

LOCAL Life



031212swbn01

T is for Thank You — Greerton Village School pupils (left to right) Caitlin Royal, Glen Moorhouse, Grant Storey and Delilah Dockery with the donated books with (rear, left to right) author Tommy Kapai Wilson, business partner Geoff Payne and HOBEC solicitor Stephanie Clarke.

Big tick for book that 'brings Tauranga alive'

World domination of the Western Bay is in the sights of author Tommy Kapai Wilson.

Earlier this year, Tommy and his business partner Geoff Payne launched a world first — a children's book utilising the technology behind QR (Quick Read) codes.

The QR code can be scanned using a smartphone or computer to take readers to a webpage offering more information and unlocked by downloading a free app.

Corporate sponsorship has ensured 3500 of the books can be provided to primary schools across the district.

Tommy says around 6000 will be needed for the book to be in every school.

One hundred of the 1200 books provided thanks to the support of HOBEC were

delivered to Greerton Village School on Monday.

Carrus Corporation and TrustPower have also come on board to sponsor the initiative.

The book — called *T for Tauranga* — follows the alphabet to capture local locations and things to see and do in the Western Bay.

Each page includes a QR code which, when scanned, takes the reader to a webpage containing more information about the page's subject — whether it is Omokoroa, speedway, the harbour bridge or Pilot Bay.

"We want kids to learn what is in their own back yards," says Tommy, "for them to recognise where they stand and learn what's in their turangawaewae (place to stand)."

Greerton Village School

principal Anne Mackintosh described the books and the initiative as wonderful and fantastic and said some will be kept as a class resource and others will be given to new entrants when they begin school.

Deputy principal Heather Langley said the book "really brings Tauranga alive" and will help children with history, geography and reading.

"We are always looking for that X factor that makes kids want to dive in, and this has it — it uses the technology that is their world."

The book will be used as part of Merivale Community Centre's summer holiday programme with children taking trips to some of the locations in the book.

■ See a2zkidsbooks.com.