

2019



TSB TOPEC

TARANAKI OUTDOOR PURSUITS & EDUCATION CENTRE

Issue **1**

Term **1**

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



NEW CABINS



TSB
COMMUNITY
TRUST

TSB grant enables an upgrade of 30 year-old cabins

It was out with the old and in with the new over summer, with six new cabins replacing the original 1986 design. The vintage cabins were auctioned off as unique garden sheds, art studios or as holiday accommodation and extra rooms. A modern corrugated cladding design complemented with a sturdy plywood finish inside was commissioned for the new build, with the six-bed bunk sleeping layout retained. Kelvin Pearce and Aaron Hotter completed the construction. The main sponsor of TOPEC, TSB, continued its association with education outside the classroom (EOTC) and outdoor education in the school curriculum, by contributing \$161,000 through the TSB Community Trust for the design and build. Support for the project also came from MCS Creative Structures, KES Electrical, Taranaki Steelformers, Jones

Quarry, JPB Draughting, Farmlands, CE Aluminium, Value Building Supplies, Site Development Ltd, Metro Glass, Taranaki Tool Hire, Wills Contracting, Carpets Wholesale & Retail, Broadmore Plumbing & Drainage and Maxwell Engineering.

Each cabin has a different coloured door – red, blue, green, yellow, orange and black – and continue to be linked with a local Lions Club (Okato, Rahotu & Pungarehu, Bell Block, Inglewood, and Kaponga).

Other Taranaki Lions Clubs – Normanby, NP Lioness, Urenui, Waitara, Opunake, NP Egmont, and New Plymouth Pakeke – still take responsibility for the care of each of the 13 cabins at TSB TOPEC.

TSB TOPEC News

New Director

A new addition to the TSB TOPEC team this year is Grover. Grover will be familiar to many as she started instructing at TOPEC way back in 1995 and did a second stint as Operations Manager starting in 2013. She returns this time as Director with her zest for life undiminished “TOPEC is all about inspiring youth to take on challenges while experiencing the outdoors, think for themselves, solve problems and develop life skills”. We say goodbye to Jenn at the end of term 1. Jenn has been an invaluable staff member with her wealth of knowledge. She has made a huge contribution to our senior school courses and our level 3 programme. We wish her well in her future adventures.



Riversafe and Bush Safe Education Our Riversafe and Bush Safe programmes provide basic skills in the dominant environments that surround us in Taranaki. Alongside beach education, TSB TOPEC has keeping you safe in the Taranaki outdoors covered. Schools could be eligible for funding through KiwiSport (see link below). Our programmes can be stand alone day courses or could be embedded into a week long course. <https://www.sporttaranaki.org.nz/community-sport/funding/kiwisport-funding>

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Term Highlights

TSB TOPEC has welcomed over 580 students through the gates this term for EOTC. Beach education has dominated the students' outdoor experiences. With a long summer and rivers running low at times, the beach was the obvious destination although river kayaking was still possible on our tail race. Tramping up and around our mouna is always a highlight as students hone their bush safety and camping skills. The high and low ropes still raise the adrenalin levels.



TSB TOPEC staff took advantage of the recent rain and a visit to Taranaki by world renown Rafting guide and assessor Grant South. All staff furthered their safety skills when put through the rigorous demands of the NZ Rafting River Rescue course.

New Zealand Certificate in Outdoor Experiences. Level 3

Our Level 3 certificate is underway with a full course of 10 students from various Taranaki secondary schools who attend every Thursday & Friday for the year. The team has used the study of weather and rock climbing to learn about appropriate preparation for outdoor experiences.



TSB TOPEC News

Project-based Learning

Predator free Araheke will be the beginning of our project-based learning initiative. Staff and students will work with DOC to install and maintain pest traps in our local, just-over-the bridge Araheke Reserve. We will also be looking towards more conservation work on Mt Taranaki.

Now available at TSB TOPEC



BRONZE



SILVER



GOLD

Taranaki students can now join the growing numbers of Year 10 and above students registering around the country for Bronze, Silver and Gold levels of the Duke of Edinburgh International Aotearoa New Zealand Hillary Award. TSB TOPEC has been given funding and Open Award Unit status to assist schools in setting up and administering students for the various sections and delivering the Adventurous Journey.

The Awards are tough, entailing a huge amount of individual challenge alongside personal commitment. At Bronze and Silver level there are four sections to complete. The sections provide a framework for students to explore physical activity, mental challenges, individual perseverance, teamwork and positive interaction with others. Gold level adds a fifth Residential Project section which requires students to undertake a worthwhile project that involves interaction with people in the community.

All students that attend TSB TOPEC will be offered the chance to take up the challenge. The Adventurous Journey requirement – spending five days in an unfamiliar environment undertaking activities that benefit themselves or others – involves students setting out for a tramp, a raft, canoe or kayak trip, or caving.