

TREES FOR SURVIVAL™

Children growing our future

Newsletter • Issue 10 • September 2009



Left: New Zealand leaders of Rotary relax after a recent meeting.

to update handbooks and websites as well as making reference to *TfS* in the District Governors' newsletters.

Secondly, the strategy will require the District *TfS* Committee Chairmen and regional representatives on District Committee to work with Richard Purchase's *TfS* team to promote *TfS* to Rotary Clubs. Speakers to explain *TfS* to clubs can be arranged simply by emailing Richard Purchase on info@tfsnz.org.nz.

Preserving our environment – the ultimate community project

And thirdly, Field Officers who service *TfS* schools will continue to develop close liaisons between local clubs and schools, facilitating the community partnerships which are a feature of the programme.

A real difference can be achieved by Rotary Clubs interested in educating tomorrow's leaders on the value of trees and the folly of past practices, while also doing something to protect our precarious environment. Clubs help provide funding and assisting on planting days to enable children in *TfS* schools to plant more trees.

Information about *TfS* can be obtained from our website www.tfsnz.org.nz and brochures describing how clubs and communities can become involved are available on request from info@tfsnz.org.nz

In the best tradition of Rotary

Securing the environment against carbon emissions is one of the greatest challenges currently facing mankind. Many Rotary Clubs recognise, that by working through their communities and local schools with the Trees for Survival (*TfS*) programme, they can help to meet this challenge, in so doing encouraging children to learn about, grow and plant trees.

Trees are essential for our survival...

Planting trees is the only way to mitigate the carbon dioxide already in the atmosphere – a fact even climate-change deniers accept. But that, as everyone knows, is only part of the story. Trees are also needed to control erosion, regulate stream flow and improve water quality while providing habitats for other plants and animals. Trees are essential for our survival.

More tree-planting is critical and *TfS* urgently needs more Rotary Clubs to become involved in helping to cope with the ever-increasing waiting list of schools wanting to join the *TfS* programme.

In order to promote the *TfS* programme to Rotary Clubs, the *TfS* Trustees have adopted a three-pronged strategy to encourage more clubs to become involved. Initially the focus will be on Districts 9930 and 9940, incorporating Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Taranaki, Hawkes Bay, Gisborne, Manawatu, Wanganui and Wellington. However, within three years South Island Districts 9970 and 9980 will have the necessary support from Rotary and other groups to extend the *TfS* programme throughout the country.

- ...to control erosion
- ...to regulate stream flow
- ...to improve water quality
- ...to provide habitats
- ...to offset carbon dioxide.

As stage one, *TfS* National Manager, David English and Richard Purchase, Chairman of the *TfS* Rotary Liaison Committee, recently met with District Governors-elect to elicit their help in promoting *TfS* to clubs in their Districts. As a result it is hoped to have District Committees set up – similar to those already functioning in District 9940 –



Foundation stone of TFS

Peter Taylor, of Multistrut Industries, can justly claim to be the foundation stone of Trees for Survival (TFS) in New Zealand. Since 1991, when he was President of Pakuranga Rotary and the first three local schools were used to trial the concept, Peter has been a committed sponsor of, supplier to and advocate for the TFS programme.

The full resources of Multistrut were used in the design and development of the Plant Growing Unit (PGU) which forms an integral part of a school's plant growing phase of the TFS programme.



Peter Taylor, right, with John Allatt, Manager, Multistrut Industries

The PGU range, which now has over 150 units in operation, has grown to offer two-, four-, and six-metre versions thus catering for a variety of pupil numbers, site limitations and budgets. The addition of water timers has catered for the absence of pupils during school holidays by ensuring regular watering and, more recently, the development of lockable panels to provide security for exposed sites subject to unwanted interference.

The extent of the Multistrut commitment to TFS is quite extraordinary. Although the unit has definite commercial potential, they have limited the distribution of the PGUs to the TFS schools. In addition, Multistrut assists with site selection prior to manufacture and installation while providing free delivery within the Auckland area. Other support extends to providing the storage space for potting mix and seedlings as well as undertaking some distribution of these vital ingredients to Auckland schools.

