

Genesis assess impact of ex-tropical cyclones

THE damage inflicted by ex-tropical cyclones last autumn were discussed at Genesis Energy's annual Waikaremoana consultative meeting.

Key maintenance challenges Genesis dealt with last year included damage to the Kaitawa tailrace from erosion at the Kaitawa carpark.

There was also screen damage from the ex-tropical cyclones with debris washing into Whakamarino at a level the machinery could not cope with.

There were three late season cyclones (Debbie, Cook and Donna) with ex-tropical cyclone Debbie, one of the biggest events on record.

The water inflow from Debbie saw Lake Waikaremoana's level rising 1.5m in four days.

Genesis Energy's Waikaremoana site manager Ross McDonald said it was the second highest inflow of 550 cumecs after

Cyclone Bola in 1988 which brought 650 cumecs. He compared the lake to a big tub with only one small sinkhole.

"We are limited in our ability to get water out of the lake."

The operation was over the maximum level for six days and because of the high flows, the screens were

choked and they could not run Waikaretakehe River at full flow.

Mr McDonald said they had to clean out the debris manually.

There was also damage to the drive units and side guides and the repair work

took four months to refurbish the units and put them back into action.

Last year also saw a fire suppression upgrade at Tuai power station with

asbestos removal from the old roof which was replaced with corrugated iron.

The intricate details of fixing 2mm

damage to the thrust collar, replaced over Christmas in 2016 was caused by a loose pin collar cap screw and cost \$500,000 to repair.

The sister unit was also inspected and

retorqued which cost a further \$150,000-\$200,000.

Stakeholders also asked about damage to Hopuruvahine and around the shore at the top lake where levels reached 583masl (metres above sea level).

Genesis staff said they tried to manage the level at just under 500masl but when 500 cumecs came in one day, they could

lower the lake by only 100 cumecs a day.

Nati Ruapani spokesperson Yern

Whitana said some of the land owners were worried about the rising water levels on their reserves and he urged

Genesis Energy to set up a meeting with tangata whenua saying it was very unclear what that relationship with tangata whenua looked like right now.

The above average annual rainfall last year left its mark on roads in the area with drop-outs leaving services hanging in the air.

A new Genesis energy vision was also outlined with major investment in batteries to start the daytime power generating from solar energy.

Repair work on the Valley Road access to the power house will mean further meetings with Wairoa District Council about the pipe work and what should happen to improve the situation.



□ Jorja Thompson-Tuhi with Wairoa District Council's chief executive officer Steven May at the library summer reading presentation.



□ Summer readers Ben (left) and Luke Kapilovic, who chalked up 23 books between them during the library's Wild About Reading, at the finale party on Wednesday.

Wairoa kids wild about reading wrote 400 book reports

BALLOON challenges and party food marked the end of the Wairoa Library summer reading programme.

Now almost a school holiday institution, Wild About Reading concluded on Wednesday with a finale

party.

Wairoa Rotary members attended as part of their literacy area of focus.

They have sponsored the event for the last 20 years and this year the readers wrestled with balloons as a final activity.

Around 400 reading reports were recorded for the programme and 66

children finished from 104 who enrolled at the start of the summer reading challenge.

During the six weeks of activities,

children aged two years to 12 years

reported in person, by phone, or by email and on Wednesday they received their medals and certificates before tucking into a sausage sizzle and magnificent jungle cake.



□ A special celebratory cake for the Wild About Reading finale party, left
Deidre Jones, Lauralee Bramley and Judith Nielsen.



□ Wairoa Library manager Sandra Hughes with Wairoa Rotary president Annette Pickering. Rotary has supported the event for 20 years.