



The path to Waitakere Central Library and Unitec New Zealand's Waitakere Campus

21 June 2002-Waitakere City Council signs a Memorandum of Understanding with Unitec.

The objectives of the MoU are:

- To increase the participation and success of the residents of Waitakere City in tertiary education.
- To develop tertiary education facilities and services within Waitakere City in a way that reflects the emerging needs of residents, businesses and the wider community and that provides all parties with improved access to tertiary education.
- To maximise the environmental, economic and social benefits of Unitec's presence in Waitakere City.
- To maximise the effective and efficient growth of Unitec's educational services to and through Waitakere City.
- To help assist the development of Henderson as a vibrant and visually attractive town centre for business, education and leisure.
- To provide a framework for possible joint building or other facility development which ensures:
 - Good urban design
 - Incorporation of sustainable building methodologies
 - Strengthening of the business and employment opportunities within the Henderson town centre
 - Increased safety and attractiveness of the town centre.
- To further strengthen the relationship between Unitec and Council by formally providing a key account relationship for Unitec in its dealings with the Council.

Under the MoU the two organisations will jointly develop a shared library in Henderson.

August 2004-Building to start on site

The site of the new Unitec Waitakere campus and Waitakere Central Library is blessed in a ground breaking ceremony.

September 2004 – First piles go into the ground and cranes dot the skyline

The combined value of the Unitec buildings and library is estimated at \$38 million. Cranes are a regular feature of the skyline as they drive the first piles into the ground for the biggest economic development Henderson has seen since the 1980s.

May 2005-Council supports bid for University status

Waitakere City Council supports Unitec New Zealand's bid to become a University of Technology.

Mayor Bob Harvey says the establishment of a “University of Technology” category of university is a way to strengthen the tertiary education system.

“This would provide a much-needed bridge between research-led universities and purely vocationally focused universities”.

The submission asserts that despite being the fifth largest city in New Zealand, Waitakere has until recently suffered from not having a tertiary institute. The city’s long term strategies show that access to education is a key issue for many of residents.

July 2005-café proposed for Waitakere Central Library

The Waitakere City Council looks at adding a café to the first level of the Waitakere Central Library. Councillor Dallow points to the thriving of café culture in New Zealand and internationally as reasons for the investigation.

“If you look at examples of thriving café cultures around New Zealand and internationally, cafés seem to operate best in clusters – you only need to look at the strip in Christchurch, Courtney Place in Wellington or some of the more successful areas of Melbourne,” he says.

“A café in the Library will complement the existing restaurant culture developing in Henderson, and expert design advice tells us it will make the public plaza part of the Unitec and Library complex work better”, says Councillor Dallow.

The Waitakere Central Library does now have a Gloria Jeans café that opens onto the public plaza in Ratanui Street.

November 2005-100% funding secured to protect historic collections

Waitakere Libraries secures 100% funding for a state-of-the-art sprinkler system to go in the new temperature-controlled store where the JT Diamond collection will be housed in the new Waitakere Central Library. The Lottery Grants Board grant ensures the historic collection documenting much of West Auckland’s history will be available to the community for many years to come.

January 2006

Unitec staff shift into Unitec’s new building in Ratanui St and the first classes start at the new campus

February 5 2006 – Henderson Library closes

It’s the end of an era as Henderson Library shuts its doors for the last time to move into the new Waitakere Central Library.

March 7 2006-Library opens its doors after morning blessing

The new library is blessed in an early morning opening ceremony and opens to the first patrons at 8.30am.

March 23, 2006 – Opening celebrations start at 1.30pm