Trees for Survival is delighted to add Multistrut Industries to its list of Champion sponsors.



A friendly support arm

On 29 July the launch Cocktail Party for the Friends of Trees for Survival (TFS) was held at the Auckland Club with over 60 people warmly responding to this new TFS initiative. The formal part of the evening was kicked off by Don Bowater, TFS Chairman, who welcomed guests and introduced the driving force behind the development of this new TFS support arm, Ann Batten.

Ann briefly defined the role of the Friends and then gave way to the star turn of the evening – a performance by TFS Patron Ruud Kleinpaste who, supported by his travelling troupe of wetas, delivered

word: biodiversity.

You see, this Planet has been successfully twirling around its axis for more than 4 billion years. Sometimes it got cold, sometimes it got seriously hot and sometimes the rate of cooling or heating exceeded modern day measurements.

Yet this planet survived without a carbon credit in sight! All it needed was a full complement of species that allowed evolution, sometimes domination and in many cases, natural extinction; yes – a full complement of species is what pulled us through. You can smell the link to biodiversity here, can't you?



Don Bowater, Chairman of TFS, welcomes guests; right, supporters from the Auckland Regional Council. Below: Ruud Kleinpaste in full voice discussing the insect kingdom.

an entertaining, but extremely insightful address on biodiversity.

Addressing the topic, Ruud says –

Looking after our Planet has never been as popular as in recent years. The fact that this place is warming up is probably not news to anybody, but the main causes for this phenomenon are still debated among scientists and stirrers. I've decided I'm getting bored with much of this debate and am now focussing my attention on just one

If I look at our biodiversity record over the past couple of hundred years, New Zealand stands out – in a really bad way! Some folk label us The Extinction Capital of the World. A lot of our forests have gone, along with wetlands, dune landscapes, peat lands, you name it;

and with them the habitats they formed for other organisms.

Of course it makes sense, to restore the biodiversity of Aotearoa as quickly as possible and many conservation organisations are doing just that. But the most important aspect in all this effort is the next generation. They are the people who need all the tools and knowledge to repair the damage caused by their ancestors.

Interesting, isn't it, how the name Trees for Survival is, more and more, becoming eerily well-chosen!



A role model for schools

Point View School is a new school with a focus on the environment. Recently the school has established a BEES team (Beautification & Enrichment of our Environment) under the guidance of parent and Learning Assistant Helen Page. The school, now a fully-fledged Trees for Survival (TfS) school, has been an Enviroschool since 2008.

On its own initiative, Point View raised sufficient funds to launch the TfS programme with a commitment from the Auckland Regional Council Environmental Initiatives Fund and the school's Family and Friends Association for the purchase of a plant growing unit. In addition, the Somerville Rotary Club undertook to pay the annual fee.

Approval of the Point View application was followed by identifying a suitable and secure location for the plant growing unit (PGU). The site was duly selected by Helen Page with the help of Dianne Patterson, TfS Field Officer and John Allatt of Multistrut Industries who build and install the units.

Point View received their first delivery of 700 seedlings in June. When teachers Ms Williams and Ms Vakhrousheva, with their Year 5 pupils, held their first 'pricking out' session, Principal Judy Parr was inspired to comment that she was "delighted with yesterday's planting session". She went on to say, "What a fabulous group of support people we have for this project. Thanks heaps to our 'teachers' from ARC and TfS and to Todd Hanlon, James Lee and Rotary for their financial and practical support. I look forward to great learning based around this project and we do so appreciate these partnerships that are developing."

At the opening ceremony, attended by representatives of TfS, ARC and Somerville Rotary, TfS Patron Ruud Kleinpaste spoke enthusiastically to the students. Later Peter Mundell, TfS Programme Manager, was delighted to present the school with its participation certificate and school sign.

