

Term dates

starts: Monday 16 July

ends: Friday 28 Sept.

THEN Contacts

coordinator:

Julia Dirks 824 6021

treasurer:

Heather Taylor 859 0303

membership:

Sallyanne Visser 843 4225

activities:

Denise Styles 873 7756
playcentre;Christine Cave 839 5513
telescopeMarietta Smith 849 9491
microscopeLori Silsbee 855 0110
library

Sheena Harris

Veronica Garcia Gill

**THEN Library hours
at Parents Place for term 3**

Monday 6th of August

2 to 3:30

Thursday 23rd of August

2.30 to 4.00

Monday 3rd of September

2 to 3:30

Thursday 20th of September

2.30 to 4.00

The Home Educators Network

Term 2, July 2012

www.thehomeeducatorsnetwork.org.nz

P.O. Box 275, Hamilton

email inquiries to thenmail@gmail.com*Editor for this issue: Margaret Evans*

Hi there, this is your editor by default. I'd like to thank all those who have contributed to the newsletter at short notice. Your support has been really great. It is so full!

Here is a tip for future editors, I just randomly went through my in-box and emailed anyone who homeschooled and ask them to contribute something. Some couldn't because of where they were at this week but others seized the moment and even though the newsletter is late it is very readable. Thank you all you wonderful people who helped me put this newsletter together on short notice.

You may wonder why I asked the contributors to write about a typical home school day. Well when I first started home educating over 20 years ago it was articles about other families home school days that encouraged me, inspired me, and kept me going. Hopefully you will find inspiration and encouragement from reading this newsletter too.

Sorry, I can write okay – well enough to pass at University but using graphics is not my strength, so there are no pictures. To compensate however I have filled the odd gap with a tongue twister or two. Tongue twisters are wonderful activities, providing great hilarity and teaching us to laugh at ourselves, while at the same time encouraging the development of flexible speech organs.

Anyone who is good at tongue twisters has great control over their lips, tongue and jaw and has the ability to open their mouth just wide enough to provide room for their tongue to move quickly and accurately to form words correctly at speed. Thus it is an inexpensive and fun way to improve your child's speech.

Getting into University without credits

by Julia Dirks

My son Sam was always quite happy being homeschooled. Some times I had to threaten him with sending him to school so he would focus on his school work. That always worked a charm. Over the years we wondered how he could get credits to get into university, until we found out that homeschoolers got into university without any credits at all. From then on he could focus on the subjects he was interested in - maths, physics, engineering and computer science. He mainly worked through Excel study guides. These Australian based study guides are so well constructed that Sam could work through them independently. Even though he didn't like English (hated is a better word) I insisted he did some as well.

Last year it was time to apply to Waikato University for the Electronic Engineering course. I helped him put his application together. We included all the practice exams that he had done in the last year as well as some references from music teachers and the leader from the air cadets. Eventually he was called in for an interview with the engineering department. They explained that it was still unclear exactly what level he was at in maths and physics. As these two subjects were the only ones that needed to have a minimum of credits they suggested several ways to achieve that. He could either do a 6 week CUP course over summer or a 4 week bridging course in math and physics. Depending on his scores they would slot him into different courses of maths and physics and if needed, he could do some summer papers after the first year to catch up to the right level.

He chose to do the bridging course (they recommended that) and did rather well. With a score of 97% in math and 90% in physics, he was accepted straight into the engineering course. This was good conformation that the Excel study guides from Pascal Press are of a high standard. I would recommend them to everyone.

He's just finished the first semester (just waiting on exam results) and hasn't found it too taxing, and is looking forward to semester B.

Not all universities have discretionary entry like Waikato, so it pays to check with the university you want to go to and the course you want to do. All universities do run CUP courses that run over a whole semester to help get students into university who haven't quite got enough credits. So even without any credits, all it takes is an extra semester to gain entry to most courses.

Sam does want to become a pilot in the air force, but they wouldn't look at his application without the right amount of credits. That's why he decided to do engineering at university for a year. This gives him higher credits than high school and if he doesn't get into pilot training he can finish his engineering degree instead.

