

**TERM DATES:**

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January

No later than Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April

**THEN Contacts**

:

- Julia Dirks 824 6021

Treasurer:

- Heather Taylor 859 0303

Membership:

- Julie Wallace-Cooley

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Play centre:

- Christine Cave 839 5513

To loan:

The telescope:

- Marietta Smith 849 9491

The microscope:

- Lori Silsbee 855 0110

Books from the library:

- Sarah Walsh 850 8545

MOE Liaisons contacts

- Sheena Harris

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- Meredith Connolly

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Term Newsletter

- Lisa Piggott (Articles)

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- Denise Styles (Activities)

873 7756

Happy New Year fellow Home educators,

First up please note that the information along the side regarding contacts is not entirely correct. We have received some volunteers for some of the positions which is great but, I have not received anything formal so hesitate to update the information. I am sure after the AGM all the information on the new people taking up positions will be updated and sent out to members.

Please do make sure you get along to the AGM if you are a member or put your apologies in if you can't make it. There are a certain number of people required to vote, so it helps the organizers, especially as they also put out a little spread.

I also must apologise for the short newsletter but many people are away or enjoying their summer so contributions were a little lacking this period. Quite understandable! , may hay while the sun shines don't they say? Or something like that. Normally I would bore you, er fluff the newsletter out with some of my own writings but I have a laptop that is going through menopause, and having hot flushes. I am furiously tapping away now as I can see it is about to die again. And we are ourselves are hoping to make some big changes, by our standards, by moving house. I don't think I have ever encountered anything as stressful as getting a house ready to go on the market. Each time we finish something, I find something new that needs doing. A friend suggested we are never ready to put a "home" on the market, only a show house and wisely suggested we just do it. Wish us luck!

Hope you are all well and happy; see you around.

Lisa

**The Home Educators Network**

[www.thehomeeducatorsnetwork.org.nz](http://www.thehomeeducatorsnetwork.org.nz)

P.O. Box 275, Hamilton

## AGM

- **Monday, 24 February 2014**
- **Time 19:30**
- **Description: This is your network, supporting you in home educating your children, and we need your input at least once a year!**
- **So come along and have your say.**
- **We have several positions vacant and they need to be filled for THEN to continue.**

**You will need to be a current paid member of THEN to vote**

**Venue: Parents Place, 87 Boundary Road, Hamilton**

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**If you are a Facebook user remember we are on there as**

**THEN – The Home Educators Network**

**(<https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/THENHamilton/>)**

## Our first Recycle Fest

What an adventure we had that day. After a nice wait by the door on a rainy day (they had forgotten about us), we made our way inside the Melville Methodist Church Hall and had our first Recycling Fest. It was not a “fest” it was a “feast” for our eyes. The projects exhibited were magnificent. We had a large box turned into a playhouse, milk bottles decorated with paper mache as bowling pins, shiny paper chains made out of an old calendar, a checkerboard made out of a pizza box and carton eggs, a ninja dress up out of bubble wrap and newspaper, a candle holder made out of a glass jar decorated with wool, and a little Silvanian bunny with a lovely house made out of a shoe box (included furniture). However, the most impressive project was an extraordinary and breathtaking reindeer made out of pieces of wood by Daniel Silsbee. Imagination is all they needed and they used it amazingly. Come and join us at the next Recycle Fest on the 26 of March from 1.30 to 3.00 (set up at 1.15pm). Come just to see or bring a project.



# Thoughts on sending teenagers to school

## Why would you?

- Because you think they need to go to school
- to get into the relevant tertiary courses they might be interested in later on.
- to have NCEA levels.
- because they are missing out on something by being at home all the time.
- because they are driving you batty.

## Why wouldn't you?

Because

- schooling in the structured set up we have in New Zealand costs families thousands of dollars. There are uniform costs; and if the school does not have a uniform there is the cost of keeping up dress standards so that your child dresses in a way acceptable to their peers.

Then there are the stationary costs, the school trips and the school camps and every other week \$5 for this book, this activity or some unforeseen event.

I was astounded some 20 years ago, when I sent two of mine to school for a year, that the costs over the full year, when averaged out over the 52 week year, was over \$25 a week. Costs can only have increased since then.

