



SHARING THE EXPERIENCE TOGETHER

In September 2016 Salute Wairoa gifted the Wairoa Centennial Library with the Salute Wairoa Touch Table, a 65 inch flat screen television with touch sensitive additions. (basically a giant tablet).

Our challenge?

To maximise the amazing capabilities of the touch table, engage all ages with the modern cutting edge technology, to bring local history to life and increase digital confidence by using the touch table as widely as possible.

One of our main goals was to make the apps and software we put on the touch table different from what someone could achieve in their own home on their own tablet, so that we could create a touch table experience that is exciting and new (because lets be serious anyone can download an app from the windows store). However, finding apps that were multi-touch proved rather difficult but slowly and after a lot of research we accumulated a few apps we were pleased with, like puzzle touch, a few interactive books, weaver etc. (You can check out our apps and video on our website <http://www.wairoalibrary.co.nz>). But what we really wanted was a multi-touch colouring in app, especially because we had been asked specifically by members of the community for one. We soon discovered that finding a colouring app where more than one child

could colour at the same time without having to use the same colour or the same picture proved to be impossible, and this is where the wonderful software Intuiface by Intuilab came into play.

Our Intuiface Experience

Intuiface is a multi-touch software that allows you to create your own experience, you essentially create your own app. We had tried and tested this software previously at the Library and had decided that it would be a great way of showcasing and bringing to life our local history.

After hours and hours of colouring app research, emails, testing and on the verge of giving up we decided why not have a go at creating our own colouring app using Intuiface and the clipart already on Library files. After about two hours we had a draft concept and by the next day we had a working app up and running that ticked all the boxes, it allowed multiple people to colour simultaneously each with their own picture and colours, and we have been adding to the app ever since. We named it Multi-Brush and it has been a big hit these school holidays.



There are currently three finished aspects of Multi-Brush which are Local Drawings, Kid's Clipart and Class Visits. The Local Drawings allows people to draw their own pictures at home in black and white, bring them in to us and we put them on the touch table which they can then come and colour at any time. Kids Clipart consists of about 50 animated pictures to colour in including mazes, spot the difference and connect the dots. The class visits started with our children's librarian visiting two different classes at one of the local primary schools and reading them the story 'I am an Artist' by Nikki Slade Robinson, she then got them to draw a picture outline that they would then be able to colour on the touch table. We are planning for the classes to visit the Library after the school holidays so that they can see and colour their pictures on the touch table.

So far Multi-Brush has been a big success and has really tapped into our "Sharing the Experience Together" slogan. But it's not only Multi-Brush that showcases sharing the experience, we've had plenty

of instances that demonstrate this from whole families doing a puzzles together to friends sharing their drawing skills.

There was one particular day that really demonstrated everything we have been trying to achieve with the touch table. There was a Saturday morning where a grandparent in his 70's and his grandchild aged 9 came into the library specifically to play on the touch table. They both knew very little about what they could do or how to do it but with the help of a staff member were soon playing pocket sheep (a multi-touch sheep herding app). There were warm smiles as they got to play the game together and share the experience of the touch table. After about half an hour of playing they described the touch table as fun and addictive and left having bonded over experiencing something new together.

All in all the Salute Wairoa Touch Table has been a fun and challenging experience for Wairoa Centennial Library and we are continuing to find new ways to take advantage of the donation. It is exciting to see the community discover what the touch table has to offer and we can't wait to get started on another touch table project.

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