

CHAIRPERSON'S ANNUAL REPORT TO THE 2010 AGM

It is my pleasure to report on the year ending 2009 for Education Outdoors New Zealand (EONZ). I will take this opportunity to overview the year and the progress we have made during the year. The year has been one of mixed emotions with the continued strong support for outdoor education and recreation - a hallmark of the New Zealand education system with thousands of students benefiting from the many rewards that outdoor experience bring - tempered with the challenges facing the outdoor education sector.

EONZ members have continued immersing themselves in their passion of education outdoors and I thank the many members who contribute to their energy and enthusiasm to promote and support this valuable unique learning environment of education outside the classroom (EOTC).

National Executive

It has been my pleasure and privilege to work with this dynamic, committed and highly motivated National Executive. They bring varied perspectives and all share that passion for education outdoors. The executive has works effectively together and the organisation benefits from their support and insightful directions. They contribute their time and energy to both the national executive and to their local branches, and I value their commitment.

The executive has met face to face three times in the year, first in a strategic planning meeting in Wellington followed by another two in Christchurch. Additionally there was a computer video conference meeting which saved the need to travel and allowed us to progress core tasks effectively. Emails and e-newsletters have also contributed to our ability to communicate as an executive and to the membership. The 2009 AGM successfully linked Wellington, Waikato, Auckland, Christchurch and Darfield by video conferencing. As in previous years we carried out the AGM business and heard an inspiring talk from Dr Mike Brown. We will continue to research ways to communicate more effectively without the need to travel distances.

The National Executive Personnel

- The executive welcomed Brenton Harrison from Hunua, who took over from Jason Swann as the Auckland representative. Jason stepped aside after his appointment as Principal at Otahuhu Primary School at the end of 2008. Brenton comes with many valuable skills and knowledge. He has experience in IT, a business background and manages an outdoor centre as well as an outdoors business. He is an asset to the executive committee.
- Peter Brailsford from Canterbury has continued his role as web site controller and together with Brenton we look forward to some exciting web developments.
- Fiona Macdonald has a very valuable practicing secondary teaching perspective. She and Gemma Periam have represented EONZ in the development of the N.Z. Water Safety Strategy.
- Allen Hill from Otago University continues to bring a critical perspective and has worked effectively with Dave Irwin to improve EONZ directions around sustainable practices. Allen is the convener of the Mountain Safety Council Education Advisory Committee and has recently been appointed to the Outdoors New Zealand Board. A very big thank you to Allen for his insightful support and passion.
- Craig Donnelly from Waikato/BOP teaches at Berkley Normal Middle School and always brings a practical grass roots perspective to the executive. He has been a vital

link to the primary sector.

- Dave Irwin from Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology was co-opted to the executive in his role as editor of *Out and About*. Dave brings a wealth of expertise and understanding around educating for sustainability to the organisation.

Arthur Sutherland and Gemma Periam continued to support and provide guidance to the EONZ executive and to EONZ projects. We appreciate their depth of advice and their wealth of knowledge and this has benefited the functioning of the executive

Congratulations to Annie Dignan who was recently appointed to the Sir Edmund Outdoor Recreation Council (SEHOPC). Annie guided the strategic plan during her time on the executive. Our best wishes go with Annie and we know she will represent the education outdoors sector admirably.

Out & About

Our publication *Out and About* has continued to be our flagship and Dave Irwin, our editor from CPIT, has contributed enormous amount to the last 2 copies. He has brought a fresh perspective to *Out and About* with his passion for outdoor education and the underpinning principles of sustainable practices. The articles, ideas and stories Dave has selected have been thought provoking and interesting. Thank you to all those members who contributed so willingly and to Dave for all his efforts. The *Out and About* No 23 is full of interesting articles and great ideas.

Executive Officer

Catherine Kappelle, our Executive Officer, has worked tirelessly. She does a sterling job and I would like to see her role expanded. Catherine has been vital for the improved functioning of the organisation, being the treasurer and membership secretary. She has worked to refine the systems, fundraised, and improved the communication with members. As Chair, I value all her efforts and I would like to thank her publically.

Finances

This area has improved since the last AGM largely due to the efforts of Catherine. Last year we posted a \$4,459 deficit and this year a profit of \$912. Successful applications for funding have helped the organisation enormously.

