shared this



Roez Whaanga

1 d · 🌐



Anyone keen to go make some noise??

[Show Attachment](#)

Rainbow Storytime NZ and 6 others

18



Like



Comment



Share

All comments ▼



Ata Reta

All the predators celebrating in the comment section 🤔



1 d Like Reply



Roez Whaanga

[Ata Reta](#)

1 d Like Reply



Celestina Aolele Grant

Yup I'm in ❤️



2

1 d Like Reply



Celestina Aolele Grant

Let's go drag them outta there 😏 fr tho



4

1 d Like Reply



Roez Whaanga

[Celestina Aolele Grant](#) I LOVE YOU 🍷

1 d Like Reply

Open now



Photos



Jevan Goulter

2 d · 🌐

...

I think this is pretty fucked up

[Show Attachment](#)

Rainbow Storytime NZ and 27 others

33 🗨️ 1 ➦



Like



Share

Most relevant ▼



Leba Sauira

Jevan Goulter what's your reason please from personal experience???

2 d Like



2



Lyree Nathan

Leba Sauira Well Phillip Fong!!! What's your reason!!! You're a Man!!! You'll always have that Adam's Apple!!! Now, my reasoning for this crap is!!! Do not interfere with Primary School children!!! That also has nothing to do with a Rainbow either!!! This is child abuse!!! A very sick way of using a poem to abuse our youth!!! You see Idiot!!! Sexual Education is not taught until Intermediate age!!! When Our Bodies change themselves!!! This is Sexual Abuse and I will be there, like Harley Quinn!!! From the Movie Suicide Squad!!! With MY OWN BASEBALL BAT!!! PLEASE DONT UNDERESTIMATE ME, I WILL NOT DO ANYTHING AT ALL IN FRONT OF THOSE CHILDREN, BECAUSE THOSE TWO FREAKS WILL NOT BE THERE!!! OK

1 d Like



4

From: Joanne Dillon
To: Alyssa Rogers
Subject: RE: Safety plan info
Date: Friday, 15 March 2024 1:59:00 pm
Attachments: image001.png

Yeah we've seen that one too.

We are still working toward holding the event so fingers crossed it can still go ahead.

I'm going to be offline most of tomorrow as I'm at my apiculture course deep in extracting honey and inspecting hives which might be a nice distraction from all of this as much as I want to be on top of it all.

JD

Joanne Dillon, ALIANZA

Adult Learning, Programmes and Promotions Lead - *Kaiurungi Whakatairanga Pakeke*

Ako

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From: Alyssa Rogers s7(2)(a)
Sent: Friday, 15 March 2024 1:45 pm
To: Joanne Dillon <Joanne.Dillon@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: Re: Safety plan info

Sorry to be possibly the bearer of bad news yet again.
 Just saw this posted in a locals group.

On Fri, 15 Mar 2024, 12:07 pm Alyssa Rogers, s7(2)(a) wrote:

Oh no mate I'm so sorry,
 Yeah I don't agree with it. I don't believe it's safe for our community.

We will all be gutted but we'd understand. It's a scary time for us. And it feels like a lose lose sometimes but I'm glad we have the supporters.

That's a brilliant idea, I trust that the plan is really good and its been really lovely to get to know you too.

I'm definitely keen to catch up next week and have a chat. Let me know what day suits you.

L

On Fri, 15 Mar 2024, 11:53 am Joanne Dillon, <Joanne.Dillon@rotorualc.nz> wrote:

Thank you so much Alyssa,

It's incredibly helpful to know that Sunita has this in mind. She has also publically posted the request for a counter group on the Rainbow Storytime Facebook page.

This takes things to a different level including a risk that the event will be cancelled due to increased risk of hard to

members of the community. I'll personally be gutted if this happens and I know you will be too.

Our safety plan is thorough and we are quietly moving the event two the second floor to make it even safer for the children which is who this event is for and about.

Let's catch up next week either way – I've really appreciated getting to know you this week and your support has been awesome. I'll keep you posted.

JD

Joanne Dillon, ALIANZA

Adult Learning, Programmes and Promotions Lead - *Kaiurungi Whakatairanga Pakeke*

Ako

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-
-
From: Alyssa Rogers [s7\(2\)\(a\)](#)
Sent: Friday, 15 March 2024 11:35 am
To: Joanne Dillon <Joanne.Dillon@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: Re: Safety plan info

-
Here are the message and our reply.
My number is [s7\(2\)\(a\)](#)

-
Thank you!

-
On Wed, 13 Mar 2024, 1:35 pm Alyssa Rogers, [s7\(2\)\(a\)](#)

My pleasure, its good for the chamber to have as well.

-
Yeah, honestly it's heartbreaking where we're at as a world. But I always look to the helpers, the librarians and community that is always staunch in the face of this, people like you and your team. Proud of you folks, thank you.

-
On Wed, 13 Mar 2024, 1:33 pm Joanne Dillon, <Joanne.Dillon@rotorualc.nz> wrote:

Kia ora Lyssa,

-
This is so helpful – thank you. It's kinda sad that we have to go to such lengths for a children's storytelling event.

-
Ngā mihi nui.

-
JD

Joanne Dillon, ALIANZA

Adult Learning, Programmes and Promotions Lead - *Kaiurungi Whakatairanga Pakeke*

Ako

P: 07 351 7064

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A: 1127 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

PART OF ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL

-
-
From: Alyssa Rogers [s7\(2\)\(a\)](#)
Sent: Wednesday, 13 March 2024 1:21 pm
To: Joanne Dillon <Joanne.Dillon@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: Safety plan info

-
Kia ora Joanne,

This is what I received, I think wires got crossed about who was running the event but the info is still good.

Hope you're staying safe and well,

Lyssa,

-

Tēnā koe Lyssa,

lovely to hear from you :) and great that you're doing safety planning for your event. I'm getting used to sharing what we did now, and also, no doubt you will have other ideas too. There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that the far right are specifically targeting libraries - we met with Hamilton Library today to debrief, and that's their belief too. But they are super committed to being accessible to our communities, which I love :)

Our safety planning included:

- contacting our local Diversity Liaison Officers and asking for a visible police presence before the event

- contacting the NZ head of Diversity Liaison Officers, Sharon Johnston, and asking for police resource to be allocated to support the event Sharon.Johnston@police.govt.nz

- meeting with our local police to describe our assessment of risk (far right groups and transphobic feminists)

- posting on our social media that the police would be present, so it wasn't a surprise for our communities

- preparing the actual attending officers beforehand (I met with both our local DLOs and the officer in charge on the night) by talking about risks for people outside the venue and in the venue. They set up outside the front door of the library 30 minutes before the event was due to start. We also explicitly asked that if we identified any risk, they would come into the venue and monitor

- controlling who could enter and leave the venue (library staff via a separate entrance as our event was after hours). With hindsight, I would also recommend a bag search at entrance if this is possible – it may not be, depending on the venue. Bag searches can identify anyone seeking to bring in banners, microphones or other disrupting equipment, and potentially weapons

- contacting City Safety officers (council roles with responsibility for safety) and asking for their presence – again, they set up outside the library, 30 minutes before the event

- on the morning of the event, we received an email from someone telling us not to host Sophie. This email was passed to NZ Police immediately

- on the actual night, having 8 librarians, 3 people from SEED Waikato, 3 people from Hohou Te Rongo Kahukura, two police officers and two City Safety staff present. I would recommend a brief security discussion at this point – for our event, this was mostly held by me with the police – it would be better if everyone involved was involved I think.

- having someone responsible for taking photographs of any intruders and sharing with the police. This was done by a librarian at our event. The library have also been able to share footage from CCTV inside and outside the event with the police.

- asking the police to move inside when we noticed the young men who later caused the intrusion (because they looked uncomfortable, suspicious and like they were not part of our communities)

- when the far right intruders began their disruption, they were each trespassed by a librarian. This literally involved the librarian saying "I trespass you", after which the police could remove them. This process happened pretty quickly at our event, with all the intruders being removed by police and City Safety officers within minutes. With hindsight, I would also suggest the police ask each intruder for their name and address once outside the venue, as legally, those trespassed have to comply with this, which means they can be stopped from coming in a venue for a set period of time, and also helps with identification. If the trespassed person refuses this, they can be arrested.

- asking the police to increase their presence after the initial intrusion, so a third officer joined before people began leaving the event

- allowing attendees to leave via a back entrance, rather than the front door. The intruders at our event began filming people as they were leaving, and shouting abuse. Having multiple entry and exit points helped manage this, again with police support

- being in constant and ongoing risk management conversations with NZ Police during the actual event

- as part of the formal closing, identifying two people that audience members could talk to if needed about the intrusion. We have those kinds of trauma and violence informed skills in our team, which may not be true for

everyone

- asking the police to escort Sophie to her car, which they did

- we also had formal opening and closing processes – mihi whakatau, karakia and waiata tautoko. Our audience spontaneously burst into Te Aroha as the intruders were kicked out, and this filled the room. And we've offered Rongoa Māori to our volunteers afterwards, to clear the wairua violations

-

The very best of luck with your event - and with holding the visibility and safety of our communities with deep care.

-

From: BETCHETTI, Simon s7(2)(a)
Sent: Friday, 15 March 2024 2:29 pm
To: Julianne Wilkinson
Cc: Herby.Ngawhika; O'KEEFFE, Anthony
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: Rainbow Story time event protest risk management support

Hi Julianne,

Many thanks, agree on the plan so far.

As discussed we are aware, our part will be ensuring the peace is maintained, we will intervene to restore order if required. In any event will touch base next week.

Thanks.

Senior Sergeant Simon Betchetti

Community, Youth, Family Harm, Murupara

Rotorua Police

| New Zealand Police

s7(2)(a)

1190 - 1214 Fenton Street, Rotorua www.police.govt.nz



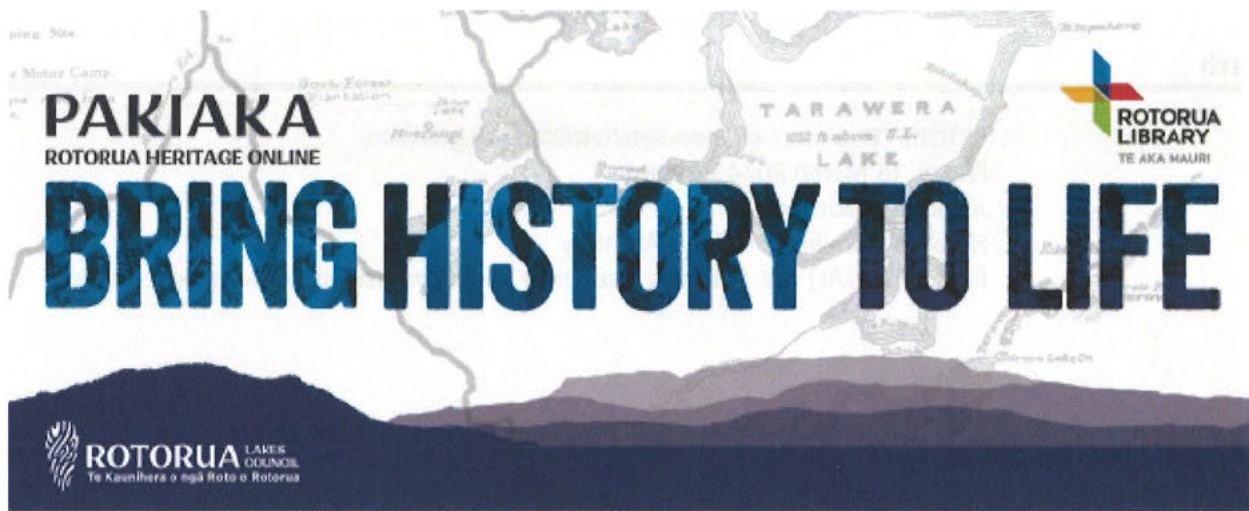
From: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Friday, 15 March 2024 2:06 PM
To: BETCHETTI, Simon s7(2)(a)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Rainbow Story time event protest risk management support
Importance: High

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri

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M: [+64 0272426235](tel:+640272426235)



From: Julianne Wilkinson

Sent: Friday, 15 March 2024 2:04 pm

To: Mihikore Owen <Mihikore.Owen@rotorualc.nz>; Sue Kinsella <Sue.Kinsella@rotorualc.nz>; [@s7\(2\)\(a\)](mailto:simon.buchetti@s7(2)(a)) CCTV Requests <CCTV.Requests@rotorualc.nz>

Cc: Anthony.O'Keeffe <[@s7\(2\)\(a\)](mailto:Anthony.O'Keeffe@s7(2)(a))> Jean-Paul Gaston <Jean-Paul.Gaston@rotorualc.nz>; Joanne Dillon <Joanne.Dillon@rotorualc.nz>; Kylie Holmes <Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz>; Suzanne McNicol <Suzanne.McNicol@rotorualc.nz>; Gina Rangi <Gina.Rangi@rotorualc.nz>; Andrew Moraes <Andrew.Moraes@rotorualc.nz>

Subject: Rainbow Story time event protest risk management support

Importance: High

Kia ora koutou,

You may be aware that we are hosting an event next week called Rainbow Story time. [Please see FAQ's for information.](#)

Rainbow Story Time is scheduled for Thursday 21 March 2024 at 10.30am at Rotorua Library.

Up until this point there has been significant amount of positive interest in the event alongside some concerns and negative feedback too.

However this has ramped up and escalated to some pretty nasty vitriol, threats, fear mongering and inciting people to act, due to the fact that it is hosted by drag queens.

However we are ramping up the event management with the priority being safety of the families and children who are excited about attending and are really please we are hosting this event.

We are finalising management of the event inside the Library and are confident this is manageable alongside continuing with regular Library services. We will only be accepting those who have preregistered into the event space (at this stage 71 adults and kids). It is likely we will close registrations. This is alongside a number of other measures.

However, we will need support to manage Jean Batten Park particularly to facilitate safe access to the Library for those attending the event. We are aware there are intended protests. Please see article attached in today's [Herald](#).

We have also received veiled threats and some fairly nasty emails also emails identifying staff by name or position.

I have just become aware that Rainbow Story time has requested support to assist facilitating peoples access to the Library. We were not aware of this and are trying to work with them to manage this, link is here [Facebook](#). This is not intended to be a counter protest, irrespective there is likely to be one as a result of Brian Tamaki's protest.

Initially I'd like to request the following support and we will continue on this basis.

from 9:00am ramping up at 9:30am

- On the ground support from Safe City Guardians in Jean Batten
- On the ground support from Police with added support ready to respond
- CCTV eyes on Jean Batten and access into the Library
- We will be bringing Coco and Erika by unmarked vehicle into the back entry to the Library from Arawa Street. We will have Watchdog security escorting them in (they will not be in costume) CCTV eyes and wandering Guardians would be helpful as there has been one threat to use baseball bats (in attached doc).
- We are also wondering if proactively sectioning off access into the library to minimise the risk of protesters getting in the way of library users would be helpful or a hindrance, so will discuss with the team and Police

In the meantime we will continue to understand the extent of the risk, particular to our regular users, those attending the event and staff, and alongside Mihi and Simon, and Council executive we will make an informed call on Tuesday morning as to either go ahead or cancel.

Please let me know if you have any thoughts at this point or require any additional information to inform decision making.

Thanks,
Julianne



Julianne Wilkinson

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri

Te Aka Mauri | Rotorua Library

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W: rotorualakescouncil.nz



=====

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Posts on other Facebook pages/profiles

No's post

No Whey

1 d · 🌐

...

PLEASE SHARE

Rotorua Public Library - I hope you're not introducing Drag Queen storytelling to the children in public like Dunedin and other councils.

Update. They are, Thursday 21 March at 10.30am at Rotorua Library. Lets all turn up and make a hell of a racket.

👍👎 31

12 comments 2 shares

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💬 Comment

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All comments ▼

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3 👍

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👍 Like

➦ Share

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Filthy!



Rotorua Library

Published by Joanne JD Dillon · 4 d · 🌐

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[Show Attachment](#)



Rainbow Storytime NZ and 6 others

18 🗨️



Like



Comment



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Ata Reta

All the predators celebrating in the comment section 🤔



1 d Like Reply



Roez Whaanga

[Ata Reta](#)



1 d Like Reply



Celestina Aolele Grant

Yup I'm in ❤️



2

1 d Like Reply



Celestina Aolele Grant

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4

1 d Like Reply



Roez Whaanga

[Celestina Aolele Grant](#) I LOVE YOU 🍷



1 d Like Reply

Open now



Photos



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2 d · 🌐

...

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Like



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2 d Like



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1 d Like



4

From: Julianne Wilkinson
Sent: Friday, 15 March 2024 3:15 pm
To: Suzanne McNicol
Subject: RE: Rainbow Storytime Social Media

Hi

Just a thought. Do we need to send Councillors the FAQ's to give them the correct info or do you think it is too late for that?

This is what they are really about!

<https://fb.watch/qPg8nrZq7C/>

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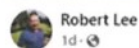


From: Suzanne McNicol <Suzanne.McNicol@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Friday, 15 March 2024 2:19 pm
To: Gina Rangi <Gina.Rangi@rotorualc.nz>; Andrew Moraes <Andrew.Moraes@rotorualc.nz>; Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>; Jean-Paul Gaston <Jean-Paul.Gaston@rotorualc.nz>; Tania Tapsell <Tania.Tapsell@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: Rainbow Storytime Social Media

Ahiahī mārie

Below are some screenshots of comments that Cr Lee has made encouraging people to protest at Rainbow Storytime at the library on Thursday. I haven't seen anything on RDRR page. Amelia will provide a list of who has shared his post. e.g. [Let Kids Be Kids](#)

POSTS ON HIS OWN PAGE



Robert Lee

1d · 🌐

...

Do you remember when libraries used to be for borrowing books? These days you can also use computers with an internet connection, or play chess with the chess club, or just chill and hang out in a safe, family friendly environment while you wait for a bus.

Well, next Thursday at 10:30 am you could go to our local library and watch a couple of drag queens read a story to children.

Here's one of the performers: "Erica Flash" strutting his / her stuff.

So who's bringing their children along? I'm not.



YOUTUBE.COM

Erika Flash Promotional video 1 for PRISCILLA QUEEN OF THE DESERT - 2020

👍❤️👍 28

67 comments 7 shares

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share

View more comments



Wayne Mackie

Grooming innocent children is disgusting and morally wrong. ...

3h Like Reply

Katrina Weller

Who thought this was a good idea? ...

1d Like Reply

👍❤️👍 4

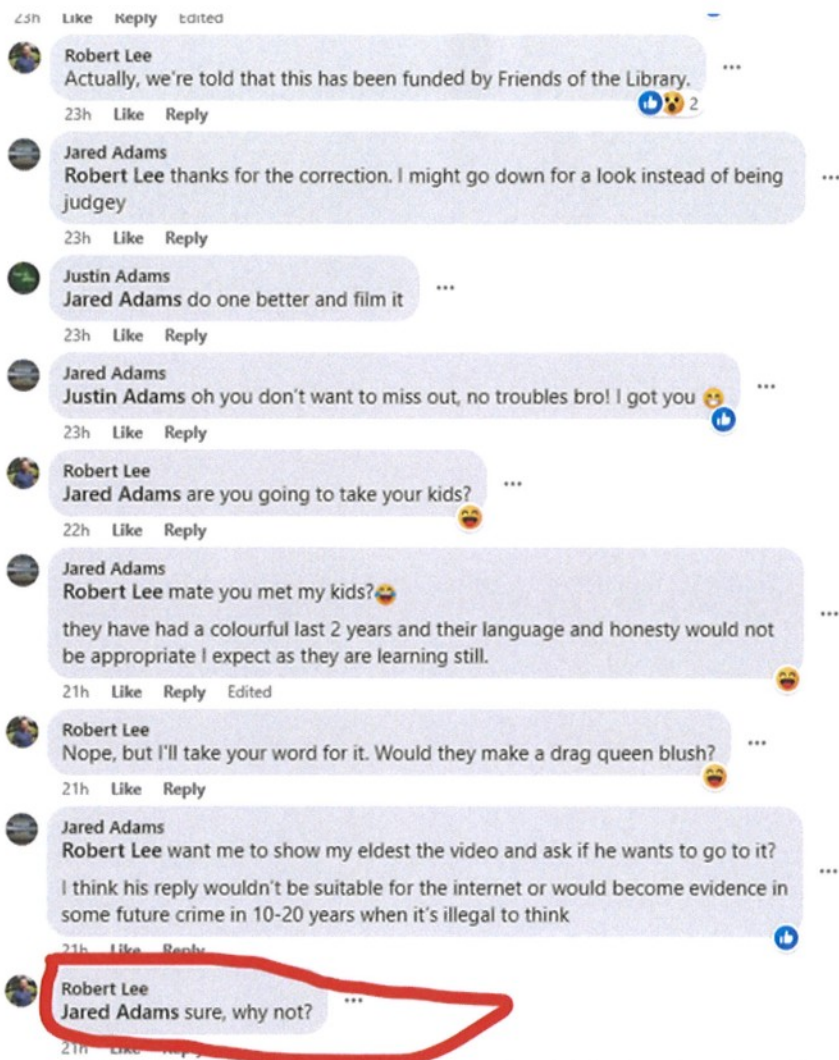


Robert Lee

Katrina Weller It was a Council staff decision, starting with the library manager. The Mayor and Councillor Wang seems to think it is a good idea as well - though we didn't vote on it. ...

1d Like Reply Edited

👍❤️👍 4



Suzanne McNicol *Kaihaūtū Whakapa* / Director Marketing & Communications
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E: suzanne.mcnicol@rotorualc.nz | W: rotorualakescouncil.nz
A: 1061 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand



From: Robert Lee s7(2)(a)
Sent: Friday, 15 March 2024 3:30 pm
To: Library Generic
Subject: [SUSPICIOUS MESSAGE] Rainbow Storytime

This Message contains suspicious characteristics and has originated outside your organization.

Hello

I would like to attend this event - just one adult. I'm not bringing children as I wish to assess whether I consider it to be age-appropriate for my children.

Cr Robert Lee.

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Friday, 15 March 2024 3:34 pm
To: Library Generic
Subject: Fwd: Story time query

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 3:16:09 pm
To: Rotorua@librarylc.nz <Rotorua@librarylc.nz>
Subject: Story time query

Hello,

I am very concerned that a grown man in a revealing dress and woman's clothing is going to be reading to my vulnerable children at the library.

The message and agenda is almost to the point where our children are being sexualised? Is this appropriate for children?? What is the rotorua library thinking?

I am not ok with bullying and am not for bullying the LGBTQI group what they do will receive no judgement from me but why can they not just do this with other ADULTS? why do they have to indoctrinate and speak to LITTLE CHILDREN?? When is it crossing the line into sexualising agendas and pedophile type behaviour ...remembering again that drag Queens are grown men in sexually revealing outfits and the discussion and reading is for adults not children ?

Regards
Concerned mother

From: Julianne Wilkinson
Sent: Saturday, 16 March 2024 11:54 am
To: HOF Bookings; Kylie Holmes
Subject: Re: Rotorua Rainbow Story Time event management

Thanks Sunita. Will catch up again Monday.

Hope you manage to enjoy your weekend.

Thanks
Julianne

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: HOF Bookings <bookings@hausofflash.co.nz>
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 7:25:12 PM
To: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>; Kylie Holmes <Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: Re: Rotorua Rainbow Story Time event management

After much discussion with Daniel (Erika) and having heard that disinformation has also go to Council level and journalists contacting me.

We think cancelling would give them a "win" and that's the last thing we want to do.
I know this is your first time having us so you're obviously unsure. We will be having no fear, we will not hide but we will fiercely protect those kids and families and the general public.

Let them look like the bullies, our focus will just be on the kids and public to protect them from what those disgusting examples of grown adults are doing.

Sunita



On 15/03/2024, at 12:10 PM, Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz> wrote:

Hi Sunita,

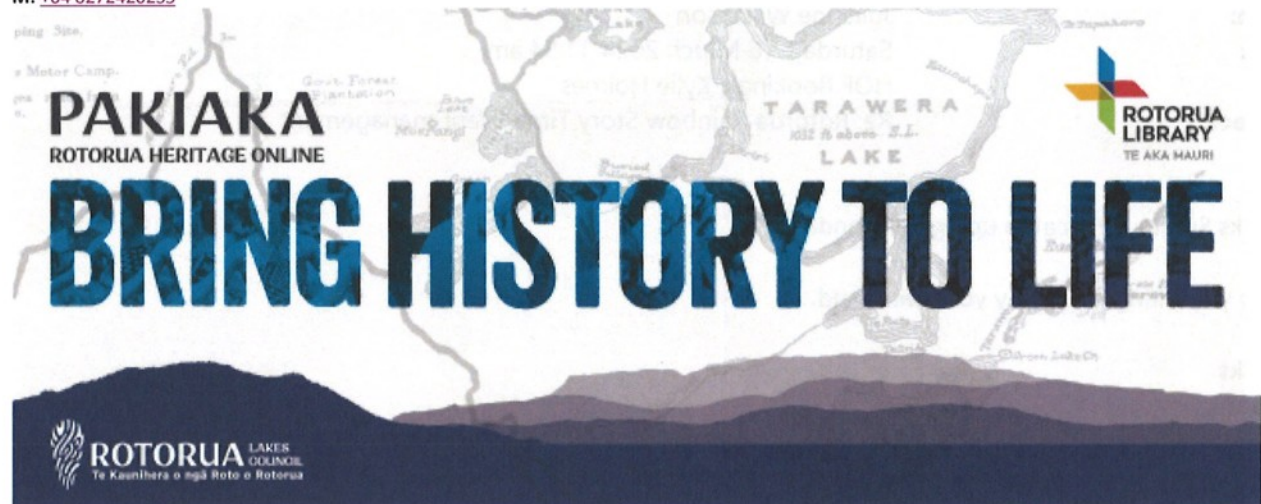
I have just left a message on your mobile. Please can you give me a call.

Thanks
Julianne

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri

P: +64 7 3517640

M: +64 0272426235



From: HOF Bookings <bookings@hausoffflash.co.nz>

Sent: Friday, 15 March 2024 10:29 am

To: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>

Subject: Re: Rotorua Rainbow Story Time event management



On 15/03/2024, at 8:06 AM, Julianne Wilkinson
<Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz> wrote:

That makes sense. I am so sad and angry that people have taken this to such an extreme level.

We will be working with our CCTV, Community Safety Team and Police as part of the event management.

If you have any screen shots of any messages that are threatening violence can you send them through to me. We will be requesting Police follow up here if they are local.

Thanks
Julianne

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri

P: +64 7 3517640

M: +64 0272426235

<image001.jpg>

From: HOF Bookings <bookings@hausoffflash.co.nz>
Sent: Friday, 15 March 2024 1:33 am
To: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: Re: Rotorua Rainbow Story Time event management

We are going to be making a few reports to the police tomorrow in regards to some of the content they have created defaming us.

<image002.png>

On 14/03/2024, at 1:51 PM, Julianne Wilkinson
 <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz> wrote:

Kia ora Sunita,

You will have been communicating with my team member Kylie regarding the event next week. We are very excited about the event and sharing the message of inclusiveness and acceptance. We are currently putting together a revised event management plan based on the negative feedback and potential received threats through our social media channels, emails and calls to Council.

While we have turned the comments off on our Library post, we see that like us, you (Sunita and Rainbow Storytime) are actively monitoring social media and comments related to the event. I know this is an incredibly sensitive topic and obviously very personal to you, so I feel very conflicted asking if you could refrain from reacting and debating with some of these people who are so far down a rabbit hole they will never return.

The reason I ask is that we are doing everything possible to put in place mitigations to manage any risk and ensure we make this a positive and safe experience for all involved. While some of these

people are keyboard warriors there is a risk that action will be taken on day. I am conscious that we do not want to incite any action by responding to these comments even though like you we disagree with not only the comments but the disrespectful approach and personal attacks.

I hope you understand where I am coming from with the safety of all our main priority.

Please feel free to give me a call if you want to discuss.

Ngā mihi nui,
Julianne

<image003.jpg>

<image004.jpg>

Julianne Wilkinson

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri

Te Aka Mauri | Rotorua Library

P: [+64 7 3517640](tel:+6473517640)

M: [+64 0272426235](tel:+640272426235)

E: julianne.wilkinson@rotorualc.nz

A: Civic Centre, 1061 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

W: rotorualakescouncil.nz

<image005.jpg> <image005.jpg> <image005.jpg> <image005.jpg>

<image001.jpg>

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Saturday, 16 March 2024 2:06 pm
To: Library Generic
Subject: Rainbow story time

Hi,

I am emailing in complaint of the rainbow story time for children being held at the library. I think this is a very inappropriate event aimed at children, exploiting their innocence and very clearly indoctrinating them to accept an ideology that a lot of parents would find problematic. I think you will find many parents really disappointed with the library, if not some being very outraged.

I have always had such positive experiences and interactions with the library and staff. But this is a step in a wrong direction that makes me uncomfortable bringing my children to the library in the future. I cannot and will not expose my children to this kind of ideology, and the consequences of sexually confused adults confusing children. You may put a spin on the situation and use words such as 'diversity', 'acceptance', 'anti-bullying' etc, but you are purely sugar coating perversity and actively responsible for corrupting children.

Kind regards

s7(2)(a)

From: Library Generic
Sent: Monday, 18 March 2024 9:21 am
To: s7(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Rainbow Storytime RSVP

Kia Ora s7(2)(a)

Thank you for registering with us for Rainbow Story time. We look forward to seeing you on Thursday. 😊

Nga mihi,

Emily



Emily Sansom Tiheru – Administration Support, Library

Waea: 07 3517046

Īmera: Emily.Sansom@rotorualc.nz | **Pae tukutuku:** rotorualibrary.govt.nz

Pae tukutuku: 1127 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

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ROTORUA
LAKES COUNCIL

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Friday, 15 March 2024 5:06 PM
To: Library Generic <Library@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: FW: Rainbow Storytime RSVP

Hi team

I will love to join Rainbow storytime next week please 😊

Look forward to supporting this fantastic initiative.

s7(2)(a)



From: Library Generic
Sent: Monday, 18 March 2024 9:40 am
To: s7(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Erika&Coco storytime

Kia Ora s7(2)

Thank you for your email. I have updated our register.

Have a good day.

Nga mihi,

Emily



Emily Sansom Tiheru – Administration Support, Library

Waea: 07 3517046

Imera: Emily.Sansom@rotorualc.nz | **Pae tukutuku:** rotorualibrary.govt.nz

Pae tukutuku: 1127 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

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ROTORUA
LAKES COUNCIL

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Sunday, 17 March 2024 4:19 PM
To: Library Generic <Library@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: Fwd: Erika&Coco storytime

Hi again,

I've previously emailed to add 2 adult and 1 child. Could i please add to my name 1 more child and 1 more adult.

Thank you kindly,

s7(2)(a)

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From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2024 4:49:23 PM
To: library@rotorualc.nz <library@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: Erika&Coco storytime

Hi there,

Myself, my mother and my daughter would love to attend this storytime. So 2 adults and 1 child.

