

The Home Educators Network



TERM DATES: MONDAY 20 APRIL-FRIDAY 3 JULY

EDITORS
FOR THIS ISSUE:
MARGARET EVANS
COLLEEN KALUZA
BRONWYN BULWER
(TEMPORARY HELPER)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

New Editor THEN Mini Conference	1
Recycle Fest	2
Swimsafe	3
Family Day Te Awamutu Space Centre	4
Review MoE Report	5
Honour Wall HEART Retreat	6
Lego Fest	7
Contact List THEN Resources	8

Introducing a New Editor

As of this newsletter, we have a new member to the Editor Team –

Colleen Kaluza.

So let me introduce myself! I'm pretty sure most of you already know me, or of me, or would recognise my friendly face somewhere! But I'll just give you a short overview of who I am for those of you who don't... yet! :)

I was born and raised in South Africa – you can tell by my accent that I've never lost yet!

After marrying my husband, Jan, we moved to the USA, where we lived and raised our two children, before moving to New Zealand in 2007. The story behind those two moves could fill a book, so I'll spare you!

I am now a mother of two amazing teens (at least they certainly think so!) and a wife for 21 years to a very talented husband.

I enjoy photography, sewing, reading and making new friends.

As a family, we also enjoy road-trips to explore waterfalls and other nature walks.

As you will all know, the home education journey has its ups and downs, challenges and joys, doubts and confirmations that we're on the right track. I've experienced all of these!

Josh has just turned 16 and is towering over me... I still have to pinch myself that I've made it this far! Heidi turned 14 and keeps me on my toes.

None of us are perfect though, just in case we sound too good

to be true, we really are a very normal family...

wait...

what IS normal?

I am so glad that the choice to home educate, happened here in Hamilton, as the Home Ed community here is large and very supportive! My children have made wonderful friends, and we're enjoying the relaxed life here in NZ, free from the fears of living in

South Africa, and free from the rat-race that is life in America.

Now, I'd sure like to have some help with this newsletter..... in other words, don't make me chase you for feedback & pics from trips or events or articles to fill this space!

~Colleen



THEN Mini Conference

SATURDAY 2nd MAY 2015

9:30am—5pm

St. Stephens Church, Melville

<http://thehomeeducatorsnetwork.wainet.org/conference-programme/>

You can still register for \$20, or door sales \$25.

This is your last chance to hear Barbara Smith, founder of the Home Education Foundation, as she is moving to Tasmania soon.

Recycle Fest

by *Natalie Garcia Gil (nearly 12)*

This time for the Recycle Fest I wanted to create something really cool. My mum showed me an idea last year about a rug made out of old t-shirts using a hula hoop. You had to turn the t-shirts into yarn, roll these into balls and weave them in. However, this year looking back at that same idea, I found a You Tube video that used the same idea but in a simpler way. They cut the t-shirt into strips that you attach to the next one as you weave them in. This means you can go faster and you do not need to deal with tangled balls of yarn.

It was hard at the beginning to get it tidy but I got better at it, as I progressed. Then I ran out of t-shirts and mum sent a message through Yahoo mail and I had several mums coming to my rescue. At the end, when I decided my rug was big enough and I still had enough yarn to attach a knot at the ends, I cut the ends and tied them nicely. However, as I had my base yarn quite tight and pulled around the hoop, when I cut them out, my rug turned into a basket as the sides twirled up. I was really disappointed, because I wanted to do something quickly to take the next day to the Recycle Fest.

However, overnight, something magical happened. My failure turned into a success story as my cat took over my failed rug. The hardest part about this was how long it took to make, and for it not to turn into a rug (I cried), but it turned out cool enough that I would not mind making another one. I have already started one with looser yarn around my hula hoop so it does not twist when I take it off. And if it does not work again, I will try again with braided t-shirt bands or by crocheting around a t-shirt yarn.

I really want a colourful rug!

Some recycling facts:

Recycling is the process of turning used waste and materials into new products.

The idea of recycling isn't something new, historical evidence shows that humans have been recycling various materials for thousands of years.

