

## Reading with the Library Grans



**READING BUDDIES:** Library gran Winsome Mitchell reads to two young girls during the successful trial in January. Photo supplied

READING with the Library Grans is returning to the library these school holidays.

Following a successful trial in January, the Whakatane and Districts Friends of the Library will again host the programme for a week in April.

For many years, Friends of the Library assisted with the annual Summer Reading Programme held in the library during the summer holidays, but with declining numbers following the national trend for this type of structured programme, staff felt they could make better use of their resources with an Outreach programme, which supports rural schools during term time.

Friends saw an opportunity to complement the Outreach programme with a library-focused programme of their own, and liaison between staff and Friends saw the formation of the Reading with the Library Grans initiative.

Children up to the age of 12 are encouraged to come to the library and meet with the grans where they can share their books, read

aloud, or have one of the grans read to them. There are no set rules, just a desire on the part of the grans to foster literacy and a love of books in children and to fulfil the need for children to have time to talk about books as well as time for reading.

This opportunity for children to practise sharing a book and being celebrated as a reader and thinker is part of building a love of literature and creative thinking.

The January initiative saw almost 100 children reading or chatting with the grans one-on-one and was well-received by parents and caregivers with overwhelmingly positive feedback.

The Reading Grans will be in the library on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, April 27, 28 and 30, from 10am to 12 noon.

Friends of the Library would be delighted to hear from anyone, including granddads, who would like to be part of the Library Grans group.

They can contact Andrea 027 7112072, Pat 307 9114, or Winsome 0276287282 for more information.

## Fun day to celebrate tamariki

**Kathy Forsyth**  
Arts reporter

A FUN and informative day is expected again at this year's Kawerau Heart 2 Heart Children's Day next Wednesday.

To be held at Kawerau's Prideaux Park on April 28, the free event will include kai, games, entertainment and prizes.

Organiser Kataraina Anderson, of Eastbay REAP, said it was an annual community event for whanau to come together and celebrate their tamariki.

It was meant to be held in March, to coincide with Children's Day, but had to be postponed because of level 2 Covid restrictions.

This year they are expecting about 400 visitors.

"The day will include free kai, entertainment and awesome prizes and fun for all our whanau to enjoy.

"There will be face painting, bouncy castles and a sausage sizzle. Local services will also be taking part in support of the day's event."

These include health, education and social services.

"It is an opportunity to promote their service and for whanau to engage with them."



**COMMUNITY EVENT:** Tamariki and their whanau gather for fun, kai and games at last year's Heart 2 Heart day. File photo

Ms Anderson said the overall goal of Heart 2 Heart was to give whanau of Kawerau opportunities to access and be made aware of the services and agen-

cies that exist in the community to support them.

Finding out about these services will involve a fun activity in which par-

ticipants will be given a treasure map passport.

"The treasure map has all the attending services' logos and kids and families can all join in and the goal is to go round to all the services, to engage in an activity and get your treasure map stamped.

"At the end, when you have completed your treasure map your name will go into a draw for prizes."

The back of the treasure map also has all the services' contact details.

Ms Anderson said the Heart 2 Heart fun day had been combined with the Rangitaiki Driver Training Day, run by Eastern Bay Road Safety Programme.

"They will have virtual reality driving experiences, games, vehicle checks, including tyres, window screens, indicators, rust and lights.

"An injury prevention officer will be present who can inform parents on how to safely and correctly install a car seat in a car, while there will also be practical driving skills."

The driver training day for learner and restricted rangatahi (15-24 years) will include driving challenges, drives with a registered instructor, games and prizes, plus a free barbecue and is taking place in Plunket Street.

## Our long weekend deals last even longer than the long weekend.



Wednesday 21 to  
Tuesday 27 April

**Smiths**  
CITY