

# 40,000 and counting: Jo's stocking up for big day

By SANDRA CONCHIE

HOT off the shelves but with the coolest ventilation system in town.

The new eco-friendly Papamoa Library and Community Centre, which opens later this month, takes low energy consumption to new levels.

Unlike most libraries, the \$9.1 million building is not using standard air-conditioning, relying instead on a sophisticated heating and cooling system involving 7km of water pipes underneath the tiled floors.

The pipes cool and heat the building via a heat pump, and the building management system controls the internal temperature automatically by opening and closing windows, based on wind speed, rainfall and outside temperature.

A thermal mass of concrete in the building and the extra-insulated roof helps maintain a consistent temperature inside, while sensors measure actual light levels, dimming or switching off the lights on bright days.

High-specification glass allows

## Not just books

■ **HOURS:** Opens June 16, then from 10am-6pm on weekdays and 10am-2pm on weekends.

■ **STAFF:** Six.

■ **STOCK:** 40,000 books; videos, DVDs, music CDs, games, newspapers and magazines.

■ **OTHER FACILITIES:** Home to Papamoa Toy Library; five meeting rooms available for hire.

maximum light with minimal heat transfer, rainwater collected from the roof is used to flush toilets, and solar panels provide hot water.

The doors open for the first public viewing at 10am on June 16 but the *Bay of Plenty Times* has been given a special sneak preview.

"It has something for everyone," promises Jo Thomas, the team leader at Papamoa's library and community centre.

"It will be a paradise for book lovers. "There are areas for reading and chatting and watching world news on Sky TV; studying, plus computers for email, internet, word processing and gaming, books and magazines from all over the world, family space and places for people to get informed, or to simply relax."

Ms Thomas said the state-of-the-art, 975sq m building in Gravatt Rd next to Palm Beach Shopping Plaza, which



PICTURE: MARK McKEOWN 240506MM77bop  
**KNOWLEDGE BASKET:** Papamoa Library team leader Jo Thomas helps stack the shelves at the new Papamoa Library and Community Centre, shown right.

houses the library on one side and a community centre on the other, was designed by architects Chow Hill to fit with the beach, the hills and the colours of the natural environment colours. A large sculpture made out of Hinuera stone by Papamoa artist Peter Crammond, called *3 Whales*, will adorn the front.

The whole complex, called Te Ao Marama Ki Papamoa, which means The Whole of Life and Light at Papamoa, has been designed to complement the neighbouring Centa Max development and Palm Beach Plaza complex.

Ms Thomas said six library staff and a team of students would help guide users

through the shelves now being filled with more than \$1m worth of resource items — 40,000 books, videos, DVDs, music CDs, games, newspapers and magazines. About 90 per cent of these were new books, the rest had come from other branches, she said.

The complex will also house the Papamoa Toy Library and there are five meeting rooms available for hire by community groups.

Planning for a library — which will open from 10am-6pm on weekdays and 10am-2pm on weekends — started in 2000 with land purchased. An initial capital investment was made in 2003.

