

# The Regional Outdoor Education Centre of Taranaki

TARANAKI OUTDOOR PURSUITS AND EDUCATION CENTRE

Issue 8

Term 2 2009— july

## TSB TOPEC Term 2

Hi to everyone,

BRRRR—the water is a bit cold but the snow means we can head up the Mountain and get some snow caving done. The great thing about Taranaki is the wide range of Outdoor Activities that are on our door step—we are really lucky. Property development continues with

the climbing wall and the deck to our classroom being completed. We have also been hard at work extending the High ropes course to allow more students to be “in the air” at any one time. Toilet floors have also be resurfaced and sealed making them easier to clean. We finished the term with a fab week with NPGHS caving.

The girls were keen and I think they all enjoyed Sky-line cave. Only saw one eel!

This term Mountaineering Opunake / Coastal and raft weeks with Hawera and Inglewood should keep us busy

Here's to another great term.

Steve Ralph

TSB Community Trust 

**NZCT**  
NZ COMMUNITY TRUST



Steve Ralph - Director.

## Climbing Wall— yeeha!!!!

It's Finished!! Well almost. The New climbing wall has been a long time in the planning and Construction but it has been worth the wait. Staff had the first play on it ( to test the holds and difficulty level or course ) before allowing groups and the wider community to utilize it. It is great to have another on site activity and a Wall that is pretty unique in Taranaki. It measures 10m high with at present two climbing faces and one Abseil face. One wall is vertical, the other is slightly overhanging. All the holds are movable to ensure that climbing routes can be changed or modified over time.



Constructed by Brent Stewart Construction. Partially funded by Lotteries. Thanks also to Philip King and his team>

We plan to have an official open day where representatives from schools, media and community will be invited. It is VERY exciting—gotta go, climbing to be done.

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## Rafting—Operational Safety audit Maritime NZ

Cilin Sonneveld from Maritime NZ audited the TOPEC rafting operation during Term 2. This is an annual audit that looks into how TOPEC manages raft trips from start to finish, safety procedures and emergency plans, communications, and other quality management practices. TOPEC was again shown to be operating at a high level of competency and has been approved to continue operating. This external audit is a valuable tool to show schools and other users of TOPEC that we are meeting Industry best practice standards. It provides clear evidence to Principals and BOT of Schools that we continue to meet EOTC guidelines as outlined by MOE.



## TOPEC Programmes aligned with New NZ Curriculum

I attended the recent PPTA teacher only day for Health and PE teachers held at NPBHS and produced an Adventure Based Learning Unit that is aligned with the requirements of the NEW NZ curriculum. Programmes at TOPEC align incredibly well with the Philosophy behind the Curriculum document. Values and Key Competencies are explicit in all aspects of TOPEC programmes. If your School would like a copy of the Adventure Based Learning Programme Unit outlined above please contact TOPEC and one will be forwarded to be used or modified to suit your needs.

## HUT REVAMP

A big thank you must go to OKATO Lions and PAKEKE LIONS for the hard work that they have put into their respective cabins. Pakeke has almost been rebuilt with a new roof, insulation, new

gib and paint—the hut is stunning.

Okato has also had a makeover with paint, base boards and a general spruce up. These cabins are being used by very thankful students.

Okato  
Lions>



## TSB TOPEC Nationally recognized Development of the National River safe Strategy

I attended a planning day in Wellington recently looking to develop the new Riversafe strategy that will be rolled out across New Zealand in the next few months.

TSB TOPEC was invited to be an industry representative on this National Committee tasked at developing and implementing a National Strategy aimed at reducing Deaths in and around Riverssafe.

TSB TOPEC is one of the leading

providers of River Safe courses in NZ. All students who attend TOPEC will participate in a Riversafe course and will have a better understanding of the risks of rivers and what to do if they find themselves in trouble.

As an accredited Provider of Riversafe Courses we are able to come to your school and deliver the programme in your environment or we can organise a day here at TOPEC.

We are also able to provide

Professional development for teachers and Parents on demand. This is a great course for Parents or Teachers looking to run School Camps around River environments.

We are also able to advise on Risk Management of these Camps

## Gearing Up for 2009

The replacement of gear has been greatly helped by funding from grants in 2009.

Thanks must go to the Sovereign Trust foundation and Southern Trust for the funds they awarded us. The funding for these items was approx \$7000 and is to be spent on a set of 15 tramping packs and replacement of mattresses in all the cabins.



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

These include cigarettes, alcohol, drugs, slug guns, catapults + knives

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

## Notes to Schools - 2009

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 Board of Trustees

David Grigg Chairman—lions

Graham Goodman deputy Chairman—Service Organisation

Matt Lash - HOD PE Opunake High School

Mark Dickie—Instructor TOPEC

Lynley Ralston—Principal St Marys

Stratford

Matt Cleaver—PPTA Rep Hawera

High School

Steve Ralph Treasurer / Secretary—Director TSB TOPEC



< Staff and Gateway students getting out at Tahurangi Lodge, wind gusts 120kph

Stratford High School Yr 10 enjoying the rain>



# 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:

STEVE RALPH –  
DIRECTOR

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.

NICK BROWN—SENIOR  
INSTRUCTOR

KERRY WARNER -  
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

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

MARK DICKIE  
INSTRUCTOR

Major sponsors / contributors include:

PIP TAYLOR  
INSTRUCTOR

TSB Community Trust and the Lions Foundation.  
New Plymouth District Council for grounds, parks and landscape assistance and maintenance.

ALAN SARTEN -  
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Rotorangi Adventure Trust

NZ Lottery Grant Board

KATRINA SHEPHERD-  
RELIEF INSTRUCTOR

Jamiesons Motors for continued support for Vans and transport.

Lions clubs of Taranaki

Brent Stewart Construction

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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. Fairfield Nurseries, Te kahuri Nurseries

Perry Foundation, Lion Foundation, Southern Trust, Sovereign Trust

**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



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< St Mary's Yr 10 students rafting at the ski field!