

TREES FOR SURVIVAL™

Children growing our future

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Progress report by Don Roa, National Manager



Only four months into my new position, I am impressed by the achievements from all stake-holders in the Trees for Survival programme. The commitments range from those of the children and schools, who nurture and plant the trees, the sponsoring organisations, which willingly cover the costs and support on planting days, to the Territorial Authorities and Councils, who support in the selection of suitable planting locations along with the landowners. Add to this the support from corporate and business organisations, especially those organisations that are signing up as Foundation Supporters, and it is an exciting time for *TfS*.

Our strategy for the second half of this year is based on consolidating our Auckland base while establishing offices in Tauranga and Waikato to ensure support

for our *TfS* schools in those locations. We are also looking to do the same in the Wellington and lower North Island, especially now that the Greater Wellington Regional Council has withdrawn from being party to the *TfS* programme. We will be approaching local Territorial Authorities in the area for their support. The teamwork and relationships between *TfS* and Territorial Authorities is paramount in ensuring the success of the programme.

When we have over 70,000 trees being planted by our participating schools and organisations annually, then there is reason to celebrate. The journey that the *TfS* programme embarked on 20 years ago, working together growing and planting native trees to combat erosion, to improve water quality and to regulate

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Don Roa helps St Kentigern College students Amy Forbes-Brown and Alysa Hazleman on planting day, 11 August 2011, at the Richardson Property, Kawakawa Bay PHOTO COURTESY ELEMENT MAGAZINE

Renewed support announced

In a great vote of support for the achievements of the Trees for Survival programme *TfS* has received a two-year renewal of its grant from the Ministry for the Environment, to help facilitate its expansion plans. Previous support covered years 2008-2010, and the new term is from the recently established Community Environment Fund, announced by the Environment Minister, Dr Nick Smith, in October 2010.

The grant, based on a detailed application made by *TfS* in early 2011, does not cover the whole cost of the expansion but is designed rather as seed finance, imposing an obligation on *TfS* to achieve significant additional funding from other sources.

The funding is milestone-based with repayment of expenditure consequent on the achievement of agreed pre-set goals.

The purpose of the Community Environment Fund is to provide funding to ensure New Zealanders are empowered to take environmental action. It also ensures that:

- Partnerships (relating to practical environmental initiatives) between interested parties are supported and strengthened.
- Community-based advice and educational opportunities are increased.
- Awareness on environmental legislation and issues is heightened.

TREES FOR SURVIVAL Champions



>> *Continues from page 1*

water flow, increase biodiversity and offset carbon usage is a major contribution to the environment. It is a journey that is gathering momentum and is appreciated as a **need to do** as opposed to a **feel good to do**. This long and successful two decades provides a strong motivation to expand the programme throughout New Zealand.

The opportunity to work with other organisations, as they seek to improve water quality and waterways, will be actively developed during 2012. Our programme contributes positively to the critical national need to clear and clean waterways by correcting erosion and reducing the spread of contaminants especially from our farming community. We know that with united support and funding we will make a growing impact and establish a legacy of real difference.

In the world of image and branding, *TfS* is an organisation that any global marketer, wanting to show their commitment to New Zealand's 'green image', should consider as fertile ground waiting to be supported in a mutually beneficial relationship. To this end we are seeking a major sponsor who will be granted regional or national naming rights.

.....Trees for Survival

Who will it be?

Sponsorship progress

We are pleased to announce Taura Natural Ingredients is the first *TfS* Foundation Supporter in Tauranga as well as strong interest from other corporate sponsors wanting to be actively involved in supporting this worthy programme.

Now that the Rugby World Cup is over (and what a successful enjoyable event that was, albeit a little too close in the final) we are again actively seeking Foundation Supporters for the *TfS* programme. The Living Legend Planting programme throughout the RWC was a great initiative and we acknowledge the organisations and sponsors that made it possible.

