

TREES FOR SURVIVAL™

Children growing our future

Newsletter • Issue 7 • October 2008

Growing and changing

Welcome to our new look – but one of many outcomes from a very busy few months for all at Trees for Survival.

Despite the weather and disrupted planting days, initial reports indicate more than 60,000 trees have been planted by our member schools nationwide. Congratulations to all concerned!

Strong growth continues with new schools joining the programme (page 3). Welcome to the children, teachers, parents and community groups whose contributions will enhance our efforts

to combat erosion, increase stream flow, improve water quality and create new habitats for our native flora and fauna.

Management personnel changes include the departure of enthusiastic National Coordinator, Lynda Wyllie, to give more time to her family. Shirley Conway, an experienced administrator, takes over as TFS Administrator (part-time) maintaining systems and responding



TE AWAMUTU COURIER



Top: David English inspects progress.
New TFS Administrator Shirley Conway

to enquires. Shirley has a passion for the environment and in her spare time is developing and enjoying ten acres of land (five in native bush).

Anne Gaskin (email Wellington@tfsnz.org.nz) has taken up the role of Wellington Regional Coordinator from Sonia Hallmark, who has resigned due to ill health. After contacting TFS schools and partners Anne will develop future planning.

We wish a speedy recovery to John Peterson, National Committee member and Chair of the Community Liaison sub-committee, and welcome Richard Purchase who takes over the latter portfolio.

I would like to thank Jan Polak and Ann Batten for producing our new DVDs and to John Ringer and his team at Paradigm for their work on the Secondary School Resource.

Finally, a special welcome to our new editor, Robin Beckett – please help him by sending in your news.

*David English
National Manager*

New TFS patron

Highly-respected New Zealand environmentalist, Rob Fenwick has become a Patron of Trees for Survival, joining Bill Boyd and Ruud Kleinpaste. Co-founder of Living Earth Ltd, Rob was awarded the prestigious Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2008.



Rob Fenwick visits the Antarctic

Over recent years he has held various high-profile positions including chairman of the Antarctic Heritage Trust, chancellor of the Order of St John, trustee of the World Wide Fund for Nature, director of the Environmental Defence Society, director of Television New Zealand, chairman of the CRI, Landcare Research, chairman of the NZ Business Council for Sustainable Development and patron of the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

Rob's diverse achievements have been largely shaped by his adherence to environmental principles as he seeks to improve New Zealand's sustainability. In accepting the position of Patron, Rob applauded the Trees for Survival efforts in encouraging the younger generations to understand the growing cycle, actively participate in tree-planting and appreciate the scope for trees to play a positive role in maintaining the environment. ■

Trees for Survival
proudly championed by



Attention Rotarians!



A challenge from Bill Boyd, Past President Rotary International and Patron of Trees for Survival: the demand from schools to join the Trees for Survival programme continues to increase, especially in the Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Hawkes Bay and Manawatu/Wanganui regions.

We are looking for volunteers, ideally with some expertise, to assist Trees for Survival in providing support to a local school or schools by giving advice on managing their plant growing units, facilitating funding support where necessary,

Bill Boyd watches as children tend their plants

helping to locate seedling suppliers, arranging help on planting days and assisting in the liaison with other partners in the programme.

It is not envisaged that this will be a time consuming role, but rather one of support and direction where a school community needs help.

Rotarians interested in being involved in this vital environmental programme should contact our National Manager, David English by emailing him at david@tfsnz.org.nz in order to discuss how you can help.

Holyoake Award winner announced

The prestigious 2008 Holyoake Award has been won by Meadowbank School of Auckland. Congratulations to Room 13 and teacher Edith Cross for their prize winning entry.

TFS National Manager David English said, "this award is not only a recognition of some very good work done by the pupils which is



Meadowbank Primary – proud of their achievement

reflected in their series of presentations but it is also an acknowledgement of Meadowbank School which has been involved in the Trees for Survival programme since 1992."

David English took the opportunity to express TFS's appreciation to the Rotary Club of Downtown and Remuera New World for their ongoing support of the Meadowbank School.

At last – Secondary School Resource available

After a gestation period of two years, the Secondary School Resource is now available!

Two SSR packs will be mailed to each TFS secondary school.

The SSR pack will include:

- Secondary School Resource booklet
- Primary Resource kit booklet
- DVD containing tracks 'About Tree for Survival', 'Growing and planting trees', three presentations on erosion and a series of photographs showing the results of flooding. The DVD pack will also include files for both booklets thus allowing teachers to download as printed material for classroom use.
- Save our Soils poster



All those involved in the resource preparation are acknowledged in the booklet and Trees for Survival is very appreciative of the efforts of the writers, editors and all involved in its production.

The SSR Resource pack will be made available to interested secondary schools for \$25 each plus P&P. These packs can be obtained by writing to:

Trees for Survival
PO Box 11836
Ellerslie, Auckland 1542

Joining the Trees for Survival family

New schools continue to join the Trees for Survival programme – recent new members are Kimbolton School (Manawatu), Epuni School (Wellington), St Francis (Thames), St Patrick's (Te Awamutu) and Thames South School, while Te Waotu School (South Waikato) and Takapuna Grammar School (Auckland) are in the process of setting up their units.