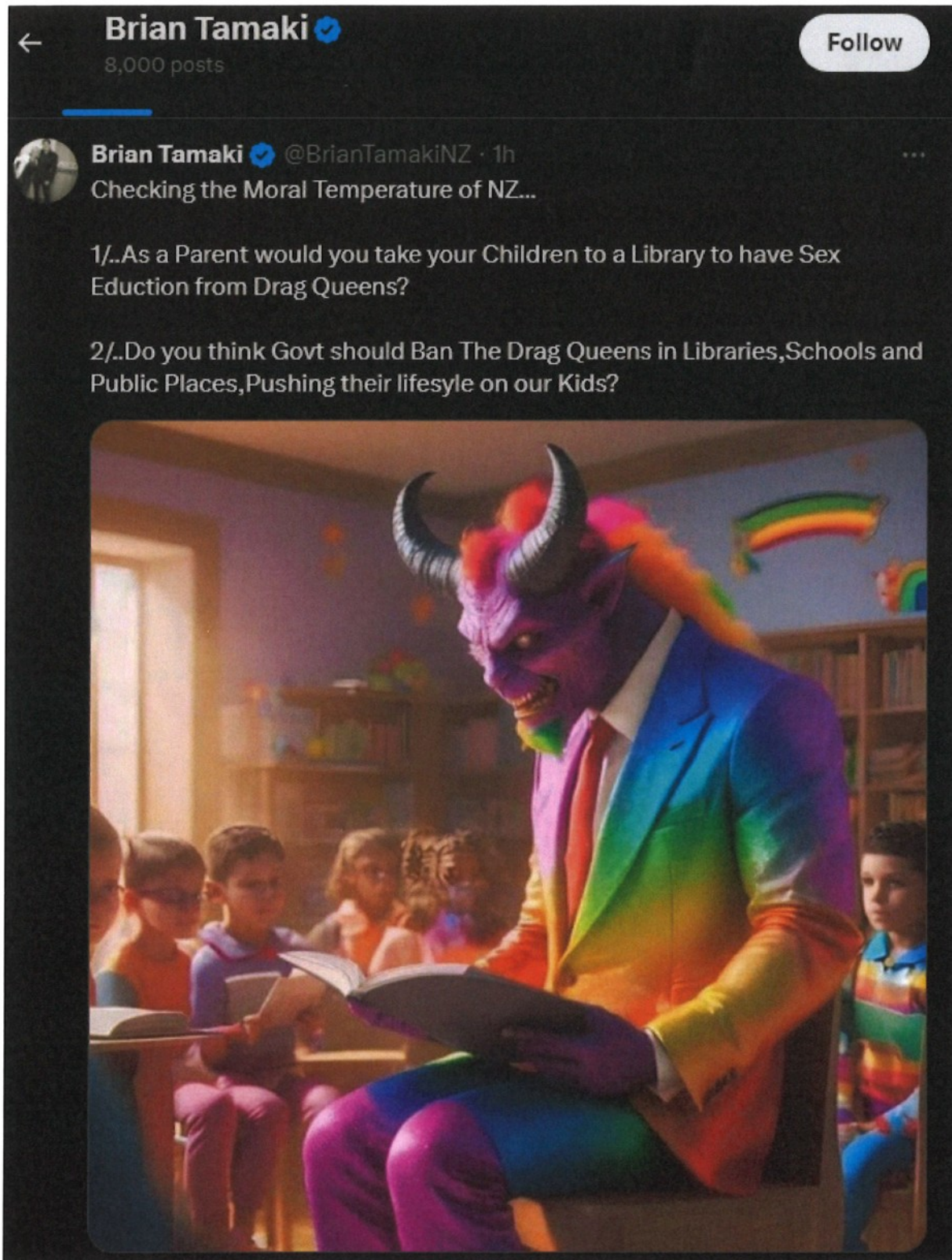
Kind regards,

s7(2)(a)

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From: Joanne Dillon
Sent: Monday, 18 March 2024 1:32 pm
To: Julianne Wilkinson
Subject: Twitter

No words for this:





Joanne Dillon, ALIANZA

Adult Learning, Programmes and Promotions Lead - *Kaiurungi Whakatairanga*

Pakeke Ako

P: 07 351 7064

M: 027 263 0484

E: joanne.dillon@rotorualc.nz | W: rotorualibrary.govt.nz

A: 1127 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

PART OF ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL



From: Joanne Dillon
Sent: Monday, 18 March 2024 1:44 pm
To: Julianne Wilkinson
Subject: FW: Drag story hour

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Kia ora Julianne,

Maddie from Rotorua Chamber of Pride has sought our approval for a post about the Rainbow Storytime. It's a very positive post that I don't see any problems with but I've asked if they can hold off until after our meeting this afternoon.

She and Maddie would like to meet with me/us before the event so I will plan that after our meeting. Would you like to meet with them? They may be able to influence the rainbow community who Sunita has tried to rally.

Ngā mihi nui,

JD

From: Maddie Palfrey s7(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 18 March 2024 10:50 am
To: Joanne Dillon <Joanne.Dillon@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: Drag story hour

Hi Joanne.

My name is Maddie and I'm reaching out to you in a continuation of the conversation you have had with Lyssa last week regarding the drag story event on Thursday this week.

The chamber of pride was wondering if it was okay to promote your event without mentioning protest or Brian Tamaki but more about coming to show support and solidarity with the community.

Would it be possible and okay with the library to post a comment on our page regarding the event? Obviously we will not have the comments open to the public.

The message would be;

 We're absolutely thrilled to announce that Rainbow Storytime at the Rotorua Library is now fully booked! 

What an incredible response! Rainbow Storytime isn't just about reading books—it's about spreading messages of acceptance, standing against bullying, promoting inclusion, kindness, and building confidence in oneself.

A big mihi to Rotorua Library for hosting such a fantastic and meaningful event. Your dedication to creating a safe and inclusive space for all is truly commendable.

#RainbowStorytime #RotoruaChamberofPride #Inclusion #Acceptance #Kindness #AntiBullying
#CommunityLove 🌟

If this is okay to post or you would like to make changes to it. Are you able to let me know at your earliest convenience.

We won't post anything without your approval.

Thank you

Maddie

Kim McGrath

From: Julianne Wilkinson
Sent: Monday, 18 March 2024 3:36 pm
To: HOF Bookings
Subject: RE: Rotorua Rainbow Story Time event management

Kia ora Sunita,

Hope all is going well, wherever you are located today. Loved your latest post on Facebook by the way.

Hopefully after our conversation we can have a reset, as I think we both want the same thing – a fun and positive experience for our littlies and their families/carers.

So I was hoping you could either give me a call or email me with what you plan for the rainbow barrier are so we can work this into our planning too.

I have a meeting with our executive managers tomorrow and with the Police. We will be discussing the draft event management plan. I am really confident that we have everything covered as much as possible with what we know for inside the Library. Primarily what we will be discussing is ensuring unobstructed access to the Library and mechanisms to manage the protesters and minimise impact.

What I am keen to understand is if you know how many people are likely to be coming to help and if you provide them with any information about what they need to do and what is expected of them? If not is there anyone we can connect with to assist with this?

I think the more we know and can factor into our planning the more likelihood the executive will give full endorsement of the event.

Thanks
Julianne

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri

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M: [+64 0272426235](tel:+640272426235)



From: HOF Bookings <bookings@hausoffflash.co.nz>

Sent: Friday, 15 March 2024 7:25 pm

To: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>; Kylie Holmes <Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz>

Subject: Re: Rotorua Rainbow Story Time event management

After much discussion with Daniel (Erika) and having heard that disinformation has also go to Council level and journalists contacting me.

We think cancelling would give them a “win” and that’s the last thing we want to do.

I know this is your first time having us so you’re obviously unsure. We will be having no fear, we will not hide but we will fiercely protect those kids and families and the general public.

Let them look like the bullies, our focus will just be on the kids and public to protect them from what those disgusting examples of grown adults are doing.

Sunita



On 15/03/2024, at 12:10 PM, Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz> wrote:

Hi Sunita,

I have just left a message on your mobile. Please can you give me a call.

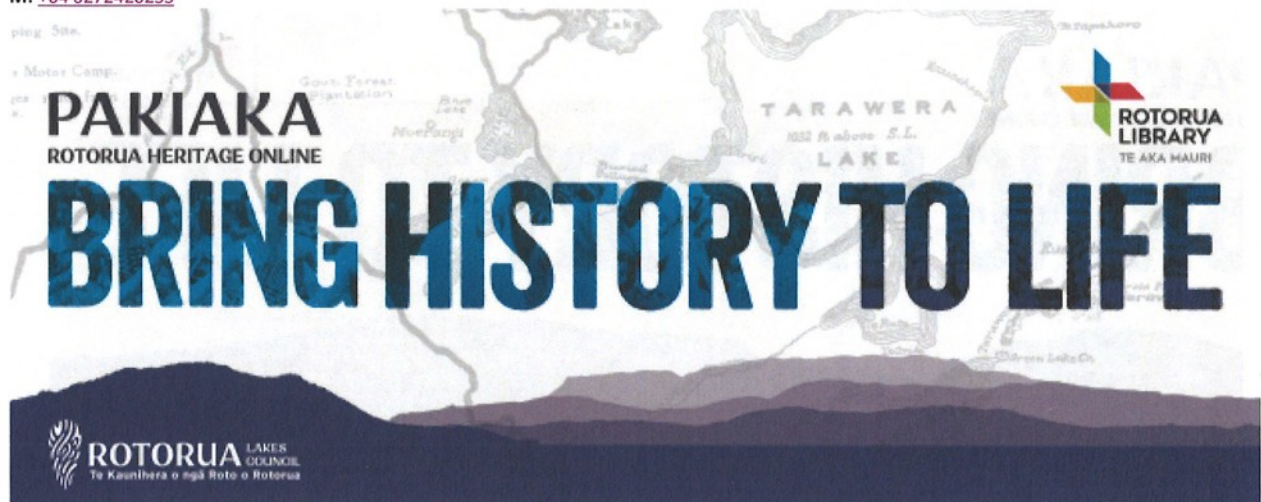
Thanks

Julianne

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri

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M: [+64 0272426235](tel:+640272426235)



From: HOF Bookings <bookings@hausofflash.co.nz>
Sent: Friday, 15 March 2024 10:29 am
To: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: Re: Rotorua Rainbow Story Time event management



On 15/03/2024, at 8:06 AM, Julianne Wilkinson
 <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz> wrote:

That makes sense. I am so sad and angry that people have taken this to such an extreme level.

We will be working with our CCTV, Community Safety Team and Police as part of the event management.

If you have any screen shots of any messages that are threatening violence can you send them through to me. We will be requesting Police follow up here if they are local.

Thanks
 Julianne

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 P: [+64 7 3517640](tel:+6473517640)
 M: [+64 0272426235](tel:+640272426235)
 <image001.jpg>

From: HOF Bookings <bookings@hausoffflash.co.nz>
Sent: Friday, 15 March 2024 1:33 am
To: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: Re: Rotorua Rainbow Story Time event management

We are going to be making a few reports to the police tomorrow in regards to some of the content they have created defaming us.

<image002.png>

On 14/03/2024, at 1:51 PM, Julianne Wilkinson
<Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz> wrote:

Kia ora Sunita,

You will have been communicating with my team member Kylie regarding the event next week. We are very excited about the event and sharing the message of inclusiveness and acceptance. We are currently putting together a revised event management plan based on the negative feedback and potential received threats through our social media channels, emails and calls to Council.

While we have turned the comments off on our Library post, we see that like us, you (Sunita and Rainbow Storytime) are actively monitoring social media and comments related to the event. I know this is an incredibly sensitive topic and obviously very personal to you, so I feel very conflicted asking if you could refrain from reacting and debating with some of these people who are so far down a rabbit hole they will never return.

The reason I ask is that we are doing everything possible to put in place mitigations to manage any risk and ensure we make this a positive and safe experience for all involved. While some of these people are keyboard warriors there is a risk that action will be taken on day. I am conscious that we do not want to incite any action by responding to these comments even though like you we disagree with not only the comments but the disrespectful approach and personal attacks.

I hope you understand where I am coming from with the safety of all our main priority.

Please feel free to give me a call if you want to discuss.

Ngā mihi nui,
Julianne

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Julianne Wilkinson

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri
Te Aka Mauri | Rotorua Library

P: [+64 7 3517640](tel:+6473517640)

M: [+64 0272426235](tel:+640272426235)

E: julianne.wilkinson@rotorualc.nz

A: Civic Centre, 1061 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

W: rotorualakescouncil.nz

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<image001.jpg>

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 18 March 2024 3:39 pm
To: Library Generic
Subject: Re: Rainbow Storytime.

Kia ora Emily,

Thank you,.

Looking forward to it.

s7(2)(a)

On Mon, 18 Mar 2024, 3:23 pm Library Generic, <Library@rotorualc.nz> wrote:

Kia Ora s7(2)(a)

Thank you for registering for Rainbow Story time. I have added you to the register.

Nga mihi,

Emily



Emily Sansom Tiheru – Administration Support, Library

Waea: 07 3517046

Īmera: Emily.Sansom@rotorualc.nz | **Pae tukutuku:** rotorualibrary.govt.nz

Pae tukutuku: 1127 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

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ROTORUA
LAKES COUNCIL

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Saturday, 16 March 2024 8:54 AM
To: Library Generic <Library@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: Rainbow Storytime.

To whom it may concern:

I would love to come along to the Rainbow Storytime at the library this Thursday please.

There will only be me, one adult.

I love the selection of books and songs.

Kind regards

s7(2)(a)

From: Julianne Wilkinson
Sent: Monday, 18 March 2024 3:49 pm
To: Suzanne McNicol; Gina Rangi
Subject: RE: Rainbow Storytime - Lee registration

We have moved upstairs to more effectively manage the risk. So only those registered will be able to attend.

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M: [+64 0272426235](tel:+640272426235)



From: Suzanne McNicol <Suzanne.McNicol@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Monday, 18 March 2024 12:30 pm
To: Gina Rangi <Gina.Rangi@rotorualc.nz>
Cc: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: RE: Rainbow Storytime - Lee registration

If we hold it downstairs though then everyone who is in the library to borrow / return books or use the computers will be able to see / hear the storytime

From: Gina Rangi <Gina.Rangi@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 9:50 PM
To: Suzanne McNicol <Suzanne.McNicol@rotorualc.nz>
Cc: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: Re: Rainbow Storytime - Lee registration

A blanket rule that adults must attend with a child (and vice versa) is appropriate for a children's event.

Gina Rangi
 Manahautū Te Arawa

On 15/03/2024, at 5:47 PM, Suzanne McNicol <Suzanne.McNicol@rotorualc.nz> wrote:

Hi Julianne

Don't respond and do close registration now please. We don't want his followers to register and sabotage the event for children and parents.

S

Suzanne McNicol
Director Marketing & Communications
Rotorua Lakes Council

From: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 4:23:32 PM
To: Suzanne McNicol <Suzanne.McNicol@rotorualc.nz>; Gina Rangi <Gina.Rangi@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: FW: Rainbow Storytime - Lee registration

Hi ladies,

I don't want to keep bothering JP. Please can you assist?

Thoughts on the below registration request?

Given this I think we will close registrations for the event anyway.

How would you like me to respond to him, or may I shouldn't as I feeling less than charitable given his comments on Facebook.

Thanks
Julianne

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri
P: +64 7 3517640
M: +64 0272426235
<image001.jpg>

From: Library Generic <Library@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Friday, 15 March 2024 4:19 pm
To: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: FW: Rainbow Storytime



Emily Sansom Tiheru – Administration Support, Library

Waea: 07 3517046

Īmera: Emily.Sansom@rotorualc.nz | **Pae tukutuku:** rotorualibrary.govt.nz

Pae tukutuku: 1127 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

Rotorua Reo Rua – Aotearoa/New Zealand's First Bilingual City – Tatau tatau – We Together



From: Robert Lee s7(2)(a)
Sent: Friday, 15 March 2024 3:30 PM
To: Library Generic <Library@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: [SUSPICIOUS MESSAGE] Rainbow Storytime

This Message contains suspicious characteristics and has originated outside your organization.

Hello

I would like to attend this event - just one adult. I'm not bringing children as I wish to assess whether I consider it to be age-appropriate for my children.

Cr Robert Lee.

From: Kate Peterson <katemp@hdc.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 18 March 2024 4:04 pm
To: Julianne Wilkinson
Subject: RE: Storytime protests

Thanks for that Julianne, hopefully its died down a bit for you over the weekend?
 Let me know how it all goes

Kate

From: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Friday, 15 March 2024 3:09 PM
To: Kate Peterson <katemp@hdc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Storytime protests

Hi Kate,

Our current approach is to monitor and make a call on Tuesday morning if we go ahead or not. Decisions will be made with our CE and the Police. As you say safety is a priority and it seems that the protestors from Destiny Church for us here, incited by one of our Councillors and then the counter protest promoted by Rainbow Storytime are actually what is going to put the safety of our customers and staff at risk.

I have pretty much spent all day on this today and had a 20 minute conversation with Sunita, who cannot see that her actions are counterproductive to our event management.

Confidentially – email today attached. But may be helpful for you. 😊

Watch this space I guess. But it is totally disheartening. ☹️

I have to say I am looking forward to the weekend!

J

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri

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M: +64 0272426235



From: Kate Peterson <katemp@hdc.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 15 March 2024 2:52 pm
To: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: RE: Storytime protests

Hi Julianne

Our event is the week after yours – 27th of March.

Seems like we have pretty much the same approach with monitoring online etc. We had engaged our council security manager early on and so we have some wrap around support from him, and we have Kaitaki that are on site daily as well as our city assist them which will be stationed there on the day. He has also given local police a heads up and he spoke to our Events lead about the plan to manage protesters inside and outside the building.

Unfortunately Rainbow storytime NZ have been inflaming the situation online locally it seems too. We have also had mentions of counter protests.

Its all pretty disheartening. Obviously this sentiment has grown over the years and we had a lot of chatter online for our pride month events last year, but its ramping up a notch and making customers feel unsafe to attend (which I'm sure is the aim).

Kia pai tō rā
 Kate

From: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Friday, 15 March 2024 11:39 AM
To: Kate Peterson <katemp@hdc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Storytime protests

Hi Kate,

Yes we are working through ramping up our event management plans at the moment, including the involvement of our community safety team, security contractors and the Police.

I am also aware that Sunita (from Rainbow Story time) has request our Rotorua Pride group form a barrier outside the Library. Luckily we are working with them already and have responded that this is not appropriate.

We are watching social media actively, so we can be agile in our response to management.

Once we have a plan in place I am happy to share.

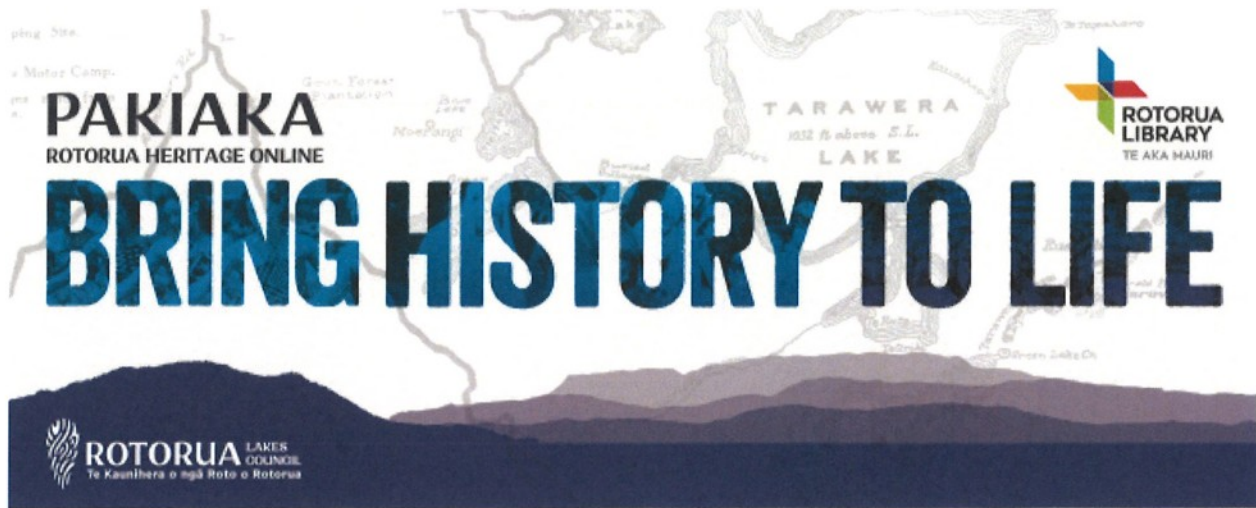
When is your event?

Thanks
 Julianne

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri

P: [+64 7 3517640](tel:+6473517640)

M: [+64 0272426235](tel:+640272426235)



From: Kate Peterson <katemp@hdc.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 15 March 2024 11:06 am
To: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: Storytime protests

Hi Julianne

Hope you are doing well. I noted this morning that Brian Tamaki is planning protests around both our library's upcoming storytime events. Just wanted to connect and keep in touch in terms of mitigations etc. Do you have any plans in place regarding how it will be handled? And have you heard about any counter protests being planned as well?

Ngā mihi

Kate Peterson

Manager - Community Services & Programmes

**HERETAUNGA
HASTINGS** DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Wāea/Phone (06) 871 5071 | Wāea Pūkoro/Mobile 027 371 9321

Īmēra/Email katemp@hdc.govt.nz | Pae Tukutuku/Web www.hastingsdc.govt.nz

Te Kaunihera ā-Rohe o Heretaunga | Hastings District Council

Private Bag 9002, Hastings 4156, New Zealand

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Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

From: [Maddie Palfrey](#)
To: [Joanne Dillon](#)
Cc: [Alyssa Rogers](#)
Subject: Re: Drag story hour
Date: Monday, 18 March 2024 4:20:12 pm
Attachments: [image007.png](#)

No worries, thanks for the update

That's really disappointing to hear.

Hoping council can see to not allowing terrorists to win. We understand the children's safety is the priority though. Just super disappointing that our community doesn't get to potentially have this event because of lunatics creating division and spreading hate.

I hope love wins out.

We would possibly be able to meet on the Wednesday.

Good luck for the meeting with council. Hope it all goes well.

On Mon, 18 Mar 2024, 15:36 Joanne Dillon, <Joanne.Dillon@rotorualc.nz> wrote:

Hi again,

We've had our Storytime planning meeting but our planning is now on hold until tomorrow afternoon. A decision about whether we can progress with the event will be made tomorrow morning by Council. We've all put so much work into it but it's going to come down to the possible risk to small children and their whanau.

I'll be in touch tomorrow afternoon and we can make a plan to meet on Wednesday perhaps?

JD

Joanne Dillon, ALIANZA

Adult Learning, Programmes and Promotions Lead - *Kaiurungi Whakatairanga Pakeke*

Ako

P: 07 351 7064

M: 027 263 0484

E: joanne.dillon@rotorualc.nz | **W:** rotorualibrary.govt.nz

A: 1127 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

PART OF ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL

Pakiaka live now - Facebook cover (1640 x 624)

From: Maddie Palfrey [s7\(2\)\(a\)](#)
Sent: Monday, 18 March 2024 12:09 pm

To: Joanne Dillon <Joanne.Dillon@rotorualc.nz>
Cc: Alyssa Rogers s7(2)(a)
Subject: Re: Drag story hour

That's great, thanks for letting us know.

We are more than happy to hold off until you have given us the all clear.

Would you like to catch up with us for a meeting some time before the event? Lyssa may have already asked, so apologies if I have doubled up on that.

On Mon, 18 Mar 2024, 12:06 Joanne Dillon, <Joanne.Dillon@rotorualc.nz> wrote:

Kia ora Maddie,

Thank you for your email. I've CC'ed Lyssa in on my reply. I really appreciate the support from you both.

Your message is fantastic. I would just avoid saying anything that will encourage people to come and join the protest activity. We believe ignoring those who are against the event is the best strategy.

We are having an event management meeting at 2pm so if you could hold off posting until later this afternoon that would be much appreciated. I'll let you both know of any updates from that meeting.

Ngā mihi nui,

JD

Joanne Dillon, ALIANZA

Adult Learning, Programmes and Promotions Lead - *Kaiurungi Whakatairanga Pakeke*

Ako

P: 07 351 7064

M: 027 263 0484

E: joanne.dillon@rotorualc.nz | W: rotorualibrary.govt.nz

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PART OF ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL

Pakiaka live now - Facebook cover (1640 x 624)



From: Maddie Palfrey [s7\(2\)\(a\)](#)
Sent: Monday, 18 March 2024 10:50 am
To: Joanne Dillon <joanne.dillon@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: Drag story hour

Hi Joanne.

My name is Maddie and I'm reaching out to you in a continuation of the conversation you have had with Lyssa last week regarding the drag story event on Thursday this week.

The chamber of pride was wondering if it was okay to promote your event without mentioning protest or Brian Tamaki but more about coming to show support and solidarity with the community.

Would it be possible and okay with the library to post a comment on our page regarding the event? Obviously we will not have the comments open to the public.

The message would be;

We're absolutely thrilled to announce that Rainbow Storytime at the Rotorua Library is now fully booked!

What an incredible response! Rainbow Storytime isn't just about reading books—it's about spreading messages of acceptance, standing against bullying, promoting inclusion, kindness, and building confidence in oneself.

A big mihi to Rotorua Library for hosting such a fantastic and meaningful event. Your dedication to creating a safe and inclusive space for all is truly commendable.

#RainbowStorytime #RotoruaChamberofPride #Inclusion #Acceptance #Kindness #AntiBullying #CommunityLove

If this is okay to post or you would like to make changes to it. Are you able to let me know at your earliest convenience.

We won't post anything without your approval.

Thank you

Maddie

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 19 March 2024 10:35 am
To: Library Generic
Subject: Indoctrination

To whom it may concern: I wish to make a formal complaint about your 'so-called' – Rainbow Storytime.

One of the things which you fail to justify is why on earth such a thing should ever exist. Secondly why on earth are you promoting such a thing? It makes no sense at all. The innocence of children is something to be respected and treated gently. Your event is a form of indoctrination and as such is unnatural.

I request that you reconsider.

From: Ingrid Tiriana
Sent: Tuesday, 19 March 2024 10:51 am
To: Julianne Wilkinson
Subject: RE: Rainbow Storytime

Thanks Julianne, I'll respond to Laura and let her know that her email has been received, thanking her for letting us know of her intentions to be there for the event and that we will get back to her re her questions. I understand from Suze that may not be possible until tomorrow after your hui.

Ing

From: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 March 2024 10:31 am
To: Suzanne McNicol <Suzanne.McNicol@rotorualc.nz>; Ingrid Tiriana <Ingrid.Tiriana@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: FW: Rainbow Storytime

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri

P: +64 7 3517640

M: +64 0272426235



From: Library Generic <Library@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 March 2024 10:22 am
To: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: FW: Rainbow Storytime



Emily Sansom Tiheru – Administration Support, Library

Waea: 07 3517046

Īmera: Emily.Sansom@rotorualc.nz | Pae tukutuku: rotorualibrary.govt.nz

Pae tukutuku: 1127 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

Rotorua Reo Rua – Aotearoa/New Zealand's First Bilingual City – Tatau tatau – We Together

**ROTORUA
LAKES COUNCIL**

From: Laura Smith <laura.smith@nzme.co.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 19 March 2024 10:19 AM

To: Library Generic <Library@rotorualc.nz>

Subject: Rainbow Storytime

Mōrena, hope all are well.

I have spoken with the hosts of Rainbow Storytime and will be attending their session on Thursday - I understand it is in a public space but wanted to give a heads up I'll be there given the nature of the event. Both Sunita and Daniel will speak to me following the event. I will, of course, be sensitive of the children around including in any photography and reporting.

Sunita said the library has been trying for a few years now to host the pair but things like the pandemic got in the way - I think it was all pretty much covered off in the council meeting the other day and in the FAQ page but would anyone like to provide comment as to why the library wanted to host Rainbow Storytime, the impact it has on the Rotorua community (and its significance) and what it would say to any of the protestors planning to be there on the day?

Can I also ask how the protest will be managed? I.e. does the library have security etc to ensure the safety of children and public attending either the event or the library while the event is taking place?

I really appreciate if anyone were able to help with the above, please.

Many thanks

LAURA SMITH

Local Democracy Reporter

M: [0273119367](tel:0273119367) P: [073439728](tel:073439728)

E: laura.smith@nzme.co.nz

ME: My pronouns are she/her

ROTORUA **Daily Post**

Bay of Plenty Times

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MEDIA AND
ENTERTAINMENT

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From: Julianne Wilkinson
Sent: Tuesday, 19 March 2024 11:13 am
To: Suzanne McNicol
Cc: Ingrid Tiriana; Andrew Moraes
Subject: RE: Rainbow Storytime

Correct.

FYI - We currently have registered:

40 children

1 teen (15 years and who is part of the rainbow community)

36 adults (10 with no children = 6 who are part of the rainbow community, 2 staff in support, 1 early childhood teacher and Robert Lee)

Total 77

We would have allowed more to attend, but closed registrations because of social media comments that people would register to cause an issue (and following Cr Lees registration we felt this was a strong possibility).

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M: [+64 0272426235](tel:+640272426235)



From: Suzanne McNicol <Suzanne.McNicol@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 March 2024 11:06 am
To: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>
Cc: Ingrid Tiriana <Ingrid.Tiriana@rotorualc.nz>; Andrew Moraes <Andrew.Moraes@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: RE: Rainbow Storytime

Ok that makes sense So only registered participants can enter the story time session. Thanks for clarifying.

From: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 11:02 AM
To: Suzanne McNicol <Suzanne.McNicol@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: RE: Rainbow Storytime

Initially we requested people register but all were welcome. However subsequent to that we have advised people that we have reached capacity and registrations have closed. So no walk ins.

We can easily advise Cr Lee that we are at capacity and are prioritising those who are bringing children to this event. However I kinda want him to come as well as media if we go ahead so we can show people how innocent the whole thing is.

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From: Suzanne McNicol <Suzanne.McNicol@rotorualc.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 19 March 2024 10:57 am

To: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>

Subject: RE: Rainbow Storytime

Hey just checking that the FB post said that anyone can attend? If so then Cr Lee can attend as can Laura (space permitting)

S

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Subject: FW: Rainbow Storytime

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From: Library Generic <Library@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 March 2024 10:22 am
To: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: FW: Rainbow Storytime



Emily Sansom Tiheru – Administration Support, Library

Waea: 07 3517046

Imera: Emily.Sansom@rotorualc.nz | **Pae tukutuku:** rotorualibrary.govt.nz

Pae tukutuku: 1127 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

Rotorua Reo Rua – Aotearoa/New Zealand's First Bilingual City – Tatau tatau – We Together



From: Laura Smith <laura.smith@nzme.co.nz>
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To: Library Generic <Library@rotorualc.nz>
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Mōrena, hope all are well.

I have spoken with the hosts of Rainbow Storytime and will be attending their session on Thursday - I understand it is in a public space but wanted to give a heads up I'll be there given the nature of the event. Both Sunita and Daniel will speak to me following the event. I will, of course, be sensitive of the children around including in any photography and reporting.

Sunita said the library has been trying for a few years now to host the pair but things like the pandemic got in the way - I think it was all pretty much covered off in the council meeting the other day and in the FAQ page but would anyone like to provide comment as to why the library wanted to host Rainbow Storytime, the impact it has on the Rotorua community (and its significance) and what it would say to any of the protestors planning to be there on the day?

Can I also ask how the protest will be managed? I.e. does the library have security etc to ensure the safety of children and public attending either the event or the library while the event is taking place?

I really appreciate if anyone were able to help with the above, please.

Many thanks

LAURA SMITH

Local Democracy Reporter

M: 0273119367 P: 073439728

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Bay of Plenty Times



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From: Andrew Moraes
Sent: Tuesday, 19 March 2024 3:01 pm
To: Julianne Wilkinson; Suzanne McNicol
Cc: Ingrid Tiriana
Subject: Re: Rainbow Storytime

Can we make sure our media statement notes that cr Lee has registered as a participant 😊

Andrew Moraes
 Toihautū | Chief Executive
 P: +64 7 351 8320 | M: +64 27 408 8418

From: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>
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Cc: Ingrid Tiriana <Ingrid.Tiriana@rotorualc.nz>; Andrew Moraes <Andrew.Moraes@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: RE: Rainbow Storytime

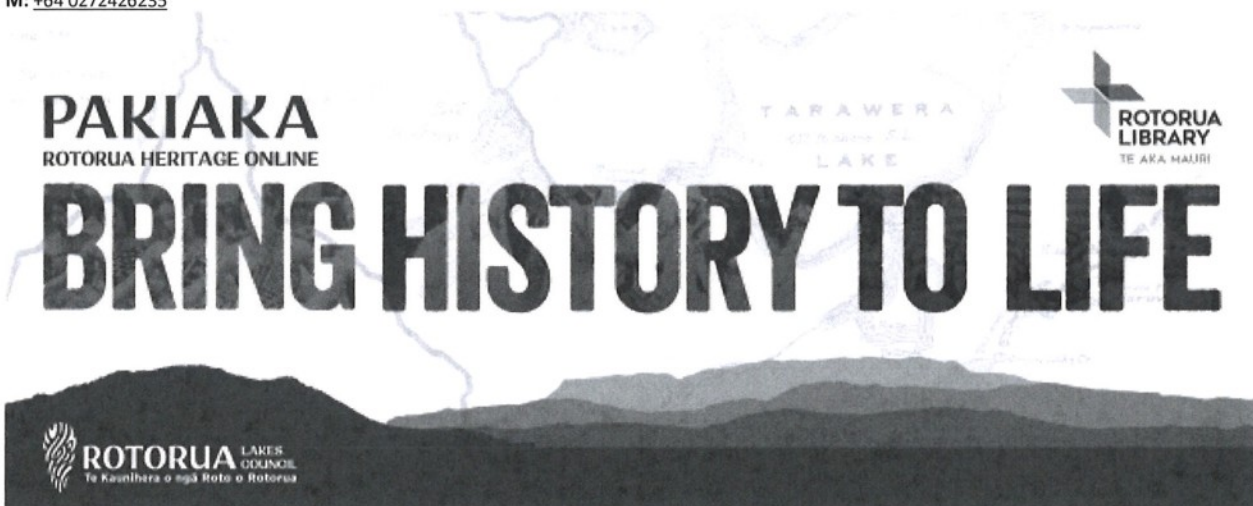
Correct.