Teaching, growing and planting

EPUNI SCHOOL

The children of Epuni School are proud of their contribution to the environment alongside Waiwhetu Stream over the last two years. Their young trees, sedges and flaxes are now well established and worth taking a look at from Riverside Drive between Tilbury Street and NaeNae Road.

This year twenty-four Year 6 children planted a new site on the eastern side of the Waiwhetu Stream close to Parnell Street with help from members of Eastern Hutt Rotary Club and a Regional Council field worker.

There were new experiences – since the post hole digger had broken down the first lesson was in the use and care of a spade and then how to actually dig a

hole – a new experience for most! Another new teaching point was a warning about the number of pukeko in this area with the emphasis on the plants being well and firmly "trodden in" or "the birds will just pull them out and toss them aside"! Impressed by this, most students were seen thoroughly stomping around each plant; only a few disasters as the odd plant had over-keen feet actually treading on the centre of it!

With the large number of Cabbage Trees planted it was decided that this curve in the stream would be known in future as "Cabbage Tree Bend" all thanks to the students.

Epuni School plants



Cabbage Tree bend

PGU ON THE MOVE

Rotarian Ian Armstrong has headed the team effort to transport a disused Plant Growing Unit from another campus to the Takanini School site, thus saving all parties much expense. Takanini is a new school which is supported by the Rotary Club of Drury. The school programme is well underway with seedlings to pot on. AC *TfS* Coordinator Sue Crawshay will lead some initial sessions with the *TfS* person responsible, Wilma Sinclair, who already has an enterprising vegetable gardening project underway.

*Top: Many hands make light work, maybe?
Right: The team from Rotary Club of Drury*



HUAPAI DISTRICT SCHOOL JOINS TFS

Kumeu Rotary Club and AgriLINK NZ have agreed to become joint sponsors for the school, buying their plant growing unit and covering on-going annual running costs in addition to providing time throughout the year, especially on planting day. In 2012 Huapai children will start tending their own PGU with its first stock of native plants.



MARAETAI BEACH

Left, Dianne Patterson (TFS Field Officer) and, right, Amanda Bell (TFS teacher) and TFS class pupils at Maraetai Beach School who talked to school assembly about the TFS Programme and its achievements. The school is supported by Rotary Club of Pohutukawa Coast.

TFS SCHOOLS ARE BUSY IN TAURANGA

The programme is in very good heart in the Bay of Plenty with very successful planting days in 2011. The sites selected show the diversity of challenging situations that can benefit from this planting of natives as well as the enthusiasm of the students involved.

Bethlehem College Planting Day. Below: Aquinas College and Bellevue School Planting Day.



Omanu School Planting Day

WAIUKU PRIMARY SCHOOL PGU OPENING

In applying to become a TFS School, Waiuku Primary stated that it would like to join because of their "school's on-going commitment to environmental education through practical activity that

contributes to their local community". This year saw their desire come true as they launched a very well set up facility for the programme.



Left to right: It's official, the presentations are made; left to right; Anna McNaughton (AC/FO); Isla Holt (DP Waiuku Primary); Briony Avery, (Year 7 teacher); Don Roa (National Manager TFS); Graham Boase (Waiuku Primary Caretaker); Claire Jewell (Supporting Organisation NZ Steel) • Claire Jewell, NZ Steel, cuts ribbon across the commemorative Kowhai planted by pupils to mark the opening of the PGU and 2011 start of their TFS programme. • A secure outdoor classroom site houses the PGU and stages TFS sessions.



GREAT EXPONENTS OF TFS

Papatoetoe High School, 2011 winners of the Holyoake Award, has developed a very strong commitment to the TFS programme recognising its multi-layered benefits in teaching, community service and environmental improvements.

