

# The Regional Outdoor Education Centre of Taranaki

TARANAKI OUTDOOR PURSUITS AND EDUCATION CENTRE

Issue 8

Term 1 2009— April

## TSB TOPEC Term 1

Hi to everyone,

A new year and an exciting term ahead.

Already this term we have been stuck into a variety of courses. From unit standard courses with FDMC, Senior Leadership with Coastal Taranaki School, Caving with FDMC Yr 12's, staff induction and training, Unit standard assessments in kay-

aking to the standard Yr10 Adventure courses.

The Floods early in the term where the Meeting of the Waters rose 4m in height in 1 hour were quite exciting. It allowed us as a staff on Friday afternoon to test our rafting skills down the torrent that was the Wai-whakaiho River. The trip took us 40 minutes where we allow 2 1/2 hours for a trip with students. It was exhilarating.

Another success was the Riversafe professional Development course for teachers that we ran in February. 10 Teachers from Primary, Intermediate and High Schools around Taranaki attended a day of training

that involved classroom, practical and risk management sessions. It was great to see Teachers giving things ago and willing to learn how to make Teaching in and around Rivers safer.

Our continuing fight to keep TSB TOPEC free from the noise and safety issues surrounding quarry trucks has taken and turn. Graham Harris Ltd has been granted consent to use the right of way passing the TSB TOPEC boundary. We are seeking legal advice as to whether to appeal this decision.

Steve Ralph  
Director

TSB Community Trust 

**NZCT**  
NZ COMMUNITY TRUST



Steve Ralph - Director.



Coastal Senior Leadership 2009

## New staff

Mark Dickie, formally of Coastal Taranaki School has joined TSB TOPEC for 2009. He has settled in well with the change of scene and has coped well with the new challenges that working at TOPEC have been presented.

Pip Taylor has also joined us from the start of the Term. Pip has been working around the country as an Outdoor Instructor including Absolute Adventures in Waitomo and Peel Forest OPC in Canterbury



Mark Dickie



Pip Taylor

## Inside this issue:

TSB TOPEC DEVELOPMENTS	1
NEW STAFF	1
OPERATIONAL SAFETY	2
NEW LOOK URENUI HUT GATEWAY 2009	2
GEARING UP 2009	3
NOTES TO SCHOOL AGM DATE	3
SPONSORS AND CONTACT DETAILS	4

## Risk management—Operational Safety

Working in the Outdoors has inherent risk. Whether it is tripping over a tree root or at the more serious end of the scale.

Safety for our groups and instructors is paramount. With this in mind a thorough review of our Safety management policies has been undertaken at the start of 2009.

TOPEC instructional Staff have all been involved in the process and are aware of any changes that have been made to the general operation of courses.



Safety is not compromised. All instructors carry GPS emergency beacons, GPS units, first aid kits and communications equipment.

Staff undergo a thorough induction process and are highly trained before taken sole charge of groups in the outdoors. Experience is vital to ensure competence when leading activities.

Procedures are in line with National safety recommendations where appropriate and are part of a rigorous self review process.

Our Rafting operation is annually audited by Maritime NZ. We have received an excellent report in the last two years and staff participate in regular safety clinics. If you require further

Information on TSB TOPEC safety procedures please email me directly.



### Practicing River rescue skills on the Managanui River

## New look for Urenui

A big thank you must go to Urenui Lions for the hard work that they have put into renovat-

Urenui cabin. New paint both inside and out, along with a new curtain rail has the cabin looking like it has just been built. Students using the cabin

Have commented positively on the new décor and have enjoyed the fresh environment during their stay.

## Gateway 2009

We have three new Gateway Trainee Instructors for 2009

Two students -Meisha and Raven have joined us from Coastal Taranaki School as part of the Gateway programme. Both are hoping to go into the Adventure / Outdoor industry in the future.

Rata, from New Plymouth Girls High School has also started with us and is another keen outdoors per-

son.

