



A Message From The Chairman Of The TFS Trust

Greetings and welcome to the first TFS Newsletter for 2007. You will notice that we are trying a few different things this year. We have redesigned our Newsletter and the great new look ties in with our refreshed website - www.tfsnz.org.nz. Check it out as it contains a number of new and exciting features.

At TFS we are really proud of where we have come from. The number of trees planted and the numerous New Zealanders involved is a credit to the Trees for Survival programme and its management. However time to move up to a new level and become truly New Zealand wide.



We have developed a 5 year strategic plan and we have accepted that some of our past ways and structures will have to change to meet the challenges of the future. We at TFS look forward to working with you to implement these plans and to share in the next phase of our development.

Regards
Don Bowater - Chairman of the TFS Trust

Holyoake Award Presentations

December saw the presentation of the 2006 Holyoake Award and prize money to the winners - Moturoa School and Otahuhu College.

The annual award sponsored by Holyoake Industries was introduced in 2005 by Noel Holyoake to promote the objectives of Trees for Survival in schools.

The award was presented to Moturoa School by Don Holyoake (brother of Noel Holyoake) with representatives present from the supporting Rotary club (New Plymouth West), the Mayor Peter Tennant, The Department of Conservation, and many interested friends and family.

The school's \$600 prize money will go towards upgrading the propagation unit's computer system.

The second prize went to Otahuhu College those outstanding plant numbers separated them from the rest of the field. Otahuhu College will put their \$400 prize money toward upgrading the units shade cloth and investing in a trolley to make transporting plants and potting mix easier.



Don Holyoake with Moturoa School pupils Sam Street and Linkon Tuari

Photo courtesy of North Taranaki Midweek.



Otahuhu College recipients Ken Shaw and Beryl McKinnell

Photo courtesy of Manukau Courier.

TFS Go Wild In Auckland Zoo's Kidzone

Auckland Zoo is to introduce a TFS display as part of its environmental focus in the childrens' area, Paddlepop Kidzone. Kidzone is a child-focussed indoor-outdoor area that's home to some of the zoo's smaller residents, and offers young ones great opportunities to interact with both

keepers and animals (such as rabbits, guinea pigs, goats, chickens). It also engages children and grown-ups about ways they can personally make a difference and help the environment, and has a direct link with the TFS objectives of tree planting to stop erosion and improve water quality.



Slip Slip Sliding Away

For townies, the word “slip” is something that rarely comes up, and when it does it’s almost always in reference to a road blockage or to damage to houses. To farmers, it’s a much more personal, urgent word, because slips are an unpleasant and damaging aspect of farming life. At best, a slip can destroy a productive area of pasture, but that’s seldom the only problem. Soil and clay from the slip usually flow out over adjacent pasture, ruining that as well, often over areas much larger than that of the slip itself. Fences get ripped out, farm roads get damaged and sediment gets washed into streams, lakes and estuaries, polluting the natural waters. A bad season of slips on a farm can reduce its carrying capacity by 10% or more, and it will take many years to repair the damage. It is much better to prevent them from happening in the first place.

A slip can take several forms. One of the most common is a slump in a gully, or even in a moderate depression on a moderate to steep downward slope. This is the sort of greatest interest to TFS programs, because this is where our efforts can make the greatest difference. Everybody knows that slips are caused by water – too much water in the wrong place. Water is channelled into the slip-prone area by the topography of the land. Simple erosion is caused by water picking up particles of sand, soil and clay, and transporting them essentially as part of the water flow. Slips are different, in that the soil moves as a mass. Water brings this about in at least 3 ways, and each of these ways is able to be defended by the sorts of planting that the TFS programs are designed to carry out.



TFS children are planting native trees in a slip-prone gully on a Weymouth farm. The heavy growth of reeds and sedges in the lower parts indicate that there are water-drainage problems in the gully, making it slip-prone.

