



The Regional Outdoor Education Centre of Taranaki

TARANAKI OUTDOOR PURSUITS AND EDUCATION CENTRE

Issue 3

Term 3 2007—September

TSB TOPEC Term 3

Greetings everyone,

At the time of writing we are rapidly approaching the end of Term 3 and we looking forward to the Warmer Spring Temperatures.

Things of note this term are the arrival of two new Gateway students from NPGHS after Kim left us to pursue A ski Patrol course and job at Mt Ruapehu. Amy and Melissa have fitted in well and are working hard towards the Grade two Raft guide award whilst we still have lots of water around.

We have completed a successful senior Mountain Skills Week on Mt Taranaki with Opunake and Coastal Taranaki School earlier in the Term. Students completed unit standards in Snow Caving and Mountaineering skills. As an extension the more able students com-

pleted a number of elements for a level 3 Expedition skills Unit Standard. The students coped well with the conditions and physical demands of the week. Well done.

We have submitted our application for funding to the TSB Community Trust for our building works. We are awaiting a decision on the success or not of this application and should know by the end of December. Fingers crossed!

The TSB TOPEC website is up and running. Thanks to Mark Meyburg for his help with this project. It is still a work in progress and more resources are being uploaded monthly. There are resource areas where teacher handbooks, medical forms and gear lists can be downloaded. Also, you will find links to related websites such as Enviro Schools

and Water Safe New Zealand. TSB TOPEC accommodation can also be booked online and this is streamlining the booking process. Please have a look and forward any feedback to us.

We were hosts to the SPARC Get 2 Go challenge with schools from around the province competing for the right to attend the National competition later in the year. The event was coordinated by OPC. Students participated in tasks such as Kayaking, climbing / high ropes, mountain biking and orienteering. Our instructors and volunteers from local clubs ensured that the day ran smoothly

Many thanks.

Steve Ralph



Steve Ralph - Director.
New To TSB TOPEC 2007.

Get To Go

Seven teams 3 NPBHS / NPGHS, 2 Opunake, Coastal Taranaki, Sacred Heart participated in the first Taranaki SPARC Get To Go Challenge coordinated by OPC.

The teams were made up of Year 9 and 10 Girls and Boys from the schools. Each

team had to complete various activities for points which contributed towards the final tally.

As this was the first occasion that this event has been held in Taranaki some schools did not field a team. It is hoped that the word will get out what an awesome event this

is and will endeavor to Give it a Go for next year. The events do not need a high degree of previous knowledge but if you have any questions regarding training for this let us know.

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The Regional Outdoor Education Centre of Taranaki



At TSB TOPEC environmental awareness is encouraged and staff actively promotes the respect and conservation of our natural resources.

Enviro Schools 2007 and TSB TOPEC

TSB TOPEC has been continuing in the **Enviro schools Project** and are continued thanks go to **Kama** and the team. We are commencing planting early next term in line with our plan for sustainable living.

Unfortunately a regional event planned for this Term was cancelled due to poor weather.

We would like to thank **Te Kahuri Nurseries** for Donating plants for part of our **Heirloom Orchard** project.

We are looking for a school to become a partner with us in our journey towards sustainability. If your school is interested in forming a relationship regarding this please do not hesitate in contacting us.

The **Enviro School** project involves creating a sustainable environment where a greater understanding of the inter-relatedness between all living things take place. The aim is to become as environmentally friendly as possible and develop operational processes that reflect this.

As part of this process we will develop an **Environmental Education Policy** that will govern how things are done at **TSB TOPEC**. Students participating in course here will be expected to participate in the processes and by doing so learn about the need for sustainability and reducing waste and energy consumption.

Students will learn essential life skills and will provide students with opportunities to problem solve, make decisions, compromise and take responsibility.



Andre Schoneveld - Senior Instructor

Most people who have been to TSB TOPEC over the last 8 years will remember Andre. He is always full of energy and lame jokes.

As Senior Instructor Andre has responsibility for the coordination of staff training and course programming.

Andre oversees the Gateway programme and ensures that these students

have a robust training schedule.

He has considerable experience in the Outdoors and Holds a number of NZOIA awards. In addition Andre is an Accredited SFRITO workplace Assessor and is able to assess against a wide range of Unit Standards.

He has a background in engineering and was in the

RNZN before switching Careers.

Andre's favourite joke—

What is green and invisible?

This cabbage!

Accommodation for hire - possums included for free

TSB Topec is available for hire during weekends and school holidays.

Bookings for the whole campus including kitchen and cabins can be made through Kerry Warner.

The facilities have been used for weddings, WOMAD, staff development, team building, family reunions and celebrations.

Instructors may be available if activities are to be undertaken

Costs start from

\$150 per night facility charge + \$10 per person per night.

Minimum rates apply for peak periods including summer.

Deals available for regular clients or community based groups.

Hireage is based on a self clean basis and a high degree of trust between TSB TOPEC and the user group.

Any damage will be invoiced to the user group

A \$150 deposit is required to confirm any day only booking

A \$100 deposit and a \$100 bond is required to confirm any overnight bookings.

Check out our new website for more information.

ACCOMODATION STILL AVAILABLE FOR 2008

www.tsbtopec.co.nz



15% Discount on Thermadry Thermal wear for students on production of TOPEC gear list.
10% Discount on all other products not already on sale when purchased at the same time

Notes to Schools - To help the smooth running of courses

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.



Andre leaping the weir in the Tailrace

TSB TOPEC Trustee— could this be you?

If you represent a Service group and have an interest in the Outdoors have you considered joining the TSB TOPEC Trust Board?

We would like a represen-

tative from these groups to join the Board and contribute to the forward direction of the centre. The position will require the attendance of meetings once a school

term and deal with the Governance of the Centre rather than the hands on day to day management. If you are interested contact the Director.



Thanks to Staff and Helpers

We would like to thank all the staff and helpers that attend the TOPEC courses.

Students do not always appreciate the time and Energy that is required to make the courses go smoothly. We certainly appreciate the efforts of those that spend time away from families to offer the young people of Taranaki an Outdoor Adventure experience.

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

ANDRE SCHONEVELD—
SENIOR INSTRUCTOR

KERRY WARNER -
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

NICK BROWN-
INSTRUCTOR

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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 include:

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