Happy home schooling



Tongue twisters

*red leather yellow leather
lick the red lollie, lick the yellow lollie*

*red lorry, yellow lorry
five fine thick thistles*

A homeschool day:*from Maree D'Souza*

7.30 finish breakfast with Dad
 7.45 Chores and sometimes the older children start some subjects independently
 8.45/ 9.00am school starts with bible reading and other read alouds while breastfeeding the baby, other children playing Lego or doing craft activities
 9.45 older children 1-2 other subjects before morning tea
 10.15 am tea and Mum makes a quick phone call, or starts dinner
 10.45 start up separate subjects again, Mum teaching youngest to read then he does his own writing and maths as Mum helps older children as needed
 11.45 Mum makes fresh bread with help of youngsters and pops dinner into the slow cooker
 12.15 spelling time Mum with two separate groups of children
 12.30 LUNCH time and we listen to poems to memorize or an audio story.
 Children tidy up after lunch then it's off to other activities- drama, mandarin, piano, woodwork etc
 Afternoon tea in the car and more read alouds for the littlies while we wait.
 5.00 arrive home to the smells of dinner in the slow cooker. Children bathed and washing brought in.
 6.00 dinner and listening to more CD audios or having a scintillating conversation about current affairs. Children clear up after dinner
 7.00 last read alouds and snuggle up, already for night-nights to Dad as he comes in the door, then Bed ☐

This is the home school exemption or audit day!

The "Other" home school day*from Maree D'Souza*

7.30 No sign of kids as Dad goes off to work. Mum also slept in so morning chores still not done. The phone goes.
 Kids argue so heatedly during breakfast dishes, they refuse to work together and the job takes hours. Mum uses this opportunity to "quickly" answer a few emails. Then looks at her watch.
 10.00 Help, and we haven't started yet! Grab your bibles. "But I'm hungry". "You can't be we just had breakfast". "Where's my bible?" "Where you left it." "No". Mr 2 year old has "helpfully" got it ready for the routine but where did he put it? "Yes, you can have an apple!"
 11.00 Morning tea quickly then get cracking with other subjects. Mum at the clothes line can hear the shouting. "Which subject is this?" she pants breathlessly arriving in time to pull them apart.
 12.15 Oh I forgot to put bread in the bread maker- "who's for noodles?", "You're kidding Mum, what's the treat for?"
 12.45 "hurry up we've got to get in the car now".
 Rushing from A to B to C. Suffering bored youngsters, scratchy baby, annoyed teenager and irritating middle boy.
 5.30 traffic bad, get home to cold house, damp washing and nothing for dinner. "How about eggs on toast for dinner kids?" "Wow, two treats in one day Mum?" they ask incredulously! I wonder if yellow and white eggs on brown toast with red tomato sauce counts as feeding them the "colours of the rainbow"? Eeek- no green. Quickly slice a cucumber with the skin on, phew.
 6.20 late rushing out the door to evening activities. Washing everywhere, dishes not done, husband arrives home to tired baby and youngster demanding bed time stories.
 11.00 fall into bed- *where did that day go?*

My Favourite Homeschool day *from Maree D'Souza*

We are going a homeschool visit today kids- yeah.

“Can I make muffins for lunch?” “Sure, and please let your younger sister help.” Thinking- maths √, science √, home economics √, supervising younger children √, LUNCH √

Off in the car reciting bible verses and memorized poems- thinking literature √, devotions√.

Interesting discussion about provocative billboards we pass on the way- reading √, current affairs √

Arrive at the museum. Pay a small sum to have a PASSIONATE teacher expound on the wonders of the latest display √√√

Picnic lunch with friends afterwards- nature study √, “socialization” √

Listen to conversation in the car going home. “Son, do you know that you just outlined the scientific method?” “Gee Mum, I thought we were just playing in the pool.”

Observation: “Mum we noticed that the water in the pool was red today.”

Hypothesis: “ My friend thought they had painted the bottom of the pool, but I thought that they had dyed the water.”

Method: “ So we scooped some water out to see what colour it was”.

Results: “The water did seem a bit red in our hands.”

Discussion: “ He wasn’t convinced because he said that our skin could be that colour so we tipped it into a clear drink bottle.”

Conclusion: “The water was dyed red.”

Practical Application: “Mum we think they dyed the water red to look like monster blood because it was a monster exhibit at the museum.”

