



# Two-fold EONZ Success at 2007 Annual ONZ Excellence Awards

**T**his year, two EONZ National past chairpersons featured directly and indirectly at the 2007 Outdoor Excellence Awards. The awards recognise the highest achievements of individuals and organisations involved in delivering outdoor recreation and education experiences to New Zealanders of all ages and abilities.

Mike Boyes, from Otago University won the SPARC NZ Supreme Award for his contribution to outdoor education and adventure recreation. William Colenso College won the EONZ Programme Award, and while Phil Kay is no longer the teacher in charge of that programme, his significant work in developing it was acknowledged.

## The Awards

The 2007 NZOIA **Emerging Instructor Award** was won by Vashti Duncan. Vashti was nominated by Tihoi Venture School where she is currently a junior instructor. In addition to instructing kayaking, alpine and bush, her responsibilities include looking after a house of eight 14 year old male students. Chris Wynn from Tihoi Venture School applauds Vashti for her "calm demeanour in any situation, her ability to inspire young students in the outdoors, and her interest in learning new skills and developing her repertoire of soft and hard skills".

William Colenso College in Napier received the **EONZ Programme Award** for 2007. The school has a long-standing history of excellence in outdoor education programmes, with a reputation for the diversity of the programmes it offers and the school-wide nature of the programme. Tracy Aitchison, the teacher in charge of outdoor education at the school, commented on the school's outdoor programmes as having "a proven track record of increasing students' self esteem, building teamwork, increasing motivation and offering practical hands-on life-long skills".

The winner of the **ONZ Facility Award** was St Paul's

Collegiate Tihoi Venture School. Located on the edge of the Pureora Forest Park, the Venture school operates a successful residential outdoor facility for year 10 students from St Paul's Collegiate School. Its focus is on combining social development, academic study and outdoor activities during its 18 week programmes. The school's director, Chris Wynn, remarks that "we live in the most amazing country in the world, yet young people would rather be in a virtual world than a real one". Tihoi gives students opportunities to discover the world around them while developing themselves personally and socially. Callum Finlay from St Paul's Collegiate Tihoi Venture School accepted this award on the school's behalf.

The inaugural winner of the **Sir Edmund Hillary Outdoor Pursuits Centre Environmental Leadership Award** was Dr Barry Law, Senior Lecturer in Education for Sustainability at the University of Canterbury. The Environmental Leadership Award is designed to acknowledge outstanding



individuals or programmes that have influenced the ecological worldview of participants or that have demonstrated a significant commitment to conservation or protection of adventure places. Barry is recognised for his sustained commitment to the education of future teachers and leaders, as well as for his leadership in education for sustainability and for outdoor environmental education. Barry is an education advisor to Untouched World Foundation and the EnviroSchools Foundation, and is National In-service Coordinator for Education for Sustainability.

Dr Mike Boyes was the recipient of the 2007 **SPARC NZ Supreme Award**. He was nominated jointly by two peers, Matthew Cant and John Maxted. John acknowledged Mike for his “outstanding and long-lasting contribution to the New Zealand outdoor education and adventure recreation scene”, including the service and wisdom he has provided to a wide number of committees and organisations. Moreover, Mike has inspired and supported many students and

colleagues during his teaching career at University of Otago. Mike’s generosity in advice, support and adventurous exploits are well-known, with many agreeing that he is a worthy recipient of this Supreme Award.

Waimea College outdoor education teacher Ian Barnes has been recognised as one of the country’s top outdoor instructors.

He is the recipient of the **New Zealand Outdoor Instructors Association’s 2007 Tall Totara Award for excellence in outdoor instruction**.

As well as a teacher, he is a qualified instructor in kayaking, rock climbing and alpine climbing and known for his love of tramping, fishing and hunting.

Fellow Waimea teacher Richard Dunn says Ian is an excellent role model who has enabled colleagues to develop personally and professionally, and who shares his passion for the outdoors with students.



*Tracy Aitchison from William Colenso College in Napier with the EONZ Programme Award*

“He’s willing to give up his own time to ensure our students maximize their learning and because of this he is popular and respected by them.” (*Thanks to the NZ Education Gazette for this comment on Ian*)

## Photo Competition

Following the initial distribution of our last issue of Out and About a very alert member, one Richard Dunn, drew our attention to the inclusion of a photo showing incorrect technique. Our immediate action was to withdraw the copy. We are still appealing to the recipients of the 70 copies to return the copy and thank those who have responded. Next we set about replacing the cover and replacing the commentary associated with the photo on page 27. Within a week Out and About was distributed to all members and a peer review process was added to the editorial procedures.

Subsequently, EONZ has worked through a process with the school and the provider. It appears that the procedures of the latter were not followed by their staff member on the particular day the photo was shot.

This has been a learning experience for EONZ.