Left: Beryl McKinnell demonstrates potting on. Top: The people behind the programme in 2011; from left: Lloyd Weldschidt (Science); Beryl McKinnell (Science technician, TFS person responsible); Dave Lockie (TFS Representative, Rotary Club of Papatoetoe West); Jack McCoskrie (Rotarian & Planting Day Volunteer) and Peter Gall (Principal). Above: Students and teachers at Papatoetoe High School

Sustainable Business Network on display

On Wednesday, 9 November, Carbon4good and partners mounted a display entitled the SBN Sustainable Cities Showcase at Shed 10 on Auckland's Queens Wharf. The aim was to create a 4m long seedling map of New Zealand. The project was strongly supported by Kaipatiki volunteers with help from eight Blockhouse Bay Intermediate pupils and a TFS team including Field Officers and Don Roa.

How they see it...

Thanks to Nicky Elmore, Meadowbank School, for gathering these comments from a group of Year 6 students. Despite all pricking out and potting on, many saw the programme as planting day.

Rebecca James, 11: "Trees for Survival is great fun because you get to plant native trees. My favourite part was knowing that the trees we planted came from our school; we had planted the seedlings and helped them grow. The opportunity was awesome."

Josh Webber, 10: "TfS was an amazing experience and we got to help the environment by stopping erosion and water pollution. It was brilliant, you should try it!"

Harriet Butt, 10: "It was great to plant native trees on a NZ farm. The process of TfS was a great experience. We learnt how to care for baby plants and plant them out. TfS stops erosion and keeps our water clean."

Tyler, 10: "TfS was an epic experience and the landscape became beautiful. The native trees we planted will now stop erosion and create a healthier environment. It was an exciting trip and the hospitality was friendly. Love it!"

Kitty Greensill, 11: "I really enjoyed planting seedlings, growing them and taking them to plant on a farm. Thanks Rotary for supporting this Trust and getting us involved. It's a great feeling to know that these trees will help save the environment."

Daniel, 11: "TfS is a great learning opportunity and a fun experience. We learnt how to plant native trees and stop erosion. I loved it and you would too."

Thomas Masters, 10: "TfS was a really cool thing to do. I loved planting and it was good to know how to plant the trees properly. It was nice to know that we were doing it for a reason."

Fraser, 11: "I liked the planting. It was an educational process of plants from the seedlings to planting on the farm. We do TfS to stop erosion, which pollutes rivers."

Shannon, 11: "It was good learning about types of native plants and planting them. We planted by the water to stop erosion."

The team in the field

The TfS programme team includes highly-committed individuals who, in a complex job, provide a critical interface with the schools, councils, supporting organisations and landowners. Here's a brief introduction to that group:

Dianne Patterson – TfS Field Officer, Auckland South, East and Thames region

After two and half years with TfS, Dianne has been actively working with 39 schools, including three schools in the Thames region. In 2011 she helped established new programmes, assisting teachers at Wymondley Road, Waiuku Primary and Takanini School. She was invited to speak at a meeting of the Rotary Club of Otahuhu, and gave a slide show highlighting the children they support.

Dianne participated in 11 planting days, actively working alongside and helping Auckland Council Planting Day Coordinators, and ensuring all the numerous volunteers were thanked on the day.

In addition to continually reviewing and monitoring the TfS schools, Dianne plays a further important role involving the supporting organisations and informing them of progress made by their schools.

Where programmes are weaker, or there has been a change of staff, Dianne works to support teachers and helps hands-on



Dianne Patterson assists in distributing flax plants for Papanui School's planting day at Dickinson property, Bombay.

with students at pricking out sessions. Occasionally where a partner has withdrawn from the programme, she has mediated and managed the 'exit' process while removing the Plant Growing Unit and transferring it, thus lowering costs for eager newcomers.

Kirsty Hardie Boys – TfS Field Officer, Auckland Central region

Before moving back to Auckland in 2009 Kirsty had an eventful five years which included furthering her horticultural training doing a post grad oenology diploma at Adelaide University and a stint working in Bordeaux, France, before returning to winemaking in Marlborough for three years.