Recycling old aluminium uses only 5% of the energy used to make new aluminium.

Aluminium can be recycled from cans, bicycles, computers, cookware, wires, cars, planes and other sources.

Glass recycling is often separated into colours because glass keeps its colour after recycling.

Here is the image of my new rug turned into a cat's bed.



“My failure turned into a success story as my cat took over my failed rug.”

Recycling Wordsearch FUN

R R E C Y C L E V B I L M O
 E G P O U I R S L W I U F B
 P P N E N V I R O N M E N T
 A L U I Q E K L E E B W R W
 P A I B G A S C R O T E K N
 S S Z C S A U U T F P S D E
 W T A W Y D K T E A W Q A E
 E I S T E X L C P R B J E W

BOTTLES
 PACKAGING
 RECYCLE
 WASTE
 ENVIRONMENT
 PAPER
 REDUCE
 NEWSPAPER
 PLASTIC
 REUSE

Swimsafe—What others have said

SWIMS SAFE – IS FULLY BOOKED FOR 2015!!!!

Jo Mannering -
 Sooo...who knew that swimsafe would be so great for my social life! So lovely to meet some of you in person today!

Rachel Cooke -
 It's great to put faces to names, aye!

Jill Marshall -
 Our Swimsafe days are long finished, but they were the times where I first remember meeting some of our good friends - Kirsty Swears and Lara Kenney among them. The children were



Swimsafe—
A great and inexpensive way to make sure your children are water safe!

tiny then - and now they're grown up and at Uni or working!

Deborah Kunze -
 SwimSafe is like the epicentre -- get to see folk you hardly ever get to see.
 I'm contemplating taking my son along on some of the SwimSafe days that we're not scheduled just for the social aspect.

Of course our kids benefit from learning to be watersafe... but that's a side issue, right? ;)

There are so many interested in this Swimsafe opportunity, we may have double sessions next year!

Swimsafe Dates for the rest of the year as follows

Term 2 = 4-8 May

Term3 = 31 August—4 September

Term 4 = 9 -13 November

“To me, it is an integral part of my homeschooling experience and one of my best memories and friendships are from Family Day.”

Family Day

By Penelope Norris

Family Day is FREE for Term two!

Family Day is an unstructured playgroup for all ages.

It's a break from all the activities and a chance to just have fun and play and for parents to share and support each other.

THEN has kindly offered to fully fund Family Day for all of term two so bring the kids and your friends for a fantastic fun afternoon every week for free.

We have babies right through to teenagers using the entire playcenter how they want to. Whether its board games and discussions, taking over the sand pit, creating a tyre tower or block castle. We have all the equipment and space to play with.

We get a lot of visitors who are just thinking about or starting on their homeschooling journey so the more friendly faces that can share their experiences and encourage these new families the better!

I grew up going to family day. To me, it is an integral part of my homeschooling experience and one of my best memories and friendships are from Family Day.

I'm so excited to now be sharing Family Day with my own children.

Come join us at:

1pm-4pm Every Tuesday during term.
Paterson Street Playcentre Hamilton.

Cost: Free!

Contact Christine: 027 433 4462

The following by Rachel Cooke

Woke up this morning (1 April) to my three planning schematics of a sluicing works to mine iron ore in the sand pit. There is pipe work, tailings, water gates and a whole lot more. Scale drawings, different size pages, discussion, modification, sharing, preparation, equipment lists (those are still mental though).

LOVE the engagement.

ALL as a result of FAMILY DAY yesterday (31 March).

TE AWAMUTU SPACE CENTRE

We went to the Te Awamutu space museum. It was fun. The man there did a great talk that was really interesting. He had lots of cool stuff including some awesome space lego sets. We saw parts of space suits, and watched space launch

failures. They had pictures of famous people and planets, and lots of badges he had collected. He also had some big telescopes. We think you would like it too.

By Marcus and Aston Menneer.



To find out more go to <http://www.spacecentre.nz/>

My Review of the MoE Review Report

By Colleen Kaluza

In this following article, I am simply going to share my own thoughts and opinions and questions. Some of you may agree or disagree with my views. That's great! I'd love to hear your thoughts too!

