



The Regional Outdoor Education Centre of Taranaki

TARANAKI OUTDOOR PURSUITS AND EDUCATION CENTRE

Volume 1, Issue 1

Term 1 2007—April

TSB TOPEC DEVELOPMENTS



Mountain Skills Week 2006 with Coastal and Opunake Senior Students. A week of snow based unit standard assessment based at Taurangi Lodge.

Half way through the term already!

Hi all,

This newsletter is an addition to the way TOPEC talks to the people that matter most. These newsletters will help keep you up to date with developments and upcoming events at the Regions Outdoor Education Centre.

A number of schools have

completed courses this term with great success. Last week saw our first raft trip of the year with Boys High School. With the change in the weather it is a good opportunity to remind all schools to ensure that students attend courses with suitable clothing.

A quality set of thermal underwear is essential for this. With this in mind KIWI OUTDOORS has agreed to provide a 15% discount on Thermadry Thermal wear to all School Students attending TSB TOPEC. In addition they will discount any other product not already on sale purchased at the same time by 10%. Students should present a TSB TOPEC gear list issued to them by schools to be eligible for these discounts.

This is a generous offer by

Rob Needs and KIWI OUTDOORS. Many thanks.

We have started the ball rolling with the major upgrade of our facilities. Plans include the addition of a new indoor teaching / lecture room which will self contained to include changing, toilet and cooking facilities. The shower and toilet block will undergo a total upgrade to provide hygienic and functional facilities for users. The main block will be modified to update the kitchen and increase space. Staff and students will be pleased with the addition of a covered area in front of the gear shed and a new maintenance space. With the help of the TSB Community Trust these developments will become reality.

Steve Ralph



Steve Ralph - Director.
New To TSB TOPEC 2007.

Gateway Students—The Outdoors as a Career

This year TSB TOPEC is developing the centre as a viable training centre for senior students choosing the Outdoors as a possible career. Opunake High School student Kim Danz has been training and working alongside TSB TOPEC instructors as part of the Gateway programme. Kim attends TSB

TOPEC on a weekly basis to allow him to gain NCEA credits and work towards meaningful Outdoor Industry qualifications. Kim is at present gaining Rafting experience towards the National Raft Guide Grade 2 Qualification. He is also completing assessments that will see him gain the National Certificate

in Outdoor Leadership (level 3) and the National Award in Risk Management (level 3). These awards are unit standard based and contribute to NCEA . We have one other place available in 2007 for a motivated student wishing to make the Outdoor a career. Contact us for further information.

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ADVENTURE IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE LEARNING THAT TAKES PLACE AT TSB TOPEC AND CHALLENGE THROUGH RISK IS ENCOURAGED.

A New Vision for TSB TOPEC.

For 2007 we have developed a new Vision for the future. This is where we are heading and sets out the pathway to achieve it.

TSB TOPEC is the best regional Outdoor Education Centre in New Zealand. We are innovative, choose our own path and are leaders in Outdoor Education within Taranaki. We ensure that low cost but high quality courses are delivered to Taranaki Schools, offering real adventure and Outdoor Education.

Adventure is an important part of the learning that takes place at TSB TOPEC and challenge through risk is encouraged. Learning is always student focused to ensure that individual needs are met and our course structures reflect this. We offer a broad range of activities that ensure that we have the flexibility to meet student needs. Our core focus is in Education with the ability to cover a diverse range of experiences and client groups.

TSB TOPEC provides a career pathway for students and is a provider for training in the Outdoor Education sector. We provide training in the Outdoors for students, teachers and the community.

At TSB TOPEC environmental awareness is encouraged and staff actively promotes the respect and conservation of our natural resources.

We have a clear and structured Professional Development system that ensures that our staff are well qualified, current and experienced. We have established links with other Outdoor Education providers within the region, nationally and internationally to share good practice, knowledge and skills. Our systems for the administration of the Centre are clear, robust and effective. TSB TOPEC functions efficiently and is financially sound. TSB TOPEC focuses on building strong community relationships and communicates effectively to ensure this.



We believe that through Outdoor Education students broaden their life skills and develop aspects of Hauora and Well being. Students leave us knowing more about themselves and others. Students are given the opportunity to set goals and are encouraged to strive for success in all activities. We encourage students to accept responsibility for themselves and others. Through personal challenge at TSB TOPEC students will grow as individuals and learn through their experiences.