- At school children are exposed to all sorts of influences and peer pressure that encourage them to do things they shouldn't be doing. And because of their immaturity they do not have the ability to resist the pressure and stand up to their peers.

- For all that schools say bullying is not tolerated in their school environment it happens anyway. The student who is different because they are really clever, rather quiet, of a gentle nature, or inclined to be arty get targeted for being different and the resultant bullying, and negative messages they receive can damage them for life.

-On top of all that the education secondary schools in New Zealand offer is great at filling their heads with thing without teaching them to think. It teaches you "stuff" but does not teach you about the world. For many young adults what secondary school offers is not really relevant to their interests. The bright students learn quickly either to give up because they are so bored by it all or to "play the game" of performing for results.

- Some time ago a friend who had spent many years teaching told me about some statistics she had come across: 30% of children who attended school benefitted from it greatly, 30% of children who attended school were seriously harmed by it, and 40% were neither harmed by it nor really benefitted from it, and the brightest student were in the 30% who were harmed by school.

## **So why would you send your children to school at secondary level?**

- because they refuse to work for you any longer.
  - because family relationships are strained by the tension stroppy teenagers create and the health of the family relationships is more important than the principles of home education.
  - because the needs of the younger children are more pressing than spending hours on the older children who should, by the time they are 14 / 15 years old, be independent learners.
  - to get qualifications they need, or you think they need.
  - to teach them that in life there are always things that must be done, and systems that must be followed, whether you want to do them or not .
- The long and the short of it is that what you do to educate your teenager is your choice. Its not just a choice about what is best for the teenager. It is also about what is best for your family right now.

You need to bear in mind of course that secondary school exemptions have more stringent requirements. So if you need to apply for one because you sent your child back to school then changed your mind you will find it challenging. There are some parents who wisely choose not to homeschool their teenagers in the best interests of their family and their relationships.. And there are some children who should never be home educated because their very personalities thrive on competition which is almost non-existent in a home school environment.

By Margaret Evans

### **Speech and Drama / Spoken communication Skills**

We can all talk, but can we, as adults, sell ourselves to obtain the job we want?. Do we have the confidence to get up and talk when required, as adults?. These skills are a great challenge for teenagers and adults to learn. Children under 12 years of age learn them eagerly and readily and are set up for life by the confidence they develop and the skills they gain.

As a speech and drama teacher I work regularly with students of all ages and abilities.

Feel free to contact me on 07 843 5656, or email me on [mmaryt@hotmail.com](mailto:mmaryt@hotmail.com) to book lessons or enquire further about developing your child's confidence and abilities.

## THEN Liason making a difference with MoE

It has now been two years since Meredith and myself put up our hands to liaise with staff at the Ministry of Education on behalf of THEN members and the general Home Educating community in Waikato. It has been an enlightening time! We have worked hard to ensure that the exemption process is kept as "free" on our side as we can. Two years ago it looked very different and there was much tension on either side. Opening the channels of communication seems to have helped and I am certainly hearing less grumbling from the Home Ed side and Candida Hamana (MoE) says that she has been aware of much less animosity when dealing with applicants.

Minutes of our meetings are sent out to THEN members, please read these and keep for future reference, as they can be very helpful, particularly when time comes to do an exemption! Keeping informed could also provide you with an opportunity to assist a friend - don't be afraid to offer to read through someone's exemption. There are no qualifications needed, though if anyone feels like they need more advice on anything Ministry related, Meredith and myself make ourselves available and we are also grateful to others who have greater experience than ourselves who we can call on occasionally!

THEN have put on two Information evenings for those enquiring about or new to home education. These have been very successful and I hope to do another around April. We are also hoping to bring in The Ministry staff in due course to further build a positive relationship, but we recognise that it is still early days.

So if you hear that THEN is only worth joining for swimming lessons - think again! We are working for you and with you. Together we are stronger!

Please email Sheena at [Sheenaharris.cm@btinternet.com](mailto:Sheenaharris.cm@btinternet.com) or phone 079811343/0211511738

Or Meredith at [mereandd@hotmail.com](mailto:mereandd@hotmail.com)