



The Regional Outdoor Education Centre of Taranaki

TARANAKI OUTDOOR PURSUITS AND EDUCATION CENTRE

Issue 9

Term 3 2009— October

TSB TOPEC Term 3

Hi to everyone,

Tern 4 has started and I am trying to get back into work mode after a break that saw some snowboarding in the unseasonable Snow dump at Turoa.

A busy last term saw a trip to an Environmental Court mediation. This was regarding the Quarry, Trust Power and TOPEC use of the right of way that provides access to TOPEC.

The outcome of the media-

tion was acceptable to TSB TOPEC although not the outcome that we would have preferred.

Quarry Trucks will be using the ROW on a regular basis from Monday to Saturday from 7.30 am Speed will be restricted but we urge users of the Camp to drive defensively and expect to meet quarry trucks on the R.O.W. The campus will be upgraded with a fence and noise reduction measures.

Our thanks go to Lauren Wallace and GOVETT QUILLIAM who represented us, Neville Hegeley our Accoustic consultant.

Lauren worked extremely hard for a positive outcome for TOPEC and GOVETT QUILLIAM donated considerable time and efforts on our behalf.

Steve Ralph

Director

TSB Community Trust 

NZCT
NZ COMMUNITY TRUST



Steve Ralph - Director.

End of year Camps

TSB TOPEC is available for end of year camps for day course or short courses in addition to our Week long Adventure courses. Our facilities are now able to cater for Schools wanting a one or two day experience. The activities are categorized as High or low risk and on or offsite. Low risk on site activities are based on ratio's of 1: 15 whilst High risk on site remains 1:10. Offsite activities will require transport which can be either organized by us at a cost.

These courses are becoming more popular so if you are interested please get in touch for costs and further information.

Staff 2010

After a few years of staff moving on we are please to announce that all Instructional staff will be returning for 2010. This is great news for Schools as we have a staff of motivated and skilled professionals that work well as a team.

Facility Upgrade

Both the staff and Camp toilets / showers have been upgraded with a new "non slip" floor covering. The product allows the facilities to be better cleaned and provides a better Health and Safety Environment for users.



A typical day at the office ^

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The Regional Outdoor Education Centre of Taranaki

NPDC—Grant

TSB TOPEC has been lucky enough to receive a considerable grant that is tagged to finish the installation of a relocated Toilet block on the campus. The building was relocated in 2008 and has been awaiting further funds so that septic tanks, plumbing and power can be connected. An access deck will also be constructed to allow wheel chair access to this facility. Our thanks go to the NPDC for the grant.

TSB Community Trust Grant

We have received confirmation that we have been awarded our annual grant of \$40,000 from the TSB Community Trust. These funds go directly to each Taranaki Secondary Student that attends a week long residential course at TSB TOPEC. Each student receives this subsidy to their course fee which helps keep the cost to a minimum. A very similar course at the Sir Edmund Hillary OPC costs approx \$450.

Better Homes—insulation for cabins / facilities

Anaru Marshal General Manager has inspected the TOPEC site and has agreed to assist us in installing insulation to many of the cabins and buildings on the campus. We were put in contact with better homes following a milestone meeting as part of the SCOPE capacity building programme. Some of the cabins are not suitable because of concrete floors and no ceiling space but something will be done where possible. Mr Marshall said that since July this year they had insulated 103 Taranaki homes on behalf of TET. Better Homes also works in conjunction with the Government's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority programme Energy wise-Warm Up New Zealand.

The programme began on July 1 and aims to retrofit more than 180,000 New Zealand homes over the next four years.



TSB TOPEC—Rubbish on the mountain

You may have read an article in the Taranaki Daily news regarding a cache of rubbish on Mt Taranaki. The rubbish that was found was alleged to have been left by students following a TOPEC Snow caving course in that location.

As a responsible Outdoor Education Centre we have treated this incident as if Students on our course did indeed leave that rubbish. However, there is no direct proof at this stage that that was the case and the rubbish may have been left by others.

I need to stress the following actions that took place:

- all students who go into the outdoors are briefed on the need to behave responsibly, make good choices and respect themselves, others and the environment. This was the case in this instance.
- Instructors “sweep” the area before departing and any rubbish is collected. This was the case in this instance. The rubbish cache that was found was not found at this time.
- Students are educated in the environmental care code—take only pictures and leave only footprints.

- The snow caves were left intact for other people to make use of.
- Rubbish and Solid Toilet waste is carried back to TOPEC to be disposed of as part of our recycling programme.

I will be contacting the schools and students that maybe involved to clear this matter up

It is regrettable that this incident has arisen and we are looking at our processes to ensure that incidents such as this do not arise in the future

Trainee Instructor 2010

It is that time of the year again. We are offering places on our very successful Trainee Instructor course for 2010.

Candidates must be nominated by Schools for consideration before being offered the chance to interview for a placement.

The type of student should be looking to work in the Outdoors as a Career or have an

existing interest in the Outdoors.

A course is split over two years with Unit Standards being offered that can count towards NCEA level 2 and 3.

Students must be enrolled as a full time student with a Taranaki Secondary School.

Students will attend TSB TOPEC two days a week and work on skill development as well as

Group management.

A places will initially be offered on a trial basis with a month to decide whether the placement is going to work.

Transport to and from TOPEC will be the responsibility of the student with hours of 8.30—4.30 being the norm.

Contact TSB TOPEC for further information.

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.



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

Rotorangi Adventure Trust

JOHN DAVIDSON-
RELIEF INSTRUCTOR

NZ Lottery Grant Board

Jamiesons Motors for continued support for Vans and transport.

KATRINA SHEPHERD-
RELIEF INSTRUCTOR

Lions clubs of Taranaki

Brent Stewart Construction

Better Homes

Govett Quilliam

E-mail:

kerry@tsbtopec.co.nz

steve@tsbtopec.co.nz

nick@tsbtopec.co.nz

Mark@tsbtopec.co.nz

pip@tsbtopec.co.nz

Other Sponsors and Supporters include:

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Curtains. Fairfield Nurseries, Te kahuri Nurseries, IED Lifting

Perry Foundation, Lion Foundation, Southern Trust, Sovereign Trust

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

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