



# The Regional Outdoor Education Centre of Taranaki

TARANAKI OUTDOOR PURSUITS AND EDUCATION CENTRE

Issue 6

Term 2 2008— June

## TSB TOPEC Term 2

Hi again,

Winter has arrived in the last few weeks and we have finally seen some water volume in the rivers.

Progress has been made on the acquisition of new buildings for the centre. We are in the process of relocating a classroom and an ablution block to the campus. This will allow TOPEC to be used more effectively either by day groups, primary / intermediate schools or by corporate bodies. It is hoped that these buildings will be on site by term 4 and up and running by next year.

Karla Blumberg has joined

the staff in an instructor / maintenance role. She has already made a great contribution to the programmes and to the centre.

Shane Roberts ( also new to TOPEC ) is filling the long term relieving position until a replacement for Andre is appointed.

Earlier in the year I contacted Schools asking for help fundraising for our aging Raft fleet. A number of schools have generously agreed to help. Our thanks go to:

**Inglewood High, Stratford and Francis Douglas For their donations to date.**

We have also be awarded

grants from other sources that have helped broaden our programmes.

A new Board of Trustees has been elected. Congratulations and thanks to those people who have stepped up to support TSB TOPEC and have been elected to the Board.

Congratulations must also go to Nick Brown who has been promoted to the Senior Instructor position. Nick has a real enthusiasm for the outdoors and will excel in this new challenge.

Steve Ralph

Director

## Mangatepopo Tragedy

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.

TSB Community Trust 

**NZCT**  
NZ COMMUNITY TRUST



Steve Ralph - Director.

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# The Regional Outdoor Education Centre of Taranaki

## Recent Courses



< 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—Kayaks, Rafts and Climbing Wall



We have received a number of grants in 2008

Our most recent grant has allowed us to purchase a fleet of Mini Mystic Kayaks. These are great kayaks and capable of being used by beginners to advanced paddlers. As you can see from the above photo they work quite well!.

A 4.3 m raft has also been added to our fleet., This is a great addition as it can

hold a large number of students, cope with high river levels and can be used for groups with Special Needs. This will be made available to Search and Rescue if required.

In the last week or two we have also be awarded a significant Grant by the NZ Lottery Grants Board—Te Puna Tahua. This grant is for the construction of an Outside climbing / Abseil wall. This

will be approx 11m high and enable rock climbing and caving skills to be instructed on site. It is hoped that the wall will be constructed and being utilized by the end of the year.



## Staff trip—Professional development

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

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.

## TSB TOPEC Trustee— Who are they?

David Grigg Chairman—lions

Graham Goodman deputy Chairman—Service Organisation

Matt Lash - HOD PE Opanake High

School

Mark Dickie—PE teacher Coastal Taranaki School

Lynley Ralston—Principal St Marys

Stratford

Matt Cleaver PPTA Rep Hawera High School

Steve Ralph Treasurer / Secretary— Director TSB TOPEC

## 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



# 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**

NICK BROWN—**SENIOR  
INSTRUCTOR**

KERRY WARNER -  
**OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR**

KARLA BLUMBERG  
**INSTRUCTOR**

ALAN SARTEN -  
**RELIEF INSTRUCTOR**

JOHN DAVIDSON-  
**RELIEF INSTRUCTOR**

KATRINA SHEPHERD-  
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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

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



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