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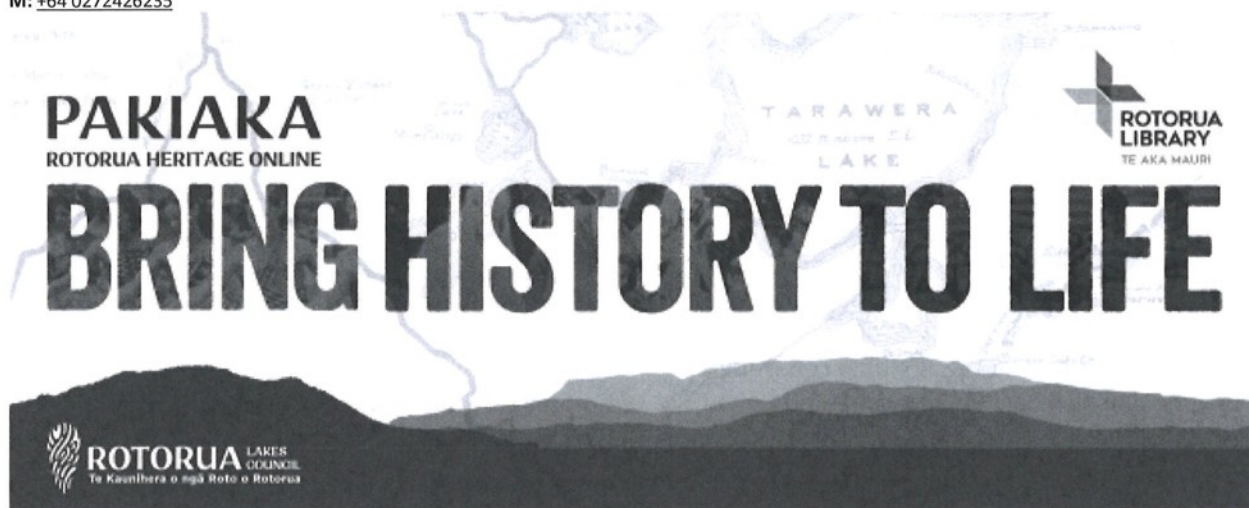
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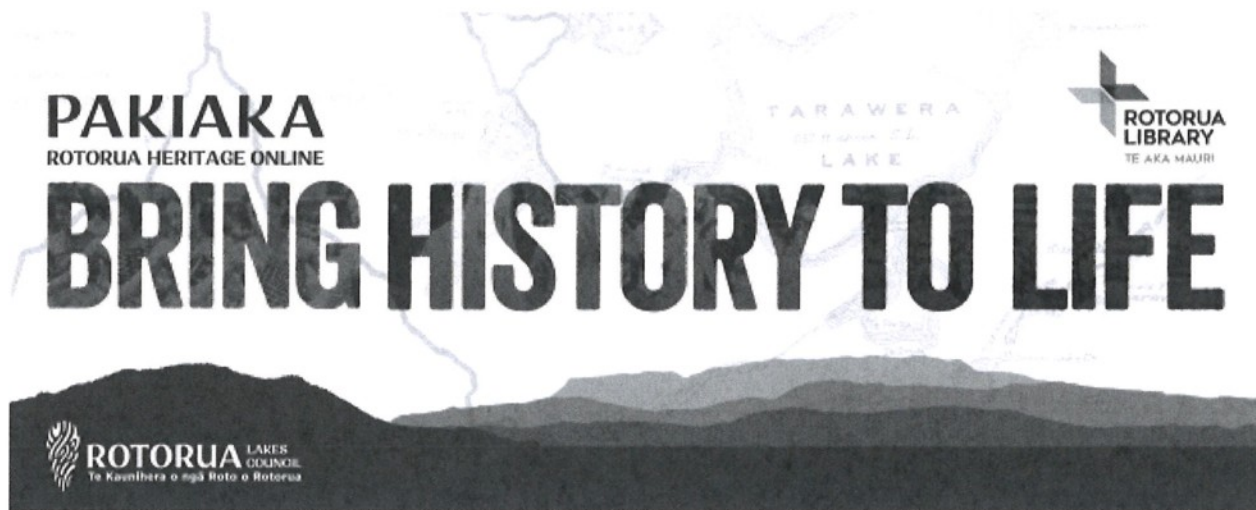
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ROTORUA
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ROTORUA **Daily Post**

Bay of Plenty Times

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From: Julianne Wilkinson
Sent: Tuesday, 19 March 2024 12:57 pm
To: HOF Bookings; Kylie Holmes
Subject: RE: Rotorua Rainbow Story Time event management
Attachments: RE: Rotorua Rainbow Story Time event management

Hi Sunita,

We will see what we have and let you know.

Did you get my email last night (attached)? We are just working through a couple of things and our executive will make a decision tomorrow morning about the event. So if you are able to respond that would be helpful.

Thanks
 Julianne

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri

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From: HOF Bookings <bookings@hausoffflash.co.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 March 2024 12:04 pm
To: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>; Kylie Holmes <Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: Re: Rotorua Rainbow Story Time event management

Hi team,

We've just discovered that our portable speaker is damaged so we are unable to bring it along. Do you have anyone with a bluetooth or auxiliary speaker. Not a UE Boom or anything, needs to be a proper actual portable PA type one as we do our lip-sync and performances to it.

Sunita



On 16/03/2024, at 11:53 AM, Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz> wrote:

Thanks Sunita. Will catch up again Monday.

Hope you manage to enjoy your weekend.

Thanks
Julianne

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From: HOF Bookings <bookings@hausofflash.co.nz>
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 7:25:12 PM
To: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>; Kylie Holmes <Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: Re: Rotorua Rainbow Story Time event management

After much discussion with Daniel (Erika) and having heard that disinformation has also gone to Council level and journalists contacting me.

We think cancelling would give them a “win” and that’s the last thing we want to do. I know this is your first time having us so you’re obviously unsure. We will be having no fear, we will not hide but we will fiercely protect those kids and families and the general public.

Let them look like the bullies, our focus will just be on the kids and public to protect them from what those disgusting examples of grown adults are doing.

Sunita
<hof.png>

On 15/03/2024, at 12:10 PM, Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz> wrote:

Hi Sunita,

I have just left a message on your mobile. Please can you give me a call.

Thanks
Julianne

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri

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M: [+64 0272426235](tel:+640272426235)

<image001.jpg>

From: HOF Bookings <bookings@hausoffflash.co.nz>

Sent: Friday, 15 March 2024 10:29 am

To: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>

Subject: Re: Rotorua Rainbow Story Time event management

<image002.jpg>

Brian Tamaki plans protest and disruptions at rainbow events
nzherald.co.nz

<image003.png>

On 15/03/2024, at 8:06 AM, Julianne Wilkinson
<Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz> wrote:

That makes sense. I am so sad and angry that people have taken this to such an extreme level.

We will be working with our CCTV, Community Safety Team and Police as part of the event management.

If you have any screen shots of any messages that are threatening violence can you send them through to me. We will be requesting Police follow up here if they are local.

Thanks
Julianne

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M: [+64 0272426235](tel:+640272426235)

<image001.jpg>

From: HOF Bookings <bookings@hausoffflash.co.nz>

Sent: Friday, 15 March 2024 1:33 am

To: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>

Subject: Re: Rotorua Rainbow Story Time event management

We are going to be making a few reports to the police tomorrow in regards to some of the content they have created defaming us.

<image002.png>

On 14/03/2024, at 1:51 PM, Julianne Wilkinson
<Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz> wrote:

Kia ora Sunita,

You will have been communicating with my team member Kylie regarding the event next week. We are very excited about the event and sharing the message of inclusiveness and acceptance. We are currently putting together a revised event management plan based on the negative feedback and potential received threats through our social media channels, emails and calls to Council.

While we have turned the comments off on our Library post, we see that like us, you (Sunita and Rainbow Storytime) are actively monitoring social media and comments related to the event. I know this is an incredibly sensitive topic and obviously very personal to you, so I feel very conflicted asking if you could refrain from reacting and debating with some of these people who are so far down a rabbit hole they will never return.

The reason I ask is that we are doing everything possible to put in place mitigations to manage any risk and ensure we make this a positive and safe experience for all involved. While some of these people are keyboard warriors there is a risk that action will be taken on day. I am conscious that we do not want to incite any action by responding to these comments even though like you we disagree with not only the comments but the disrespectful approach and personal attacks.

I hope you understand where I am coming from with the safety of all our main priority.

Please feel free to give me a call if you want to discuss.

Ngā mihi nui,
Julianne

<image003.jpg>

<image004.jpg>

Julianne Wilkinson

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri

Te Aka Mauri | Rotorua Library

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M: [+64 0272426235](tel:+640272426235)

E: julianne.wilkinson@rotorualc.nz

A: Civic Centre, 1061 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

W: rotorualakescouncil.nz

<image005.jpg> <image005.jpg> <image005.jpg> <image005.jpg>

<image001.jpg>

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 19 March 2024 2:05 pm
To: Library Generic
Subject: Rainbow Storytime

Hello,

I am writing to add my voice to those complaining about the library hosting a reading session involving drag queens. No matter how you choose to portray it, (i.e. they will be reading stories about animals) drag queens are adult entertainment and it is inappropriate to make a point of targeting children. As a ratepayer I object to ratepayers' money being spent on this. I realise that there will be some parents who are quite happy for their children to be exposed to R18 entertainers but it should not be done with ratepayers' money. If the drag queens want to put on a show for children then they should hire their own venue and those wanting to participate should pay to attend. I am disappointed that the library has chosen to push an agenda that doesn't have widespread support from ratepayers, as evidenced in the Daily Post article on it.

Regards,
s7(2)(a)

From: Julianne Wilkinson
Sent: Tuesday, 19 March 2024 3:56 pm
To: Emily Sansom
Subject: FW: Register to attend Rainbow Story Time

Hi,

Please can advise them that:

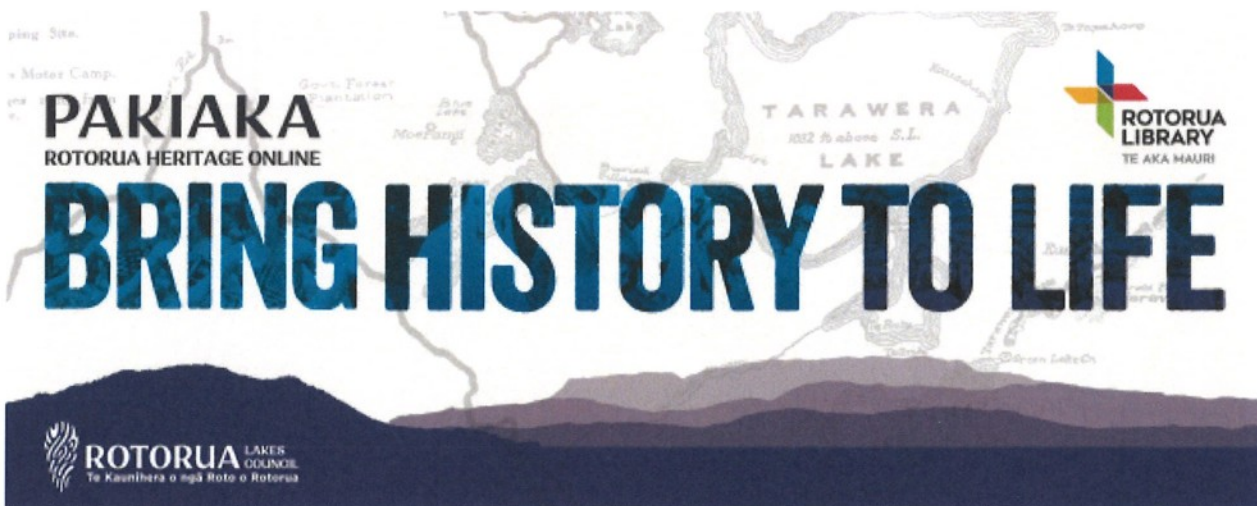
Unfortunately we cannot accept your registration. Due to the popularity of the Rainbow Storytime event we have reached capacity and have closed registrations.
 We will be filming the event so keep an eye out for a highlights video the following week which will be posted on our social media.

Thanks
 J

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri

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From: Library Generic <Library@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 March 2024 3:52 pm
To: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: FW: Register to attend Rainbow Story Time



Emily Sansom Tiheru – Administration Support, Library

Waea: 07 3517046

Īmēra: Emily.Sansom@rotorualc.nz | **Pae tukutuku:** rotorualibrary.govt.nz

Pae tukutuku: 1127 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

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**ROTORUA
LAKES COUNCIL**

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 19 March 2024 3:16 PM
To: Library Generic <Library@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: Register to attend Rainbow Story Time

I would like to register x2 adults to attend this event. Our names are s7(2)(a) s7(2)(a) and we are both Rotorua Library members. Our phone number is s7(2)(a)

Thank you and kind regards

From: Library Generic
Sent: Tuesday, 19 March 2024 3:59 pm
To: s7(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Register to attend Rainbow Story Time

Kia Ora s7(2)(a)

Thank you for your email,

Unfortunately we cannot accept your registration. Due to the popularity of the Rainbow Storytime event we have reached capacity and have closed registrations.

We will be filming the event so keep an eye out for a highlights video the following week which will be posted on our social media.

Nga mihi,

Rotorua Library Team

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Thank you and kind regards

From: [Alyssa Rogers](#)
To: [Joanne Dillon](#)
Cc: [Maddie Palfrey](#)
Subject: Re: Drag story hour
Date: Tuesday, 19 March 2024 4:17:10 pm
Attachments: [image005.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Thanks for letting us know, I think our whole team has been on tenterhooks waiting for word because we know how hard you are all working.

Yeah understandably, we are concerned as well and keep being reminded that the kids come first, even though the other side doesn't seem to care.

Thank you for all your mahi, you have so much support here. Hope you're taking care of yourself.

L

On Tue, 19 Mar 2024, 4:11 pm Joanne Dillon, <Joanne.Dillon@rotorualc.nz> wrote:

Kia ora,

How are you both doing today?

I don't have any definite news for you I'm afraid.

There are some real concerns about the ability to manage what happens outside the library on Thursday leading up to and during the story time and what happens if protesters manage to come into the library.

The decision was deferred today with another meeting being held tomorrow and a final decision made. Two options are to cancel it or to go ahead however we're also considering postponing it.

I'll let you know the decision tomorrow.

Thanks for all of your support,

JD

Joanne Dillon, ALIANZA

Adult Learning, Programmes and Promotions Lead - *Kaiurungi Whakatairanga Pakeke*

Ako

P: 07 351 7064

M: 027 263 0484

E: joanne.dillon@rotorualc.nz | **W:** rotorualibrary.govt.nz

A: 1127 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand
PART OF ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL

Pakiaka live now - Facebook cover (1640 x 624)

From: Alyssa Rogers <s7(2)(a)>
Sent: Monday, 18 March 2024 3:41 pm
To: Joanne Dillon <Joanne.Dillon@rotorualc.nz>
Cc: Maddie Palfrey <s7(2)(a)>
Subject: Re: Drag story hour

Shit, I'm sorry to hear it's now in their hands after all the work you and the team have done. Hopefully there is a good outcome where everyone is safe.

Sending aroha mate, we'd be keen to meet depending on the news. Hope you're well

On Mon, 18 Mar 2024, 3:35 pm Joanne Dillon, <Joanne.Dillon@rotorualc.nz> wrote:

Hi again,

We've had our Storytime planning meeting but our planning is now on hold until tomorrow afternoon. A decision about whether we can progress with the event will be made tomorrow morning by Council. We've all put so much work into it but it's going to come down to the possible risk to small children and their whanau.

I'll be in touch tomorrow afternoon and we can make a plan to meet on Wednesday perhaps?

JD

Joanne Dillon, ALIANZA
 Adult Learning, Programmes and Promotions Lead - *Kaiurungi Whakatairanga Pakeke*
 Ako
P: 07 351 7064
M: 027 263 0484
E: joanne.dillon@rotorualc.nz | **W:** rotorualibrary.govt.nz
A: 1127 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand
 PART OF ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL

Pakiaka live now - Facebook cover (1640 x 624)

From: Maddie Palfrey <s7(2)(a)>
Sent: Monday, 18 March 2024 12:09 pm
To: Joanne Dillon <Joanne.Dillon@rotorualc.nz>
Cc: Alyssa Rogers <s7(2)(a)>
Subject: Re: Drag story hour

That's great, thanks for letting us know.

We are more than happy to hold off until you have given us the all clear.

Would you like to catch up with us for a meeting some time before the event? Lyssa may have already asked, so apologies if I have doubled up on that.

On Mon, 18 Mar 2024, 12:06 Joanne Dillon, <Joanne.Dillon@rotorualc.nz> wrote:

Kia ora Maddie,

Thank you for your email. I've CC'ed Lyssa in on my reply. I really appreciate the support from you both.

Your message is fantastic. I would just avoid saying anything that will encourage people to come and join the protest activity. We believe ignoring those who are against the event is the best strategy.

We are having an event management meeting at 2pm so if you could hold off posting until later this afternoon that would be much appreciated. I'll let you both know of any updates from that meeting.

Ngā mihi nui,

JD

Joanne Dillon, ALIANZA

Adult Learning, Programmes and Promotions Lead - *Kaiurungi Whakatairanga Pakeke*

Ako

P: 07 351 7064

M: 027 263 0484

E: joanne.dillon@rotorualc.nz | W: rotorualibrary.govt.nz

A: 1127 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

PART OF ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL

From: Maddie Palfrey -s7(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 18 March 2024 10:50 am
To: Joanne Dillon <Joanne.Dillon@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: Drag story hour

Hi Joanne.

My name is Maddie and I'm reaching out to you in a continuation of the conversation you have had with Lyssa last week regarding the drag story event on Thursday this week.

The chamber of pride was wondering if it was okay to promote your event without mentioning protest or Brian Tamaki but more about coming to show support and solidarity with the community.

Would it be possible and okay with the library to post a comment on our page regarding the event? Obviously we will not have the comments open to the public.

The message would be;

We're absolutely thrilled to announce that Rainbow Storytime at the Rotorua Library is now fully booked!

What an incredible response! Rainbow Storytime isn't just about reading books—it's about spreading messages of acceptance, standing against bullying, promoting inclusion, kindness, and building confidence in oneself.

A big mihi to Rotorua Library for hosting such a fantastic and meaningful event. Your dedication to creating a safe and inclusive space for all is truly commendable.

#RainbowStorytime #RotoruaChamberofPride #Inclusion #Acceptance #Kindness #AntiBullying
#CommunityLove

If this is okay to post or you would like to make changes to it. Are you able to let me know at your earliest convenience.

We won't post anything without your approval.

Thank you

Maddie

From: Library Generic
Sent: Wednesday, 20 March 2024 10:11 am
To: s7(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Rainbow storytime registration

Kia Ora s7(2)(a)

Thank you for your email.

Unfortunately we cannot accept your registration. Due to the popularity of the Rainbow Storytime event we have reached capacity and have closed registrations.
We will be filming the event so keep an eye out for a highlights video the following week which will be posted on our social media.

Nga mihi,

Rotorua Library Team



Rotorua Library Team

Pae tukutuku: rotorualibrary.govt.nz

Pae tukutuku: 1127 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

Rotorua Reo Rua – Aotearoa/New Zealand's First Bilingual City – Tatau tatau – We Together

ROTORUA
LAKES COUNCIL

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 19 March 2024 5:59 PM
To: Library Generic <Library@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: Rainbow storytime registration

Hi there, I would like to register for this week's Rainbow storytime please. One adult.

Thank you

s7(2)(a)

Subject: Rainbow event discussion
Location: The Boardroom (Exec Floor 1)

Start: Wed 20/03/2024 9:00 am
End: Wed 20/03/2024 10:00 am

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Meeting organizer

Organizer: Kim McGrath
Required Attendees: Andrew Moraes; Gina Rang; Suzanne McNicol; Mihikore Owen; Julianne Wilkinson; Simon.Betchetti^{s7(2)(a)}
Optional Attendees: Thomas Colle; Nikoletta Michael
Resources: The Boardroom (Exec Floor 1)

Ingrid Tiriana

From: Ingrid Tiriana
Sent: Wednesday, 20 March 2024 10:29 am
To: Gina Rangi; Andrew Moraes; Julianne Wilkinson; Thomas Colle; Nikoletta Michael; Mihikore Owen; Suzanne McNicol
Subject: RE: Rainbow statement - please approve

Thanks Gina, yes happy to add that

From: Gina Rangi <Gina.Rangi@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 March 2024 10:28 am
To: Ingrid Tiriana <Ingrid.Tiriana@rotorualc.nz>; Andrew Moraes <Andrew.Moraes@rotorualc.nz>; Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>; Thomas Colle <Thomas.Colle@rotorualc.nz>; Nikoletta Michael <Nikoletta.Michael@rotorualc.nz>; Mihikore Owen <Mihikore.Owen@rotorualc.nz>; Suzanne McNicol <Suzanne.McNicol@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: RE: Rainbow statement - please approve

Can we say we also are disappointed?

From: Ingrid Tiriana <Ingrid.Tiriana@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 March 2024 10:15 am
To: Andrew Moraes <Andrew.Moraes@rotorualc.nz>; Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>; Thomas Colle <Thomas.Colle@rotorualc.nz>; Nikoletta Michael <Nikoletta.Michael@rotorualc.nz>; Mihikore Owen <Mihikore.Owen@rotorualc.nz>; Suzanne McNicol <Suzanne.McNicol@rotorualc.nz>; Gina Rangi <Gina.Rangi@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: Rainbow statement - please approve

Kia ora,

Suzanne has asked me to finalise the draft statement, as per this morning's meeting.

Can you all please take a look and flag any issues or approve.

As outlined in this morning's meeting, the intention is to co-ordinate communications to library staff, other RLC staff, elected members and the event performers (and Julianne I assume Friends of the Library) at **1pm**.

We will then provide the statement to media who have contacted us – namely Radio NZ and our Local Democracy Reporter.

Any other media will be provided with the same statement, noting to all media that RLC has nothing to add at this time.

Please get back to me as soon as is possible.

Thank you
 Nga mihi nui
 Ingrid

E: ingrid.tiriana@rotorualc.nz | W: rotorualakescouncil.nz

A: 1061 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

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DRAFT STATEMENT

Rainbow Storytime is a family friendly event aimed at younger children, incorporating book reading, singing and dancing. The event is focussed on acceptance, anti-bullying, inclusion, being kind and having confidence in yourself. It has been a popular event in many other libraries and registrations for the event at Rotorua Library were full.

Unfortunately, due to safety concerns, we have had to make the decision to cancel the event.

We know this will be extremely disappointing for the children and their parents and others who wanted to participate in an entertaining and empowering learning experience.

Our library is an inclusive and safe space that encourages understanding and tolerance in our community and we have received a lot of positive feedback and support for the event. Unfortunately, not all our residents feel the same way and we have become aware that protests have been organised by Destiny Church and other groups.

We acknowledge people's right to peaceful protest and tried multiple avenues to approach representatives of Destiny Church to ask that any protestors respect the space, library users and those who had chosen to attend the event.

Without these assurances, Council needed to review its security plan for Rainbow Storytime. We considered the hostile dialogue on social media and the rapid spread of misinformation about the performers and the purpose of the event as key factors.

The physical safety and mental health of people attending our events, and our staff, is a priority and this is especially important for events designed for young children. Having met with Police and our community safety team, despite our best efforts, we have regretfully decided that our security resource is insufficient to ensure the safety of library users and event attendees if the protests became too large or escalated.

This decision reflects the change in circumstances, not a change in the values of Rotorua Lakes Council.

We have notified attendees that we have cancelled the event.

From: Suzanne McNicol
Sent: Wednesday, 20 March 2024 10:32 am
To: Andrew Moraes; Julianne Wilkinson
Cc: Ingrid Tiriana; Gina Rangi; Thomas Colle; Nikoletta Michael; Mihikore Owen
Subject: FW: Rainbow Storytime (In support of!)

Just when we thought that the haters were dominating the narrative n this event, along comes the voice of reason.

Begin forwarded message:

From: s7(2)(a)
Date: 20 March 2024 at 5:29:56 AM GMT+12
To: s7(2)(a)
Subject: Rainbow Storytime.
Reply-To: Nick Rockel from Nick's Kōrero
 <reply+2czemy&3bez3o&&5f4e435501475437c2dd7597d0cccb76d66ac7718
 0a970c7b4f6732a5f26b588@mg1.substack.com>

[View in browser](#)

Rainbow Storytime.

What's so funny 'bout peace, love and understanding?

NICK ROCKEL

MAR 19



READ IN APP ↗

*As I walk through this wicked world
 Searchin' for light in the darkness of insanity
 I ask myself, "Is all hope lost?
 Is there only pain and hatred and misery?"*

*And each time I feel like this inside
 There's one thing I wanna know
 What's so funny 'bout peace, love and understanding?*

The latest battle in the *Culture Wars*.

It's not over pronouns, or whether Posie Parker prefers tomato juice served in a glass, or tipped over her head. It's not about who can play in a sports team, or even which bathroom they can use.

This time it's about Drag Queens reading stories to kids in a library.



Rainbow Storytime. <https://www.facebook.com/rainbowstorytime/photos> by

I love that our libraries and community centres offer children the magic of storytelling with fun activities like dressing up - what's not to like?

Course there's always some bloke who thinks the person reading the books, and wearing the dress, might be liking it a bit too much.

Don't get him wrong, our bloke's open minded, in fact he once took part in a rugby club skit that involved a lot of tucking away of apparatuses, which was hilarious. He's just not sure that kids should see that sort of thing - might give them ideas.

But that bloke isn't really the problem, he'll come around in the end. On the other hand some people simply hate. Their heads are full of imagined perversion and inappropriateness, often put there by someone who rather likes dressing up too.

Difference being, he's pretending to be something he's not...



Brian Tamaki @BrianTamakiNZ · 23h
Checking the Moral Temperature of NZ...

...

1/..As a Parent would you take your Children to a Library to have Sex Education from Drag Queens?

2/..Do you think Govt should Ban The Drag Queens in Libraries,Schools and Public Places,Pushing their lifesyle on our Kids?



142

50

199

80K

🔖 ↗

I'm not sure if the horny devil is supposed to represent Pope Brian, angry at what he's reading. I'd ask him but sadly I'm now blocked. Although before he blocked me I did reply - it's possible these two things are related.

I guess the self appointed Apostle isn't one for turning the other cheek.



Nick Rockel @nickarockel · 22h

- 1) They're reading story books you sicko.
- 2) Nobody's pushing anything, except you.

A better question would be are kids safer around Drag Queens, or the clergy (including self declared ones), as proven by facts?

But Brian Tamaki, the third worst Bishop in all of Aotearoa (*Chris' dad John, founder of the Taxpayers' Union, and disgruntled sausage roll customer, came second*), isn't just opposed to Drag Queens reading books to kids.

He wants them banned from public places, just like gangs. You know those blokes in leathers who ride around on motorbikes intimidating people - sound familiar Brian?

Destiny Church leader Brian Tamaki wants drag queens banned from public spaces - just like gang patches



By [Joseph Los'e](#)

15 Mar, 2024 07:58 AM · 2 mins to read

Save Share



Auckland's drag queens Anita Wig'it, Kita Mean and Elektra Shock featured on RuPaul's Drag Race.

“It’s time to clean up and confront this scourge in our society, the scourge of transgender ideology”, said the religious entrepreneur. This fisherman of flocking fools.

OK Drunk Uncle Winnie, forget about the Labour party. If Tamaki’s describing human beings as a *“scourge”*, I think we’ve found your Nazis right here!



“These are holy patches” **Photo / Dean Purcell**

There’s an article in the Herald, and Daily Post, about a storytelling session happening in my old home town on Thursday. Cardinal Tamaki and his gang of disciples will be there to try and spoil things. In a way that I imagine many children, and perhaps some adults, will find intimidating and upsetting.

A Rainbow Storytime session in Rotorua facing calls for protest and counter-action has seen councillors clash after one questioned its “appropriateness” for children.

Rotorua councillors clash over library Rainbow Storytime event



By [Laura Smith](#)
Local Democracy Reporter

Save Share

19 Mar, 2024 05:01 AM 5 mins to read



Rotorua Lakes Councillors Fisher Wang (left) and Robert Lee.

Rotorua Lakes Councillor Robert Lee said councillors had been emailed by a grandmother “deeply concerned” about promotional material she believed was “harmful to children”.

He said he would “not support that event going ahead” and asked how councillors could “influence” the decision.

Council community and district development group manager Jean-Paul Gaston said people could choose to go or not. “There is nothing about sexuality or gender in the presentation.”

I can't say I liked the sound of this Cr Lee much. He's an elected public official, not a pseudo christian charlatan duping the damaged and bewildered. Should a city councillor be in the business of trying to close down an event based on such an email?



An email from a grandmother that for all we know might've been Brian Tamaki in a dress. Now I'm not saying it was, I'm merely saying there's no conclusive proof either way.

Councillor Fisher Wang later posted on social media he had "seen some very horrible comments directed towards this [event] like, 'filth', 'gross', 'disgusting', 'corrupt' ... a movement which the councillor [seated] to my right [Lee] supports".

"It does really sadden me when I see words like that used to describe other people in our community who are themselves. That's all it is."

He said he believed people had a responsibility to "call out" "horrible comments" and stand up for LGBT people facing hurdles.

Before we check out Cr Lee a bit more let's meet Erika and Coco Flash, the storytellers for the event. Here they are appearing on Breakfast a few years ago.



I took a look at Cr Lee's Facebook page and the first post was of the Herald article on the event, asking who was going.

There was one reply which said: *"When is the Long Term Plan coming out? Surely our councillors have bigger issues to represent the community on than this? What's Rotorua's 3 Waters future? How do we keep rates affordable yet provide for all of the community's needs? Can we lift it up please elected reps?"*

Quite, it's almost as if all this culture war nonsense was just a distraction to keep us from asking about the important stuff.

So where are the strong, and who are the trusted?

And where is the harmony, sweet harmony?

'Cause each time I feel it slippin' away

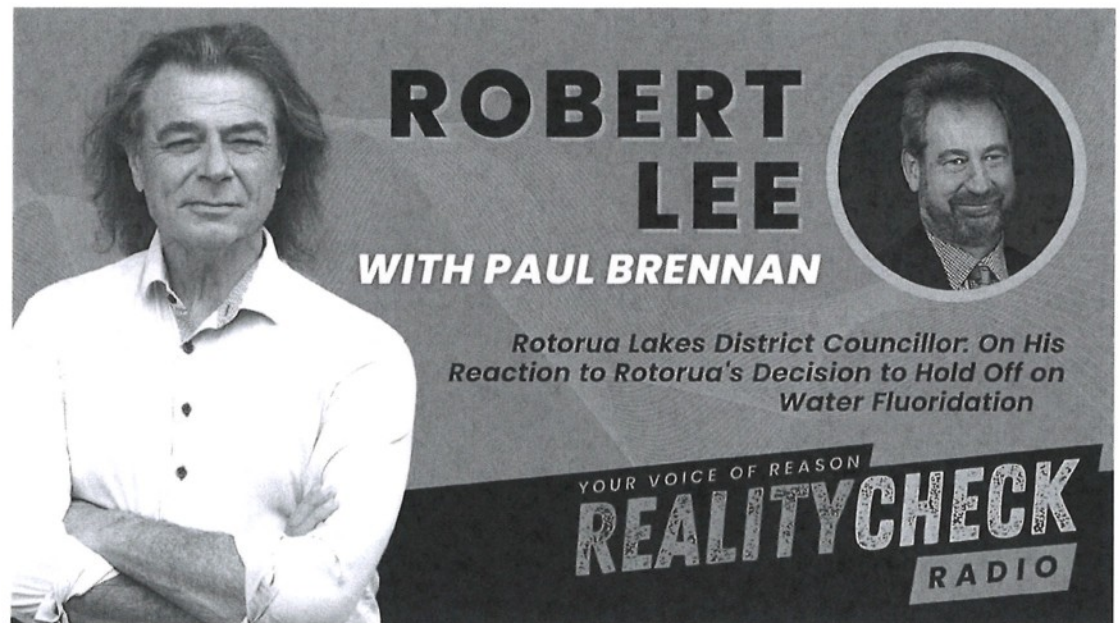
Just makes me wanna cry

What's so funny 'bout peace, love and understanding?

Other than that Robert Lee looks much like many local government representatives in provincial New Zealand. He's passionately anti fluoridation, anti Three Waters, anti

co-governance, see's no issue with ACT's Treaty Principles Bill, and he's a bit of a Reality Checked-out Radio guy.

In other words, the last person you or I would choose to be anywhere near decision making. Yet people like Robert are deemed electable by enough voters to put them in power.



Robert also had another post about the library event, saying the following:

Do you remember when libraries used to be for borrowing books? These days you can also use computers with an internet connection, or play chess with the chess club, or just chill and hang out in a safe, family friendly environment while you wait for a bus.