Funding

EONZ has appreciated the funding support provided through grants as follows:

- Lion Foundation – computer hardware and software
- New Zealand Community Trust – support with executive officer funding
- Pub Charity – prepaid envelopes for *Out and About*
- Perry Foundation – Issue 22 of *Out and About*.
- Ministry of Education, through TRCC – administration support with the GET OUTSIDE Conference and travel subsidies for participants

Representation

EONZ continues to represent EOTC and the educational sector on many of the national outdoor advisory groups, contributing an effective voice for the education sector. EONZ achieves highly as a volunteer organisation at national level.

The list below is an indication of our representation on various associations and decision making bodies in 2009:

- Representation on the Ministry of Education's EOTC Reference Group (Arthur Sutherland & Fiona McDonald)
- A member of the Mountain Safety Council (Annie Dignan)
- NZ Mountain Safety Council (MSC) Educational Committee (Allen Hill, Craig Donnelly, Fiona McDonald, Gemma Periam)
- An associate member of Water Safety NZ (WSNZ) and Aquatic Education including Riversafe (Gemma Periam, Fiona McDonald & Libby Paterson)
- Representation at the Water Safety Council's Advisory Group (Libby Paterson & Liz Thevenard)
- National Incident Data Base (Liz Thevenard)
- EONZ is a member of Outdoors New Zealand (ONZ) and was represented at the ONZ Forum,
- EONZ is a shareholder in Skills Active formerly SFRITO.

EOTC Guidelines Bringing the Curriculum Alive

Special thanks to Cathye Haddock from the Ministry of Education and the EOTC Reference that include EONZ Members, for this excellent resource.

The EOTC guidelines provide clear guidance for EOTC and make a strong case for authentic experiences for teaching and learning. They place safety management within the context of effective learning and an approach where the depth of risk management is proportional to the risk in the activity. This is an essential resource for all educators.

Get Outside Conference April 2010

EONZ, in partnership with the Teacher Refresher Course Committee (TRCC), planned and implemented the Get Outside Conference, 6 – 9 April 2010, at the Police College in Porirua. My thanks go to Craig Donnelly, Libby Schumacher-Knight, Bridget Janse, Michael Gendall, and Kayleen Wilson, and to Laura Collins from TRCC, who assisted me with organizing this Conference. The Conference was designed to be a unique opportunity for educators/ teachers to get together to renew, re-invigorate and revisit the opportunities that education outside the classroom offers. The theme is connection, community and curriculum, aimed to bring the curriculum 'alive' in exciting and innovative ways. The Porirua Basin offered an ideal setting to explore a range of different environments and topics and provided opportunities to discuss directions for the future.

Outdoor New Zealand Forum Annual ONZ Excellence Awards

The ONZ Forum brought together the various sectors of the outdoors community and was well represented by EONZ members. There was a variety of sessions, both informative and thought provoking. The Awards Dinner was exciting and humbling. I was overwhelmed to receive the SPARC Supreme Award for contributions to outdoor recreation and education. I truly value receiving this award as it represents my lifetime involvement in the outdoors. Looking back through the history of this ONZ Award, I was humbled being in the company of esteemed people who had received this award and I am feel privileged to join these ranks.

The EONZ Best Programme Award: Congratulation goes to St Cuthbert's College's Kahanui Outdoor Centre and Chris and John Furminger for their efforts in building this educative and innovative programme. Congratulations also to Dave Irwin - *Out and About* editor, for receiving the Environmental Award, acknowledging his outstanding work around sustainability. Thank you to ONZ - Paul Chaplow and Garth Gully particularly - for their efforts in running this very successful forum.

Outdoor Leader Award

The Outdoor Leader Award continues to be a worthwhile and valuable qualification. This foundation award has an important role to play in a future qualification framework and we must continue to promote it.

Mike Boyes OBE

Congratulations to Mike for his OBE in the New Years Honors for 2010. Mike is a very worthy recipient and this award is well deserved.

The future is looking bright

I would like to thank all those who have contributed to EONZ's success for 2009 and also those who have given me advice and support during the year. I value any suggestions that help to make our organisation more effective, relevant and responsive. I look forward to a bright future for EONZ and a productive year ahead.

Liz Thevenard
Chair EONZ