



# The Regional Outdoor Education Centre of Taranaki

TARANAKI OUTDOOR PURSUITS AND EDUCATION CENTRE

Issue 4

Term 4 2007—December

## TSB TOPEC Term 4

Seasons greetings to everyone,

I can't believe the year has gone so fast. For me the new job and challenges have been awesome. I am working with dedicated people and the students over the year have been on the whole great. A lot different to being A Deputy Principal in a school situation!

In recent weeks we have been trialing some new courses. Andre, Nick and I went out to Coastal Taranaki School and delivered a River Safe course to intermediate students. This was a first for us as we used the Stoney River / Hangatahua to teach the various aspects. Usually Schools come to TOPEC for this but we wanted to do this in a context that was meaningful to the students

### Eagle project—Gifted and Talented

46 students split into 4 groups completed a two day course at TSB TOPEC in December. The students formed part of the Eagle cluster of schools NPGHS, NPBHS and Highlands Intermediate.

These Selected students were set tasks to complete in order to gain a clue to a

taking part. The two days were a real success and we will look to repeat this for other South Taranaki Schools if Interested.

Another first was the a Gifted and Talented course for the Eagle Project Schools. Highlands, NPGHS and NPBHS G+T students took part in a residential course aimed at developing key competencies, Values and promoting teamwork. The students were all motivated and fully appreciated the problem solving and "survivor" type activities. The feedback received was very positive and we look forward to bigger and better things next year.

Thanks to the TSB Community Trust for an annual Grant. This goes directly to the students attending the Year 10 course at TOPEC. Thanks to Marie Ramsey for her help with our applica-

problem.

The tasks involved:

a water challenge where students had to collect flags that were suspended over the river within a time limit.

A map reading exercise with team challenges and the collection of clues

tion.

the end of December. Fingers crossed!

The TSB TOPEC website continues to develop and incorporate resources, programme outlines and key information.

Katrina Shepherd our part time instructor will not be returning in the new year due to the imminent arrival of a new baby. She has been a great role model for the young women and men this year and her enthusiasm will be missed.

We look forward to catching up in the New Year.

Steve Ralph



Steve Ralph - Director.  
Not so New To TSB TOPEC 2007.

### Inside this issue:

TSB TOPEC DEVELOPMENTS	1
EAGLE PROJECT	1
SENIOR COURSE 2008	2
PARITUTU RE BOLTING	2
RIVERSAFE	3
TOPEC TRUSTEE WHO ARE THEY?	3
SPONSORS AND CONTACT DETAILS	4

Problem solving exercises including the construction of rope bridges, real electric fences and fun water problems

Ropes exercises where strategy and teamwork were required to beat the clock and grab the chicken from a 15 meter high point.

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## Senior Courses 2008

Of interest to Schools running Senior Outdoor Education or PE Classes



### Clarence Rafting

Andre has been extremely busy planning a new, exciting courses for 2008. He has put together a trip aimed at Senior Students wishing to take part in a longer, expedition style Rafting trip down the Clarence River on the South Island. Unit Standard Assessments are offered as part of the package but students may wish to just enjoy the experience. For more information check out the Website or contact us and we will e mail the info through.

Deposits will need to be taken to secure spots on the trip and to allow planning to take place.

### Rock Climbing.

We are introducing a Senior Rock Climbing Course based in and around Wharepapa South in the Waikato. It is aimed at senior students who may have experienced indoor climbing and wish to progress onto natural rock. Lead and top rope climbing can be taught and assessed at NCEA level. Accommodation can be organised in a camping situation, backpackers or woolshed option depending on requirements.



### Snow Skills

This option for Seniors has been very successful and offers a Winter experience for students. Walking with Ice axes and Crampons, building Snow caves and surviving in the Mountain environment are all aspects of this course that can be assessed against Unit Standards. Students are challenged to plan, live and operate in this environment which for many is well out of their comfort zone. The course takes place on Mt Taranaki and depending on conditions students will live in Snow shelters for two nights with a third night at Tahurangi Lodge. Opunake High School and Coastal Taranaki School have participated in these weeks for a number of years with great success.



### Caving

Unit Standard Caving courses take place in the Mahoenui Area and encompass a number of cave systems of varying difficulty. These courses are very different to the black water Tourist Trips of Waitomo and can be demanding physically and mentally. Standards at Level 1 or 2 can be delivered depending on the requirements of the School. Accommodation can be either in a rustic cavers hut or camping. Students will learn and develop skills about Caving techniques, ropework, cave conservation and cave features.



### Adventure Based Learning / High Ropes

This is a relatively straight forward course for many students. Teamwork, cooperation and communication skills are assessed and can be delivered on site at TOPEC. A low cost and easily managed course which can be included in a leadership course.

*For information on the above or for other possibilities contact us directly and I am sure we can accommodate your ideas.*



## Paritutu — Re bolting

Early this month TSB TOPEC coordinated and replaced the Rock Climbing Anchors on Paritutu.

New stainless steel bolts and

hangers have been installed to improve safety and efficiency of groups completing the traverse of the rock.

Most Outdoor providers in

Taranaki contributed to costs of material or helped with labour for the project.

Photo 's from the Top— down

Rafting -Clarence river

Rock Climb -Wharepapa Sth

Snow -Mt Taranaki

Cave—Skyline Mahoenui

Ropes—Topec

## Riversafe

What is Riversafe? River Safe is a programme aimed at making young people more aware of the hazards, risks and features of rivers. The programme is targeted at two age groups—junior looking at primary and intermediate students and Senior targeting high school students. Resources have been written and are in line with Curriculum documents and can be delivered by teachers with experience or in conjunction with an Accredited Provider such as TSB TOPEC.

Next year we will be hosting a Professional Development Course for Teachers and other interested parties to become familiar with the Programme and to experience the same sort of activities as students will participate in. The course will involve some indoor and some practical learning to take place. It is planned for this Professional Development Course to take place around the 27th of March 2008. Dates will be confirmed early in the new year.

Students who take part in

the Riversafe programme go away with an increased awareness of making good decisions in rivers, skills to swim or paddle in rivers safely, knowledge of river dynamics and the power of water, making good decisions in and around rivers and how to keep themselves safe.

If you are interested in this course contact TOPEC or click on the link on our Website

[www.tsbtopec.co.nz](http://www.tsbtopec.co.nz)



Riversafe 2008  
Coastal Students at the Stoney River.

## Notes to Schools - 2008

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.



## TSB TOPEC Trustee— Who are they?

Peter Smith Chairman—  
Spotswood College

David Grigg—Service Organisation

Graham Goodman—Service

Organisation

Matt Lash - HOD PE  
Opunake High School

Mark Dickie—PE teacher  
Coastal Taranaki School

Lynley Ralston—Principal St  
Marys Stratford

Steve Ralph—Director TSB  
TOPEC



## Grants Received 2007

Thanks to the following Organisations:

TSB Community Trust—\$40,000—Students Course Subsidy

NZCT—\$3500—Purchase EPIRB and GPS systems for instructor use

# 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.

## STAFF:

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ANDRE SCHONEVELD—  
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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,

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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