Well, next Thursday at 10:30 am you could go to our local library and watch a couple of drag queens read a story to children.

Here's one of the performers: "Erica Flash" strutting his / her stuff.

So who's bringing their children along? I'm not.

The clip Robert included in his post of "Erica Flash" strutting his / her stuff", wasn't of a book reading, or anything to do with libraries. It was a video you might expect of

a Drag Queen as an adult. It wasn't explicit or overly rude, but there was enough innuendo and suggestion that some might consider it unsuitable for children.

Which is fine, because Robert - they're coming to read books to kids, not provide entertainment appropriate for adults. You weirdo.

Speaking of weird. I note that in his post Robert said he won't be bringing his kids along, and yet in the Herald article he's quoted as saying that *"he would attend so he could comment after the event"*.

So who's the one you'd be worried about? The Drag Queens reading a story to children, or the middle aged guy who has turned up, without kids, to observe?

Maybe kids might be a bit less afraid than some adults...



Drag Queens reading books in libraries have one goal - and that's acceptance.

The more we talk honestly about different kinds of people, and that those differences are ok, the less prejudice we'll have in society. It seems to me that the only people who are opposed to this are those peddling prejudice, rather than understanding.

When my generation were kids we watched Sesame Street or Play School. They deliberately showed us a diverse range of people with different jobs, races, and family situations to foster understanding. I think most people would agree that was a good thing. This is just the same.

Don't worry, I'm not going to start into *"who are the people in your neighbourhood"*, but yeah, that.

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Some kids may learn something from the storytelling. In the future they might not be so quick to join in name calling, or directing hate at people that live differently than they do.

Others will just see it as just someone wearing a dress reading a book. Next week it might be a pirate, or someone dressed up as Peppa Pig.

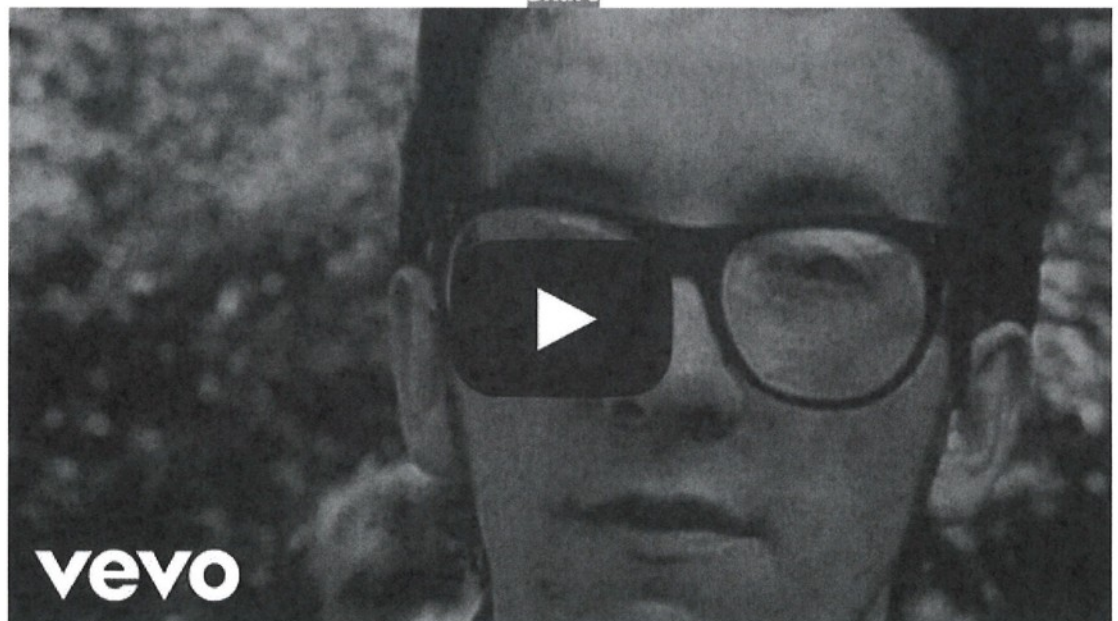
But to some kids I imagine it will be a godsend. To see someone talking openly about something they might be feeling uncertain about. Honestly, and with a bit of fun.

As Erika & Coco Flash put it on their flyer it's "*Stories for children about diversity, being inclusive, celebrating differences, and kindness.*"

You've got to wonder about people who get angry over children taking part in that.

Thanks for reading Nick's Kōrero. This post is public so feel free to share it.

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 Start writing

From: Ingrid Tiriana
Sent: Wednesday, 20 March 2024 11:30 am
To: Julianne Wilkinson; Suzanne McNicol
Subject: RE: Rainbow statement - please approve

My understanding is that it was discussed in the meeting that comms would go out to all key stakeholders at 1pm

My understanding is that you will, at that time, inform your stakeholders ie those registered to attend, the performers, your staff and Friends of the Library.

At RLC end we will send something out from Andrew to all staff, we will get something to elected members and after key stakeholders have been informed we will send the statement to media who have enquired about the event (ie Radio NZ and Local Democracy Reporter, noting that RLC has nothing further at this stage)

The communications from you to your stakeholders and from RLC to staff and elected members will be based off the statement that will go to media after 1pm. You may want to change/soften it slightly depending on your audience.

The same statement we send to Radio NZ and the Local Democracy Reporter will be provided to any other media who come to us.

Suze did not mention social media so we'll come back to you on that. Should probably be prepared in advance, based on the statement, and coordinated to go at same time as we send the statement to media.

Make sense?

Ing

From: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 March 2024 11:19 am
To: Ingrid Tiriana <Ingrid.Tiriana@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: FW: Rainbow statement - please approve

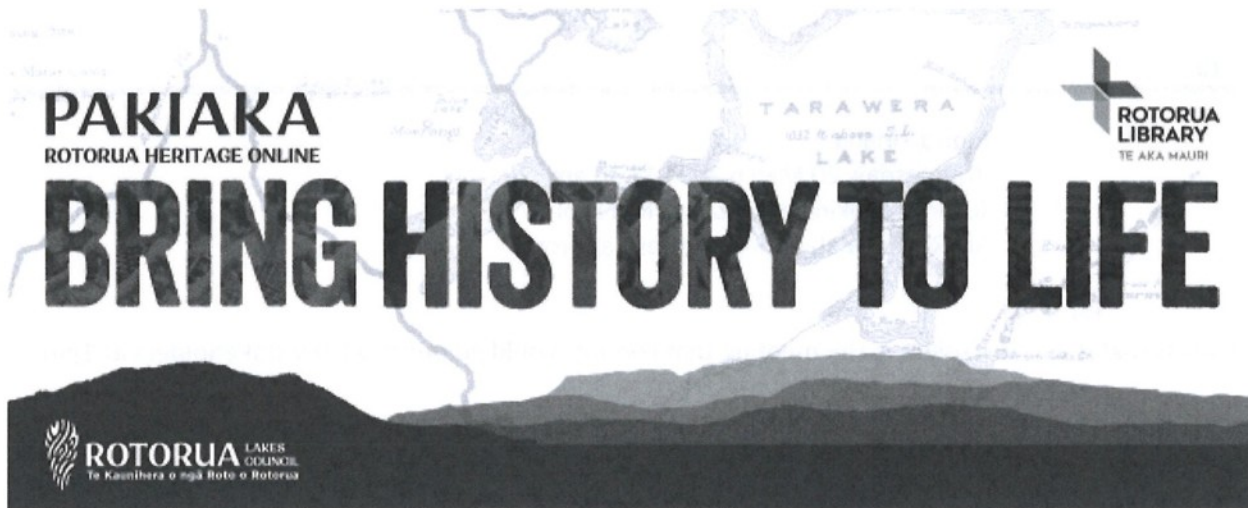
Just meeting with my team.

What point do we put on social media and those who registered?

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri

P: [+64 7 3517640](tel:+6473517640)

M: [+64 0272426235](tel:+640272426235)



From: Gina Rangi <Gina.Rangi@rotorualc.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, 20 March 2024 10:28 am

To: Ingrid Tiriana <Ingrid.Tiriana@rotorualc.nz>; Andrew Moraes <Andrew.Moraes@rotorualc.nz>; Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>; Thomas Colle <Thomas.Colle@rotorualc.nz>; Nikoletta Michael <Nikoletta.Michael@rotorualc.nz>; Mihikore Owen <Mihikore.Owen@rotorualc.nz>; Suzanne McNicol <Suzanne.McNicol@rotorualc.nz>

Subject: RE: Rainbow statement - please approve

Can we say we also are disappointed?

From: Ingrid Tiriana <Ingrid.Tiriana@rotorualc.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, 20 March 2024 10:15 am

To: Andrew Moraes <Andrew.Moraes@rotorualc.nz>; Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>; Thomas Colle <Thomas.Colle@rotorualc.nz>; Nikoletta Michael <Nikoletta.Michael@rotorualc.nz>; Mihikore Owen <Mihikore.Owen@rotorualc.nz>; Suzanne McNicol <Suzanne.McNicol@rotorualc.nz>; Gina Rangi <Gina.Rangi@rotorualc.nz>

Subject: Rainbow statement - please approve

Kia ora,

Suzanne has asked me to finalise the draft statement, as per this morning's meeting.

Can you all please take a look and flag any issues or approve.

As outlined in this morning's meeting, the intention is to co-ordinate communications to library staff, other RLC staff, elected members and the event performers (and Julianne I assume Friends of the Library) at **1pm**.

We will then provide the statement to media who have contacted us – namely Radio NZ and our Local Democracy Reporter.

Any other media will be provided with the same statement, noting to all media that RLC has nothing to add at this time.

Please get back to me as soon as is possible.

Thank you
Nga mihi nui
Ingrid

Ingrid Tiriana *Kaihautū Whakapā/Council Communications Manager*

P: 07 351 8110 | **M:** 021 190 8868

E: ingrid.tiriana@rotorualc.nz | **W:** rotorualakescouncil.nz

A: 1061 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

ROTORUA
LAKES COUNCIL

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From: Ingrid Tiriana
Sent: Wednesday, 20 March 2024 12:13 pm
To: Andrew Moraes; Suzanne McNicol
Subject: Draft emails to elected members and staff

Hi again Andrew,

Below, based on the statement we will be issuing to media, are draft emails to come from you at 1pm to RLC staff and elected members re the decision about Rainbow Storytime. Let me know if you are happy with these or if you want any changes and we'll get Kim to send them out on your behalf:

FOR ELECTED MEMBERS

Kia ora elected members,

You will likely be aware of some controversy surrounding an event called Rainbow Storytime that was planned to be held at Rotorua Library this Thursday and has also had some media attention.

Due to safety concerns, following internal discussions and discussions with the police, we have had to make the decision to cancel the event.

Key stakeholders are being informed and the following statement, which outlines the reasons for the decision, will be issued to media outlets who have contacted us to enquire about the event:

Statement re Rainbow Storytime event, Rotorua Library:

Rainbow Storytime is a family friendly event aimed at younger children, incorporating book reading, singing and dancing. The event is focussed on acceptance, anti-bullying, inclusion, being kind and having confidence in yourself. It has been a popular event in many other libraries and registrations for the event at Rotorua Library were full.

Unfortunately, due to safety concerns, we have had to make the decision to cancel the event.

We know this will also be extremely disappointing for the children, their parents and other community members who wanted to participate in an entertaining and empowering learning experience.

Rotorua Library is an inclusive and safe space that encourages understanding and tolerance in our community and we have received a lot of positive feedback and support for the event. Unfortunately, not all our residents feel the same way and we have become aware that protests have been organised that change the security profile of this event.

We acknowledge people's right to peaceful protest and made multiple attempts to contact representatives of the protests to ask that they respect the space, library users and those who had chosen to attend the event.

Unfortunately, there has been no response from these representatives.

Without these assurances, Council needed to review its security plan for Rainbow Storytime. We considered the hostile dialogue on social media and the rapid spread of misinformation about the performers and the purpose of the event as key factors.

The safety of people attending our events, and our staff, is a priority and this is especially important for events designed for young children. Having met with Police and our community safety team, despite our best efforts, we have regretfully decided that our security resource is insufficient to ensure the safety of library users and event attendees given the lack of information about the intended protests.

We are disappointed we have been obliged to make this decision. It reflects the change in circumstances rather than a change in the values of inclusivity, anti-bullying and positivity.

We have notified attendees that we have cancelled the event.

FOR RLC STAFF

Kia ora koutou,

You may be aware of some controversy surrounding an event called Rainbow Storytime that was planned to be held at Rotorua Library this Thursday and has also had some media attention.

This is a family friendly event aimed at younger children, incorporating book reading, singing and dancing. The event is focussed on acceptance, anti-bullying, inclusion, being kind and having confidence in yourself. It has been a popular event in many other libraries and registrations for the event at Rotorua Library were full.

Unfortunately, due to safety concerns, we've had to make the decision to cancel the event.

Rotorua Library is an inclusive and safe space that encourages understanding and tolerance in our community and we received a lot of positive feedback and support for the event. However, we also became aware of protests being planned and that changed the security profile for this event. As you know, community safety is a key priority for us, especially the safety of children.

While we acknowledge people's right to peaceful protest, we've been unable to contact protest representatives to seek assurances from them that they would respect the space, event attendees and other library users. That required us to review our security plans for the event and having met with police and taken everything into consideration, including some hostile dialogue on social media, we had to make the call to cancel.

This is disappointing for us and I want to assure you that the decision reflects a change in circumstances rather than a change in the values of inclusivity, anti-bullying and positivity that we all cherish.

Ingrid Tiriana *Kaihautū Whakapā/Council Communications Manager*

P: 07 351 8110 | **M:** 021 190 8868

E: ingrid.tiriana@rotorualc.nz | **W:** rotorualakescouncil.nz

A: 1061 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

ROTORUA
LAKES COUNCIL

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From: Ingrid Tiriana
Sent: Wednesday, 20 March 2024 12:26 pm
To: Kim McGrath
Subject: emails to send on behalf of AM please

Hi Kim, below are 2 emails, one for elected members and one for staff, to be sent from AM please at 1pm. I don't know how he signs off so have left that, hoping you can add that?

FOR ELECTED MEMBERS

Kia ora elected members,

You will likely be aware of some controversy surrounding an event called Rainbow Storytime that was planned to be held at Rotorua Library this Thursday and has also had some media attention.

Due to safety concerns, following internal discussions and discussions with the police, we have had to make the decision to cancel the event.

Key stakeholders are being informed and the following statement, which outlines the reasons for the decision, will be issued to media outlets who have contacted us to enquire about the event:

Statement re Rainbow Storytime event, Rotorua Library:

Rainbow Storytime is a family friendly event aimed at younger children, incorporating book reading, singing and dancing. The event is focussed on acceptance, anti-bullying, inclusion, being kind and having confidence in yourself. It has been a popular event in many other libraries and registrations for the event at Rotorua Library were full.

Unfortunately, due to safety concerns, we have had to make the decision to cancel the event.

We know this will also be extremely disappointing for the children, their parents and other community members who wanted to participate in an entertaining and empowering learning experience.

Rotorua Library is an inclusive and safe space that encourages understanding and tolerance in our community and we have received a lot of positive feedback and support for the event. Unfortunately, not all our residents feel the same way and we have become aware that protests have been organised that change the security profile of this event.

We acknowledge people's right to peaceful protest and made multiple attempts to contact representatives of the protests to ask that they respect the space, library users and those who had chosen to attend the event.

Unfortunately, there has been no response from these representatives.

Without these assurances, Council needed to review its security plan for Rainbow Storytime. We considered the hostile dialogue on social media and the rapid spread of misinformation about the performers and the purpose of the event as key factors.

The safety of people attending our events, and our staff, is a priority and this is especially important for events designed for young children. Having met with Police and our community safety team, despite our best efforts, we

have regretfully decided that our security resource is insufficient to ensure the safety of library users and event attendees given the lack of information about the intended protests.

We are disappointed we have been obliged to make this decision. It reflects the change in circumstances rather than a change in the values of inclusivity, anti-bullying and positivity.

We have notified attendees that we have cancelled the event.

FOR RLC STAFF

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Unfortunately, due to safety concerns, we've had to make the decision to cancel the event.

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While we acknowledge people's right to peaceful protest, we've been unable to contact protest representatives to seek assurances from them that they would respect the space, event attendees and other library users. That required us to review our security plans for the event and having met with police and taken everything into consideration, including some hostile dialogue on social media, we had to make the call to cancel.

This is disappointing for us and I want to assure you that the decision reflects a change in circumstances rather than a change in the values of inclusivity, anti-bullying and positivity that we all cherish.

Ingrid Tiriana Kaihautū Whakapā/Council Communications Manager

P: 07 351 8110 | M: 021 190 8868

E: ingrid.tiriana@rotorualc.nz | W: rotorualakescouncil.nz

A: 1061 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

ROTORUA
LAKES COUNCIL

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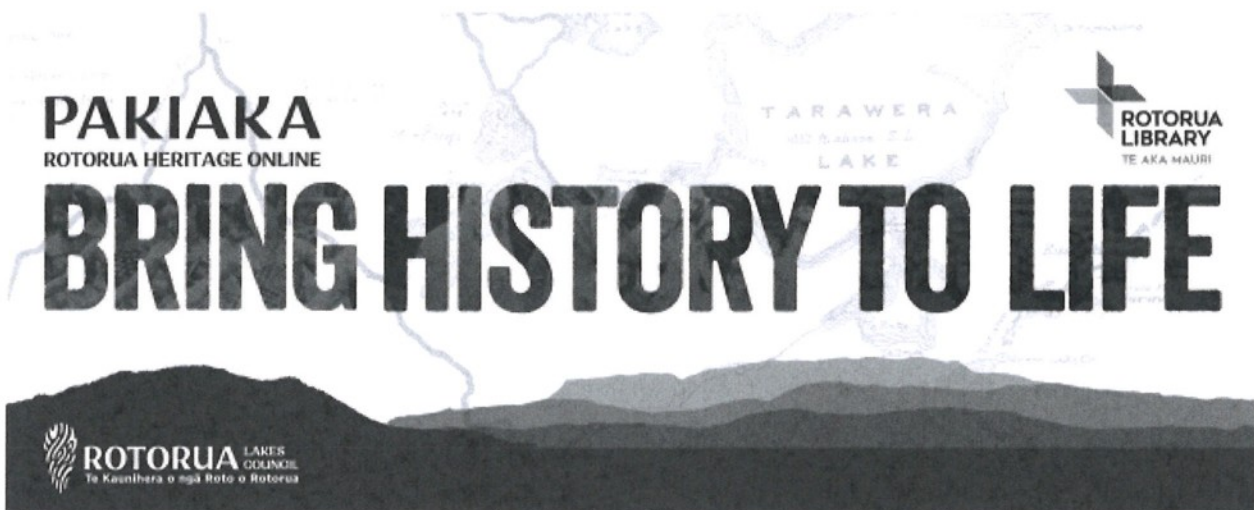
From: Julianne Wilkinson
Sent: Wednesday, 20 March 2024 12:30 pm
To: Ingrid Tiriana
Subject: RE: FINAL - statement

Great thank you. Suze will draft a header for our social media and those that registered. I'll add the link.

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri

P: +64 7 3517640

M: +64 0272426235



From: Ingrid Tiriana <Ingrid.Tiriana@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 March 2024 12:25 pm
To: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: FINAL - statement

Hi Julianne,

Attached is final version of the statement.

I'll load this to our website under our media enquiries and will send you the link so that you can use that link in your social media post.

Ing

Ingrid Tiriana *Kaihautū Whakapā/Council Communications Manager*
P: 07 351 8110 | M: 021 190 8868
E: ingrid.tiriana@rotorualc.nz | W: rotorualakescouncil.nz
A: 1061 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

ROTORUA
LAKES COUNCIL

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STATEMENT FOR MEDIA

Rainbow Storytime is a family friendly event aimed at younger children, incorporating book reading, singing and dancing. The event is focussed on acceptance, anti-bullying, inclusion, being kind and having confidence in yourself. It has been a popular event in many other libraries and registrations for the event at Rotorua Library were full.

Unfortunately, due to safety concerns, we have had to make the decision to cancel the event.

We know this will also be extremely disappointing for the children, their parents and other community members who wanted to participate in an entertaining and empowering learning experience.

Rotorua Library is an inclusive and safe space that encourages understanding and tolerance in our community and we have received a lot of positive feedback and support for the event. Unfortunately, not all our residents feel the same way and we have become aware that protests have been organised that change the security profile of this event.

We acknowledge people's right to peaceful protest and made multiple attempts to contact representatives of the protests to ask that they respect the space, library users and those who had chosen to attend the event. Unfortunately, there has been no response from these representatives.

Without these assurances, Council needed to review its security plan for Rainbow Storytime. We considered the hostile dialogue on social media and the rapid spread of misinformation about the performers and the purpose of the event as key factors.

The safety of people attending our events, and our staff, is a priority and this is especially important for events designed for young children. Having met with Police and our community safety team, despite our best efforts, we have regretfully decided that our security resource is insufficient to ensure the safety of library users and event attendees given the lack of information about the intended protests.

We are disappointed we have been obliged to make this decision. It reflects the change in circumstances rather than a change in the values of inclusivity, anti-bullying and positivity.

We have notified attendees that we have cancelled the event.

Sent for final approval to:

Suzanne McNicol	approved
Andrew Moraes	Changes suggested (done)

Thomas Collé	approved
Gina Rangi	Add RLC is disappointed (done) approved
Nikoletta Michael	Changes suggested (done) approved
Mihikore Owen	Approved new version
Julianne Wilkinson	approved new version with changes from Gina, Andrew and Nikoletta incorporated

FOR ELECTED MEMBERS

Kia ora elected members,

You will likely be aware of some controversy surrounding an event called Rainbow Storytime that was planned to be held at Rotorua Library this Thursday and has also had some media attention.

Due to safety concerns, following internal discussions and discussions with the police, we have had to make the decision to cancel the event.

Key stakeholders are being informed and the following statement, which outlines the reasons for the decision, will be issued to media outlets who have contacted us to enquire about the event:

Statement re Rainbow Storytime event, Rotorua Library:

Rainbow Storytime is a family friendly event aimed at younger children, incorporating book reading, singing and dancing. The event is focussed on acceptance, anti-bullying, inclusion, being kind and having confidence in yourself. It has been a popular event in many other libraries and registrations for the event at Rotorua Library were full.

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The safety of people attending our events, and our staff, is a priority and this is especially important for events designed for young children. Having met with Police and our community safety team, despite our best efforts, we have regretfully decided that our security resource is insufficient to ensure the safety of library users and event attendees given the lack of information about the intended protests.

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We have notified attendees that we have cancelled the event.

FOR RLC STAFF

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This is disappointing for us and I want to assure you that the decision reflects a change in circumstances rather than a change in the values of inclusivity, anti-bullying and positivity that we all cherish.

From: Suzanne McNicol
Sent: Wednesday, 20 March 2024 12:45 pm
To: Julianne Wilkinson
Cc: Ingrid Tiriana
Subject: FB Message and email StoryTime
Attachments: Rainbow Story Time Statement FINAL.docx

Hi there

Sorry for delay. Added copy for email to registered attendees and for FB post. Can you team whip up an image to say event is cancelled please? Mine are all out. Or send as is. Ing will send you link to web article for FB post at 1.00 pm once it has been sent to media.

S

Suzanne McNicol *Kaihaūtū Whakapa* | *Director Marketing & Communications*
P: 07 351 8262 | **M:** 027 226 6053
E: suzanne.mcnicol@rotorualc.nz | **W:** rotorualakescouncil.nz
A: 1061 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand



DRAFT STATEMENT

Rainbow Storytime is a family friendly event aimed at younger children, incorporating book reading, singing and dancing. The event is focussed on acceptance, anti-bullying, inclusion, being kind and having confidence in yourself. It has been a popular event in many other libraries and registrations for the event at Rotorua Library were full.

Unfortunately, due to safety concerns, we have had to make the decision to cancel the event.

We know this will be extremely disappointing for the children, their parents and caregivers, and other members of our community who wanted to participate in an entertaining and empowering learning experience.

The Rotorua Library is an inclusive and safe space that encourages understanding and tolerance in our community and we have received a lot of positive feedback and support for the event. Unfortunately, not all our residents feel the same way and we have become aware that protests have been organised that change the security profile of this event.

We respect people's right to peaceful protest and made multiple attempts to contact representatives of the protests to ask that any protestors respect the space, library users and those who had chosen to attend the event. Unfortunately we have not had a response from these representatives.

Without these assurances, Council needed to review its security plan for Rainbow Storytime. We considered the hostile dialogue on social media and the rapid spread of misinformation about the performers and the purpose of the event as key factors.

The physical safety of people attending our events, and our staff, is a priority and this is especially important for events designed for young children. Having met with Police and our community safety team, despite our best efforts, we have regretfully decided that our security resource is insufficient to ensure the safety of library users and event attendees given the lack of information about the protests.

Rotorua Lakes Council is disappointed that we've been obliged to make this decision. It reflects the change in circumstances, not a change in the values of inclusivity, anti-bullying and positivity that we all cherish.

We have notified attendees that we have cancelled the event.

For Rotorua Library Facebook

We are sorry to announce that the Rainbow Storytime event scheduled for tomorrow at 10.30am has been cancelled due to safety concerns. It has been a popular event in many other libraries and registrations for the event at Rotorua Library were full.

The Rotorua Library is an inclusive and safe space that encourages understanding and tolerance in our community and we have received a lot of positive feedback and support for the event. Unfortunately, not all our residents feel the same way and we have become aware that protests have been organised that change the security profile of this event.

Click [here](#) to read more information

Commented [SM1]: Ingrid will send link at 1 pm

- Can use image of Rainbow Storytime with 'Event Cancelled' . Can your team do this?

For registered attendees by email

Tēnā koe

Thank you for registering for the Rainbow Storytime event at Rotorua Library on March 21st. We are sorry to announce that the event has been cancelled due to safety concerns. We know this will be extremely disappointing for your children and for you as their parents and caregivers, as well as other members of our community who wanted to participate in an entertaining and empowering learning experience.

It has been a popular event in many other libraries and registrations for the event at Rotorua Library were full.

The Rotorua Library is an inclusive and safe space that encourages understanding and tolerance in our community and we have received a lot of positive feedback and support for the event. Unfortunately, not all our residents feel the same way and we have become aware that protests have been organised that change the security profile of this event.

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Nāku noa, nā

Julianne Wilkinson

From: Kim McGrath on behalf of Andrew Moraes
Sent: Wednesday, 20 March 2024 1:03 pm
To: All RDC Staff
Subject: HEADS UP re: Rainbow Storytime event

Kia ora koutou,

You may be aware of some controversy surrounding an event called Rainbow Storytime that was planned to be held at Rotorua Library this Thursday and has also had some media attention.

This is a family friendly event aimed at younger children, incorporating book reading, singing and dancing. The event is focussed on acceptance, anti-bullying, inclusion, being kind and having confidence in yourself. It has been a popular event in many other libraries and registrations for the event at Rotorua Library were full.

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This is disappointing for us and I want to assure you that the decision reflects a change in circumstances rather than a change in the values of inclusivity, anti-bullying and positivity that we all cherish.

Ngā mihi

Andrew



Andrew Moraes

Toihautū | Chief Executive

P: +64 7 351 8320

M: +64 27 408 8418

E: Andrew.Moraes@rotorualc.nz

A: Civic Centre, 1061 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

W: rotorualakescouncil.nz



From: Kim McGrath on behalf of Andrew Moraes
Sent: Wednesday, 20 March 2024 1:03 pm
To: RLC Councillors; Rural Community Board; Lakes Community Board
Subject: HEADS UP re: Rainbow Storytime event

Kia ora elected members,

You will likely be aware of some controversy surrounding an event called Rainbow Storytime that was planned to be held at Rotorua Library this Thursday and has also had some media attention.

Due to safety concerns, following internal discussions and discussions with the police, we have had to make the decision to cancel the event.

Key stakeholders are being informed and the following statement, which outlines the reasons for the decision, will be issued to media outlets who have contacted us to enquire about the event:

Statement re Rainbow Storytime event, Rotorua Library:

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The safety of people attending our events, and our staff, is a priority and this is especially important for events designed for young children. Having met with Police and our community safety team, despite our best efforts, we have regretfully decided that our security resource is insufficient to ensure the safety of library users and event attendees given the lack of information about the intended protests.

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Ngā mihi

Andrew



Andrew Moraes

Toihautū | Chief Executive

P: +64 7 351 8320

M: +64 27 408 8418

E: Andrew.Moraes@rotorualc.nz

A: Civic Centre, 1061 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

W: rotorualakescouncil.nz



From: Library Generic
Sent: Wednesday, 20 March 2024 1:07 pm
To: Library Generic
Subject: Rainbow Storytime event

Tēnā koe,

Thank you for registering for the Rainbow Storytime event at Rotorua Library on March 21st. We are sorry to announce that the event has been cancelled due to safety concerns. We know this will be extremely disappointing for your children and for you as their parents and caregivers, as well as other members of our community who wanted to participate in an entertaining and empowering learning experience.

It has been a popular event in many other libraries and registrations for the event at Rotorua Library were full.

The Rotorua Library is an inclusive and safe space that encourages understanding and tolerance in our community and we have received a lot of positive feedback and support for the event. Unfortunately, not all our residents feel the same way and we have become aware that protests have been organised that change the security profile of this event.

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Rotorua Lakes Council is disappointed that we've been obliged to make this decision. It reflects the change in circumstances, not a change in the values of inclusivity, anti-bullying and positivity that we all cherish.

Nāku noa, nā

Julianne Wilkinson

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri

From: Julianne Wilkinson
Sent: Wednesday, 20 March 2024 1:11 pm
To: HOF Bookings
Cc: Kylie Holmes
Subject: Rotorua event cancellation

Importance: High

Kia ora Sunita,

I am sorry to let you know that the decision has been made to cancel tomorrow's Rainbow Storytime event due to safety concerns.

We know this will be extremely disappointing for you as well as for the children and their parents and caregivers who had registered, who wanted to participate in an entertaining and empowering learning experience.

The Rotorua Library is committed to being an inclusive and safe space that encourages understanding and tolerance in our community and we have received a lot of positive feedback and support for the event. Unfortunately, not all our residents feel the same way and we have become aware that protests have been organised that change the security profile of this event.

We respect people's right to peaceful protest and made multiple attempts to contact representatives of the protests to ask that any protestors respect the space, library users and those who had chosen to attend the event.

Unfortunately, we have not had a response from these representatives. Without these assurances, Council needed to review its security plan for Rainbow Storytime. We considered the hostile dialogue on social media and the rapid spread of misinformation about you and Daniel as the performers and the purpose of the event as key factors.

The physical safety of people attending our events, and our staff, is a priority and this is especially important for events designed for young children. Having met with Police and our community safety team, despite our best efforts, we have regretfully decided that our security resource is insufficient to ensure the safety of library users and event attendees given the lack of information about the protests.

We are really disappointed that we've been obliged to make this decision. It reflects the change in circumstances, not a change in the values of inclusivity, anti-bullying and positivity that we all cherish. This does not mean we will not consider this or similar events in the future, it just means we will need to provide more resources to planning and delivery to ensure people are safe.

I will give you a call too.

Nga mihi,

Julianne



Julianne Wilkinson

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri

Te Aka Mauri | Rotorua Library

P: [+64 7 3517640](tel:+6473517640)

M: [+64 0272426235](tel:+640272426235)

E: julianne.wilkinson@rotorualc.nz

A: Civic Centre, 1061 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

W: rotorualakescouncil.nz



From: Ingrid Tiriana
Sent: Wednesday, 20 March 2024 1:13 pm
To: Julianne Wilkinson
Subject: RE: Let me know when you've sent your comms so I can send to media

Ka pai, we'll give it until 1.30pm, then I'll send you the link

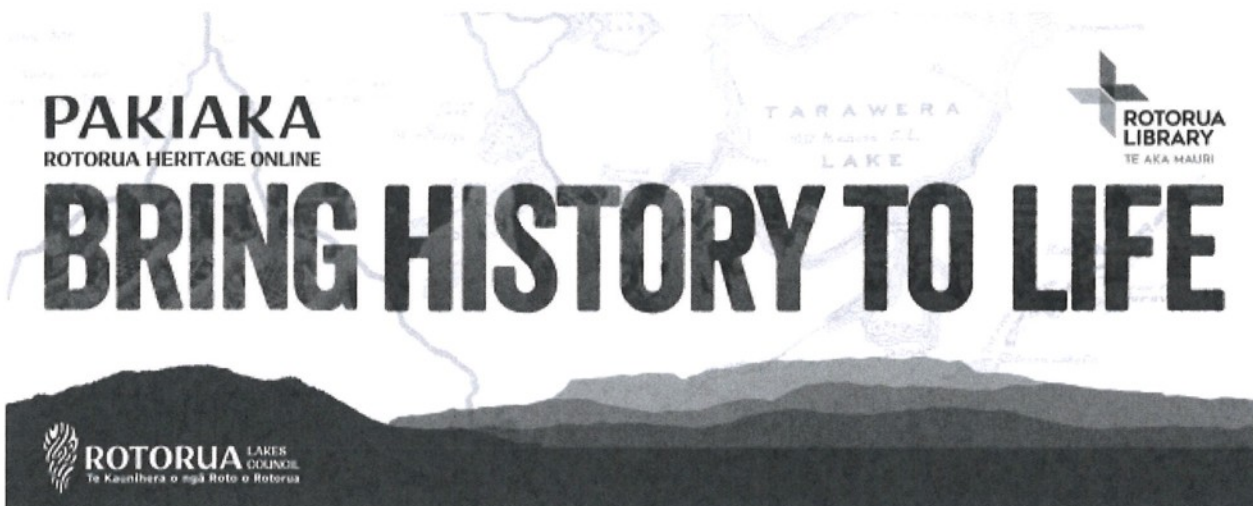
From: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 March 2024 1:12 pm
To: Ingrid Tiriana <Ingrid.Tiriana@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: RE: Let me know when you've sent your comms so I can send to media

I have now sent to those who have registered and to Rainbow Story time.

