

TREES FOR SURVIVAL™

Children growing our future

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Friends of Trees for Survival launched – another step forward for the children of New Zealand

Trees for Survival (*TfS*) is a charitable trust which encourages school children to grow and plant native trees thus preventing erosion, improving stream flow and water quality and creating new habitats for our native fauna and flora. According to *TfS* Communications Chair, Ann Batten, the programme is going from strength to strength.

The recent staff increases expand the capacity of the team, thus ensuring more extensive field work coverage, backed by enhanced administrative support. The rapidly growing work of the *TfS* programme is willingly supported by various regional councils and other regional organisations, while many businesses provide expertise and field assistance.

Strong environmentally-aware corporates and national organisations together with the Rotary Clubs of NZ provide the bulk of the funding for the *TfS* programme, but there is a very strong requirement to increase activity with a growing number of schools, who want to embark on the programme, currently sitting on a waiting list.

A bold new venture

The new Friends of Trees for Survival will extend *TfS* networks into new fields

of support in order to gain additional volunteers, thus reinforcing schools with their on-site plant growing units and facilitating some 'bread and butter' funding.



Please join us

Guest speaker at the launch on Wednesday 29 July, with his ready wit and wicked sense of humour, will be radio and TV personality (the Bugman) Ruud Kleinpaste, a Patron of Trees for Survival. Tickets, which are complimentary to members of the Friends of Trees for Survival and \$10 each for non-members, include canapés and bubbly or juice on arrival followed by a cash bar. Further details on the Friends, or purchasing tickets, contact admin@tfsnz.org.nz.

Yates gives back

Yates has been involved in Trees for Survival (*TfS*) since its inception and over the many years has played a pivotal part by providing the essential potting mix that ensures the trees for the programme get off to a good start in an ideal growing medium.



Don Bowater of TfS, left, presents a Champion sponsorship plaque to Charlie Gray, New Zealand General Manager of Yates.

As a gardening supply company, Yates supports programmes that enhance the environment and encourage conservation. This support advances a key corporate principle – to value people and the environment.

Yates strongly endorses the value of the *TfS* programme in imparting knowledge of how a young plant grows and the importance of trees to the environment. The programme encourages children to start on a life-time of growing things while also imparting a love for plants.

Charlie Gray, New Zealand General Manager of Yates, says that they have long been concerned children might grow up ignorant of the role of plants in general and the contribution they make to the well-being of the environment. As Champions of Trees for Survival, Yates is building a long term interest in gardening and horticulture among future citizens, while encouraging their awareness of environmental issues.

Trees for Survival

proudly championed by



working with
Trees for Survival



The core of the *TfS* programme

Many partners facilitate the Trees for Survival community-based programme, from teachers and parents to regional organisations and the vital sponsors. Behind the scenes all the organisational activity is driven by a fundamental desire to benefit the environment, while contributing a great learning experience for today's children – the leaders of tomorrow. But fundamentally the programme has two key aspects, which are visually summarised here. Above, children focus enthusiastically on stage one, the growing and nurturing of seedlings prior to planting and then, below, the ultimate goal is the planting out with benefits for students, land-owner and the environment .



Illustrated here are students from Ponsonby Primary School, Kawerau Intermediate, Awhitu School, Otahuhu College and Waiau Pa School





K Valley – a great community project

The Kopurererua Valley, widely known as K Valley, is a 300 hectare block of low-lying rural Tauranga land situated between residential neighbourhoods including Judea, Te Reti, Gate Pa, Greerton, Westridge and Cambridge Heights.

For many years the valley was inhabited by the people of Ngai Tamarawaho and the valley is important historically for the remains of pa and other archaeological sites as well as the locations for two significant battles. More recently, the valley suffered major environmental degradation from farmland development, unsuccessful attempts to drain the swampy valley floor and the downstream deposit of silt and debris into the Tauranga Harbour.

The vision

Driven by the hapu of Ngai Tamarawaho in consultation with the Tauranga City Council, the vision for the development of K Valley was a project that would redefine the city, recognising fully the roots of the inhabitants, and impact on its social, economic, cultural and environmental life. Major highlights include –

- 12 km of walkways and cycleways
- An eye-catching entranceway to the city including large stands of Kahikatea trees and entrance sculptures
- An extensive programme of native planting to enhance views and screen the roadway at key locations
- Realignment of the Kopurererua River

to provide additional wetlands and habitat for aquatic life

- Development of a cultural centre and traditional Maori village (the latter as a tourist and commercial attraction)
- Passive and active recreational areas.

The community in partnership

Craig Fea, Park Ranger: Harbour Structures/Kopurererua Valley, says, "About seven years ago, Tauranga launched its City Partners programme to build on strong support for developing the city. The K Valley project really captured the public interest and is a fine example of this programme at work".