The first problem created by water is the weight added by rain saturating the soil. A good dose of rain can double the weight of soil, giving the soil mass an extra push down the slope. A second problem is created by the change in soil and clay texture. Dry soil is hard and resists movement; water-laden soil is soft and pliable, to the point that it can start flowing under its own weight. And a third problem caused by water is lubrication. Many New Zealand soils are thin, sitting on top of an oxidising, weathering rocky substrate. The boundary between the soil and

the rock resists movement while the soil is dry, but inserting water at that boundary has the same effect as putting water on a smooth tile floor – friction goes out the window, the soil slips on the rock and bang, wallop, the soil is off down the gully (or you are flat on your back).

Though pasture does curb erosion, it isn’t much help in protecting land from slips, because grass roots are very shallow and only influence the top few centimetres of soil. In contrast, trees can do a great deal to stabilise the area, and this is the main thrust behind the TFS program. They function in 3 rather separate ways to combat all three of the water problems listed above. First they evaporate water from the soil most importantly in the run-up to winter rather than in winter itself. A dry soil surface evaporates relatively little water, no matter how much water is in the soil beneath. Tree leaves act as if they were a surface of water, a square metre of foliage evaporates as much water as if it were an equivalent area of pond, significantly drying out the soil under it. And because the tree roots penetrate well down into the soil, water is withdrawn from the deeper parts as well as from near the surface. Secondly, those roots penetrating deeply through the soil bind it together, stopping the plastic slippage, reinforcing the soil structure much as reinforcing rods are used to strengthen concrete. Thirdly, when the oxidising rock substrate has cracks and crevices (which is usually the case), the roots can penetrate the cracks, counteracting the slippage by locking the clay and soil to the rock.

If the farmer wants to keep the gully area in pasture production, trees can be planted some distance apart however it is often a better option to retire the land from grazing altogether and balance the lost production against the reduced pasture damage from slips. The philosophy behind the TFS program is to combine with the farmer in achieving his gully stabilisation, and to involve children in the growing and planting of native trees, restoring areas of native forest. In this way the children are helping the farmer and at the same time learning the skills, and pleasures, of growing plants, and helping to conserve New Zealand’s flora and fauna.

Article by Rod Bieleski

Bill Boyd – World President Of Rotary And Trustee Of Trees For Survival

Bill Boyd is the current World President of Rotary and is currently based in Chicago, USA. He recently returned to New Zealand for a brief visit and caught up with his Rotary New Zealand colleagues.



offering not only an environmental focus but also an invaluable educational tool for our young people.”

Bill congratulated all those involved in TFS, whether at the school, Rotary, Regional Council or support level, and encouraged them to keep up the good work. He was most enthusiastic over the planned expansion of the programme New Zealand wide over the next couple of years and looking forward to resuming his position on the board in the future.

Having been involved in Trees for Survival since its introduction to New Zealand in 1991 and having been Chairman of the Board of Trustees for a period of that time, Bill says that “Trees for Survival remains very close to my heart. Through TFS we are

The Billion Tree Campaign In New Zealand

The United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) has launched a campaign to plant one billion trees throughout the world in 2007. Trees for Survival is coordinating the campaign in New Zealand and it plans to pledge to plant and care for at least 1,000,000 trees as this country’s contribution to this world wide effort.

Last year Trees for Survival coordinated the planting of more than 60,000 trees. This year with the Billion Tree Campaign as the impetus we hope that Government, Regional, District and City Councils, forestry enterprises, commerce, schools and community groups as well as individuals will all join together in order to achieve our target.



Pledges for the NZ contribution to the Billion Tree Campaign can be made on www.tfsnz.org.nz or by typing www.tfsnz.org.nz/btc into your browser. You can ask for more information by emailing btcnz@treesforsurvival.org.nz. Once a pledge is made a follow-up is required to confirm the number of trees planted. So come on New Zealand and support us in this Billion Tree Campaign!