Overall I was quite impressed with the report. I found that reading about the issues that staff at the MoE are experiencing, gave me insight into their side of the story, as we home educators can get quite stuck on our own view of things and not take theirs into consideration. So here goes!

"Research in other countries show increase in verbal communication, but weak in maths..."
Well that may be the case for other countries, but is that truly the finding of NZ, though? The report gives a lot of reference into research in other countries, but it's obvious that there has been little research into the results of NZ home educated children... ah... but that would mean they would need to test our children in order to compare them with schooled children, and we don't quite want that now, do we?

On Pg 9, Table 3 shows the number of students finishing home-schooling, but doesn't mention if that means, they GRADUATED from home-school—Final year before tertiary education, or work. They mention over 200 students "finished" home-schooling for less than one year - did they go back to state school, or was that graduating from school, in other words, did those students go to school, then were home-schooled for a single year before finishing high-school? It's a little unclear. Maybe somebody else can clarify that one!

My personal take on Table 4, is that more home educated children find that they've achieved the level of academic tuition that they need, and want to enter the workforce sooner. Some whom I know, have started their own businesses, instead of wasting more time and money gaining a bachelors. The public put a high value on having a bachelors degree, and yet many famous people, and successful people don't necessarily have degrees.

"Staff and some home educators would like staff training in the different home education philosophies."

It will be SOO good for MoE staff to understand the different home-ed philosophies! This is great! I think it shows that the people doing the job of approving or denying applications are also unclear, unsure of the whole process. I found that the issues that staff of MoE raised, gave me better insight into THEIR jobs!

The problem of 'Whangai' children - where the children are raised by family members other than birth parents, is an interesting one. The issue raised by MoE staff is that *"whangai children cannot apply for home education as it is a requirement that the legal guardian or parent make the application"*.

Does this mean that the family member who is raising the child, is not regarded as "legal guardian" of the child?

And the wording is such that the "children cannot apply". Surely it's not the children that apply, but their guardians/parents! I cannot understand why this would be a problem. Would the guardian raising the child not be able to get the parent to sign for home education? Can they not apply to be recognised as legal guardians, or is this a financial issue?

I would think that the parent and guardian would work together on the decision to home educate or send the child to school.

ERO - I did **not** like the suggestion that parents should notify the Ministry of change of curriculum. I use a variety of different ones for different subjects, and review on an ongoing basis whether it's working or not. I have only two children, but they're very different, and have different interests, talents, learning styles, etc. If I had to inform the Ministry every time I change curriculum with one or the other child, that would cause incredible stress, and an incredible amount of unnecessary paperwork for both the parent and the MoE staff. I could not imagine the increased stress for families with more children in their home ed environment!

I'm glad to hear that Funding may increase during 2016/2017, although personally, that may be a bit late for me! :) Let's just hope it's a worthwhile amount, and that they don't use this as a way of gaining more control over us.

Good to know that Home Educators may be able to obtain Student ID cards for their kids without having to join specific home education groups.

Finally the MoE are catching up to the 21st century, in that the Statutory Declaration may be made available online, only be needed annually, and not have to be signed by a JP - although I think that sending it in 6-monthly is still good, considering the stats that many home educators don't stick with it past the first year, and more even opt out before the end of the first year.

Continued on Page 6



**As of April
2015,
Statutory
Declarations
will no longer
need to be
signed by a
Justice of the
Peace.**

Continued from Page 5

I'm pleased to see that the MoE are going to ensure increased understanding of the philosophies of home education with their staff. This is a HUGE step forward!

Another huge improvement is that MoE agree that guidelines need to be put in place about asking for more information - only when necessary. It would be nice to have somebody like Barbara Smith, or some of our MoE liaisons involved in this process though. The following 4 statements were ones that I am so impressed with, that my response was WOHHOO!!!

"MoE agree that all of our staff working on home education should understand the benefit of home education and the different philosophies!"

"MoE will run regular internal teleconferences and meetings with regional staff to increase understanding of the philosophies of home education and the advantages of each."

