



MEDIA RELEASE

Ruapehu District Council

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KIDS ENCOURAGED TO 'BE A LEGEND' ON SUMMER READING PROGRAMME

Ruapehu District Council (RDC) libraries are now accepting registrations from kids who want to take part in the free summer reading programme.

RDC Head Librarian, Kamu Lala, said that every year there is a new theme that is specifically designed to appeal to children with the theme this year being; 'Be a Legend – Read!' with characters based on ancient Greek legends.

"The programme officially starts on Monday 12th December and any parent or caregiver who wants their child to take part is asked to register them at any one of Council's libraries in Taumarunui, Ohakune or Raetihi before then," she said.

"The summer reading programme is now well established with many children taking part every year."

"The programme has been designed by librarians with the aim of promoting reading as a purposeful leisure activity along with encouraging the involvement of caregivers, the fun of reading, and having books in the home."

Ms Lala said that the programme required all children taking part to read a minimum of four books over its duration although many of the kids read far more than that.

"Over the course of the summer the kids report into the library a minimum of four times to discuss the book they had just read with one of the library staff," she said.

"They talk with us about such things as what they liked about the story, about the characters in the books, what sort of stories they like to read, and then we help them choose their next book if they need us to."

"Along with developing their reading ability the programme helps the children feel comfortable about using the library regularly, and for the older kids about coming to the library on their own to read, borrow books, and use the library's other services such as the internet," she stated.

"When the children register for the programme they get given a special registration pack that includes a 'Be a Legend – Read!' folder full of puzzles and other activities and each time they check-in after reading a book they get a small gift such as a book bag, pen, pencil case or writing pad, etc."

Ms Lala commented that the library staff are 'thrilled' whenever they see children who have taken part in the summer reading programme go on to become regular library users.

"We have also had 'successes with other family members with mums, dads, aunts, uncles and even whole whanau joining the library and starting to read regularly."

"It's always free to join the library and children and young adults books are also free to loan."

"Reading is one of the most powerful tools for creating lifelong learners and parents and caregivers can give their children a powerful advantage by encouraging them to enjoy reading."

Ms Lala added that library staff wanted to thank King Country Energy for providing sponsorship and Ross and Janet Miller of Miller Books for donating books for prizes each year without which council would be unable to offer the summer reading programme.

DAVID HAMMOND
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CJH : PRW



Taumarunui Head Librarian, Kamu Lala, displays the 'Be a Legend Read' registration pack.