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri

P: [+64 7 3517640](tel:+6473517640)

M: [+64 0272426235](tel:+640272426235)



From: Ingrid Tiriana <Ingrid.Tiriana@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 March 2024 1:05 pm
To: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: Let me know when you've sent your comms so I can send to media

Ingrid Tiriana *Kaihautū Whakapā/Council Communications Manager*
P: [07 351 8110](tel:073518110) | M: [021 190 8868](tel:0211908868)
E: ingrid.tiriana@rotorualc.nz | W: rotorualakescouncil.nz
A: 1061 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

ROTORUA
LAKES COUNCIL

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From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 20 March 2024 1:17 pm
To: Library Generic
Subject: Re: Rainbow Storytime event

Kia ora Julianne,

So sad to read about having to cancel this wonderful event: Rainbow Storytime.

Isn't it a shame that some people in our community ain't as open and accepting of others.

Kind regards

s7(2)(a)

On Wed, Mar 20, 2024 at 1:07 PM Library Generic <Library@rotorualc.nz> wrote:

Tēnā koe,

Thank you for registering for the Rainbow Storytime event at Rotorua Library on March 21st. We are sorry to announce that the event has been cancelled due to safety concerns. We know this will be extremely disappointing for your children and for you as their parents and caregivers, as well as other members of our community who wanted to participate in an entertaining and empowering learning experience.

It has been a popular event in many other libraries and registrations for the event at Rotorua Library were full.

The Rotorua Library is an inclusive and safe space that encourages understanding and tolerance in our community and we have received a lot of positive feedback and support for the event. Unfortunately, not all our residents feel the same way and we have become aware that protests have been organised that change the security profile of this event.

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Without these assurances, Council needed to review its security plan for Rainbow Storytime. We considered the hostile dialogue on social media and the rapid spread of misinformation about the performers and the purpose of the event as key factors.

The physical safety of people attending our events, and our staff, is a priority and this is especially important for events designed for young children. Having met with Police and our community safety team, despite our best efforts, we have regretfully decided that our security resource is insufficient to ensure the safety of library users and event attendees given the lack of information about the protests.

Rotorua Lakes Council is disappointed that we've been obliged to make this decision. It reflects the change in circumstances, not a change in the values of inclusivity, anti-bullying and positivity that we all cherish.

Nāku noa, nā

Julianne Wilkinson

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri

From: Ingrid Tiriana
Sent: Wednesday, 20 March 2024 1:20 pm
To: Mihikore Owen
Subject: RLC statement re Rainbow Storytime

Hi Mihi,

The below statement will be issued to media at 1.30pm regarding the decision by RLC to cancel the Rainbow Storytime event at Rotorua Library this week. Please share with relevant police contacts. Thank you

STATEMENT FROM RLC

Rainbow Storytime is a family friendly event aimed at younger children, incorporating book reading, singing and dancing. The event is focussed on acceptance, anti-bullying, inclusion, being kind and having confidence in yourself. It has been a popular event in many other libraries and registrations for the event at Rotorua Library were full.

Unfortunately, due to safety concerns, we have had to make the decision to cancel the event.

We know this will also be extremely disappointing for the children, their parents and other community members who wanted to participate in an entertaining and empowering learning experience.

Rotorua Library is an inclusive and safe space that encourages understanding and tolerance in our community and we have received a lot of positive feedback and support for the event. Unfortunately, not all our residents feel the same way and we have become aware that protests have been organised that change the security profile of this event.

We acknowledge people's right to peaceful protest and made multiple attempts to contact representatives of the protests to ask that they respect the space, library users and those who had chosen to attend the event. Unfortunately, there has been no response from these representatives.

Without these assurances, Council needed to review its security plan for Rainbow Storytime. We considered the hostile dialogue on social media and the rapid spread of misinformation about the performers and the purpose of the event as key factors.

The safety of people attending our events, and our staff, is a priority and this is especially important for events designed for young children. Having met with Police and our community safety team, despite our best efforts, we have regretfully decided that our security resource is insufficient to ensure the safety of library users and event attendees given the lack of information about the intended protests.

We are disappointed we have been obliged to make this decision. It reflects the change in circumstances rather than a change in the values of inclusivity, anti-bullying and positivity.

We have notified attendees that we have cancelled the event.

Ingrid Tiriana *Kaihautū Whakapā/Council Communications Manager*
P: [07 351 8110](tel:073518110) | **M:** [021 190 8868](tel:0211908868)
E: ingrid.tiriana@rotorualc.nz | **W:** rotorualakescouncil.nz
A: 1061 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

ROTORUA
LAKES COUNCIL

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From: MALCOLM, Rebecca s7(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 20 March 2024 1:20 pm
To: Ingrid Tiriana
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RLC statement re Rainbow Storytime

No worries at all. I'll just flick on to the media team so they can see what's being said incase any questions come our way.

Nice to see you briefly at the weekend! Hopefully there'll be another comms catchup soon.

Thanks again.

From: Ingrid Tiriana <Ingrid.Tiriana@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 1:17 PM
To: MALCOLM, Rebecca s7(2)(a)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RLC statement re Rainbow Storytime

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Hi Bex,

The following statement will go to Radio NZ and our Local Democracy Reporter at 1.30pm regarding cancellation of the Rainbow Storytime event at Rotorua Library this week following discussions and consideration of all relevant matters. These are the two media outlets that have asked us for comment about the event. We won't have anything further to say at this stage and any other media who come will get the same statement.

I got this passed on to me this morning to finalise and organise sending out so apologies that I did not send you a copy before it was finalised. Didn't know that you were involved sorry.

It has been shared with key stakeholders like elected members, just now.

STATEMENT FROM RLC

Rainbow Storytime is a family friendly event aimed at younger children, incorporating book reading, singing and dancing. The event is focussed on acceptance, anti-bullying, inclusion, being kind and having confidence in yourself. It has been a popular event in many other libraries and registrations for the event at Rotorua Library were full.

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all our residents feel the same way and we have become aware that protests have been organised that change the security profile of this event.

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Without these assurances, Council needed to review its security plan for Rainbow Storytime. We considered the hostile dialogue on social media and the rapid spread of misinformation about the performers and the purpose of the event as key factors.

The safety of people attending our events, and our staff, is a priority and this is especially important for events designed for young children. Having met with Police and our community safety team, despite our best efforts, we have regretfully decided that our security resource is insufficient to ensure the safety of library users and event attendees given the lack of information about the intended protests.

We are disappointed we have been obliged to make this decision. It reflects the change in circumstances rather than a change in the values of inclusivity, anti-bullying and positivity.

We have notified attendees that we have cancelled the event.

Nga mihi
Ingrid

Ingrid Tiriana *Kaihautū Whakapā/Council Communications Manager*
P: 07 351 8110 | M: 021 190 8868
E: ingrid.tiriana@rotorualc.nz | W: rotorualakescouncil.nz
A: 1061 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

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From: Ingrid Tiriana
Sent: Wednesday, 20 March 2024 1:40 pm
To: 'Finn Blackwell'; News Rotorua
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] - RE: Media Inquiry

Kia ora Finn,

See below regarding Rainbow Storytime event. Nothing further at this stage:

STATEMENT FROM ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL

Rainbow Storytime is a family friendly event aimed at younger children, incorporating book reading, singing and dancing. The event is focussed on acceptance, anti-bullying, inclusion, being kind and having confidence in yourself. It has been a popular event in many other libraries and registrations for the event at Rotorua Library were full.

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We are disappointed we have been obliged to make this decision. It reflects the change in circumstances rather than a change in the values of inclusivity, anti-bullying and positivity.

We have notified attendees that we have cancelled the event. [ENDS]

Nga mihi
Ingrid

Ingrid Tiriana *Kaihautū Whakapā/Council Communications Manager*
P: 07 351 8110 | M: 021 190 8868
E: ingrid.tiriana@rotorualc.nz | W: rotorualakescouncil.nz
A: 1061 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

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From: Finn Blackwell <Finn.Blackwell@rnz.co.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 March 2024 12:19 pm
To: Ingrid Tiriana <Ingrid.Tiriana@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] - RE: Media Inquiry

Thanks Ingrid,

Appreciate you letting me know, would you be able to provide a statement today instead?

All the best,
Finn

Finn Blackwell | Reporter
Radio New Zealand
+6421870379



rnz.co.nz

From: Ingrid Tiriana <Ingrid.Tiriana@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 March 2024 12:08 pm
To: Finn Blackwell <Finn.Blackwell@rnz.co.nz>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] - RE: Media Inquiry

Hi Finn,

Sorry, no, it doesn't look like we'll be able to get back to you until tomorrow. If there's nobody available for interview we'll look to provide a statement instead.

Nga mihi
Ingrid

Ingrid Tiriana *Kaihautū Whakapā/Council Communications Manager*
P: 07 351 8110 | M: 021 190 8868



E: ingrid.tiriana@rotorualc.nz | W: rotorualakescouncil.nz
A: 1061 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

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From: Finn Blackwell <Finn.Blackwell@rnz.co.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 March 2024 12:02 pm
To: Ingrid Tiriana <Ingrid.Tiriana@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] - RE: Media Inquiry

Hi Ingrid,

Just checking in on this, do you think someone will be available before 2pm today?

All the best,
Finn

Finn Blackwell | Reporter

Radio New Zealand
+6421870379



rnz.co.nz

From: Ingrid Tiriana <Ingrid.Tiriana@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 March 2024 10:03 am
To: Finn Blackwell <Finn.Blackwell@rnz.co.nz>; News Rotorua <News.Rotorua@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] - RE: Media Inquiry

Kia ora Finn,

Acknowledging we've received this and will get back to you.

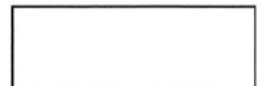
Nga mihi
Ingrid

Ingrid Tiriana *Kaihautū Whakapā/Council Communications Manager*

P: 07 351 8110 | M: 021 190 8868

E: ingrid.tiriana@rotorualc.nz | W: rotorualakescouncil.nz

A: 1061 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand



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From: Finn Blackwell <Finn.Blackwell@rnz.co.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 March 2024 9:30 am
To: News Rotorua <News.Rotorua@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: Media Inquiry

Mōrena,

I am looking into the press release from Brian Tamaki where he plans to disrupt the Drag Queens Rainbow Storytelling at the Rotorua Library this Thursday. Is there anyone from council free for a quick pre-recorded interview on reaction to this news and what is planned for the event? Let me know what time would work for you. My phone number is 021 870 379 if you have any questions.

Ngā mihi,
 Finn

Finn Blackwell | Reporter
 Radio New Zealand
 +6421870379



rnz.co.nz

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From: Ingrid Tiriana
Sent: Wednesday, 20 March 2024 1:41 pm
To: 'Laura Smith'; News Rotorua
Subject: RE: Rainbow Storytime

Kia ora Laura,

See below regarding Rainbow Storytime event. Nothing further at this stage:

STATEMENT FROM ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL

Rainbow Storytime is a family friendly event aimed at younger children, incorporating book reading, singing and dancing. The event is focussed on acceptance, anti-bullying, inclusion, being kind and having confidence in yourself. It has been a popular event in many other libraries and registrations for the event at Rotorua Library were full.

Unfortunately, due to safety concerns, we have had to make the decision to cancel the event.

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We are disappointed we have been obliged to make this decision. It reflects the change in circumstances rather than a change in the values of inclusivity, anti-bullying and positivity.

We have notified attendees that we have cancelled the event. [ENDS]

Nga mihi
Ingrid

Ingrid Tiriana *Kaihautū Whakapā/Council Communications Manager*

P: 07 351 8110 | **M:** 021 190 8868

E: ingrid.tiriana@rotorualc.nz | **W:** rotorualakescouncil.nz

A: 1061 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

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From: Laura Smith <laura.smith@nzme.co.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 19 March 2024 11:10 am

To: Ingrid Tiriana <Ingrid.Tiriana@rotorualc.nz>; News Rotorua <News.Rotorua@rotorualc.nz>

Subject: Re: Rainbow Storytime

Awesome thanks Ingrid - obviously wouldn't need it today but was keen to have it ready for Thursday.

I am also aware there is no more room for more attendees - can I ask if there was any extraordinary scrutiny as to who was registering? I.e. is there any chance these spots were taken up by protesters?

Thanks

LAURA SMITH

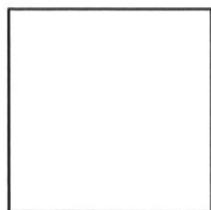
Local Democracy Reporter

M: 0273119367 **P:** 073439728

E: laura.smith@nzme.co.nz

ME: My pronouns are she/her

Bay of Plenty Times



From: Ingrid Tiriana <Ingrid.Tiriana@rotorualc.nz>

Sent: 19 March 2024 10:58

To: Laura Smith <laura.smith@nzme.co.nz>; News Rotorua <News.Rotorua@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: RE: Rainbow Storytime

Kia ora Laura,

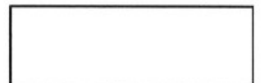
Your enquiry has been forwarded to the communications team.

Thanks for the heads up re your intention to be at the library during the event.

Regarding your questions, we'll get back to you. When will be dependent on staff's availability.

Nga mihi
Ingrid

Ingrid Tiriana *Kaihautū Whakapā/Council Communications Manager*
P: [07 351 8110](tel:073518110) | M: [021 190 8868](tel:0211908868)
E: ingrid.tiriana@rotorualc.nz | W: rotorualakescouncil.nz
A: 1061 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand



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From: Laura Smith <laura.smith@nzme.co.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 19 March 2024 10:19 AM

To: Library Generic <Library@rotorualc.nz>

Subject: Rainbow Storytime

Mōrena, hope all are well.

I have spoken with the hosts of Rainbow Storytime and will be attending their session on Thursday - I understand it is in a public space but wanted to give a heads up I'll be there given the nature of the event.

Both Sunita and Daniel will speak to me following the event. I will, of course, be sensitive of the children around including in any photography and reporting.

Sunita said the library has been trying for a few years now to host the pair but things like the pandemic got in the way - I think it was all pretty much covered off in the council meeting the other day and in the FAQ page but would anyone like to provide comment as to why the library wanted to host Rainbow Storytime, the impact it has on the Rotorua community (and its significance) and what it would say to any of the protestors planning to be there on the day?

Can I also ask how the protest will be managed? I.e. does the library have security etc to ensure the safety of children and public attending either the event or the library while the event is taking place?

I really appreciate if anyone were able to help with the above, please.

Many thanks

LAURA SMITH

Local Democracy Reporter

M: [0273119367](tel:0273119367) P: [073439728](tel:073439728)

E: laura.smith@nzme.co.nz

ME: My pronouns are she/her


Bay of Plenty Times


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From: Ingrid Tiriana
Sent: Wednesday, 20 March 2024 1:42 pm
To: Julianne Wilkinson
Subject: link for use with social media post

Here's the link to where the statement is, in response to media enquiries: [20 March 2024 - Rotorua Lakes Council](#)

Ingrid Tiriana *Kaihautū Whakapā/Council Communications Manager*
P: 07 351 8110 | M: 021 190 8868
E: ingrid.tiriana@rotorualc.nz | W: rotorualakescouncil.nz
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From: Julianne Wilkinson
Sent: Wednesday, 20 March 2024 1:50 pm
To: Library1
Subject: follow up regarding Rainbow Story Time
Attachments: HEADS UP re: Rainbow Storytime event

Kia ora e te whanau,

I'd just like to add a few notes in addition to Andrews email (attached) reading the need to cancel Rainbow Storytime here at the Library.

- Thank you to JD, Kylie and Tori and their wider teams who collectively have put in an amazing amount of work to see this event go ahead. This type of event totally represents what a Library should be about – representing the diversity in our community and promoting inclusivity and the opportunity to learn and understand others in order to contribute to a socially cohesive community.
- Thank you also to those of you who were ready to support the delivery of the event and those that had fielded enquiries and comments from our community, both positive and negative. I appreciate your considered approach and commitment to making the Library a safe yet interesting place for our community, and for each other to work in.
- A media statement has gone out as well as notification to those who registered. Some people may wish to comment to staff directly and, as I know you will, you will acknowledge people in a respectful way. If you are asked to provide feedback or comment to media please refer them to me.
- If you have any concerns or questions, like always, please talk to your supervisor or lead or to me.

Please note – there may still be a protest of sorts tomorrow anyway. We will provide additional support on the ground floor just in case and will have the added support of our Community Safety Team and Police should this not be peaceful or cause disturbance to our customers. In this regard wearing rainbow gear is not advisable.

Nag mihi
 Julianne



Julianne Wilkinson

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri

Te Aka Mauri | Rotorua Library

P: [+64 7 3517640](tel:+6473517640)

M: [+64 0272426235](tel:+640272426235)

E: julianne.wilkinson@rotorualc.nz

A: Civic Centre, 1061 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

W: rotorualakescouncil.nz



From: [Alyssa Rogers](#)
To: [Joanne Dillon](#)
Cc: [Maddie Palfrey](#)
Subject: Re: Cancellation of Rainbow Storytime event
Date: Wednesday, 20 March 2024 1:50:08 pm
Attachments: [image005.png](#)

We heard,
 Sending you and the team all our aroha and awahi.
 We know how hard you all worked and we are sad to see all of that go to waste but we hope that everyone will be safe.

If you ever want to team up in the future, we're always keen to do more queer events.
 Hopefully we get to meet you soon, if you need a drink we have our Friday Social at prince's Gate this Friday.

Rest up, take care.
 Lyssa

On Wed, 20 Mar 2024, 1:45 pm Joanne Dillon, <Joanne.Dillon@rotorualc.nz> wrote:

Kia ora Maddie and Lyssa,

We are sorry to announce that the Rainbow Storytime event scheduled for tomorrow at 10.30am has been cancelled due to safety concerns. It has been a popular event in many other libraries and registrations for the event at Rotorua Library were full.

The Rotorua Library is an inclusive and safe space that encourages understanding and tolerance in our community and we have received a lot of positive feedback and support for the event. Unfortunately, not all our residents feel the same way and we have become aware that protests have been organised that change the security profile of this event.

[Click here](#) to read more information.

Ngā mihi nui,

JD

Joanne Dillon, ALIANZA
 Adult Learning, Programmes and Promotions Lead - *Kaiturungi Whakatairanga*
Pakeke Ako
P: 07 351 7064
M: 027 263 0484
E: joanne.dillon@rotorualc.nz | **W:** rotorualibrary.govt.nz
A: 1127 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand
 PART OF ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL

Pakiaka live now - Facebook cover (1640 x 624)



From: [Maddie Palfrey](#)
To: [Joanne Dillon](#)
Subject: Re: Cancellation of Rainbow Storytime event
Date: Wednesday, 20 March 2024 1:57:52 pm
Attachments: [image005.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

This is absolutely heartbreaking. Sorry to hear that the decision was to cancel but safety should come first.

Violence and hate will never win but today they did.

This is a sad day for the LGBTIQ community and a safe day for Rotorua.

I hope this is not used as a catalyst for harrasing more of our events or shutting down and causing more harm to our community.

We understand that the safety of the children came first in the decision process but it's truly a shame to have to think about safety of our peaceful events now and in the future

Thank you for you correspondence and I hope we get to have more events in the future.

On Wed, 20 Mar 2024, 13:45 Joanne Dillon, <Joanne.Dillon@rotorualc.nz> wrote:

Kia ora Maddie and Lyssa,

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[Click here](#) to read more information.

Ngā mihi nui,

JD

Joanne Dillon, ALIANZA
 Adult Learning, Programmes and Promotions Lead - *Kaiurungi Whakatairanga*
Pakeke Ako
P: 07 351 7064
M: 027 263 0484
E: joanne.dillon@rotorualc.nz | **W:** rotorualibrary.govt.nz
A: 1127 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand
 PART OF ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL

Pakiaka live now - Facebook cover (1640 x 624)

From: Joanne Dillon
Sent: Wednesday, 20 March 2024 2:48 pm
To: Julianne Wilkinson
Subject: Screenshots
Attachments: Cancellation screenshots.docx



Joanne Dillon, ALIANZA
Adult Learning, Programmes and Promotions Lead - *Kaiurungi Whakatairanga Pakeke Ako*
P: 07 351 7064
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5

1

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JessWayne Whanau

I see the drag queen event has been cancelled. Can you tell me if these drag queens are pre vetted before they work with children ?

1 m [Send message](#) Unhide



**NujeanGena Baker**

30 m · 🌐

...



When you push back this is what happens.
The people's voice has been heard!

[Show Attachment](#)

3

1 comment



Like



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Most relevant ▾

**Chook Huata**

Jo Hooper I'd say Napier be the same some unruly people go to the library 🤔 lol

5 m · Like

**Layla Robinson**

17 m · 🌐

...

I AM HAPPY TO COME AND ASSIST LIBRARY SECURITY IN CONTAINING THE PROTESTORS!

Disappointing that the event couldn't still go ahead even with the protestors. I'd love to see who the bigots are in our community...

It would be great if moaners could just STAY IN THEIR LANE! No one was forcing anyone to go.
Fuck this makes me mad.

[Rotorua Library](#)[Show Attachment](#)

3

4 comments



Like



Comment



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Oldest ▾

**Deb Rowles**

I know shit right . Should host at Level 13 private venue 🌈

15 m · Like · Reply

**Layla Robinson**

Deb, that's a really good idea!

14 m · Like · Reply

**Deb Rowles**

Layla Robinson you can be security and pick me up cause I can't drive right now

9 m · Like · Reply

**Nanu Nanu**

Oh what the f... this sucks!

12 m · Like · Reply



Write a comment...




Derek Marina Tait
 22 m · 🌐

Good , foul event it was , let's keep getting these cancelled

[Show Attachment](#)




 21

1 comment

 Like
  Comment
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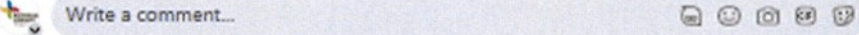

David-lee Manter
 They nuts fell out those mini skirts exposed for being clowns for the false agend lol

13 m · Like · Reply


Hio Vili
 26 m · 🌐

[Show Attachment](#)

 Like
  Comment
  Share




Elizabeth Tucker
 28 m · 🌐

Thank freaking goodness!

[Show Attachment](#)



 3

1 comment

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Peter Gunstone
 FFS

19 m · Like

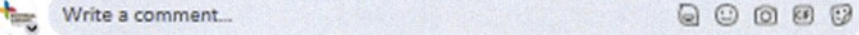

Michael Ngahuka
 29 m · 🌐

Great news for Rotorua.
 Let's go Hastings!
[Henare Ngaera O'Keefe](#)
[Henry Heke](#)
[Sandra Hazlehurst](#)

[Show Attachment](#)


 3

 Like
  Comment
  Share





Emma Jane Jacquet
35 m · 🌐

Praise God ❤️

[Show Attachment](#)

**9**

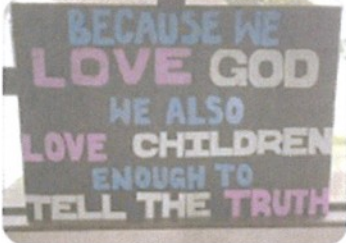
4 comments

**Like**

**Share**



Emma Jane Jacquet
Here's the safety concern everyone was so worried about. Terribly threatening...



34 m **Unhide**

**4**



Madeleine Quintal
Emma Jane Jacquet



13 m **Like**





Madeleine Quintal
This is good news! I hope we don't see them attempt this again in future. Pretty disappointing

14 m **Like**





Emma Jane Jacquet
Madeleine Quintal so awesome to see the Rotorua peoples' voices be heard. It was clear from the beginning that this is not what we wanted 🙏🙏🙏

2 m **Like**


Jocelle Hawira
 39 m · 🌐



[Show Attachment](#)




 8

1 comment

 Like
  Comment
  Share

Most relevant ▼




Aimee Wolfgramm
 Apparently candy floss and kid appropriate books and reading is dangerous and threatening 🤔

30 m Like Reply

2 🤔


Shane Mataira
 44 m · 🌐

[Show Attachment](#)




 5

1 comment 1 share

 Like
  Comment
  Share


John Te Kiri



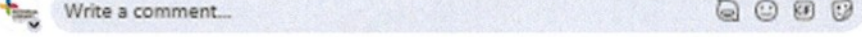
36 m Like Reply




Destiny Church Nelson
 45 m · 🌐

[Show Attachment](#)

 Like
  Comment
  Share




Martin Daly
 45 m · 🌐

[Show Attachment](#)




 18

4 comments 3 shares

 Like
  Comment
  Share

Most relevant ▾


Wendy Takamore Hiha
 Hehe good job! Well done all my Rotorua mates 🍷

39 m Like Reply


Rochelle Shaw


39 m Like Reply


NujeanGena Baker

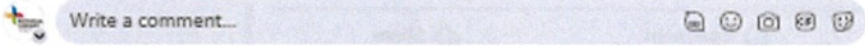




32 m Like Reply


Yvonne Peterson
 Yay

1 m Like Reply




Janelle Skudder
 50 m · 🌐

[Show Attachment](#)




 5

4 comments

 Like
  Comment
  Share

Most relevant ▾


Kiri Gillespie
 So disapointing!

44 m Like Reply


Janelle Skudder
 Kiri Gillespie It really is especially the 'due to safety concerns' part! Like WTF man! 🤔🤔

40 m Like Reply Edited

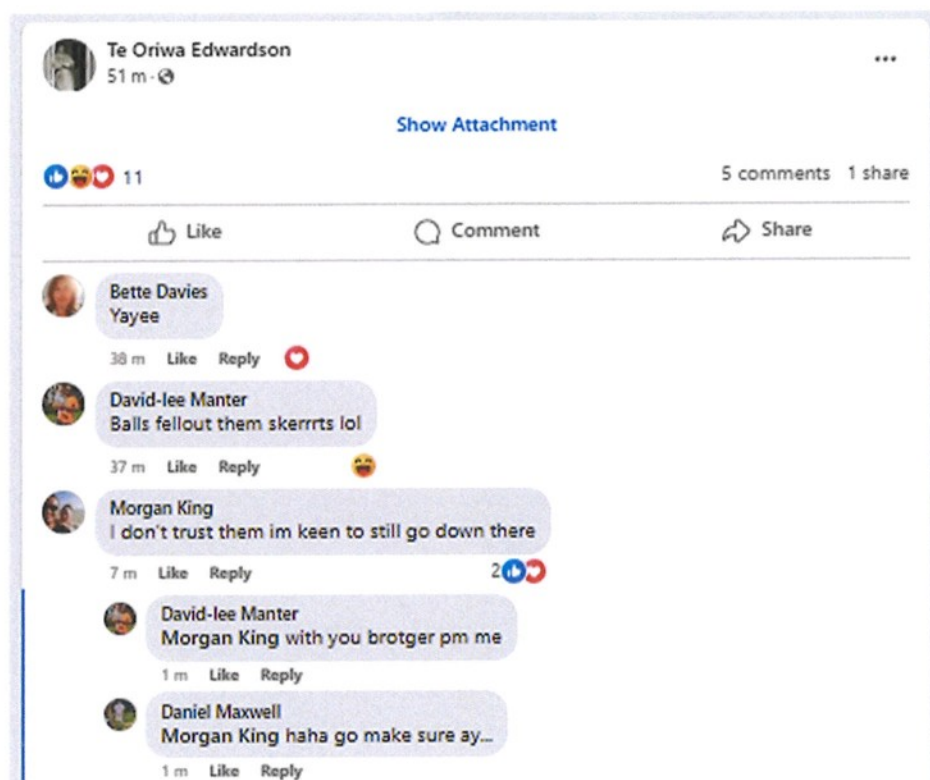

Billy TK & C00kers UnPlugged · Follow
 What a weak kneed cop out! Doesn't Rotorua have a police force?

38 m Like Reply


Janelle Skudder
 Billy TK & C00kers UnPlugged For sure, I guess because there will be kids there they want to stop it in case something does happen. So so disapointing! 🤔

34 m Like Reply





From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 20 March 2024 3:36 pm
To: Library Generic
Subject: Re: Rainbow Storytime event

Hi

Thank you for prioritizing safety. I appreciate it. I am of course disappointed that the event is cancelled. I was wondering if it will be rescheduled in the future with better security. At this point in time it feels as if the bigots have won.

Honestly it is very hurtful as a queer family to have this event canceled. I do appreciate you making this choice for the safety of our community. I just hate that it had to happen.

Thanks, s7(2)(a)

Thanks

On Wed, 20 Mar 2024, 1:07 pm Library Generic, <Library@rotorualc.nz> wrote:

Tēnā koe,

Thank you for registering for the Rainbow Storytime event at Rotorua Library on March 21st. We are sorry to announce that the event has been cancelled due to safety concerns. We know this will be extremely disappointing for your children and for you as their parents and caregivers, as well as other members of our community who wanted to participate in an entertaining and empowering learning experience.

It has been a popular event in many other libraries and registrations for the event at Rotorua Library were full.

The Rotorua Library is an inclusive and safe space that encourages understanding and tolerance in our community and we have received a lot of positive feedback and support for the event. Unfortunately, not all our residents feel the same way and we have become aware that protests have been organised that change the security profile of this event.

We respect people's right to peaceful protest and made multiple attempts to contact representatives of the protests to ask that any protestors respect the space, library users and those who had chosen to attend the event. Unfortunately, we have not had a response from these representatives.

Without these assurances, Council needed to review its security plan for Rainbow Storytime. We considered the hostile dialogue on social media and the rapid spread of misinformation about the performers and the purpose of the event as key factors.

The physical safety of people attending our events, and our staff, is a priority and this is especially important for events designed for young children. Having met with Police and our community safety team, despite our best efforts, we have regretfully decided that our security resource is insufficient to ensure the safety of library users and event attendees given the lack of information about the protests.

Rotorua Lakes Council is disappointed that we've been obliged to make this decision. It reflects the change in circumstances, not a change in the values of inclusivity, anti-bullying and positivity that we all cherish.

Nāku noa, nā

Julianne Wilkinson

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri

From: Kate Peterson <katemp@hdc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 March 2024 4:31 pm
To: Julianne Wilkinson
Subject: RE: Storytime protests

Yep, although I haven't had a chance to look since your news broke.

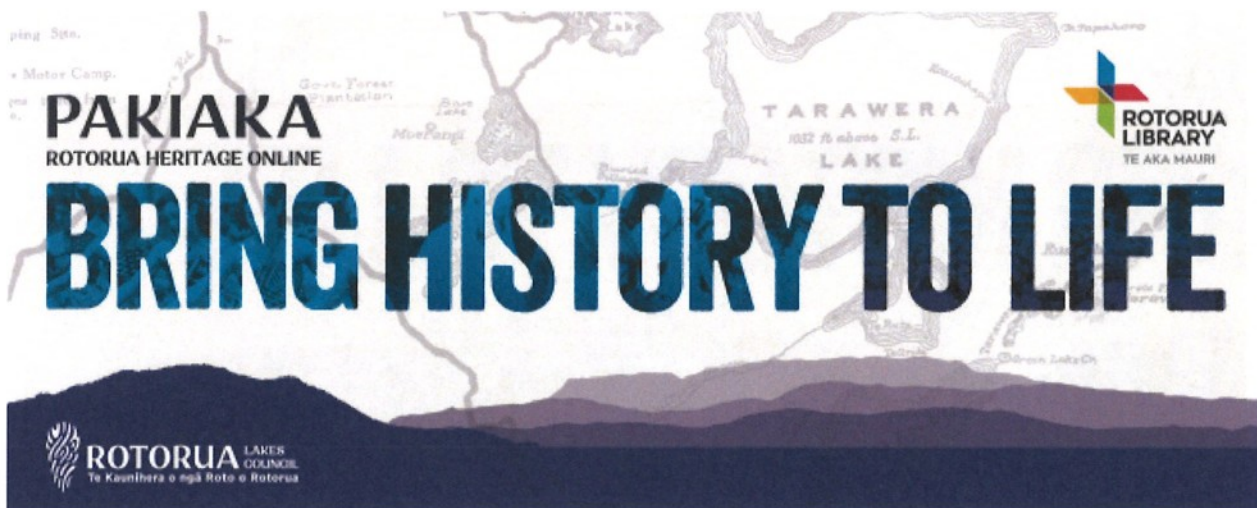
From: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 March 2024 4:18 PM
To: Kate Peterson <katemp@hdc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Storytime protests

I assume you are monitoring social media including Brian Tamaki?

