

Early Christmas for Parnell's toy library

By Christopher Adams

Parnell's Fun and Games Toy Library has received a boost with the arrival of \$10,000 of new toys.

The purchase was made possible through grants received from The Lion Foundation and Pub Charity.

The library – underneath Parnell's Holy Trinity Cathedral – has also received further grants to fund wages, rent and its children's DVD collection.

Library committee chairwoman Jo Wood says the grants could not have come at a better time.

"The grants have been absolutely fundamental in not only the upgrading of the library, but also its continuation," she says.

Mrs Wood says committee member Jude Eades worked tirelessly to secure the grants that have allowed the library to continue serving the community.

Librarian Michele Lim says the new range of toys includes an electric racing car set, tricycles and outdoor play equipment.

"The toys are expensive," says Ms Lim.

"That's why joining the library is good, because you don't nec-

essarily want to buy those toys for your kids, because you can't be sure if they will like them or not."

Ms Lim says a lot of parents "trial" toys from the library to see if they interest their children, before deciding whether or not to buy them.

Library member Vanessa Bennett says her membership means she rarely buys toys for her one-year-old son.

"They grow out of toys so quickly and you don't want your living room full of toys, so it's great to be able to change the toys as the kids develop."

The library has about 80 members and is looking for more.

Full yearly membership is \$160, but if members volunteer to do four rostered shifts at the library over the year the rate comes down to \$90.

Ms Lim says members working the two-and-a-half-hour shifts mostly help out with counting the individual pieces of toys when they are returned.

"That's really important, otherwise toys with lots of pieces tend to go missing."

For more information go to www.funandgamestoylibrary.org.nz.



New toys: Ezana Kidane, 1, rides the "rocking snail". It is part of the \$10,000 collection of new toys to arrive at Parnell's Fun and Games Toy Library.

Photo: CHRISTOPHER ADAMS