Clockwise from top left: Peter Mundell, TfS, James Lee, Somerville Rotary Club and Judy Parr, Principal – Ruud Kleinpaste reaches out to the students – Ruud "cuts the ribbon" – Year 5 pupils at their first ever pricking out session – pupils take ownership of the PGU – student shows his excitement – Ksenia Vakhrousheva, teacher; Sherri Rhodes, BEES group; Judy Parr, James Lee, Helen Page, Point View TfS coordinator; Tania Williams, teacher; in front, teacher with Dianne Patterson, TfS Field Officer.



- ## Steps to becoming a TfS School
1. Principal and Board apply to incorporate the TfS programme into their environmental education curriculum.
 2. Application approved pending funding arrangements being made and a commitment to the programme.
 3. The school and TfS work together to arrange funding to cover the Annual Fee and/or Plant Growing Unit (PGU).
 4. A location for the Plant Growing Unit is established and the school arranges appropriate insurance.
 5. The supply of seedlings, materials and availability of resource personnel is confirmed.
 6. From application until installation of a PGU and implementation of programme takes up to three months.





Highpoint in Kawerau

Fifty years ago the reserve area was home to manuka and kanuka with a liberal helping of possum and some deer. Then, in 1977, the Monika Lanham Reserve, which stands at the heart of the Kawerau community overlooking its industries, schools, parks and forests, was named after a Councillor and Deputy Mayor who gave so much of herself, her talents and energy to the town she loved.

Exotic trees planted about that time, 30 years ago, grew too large, creating too much shade. Against this background, the eleven-year Monika Lanham Reserve Restoration Project, launched in 2003, aims to:

- a. build biodiversity by eradication of plant and animal pests,
 - b. restore habitat by planting locally sourced genetic seed stock to achieve indigenous vegetation cover and particularly to increase habitat for the dwarf-leafless mistletoe by planting host plant kanuka,
 - c. make links to adjacent natural areas, eg. the Tarawera River, Putauaki (Mt Edgumbe), Paramahana Scenic Reserve and Lake Rotoma,
 - d. provide high quality habitats for indigenous wildlife,
 - e. create a range of recreational resources including walking and biking tracks,
 - f. facilitate easy access to the top from where there are superb views of Kawerau and adjacent areas.
- Many community groups have

supported the project with a strong leadership role being undertaken by the Rotary Club of Kawerau. Rotarian John Brierley, a recently retired mechanical engineer has played a vital role for four years as volunteer project manager for the restoration project. Kawerau District Council and Environment Bay of Plenty have also made major input to this popular initiative.

Trees for Survival member schools Kawerau Intermediate and Kawerau South Schools, with strong encouragement from Rotary, have made significant contributions. The students collected seeds from native trees within the Reserve and sowed them at the Kawerau District Council Nursery before undertaking the standard *TFS* programme of watering and caring for seedlings, pricking out the seedlings into individual pots, bagging up the plants and ultimately planting the trees back into the Reserve.

Stuart Cook, Principal of Kawerau South, whose students have been planting in the reserve behind the school for the past seven years, says the area is a well-used asset to the school, and will be further enhanced with a soon to be completed mountain bike track which will benefit the whole community. Commenting on the success of the programme, Stuart remarks on the teenage pupils returning to the school seven years after the initial plantings and enthusiastically viewing progress.

Clockwise from top left: A very barren site in 2004; an aerial view of the Monika Lanham Reserve in 2003 before many of the exotic and pest trees were removed; 2009 planting by Kawerau South students and helpers; like a team of ants, the planters get serious in 2006; a great achievement for conservation – threatened native plant Dwarf Mistletoe found in Monika Lanham Reserve by Department of Conservation botanist Paul Cashmore in August 2007

Planting Day, 2009

Maybe for many of the children involved in the Trees for Survival (TFS) programme the fun part is getting out into the field and planting the seedlings they have grown and nurtured. There are many spin-offs from this community-based programme. It is not only a learning experience for children, it is a chance for activity!

In a country where childhood obesity is of major concern, the planting out days are a chance to "get physical" – and with it comes the opportunity to relate to others in group situations, to interact and get creative with our natural environment. Out-of-classroom learning doesn't get better than this and everyone benefits – the students, land-owners and the environment!

