



The Regional Outdoor Education Centre of Taranaki

TARANAKI OUTDOOR PURSUITS AND EDUCATION CENTRE

Issue 7

Term 4 2008— November

TSB TOPEC Term 4

Hi to everyone,

Spring has sprung and we are now heading into the summer weather. Daylight saving has made a big difference with plenty of time to get to camp and set up a good fire.

Our two new buildings have arrived on site and I will cover more on this later in the newsletter.

Other highlights of the term 3 included a cool mountain week with Opunake High School at the start of the term. We had great snow conditions and some accomplished snow caves were constructed. The weather was accommodating and the students all performed

Farewells

A whole hearted well done to Amy our long suffering Gateway student from NPGHS. Amy has achieved her Grade 2 Raft Guide qualification which allows her to guide rafts with clients (in our case students) on grade 2 Rivers. This is the first step on the ladder for raft guiding and also gains Credits at Level 3. This is a required level of competence to guide a group as an Instructor. It is also farewell to Amy who is leaving us to further her development as

well.

We also had a great week with NPGHS caving and rafting. The girls got stuck into the caves and pushed their limits with caves such as Skyline and Fallopian being spelunked.

A lowlight was the unwanted and thoughtless act of vandalism by persons unknown when they smashed up one of our leased vans. You may have seen me in the Daily news looking grumpy—with good reason. It is a sad state when we need to not only manage the natural risks of activities but we also have to consider the stupidity of humans.

The Get to Go was a high-

an Instructor at Tai Poutini Polytechnic. We wish her well in her studies and hope to see her back in a year of two. She is a great role model for other would be instructors.

We also need to say farewell to Karla and Shane who have been instructing for most of 2008. They both are heading on their O.E. Both have been motivated, enthusiastic and very professional in their work. Wherever these two end up they will make their mark and adapt

light for many schools. It was great to see so many enthused and eager yr 9 and 10 students racing around N.P. battling each other for the chance to take part in the national event. TOPEC donated gear for the event which was well organized and managed by Don Paterson.

Things here at TOPEC continue to evolve with new buildings arriving, changing staff and new courses such as the NPGHS Challenge Course.

If you have an idea for your school course just get in touch.

Steve Ralph

Director

to any challenges. They both have been a huge part of TOPEC this year.

We also need to acknowledge the huge contribution of Peter Smith to TOPEC. Peter stepped down from the Board this year after an involvement of 20+ years. In recent times Peter has been the sustaining figure on the Board and without whom TOPEC may not be here today. The new Climbing wall will be dedicated to Peter in recognition of his long service.

TSB Community Trust



Steve Ralph - Director.

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New Buildings

We now have two new buildings on site. The green building is a new classroom with kitchenette and office space. It is intended to act as a teaching space for our senior courses where some theoretical / Class based work is required and at other times as a second lodge.

The second lodge option, in conjunction with the new ablution block (grey building) allows the camp to be split into two and the facilities shared.

The classroom has recently had power connected and is able to be used. It will require decking to be installed and a spruce up with a paint brush to bring it up to a more appealing state.

Both buildings have been relocated from Hawera by New Plymouth House Movers. Thanks to Sandy Southcombe for his expertise and professional aplomb.

We will be seeking grants / funding to complete the installation of the ablution block in 2009



Grants— TSB COMMUNITY TRUST

We have received a number of grants in 2008 including our annual grant from the TSB Community Trust. They have generously agreed to award us \$40,000 that directly subsidises student course fees.

This works out to approximately \$20 dollars per student over the year and is invaluable in keeping course fees as low as possible. Without the generosity of the TSB Community Trust and other grant awarding bodies we would have no choice but to increase course fees by a dramatic amount.

Our thanks go to the Community Trust for the Grant and their continuing support.

TSB Community Trust



TOPEC v Quarry Trucks

We are battling to protect the peaceful surroundings at TOPEC with Graham Harris Ltd. They wish to gain consent to allow Quarry trucks along the access road to TOPEC. These trucks will be using the existing Right of Way up to 40 truck movements a day or an average of 1 truck every six minutes.

We believe that this use of the ROW is unsafe, and will dramatically

affect the peaceful and natural environment that now exists at TOPEC. Dust, noise and pollution will be a real problem and will cause dramatic changes to how we operate.

We are seeking letters of support against the submission by Graham Harris to use the ROW. If you are willing to write such a letter please forward it to Steve Ralph at TOPEC.



Nick Brown—pushing the lead at Sheridans - Wharepapa

Notes to Schools - 2008—guns, alcohol

Please ensure that students do not bring prohibited items to TOPEC.

These include cigarettes, alcohol, drugs, slug guns, catapults.

It is also advisable to collect cell phones either on arrival or prior to departure as these can be used for encouraging unwanted visitors.

Programmes 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 **1 p.m.** on the last day of the course.

Bread truck arrives between 3-7am - 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 sign in out

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

Lights out 10.30 recommended.

New Instructors 2009

TSB TOPEC welcomes for 2009 Mark Dickie. Mark is a qualified teacher who joins us from Coastal Taranaki school where he has been teaching

Physical Education and Outdoor Education. He has experience of NCEA and Gateway programmes and will be a valuable addition to the team,

Pip Taylor is also joining TSB TOPEC for 2009. She is joining us from Peel Forest OPC, Canterbury and has a wide skill set that will fit in with our varied courses.



Shane "the fish" Roberts —departing TOPEC for overseas adventure

The Regional Outdoor Education Centre of Taranaki



TARANAKI OUTDOOR PURSUITS AND EDUCATION CENTRE

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

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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.

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

Major sponsors / contributors include:

TSB Community Trust and the Lions Foundation.

New Plymouth District Council for grounds, parks and landscape assistance and maintenance.

NZCTS

Rotorangi Adventure Trust

NZ Lottery Grant Board

Jamiesons Motors for continued support for Vans and transport.

Other Sponsors and Supporters include:

Waste Management—recycling and waste collection, Value Timber—Picnic tables, Tegal—Gum boots, Robt Stone— Overalls, Fonterra—work boots, NP Lioness—Curtains, Yarrows for our bread requirements and V and G McBeth for our milk.

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

Many Thanks

Steve Ralph



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