Science √√√

Arrive home for the youngsters to play “monsters” in the sand pit and the older children to doodle monster diagrams in their art books- Art √

Prepare a “monster” meal of meatballs (with tricolour salad- just kidding!) for all to enjoy at dinner.

I LOVE homeschooling ☐

Speech New Zealand Oral Communication Assessment *by M. Evans*

Speech New Zealand runs examinations nation wide in communication skills. Their Oral Communication Assessment syllabus is designed to promote clear and effective oral communication, to develop language and listening skills and to encourage courteous and confident sociable behaviour.

These exams are designed for schools and community groups. The exam fees are much less than their other examinations programmes because the school or community host the exam;e.g. the fee for a grade 3 Speech and Drama is \$113.00 while the fee for the elementary level of Oral Communication aimed a the same age group is only \$38.00.

The advantage of these exams is that the programme can be taught in 6 to 8 weeks.

If there are parents out there who are interested in gaining these qualifications for their children I am happy to run a block course There would be a charge consisting of three parts

- my teaching fee, \$10 per child per lesson.
- the exam fee – it varies depending on the level the child / children are sitting
- the cost of hiring a venue for the children to sit their exams.

If you are interested in taking advantage of this opportunity please contact me on mmaryt@hotmail.com or phone me on 07 843 5656

A Peek into our Lives

by *Leanne Nobilo*

I have been asked to write about what a typical or ideal day looks like in our home-schooling. So I shall attempt to do this, but please keep in mind that in our family 'school' and 'life' are very mixed together. For those who don't know me, we have a 9 y.o., 7 y.o. and 5 y.o. We eat breakfast together with Dad before he goes to work, and do a devotion and prayer time as part of 'family time' rather than 'school'. Then our children all have at least one chore to do each morning along with the standard getting-ready type activities, and generally 'school' does not start until those are done, hopefully by 9am.

This year we have then started our school day with 15 minutes exercise time. In summer we called that 'outside time', and they rode bikes or bounced balls. Now it is so cold we tend to put an exercise CD on, or a dance CD and get out the instruments and dance. We have found this to be a great start to our day. Sometimes I do this with them, or if I am still sorting out washing or other chores, I allocate it to a child to direct.

Then we tend to do our theme study time. This may be reading books or doing an activity based on whatever our theme study is at the time. Right now we are studying the Olympics.

Morning tea is one of our most fixed times of the day – we are all addicted to it! During or straight after morning tea we have our read-aloud which is related to our theme study whenever possible, right now we are reading a biography of Eric Liddell. After story time our schedule says we have 1:1 time, computer time or play, and some or all of these activities happen each day! In an ideal day, I'd have one child having their computer time, one doing reading with me and the other doing their writing, and then swap around; or they'll all be doing writing and I will be a reference for spelling etc.; or I'll do a maths tutorial for the younger two while the older does her writing. Then again I may just spend the whole time focusing on one child and the other two do Lego, it all depends.

After lunch the schedule says a few things, but they seldom actually happen, so afternoons do tend to be very flexible. On days we are home I do try to have room-time/nap/quiet-time, where we all go to a separate room and do something quiet for an hour. I think I am the only one who actually lies down to have a sleep, but we all benefit from the time-out and find it invaluable. The other thing I try to do is focus on one child for half an hour and do something they want to do. When they were younger I used to do this 'mummy-time' for each child each day, now I am doing well if I have mummy-time with each child once a week. Other things we do in afternoons include play-dates, gardening, cooking dinner, baking, fold washing, caring for pets, playing, appointments and sports, and one afternoon they spend with Granma while I go to the gym.

This is a brief peek into our home-school life. I look forward to hearing about other's home-school lives, as I am sure we are all very different.

Tongue twisters

upper roller lower roller

round brown bread

are our oars oak?

Specific pacific

Fred fed Ted bread

selfish shellfish

preshrunk silk shirts

great green greek grapes

unique New York

LOL - Laugh out loud - it is always good medicine!

By Leanne Davidson

I just had to LOL today when I received an email from Margaret with her “cheeky request, to write a brief account of a typical or even ideal homeschooling day in my family for the newsletter”. And what a difference it has made to my day!