Here are some randomly selected schools from around the country, realising the ultimate goal of the TFS programme – the planting out day for 2009.

Clockwise from top left: Buckland's Beach Intermediate; Papakura Normal School; Ararimu School; Papakura Normal School (2); Mahurangi College; Hunua School; Eponi School



PHOTO: LOCAL MATTERS

Growing support for the Taranaki

Trees for Survival recently visited Taranaki with the view to establishing a support network for schools in the region.

Effective implementation of the *TfS* programme requires Regional Council support and National Manager, David English was impressed by the level of interest shown by Kevin Archer, Don Shearman and Rusty Ritchie. On-going discussions will address how the Council can assist in the promotion of *TfS*.

Two active *TfS* schools were visited. Oakura, under the direction of Principal Lynne Hepworth and *TfS* teacher Ray Priest, has plans to plant an adjacent wetland. Moturoa, on the other hand, has a different, but exciting, focus on the restoration of locally endangered native plants.

At Moturoa, Polaiu'amea Kirifi, TJ Harris and Serene Castle each spoke confidently about the abundant native plants in the school grounds, describing the variety of natives in their Plant Growing Unit. With encouragement from Principal Martin Jordon and *TfS* teacher Bill Clarkson, Moturoa School is a leading light in the restoration of the Taranaki variety of *Scandia rosifolia* (koheriki) which has only one confirmed plant in the wild and the similarly endangered coastal plant, *Pimelea urvilleana* (pinatoro).

Daniel Hovell and Claire Melrose of Fonterra, Hawera, are supporting the



Clockwise from top left: David English, Claire Melrose, Ian Willetts and Daniel Hovell at Fonterra's Whareroa restoration site; Serene Castle talks about rare native species; Rotarian Doug Hutchieson surveys the progress; Polaiu'amea and TJ study conservation murals at Moturoa School.

local Rotary Club in the development of Whareroa Farm Gully and Nowell's Lakes where several schools are participating in an exciting restoration programme fronted by Doug Hutchieson, recently retired from Fonterra, who is a key driving force.

Many schools in the Taranaki are actively involved in tree planting and those interested in joining the *TfS* programme should enquire through info@tfsnz.org.nz or contact Bill Clarkson at Moturoa School through admin@moturoa.schoolzone.net.nz



A bright re-use idea

Trees for Survival schools in Wellington will benefit from creative thinking by Robert Glensor, proprietor of Paraparaumu's Paraoa Bakehouse which is a Sustainable Business of the Year. The company will work with regional *TfS* schools encouraging them to re-use the Crunchy Granola organic muesli bags by substituting them for the plastic potting bags normally used when growing their seedlings.

Schools are encouraged to collect the bags and return them to Paraoa Bakeries who will reimburse the school 25 cents per bag and at the same time contribute 25 cents a bag towards the *TfS* programme. The company will consolidate the returned bags and make them available in bulk to schools.

Kenakena School has already begun using the muesli bags. *TfS* schools in Wellington should contact the Wellington Field Officer on Wellington@tfsnz.org.nz for further information.

Above: Bags reused as plant containers with reusable bag showing the TfS logo.

Holyoake Award 2009

This year the award will be assessed on pupil involvement, teacher commitment, supporting organisation engagement, landowner liaison, *TfS* curriculum application as well as the use and care of the PGU in the schools. This \$1,000 award is sponsored by Holyoake Industries and Noel Holyoake, the founder of Trees for Survival in New Zealand.

The result will be announced in the next *TfS* Newsletter.

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, Parkland Products, Foster & Co, Watercare Services Ltd, Tetra Pak (NZ) Ltd, Purebread, Holyoake Industries and Graeme and Jocelyn Land.

Trees for Survival acknowledges the ongoing support received from local councils including Auckland Regional Council, Environment Waikato, Environment Bay of Plenty, Tauranga City Council, Horizons Regional Council, Hawke's Bay Regional Council and the Greater Wellington Regional Council.



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.

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

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