



The Regional Outdoor Education Centre of Taranaki

TARANAKI OUTDOOR PURSUITS AND EDUCATION CENTRE

Issue 7

Term 3 2008— |September

TSB TOPEC Term 3

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 include 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

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 Fallopien being undertaken. Running by next year. The change in format with a new unit standard being used to assess the experience was well worth it.

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 to activities but we also have to consider the stupidity of humans.

The Get to Go was a highlight 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 courses and what we can offer. If you have an idea for your school course just get in touch.

Steve Ralph

TSB Community Trust 



Steve Ralph - Director.

Inside this issue:

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| TSB TOPEC DEVELOPMENTS | 1 |
| MANGATEPOPO TRAGEDY | 1 |
| RECENT COURSES | 2 |
| GRANTS 2008 | 2 |
| PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT | 3 |
| TOPEC TRUSTEE WHO ARE THEY? | 3 |
| SPONSORS AND CONTACT DETAILS | 4 |

Tom welcome —amy rafting—caving, mountain,

The recent events at OPC have been extremely saddening and our thoughts and hearts go to those that were directly or indirectly involved in the tragedy.

The incident has sent shockwaves throughout the Outdoor Sector and has given everyone cause to stop and reevaluate activities and operations.

OPC a world leader in Outdoor Education will be working hard to understand the

factors that led to this terrible situation. It is a centre of high standards and professionalism. I am sure that this professionalism will allow a full and honest review of their processes.

The investigation into the tragedy will highlight the lessons that need to be learnt by not only OPC but all Outdoor Providers. We will be awaiting the results to ensure that TOPEC operations consider the recommendations made.

I hope that no knee jerk reaction takes place as has happened in the UK. To similar incidents. It is important that the Youth of New Zealand continue to explore the outdoors and experience the joy and wonder of our natural world

We offer our condolences to those that have lost loved ones, the survivors and to the staff at OPC.

New Buildings

< Our new 4.3 m Raft in action in High Flows on the Waitara River. Amy Tipling is the guide (NPGHS—Gateway) St Marys students are holding on!

Nick Brown testing a > new Mini Mystic in the hole at Pukerangiora, Waitara River

New roof for Urenui

Thanks to the Urenui Lions club for the recent upgrade of the Urenui Hut.

The roof as been replaced, lined with batts and is now watertight. The continued support of the

Lions is vital for the continued success of TSB TOPEC.

Grants— TSB COMMUNITY TRUST

We have received a number of grants in 2008



ROW—Quarry Trucks staff swims

At the beginning of June we all traveled to the Central North Island for staff development in River Rescue and Alpine Skills.

We covered raft rescue skills and braved the frigid waters of the Tongarairo River. This was a really useful week for us to ensure that we are operating safely and up to date with current industry best practice.

We also explored the first Snow of the year on Mt Ruapehu. Skills were refined and knowledge shared in this Mountain Environment. Use of the Ice axe, crampons and belay systems were focused upon.

Later in June Nick ran a trip to the Kaituna river a serious grade 4+ river. This includes the highest commercially run Waterfall in NZ (7m).



Notes to Schools - 2008—guns, alcohol

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 Instructor

David Grigg Chairman—lions

Graham Goodman deputy Chairman—Service Organisation

Matt Lash - HOD PE Opunake High School

Mark Dickie—PE teacher Coastal Taranaki School

Lynley Ralston—Principal St Marys Stratford

Matt Cleaver PPTA Rep Hawera High School



Grants Received—June 2008

Thanks to the following Organisations:

NZCT—\$8000— 5 Whitewater Kayaks and associated gear.

NZ lottery Grant Board—\$25,000 Climbing Wall

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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.

STAFF:

STEVE RALPH –
DIRECTOR

NICK BROWN—SENIOR
INSTRUCTOR

KERRY WARNER -
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

KARLA BLUMBERG
INSTRUCTOR

ALAN SARTEN -
RELIEF INSTRUCTOR

JOHN DAVIDSON-
RELIEF INSTRUCTOR

KATRINA SHEPHERD-
RELIEF INSTRUCTOR

SHANE ROBERTS
RELIEF INSTRUCTOR

E-mail:

kerry@tsbtopec.co.nz

steve@tsbtopec.co.nz

nick@tsbtopec.co.nz

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



TSB TOPEC
Hydro Road
PO Box 859
New Plymouth
Taranaki
Phone: 06 7580448
Fax: 06 7580448