

REAP and children take to the water

SVEN CARLSSON

CHILDREN and adults alike had a great time at Te Ahiana at Waitotahi this week during a full immersion swimming and water-care REAP event.

REAP early childhood co-ordinator Sheryl Semmens said 90 children attended the “care for our seas” event on Tuesday where, among other things, they learned about the dangerous impact plastic had on the ocean.

“We need to control the use of plastics,” she said.

“Last year, there were 30,000 plastic bags used per week in Whakatane alone.”

While the ban on single-use plastic bags was a good step forward, there were many items still being needlessly packaged in plastic.

“Birds and whales end up eating the plastics,” Ms Semmens said.

“It’s our kaimoana and we need to start now to safeguard it for future generations.”

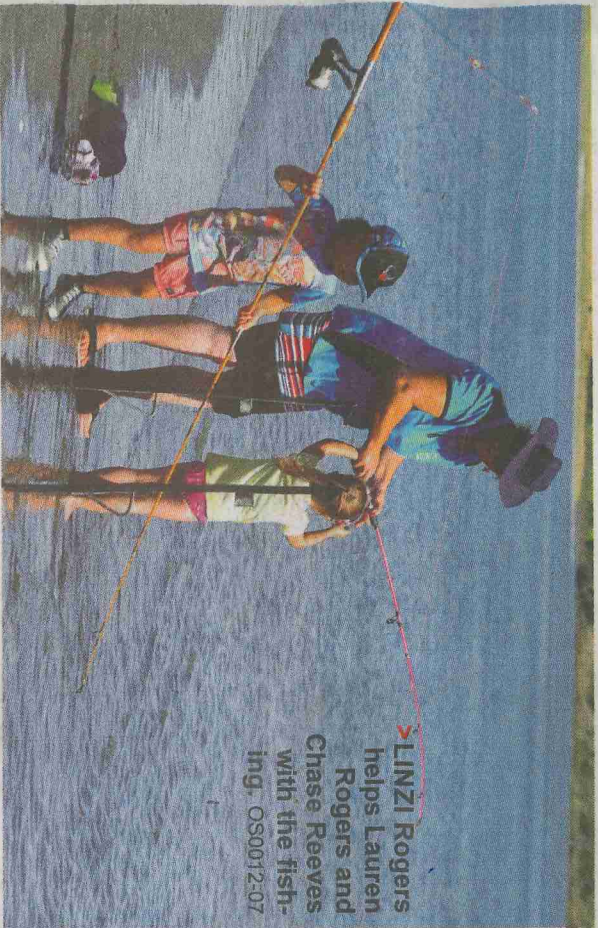
REAP House of Science facilitator Natalie Sandtler had set up tanks with water environments, explaining how barnacles, baby crabs and fish all co-existed in the sea.

The Tikiina o Taroio Moana – Care for our seas – event ran from 10am to 12.30pm.



> CHILDREN and adults mingle at the water’s edge.

Photos Sven Carlsson OS0012-01

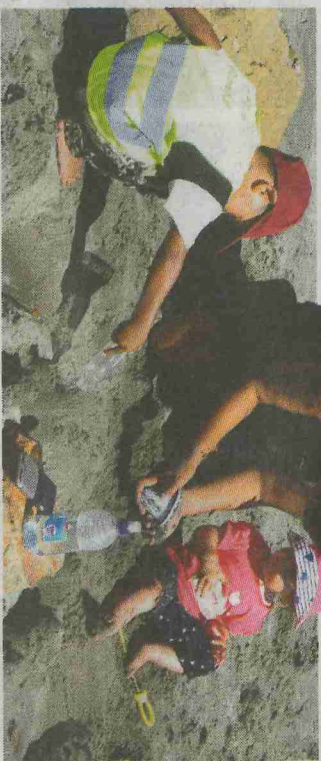


> LINZI Rogers helps Lauren Rogers and Chase Reeves with the fishing. OS0012-07



> BOTH dry and wet displays help the attendees learn more about the water environment. OS0012-08

> BONNIE Savage and four-year-old Nedene Pukepuke play the ukulele together. OS0012-09



> GYPSY Gerrard enjoys working with five-year-old Saint Watene and 18-month-old Lotti Wilson. OS0012-03

Due to staff training the Ōpōtiki Resource Recovery Centre will be closed all day Monday, 18 March 2019.

We apologise for any inconvenience.

Ōpōtiki District Council
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