The partners backing the project are Tauranga Rotary, Naturally Native, Comvita, Opus, Works Infrastructure, Perry Environmental, Powerco and Gardenart.

Tauranga Rotary, a combination of four local clubs, adopted the K Valley project as a lasting way to celebrate Rotary Centennial Year in 2005 and set up a Centennial Trust partnership with the Tauranga City Council.

Progress to date

The project was anticipated to be spread over twenty years, at a cost of several million dollars, funded 50% by rates and the balance by project partners. Progress suggests that the schedule is on track to be completed largely in about 15 years.

"Over the initial four years, 150,000 trees have been planted," say Craig, "and now

the changes are creating growing public awareness as the work becomes more noticeable."

Increasing promotion and more community events in the area are contributing to this public response to a project that meets dual objectives – one in ecology and bio-diversity; the other as an ever-maturing thoroughfare. The pathways plan together with the various over-bridges and under-passes will create an expanding appreciation of the benefits of the K Valley project.

A part for Trees for Survival

The Trees for Survival programme is also based on the community partnership model and here, in the K Valley project, is a great partnership example in operation, providing striking community benefits. Through its working relationship with Rotary, TFS is thrilled that seven Tauranga-based schools, participating in the TFS programme, are contributing to the execution of the vision for the K Valley.

Schools involved include Aquinas College, Bellevue School, Bethlehem College, Gate Pa School, Maungatapu School, Tauranga Girls College and Te Akau ki Papamoa Primary School.



Resource packs being distributed

The Secondary School Resource kit is now being distributed to Trees for Survival secondary schools by TFS Field Officers in Auckland and Wellington. Schools in other regions will receive their packs by mail.

The pack contains the Secondary School Resource booklet as well as the previously published Primary School Resource kit, a digital copy of these booklets on CD and a DVD containing three videos.

Major author, Jean Shepherd, is delighted with the production and says, "at long last secondary teachers have TFS material to supplement their school's environmental programme. All the activities included have been trialled in the school situation; so teachers will be able easily to incorporate them to their teaching programmes".

Easy copying of material for classroom use is a feature of this resource. Pages can be copied either directly from the booklet or printed from the CD for use by TFS schools.

TFS National Manager, David English is delighted that teachers now have a resource they have been asking for. He adds, "we sincerely thank our writers, sponsors and the many others who have been involved in the production – it is another milestone achieved for Trees for Survival".

Above: Jean Shepherd checks out her Secondary Schools Resource pack.

A talented trio joins TFS

Peter Mundell is the new Programme Manager, responsible for implementing the programme in schools across New Zealand. He will facilitate liaison between schools and supporting organisations, helping to ensure the former have the materials and personnel support to enable them to run the programme effectively.

Peter has been fascinated by the bush from childhood. Since arriving in New Zealand from South Africa 12 years ago, he has been an avid gardener, volunteer, science teacher and Associate Principal in Auckland. Peter has been involved in endless environmental projects, conservation activities and field trips. He says, "I am looking forward to the challenge of being involved in one of the most worthwhile occupations possible – enabling more children to plant more trees".

Sonya Veldhuizen (Auckland North) and Dianne Patterson (Auckland South) have joined the Field Officers working under Peter's guidance. They maintain



From top: Peter Mundell, Dianne Patterson, Sonya Veldhuizen

partnership links with TFS schools, supplementing and complementing the support given by the regional council. They have had little time to prepare for the planting season but are fully occupied making themselves known to their schools as they become familiar with the partnership networks.

Dianne says, "I have a great enthusiasm for what I'm doing and I look forward to using my skills and experience to help children commit to caring for our natural environment through Trees for Survival".

Dianne is professionally-trained, environmentally-aware and has a broad experience of working with, and for, the country's children.

Sonya has a degree based on conservation and ecology together with a postgraduate diploma in primary teaching. She has quickly visited many schools, assisted on planting days and inspected thriving past planting sites. "I love teaching out-side of the classroom and being part of an organisation which is successful, practical and making a difference," she says.

TFS sponsors and supporters

We sincerely thank the following for their assistance and donations:

The Sustainable Management Fund, Boeing Environmental Fund, Cuesports Foundation, The Chenery Trust,

NZ Steel, The Northern Gateway Alliance, G S Shapland Ltd, Regency Duty Free and Parkland Products.

Trees for Survival acknowledges the Rotary Clubs of New Zealand, Multistrut, Foster & Co and local councils throughout the country for their ongoing support of the TFS programme.

Contact us:

PO Box 11836, Ellerslie, Auckland 1542

Ph: 09 526 1561 Fax: 09 526 1563

Email: info@tfsnz.org.nz

Web: www.tfsnz.org.nz



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Application forms to apply to become a TFS school can be downloaded from www.tfsnz.org.nz/userimages/File/Get_Involved/ApplicationForm08_3.pdf