December Openings

Judy Morgan VPMarketing NZ Steel officially opened the TFS Plant Growing Unit at Waiuku College on December 6th. She said “NZ Steel are very pleased to be sponsoring a second unit in our local community. The Trees for Survival programme supports our Company vision to become the ‘cleanest, greenest, safest steelworks in the world”.



Judy Morgan NZ Steel (centre) with Principal Stuart Harrison (left) together with representatives from ARC, TFS and Waiuku College.



Ellerslie School pupils with Principal Chris Magner and teacher Isabel Gregson with the book they presented to unit sponsors Mercury Energy.

The Plant Growing Unit at Ellerslie School (sponsored by neighbours Mercury Energy) was officially opened on December 7th by Mark Carter, Mercury Energy’s General Manager Consumer Markets. Ellerslie School Principal Chris Magner thanked Mercury Energy and said “ Our students can now have the advantage of hands on learning, which will enrich their education and allow them to have fun while they learn”.

Planning Ahead

March

- Summer watering is critical – watch your Manuka, if they dry out for a few days they become more susceptible to disease and die very quickly.
- Beware of Thrips on Ake ake, Manuka and Rewarewa. Look out for the silvering of the leaves. Treat with insecticide (organic products are available) or try encouraging praying mantis and blue wing ladybirds into the unit.
- If the hot weather hasn't been kind to your plants and they need a bit of a boost try feeding them 'worm tea' or liquid fertiliser.
- Pot on larger plants into milk cartons or plastic bags
- Trim any lanky plants by 1/3 so they become wider and sturdier.
- Open shade curtains to harden off the plants at the end of March. Leave open through until planting.
- Do a plant count so you know the number of plants that are at the 30cm+ height and available for planting out. A species breakdown is also helpful.
- Update parents on the Trees for Survival unit at your school and the learning opportunities for their children – including a 'heads-up' on key periods where you will need extra hands.
- Work with your local regional council to identify planting sites for the year and confirm planting dates.
- Organise transport and advise all those parents, Rotary members and other supporting organisations so they have plenty of time to get the day off and come and join you.
- Remember to fill in the 'Questionnaire' insert in this newsletter and fax to: 09 5205297 or post to PO Box 51684, Pakuranga.

April

- Check out the new TFS web page- www.tfsnz.org.nz
- Confirm planting day arrangements with your school community, supporting organisations, and landowners. Remember to finalise transport and equipment and complete 'school trip' paperwork.
- Change your watering regime to heavy watering about twice a week. This will help acclimatise the plants for when they are onsite and not receiving regular watering. Where possible also have plants out of the shelter of the unit so they can harden off.
- Order supplies of root trainers, baskets and potting mix NOW, ready for the new seedlings.

May

- First seedling delivery for some regions. Remind your supporting organisation and school community that there will be plenty of pricking out this month.
- Check out your Trees for Survival Teaching Resource (Primary) for all the ways you can incorporate the Plant Growing Unit activities across the curriculum. If you need a replacement copy email: info@treesforsurvival.org.nz
- Planting season begins – time to dig out the gumboots and watch the weather forecast.

Trees for Survival Contact Details

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Website update

Trees for Survival has a new domain name to introduce its new website – www.tfsnz.org.nz. The new look website was designed in Auckland by Impact Media to be user friendly and to give easier access to information.

The recently launched version contains all you need to know about TFS. Future plans provide for the inclusion of more inter-reactivity making the site a 'must use' for those interested in trees and their impact on the environment.

Please visit www.tfsnz.org.nz – we hope that it has a permanent place on your browser.



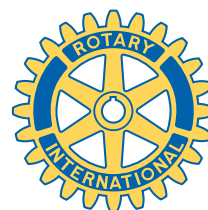
Send us Your Stories

A reminder that this is your Newsletter and that it would be great to hear what is happening with TFS in your area.

Contact Lynda Wyllie, the TFS National Co-ordinator, with stories and suggestions email info@treesforsurvival.org.nz.

Sponsors

We would like to thank our sponsors:



also G.S Shapland Ltd and Multistrut Ltd.