

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

GRADUATION 2019

Level 3 NZCOE Students Graduate

Students on the TSB TOPEC Level 3 NZ Certificate in Outdoor Experiences graduated on 31st October after starting their year of outdoor education study back in February. Every Thursday and Friday, (Mon-Wed spent at their school), students mixed the theory of bush survival, the purpose of outdoor clothing and reading the weather, first aid and risk management with practical education outside the classroom skill development in tramping, kayaking, caving, rafting and abseiling. Many are now capable of leading others safely in outdoors environments and picked up around 30 valuable level 3 credits towards NCEA.



Celebrating each students' success and their growth as a collective was the theme of the day. TSB TOPEC Director Grover Worsfold opened the ceremony with a whanaungatanga message – the students and staff shared experiences, a sense of belonging and connectedness that strengthened

each member of the group and the TOPEC family. They will always be welcome back 'home' at TOPEC, she said.

Tutor Katrina Shepherd thanked the students for being a pleasure to work with and focused her words on the power of having to confront struggles as a positive. "It's the journey not the destination that gives fulfilment," Katrina said, and followed this up with her interpretation of the whakatauki: *Tama tu tama ora / Tama noho tama mate (an active person will remain healthy / a lazy one will become sick)*. "To me, this means 'Life's a struggle – no struggle, no life'. So, go out there, accept the challenges and make the most of your life".

Students also introduced themselves, talking about their challenges and their most enjoyed aspects of the course. Caving was a highlight. Graduates are dispersing next year to study outdoor education at Tai Poutini Polytechnic West Coast or Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology, train towards the Police, travel to work at Camp America, as well as taking up apprenticeships locally.

A big thank you to the schools that supported the learning programme over 2019 – Stratford High School, Coastal Taranaki School, Taranaki Diocesan School for Girls, New Plymouth Boys' High School and New Plymouth Girls' High School.

Enrolments for 2020 can be made by contacting office@tsbtopec.co.nz.

ATTENTION!! Course approval, consent to assess and TEC funding is pending for 2020 which may result in TSB TOPEC offering a full-time NZ Certificate in Outdoor Leadership Level 4, a Level 5 Diploma in Adventure Tourism (with WITT), and courses in Environmental Sustainability from *Papa Taiao Earthcare* that involve projects and personal actions leading to NCEA credits while still enrolled at high school. More information coming soon. Keep checking our facebook page and website.

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International Student Camp



International students from Sacred Heart, NPBHS and NPGHS spent a week at TSB TOPEC on a **Taranaki Outdoor Experience Camp**. During the recent school holiday break the 8 international students experienced everything adventurous that Taranaki has to offer under the expert guidance of instructors Grover and Sam.

The two instructors gave the students from China, Korea and Japan some high ropes thrills, with the *flying kiwi*, *rock wall* and *shackle drop* confirming that the language of laughter and freaked out shrieks is universal. Students also learnt to be safe in rivers, went rafting, caving and then tramping in our local Taranaki surrounds. "Exploring and pushing personal barriers was a great experience for these students and us as instructors," said TSB TOPEC Director, Grover Worsfold (grover@tsbtopec.co.nz), "Pictionary and Charades with a language barrier was a hoot!"

Grover has been working with Venture Taranaki and the International Student co-ordinators of Taranaki secondary schools to establish Taranaki as a must-go-to place for international students. This new initiative at TSB TOPEC will increase in 2020 with camps at the end of term 1 and term 3 planned.



Term Highlights

TSB TOPEC welcomed another 500 students through the gates over term 3 (around 3000 student visits for the year). A great addition to our calendar was a camp involving Year 9 and 10 students from **Patea Area School** – a big thank you to **Sport Taranaki** for contributing to make this week happen.

Day Courses

Over terms 2 and 3, Year 12 students from **Waitara High School** ventured with us on Thursdays. Also, every Wednesday and Friday, Year 11 and 12 **Inglewood High School** students visited TSB TOPEC. All students completed NCEA learning programmes in Orienteering, Bush Craft and Tramping, River Safety and Rafting, ABL, and Climbing and Abseiling. Students gained credits in Risk Management, and learnt the cooperative benefits of teamwork and perseverance to overcome challenges.



Student Leadership Courses

Positive team dynamics and dealing with adversity were the challenges set for budding leaders from **New Plymouth Boys' High School**. Thirty-two Year 12s were pushed through various scenarios for a day, night, early morning and another long day. A 4.30am mud ran produced an impromptu school haka with whites of the eyes popping out of muddy face masks and an echo chilling the misty, crisp air around Araheke. Group navigation around Mangamahoe, interspersed with physical hardship, tested the patience and tolerance of the young leaders-to-be. Contact grover@tsbtopec.co.nz for information on a leadership package for your school.



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Bryce Jourdain Scholarship

The week-long Bryce Jourdain Scholarship camp for Year 8 students was another successful way to end Term 3. Nine students were selected to attend the camp from various Taranaki primary and intermediate school nominations. Allie, Charnee, Connor, Elijah, Emma, Kyarne, Montel, Olivia and Tatianna had a great time growing as individuals through various activities such as mud run, abseiling, rock climbing and high ropes, expeditions to the snow and rafting. Each day the Year 8 students also took on team challenges under the umbrella of a theme – Leadership, Self-esteem, Overcoming Barriers and Looking to the Future – all designed to help each student realise their potential. The week ended with each student taking away a taonga that represented their character.



The Duke of Edinburgh Hillary Award

TSB TOPEC has helped students complete Adventurous Journey's this year as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Hillary Award. Students from Taranaki Diocesan, FDMC and NPBHS came together in the holidays to train for the qualifying journey. Sixteen Opunake students are currently gearing up for a training journey for Bronze, aiming to complete the award early 2020.

We are excited to assist in getting the Award up and running in Taranaki. For more information contact sam@tsbtopec.co.nz



TSB TOPEC News

New Staff Our Lead Instructor Seton Pennell has joined the Fire Service. This has been a career goal for 'Notes' so sadly, we raise our paddles in a goodbye wave after 5 years with our whanau, but are super stoked **Seton** is following his passion. **Josh Kirby** is the new TSB TOPEC Lead Instructor. Josh steps into the big tramping boots after first joining us in 2016. **Sam McComb** is our new Instructor, having accepted the role after being our relief instructor for much of 2019. Sam is New Plymouth born and bred, having earned his outdoor stripes on Taranaki beaches and in Taranaki bush and rivers, before heading to study in Otago. Great to have a Year 10 TOPEC Camp graduate return!