Married with three school-aged children, Kirsty misses the lifestyle aspects of the country but recognises there are also many opportunities in the city. She has only just started working for TfS, but relishes the idea of working with children, plants and other interested parties. To her TfS is a win-win type of organisation.

Kirsty realises that if only one small lesson at a time is learnt by the children, progressively, their environmental awareness, and that of the adults around them, will increase.

Her initial observations include a teacher, who had found her first year in the scheme



Kirsty Hardie Boys at the SBN Sustainable Cities Showcase.

quite an effort, but experiencing planting day and the full cycle completed, made it all worthwhile. And at another school Year 2 children, having seen some run-off of clay coloured water from a neighbouring property development going into a stream, were upset and worried what was going to happen to the eels and fish in the stream.

Sarah Brenchley – TFS Field Officer, Auckland North & West region

A qualified primary school teacher with an environmental education degree, Sarah has been involved in enviroschools programmes in both UK & NZ. With a young family, she was looking for part-time work in the education sector when a job came up at TFS, supporting a programme she had long admired. Sarah enjoys the fact that she gets to work alongside kids in all types of schools – high, primary, intermediate, private and state, high and low decile and rural and city – with the position allowing her to concentrate on the schools out west and up north. Sarah says, “I love the programme because it is experiential learning – the kids aren’t just learning about sustainability from a text book or teacher but are actually doing something about it and seeing the difference that makes when they visit the planting sites.

“I find it sad that so many teachers are bogged down with paperwork and really feeling pressured and so extras such as the TFS programmes become a burden. In this day and age, environmental/sustainability education, gardening, cooking, crafts,



Sarah Brenchley gets on with the job.

performing arts are more important than ever. I admire those schools and teachers that understand this and are willing to give up so much of their time and energy to provide these ‘extras’ to our kids”.

Sarah finds nothing better than visiting a school and seeing the programme in action with passionate teachers and enthusiastic kids ... then later the enthusiasm of planting days. She says, “the relationships formed with supporting organisations, landowners and field officers are an important part of the programme”.

Lydia Hale – Sustainability Coordinator; Tauranga Environment Centre

Growing up in BOP region (both Rotorua and Tauranga), Lydia gained a BSc majoring in biochemistry and biological sciences (genetics and microbiology), and a PGDipSc majoring in Environmental Science, from the University of Canterbury.

Moving back to the Bay, Lydia worked for an environmental consultancy (Envirostate) and the Tauranga Environment Centre Charitable Trust (TEC). Through the former she gained Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) Associate Membership. Lydia works part-time in two places – as the Sustainability Coordinator at TEC, and on an iwi-led research project entitled Manaaki Taha Moana on the Tauranga Harbour (Te Awanui).

Through the TEC position Lydia manages the nine TFS schools currently involved in the Tauranga Moana region with six schools growing plants for the Kopurererua (K) Valley project, two rehabilitating local dune systems and one planting their school wetland. Last year, these schools planted



Lydia Hale in the Bay of Plenty environment she knows so well.

approximately 8,000 plants.

For Lydia, the highlight is the enjoyment the children get from their planting days and their pride in the contribution to the local community, as they show their families the seedlings they have planted – and the lowlight is struggling to find an up-front sponsor of the PGU for new schools, then continual annual sponsorship when most Rotary clubs are already sponsoring several schools.

Auckland Council Team

We have a wonderful 20-year plus partnership with the Auckland Council. This year 69 schools participated in the TFS Programme planting 52,123 stems. The contribution from this team in supporting the schools in the nurturing and care of allocated seedlings and plants, harvesting of seedlings, selection of planting sites and coordination of planting days is paramount in the successful outcomes that the TFS programme enjoys in the Auckland region. Our appreciation in 2011 goes to:

