

Outdoor Sector Awards Honour Leadership and Innovation



November 5th 2014

At their recent annual Outdoor Sector Forum, Outdoors New Zealand honoured organisations and individuals who have achieved high respect and regard from their peers.

In recent years, and the past year in particular, the Outdoor Sector overall has been under intense media scrutiny as legislation and regulatory control has increased dramatically following some tragic deaths within the Adventure Tourism sector.

The role of Outdoors NZ is to act as a representative peak body on behalf of a very diverse range of organisations providing outdoor education, recreation and tourism activities to New Zealanders and our visitors. ONZ has been deeply involved in the development of new regulatory systems and expectations, as well as a range of other issues facing this particular industry.

Chair of ONZ, Josie Ogden Schroeder said “ there is no doubt that the outdoor sector in its widest definition is a pivotal part of the kiwi way of life and our international ‘tourism’ branding. The sector itself is not highly geared or resourced, and most organisations or companies working in this field are seasonal and low profit or charitable/voluntary in nature. The cultural change of a highly audited environment has been a difficult one for the sector to embrace due to financial/resource barriers, while at the same time there is a strong commitment by all ONZ members to demonstrating best practice in regards to safety.”

The ONZ annual forum was a chance for sector players to come together for learning, networking and peer support. An important part of this were the annual awards – which were given to the following organisations:

Environmental Award sponsored by the Hillary Centre (formerly the Sir Ed Hillary Outdoor Pursuits Centre)

Motutapu Outdoor Education Camp Trust

A not for profit camp catering predominantly to schools who have merged environmental education and curriculum outcomes into their outdoor education programme.

Programme Award sponsored by Education Outdoors NZ (EONZ)

Gore High School

A school which has demonstrated innovation and best practice for their students in the Outdoor Education Programme, which includes core leadership abilities as well as technical skills. The school has recognised that the Outdoors is a unique and highly valuable arena for learning which is not matched in any classroom setting – and they have worked all aspects of the curriculum into their outdoor activities and journeys.

Organisation Award sponsored by OutdoorsNZ (ONZ)
St Andrews College Castle Hill Outdoor Centre

This outdoor centre has become a hub for the Castle Hill Village, community engagement complimenting their distinctive focus on Duke of Ed awards, bi-cultural awareness and sustainable practices.

Volunteer Award sponsored by the Mountain Safety Council (MSC)
Bob Mankelow

Bob's CV includes LANDSAR, HUNTS and KK programmes, Rotary, NZ Army, volunteer at Ngatukoa Outdoor Education Camp, and assisting when the Rena came to grief. He has been recognised by Maritime NZ for rolling up his sleeves for the community when he and many others responded to NZ's largest marine oil spill. The list of dedicated voluntary work Bob has to his name is nothing short of inspirational.

Supreme Award sponsored by Skills Active
Lindsay Simpkin (deceased)

The significant contribution of the late Lindsay Simpkin (1955-2014) was recognised by his colleagues at the recent Outdoors NZ 2014 Awards Ceremony. The citation included recognition of Lindsay's work for the national instructors association; in establishing and leading the Adventure Specialties Trust; his commitment to the disadvantaged; his leadership role in preparing others for leadership roles; and his many contributions to outdoor education and recreation in NZ.

Lyndsay's heart was particularly focused on those that were disadvantaged in some way and because of this legacy the Trust continues to serve those who are less fortunate.

Lyndsay was an influential leader in the outdoor industry and was the driver behind many new initiatives.

The awards ceremony was wrapped up with a moments silence while participants remembered those from the outdoor world who had passed on in 2014.

ENDS

For more information please contact: Josie Ogden Schroeder (Chair of Outdoors NZ) – 027 675 2300
Or any of the award winners.

Supplementary information is attached.