"MoE will work with ERO to ensure that reviews take account of home education philosophies."
Another great statement!

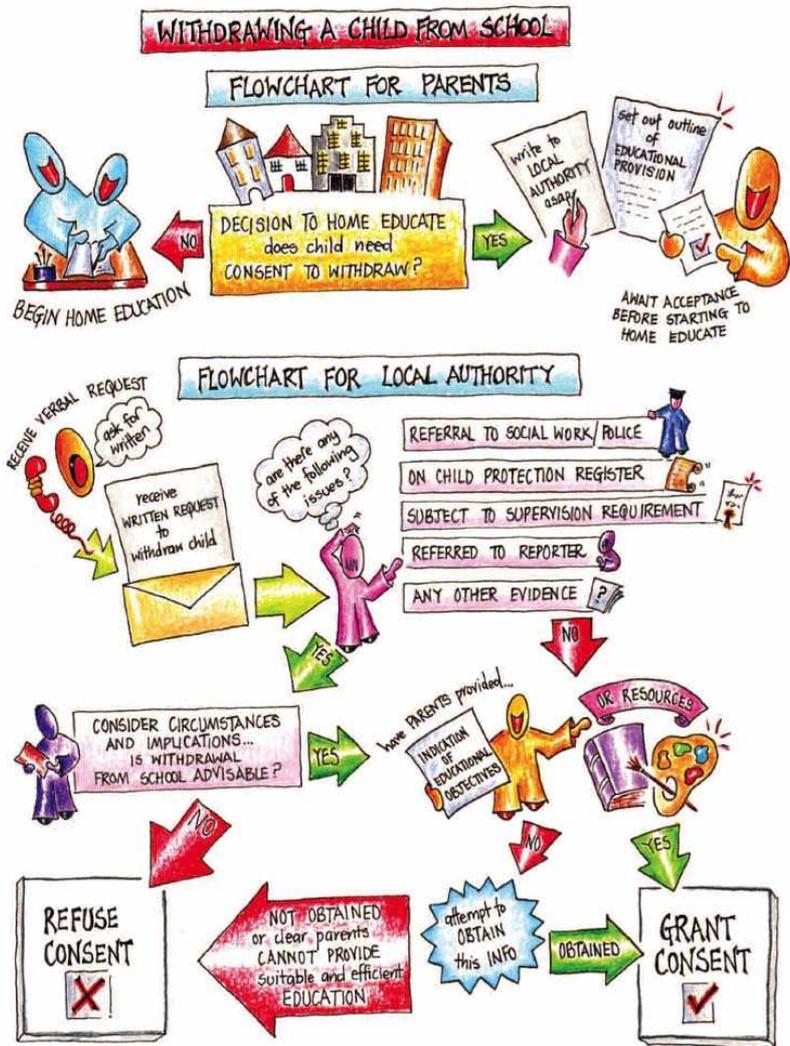
"We agree that child welfare issues should be forwarded to CYF, and that the complaints process needs to be reviewed, be fair, and made clear to home educators."

I agree, although the way CYF handles things, I'm not so sure about that!

Overall, I can really see that MoE are

trying from their side to understand our side, and make improvements to the process.

What do you think of the flowchart below?



To read the full MoE report, go to <http://www.minedu.govt.nz/Parents/AllAges/EducationInNZ/Homeschooling.aspx>

Honour Wall

Well done to Rae and Raphael Pakula, who were awarded a certificate for climbing to the top of the climbing wall at Taupo rock wall.

Your folks are proud of you!

Congratulations to Sam Bulwer for winning the Te Awamutu Library Illustrated Story competition!

We'll feature your story in the next newsletter!

This Honour Wall is to honour our children's achievements

Please feel free to let us know when your children have accomplished something great!

HEART Retreat 2015

The annual HEART (Home Educator's Annual Retreat) camp for 2015 will be held on **19-21 June** this year and is already looking to be a time of refreshing and encouragement.

The theme is HOPE — Hope in all seasons!

Rosie Boom will be leading us in both the Word and Worship, there are testimonies on their way and time to relax and glean from one another's homeschooling journeys and wisdom.

