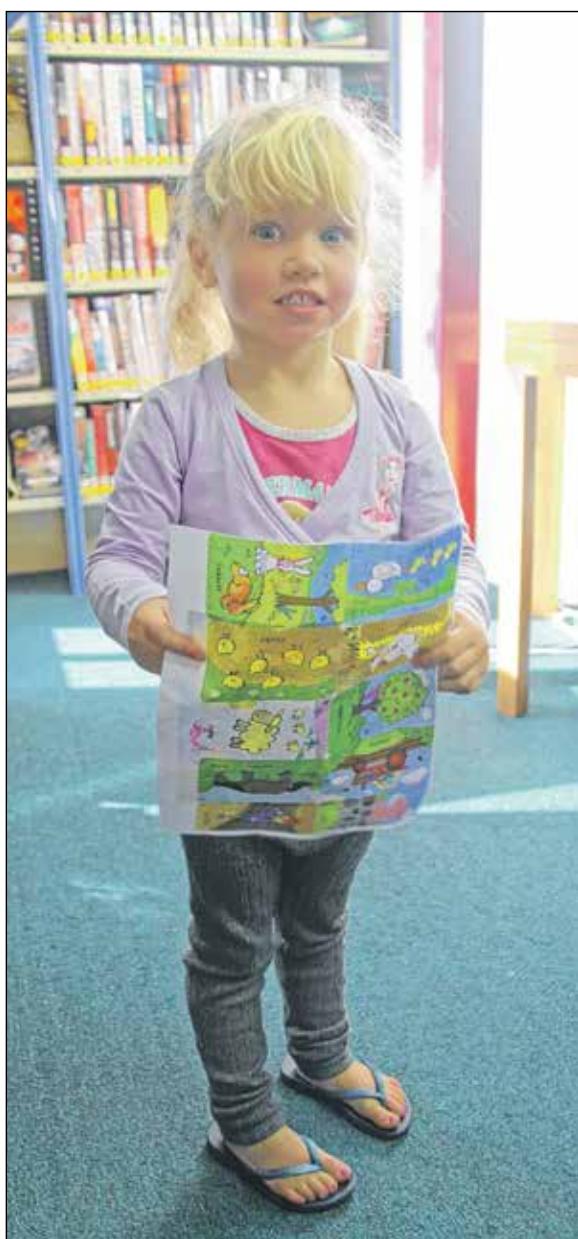


Gold in them thar books!



□ Three-year-old Sienna Cram on the hunt for buried treasure at the library.

LIBRARIES are usually about all the letters of the alphabet, but at Wairoa Library it was mostly the letter X.

X marked the spot at the Winter Warmers Reading Programme Treasure Hunt last Tuesday.

Children flocked to the library for the popular highlight on the reading programme's calendar.

Twenty-three young readers ran among the book shelves following clues and searching for the hidden treasure with prizes and certificates awarded for achievement.

Library staff and volunteers guided children through the aisles hunting out the good stuff.

Library manager, Sandra Hughes said, "Our Winter Warmers Reading Programme is one way we can keep children connected and enthused about reading."

"We still have places on the programme this winter, for children aged two to 13."

"Places are limited, so get in quick if you want your children to take part."

"There are great incentives for participants — activities and entertainers, plus cool rewards for reporting on the books they've been reading," says Ms Hughes.

To register, fill in the form, available from the library.

Registration forms can be dropped into the library, faxed to (06) 838 8547, or scanned and emailed to wrpstaff@xtra.co.nz

The programme continues with more activities including a Games Day on July 21 and a screening of Space Dogs on August 2.

Winter Warmers wraps up with a grand finale party on August 9.

Waste water and how it is discharged a looming issue

"THE discharge of sewage is changing throughout the country and we need to change with it", Wairoa District Council engineering manager Jamie Cox told the July meeting of the Maori Standing Committee at Te Kuha Marae.

He said council needed to identify the best practicable option for Wairoa and work with the community in partnership on the issue.

The Wairoa wastewater consent needs to be renewed by 2019.

Mr Cox said some of the infrastructure was 60-plus-years-old for some of the pipes, with some new additions made in 1980's.

He said there were 30 kilometres of underground pipes serving 2000 houses and the value of that infrastructural asset was \$40m. Any changes and improvements done would cost a lot of money.

"It's a big subject," he said.

"It doesn't take much maths to work out what that costs our ratepayers to maintain that service."

Mr Cox said there were cultural components along with the social impacts of delivering infrastructure.

He told the Maori Standing Committee that during rain, water was getting into the sewerage pipes.

"In heavy rain, lots of water gets in and the system cannot cope and overflows."

"In a storm event, it's possible that we will get an overflow into the river which is in flood anyway and it gets washed out."

"If there was no big rain, the sewage was pumped up to Pilot Hill and treated there."

"Our consent allows us to release it after treatment on the outgoing tide, in the middle of the river, at night."

"Another thing that can happen is when the bar is blocked, what is held in the ponds can build up until they can not hold any more."

"We have to let it go at that point or else it will pour out over everything."

He said there were a number of problems associated with their system.

Affco had their own consent and discharge point, oxidation ponds and a

pipe that goes underneath the river bed in mid-river and they discharged from that point.

Their human waste went into the Wairoa sewerage system, he said.

"There is a possibility in the future that we can work with them."

Two specialists from Manawatu — principal environmental scientist for Lowe Environmental Impact, Hamish Lowe, and senior advisor Peter Hill attended the meeting and had been involved in similar waste water plans throughout the North Island.

They saw the meeting as an opportunity to review how things were being done and to start thinking about the pillars of Wairoa's infrastructure, affordability and the economics with wastewater treatment.

Mr Lowe said it was about developing a sustainable wastewater system for Wairoa.

"We need to take people on a journey and understand how we get there as we all flush that chain."

"What is acceptable when the waste gets there?"

Weighing up the options and the values the community wants to achieve with its waterway meant it was not just about the environmental effects or the money.

"We need to understand how we balance these values and part of that journey is getting the community involved," said Mr Lowe.

Mr Lowe said such a conduit was not so much about providing a yay or nay but someone guiding that process.

"Part of that high-level project team was having guidance in how we should be dealing and engaging with tangata whenua."

The Maori Standing Committee agreed to have a closer look at what the council was proposing for community engagement and said it was more about tangata whenua for each marae, and not just iwi.

Committee member Kiwa Hammond was concerned they could become the persons to blame if things went wrong.

"There's nothing better than kanohi ki te kanohi — face to face."

'We need to understand how we balance these values (cost and environment) and part of the journey is getting the community involved.'

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DEALING with human waste was also raised by Te Kuha tangata whenua at the July meeting of the Maori Standing Committee.

Wairoa District Council engineering manager Jamie Cox said the village's treatment station worked on sand filters filtering the waste water and discharging into the stream with a consent that was up for review around 2022.

The newly-upgraded water treatment fed the Tuai village and attracted a 90 percent Government subsidy.

When it was being planned Mr Cox had looked at the Te Kuha Marae side of the village to see what could be done to improve the private water supply.

He said they had a meeting at Waimako

Marae to talk about options.

"There was a fundamental problem that people did not sometimes understand — that whatever infrastructure we provide, you pay for."

"There are always those barriers — if council puts in a water supply, we fund it through rates and depreciation and we fund it forever."

"If council do it, it is going to cost more."

"Our water is to New Zealand national drinking water standards."

"I would love to put in a water treatment plant, but I don't know if you would love to pay for it."

"If the community want it, I'm the man."

"The community needs to have that conversation — but there will be a cost."

Cox stresses that cost is the barrier to wishes