Typical! Well, there has been nothing typical about my days for the past six months

- except the kids are always hungry and I never seem to know what to feed them
- the house is always littered with things that need picking up and putting away, along with cleaning and washing that always seems to be needing to be done
- I seem to spend more time in the car than at home, and when I finally get home, it feels like I have run a marathon
- And making decisions! How do you do that?

Ideal! My life is so far from what I would have called ‘normal’ last year or the year before, and so removed from what is ‘my ideal’, that it almost seems dishonest to put it on paper.

- Yet you don’t have to look far to find someone sharing or selling the answer to our homeschooling problems and difficulties.
- But the reality of living that ideal, is much like walking to the top of Everest – will it ever happen!
- Leaving me asking myself whether the problem is really the ‘homeschooling’.

Yesterday (like the past six months) was anything but typical, or ideal. Other than getting out of bed in the morning, only one thing happened that was planned, even if it was two hours later than it should have been!

And on top of that, when lunch costs \$10, and your parking \$24, you have to wonder if your priorities are right, don’t you?

But that is the irony of life! Things cost what they cost. Kids are what they are. You are what you are.

‘Typical!’ ‘Ideal!’ What is that?

- That is the joy of totally excited kids when you have been away from them for a few hours and you come home!
- The children fighting for the seat beside you at the meal table.
- The warmth you feel when one of your children says, “The highlight of my week has been you teaching me 500 and playing it with me”.
- Your children fighting over who gets to be tucked into bed first and complaining because they didn’t get enough of your time, or enough huggles.
- The kids arguing over who gets to sleep with you when your husband is away.
- Being presented a plaque that says, “I love you Mum”, an hour or so after you had the biggest hissy fit you have ever had and yelling the loudest and reacting in the angriest manner you have ever expressed.
- The joy of walking into a room and seeing your child, who has struggled to read for 5 years and fighting all your attempts to help, snuggled on the couch, attempting to read a story to their younger siblings.

Except for one of the things on that list, that was part of my day today. Was it typical, or ideal? Not sure. But it *was* homeschooling. Homeschooling - not what most people would think was typical, or *Ideal*?

Thanks Margaret for making me LOL, I must do it every day!

A day at home with the Harris family

I'm so glad that the opportunity of writing about my 'Typical homeschool day' also included the add on or 'Ideal homeschool day'! Although my intentions for the 'perfect day' are laid before me at the start of each day, I admit that the reality is often different! Perhaps I'm not the only one?

Well. I will attempt to outline some of what we do as a family on our 'home days' as our 'out-and-about' days will look quite different. This will be a mixture of reality and a bit of 'ideal' thrown in!

I've taken on board Cynthia Hancox encouragement in her material "Goodbye Chaos, Hello Peace" to start my day bright and early. I rise (somewhat reluctantly, I confess!) at around 5.15am in an attempt to begin with peace, quiet and get on top of my day.

Often at 5.30am – my ideal is already shattered as my eldest son (aged 8yrs) wanders through to visit the loo. "Oh, how on earth can I get 'my own time'?" I ask myself! Fortunately, he reads quietly in his room until I chase him later!

The rest of the family (2 young boys aged 6 & 2 and of course my dearly beloved) are all up by 6.30am.

Breakfast is served before 7am in an attempt to enjoy a few minutes with Daddy before he leaves for work. It's working quite well just now, and a few short moments of 'thought for the day' before we say goodbye. Then it's time for some exercise – I love the Zumba DVD for this, as I can stay in a relatively warm place (being as it's cold and dark outside just now at that time!) and actually do it with little children. My eldest joins me for the 20mins or so 'party time' and the younger two sit and watch.

7.45am we'll have toast to see us through to morning tea time. Then it's time to feed the chooks, collect fruit fallen from the trees over the past 24hours and tidy up breakfast dishes etc.

9am is when we like to be ready to 'focus' and I begin this time with a devotional time. Rosie Boom's "Gift of Values" books have been very helpful here and greatly enjoyed by all the family. Then it's time for 'lessons'. Now, I have mentioned all of the above before I get here, as I feel that this '9am' slot is not when we begin school! It began as soon as we are up! Learning, that is.