All three are working towards Unit standards in the Outdoors domain and picking up valuable management, leadership and communication skills.

This term the focus of learning has been on kayaking and rafting skills as well as the core operations of TOPEC as an Outdoor Centre.



Staff training—Caving at Mahoenui, Totoro Road caves

## Gearing Up for 2009

The replacement of gear has been greatly helped by funding from grants in 2008. New sets of wetsuits, alpine sleeping bags and bivy nags were all purchased at the end Of last year.

Thanks must go to the Perry foundation and lion foundation for the funds they awarded us. The funding for these items was approx \$8000 and is a valuable addition to our ex-

isting operational budget.

These items will be used by students to provide comfort and warmth in a sometimes hostile environment. The alpine sleeping bags and bivy bags have been purchased specifically with the Senior Alpine courses in mind. Sleeping in Snow caves and the alpine environment is often very cold and the Thomas the Tank Engine

Sleeping bags that some students turn up with just do not cut it.

Tech Soup sponsorship has also been obtained. Free Microsoft Software is now available to us to help administration and communication aspects of the TOPEC operation. This will be of great help to us in keeping up with new developments in IT.

## 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

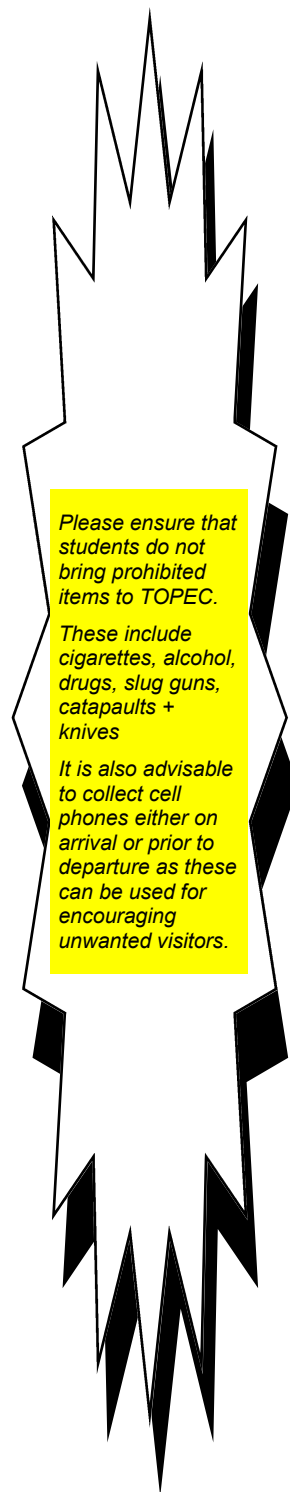
Lynley Ralston—Principal St Marys

Stratford

Matt Cleaver—PPTA Rep Hawera

High School

Steve Ralph Treasurer / Secretary—Director TSB TOPEC



*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.*

## Re-Registered as a Charitable Trust

Topec has just received confirmation of its Charitable entity status under the new legislative requirements.

**AGM date—12th  
May, Topec 6.00  
pm start**

# 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 -  
RELIEF INSTRUCTOR

NZCTS

JOHN DAVIDSON-  
RELIEF INSTRUCTOR

Rotorangi Adventure Trust

NZ Lottery Grant Board

Jamiesons Motors for continued support for Vans and transport.

KATRINA SHEPHERD-  
RELIEF INSTRUCTOR

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. Fairfield Nurseries, Te kahuri Nurseries

## E-mail:

kerry@tsbtopec.co.nz  
steve@tsbtopec.co.nz  
nick@tsbtopec.co.nz  
Mark@tsbtopec.co.nz  
pip@tsbtopec.co.nz

**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



TSB TOPEC  
Hydro Road  
PO Box 859  
New Plymouth  
Taranaki  
Phone: 06 7580448  
Fax: 06 7580448