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri

P: [+64 7 3517640](tel:+6473517640)

M: [+64 0272426235](tel:+640272426235)



From: Kate Peterson <katemp@hdc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 March 2024 4:16 pm
To: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: RE: Storytime protests

Oh no! That's terrible to hear but completely get it too. I'm so sorry this is happening.

We can probably manage with our facility, we only have two entrances and one can be exit only. Its all the other associated harm around it all that we are going to have to consider.

From: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 March 2024 1:54 PM

To: Kate Peterson <katemp@hdc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Storytime protests

Hi Kate

FYI we have decided to cancel. Our two main concerns was the unknown about the protest and our ability to manage Library access and inside the building. Media release below.

Happy to talk through with you as depending on your Library layout you may be able to mitigate risks better than we could.

20 March 2024 - Rotorua Lakes Council

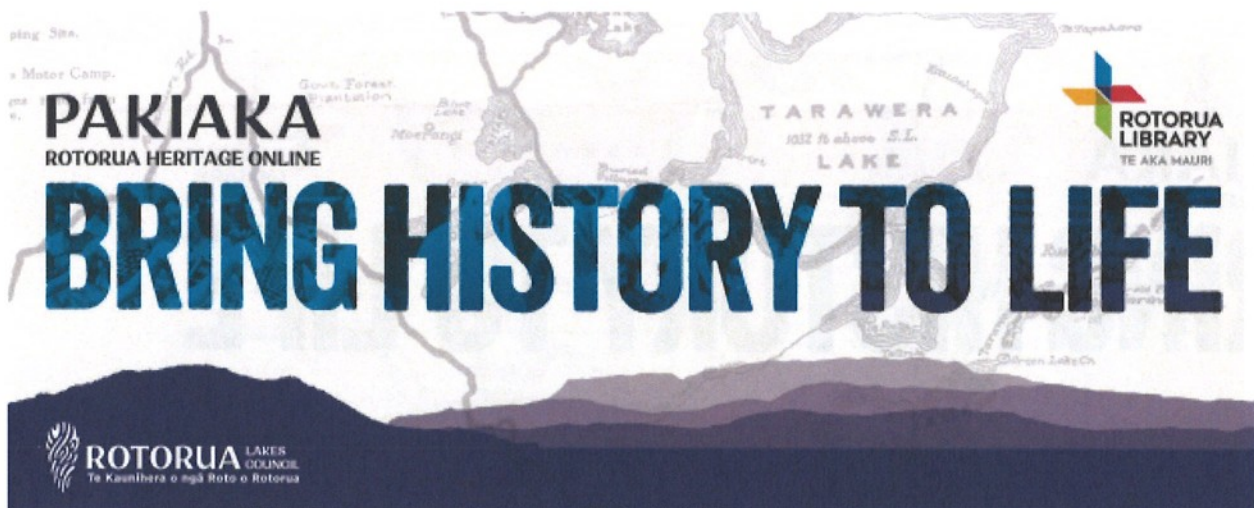
Our team is incredibly disappointed.

Thanks
Julianne

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri

P: +64 7 3517640

M: +64 0272426235



From: Kate Peterson <katemp@hdc.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, 15 March 2024 11:06 am

To: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>

Subject: Storytime protests

Hi Julianne

Hope you are doing well. I noted this morning that Brian Tamaki is planning protests around both our library's upcoming storytime events. Just wanted to connect and keep in touch in terms of mitigations etc. Do you have any plans in place regarding how it will be handled? And have you heard about any counter protests being planned as well?

Ngā mihi

Kate Peterson

Manager - Community Services & Programmes



Wāea/Phone (06) 871 5071 | Wāea Pūkoro/Mobile 027 371 9321

Īmēra/Email katemp@hdc.govt.nz | Pae Tukutuku/Web www.hastingsdc.govt.nz

Te Kaunihera ā-Rohe o Heretaunga | Hastings District Council

Private Bag 9002, Hastings 4156, New Zealand

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From: Kylie Holmes
Sent: Thursday, 14 March 2024 11:44 am
To: Julianne Wilkinson
Subject: RE: Sunita on Facebook

Kia ora,

Julianne would you be able to contact her?

I agree that we are aware of the risk and want to do everything we can to eliminate any risk to them and our community members who are planning to attend.

Thank you very much

Kind regards,

Kylie Holmes *Youth and Early Learning Lead- Kaiurungi Ako Taiohi*
Rotorua District Library P: [07 351 7028](tel:073517028) | E: kylie.holmes@rotorualc.nz | W: www.rotorualibrary.govt.nz

From: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 14 March 2024 9:44 AM
To: Joanne Dillon <Joanne.Dillon@rotorualc.nz>; Kylie Holmes <Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: RE: Sunita on Facebook

Hi Kylie,

Do you feel confident asking Sunita to refrain from commenting? While we appreciate she is not on our post it is connected to our event. We understand the desire to comment however we are doing everything we can to make this a positive and safe experience and arguing with people is elevating the risk for our event and our customers.

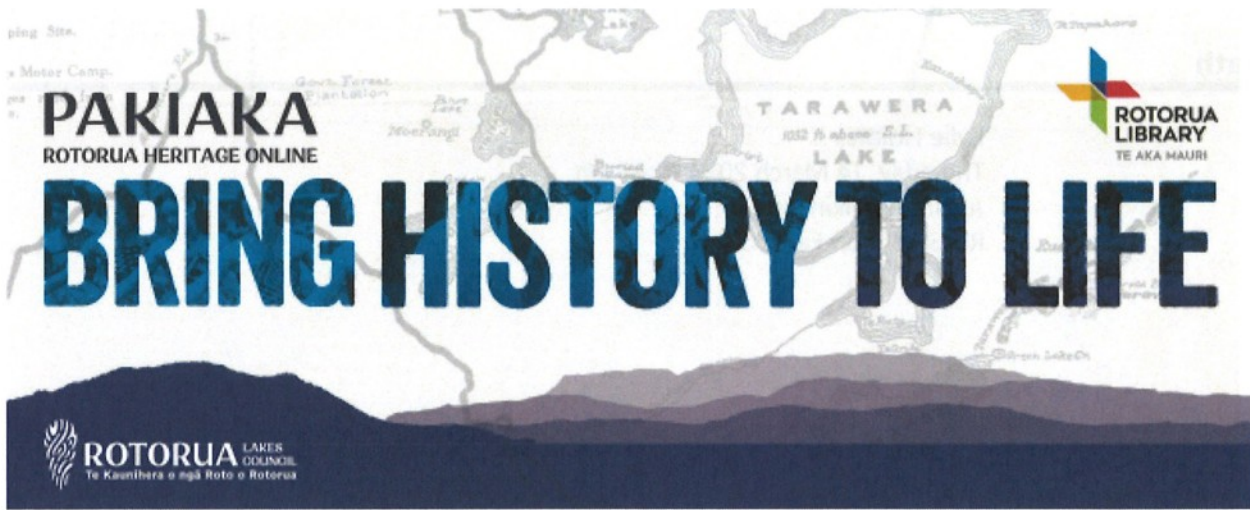
Let me know if you are uncomfortable and I will email her.

Thanks
Julianne

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri

P: [+64 7 3517640](tel:+6473517640)

M: [+64 0272426235](tel:+640272426235)



From: Joanne Dillon <Joanne.Dillon@rotorualc.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 14 March 2024 9:37 am

To: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>; Kylie Holmes <Kylie.Holmes@rotorualc.nz>

Subject: Sunita on Facebook

Just sharing some of the discussion on people's posts (on their own Facebook profiles) – I fully appreciate Sunita wanting to defend herself against some awful accusations but I don't think it's helpful arguing with people. They're not going to change their minds.

no one said anything about the native... See more

15 h Like Reply

Sunita Torrance
Amy S Rutene educate yourself you absolute douche

11 h Like Reply

Sunita Torrance
Amy S Rutene tell me I'm a pedo. Go on. Tell a biological straight woman who is a professional performer she is a pedo you dumb cow

11 h Like Reply

Justin Hamish
Amy S Rutene what are you talking about? You are saying that men who wear dresses are pedos which is a very ignorant thing to say

10 h Like Reply

Amy S Rutene
Sunita Torrance stfu, nothing I said in my comments was a lie lol 🤔 get off my post scum

10 h Like Reply

Amy S Rutene
Sunita Torrance you don't want this 🤔🤔🤔 fr I speak my mind and facts irl 😊 and if any bio women are participating in the very act that I am actually talking about cross dress fkn performances for children then what are you then? Lol be fr

10 h Like Reply

Sunita Torrance
Amy S Rutene so do I. I'm a biological straight woman who is a drag queen. You get all the sass, try me

10 h Like Reply

Amy S Rutene
Sunita Torrance no one said you weren't a biological straight woman hoe, did you read anything or understood anything I said fkn straight weirdo 🤔🤔

10 h Like Reply

Sunita Torrance
Amy S Rutene I don't think anyone understands anything you are saying bish

10 h Like Reply

Sunita Torrance
Amy S Rutene come back when you're ready to play fool

10 h Like Reply

Sunita Torrance
Amy S Rutene better yet turn up and tell me I'm a pedo right to my face

Joanne Dillon, ALIANZA

Adult Learning, Programmes and Promotions Lead - *Kaiurungi Whakatairanga*

Pakeke Ako

P: 07 351 7064

M: 027 263 0484

E: joanne.dillon@rotorualc.nz | W: rotorualibrary.govt.nz

A: 1127 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand
PART OF ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL





From: Ingrid Tiriana
Sent: Wednesday, 20 March 2024 6:08 pm
To: Nikoletta Michael; Suzanne McNicol; Julianne Wilkinson
Subject: Fwd: Media release: Spurious 'Heath and Safety' claims lead Rotorua Lakes Council to cancel Rainbow Storytime; thugs' veto lives on
Attachments: 2403202 Letter to Rotorua Council.pdf

FYI, see attached and below from Laura. I've responded with 'nothing further from the organisation at this stage but thanks for checking'.

I note that the letter from the FSU was sent to elected members rather than the organisation. It also includes a request under LGOIMA which will need to be forwarded to the organisation by the letter recipients.

Nga mihi
Ingrid

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From: Laura Smith <laura.smith@nzme.co.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 5:16:31 PM
To: News Rotorua <News.Rotorua@rotorualc.nz>; Samantha Motion <Samantha.Motion@nzme.co.nz>
Subject: Fwd: Media release: Spurious 'Heath and Safety' claims lead Rotorua Lakes Council to cancel Rainbow Storytime; thugs' veto lives on

Am I able to get a response to the below please? And if possible please cc Sam in

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Nadia Braddon-Parsons <Nadia@fsu.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 5:01 PM
To: Laura Smith <laura.smith@nzme.co.nz>
Cc: Jonathan Ayling <jonathan@fsu.nz>
Subject: Media release: Spurious 'Heath and Safety' claims lead Rotorua Lakes Council to cancel Rainbow Storytime; thugs' veto lives on



MEDIA RELEASE

20th March 2024
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Spurious 'Heath and Safety' claims lead Rotorua Lakes Council to cancel Rainbow Storytime; thugs' veto lives on

Rotorua Lakes Council has either bowed to 'thugs veto' and canceled the Rainbow Storytime event which was set to occur tomorrow, or simply acted on contrived threats as an excuse to cancel the event. Either way, this sets a dangerous precedent for free expression and the rights of all Kiwis to access public venues, says Jonathan Ayling, Chief Executive of the Free Speech Union.

"After the Council originally said it wasn't their place to determine 'who can and cannot have their freedom of expression' (a decision which the FSU applauded), they backtracked and canceled the event over 'health and safety concerns' due to a protest planned outside the event.

"Council venues legally cannot discriminate access to venues based on the views speakers express. Following the Supreme Court ruling in *Moncrief-Spittle v Regional Facilities Auckland Limited* [2022] NZSC 138, the bar has been set high for when councils can cancel events on these grounds.

"The Free Speech Union has consistently insisted that public venues must not pick and choose which perspectives are allowed to be expressed on the premises. Equally, we must not allow public debate to be impoverished by giving in to bullies.

"Free speech has to go both ways. Defending someone's right to speak does not mean you agree with their views.

"Whether you want to attend the event, *or* peacefully protest outside, it is your right to do so. The Council should defend this right. Having failed to do so, it is possible the Council has acted in an illegal manner. We have contacted the Council and will be reviewing the details of this case."

ENDS

Media contact - Jonathan Ayling 021 842 215, jonathan@fsu.nz

Note to editor: letter to Rotorua Lakes Council attached.

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20 March 2024

Rotorua Lakes Council

Mayor Tania Tapsell Tania.Tapsell@rotorualc.nz; Deputy Mayor Sandra Kai Fong Sandra.KaiFong@rotorualc.nz; Gregg Brown Gregg.Brown@rotorualc.nz; Robert Lee Robert.Lee@rotorualc.nz; Conan O'Brien Conan.O'Brien@rotorualc.nz; Don Paterson; Don.Paterson@rotorualc.nz; Fisher Wang Fisher.Wang@rotorualc.nz; Lani Kereopa Lani.Kereopa@rotorualc.nz; Trevor Maxwell Trevor.Maxwell@rotorualc.nz; Rawiri Waru Rawiri.Waru@rotorualc.nz; Karen Barker Karen.Barker@rotorualc.nz

Rotorua library Rainbow Storytime event

Good afternoon,

1. The Free Speech Union is a registered trade union with a mission to fight for, protect, and expand New Zealanders' rights to freedom of speech, conscience, and intellectual inquiry. We believe that freedom of speech is not only a legal principle, but a social good that allows for people in modern liberal democracies to peacefully, freely advocate for the causes they care about without risking unjust retribution.
2. We write following my correspondence earlier today in which I commended the Council and the Mayor for their comments regarding a Rainbow Storytime event being held at a library. As noted there, opinions varying significantly on the appropriateness of Rainbow Storytimes, however, they are a test of a Council's commitment to free speech. At the time, it seemed the Council had decided to allow individuals to make their own decision whether to attend or not.
3. The Free Speech Union has consistently insisted that public venues must not pick and choose which perspectives are allowed to be expressed in the premises. As the library is a Council-owned venue, not a private venue, you are bound by the Bill of Rights Act (NZBORA) and cannot encroach on an individual's right to freedom of expression, specifically, freedom of speech as set out in section 14 of the NZBORA. I bring your attention to the High Court's decision in *Whitmore v Palmerston North City Council* [2021] NZHC 1551 where it was determined that the Palmerston North City Council couldn't discriminate access to venues based on the views that would be presented.
4. Further, In terms of Health and Safety, the Supreme Court in *Moncrief-Spittle v Regional Facilities Auckland Limited* [2022] NZSC 138 outlines the criteria for a venue's concerns related to health and safety, noting the high bar for cancellation on Health and Safety grounds. We are of the opinion it is unlikely this high bar has been met in this case.
5. As the Council will be aware, if members of the community disapprove of the event, they are entitled to protest peacefully outside in an orderly manner. Threats to 'shut the event down' and any threats of violence, disruption or intimidation are entirely unacceptable and must not be given a legitimacy by the Council. Were the Council to use Health and Safety as an excuse to shut down this event, without reaching the high standard of proof needed to cancel an event on these grounds, this would be an illegal act by the Council.

6. Allowing local authorities to decide which events should be allowed sets a terrible precedent. Individuals have the right to decide what events they wish to attend, whether it be the storytime event or a peaceful protest outside the event. Bad ideas are beaten with good ideas, not censorship.
7. Under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 we request:
 - (a) All correspondence, both internal and external, related to the event which was canceled;
 - (b) A list of all security personnel, including internal security, external security, and police, who were consulted ahead of this cancellation;
 - (c) All material referencing specific threats, or reasons health and safety was believed to be under threat.
8. Where communications have been requested that request includes but is not limited to: documents, emails, recordings, faxes, memos, minutes, meeting notes, reports, correspondence, agendas, policy documents, external advice, researcher and other contractor communication and invoices, including all those in electronic form.
9. We expect the answers to be straightforward and seek this information as soon as possible. Please let us have the information as it becomes available (i.e. do not delay your reply to our requests till it is all available). If you expect to charge for assembling it, please advise of the charges for each component as you become aware of what it is likely to be.
10. We do not wish to be an unnecessary burden on you or your staff. If clarification of any of this request is needed, please call or email us. Likewise, if a request proves burdensome, please give us an opportunity to adjust it so as to be more specific or suited to your information systems.

Yours faithfully,

Free Speech Union (New Zealand) Inc.



Jonathan Ayling
Chief Executive
jonathan@fsu.nz
021 842 215

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 20 March 2024 7:03 pm
To: Library Generic
Cc: Tania Tapsell; Robert Lee
Subject: Rainbow story time

To the 'Library Team',

What we am writing about is that my wife and I are very disappointed the event has needed to be cancelled due to safety concerns. Yes, yet again we have an organisation, Destiny Church and leader Brian Tamaki, creating a situation where they refuse to engage with authorities attempting to ascertain their protest plans. Now saying his protest was "never going to be violent" and if what he says is correct, it makes no sense for him to refuse to engage and reassure authorities. Not very Christian in my opinion.

This event was harmless and obviously scare mongering, misinformation and sheer bigotry has once again prevailed. We find it hard to accept if people did not agree with the event why they would even bother to attend let alone protest. Destiny Church, its leader and probably misguided others have denied the right of others. Clearly they believe their opinions/values are superior to those of us who may have differing values, opinions or ideals to theirs.

Shame on those that have denied this event from proceeding and it is disappointing for children not being able to attend, engage, enjoy, learn and experience tolerance.

Good on Rotorua Library and Council (with the exception of Councillor Robert Lee) for supporting this event and hopefully it may proceed in the future. Don't give up.

Kind regards, s7(2)(a)

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 20 March 2024 8:15 pm
To: Library Generic
Subject: A great library that unfortunately has been brow beaten

Hello I am from Auckland. On many occasions I have attended awesome events in your library. With my granddaughter on earth volcanic movement for kids several years ago. Most recently a talk organized by Zonta. Cultural talks and food sharing on other visits.

Recently Freyberg High School with Haka showed how people can stand up to bullies. Almost universally supported.

So, so very sad that your library is not going ahead with Rainbow story telling. Kids would have loved it and so would adults.

Your staff are always so welcoming.

We must not allow this brow beating to continue. Libraries are a place of learning and community.

Whatever group or individual who had this influence must be exposed even by an anonymous leak.

Thank you for the great times I have had in your library when visiting your awesome town that is just getting better and better.

Also was great in street to see the flag waving for Palestine.

Love Rotorua, been visiting for almost 75 years.

Cheers

s7(2)(a)

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 21 March 2024 11:01 am
To: Library Generic
Subject: Storyline for Children

Kia Ora and Goodmorning,

I see on your website that you have a very vibrant programme and are engaging with your community in Rotorua. It is so good to see this happening and as a Diversional therapist I commend for for this. I also see that you have cancelled an event that had storytime for children being taken by a man who chooses to present as a glamorous woman.

I would like to know, as a library is a place of learning and education, wether this experience being presented to our very young and impressionable children has had any clearance and approval by a clinical child phychologist. Children can have a raft of issues and one is insecurity. I cannot see how you presenting something so confusing to their young minds and lives cannot but exacerbate such issues for them.

You mention that you had a full contingent of people coming. Because people turn up to this type of entertainment, does not equate to good or positive parenting. Has Any one of these parents asked the same question I have for instance.

You have stated that people feel unsafe due to protestors arriving at your library. Protestors have a right to protest. This is an inadmissible allegation against concerned community in a nation that values free speech. I would like to suggest to you that it is the children inside a public building and being exposed to a controversial and confusing gender related event, that are being subject to unsafe practice and anyone even considering holding such an event needs to have their own credentials and competency questioned.

I realise this email will not be welcomed by its recipients, but as a concerned NZ citizen I an sending it with the hopes that you will listen and answer. I will also be engaging with other libraries on this topic with the hopes that they will replace these events with something better. Certainly our library has and is.

Kind regards

s7(2)(a)

From: Julianne Wilkinson
Sent: Thursday, 21 March 2024 11:41 am
To: Gina Rangi; Andrew Moraes; Executive Team
Cc: Mihikore Owen
Subject: RE: Notes from yesterday and Today's discussion on Rainbow storytime

Sorry for delayed response. Just to add to Gina's note, we had two additional guards organised, with two on site at the Library normally.

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri

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From: Gina Rangi <Gina.Rangi@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 21 March 2024 11:14 am
To: Andrew Moraes <Andrew.Moraes@rotorualc.nz>; Executive Team <executive.team@rotorualc.nz>
Cc: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>; Mihikore Owen <Mihikore.Owen@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: RE: Notes from yesterday and Today's discussion on Rainbow storytime

The additional point was that we contacted external security to investigate having more hired security guards, but they also had no capacity due to being fully booked for Crankworx.

G

From: Andrew Moraes <Andrew.Moraes@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 March 2024 10:33 pm
To: Executive Team <executive.team@rotorualc.nz>
Cc: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>; Mihikore Owen <Mihikore.Owen@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: Notes from yesterday and Today's discussion on Rainbow storytime

Hi team,
 just circulating these notes while fresh in our minds. Pls add/edit as required.
 Tuesday 19 March 9am:

Meeting with relevant leadership of RLC and representative of NZ Police. The following points were queried and agreed by consensus:

1. There was a clear and specific intention announced by Destiny Church to protest at, and disrupt the event in order to prevent it from proceeding. The announcement of this intent was made publicly on social media.
2. There was a discussion about the veracity of the comments, specifically about the likelihood that the intent announced would be followed through with action. It was agreed that as there was a body of evidence that previous such announcements have led to action, it was more probable than not that Destiny Church would indeed follow through on their announced intention.
3. There was discussion and agreement that previous protests had led to violence, and as such, violence was a likely outcome of the protest.
4. Separately we were advised that a 'counter demonstration' was organized by supporters of the event, with the intention to create a 'rainbow wall'.
5. The suitability of the library to manage a crowd of potentially conflicting groups was discussed. It was agreed that Council does not have the power to prevent either one group from entering the library on the basis of membership of either group. Police also advised that they would only react to behaviour after the fact and would not pre-emptively intervene to separate the two groups.
6. It was agreed that the library was not a suitable venue to manage potentially violent conflict between two (or more groups).
7. Council resources available for the event included two security guards and three guardians (who are not trained and not equipped for crowd control). Police advised that they have very limited resources available on 48hrs notice as their resources were allocated to serious firearm offences.
8. It was agreed that further information was required about the intent of both groups in regard to their plans for demonstration. Specifically information was sought on how Council could safely accommodate both groups, and allow both points of view to be expressed freely.
9. No decision was made on the future of the event. It was agreed that council staff would seek out the information as per item 7 above and reconvene in 24hrs.

Wednesday 20 March 9am:

Meeting with relevant leadership of RLC and representative of NZ Police. The following points were discussed and agreed by consensus:

1. Joint police and council attempts to reach out to destiny church were unsuccessful.
2. No further information was forthcoming on the counter protests.
3. A further discussion was held to review and validate the conclusion from the previous day that there remained a high degree of probability that a potentially violent situation would arise at the event as a result of the proposed protest action. The conclusion was affirmed by consensus.
4. Based on the assessment of a high degree of probability of a potentially violent event, no information to the contrary by protest organizers, the lack of a suitable venue to manage conflicting groups, and the lack of suitably trained staff, it was concluded that there was no plan to safely host the event. As CE, I decided to cancel this event.
5. A comms plan was discussed to clearly communicate council's disappointment at being forced to make this decision, as a reaction to the circumstances that arose in the previous 72 hours. The final comms messaging was circulated separately both internally and externally.

Ngā Mihi

**Andrew Moraes****Toihautū** | Chief Executive**P:** +64 7 351 8320**M:** +64 27 408 8418**E:** Andrew.Moraes@rotorualc.nz**A:** Civic Centre, 1061 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand**W:** rotorualakescouncil.nz

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 21 March 2024 1:43 pm
To: Library Generic
Subject: Transvestites addressing children

Please, please leave our young people alone and let them make their own decisions without "grooming"

Please, I would appreciate a reply

Thanks and regards

s7(2)(a)

From: Ingrid Tiriana
Sent: Thursday, 21 March 2024 1:57 pm
To: 'Laura Smith'; News Rotorua; Samantha Motion
Subject: RE: Media release: Spurious 'Heath and Safety' claims lead Rotorua Lakes Council to cancel Rainbow Storytime; thugs' veto lives on

Hi Laura,

Acknowledging we've received this but flagging that 3pm today is highly unlikely to be possible. We will get back to you as soon as is possible.

Nga mihi
 Ingrid

Ingrid Tiriana *Kaihautū Whakapā/Council Communications Manager*
 P: 07 351 8110 | M: 021 190 8868
 E: ingrid.tiriana@rotorualc.nz | W: rotorualakescouncil.nz
 A: 1061 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

ROTORUA
 LAKES COUNCIL

Caution: The content of this email is confidential and may be legally privileged. If it is not intended for you, please email the sender immediately and destroy the original message. You may not copy, disclose or use the contents in any way. Thank You.

From: Laura Smith <laura.smith@nzme.co.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 21 March 2024 1:39 pm
To: Ingrid Tiriana <Ingrid.Tiriana@rotorualc.nz>; News Rotorua <News.Rotorua@rotorualc.nz>; Samantha Motion <Samantha.Motion@nzme.co.nz>
Subject: Re: Media release: Spurious 'Heath and Safety' claims lead Rotorua Lakes Council to cancel Rainbow Storytime; thugs' veto lives on

Hi Ingrid - want to offer the free speech union statements again for response - particularly the claim the council may have acted in an illegal manner.

Can I also ask if there was any specific information that was of concern regarding what was planned for the protest? And what it was?

Specifically what was it that tipped the council to cancel the event and how was this information passed to the council?

Did the council or library staff attempt to contact either the hosts or other libraries that have hosted the event as to how protests were handled in the past?

What would change, if anything, if the council were to host a similar event?

What library or council policies relate to holding what could be deemed as controversial events or material and its handling of protests?

How were these followed in relation to the Rainbow Storytime event?

If it were at all possible to have a response 3pm that would be absolutely magic but appreciate it is 1.30pm - please just let me know

I also have the below press release, highlighted sections of most interest and for request for response:

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS SAFETY AT RAINBOW STORYTIMES

The library association is calling out disrupters of events in libraries all over the country during Pride Month and Rainbow Storytime events.

“It is not okay for people to aim their negative messages at library staff doing their job to ensure inclusive events for their community.

LGBTQ+ people are part of our communities,” says Ivy Guo, LIANZA president-elect.

Te Aka Mauri Rotorua Library cancelled its Rainbow Storytime events today due to security concerns. Protestors also disrupted recent events at Christchurch’s Tūranga Library and Dunedin’s City Library during Pride Week Storytime.

“We expect tolerance and respect for all those in our library spaces and will do everything to assure the safety of library staff and those attending events.

These protests are against the intent of New Zealand’s Bill of Rights and Human Rights legislation.”

LIANZA (The Library and Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa) say protestors calling these events ‘child abuse’, are misinformed.

“These are family-friendly events focused on book reading, song and dance, and are carefully managed by library staff,”

says Louise LaHatte, chair of the LIANZA Freedom of Information Committee.

“The only reason the events are subject to protests is because they are being delivered by Rainbow community members.”

“LIANZA is concerned for library staff and event safety because of these increasingly vocal protests.”

In New Zealand, there have been recent and increasing challenges to library content and activities on topics that include sex education and Rainbow community issues.

LIANZA has developed a toolkit and a series of professional development events to support libraries and their staff in these challenges.

Louise LaHatte said, “Access to representation, resources, and affirming experiences for Rainbow people helps the wider community to empathise with Rainbow whānau and their lived experience.”

LIANZA is asking councils, mayors, and communities to continue supporting libraries in delivering inclusive and diverse events and programmes.

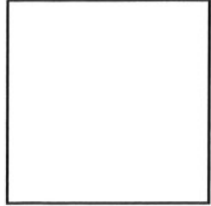
“Libraries should be a dynamic part of community life for everyone, throwing a spotlight on topical issues to stimulate learning and the exchange of information,” says Ivy Guo.

LAURA SMITH

Local Democracy Reporter

M: [0273119367](tel:0273119367) P: [073439728](tel:073439728)
E: laura.smith@nzme.co.nz

Bay of Plenty Times



From: Ingrid Tiriana <Ingrid.Tiriana@rotorualc.nz>

Sent: 20 March 2024 18:03

To: Laura Smith <laura.smith@nzme.co.nz>; News Rotorua <News.Rotorua@rotorualc.nz>; Samantha Motion <Samantha.Motion@nzme.co.nz>

Subject: Re: Media release: Spurious 'Heath and Safety' claims lead Rotorua Lakes Council to cancel Rainbow Storytime; thugs' veto lives on

Hi Laura,

Nothing further from the organisation at this stage but thanks for checking.

Nga mihi
Ingrid

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Laura Smith <laura.smith@nzme.co.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 5:16:31 PM

To: News Rotorua <News.Rotorua@rotorualc.nz>; Samantha Motion <Samantha.Motion@nzme.co.nz>

Subject: Fwd: Media release: Spurious 'Heath and Safety' claims lead Rotorua Lakes Council to cancel Rainbow Storytime; thugs' veto lives on

Am I able to get a response to the below please? And if possible please cc Sam in

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Nadia Braddon-Parsons <Nadia@fsu.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 5:01 PM

To: Laura Smith <laura.smith@nzme.co.nz>

Cc: Jonathan Ayling <jonathan@fsu.nz>

Subject: Media release: Spurious 'Heath and Safety' claims lead Rotorua Lakes Council to cancel Rainbow Storytime; thugs' veto lives on



MEDIA RELEASE

20th March 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Spurious 'Heath and Safety' claims lead Rotorua Lakes Council to cancel Rainbow Storytime; thugs' veto lives on

Rotorua Lakes Council has either bowed to 'thugs veto' and canceled the Rainbow Storytime event which was set to occur tomorrow, or simply acted on contrived threats as an excuse to cancel the event. Either way, this sets a dangerous precedent for free expression and the rights of all Kiwis to access public venues, says Jonathan Ayling, Chief Executive of the Free Speech Union.

"After the Council originally said it wasn't their place to determine 'who can and cannot have their freedom of expression' (a decision which the FSU applauded), they backtracked and canceled the event over 'health and safety concerns' due to a protest planned outside the event.

"Council venues legally cannot discriminate access to venues based on the views speakers express. Following the Supreme Court ruling in *Moncrief-Spittle v Regional Facilities Auckland Limited* [2022] NZSC 138, the bar has been set high for when councils can cancel events on these grounds.

"The Free Speech Union has consistently insisted that public venues must not pick and choose which perspectives are allowed to be expressed on the premises. Equally, we must not allow public debate to be impoverished by giving in to bullies.

“Free speech has to go both ways. Defending someone’s right to speak does not mean you agree with their views.

“Whether you want to attend the event, *or* peacefully protest outside, it is your right to do so. The Council should defend this right. Having failed to do so, it is possible the Council has acted in an illegal manner. We have contacted the Council and will be reviewing the details of this case.”

ENDS

Media contact - Jonathan Ayling 021 842 215, jonathan@fsu.nz

Note to editor: letter to Rotorua Lakes Council attached.

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From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 21 March 2024 1:59 pm
To: Library Generic
Subject: Thank you for diversity

Tēnā koe,

E te tīma o Te Aka Mauri, thank you for attempting to bring colour and brightness to our city with the Rainbow Storytime event.

It saddens me to see how some Councillors have spoke about my community as a Takatāpui trans person born and raised in Rotorua.

I commend you all for trying your best to make this event happen and I hope we get another opportunity in the near future.

Kia kaha. Your mahi is important.