Supplementary Information

Environmental Award sponsored by the Hillary Centre (formerly the Sir Ed Hillary Outdoor Pursuits Centre)

Motutapu Outdoor Education Camp Trust

An outdoor education facility located on 5 hectares in Administration Bay, on the conservation island of Motutapu, in the Hauraki Gulf catering for around 12,000 visitors a year, 95% of which are school groups, the camps Mission Statement is *“to provide quality outdoor experiential education capitalising on the unique situation of the camp”*.

The public recreation reserve is home to translocated endangered birds, including Takahe, Saddleback, Shore Plover and Kiwi. The Trust promotes a ‘conservation ethos based on experiential learning’, in line with the DoC Conservation Management Strategy and has engaged staff to research and develop environmental activities that merge into existing programmes, as well as develop specific conservation-based programmes for new clients.

A visit will see extensive recycling stations, eco-friendly cleaning products, water and power conservation, solar energy¹, biosecurity action to support the island’s pest-free status and a voluntary marine reserve which has created an abundance of marine life in the area where snorkelling operates.

A major project has been the development of a freshwater stream action plan. Through the adventure-based-learning approach this restoration project is already benefitting the ecosystem and society. It provides campers with an authentic, real-life issue to develop the skills required in deciding on, and taking action for their local everyday environments. They are inspired to take action for the environment.

Key concepts include sustainable living, biodiversity, the interdependence between all living things (including humans), and kaitiakitanga in maintaining healthy ecosystems. These concepts are integrated into a variety of activities located throughout the catchment of the waterway, emphasising the connectedness of activities on the land with the freshwater and the marine environments. Reflection on each activity aids in transferring learning to the student’s local catchment and cements their role as kaitiaki for their local environment.

Programme Award sponsored by Education Outdoors NZ (EONZ)

Gore High School

The significant change over the last six years involving building on the tradition through the addition of cross-curricula programmes and a new regime of assessments in the senior school level was acknowledged by the judges when they selected Gore High for the EONZ Programme award. A school-wide decision was made to recognise the value that learning in the outdoors brings to the education of Southland youth. Using the values, principles and key competencies contained within

¹ Solar water heating generates approx. 2000 litres of hot water per day and saves around 17,000 kwh of electricity per annum. MOEC hosts New Zealand’s largest “Off Grid Photo Voltaic Alternative Energy System”, providing electricity to the whole of Motutapu and reducing diesel use by an estimated 38,000 litres per annum.

the Ministry of Education's NZ Curriculum document sequenced programmes have been developed so that a range of secondary aged students get to learn in the outdoors.

The judges commented on the scaffolding which allows for a progressive build-up of awareness, skills and knowledge and were impressed with the introduction of education for sustainability and physical education assessment standards. This significant addition means a richer programme and high achieving students able to gain merit or excellence.

Through engagement with the regional Polytechnics Gore students can participate in a vocational pathway and through the Gateway Programme undertake learning in workplaces.

Hellison's model of Social Responsibility is used in a tramping unit and thus the students are able to reflect on their actions especially on how they impact on others. Thinking critically is a feature. The carrying of poo pots in alpine environments has proved a trigger for this!

Researching and presenting to colleagues is another feature. Students are encouraged to compare the leadership style and philosophies of a number of New Zealand's leaders with their own outdoor experiences.

Gore High has been fostering critical connections between students and the outdoors in order to create a sustainable future.

Organisation Award sponsored by OutdoorsNZ (ONZ)

St Andrews College's Castle Hill Outdoor Centre has become a hub for the Castle Hill Village with residents engaging in activities such as catering for weddings and other community use of the centre.

A significant number of young people have gained or are working towards their Gold and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Hilary Awards through a new initiative of the Centre.

On arrival at the Centre the concepts of belonging and feeling welcome are to the fore with a powhiri.

Students using the Centre deal with all the waste and make a contribution to the environment by laying Wasp traps and eradicating a number of wilding pines.

The Castle Hill Outdoor Centre engages professional staff and has a proud safety record.