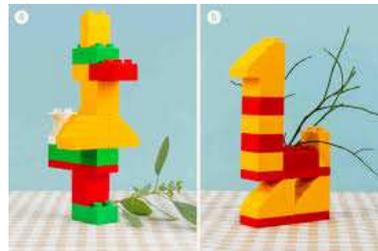
The brochure will be out in the next few weeks for you to register and take a closer look at all that is planned.

Lego Fest

Term 1 LegoFest kicked off with a bang. It was GREAT to see all the new faces and we are tweaking the format as a result of the feedback. We'd like to work more on audience skills and as such we are going to keep speakers to ONE item to speak about and looking to keep it to around 2 minutes per speaker. There will be a table set up for any additional items that are wanting to be shared and allowing a general conversation/exploration time after the group presentation time.

LegoFest Challenge Term 2 – We would like to see any and all AVES (BIRD) representations/creations.

This is continuing with the Animal Kingdom theme. I would have chosen the phylum as with the previous challenge, but it is



simply too broad. The Chordate Phylum covers such a great range including fish, mammals, birds and others with a back bone, we need to take it down the classification step to Class:

- Domain**
- (Super-Kingdom)**
- Kingdom**
- Phylum**
- Class**
- Order**
- Family**
- Genus**
- Species**

I'd like to see this as open as possible, so that children can still enter the

competition without actually turning up on the day, provided there is photographic evidence of the work in progress and a written blurb about your learning (dictating to your mum for her to type/write, counts).

Actual criteria to be finalised in the next two weeks allowing for 4 weeks construction.

I will be developing the criteria with the team (and any other who have more expertise than I) so feel free to PM me via The THEN FB page or via email on

stevenrach@gmail.com

Remember:

LegoFest: week six.

Monday 25th May from 10.30am – 12pm.



LegoFest Challenge Term 2 – We would like to see any and all AVES (BIRD) creations.

THEN Contact List

Coordinator

Julie Wallace-Cooley
thenmail@gmail.com

Treasurer

Leanne Nobilo
thenmail@gmail.com

Membership Secretary

Grace Menneer
thenmail@gmail.com

Minutes Secretary

Sarah Walsh
thenmail@gmail.com

Swimsafe Coordinator

Loral Morrison
thenswimsafe@gmail.com

Activities Coordinator

Rachel Cooke
stevenrach@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Colleen Kaluza
thenmail@gmail.com

Librarian

Penelope Seibicke
027 433 4421

MOE Liasons

Sheena Harris
sheenaharris.cm@btinternet.com
Meredith Connolly
mereandd@hotmail.com

Telescope

Rachel Cooke
stevenrach@gmail.com

Microscope

Rebekah Renew
07 8482420
renewfamily@gmail.com

Family Day Host

Penelope Seibicke
027 433 4421

THEN RESOURCES

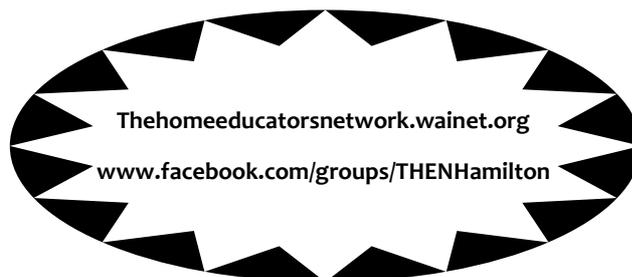
Did you know that THEN has some cool resources that are available to members?

The Telescope is managed by **Rachel Cooke**, and she has a new check-list for sign outs and returns.

The Microscope is managed by **Rebekah Renew**

And the Library is managed by **Penelope Seibicke**.

Please check the contact list on this page for contact details.



Wax Wraps

Keeps food fresh and delicious

Great for wrapping bread cheese or sandwiches. Keeps food fresh with no mould or drying out. Use the warmth of your hands to shape over bowls. Wax Wraps are reusable. Hand wash in cool water. Use a gentle detergent if necessary. To re-fresh, iron between two pieces of baking paper.



www.facebook.com/waxwraps