- **Vanessa Vujcich** – AC Senior Land and Soil Adviser
- **Sue Crawshay** – AC TFS Coordinator
- **Anna McNaughton** – AC TFS Field Officer
- **Gail Farrell** – AC TFS Field Officer
- **Kate Smith** – AC TFS Field Officer
- **Lynda Wyllie** – AC TFS Field Officer
- **Shelley Hackett** – AC TFS Field Officer
- **Mike Martindale** – AC Senior Land and Soil Adviser
- **Bridgette Priestley** – AC Land and Soil Adviser
- **Nicola Watson** – AC Land and Soil Adviser

Increasing support for Waikato and Wellington

From November 2011, TFS schools in the Waikato Region are being supported by Waikato Regional Council EnviroSchools Facilitators who help deliver the TFS programme. The potential for expansion this arrangement offers could see up to 100 schools actively participating by 2022. This will be dependent upon the community, corporate and local body support for the schools who want to be actively engaged in growing and planting native trees.

The restructuring in the Wellington region will be finalised over the summer break with a view to having working relationships with support organisations by February 2012. We appreciate the input from the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) over recent years. The support from Rotary, business and corporate supporters especially as we go through this transition phase is also appreciated. The appointment of a TFS representative in the region in the New Year will assist us in consolidating our base preparatory to expanding in the latter part of 2012.

Trees and silt



Learning by experimenting

These children are carrying out an experiment to show how plants and their roots control soil erosion. When the same amount of water is poured on the sand (left) and the clay (centre) most of the soil material and water flows down the trough. However, when poured on the plant (right), in this case a flax plant, virtually no soil or water is lost.

This simple experiment provides a graphic demonstration of just how important tree and plant cover is in reducing soil erosion.



Soil erosion is a natural process that has been accelerated in New Zealand by deforestation and unwise land use practices (for example, overgrazing). Clearing the land of trees in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, and replacing forest with pasture, has placed this country in a difficult situation from which it may never recover.

Increased conversion to pasture allowed New Zealand to develop its highly successful agricultural economy but at a significant price. Pasture plants have limited root systems giving the soil less protection from rain than trees. The increased water run-off greatly amplifies the risk of erosion, especially on steep land, and the proof is abundantly evident with the realisation that 60% of New Zealand farmland is subject to moderate/severe erosion.

Silt as sediment and nutrients (mostly nitrogen and phosphorus) get into waterways as a result of –

- slumps, slips or landslides on hill country, or
- running water detaching soil particles and gouging shallow channels, often becoming deeper gullies, on sloping land, or
- unstable banks on streams and rivers.

Sediment tends to clog up waterways, with extra nutrients causing excessive growth of aquatic plants which in turn lowers the oxygen content and affects fish life. Increased turbidity also makes it difficult for fish and other aquatic animals to breathe and the impact on recreational fresh-water fishing is considerable.

But the impact in estuaries and the open



An eroded bank (above), the source of much silt, is restored by tree planting



sea is just as severe. For example, suspended sediment makes it harder for fin-fish to 'breathe' and find food, and for filter-feeding shellfish to feed, ultimately resulting in their diminished survival.

When sediment settles it smothers shellfish and other living creatures on the seabed, while preventing shellfish, like green-lipped mussels and kelp spores, attaching to the rocky seabed. Where this happens, the whole productivity of the rocky reef ecosystem is reduced.

According to Landcare Research, around 210 million tonnes of soil are washed into New Zealand rivers annually; about 10 times the global average. It has been estimated that soil loss in New Zealand averages 18 tonnes per hectare of cultivated land or 10-20 times

the rate of natural soil formation – which is clearly unsustainable.

About 3 million tonnes of this soil, in the form of silt, reaches the sea – equivalent to the amount of coal extracted each year from New Zealand mines! The \$1.4 billion New Zealand seafood export industry will be in jeopardy and the offshore environment spoiled unless this flow of soil to the sea is mitigated.

But where does the rest of the soil (207 million tonnes!) end up? Most is deposited in the estuaries. Much has been made recently about the invasion of these estuaries by the native mangrove; so much that it has become known as a notorious marine weed. Many see the resolution of the problem to be removing the mangroves, which simply means that more silt would end up in the sea.