Volunteer Award sponsored by the Mountain Safety Council (MSC)

The considerable contribution to the community of Tauranga MSC chair Robert (Bob) Mankelow was recognised. Bob's CV includes LANDSAR, HUNTS and KK programmes, Rotary, NZ Army, volunteer at Ngatukoa Outdoor Education Camp, and assisting when the Rena came to grief. He has been recognised by Maritime NZ for rolling up his sleeves for the community when he and many others responded to NZ's largest marine oil spill.

Eighteen years as a leader in the HUNTS programme means a significant number of people have been prepared for the hunting experience. This is an example of education for safe recreational experiences.

Bob has engaged with the NZ Qualifications system. In addition to gaining MSC Awards and completing a number of courses he has a Record of Learning with NZQA and has gained the National Certificate in Outdoor Recreation (Leadership) level 3-Strand of Bush Walking. Further, he is a Skills Active Workplace assessor.

“The outdoor world joins me in acknowledging a man who for the last 40 years has spent on average two weekends per month giving to the community” (Arthur Sutherland, MC for the Outdoors NZ 2014 Awards Ceremony)

Supreme Award sponsored by Skills Active

The significant contribution of the late Lindsay Simpkin (1955-2014) was recognised by his colleagues at the recent Outdoors NZ 2014 Awards Ceremony. The citation included recognition of Lindsay’s work for the national instructors association; in establishing and leading the Adventure Specialties Trust; his commitment to the disadvantaged; his leadership role in preparing others for leadership roles; and his many contributions to outdoor education and recreation in NZ.

In noting his sudden death back in April 2014 Arthur Sutherland asked Mark Johnson to accept the award from Skills Active CEO Grant Davidson on behalf of Lyndsay and his wife Glenda who it was reported was delighted with the decision of OutdoorsNZ to recognise her late husband.

Those at the award dinner heard how Lyndsay Simpkin, along with his wife Glenda, had started Adventure Specialties Trust in 1984. Throughout this time Lyndsay served the Trust with a God given passion and commitment that now sees the Trust still delivering quality outdoor experiences. Lyndsay’s heart was particularly focused on those that were disadvantaged in some way and because of this legacy the Trust continues to serve those who are less fortunate.

Lyndsay was an influential leader in the outdoor industry and was the driver behind many new initiatives. This included establishing an annual National conference for Christian outdoor leaders, developing a national training programme and developing numerous adventure programmes including the “Journey”. In 1997 Lyndsay was awarded the Tall Totara from the New Zealand Outdoor Instructor Association (NZOIA). This is a highly regarded national award given only to those that demonstrate excellence in instruction, excellence in the development of other instructors and excellence in service to the outdoor instruction community of NZ. Lyndsay also served on the NZOIA board was a senior assessor for NZOIA and was a well-respected voice in Christian Camping and the wider outdoor community.

Being a keen adventurer Lyndsay has climbed many mountains, kayaked numerous rivers, explored the underground world and paddled vast portions of the NZ coast. His enthusiasm for the outdoors rubbed off on all that met him and he was always looking for the next adventure. As a consequence Lyndsay was multi-talented and held many instructing awards including NZOIA awards in Bush, Rock,

Alpine and Kayaking. He also had travelled extensively overseas having many adventures in interesting places including climbing in Mongolia and Nepal.

He was a leader of the Risk management training and assessment programme in the late 80s and early 90s and edited a national magazine for a number of years.

Lyndsay will however be most remembered for his commitment to serving people, his heart to see people reach their potential and his determination to see Adventure Specialties Trust grow to fulfil this passion. It was written soon after he died that a "Tall Totara has fallen. The lives he has touched will have to grow into maturity". This was followed up by another comment "the tallest Totara has fallen to the forest floorhe will provide the fuel for the new Totara and re energise the forest".

The awards ceremony was wrapped up with a moments silence while participants remembered those from the outdoor world who had passed on in 2014.