From one library adult,

s7(2)(a)

From: Kim McGrath
Sent: Monday, 25 March 2024 3:36 pm
To: Moana Petre
Subject: FW: LOGIMA contacts
Attachments: Screenshot_20240322_075856_Messages.jpg; RE: Storytime protests; Screenshot_20240322_090048_Messages.jpg; Screenshot_20240322_090135_Messages.jpg

Kim McGrath Tīheru Ohu Toihautū | Executive Support Officer, Chief Executive's Office
07 351 8142 | 0276288045 | kim.mcgrath@rotorualc.nz | rotorualakescouncil.nz

From: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2024 9:06 AM
To: Kim McGrath <Kim.McGrath@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: LOGIMA contacts

Hi Kim

Tori is away until the 2nd, but I know she communicated verbally with the Community Health Hub staff and with Watchdog.

Attached is a screen shot from Tori to me re her conversation with Brett from Watchdog about Destiny Church intending to protest.

Brett Wilson – Watchdog
Mel, Gina and Aroha – Children's Health Hub -

I have also had 2 verbal conversations with Sunita Torrance 0226579624, following the two emails I sent (request to stop commenting on social media and the cancellation).

I have also communicated by phone with Police - Simon Betchetti and Chris McLeod

I missed an email between me and Kate from Hastings keeping her up to date with issues.
Also attached are screen shots of texts between myself and JD.

I will send another email with our planning documents.

Thanks
Julianne



Julianne Wilkinson

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri

Te Aka Mauri | Rotorua Library

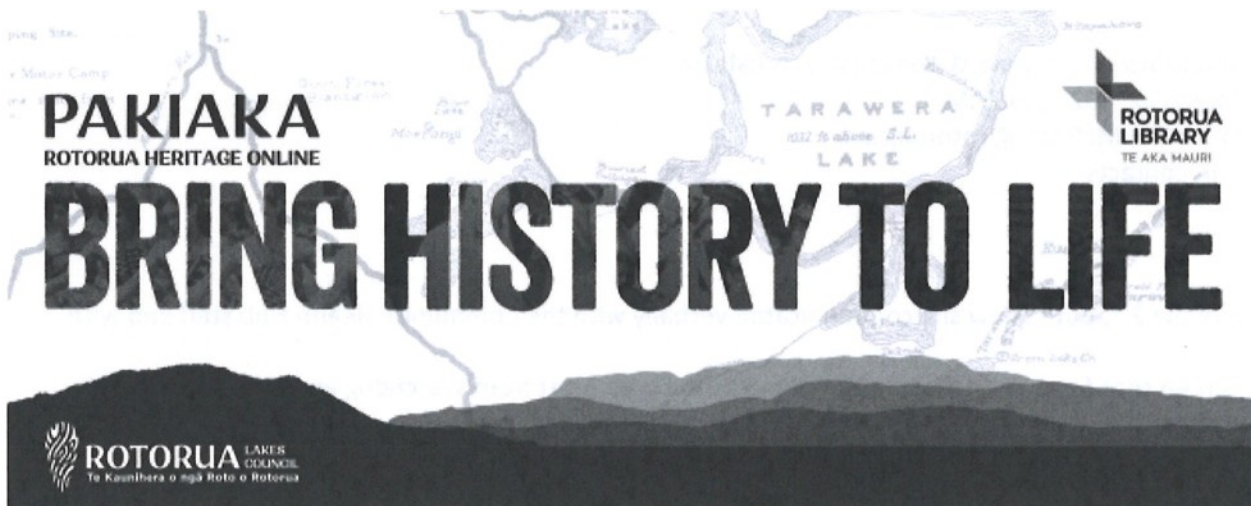
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E: julianne.wilkinson@rotorualc.nz

A: Civic Centre, 1061 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

W: rotorualakescouncil.nz



7:58

VoLTE 5G 99%

<  **Tori Williams** ✓

big a queue

10:16 am

Wednesday, 20 March

Just an FYI, Brett Wilson from watchdog and he said that his team had got some intel from destiny that said they couldn't control there team and also that they couldnt confirm whether it would become hostile or not

9:11 am

Thursday, 21 March

Hello, hows it been this morning?

10:28



10:29 am



9:00

VoLTE 5G 97%

< J JD ✓

⋮

Friday, 15 March

Destiny Church
leader Brian Tamaki
wants drag queens
banned from public
spaces - just like
gang patches

[https://www
.nzherald.co.nz
/kahu/destiny
-church-leader
-brian-tamaki
-wants-drag-queens
-banned-from
-public-spaces-just
-like-gang-patches
/7GSEMQMJKJDX
BJ3S4REAFL5K5A
/](https://www.nzherald.co.nz/kahu/destiny-church-leader-brian-tamaki-wants-drag-queens-banned-from-public-spaces-just-like-gang-patches/7GSEMQMJKJDXBJ3S4REAFL5K5A/)

10:42 am

Saturday, 16 March

⌵



H



Tap to add a message to this conversation



9:01

VoLTE 5G 97%

< J JD ▾



BJ3S4REAFL5K5A

/

10:42 am

Saturday, 16 March

Hi JD. Can you pop up a message to close registrations please. Maybe something positive? Like so popular or we are at capacity due to popular demand or something? FYI Sunita wants to go ahead. Will chat Monday but give me a call if you wish.

11:54 am

Will do

12:18 pm



W

en



From: Kim McGrath
Sent: Monday, 25 March 2024 3:54 pm
To: Moana Petre
Subject: FW: LOGIMA documents
Attachments: Rainbow Stories update to staff.docx; Rainbow storytime FAQ's.docx; Rainbow storytime information.docx; Generic email response.docx; 2024 Rainbow Story Time runsheet.docx; Floor plans - Rainbow Storytime.pptx; Health and Safety plan for Rainbow Story Time 2024.xlsx

Kim McGrath **Tiheru Ohu Toihautū** | Executive Support Officer, Chief Executive's Office
07 351 8142 | 0276288045 | kim.mcgrath@rotorualc.nz | rotorualakescouncil.nz

From: Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2024 2:55 PM
To: Kim McGrath <Kim.McGrath@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: LOGIMA documents

Documents related to the event.



Julianne Wilkinson

Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri | Director: Te Aka Mauri

Te Aka Mauri | Rotorua Library

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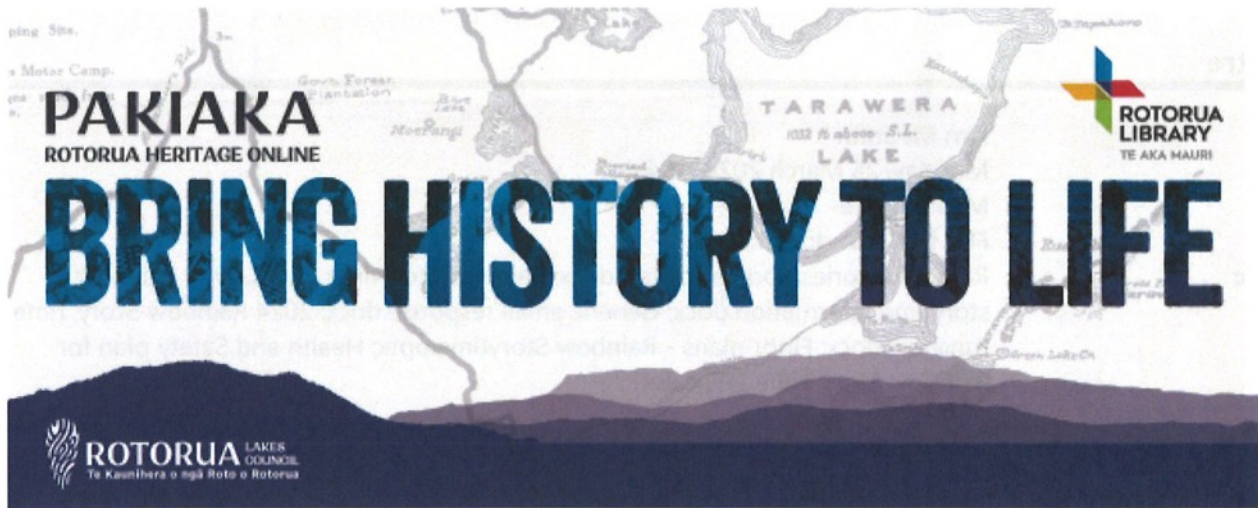
M: [+64 0272426235](tel:+640272426235)

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W: rotorualakescouncil.nz





Rainbow Stories update

For those of you who are active on social media you may be aware that there has been a variety of reactions to the Rotorua Library hosting Rainbow Story time. Some of these reactions are highly positive and supportive and some are quite negative, with some comments steering towards hate speech.

It is worth noting that the Rainbow community are part of our community, however this does challenge some people's sense of identity and so this topic can be more emotionally charged.

While we appreciate everyone is totally entitled to their views, we will not tolerate any actions that make our customers or staff feel unsafe. Therefore, I want to reassure you we are putting significant planning into this event to manage any potential risk. We will share this with the team who are working on the day once they are finalised.

In the meantime, if you happen to be approached by a customer who is opposed to the event and wants to talk to someone, providing they are polite then you would treat them the same as any other customer who has a specific view they wish to express.

If they become agitated, aggressive or threatening in any way you should follow normal protocol including de-escalation and seeking support if required. This should also be recorded in Vault by your supervisor or lead.

If a customer wants their comments noted to management, then they can email our generic email address, send us a message on Messenger, or fill in the compliments/complaints form.

As you know the Library is an inclusive space where we aim to make anyone no matter their age, gender, race, religion or beliefs feel welcome. This means we should limit our own personal views when interacting with our customers and treat each person with kindness and respect. In return, we expect our customers to do the same with us.

Attached are the updated FAQ's. Please read these so you understand what the event is about.

If you have any questions concerns please let your team lead or me know.

What is Rainbow Story time?

Rainbow story time is a family friendly event aimed at younger children incorporating book reading, singing and dancing. The event is focussed on acceptance, anti-bullying, inclusion, being kind and having confidence in yourself. It will be full of colour, sparkle, flamboyance and fun, with children encouraged to come dressed up for the occasion. Erika and Coco Flash are the storytellers who will host the event.

Who are the storytellers and what are their backgrounds?

Erika and Coco Flash are professional drag queen entertainers who have been reading at Libraries since 2019. The male and female duo of Daniel Lockett and Sunita Torrance have over 20 years' experience as entertainers, actors, event organisers and educators. They have qualifications in educating and entertaining younger children, teens and adults. Both are police vetted and certified to work with children and young people.

What books will they be reading?

The books will be selected from a range of published titles that are already or have been in the Rotorua Library children's collection. The children's collection is managed under the Library Collections Policy, which complies with the Films, Videos and Publications Act 1993, Copyright Act 1993 and is guided by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions Statutes.

The books are:

- The Book With No Pictures
- Perfectly Norman
- Whitney & Britney The Chicken Divas
- Giraffes Can't Dance

The music will be:

- Songs from Moana and Frozen
- Shake my Sillies Out
- Baby Shark

When is Rainbow Story time and who can attend?

Rainbow Story Time is scheduled for Thursday 21 March 2024 at 10.30am in the Community Pride Space on the ground floor.

While the event is targeted at pre-schoolers and their caregivers, any member of the public is welcome to attend. Like many events registration is required to ensure those attending have an enjoyable and safe experience. To register please email library@rotorualc.nz with the number of people attending.

The Community Pride Space is part of the open plan nature of the ground floor. This means people in other spaces may hear the event. Users can choose to either head to a quieter space within the Library or come back at another time.

Why is the Library hosting Rainbow Story time?

The Rotorua Library provides materials, services and information about a wide range of topics that contain different viewpoints, respecting people's right to freedom of information. As such, we hold events and activities that reflect the diversity in our community. We aim to provide positive

experiences, share different perspectives and encourage understanding, a sense of acceptance and belonging to all members of the community.

We recognise that not everyone will share the same beliefs. It is not the role of a Library to hide or withdraw access to challenging ideas or topics. As a dynamic part of the community, the Library provides information in a variety of ways to stimulate learning and an exchange of information. The Library aims to present information in a respectful way that enables individuals to make their own decisions about what to read or attend.

[Does Council support this event?](#)

The Council supports the Library to be an inclusive and safe space that encourages understanding and tolerance in our community.

Rainbow Story Time

Rotorua Library @ Te Aka Mauri:

- Community Pride Space on the ground floor
- 10.30am, Thursday 21 March 2024
- Anticipated attendance 60-150 pre-schoolers and their caregivers
- Registration will be required so we can understand numbers and implement appropriate management
- Event management plan will be in place to cover various scenarios should this event be more popular than anticipated or receive negative feedback or be challenged
- Cost to Rotorua Library is \$600 for a one-hour event. This has been sponsored by Friends of Rotorua Library

Background

Rainbow Story time is hosted by two drag queens called Erika and Coco Flash. They are based in Taranaki and have been touring New Zealand reading at libraries since 2019. While both Erika and Coco offer various hosted events, Rainbow Story time is aimed at toddlers and younger children. They incorporate story books, dancing and songs focussing on acceptance, anti-bullying, inclusion and having confidence in yourself.

Erika and Coco will be dressed in colourful flamboyant outfits and create a family friendly storytelling experience like no other. All the books they share are published by large publishing houses and many of the titles are already in our collection. They are professional entertainers with experience and qualifications in educating and entertaining young children. Both are police vetted and certified in working with young people.

"There's no questioning about our sexuality or gender. It's just people in fabulous frocks doing cool performances and reading cool books."- Erica Flash, interview with bFM, 7 March, 2023

Other information

Other libraries have shared how much they enjoyed hosting this event and that families enjoyed the experience. Rotorua Library had them booked on two previous dates, but had to cancel due to the COVID 19 lockdowns and event restrictions.

We know the event has been hosted in Taranaki, Auckland, Tauranga, Hamilton, Nelson, Wellington, Christchurch

Around New Zealand and the world story times like this have been gaining popularity. Traditionally Libraries have reflected their community and offered experiences and events that allow people to see themselves represented, and better understand the experiences of others. Rotorua Library is no different and wish to provide positive experiences that share different perspectives and encourage a sense of acceptance and belonging to all members of the community.

Media Coverage of Erika and Coco Flash

[Waikato Rainbow Storytime events teach kids about anti-bullying and inclusion - NZ Herald](#)

[Dozens attend Tauranga library's Rainbow Storytime despite complaints - NZ Herald](#)

[Demystifying drag storytime | 95bFM](#)

<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/online-backlash-to-rainbow-storytime-drag-performers-shocks-community-we-still-have-a-long-way-to-go/ZL6VLHKGDW4NCQLYLDKGOJZQXU/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8oMQLFTONEE>

Media Coverage of New Zealand Rainbow or Drag Storytimes

[Revealed: What actually happens during the library's Drag Storytime | The Spinoff](#) (does not feature the performers visiting us)

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/crime/132861645/queenstown-mayor-calls-out-transphobic-sign-at-rainbow-reading>



Generic email response:

Thank you for your email.

Erika and Coco are a male and female storytelling team dressed in vibrant costumes for entertainment purposes, just like one who may be dressed as a magician, fairy or clown. Rainbow Story time is a family friendly event aimed at younger children incorporating appropriate book reading, singing and dancing. It will be full of colour, sparkle, flamboyance and fun, with children encouraged to come dressed up for the occasion.

They will be sharing stories and songs about kindness, anti-bullying and accepting others who may be different, i.e. people from another country, those with a disability or with different religious beliefs.

Rotorua Library provides materials, services and information about a wide range of topics that contain different viewpoints, respecting people's right to freedom of information.

As such, we hold events and activities that reflect the diversity in our community. We aim to provide positive experiences, share different perspectives and encourage understanding, a sense of acceptance and belonging to all members of the community.

The Library holds various events at various times throughout the year that appeal to different parts of the community. Those that object at any time to any of the events can choose not to attend.

Attached are some Frequently Asked Questions about Erika, Coco and the event.

Rainbow Story Time Run Sheet

Time	Action	Notes	Staff
Wednesday 20 March			
4.00	Set out space to plan set by JD		YELs, ALPP and all available staff
Thursday 21 March			
TBC	Safety briefing and wellness check in		All event staff
9am	Situational awareness	Senior team member to work in spaces to become aware of who is coming and going	Kylie, JD
9:30am	Rovers to be in place to monitor behaviour in public spaces		JD - Ground Floor Alistair - First Floor
TBC	Collect performers		Robyn
10am	Welcome Rainbow Story Time team	Performers to arrive at backdoors in make up	TA
10am	Ushers to gather in space to welcome people		Kylie Julianne Sue Hannah TA (if not hosting performers) Emily Thomas
10.30am	Event starts	Team member to: • Welcome audience • Show where toilets are • Explain emergency procedure	Hannah
11-11.30am	Event concludes	Team members to assist families as needed, thank for attendance and farewell	Kylie Julianne JD Sue Hannah T.A (if not hosting performers)
11.30am-12pm	Re-set space for general public		
1:00pm	Reopen Heritage and Research		
3:00pm	Debrief meeting		

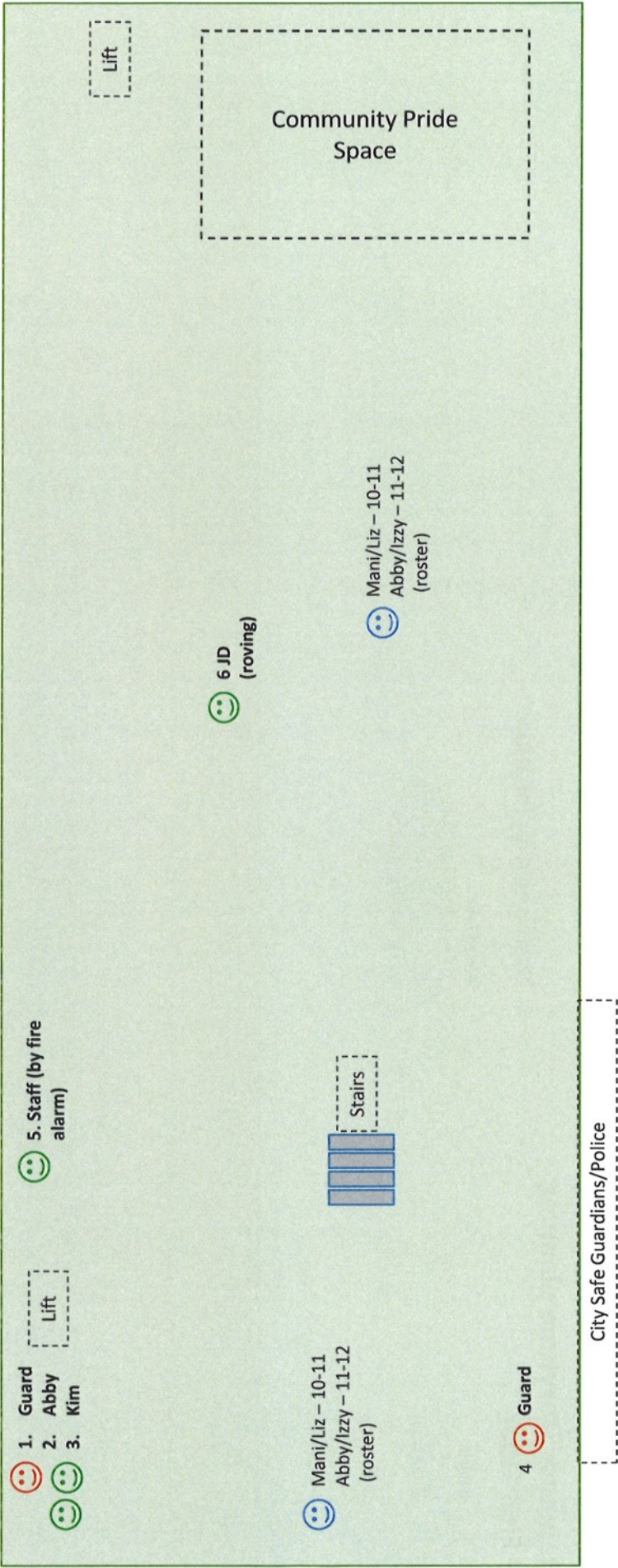
DRAFT

Rainbow Storytime planning
– Ground Floor

-  Guard
-  Extra Staff
-  Staff

Staff/security locations
Ground Floor

1. Ground Floor near lift and entry (guard)
2. Ground Floor greeter (Kim)
3. Ground Floor greeter (Abby)
4. Ground Floor entry (guard)
5. By fire alarm (Staff)
6. Roving (JD)



Rainbow Storytime planning
– First Floor

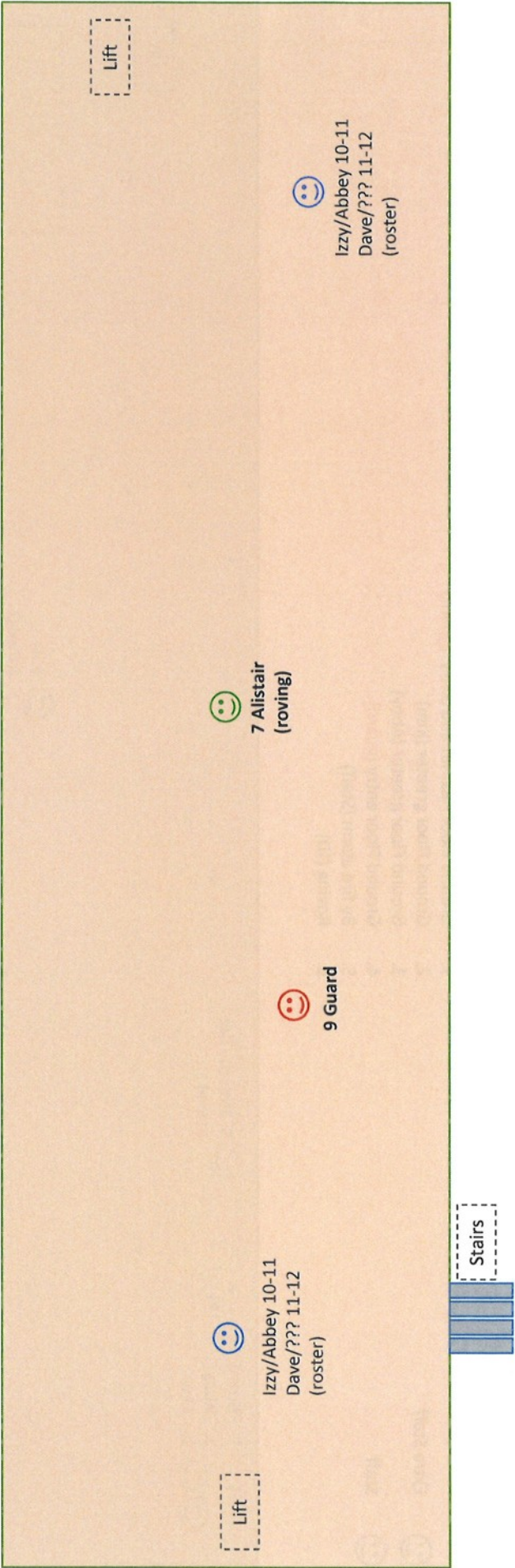


Guard
Extra Staff
Staff

Staff/security locations

First Floor

- 7. Roving (Alistair)
- 8. By fire alarm (Staff)
- 9. Roving (guard)



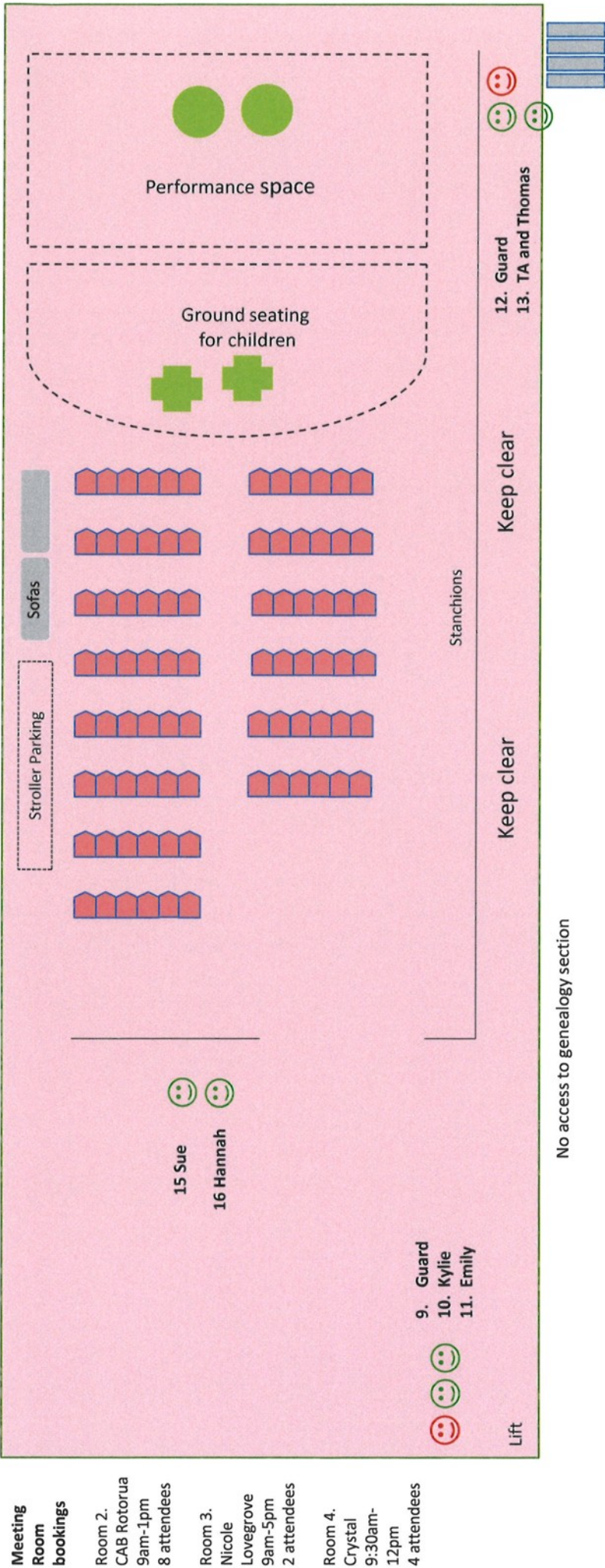
Rainbow Storytime planning – Second Floor

- Guard
- Staff
- Jigsaw seats
- Round seats

Staff/security locations

- Second Floor**
 9. Second Floor greeter (guard)
 10. Second Floor greeter (Kylie)
 11. Second Floor greeter (Emily)
 12. Second Floor greeter (TA)
 13. Second Floor greeter (Thomas)
 14. Second Floor greeter (guard)
 15. Usher (Sue)
 16. Usher (Hannah)

17. Roving (Julianne)



Number	Hazard	Risk	Risk Controls
Site Specific Hazards			
1	Lack of Amenities	Queues for toilets	Sufficient toilets located in The Aka Mauri for public use. Daily cleaning and any issues to be communicated to council immediately via phone.
2		Rubbish overflow	Sufficient rubbish bins provided in Jean Batten square and empties prior. Contact council if overflow.
3	Overcrowding	Possible fear or harm	limit attendance numbers to event layout event space to create sense of comfort and space
4	Obstructed emergency access	histeria or harm	ensure emergency exits or not obstructed and clearly marked
Event or Activity based Risks inside Library			
1	Bomb threat	Harm to people and facility	Contact Police 111 - Follow set procedure and instructions of Police
2	General Threat	Harm	Follow appropriate procedure e.g. managing threat situations
3	Protest visible from the event space	Disruption of event	Event to be held on second floor in contained space.
4	Crowd management within event space	Confusion, poor event experience	Event to be held on second floor in contained space Pre-notification that registrations are closed Information sent out to those registered - instructions and re assurance Greeters on ground floor managing access up to second floor Manage access to event via registrations only - no walk ups Two staff and guard at Arawa lift/stairwell and central lift Additional staff member to direct/usher meeting room users Ushers in event space to directseat attendees
5	Crowded exit/ entry door	Histeria, possible harm	Staff to follow procedure to lock doors if threat heightens Two Guards to be stationed at entry door Additional greeters present to facilitate smooth directions and access for event participants
6	A protestor or person causes disturbance in the library on any floor	Disruption of library users	Team to be aware of people or events that are out of usual (e.g., checking time frequently, watching people) Additional event only staff roving as people watchers so BAU staff can focus on BAU Follow deescalation procedures (CERT training) and seek supervisor/guard support to remove protestor from Library
7	Weapons or projectiles brought into Library / into event	Harm or injury	Team to be aware of people or items that are out of usual (e.g., checking time frequently, watching people) Elevate to Police Refer to managing threat procedures
8	Planting of distractions to go off during event	Disruption of users, possible panic causing histeria	Team to be aware of people or events that are out of usual (e.g., checking time frequently, watching people, any behavior out of normal) Team member to check shelves/areas for items that are out of place. Second floor closed to public prior to event. Team members to check the bathrooms for pamphlets or material contrary to message of event staff to be aware that customers may be unfmortable or distressed and in need of reassurance of their safety
9	The alarm is triggered maliciously	Disruption of users, possible panic causing harm	Team members to be stationed near alarm call points during and in lead up to event If alarm activated follow evacuation procedure
10	Customer responds aggressively to another person and their perceived intentions about attending	Verbal, physical abuse, possible hysteria	Team to be aware of people or events that are out of usual (e.g., checking time frequently, watching people) Use de-escalation skills from CERT training Call security for back up staff to be aware that customers may be unfmortable or distressed and in need of reassurance of their safety
11	Protestor inside targets staff member - verbal abuse/ threats	Emotional harm, possible physical harm	Use de-escalation skills from CERT training Team to look out for each other and assist team members to exit to safe place to recover Team members encouraged to not wear name badges or ID tags the morning of the event Team encouraged to remain calm and kind. Library management team (Julianne, JD and Kylie) to lead information session with staff the day before event. Will include safety briefing, event information and invitation share concerns at a time and in a way they feel comfortable.
11	Protestor accesses event site	Disruption of event causing distress	Guard to remain at event Staff to remain at two entry points All staff guards in contact via RT for quick support (note all other BAU staff to refrainf rom RT use about BAU)
12	Protestors target performers as they enter the building	Verbal and physical abuse causing emotional harm, possible physical harm	Performers to be driven by team member from their carpark to library. Team member to radio on arrival to have guard escort them in through DHB staff door. Performers to be secure on third - staff only floor and escorted down to second floor or event only security on site to increase perception of safety

			staff to be aware that customers may be uncomfortable or distressed and in need of reassurance of their safety	
Event based Risks in Jean Batten Park				
1	Protestors in JBP block access to Library	Disruption to customers accessing Library, causing distress/harm	Define a protest area to ensure access into Library is unobstructed Safe City Guardians and Police on site to manage protestors within space Volunteer group to shield event participants on access with 'rainbow wall' CCTV eyes on to connect with SCG and Police as required	how? Barriers? # Police? #CSG?
2	Protestors shouting abuse and threats	Disruption to customers accessing Library, causing distress/harm	Police to intervene and maintain peace	
3	Protestors threatening and goading volunteers	Reaction of volunteers elevates to physical altercations	Police to intervene and maintain peace	

From: Ingrid Tiriana
Sent: Thursday, 21 March 2024 4:02 pm
To: Gina Rangi; News Rotorua; Andrew Moraes; Thomas Colle; Julianne Wilkinson
Cc: Jean-Paul Gaston; Suzanne McNicol
Subject: RE: Media release: Spurious 'Heath and Safety' claims lead Rotorua Lakes Council to cancel Rainbow Storytime; thugs' veto lives on

Thank you Gina, good changes, will adjust accordingly, thanks for taking the time.

Anything further from anyone else?

From: Gina Rangi <Gina.Rangi@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 21 March 2024 3:31 pm
To: Ingrid Tiriana <Ingrid.Tiriana@rotorualc.nz>; News Rotorua <News.Rotorua@rotorualc.nz>; Andrew Moraes <Andrew.Moraes@rotorualc.nz>; Thomas Colle <Thomas.Colle@rotorualc.nz>; Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>
Cc: Jean-Paul Gaston <Jean-Paul.Gaston@rotorualc.nz>; Suzanne McNicol <Suzanne.McNicol@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: RE: Media release: Spurious 'Heath and Safety' claims lead Rotorua Lakes Council to cancel Rainbow Storytime; thugs' veto lives on

From: Ingrid Tiriana <Ingrid.Tiriana@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 21 March 2024 3:06 pm
To: News Rotorua <News.Rotorua@rotorualc.nz>; Andrew Moraes <Andrew.Moraes@rotorualc.nz>; Thomas Colle <Thomas.Colle@rotorualc.nz>; Gina Rangi <Gina.Rangi@rotorualc.nz>; Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>
Cc: Jean-Paul Gaston <Jean-Paul.Gaston@rotorualc.nz>; Suzanne McNicol <Suzanne.McNicol@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: RE: Media release: Spurious 'Heath and Safety' claims lead Rotorua Lakes Council to cancel Rainbow Storytime; thugs' veto lives on

Kia ora,

Please see below draft for your consideration and feedback.