Excessive soil loss is a serious economic and environmental problem for New Zealand; not surprisingly trees provide most of the answer! Trees reduce the rate of erosion by –

- protecting the soil from the impact of rain,
- transpiring large amounts of water, which counteracts very wet soil and
- binding soil to sloping land with their roots.

Erosion can be controlled and silt in rivers and streams reduced, by planting trees (preferably natives) on slip-prone hill country, in gullies and on stream banks.

Finally, by creating fenced riparian strips adjacent to streams and rivers (planted with a mix of trees, shrubs and pasture) sediment, nitrogen and phosphorus in water run-off will be trapped before it enters waterways.



A typical mangrove harbour edge



Tell-tale deposit at a stream mouth



A well-planted riparian strip and clean stream

Holyoake Award announced

First place in the Holyoake Award 2012 went to Papatoetoe High School with St Cuthbert's College and Verran Primary School placed equal second. Papatoetoe High School has consistently produced large numbers of healthy native seedlings and in 2011 students travelled to a site on the Awhitu Peninsula where they planted 850 native seedlings, leaving a further 150 for the owners to put in. The students are also active in the Wai Care programme, planting banks of a local stream beside the school boundary.

The judges were particularly impressed with the number and health of the seedlings the students grow. The school's approach to this important environmental education programme is strong in all facets – from their cooperation with the review process to the strong relationship with Dave Lockie and his supportive Rotary Club of Papatoetoe West, as well as communication with TFS and AC Field officers. The willingness to travel significant distances to give the students highly successful planting day experiences together with the move towards improving the physical amenities supporting this horticultural work are signs of the strong commitment throughout.

After the presentation of the award – Lloyd Welschidt (Science), Peter Gall (Principal), Don Roa (National Manager, Trees for Survival), Michael Matete (Groundsman), Beryl McKinnell (TFS Science Technician), Elwyn Rae, (Ass. Head Boy), Abertillery Fa'amsino (Head Boy). Front, from left: Malisa Thay, My-Lan Ishibashi (TFS students).



Always committed to TFS, here Graham, left, is seen with fellow Rotarians Rob Bursma, centre, and Don Guy, right, on a project for the programme

Graham Hall

Trees for Survival lost one of its most hardworking and loyal supporters this year, with the death of Papakura Rotarian, Graham Hall. Graham was involved with TFS when it first took on the sponsorship of Papakura High School and Cosgrove Primary School in Papakura.

Always a very practical supporter, Graham helped transfer a glass house and shade house from Papakura High School and a plant growing unit from Kedgley Intermediate to Papakura Normal Primary. He also kept a check on the seedlings in both schools during term and holiday times.

As a regular supporter in the area, Graham organised teams of planters for the Papakura Normal Primary and Cosgrove School planting days, as well as a group to help deliver seedlings and potting mix to ten South Auckland TFS schools.

Graham's contribution to TFS was immense and he will be sadly missed. Our condolences to his family, fellow Rotarians and friends.

TREES FOR SURVIVAL

Trees for Survival is a community partnership which encourages children to learn about native plants by growing and planting them to support local revegetation projects.

Our partners include schools, local councils, Rotary Clubs of NZ, landowners, champions and sponsors.

Patrons

Bill Boyd QSO
Rob Fenwick CNZM, KStJ
Dr Ruud Klienpaste

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Don Roa (National Manager)

Newsletter Editor

Robin Beckett

TFS Registered Schools

A full list can be found on
www.tfsnz.org.nz

TFS CHAMPIONS

See front page

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Trees for Survival also acknowledges the Rotary Clubs of New Zealand who support one or more schools to enable them to learn about trees and to grow and plant them on 'at risk' land.

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Application forms to apply to become a TFS school can be downloaded from <http://www.tfsnz.org.nz/docs/ApplicationForm2010.pdf>