Kimbolton School was runner-up in last year's Holyoake Award, and with the assistance of the Manawatu District Council, the school added to its plant growing capacity by installing a TFS Plant Growing Unit. Kimbolton School's efforts in the restoration of the Kimbolton Scenic Bush Reserve was recently recognised by Weedbusters.

With the help of the Rotary Club of Eastern Hutt, Epuni School has reinstated its plant growing unit, installing a new water timer and security fence around the unit. Assisted by Anne Gaskin, TFS Regional Coordinator, the Greater Wellington Regional Council and Jaye Howey of Eastern Hutt Rotary, and with the support of Principal John Lord, the school is working towards a planting day in 2009.

St Francis (Thames), with a roll under 100, opened its plant growing unit in August. Shelley Johnson is coordinating the TFS programme, along with support from the Board of Trustees and local stalwart Scott Rodger. The opening was attended by Dean King of Environment Waikato, funder of the unit, who spoke to the children about the importance of trees in controlling erosion and maintaining water quality.

The school motto 'May these tender seedlings grow into mighty trees' can be seen at the entrance to Thames South School. Principal Mike Lander is actively applying this motto both to



his 160 charges as well as to the newly opened plant growing unit.

After a small 'ribbon cutting' ceremony, the whole school welcomed the visitors with a rousing waiata. This was followed by an explanation of the Trees for Survival programme by National Manager, David English, who encouraged the children to be involved in planting trees in order to safeguard the environment, before presenting the school's TFS certificate.

St Patrick's chose a brilliantly sunny September day to open their new unit. Watched by classes involved in the programme, the ribbon was cut

Clockwise from top left: Pupils at St Patrick's 'pricking out' (left) and 'potting out' (right). Children, staff and visitors launching the TFS programme at St Francis. Kimbolton pupils assemble their planting unit. A Thames South pupil proudly displays the school's new TFS certificate.

by special guest Sarah Pond from Fonterra, sponsor of the plant growing unit, after which the unit was blessed in song.

Special mention was made of the assistance provided by Tane Desmond of Environment Waikato, the Waipa District Council, the Lower Mangapiko Streamcare Group and Wayne Bennett of Forest Flora Nurseries who provided many of the seedlings.

At historic Te Waotu School, the Board of Trustees is supporting the TFS programme with assistance from Environment Waikato and its unit will open shortly.

Planning ahead for your Plant Growing Unit

In the last term, School Coordinators must plan for care of plants over the school holidays.

November & December – time to 'pot on' as many seedlings as possible. Keep the shade curtains closed to reduce evaporation.

Check that: water timers are working; install new batteries; spray nozzles are working properly with good coverage; continuity of water supply is assured and will not be turned off.

Arrange that: unit is regularly checked over holidays; emergency action taken if necessary.

Make sure that: plants fertilised before holidays; children collecting 1 litre milk cartons for 'potting on' plants; any changes of Coordinator or contact details for next year advised on info@tfsnz.org.nz now.

January

Ensure that: watering checks made; 'pest & disease' watch kept

February – time for 'full on' plant care
Make sure plants: well-watered.

If they dry out too much then susceptible to disease and die quickly; not insect infested. If insects found treat with insecticide (organic products available); given a liquid fertiliser boost if needed; 'potted on' when necessary; trimmed if they have become lanky to make them wider and sturdier.

Survey: count plants above 30cm to get an estimate of the number available for planting out; list the number of each species available.

Advise your parents: by school newsletter of learning opportunities provided by TFS programme; key dates for 'pricking out', 'potting on' and especially the school planting day.

Increasing strength through co-operation

Trees for Survival and the Foundation for Youth Development (FYD) have agreed to an alliance.

David English, National Manager of Trees for Survival and Graeme Dingle, Co-Founder and Executive Trustee of FYD have agreed that their respective organisations share much in common around encouraging young people to work to protect and preserve the environment.

"We are delighted to join with FYD" says David English, "in a joint project where planting more trees will be an obvious outcome and where more young New Zealanders will grow into responsible adults with an awareness of their environment and the role that trees play in its preservation".

FYD is a leading organisation managing proven youth development programmes aimed to inspire school aged children to reach their full potential. Through FYD's



Graeme Dingle and David English

programmes Kiwi Can, Stars and Project K, they help 16,000 children to be healthy, confident individuals who contribute positively to society. Students participate in projects including planting trees, cleaning up streams and beaches and generally taking care of the Earth.

Graeme Dingle says, "FYD has recently embarked on 'greening' the organisation and its programmes, thus working with TFS has the potential for an important environmental impact".

TFS sponsors and supporters

We sincerely thank the following for their assistance and donations:

The Sustainable Management Fund, Cuesports Foundation, The Chenery Trust, NZ Steel, The Northern Gateway Alliance,

G S Shapland Ltd, Regency Duty Free, Parkland Products, Vision Dynamic and Jocelyn & Graeme Land.

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.

Keep in touch!

There are many stories to tell and we would like to publish them in our newsletter.

If you have a news item of interest, or a photo of your TFS activities, please send them to info@tfsnz.org.nz marked attention 'Newsletter Editor'

We look forward to your contributions!

Contact us:

Ph: 09 526 1561 Fax: 09 526 1563

Email: info@tfsnz.org.nz

PO Box 11836, Ellerslie

Auckland 1542



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