Whaia e koe ki te iti kahurangi; ki te tuohu koe, me maunga teitei

Seek the treasure you value most dearly; if you bow your head, let it be to a lofty mountain

Kerry Warner - Office Administrator



Kerry has been with TSB TOPEC for two years and is the person you are most likely to talk to if you phone the centre. Kerry is responsible for much of the day to day duties around the campus whilst the instructors are out and about.

All accommodation bookings for weekend and holiday periods are made through Kerry. She is a key person

within the TSB TOPEC structure and ensures the bills are paid on time.



Ngarara Bluff Campsite

Thanks to the Lions Clubs of Taranaki

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the lions clubs around Taranaki for their continued support in fundraising and maintaining huts and facilities at TSB TOPEC. Recent work to Normandy and Egmont huts has been much appreciated by users. The addition of ranch sliders to many huts has also improved conditions in the huts both in Summer and in Winter.

I look forward to building a positive relationship with the

Lions clubs to ensure that the support and help that has been forthcoming continues in the future.



15% Discount on Thermadry Thermal wear for students on production of TOPEC gear list.
10% Discount on all other products not already on sale when purchased at the same time

Notes to Schools - To help the smooth running of courses

Programme start 10.30 a.m—Before this time TSB TOPEC staff will be completing preparation for the week. If you arrive before this students will be under the schools responsibility.

Students should bring home cooking, biscuits, for snacks through the day

Pick up will be at one

o'clock on the last day of the course.

Bread truck arrives between 5-7am - do not be alarmed. The bread for the day will be deposited outside the kitchen.

EOTC coordinators please provide us with a supervising teacher schedule for the week. This allows us to know who to expect and who is a

contact person for any incidents.

Parents will be allowed to visit only after permission from school.

Any visitors report to office on arrival to sign in out

Medical form—schools provide dietary requirements and individuals provide specialist food where applicable.



Translator at Taururangi in winter.

Gifted and Talented Students - Kayaking

Calling all gifted Outdoor Students.

Students will attend a five day course based at TSB TOPEC focusing on a specialized area. Each term a different focus area will be available.

During term 2 we are offering 8 places for students with a talent for kayaking to extend their skills and

knowledge in a whitewater environment.

TSB TOPEC is providing a course targeting Senior students at year 12 / 13 who wish to achieve NCEA credits in the area of kayaking.

Over the week students will perfect moving water skills and gain valuable knowledge in a decked kayak. Students will be expected to

have level 2 credits in Kayaking or have a similar level of personal experience.

Unit standard Assessments will provide recognition for the skills and knowledge achieved. Course costs will be approx \$160 per student

Please forward the details of any students wishing to participate on this course.



Hawera students rafting in 2006



TSB TOPEC is situated on the banks of the Waiwhakaiho River, in bush reserve, some 10 kilometres from New Plymouth.

STAFF:

STEVE RALPH –
DIRECTOR

TSB TOPEC is a charitable trust, established in 1986 to promote and provide Outdoor Education for Taranaki youth. The Trust operates a centre close to New Plymouth and utilizes the bush, rivers, coast and rock in the surrounding area. Approx 1500 secondary students are catered for each year as well as other user groups such as the YMCA, Sport Taranaki and disabled groups.

ANDRE SCHONEVELD—
SENIOR INSTRUCTOR

KERRY WARNER -
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

TSB TOPEC is the holder of the Regional Council Award for Waste minimization and increased energy efficiency

NICK BROWN-
INSTRUCTOR

ALAN SARTEN -
RELIEF INSTRUCTOR

Major sponsors include:

TSB Community Trust and the Lions Foundation. New Plymouth District Council for grounds, parks and landscape assistance and maintenance.

LISA MACKAY
RELIEF INSTRUCTOR

Jamiesons Motors for continued support for Vans and transport.

JOHN DAVIDSON-
RELIEF INSTRUCTOR

Other Sponsors and Supporters include:

Value Timber—Picnic tables, Tegal—Gum boots, Robt Stone— Overalls, Fronterra—work boots, NP Lioness— Curtains, Yarrows for our bread requirements. Yarrows for our bread requirements and V and G McBeth for our milk.

KATRINA BROWN-
RELIEF INSTRUCTOR

KIM DANZ-
GATEWAY STUDENT

If you are able to provide sponsorship or help fund TSB TOPEC in any way we would be pleased to hear from you.

E-mail:

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Many Thanks
Steve Ralph



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