I've included at the top the reporter's enquiry so that you can refer to it if/as necessary:

21 March 2024 – Local Democracy Reporter (Laura Smith) re cancelled Rainbow Storytelling event

- Want to offer the free speech union statements again for response - particularly the claim the council may have acted in an illegal manner.
- Can I also ask if there was any specific information that was of concern regarding what was planned for the protest? And what it was?
- Specifically what was it that tipped the council to cancel the event and how was this information passed to the council?
- Did the council or library staff attempt to contact either the hosts or other libraries that have hosted the event as to how protests were handled in the past?
- What would change, if anything, if the council were to host a similar event?
- What library or council policies relate to holding what could be deemed as controversial events or material and its handling of protests?

- How were these followed in relation to the Rainbow Storytime event?

I also have the **below press release**, highlighted sections of most interest and for request for response:

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS SAFETY AT RAINBOW STORYTIMES

The library association is calling out disrupters of events in libraries all over the country during Pride Month and Rainbow Storytime events.

“It is not okay for people to aim their negative messages at library staff doing their job to ensure inclusive events for their community.

LGBTQ+ people are part of our communities,” says Ivy Guo, LIANZA president-elect.

Te Aka Mauri Rotorua Library cancelled its Rainbow Storytime events today due to security concerns. Protestors also disrupted recent events at Christchurch’s Tūranga Library and Dunedin’s City Library during Pride Week Storytime.

“We expect tolerance and respect for all those in our library spaces and will do everything to assure the safety of library staff and those attending events. These protests are against the intent of New Zealand’s Bill of Rights and Human Rights legislation.”

LIANZA (The Library and Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa) say protestors calling these events ‘child abuse’, are misinformed.

“These are family-friendly events focused on book reading, song and dance, and are carefully managed by library staff,” says Louise LaHatte, chair of the LIANZA Freedom of Information Committee. The only reason the events are subject to protests is because they are being delivered by Rainbow community members.

“LIANZA is concerned for library staff and event safety because of these increasingly vocal protests.”

In New Zealand, there have been recent and increasing challenges to library content and activities on topics that include sex education and Rainbow community issues. LIANZA has developed a toolkit and a series of professional development events to support libraries and their staff in these challenges.

Louise LaHatte said, “Access to representation, resources, and affirming experiences for Rainbow people helps the wider community to empathise with Rainbow whānau and their lived experience.”

LIANZA is asking councils, mayors, and communities to continue supporting libraries in delivering inclusive and diverse events and programmes.

“Libraries should be a dynamic part of community life for everyone, throwing a spotlight on topical issues to stimulate learning and the exchange of information,” says Ivy Guo.

DRAFT RESPONSE FROM RLC SPOKERSPERSON

Re the claim the council may have acted in an illegal manner:

~~Without specifics we are unable to comment.~~ Council stands by its decisions.

Re Can I also ask if there was any specific information that was of concern regarding what was planned for the protest? And what it was?

There was clear and publicly announced intention by protest organisers to disrupt the event in order to prevent it from proceeding. Council made several attempts to contact the protest organisers to understand what that might entail, but received no response. ~~were unsuccessful~~ Specifically Council sought to identify how to safely accommodate both groups, and allow both points of view to be expressed freely. Without receiving any response, we were not able to accurately assess and adequately manage the level of risk to people's safety.

Re the following questions:

- **Specifically what was it that tipped the council to cancel the event and how was this information passed to the council?**
- **Did the council or library staff attempt to contact either the hosts or other libraries that have hosted the event as to how protests were handled in the past?**

As is usual practice in terms of ensuring people's safety for any events Council runs, due diligence was undertaken, including speaking to other libraries and the performers, to police and relevant staff across our organisation and using the LIANZ toolkit.

In assessing the level of risk and after thoroughly considering all factors, it was determined that the security resource that would be available would not be sufficient to ensure the safety of library and Children's Health Hub staff and customers, event attendees, the performers and people using nearby facilities, given the lack of information about the intended protests. Public safety at council facilities is a key priority and we do not compromise on that.

Re What library or council policies relate to holding what could be deemed as controversial events or material and its handling of protests? How were these followed in relation to the Rainbow Storytime event?

General health and safety considerations apply for any events at the library and we may also, as we did in this case, use the LIANZA toolkit to support our approach to the management of an event. Public safety at our facilities is a priority for council.

Re What would change, if anything, if the council were to host a similar event?

We haven't had the opportunity to hold a debrief yet. Any changes would come from that.

General

Rotorua Library will continue to be, as it has always been, a place that is inclusive and welcoming for all in our community, offering a diverse range of services, programmes and events. We are sorry that due to the safety concerns that emerged, we were unable to host this event as planned.

Nga mihi
Ingrid

Ingrid Tiriana *Kaihautū Whakapā/Council Communications Manager*

P: 07 351 8110 | M: 021 190 8868

E: ingrid.tiriana@rotorualc.nz | W: rotorualakescouncil.nz

A: 1061 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

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From: News Rotorua <News.Rotorua@rotorualc.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 21 March 2024 2:36 pm

To: Andrew Moraes <Andrew.Moraes@rotorualc.nz>; Thomas Colle <Thomas.Colle@rotorualc.nz>; Gina Rangi <Gina.Rangi@rotorualc.nz>

Cc: Ingrid Tiriana <Ingrid.Tiriana@rotorualc.nz>; Jean-Paul Gaston <Jean-Paul.Gaston@rotorualc.nz>; Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>

Subject: FW: Media release: Spurious 'Heath and Safety' claims lead Rotorua Lakes Council to cancel Rainbow Storytime; thugs' veto lives on

Hi there

We will work with Julianne and you all to respond to this further query from Daily Post. We recommend that the responses are either attributed to a council spokesperson.

Please be aware that this issue and all correspondence relating to council management of it is subject to LGOIMA.

Suzanne

From: Laura Smith <laura.smith@nzme.co.nz>

Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 1:39 PM

To: Ingrid Tiriana <Ingrid.Tiriana@rotorualc.nz>; News Rotorua <News.Rotorua@rotorualc.nz>; Samantha Motion <Samantha.Motion@nzme.co.nz>

Subject: Re: Media release: Spurious 'Heath and Safety' claims lead Rotorua Lakes Council to cancel Rainbow Storytime; thugs' veto lives on

Hi Ingrid - want to offer the free speech union statements again for response - particularly the claim the council may have acted in an illegal manner.

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Specifically what was it that tipped the council to cancel the event and how was this information passed to the council?

Did the council or library staff attempt to contact either the hosts or other libraries that have hosted the event as to how protests were handled in the past?

What would change, if anything, if the council were to host a similar event?

What library or council policies relate to holding what could be deemed as controversial events or material and its handling of protests?

How were these followed in relation to the Rainbow Storytime event?

If it were at all possible to have a response 3pm that would be absolutely magic but appreciate it is 1.30pm - please just let me know

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“These are family-friendly events focused on book reading, song and dance, and are carefully managed by library staff,”

says Louise LaHatte, chair of the LIANZA Freedom of Information Committee.

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“Libraries should be a dynamic part of community life for everyone, throwing a spotlight on topical issues to stimulate learning and the exchange of information,” says Ivy Guo.

LAURA SMITH

Local Democracy Reporter

M: [0273119367](tel:0273119367) P: [073439728](tel:073439728)

E: laura.smith@nzme.co.nz

ME: My pronouns are she/her

ROTORUA **Daily Post**

Bay of Plenty Times

NZME. NEW ZEALAND
MEDIA AND
ENTERTAINMENT

From: Ingrid Tiriana <Ingrid.Tiriana@rotorualc.nz>

Sent: 20 March 2024 18:03

To: Laura Smith <laura.smith@nzme.co.nz>; News Rotorua <News.Rotorua@rotorualc.nz>; Samantha Motion <Samantha.Motion@nzme.co.nz>

Subject: Re: Media release: Spurious 'Heath and Safety' claims lead Rotorua Lakes Council to cancel Rainbow Storytime; thugs' veto lives on

Hi Laura,

Nothing further from the organisation at this stage but thanks for checking.

Nga mihi
Ingrid

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Laura Smith <laura.smith@nzme.co.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 5:16:31 PM

To: News Rotorua <News.Rotorua@rotorualc.nz>; Samantha Motion <Samantha.Motion@nzme.co.nz>

Subject: Fwd: Media release: Spurious 'Heath and Safety' claims lead Rotorua Lakes Council to cancel Rainbow Storytime; thugs' veto lives on

Am I able to get a response to the below please? And if possible please cc Sam in

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Nadia Braddon-Parsons <Nadia@fsu.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 5:01 PM

To: Laura Smith <laura.smith@nzme.co.nz>

Cc: Jonathan Ayling <jonathan@fsu.nz>

Subject: Media release: Spurious 'Heath and Safety' claims lead Rotorua Lakes Council to cancel Rainbow Storytime; thugs' veto lives on



MEDIA RELEASE

20th March 2024
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Spurious ‘Heath and Safety’ claims lead Rotorua Lakes Council to cancel Rainbow Storytime; thugs’ veto lives on

Rotorua Lakes Council has either bowed to ‘thugs veto’ and canceled the Rainbow Storytime event which was set to occur tomorrow, or simply acted on contrived threats as an excuse to cancel the event. Either way, this sets a dangerous precedent for free expression and the rights of all Kiwis to access public venues, says Jonathan Ayling, Chief Executive of the Free Speech Union.

“After the Council originally said it wasn’t their place to determine ‘who can and cannot have their freedom of expression’ (a decision which the FSU applauded), they backtracked and canceled the event over ‘health and safety concerns’ due to a protest planned outside the event.

“Council venues legally cannot discriminate access to venues based on the views speakers express. Following the Supreme Court ruling in *Moncrief-Spittle v Regional Facilities Auckland Limited* [2022] NZSC 138, the bar has been set high for when councils can cancel events on these grounds.

“The Free Speech Union has consistently insisted that public venues must not pick and choose which perspectives are allowed to be expressed on the premises. Equally, we must not allow public debate to be impoverished by giving in to bullies.

“Free speech has to go both ways. Defending someone’s right to speak does not mean you agree with their views.

“Whether you want to attend the event, *or* peacefully protest outside, it is your right to do so. The Council should defend this right. Having failed to do so, it is possible the Council has acted in an illegal manner. We have contacted the Council and will be reviewing the details of this case.”

ENDS

Media contact - Jonathan Ayling 021 842 215, jonathan@fsu.nz

Note to editor: letter to Rotorua Lakes Council attached.

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From: Ingrid Tiriana
Sent: Thursday, 21 March 2024 4:17 pm
To: Laura Smith; Samantha Motion
Subject: update re event enquiry

Hi Laura,

We may not be able to get back to you until tomorrow morning sorry. Just needing to check a couple of things and the relevant person is in a late meeting.

Nga mihi

Ingrid

Ingrid Tiriana *Kaihautū Whakapā/Council Communications Manager*
P: 07 351 8110 | **M:** 021 190 8868
E: ingrid.tiriana@rotorualc.nz | **W:** rotorualakescouncil.nz
A: 1061 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

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From: Ingrid Tiriana
Sent: Thursday, 21 March 2024 4:24 pm
To: Julianne Wilkinson
Subject: Re changes to draft response

Hey there, just checking you are happy with Gina's changes? I'll check in with our CE in the morning, have let the reporter know it will be tomorrow.

From: Gina Rangi <Gina.Rangi@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 21 March 2024 3:31 pm
To: Ingrid Tiriana <Ingrid.Tiriana@rotorualc.nz>; News Rotorua <News.Rotorua@rotorualc.nz>; Andrew Moraes <Andrew.Moraes@rotorualc.nz>; Thomas Colle <Thomas.Colle@rotorualc.nz>; Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>
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“LIANZA is concerned for library staff and event safety because of these increasingly vocal protests.”

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DRAFT RESPONSE FROM RLC SPOKERSPERSON

Re the claim the council may have acted in an illegal manner:

~~Without specifics we are unable to comment.~~ Council stands by its decisions.

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There was clear and publicly announced intention by protest organisers to disrupt the event in order to prevent it from proceeding. Council made several attempts to contact the protest organisers to understand what that might entail, but received no response. ~~were unsuccessful~~ Specifically Council sought to identify how to safely accommodate both groups, and allow both points of view to be expressed freely. Without receiving any response, we were not able to accurately assess and adequately manage the level of risk to people's safety.

Re the following questions:

- **Specifically what was it that tipped the council to cancel the event and how was this information passed to the council?**
- **Did the council or library staff attempt to contact either the hosts or other libraries that have hosted the event as to how protests were handled in the past?**

As is usual practice in terms of ensuring people's safety for any events Council runs, due diligence was undertaken, including speaking to other libraries and the performers, to police and relevant staff across our organisation and using the LIANZ toolkit.

In assessing the level of risk and after thoroughly considering all factors, it was determined that the security resource that would be available would not be sufficient to ensure the safety of library and Children's Health Hub staff and customers, event attendees, the performers and people using nearby facilities, given the lack of information about the intended protests. Public safety at council facilities is a key priority and we do not compromise on that.

Re What library or council policies relate to holding what could be deemed as controversial events or material and its handling of protests? How were these followed in relation to the Rainbow Storytime event?

General health and safety considerations apply for any events at the library and we may also, as we did in this case, use the LIANZA toolkit to support our approach to the management of an event. Public safety at our facilities is a priority for council.

Re What would change, if anything, if the council were to host a similar event?

We haven't had the opportunity to hold a debrief yet. Any changes would come from that.

General

Rotorua Library will continue to be, as it has always been, a place that is inclusive and welcoming for all in our community, offering a diverse range of services, programmes and events. We are sorry that due to the safety concerns that emerged, we were unable to host this event as planned.

Nga mihi
Ingrid

Ingrid Tiriana *Kaihautū Whakapā/Council Communications Manager*

P: 07 351 8110 | M: 021 190 8868

E: ingrid.tiriana@rotorualc.nz | W: rotorualakescouncil.nz

A: 1061 Haupapa St, Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

ROTORUA
LAKES COUNCIL

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Sent: Thursday, 21 March 2024 2:36 pm

To: Andrew Moraes <Andrew.Moraes@rotorualc.nz>; Thomas Colle <Thomas.Colle@rotorualc.nz>; Gina Rangi <Gina.Rangi@rotorualc.nz>

Cc: Ingrid Tiriana <Ingrid.Tiriana@rotorualc.nz>; Jean-Paul Gaston <Jean-Paul.Gaston@rotorualc.nz>; Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>

Subject: FW: Media release: Spurious 'Heath and Safety' claims lead Rotorua Lakes Council to cancel Rainbow Storytime; thugs' veto lives on

Hi there

We will work with Julianne and you all to respond to this further query from Daily Post. We recommend that the responses are either attributed to a council spokesperson.

Please be aware that this issue and all correspondence relating to council management of it is subject to LGOIMA.

Suzanne

From: Laura Smith <laura.smith@nzme.co.nz>

Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 1:39 PM

To: Ingrid Tiriana <Ingrid.Tiriana@rotorualc.nz>; News Rotorua <News.Rotorua@rotorualc.nz>; Samantha Motion <Samantha.Motion@nzme.co.nz>

Subject: Re: Media release: Spurious 'Heath and Safety' claims lead Rotorua Lakes Council to cancel Rainbow Storytime; thugs' veto lives on

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What would change, if anything, if the council were to host a similar event?

What library or council policies relate to holding what could be deemed as controversial events or material and its handling of protests?

How were these followed in relation to the Rainbow Storytime event?

If it were at all possible to have a response 3pm that would be absolutely magic but appreciate it is 1.30pm - please just let me know

I also have the below press release, highlighted sections of most interest and for request for response:

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS SAFETY AT RAINBOW STORYTIMES

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LAURA SMITH

Local Democracy Reporter

M: 0273119367 P: 073439728

E: laura.smith@nzme.co.nz

ME: My pronouns are she/her

ROTORUA **Daily Post**

Bay of Plenty Times

NZME. NEW ZEALAND
MEDIA AND
ENTERTAINMENT

From: Ingrid Tiriana <Ingrid.Tiriana@rotorualc.nz>

Sent: 20 March 2024 18:03

To: Laura Smith <laura.smith@nzme.co.nz>; News Rotorua <News.Rotorua@rotorualc.nz>; Samantha Motion <Samantha.Motion@nzme.co.nz>

Subject: Re: Media release: Spurious 'Heath and Safety' claims lead Rotorua Lakes Council to cancel Rainbow Storytime; thugs' veto lives on

Hi Laura,

Nothing further from the organisation at this stage but thanks for checking.

Nga mihi

Ingrid

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From: Laura Smith <laura.smith@nzme.co.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 5:16:31 PM

To: News Rotorua <News.Rotorua@rotorualc.nz>; Samantha Motion <Samantha.Motion@nzme.co.nz>

Subject: Fwd: Media release: Spurious 'Heath and Safety' claims lead Rotorua Lakes Council to cancel Rainbow Storytime; thugs' veto lives on

Am I able to get a response to the below please? And if possible please cc Sam in

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Nadia Braddon-Parsons <Nadia@fsu.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 5:01 PM

To: Laura Smith <laura.smith@nzme.co.nz>

Cc: Jonathan Ayling <jonathan@fsu.nz>

Subject: Media release: Spurious 'Heath and Safety' claims lead Rotorua Lakes Council to cancel Rainbow Storytime; thugs' veto lives on



MEDIA RELEASE

20th March 2024
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Spurious 'Heath and Safety' claims lead Rotorua Lakes Council to cancel Rainbow Storytime; thugs' veto lives on

Rotorua Lakes Council has either bowed to 'thugs veto' and canceled the Rainbow Storytime event which was set to occur tomorrow, or simply acted on contrived threats as an excuse to cancel the event. Either way, this sets a dangerous precedent for free expression and the rights of all Kiwis to access public venues, says Jonathan Ayling, Chief Executive of the Free Speech Union.

"After the Council originally said it wasn't their place to determine 'who can and cannot have their freedom of expression' (a decision which the FSU applauded), they backtracked and canceled the event over 'health and safety concerns' due to a protest planned outside the event.

"Council venues legally cannot discriminate access to venues based on the views speakers express. Following the Supreme Court ruling in *Moncrief-Spittle v Regional Facilities Auckland Limited* [2022] NZSC 138, the bar has been set high for when councils can cancel events on these grounds.

"The Free Speech Union has consistently insisted that public venues must not pick and choose which perspectives are allowed to be expressed on the premises. Equally, we must not allow public debate to be impoverished by giving in to bullies.

"Free speech has to go both ways. Defending someone's right to speak does not mean you agree with their views.

“Whether you want to attend the event, *or* peacefully protest outside, it is your right to do so. The Council should defend this right. Having failed to do so, it is possible the Council has acted in an illegal manner. We have contacted the Council and will be reviewing the details of this case.”

ENDS

Media contact - Jonathan Ayling 021 842 215, jonathan@fsu.nz

Note to editor: letter to Rotorua Lakes Council attached.

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From: Ingrid Tiriana
Sent: Friday, 22 March 2024 9:58 am
To: Andrew Moraes; Suzanne McNicol
Subject: RE: Media release: Spurious 'Heath and Safety' claims lead Rotorua Lakes Council to cancel Rainbow Storytime; thugs' veto lives on

Great, thanks for your time Andrew, much appreciated.

Nga mihi
Ingrid

Ingrid Tiriana *Kaihautū Whakapā/Council Communications Manager*
P: 07 351 8110 | **M:** 021 190 8868
E: ingrid.tiriana@rotorualc.nz | **W:** rotorualakescouncil.nz
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From: Andrew Moraes <Andrew.Moraes@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Friday, 22 March 2024 9:53 am
To: Suzanne McNicol <Suzanne.McNicol@rotorualc.nz>; Ingrid Tiriana <Ingrid.Tiriana@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: Re: Media release: Spurious 'Heath and Safety' claims lead Rotorua Lakes Council to cancel Rainbow Storytime; thugs' veto lives on

Apologies. Yep OK from me

Get Outlook for Android

From: Suzanne McNicol <Suzanne.McNicol@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2024 9:16:50 AM
To: Ingrid Tiriana <Ingrid.Tiriana@rotorualc.nz>; Andrew Moraes <Andrew.Moraes@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: RE: Media release: Spurious 'Heath and Safety' claims lead Rotorua Lakes Council to cancel Rainbow Storytime; thugs' veto lives on

Just need Andrew to approve.

From: Ingrid Tiriana <Ingrid.Tiriana@rotorualc.nz>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 4:02 PM
To: Gina Rangi <Gina.Rangi@rotorualc.nz>; News Rotorua <News.Rotorua@rotorualc.nz>; Andrew Moraes <Andrew.Moraes@rotorualc.nz>; Thomas Colle <Thomas.Colle@rotorualc.nz>; Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>
Cc: Jean-Paul Gaston <Jean-Paul.Gaston@rotorualc.nz>; Suzanne McNicol <Suzanne.McNicol@rotorualc.nz>
Subject: RE: Media release: Spurious 'Heath and Safety' claims lead Rotorua Lakes Council to cancel Rainbow Storytime; thugs' veto lives on

Thank you Gina, good changes, will adjust accordingly, thanks for taking the time.

Anything further from anyone else?

From: Gina Rangi <Gina.Rangi@rotorualc.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 21 March 2024 3:31 pm

To: Ingrid Tiriana <Ingrid.Tiriana@rotorualc.nz>; News Rotorua <News.Rotorua@rotorualc.nz>; Andrew Moraes <Andrew.Moraes@rotorualc.nz>; Thomas Colle <Thomas.Colle@rotorualc.nz>; Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>

Cc: Jean-Paul Gaston <Jean-Paul.Gaston@rotorualc.nz>; Suzanne McNicol <Suzanne.McNicol@rotorualc.nz>

Subject: RE: Media release: Spurious 'Heath and Safety' claims lead Rotorua Lakes Council to cancel Rainbow Storytime; thugs' veto lives on

From: Ingrid Tiriana <Ingrid.Tiriana@rotorualc.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 21 March 2024 3:06 pm

To: News Rotorua <News.Rotorua@rotorualc.nz>; Andrew Moraes <Andrew.Moraes@rotorualc.nz>; Thomas Colle <Thomas.Colle@rotorualc.nz>; Gina Rangi <Gina.Rangi@rotorualc.nz>; Julianne Wilkinson <Julianne.Wilkinson@rotorualc.nz>

Cc: Jean-Paul Gaston <Jean-Paul.Gaston@rotorualc.nz>; Suzanne McNicol <Suzanne.McNicol@rotorualc.nz>

Subject: RE: Media release: Spurious 'Heath and Safety' claims lead Rotorua Lakes Council to cancel Rainbow Storytime; thugs' veto lives on

Kia ora,

Please see below draft for your consideration and feedback.

I've included at the top the reporter's enquiry so that you can refer to it if/as necessary:

21 March 2024 – Local Democracy Reporter (Laura Smith) re cancelled Rainbow Storytelling event

- Want to offer the free speech union statements again for response - particularly the claim the council may have acted in an illegal manner.
- Can I also ask if there was any specific information that was of concern regarding what was planned for the protest? And what it was?
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Subject: FW: Media release: Spurious 'Heath and Safety' claims lead Rotorua Lakes Council to cancel Rainbow Storytime; thugs' veto lives on

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LAURA SMITH

Local Democracy Reporter

M: 0273119367 P: 073439728

E: laura.smith@nzme.co.nz

ME: My pronouns are she/her

ROTORUA **Daily Post**

Bay of Plenty Times

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Nga mihi
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Cc: Jonathan Ayling <jonathan@fsu.nz>

Subject: Media release: Spurious 'Heath and Safety' claims lead Rotorua Lakes Council to cancel Rainbow Storytime; thugs' veto lives on



MEDIA RELEASE

20th March 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Spurious 'Heath and Safety' claims lead Rotorua Lakes Council to cancel Rainbow Storytime; thugs' veto lives on

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"Whether you want to attend the event, *or* peacefully protest outside, it is your right to do so. The Council should defend this right. Having failed to do so, it is possible the Council has acted in an illegal manner. We have contacted the Council and will be reviewing the details of this case."

ENDS

Media contact - Jonathan Ayling 021 842 215, jonathan@fsu.nz

Note to editor: letter to Rotorua Lakes Council attached.

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From: Ingrid Tiriana
Sent: Friday, 22 March 2024 10:04 am
To: 'Laura Smith'; News Rotorua
Subject: RE: Media release: Spurious 'Heath and Safety' claims lead Rotorua Lakes Council to cancel Rainbow Storytime; thugs' veto lives on

Morena Laura,

Please see below. If you need to attribute you can attribute to 'a Rotorua Lakes Council spokesperson'.

Re the claim the council may have acted in an illegal manner:

Council stands by its decisions.

Re Can I also ask if there was any specific information that was of concern regarding what was planned for the protest? And what it was?

There was clear and publicly announced intention by protest organisers to disrupt the event in order to prevent it from proceeding. Council made several attempts to contact the protest organisers to understand what that might entail, but received no response.

Specifically, Council sought to identify how to safely accommodate both groups and allow both points of view to be expressed freely. Without receiving any response [from protest organisers], we were not able to assess and adequately manage the level of risk to people's safety.

Re the following questions:

- **Specifically what was it that tipped the council to cancel the event and how was this information passed to the council?**
- **Did the council or library staff attempt to contact either the hosts or other libraries that have hosted the event as to how protests were handled in the past?**

As is usual practice in terms of ensuring people's safety for any events Council runs, due diligence was undertaken, including speaking to other libraries and the performers, to police and relevant staff across our organisation and using the LIANZA toolkit.

In assessing the level of risk and after thoroughly considering all factors, it was determined that the security resource that would be available would not be sufficient to ensure the safety of library and children's health hub staff, clients and customers, event attendees, the performers and people using nearby facilities, given the lack of information about the intended protests. Public safety at council facilities is a key priority and we do not compromise on that.

Re What library or council policies relate to holding what could be deemed as controversial events or material and its handling of protests? How were these followed in relation to the Rainbow Storytime event?

General health and safety considerations apply for any events at the library and we may also, as we did in this case, use the LIANZA toolkit to support our approach to the management of an event. Public safety at our facilities is a priority for council.

Re What would change, if anything, if the council were to host a similar event?

We haven't had the opportunity to hold a debrief yet. Any changes would come from that.

General

Rotorua Library will continue to be, as it has always been, a place that is inclusive and welcoming for all in our community, offering a diverse range of services, programmes and events. We are sorry that due to the safety concerns that emerged, we were unable to host this event as planned.

Nga mihi
Ingrid

Ingrid Tiriana *Kaihautū Whakapā/Council Communications Manager*
 P: 07 351 8110 | M: 021 190 8868
 E: ingrid.tiriana@rotorualc.nz | W: rotorualakescouncil.nz
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ROTORUA
LAKES COUNCIL

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From: Laura Smith <laura.smith@nzme.co.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 21 March 2024 1:39 pm
To: Ingrid Tiriana <Ingrid.Tiriana@rotorualc.nz>; News Rotorua <News.Rotorua@rotorualc.nz>; Samantha Motion <Samantha.Motion@nzme.co.nz>
Subject: Re: Media release: Spurious 'Heath and Safety' claims lead Rotorua Lakes Council to cancel Rainbow Storytime; thugs' veto lives on

Hi Ingrid - want to offer the free speech union statements again for response - particularly the claim the council may have acted in an illegal manner.

Can I also ask if there was any specific information that was of concern regarding what was planned for the protest? And what it was?
 Specifically what was it that tipped the council to cancel the event and how was this information passed to the council?
 Did the council or library staff attempt to contact either the hosts or other libraries that have hosted the event as to how protests were handled in the past?
 What would change, if anything, if the council were to host a similar event?
 What library or council policies relate to holding what could be deemed as controversial events or material and its handling of protests?
 How were these followed in relation to the Rainbow Storytime event?

If it were at all possible to have a response 3pm that would be absolutely magic but appreciate it is 1.30pm - please just let me know

I also have the below press release, highlighted sections of most interest and for request for response:

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS SAFETY AT RAINBOW STORYTIMES

The library association is calling out disrupters of events in libraries all over the country during Pride Month and Rainbow Storytime events.

“It is not okay for people to aim their negative messages at library staff doing their job to ensure inclusive events for their community.

LGBTQ+ people are part of our communities,” says Ivy Guo, LIANZA president-elect.

Te Aka Mauri Rotorua Library cancelled its Rainbow Storytime events today due to security concerns. Protestors also disrupted recent events at Christchurch’s Tūranga Library and Dunedin’s City Library during Pride Week Storytime.

“We expect tolerance and respect for all those in our library spaces and will do everything to assure the safety of library staff and those attending events.

These protests are against the intent of New Zealand’s Bill of Rights and Human Rights legislation.”

LIANZA (The Library and Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa) say protestors calling these events ‘child abuse’, are misinformed.

“These are family-friendly events focused on book reading, song and dance, and are carefully managed by library staff,”

says Louise LaHatte, chair of the LIANZA Freedom of Information Committee.

“The only reason the events are subject to protests is because they are being delivered by Rainbow community members.”

“LIANZA is concerned for library staff and event safety because of these increasingly vocal protests.”

In New Zealand, there have been recent and increasing challenges to library content and activities on topics that include sex education and Rainbow community issues.

LIANZA has developed a toolkit and a series of professional development events to support libraries and their staff in these challenges.

Louise LaHatte said, “Access to representation, resources, and affirming experiences for Rainbow people helps the wider community to empathise with Rainbow whānau and their lived experience.”

LIANZA is asking councils, mayors, and communities to continue supporting libraries in delivering inclusive and diverse events and programmes.

“Libraries should be a dynamic part of community life for everyone, throwing a spotlight on topical issues to stimulate learning and the exchange of information,” says Ivy Guo.

LAURA SMITH

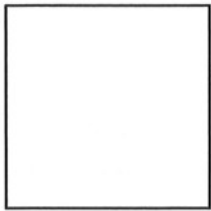
Local Democracy Reporter

M: 0273119367 P: 073439728

E: laura.smith@nzme.co.nz

ME: My pronouns are she/her

Bay of Plenty Times



From: Ingrid Tiriana <Ingrid.Tiriana@rotorualc.nz>

Sent: 20 March 2024 18:03

To: Laura Smith <laura.smith@nzme.co.nz>; News Rotorua <News.Rotorua@rotorualc.nz>; Samantha Motion <Samantha.Motion@nzme.co.nz>

Subject: Re: Media release: Spurious 'Heath and Safety' claims lead Rotorua Lakes Council to cancel Rainbow Storytime; thugs' veto lives on

Hi Laura,

Nothing further from the organisation at this stage but thanks for checking.

Nga mihi
Ingrid

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From: Laura Smith <laura.smith@nzme.co.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 5:16:31 PM

To: News Rotorua <News.Rotorua@rotorualc.nz>; Samantha Motion <Samantha.Motion@nzme.co.nz>

Subject: Fwd: Media release: Spurious 'Heath and Safety' claims lead Rotorua Lakes Council to cancel Rainbow Storytime; thugs' veto lives on

Am I able to get a response to the below please? And if possible please cc Sam in

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From: Nadia Braddon-Parsons <Nadia@fsu.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 5:01 PM

To: Laura Smith <laura.smith@nzme.co.nz>

Cc: Jonathan Ayling <jonathan@fsu.nz>

Subject: Media release: Spurious 'Heath and Safety' claims lead Rotorua Lakes Council to cancel Rainbow Storytime; thugs' veto lives on



MEDIA RELEASE

20th March 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Spurious 'Heath and Safety' claims lead Rotorua Lakes Council to cancel Rainbow Storytime; thugs' veto lives on

Rotorua Lakes Council has either bowed to 'thugs veto' and canceled the Rainbow Storytime event which was set to occur tomorrow, or simply acted on contrived threats as an excuse to cancel the event. Either way, this sets a dangerous precedent for free expression and the rights of all Kiwis to access public venues, says Jonathan Ayling, Chief Executive of the Free Speech Union.

"After the Council originally said it wasn't their place to determine 'who can and cannot have their freedom of expression' (a decision which the FSU applauded), they backtracked and canceled the event over 'health and safety concerns' due to a protest planned outside the event.

"Council venues legally cannot discriminate access to venues based on the views speakers express. Following the Supreme Court ruling in *Moncrief-Spittle v Regional Facilities Auckland Limited* [2022] NZSC 138, the bar has been set high for when councils can cancel events on these grounds.

"The Free Speech Union has consistently insisted that public venues must not pick and choose which perspectives are allowed to be expressed on the premises. Equally, we must not allow public debate to be impoverished by giving in to bullies.

"Free speech has to go both ways. Defending someone's right to speak does not mean you agree with their views.

"Whether you want to attend the event, or peacefully protest outside, it is your right to do so. The Council should defend this right. Having failed to do so, it is possible the Council has acted in an illegal manner. We have contacted the Council and will be reviewing the details of this case."

ENDS

Media contact - Jonathan Ayling 021 842 215, jonathan@fsu.nz
Note to editor: letter to Rotorua Lakes Council attached.

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