All of us (including my 2year old) sit at our dining table and work through various tasks. I use Math U See curriculum (one of many fantastic Maths resources) for all the children. My two older boys work on a page or so of workbook and my youngest builds towers or fills tubs with the manipulative!! Then there's a spelling workbook for my two older boys, handwriting practice (workbook or copy writing of our memory verse for the week), and grammar work. During this time my 'little' enjoys doing his own 'writing' in an old A5 diary book. At the moment he loves me to draw wiggly lines with a highlighter pen and he goes over with his pencil. Great fun and keeps him concentrating whilst I help the other two. I listen to my middle son read or we work on some phonic sound activity like 'fishing' and by then it's about time to prepare morning tea.

The boys take turns to prepare our simple plate and as we enjoy our mid-morning snack it's time for me to read to the children. We read books like 'Little House on the Prairie' series or 'The Barn Chronicles' by Rosie Boom. I'm never allowed to read just 1 chapter, but I try to keep it to half an hour!

Time next to get the washing hung out (which I hopefully got in the machine just after breakfast on an 'ideal' day!) and one or two other jobs.

Lunch, then rest time. I was encouraged to do this some time ago by a friend who'd done it from when her toddlers stopped 'napping' during the day. I thought mine would never manage it, but with a little training – it's worked a treat! Each child sits on their bed and can read, lego, draw/colour in – whatever is quiet and doesn't require much 'stuff'. Time ranges from 30mins to 1 hour. It's a lovely time of quiet in an otherwise noisy environment and it does us all good! I often power nap for just 10 mins and it makes the world of difference, then read with a cuppa or catch up on e-mails etc.

2.30pm ish. Outside time for the children next. They've probably already done some outside play in between things, but this is when they make big adventures, dens and general discovery outside – whenever possible. I get tidied up, bake (often with one of the children) and then continue with the next mountain of 'to do's'! They're always there.

I might sneak in another bit of reading with the children (especially in the winter months) before dinner preparation around 4.30pm. Then it's dinner (children take turns to help in the kitchen or prepare table etc.) and hopefully my knight in shining armour arrives (aka Head Master!). It's at this time I usually report that we've had a great day but I've done absolutely nothing!!! ☐ My list of 'to do's' remains as it was at the beginning of the day! Though I totally realize that my day has been very well spent.

A family game after tea is great fun (ideal day!) then bath and bed.

Another day of learning ebbs away in the Harris institute of learning.

***Clutters Last Stand - "It's time to De-junk your life"* by Don Aslett**

Americans No. 1. Cleaning Expert.

Book review from Margaret Evans

This is a enjoyable read which contains some great ideas for overcoming the problem of accumulated "stuff". It is written in little snippets and lists for easy reading and full of delightful cartoons to illustrate points. The list of contents includes chapters such as : The Junkee Entrance Exam - The Genealogy of Junk - 101 Feeble Excuses for Hanging onto Junk - Committing Junkicide.....plus much more.

Just to whet your appetite here are some pieces for a laugh and serious consideration....

"Remember that storage space costs money....clutter also serves as enticement for burglary, and fodder for accidents , and it makes great fuel for fires."

No matter how you look at it clutter is a poor investment. It's a poor investment indeed when we put so much of our life and our money into compiling a collection of treasures that suddenly it begins to dictate our schedule and make our decisions...

"There is a solution to clutter, in fact there are many solutions....You could have your clutter cremated and have a daily and weekly viewing of the vase containing the remains, if deep feelings are still there for your junk. It can remain with you in spirit and condensed form.... you could microfilm it and carry every bit of your junk everywhere you go....

THEN library update *from Sheena Harris & Veronica Garcia Gil (THEN Librarians)*

A huge THANK YOU to all of you who took the time and trouble to complete the survey I put out last week. 37 members took part and it gave us some very useful feedback.

For those of you who don't already know and to remind others who may have forgotten – here are some facts that may dispel some myths regarding the fantastic resources available through membership of THEN.

1. A catalogue of over 600 items available at the THEN library is on-line. Whilst you cannot currently reserve books using this, it is a wonderful way to look at just what is there and whether or not you might think it worth your while making a visit. Thanks to Heather Taylor and her sons' hard work to achieve this last year. Simply visit the THEN website, click on 'Resources' and choose the word 'Library' at the end of the text. You don't even need to remember your password!
2. There are no charges for overdue items. Yay! Obviously we do ask you to return books in a timely manner, but if you miss your date (one month from date of issue), we won't send you the bill!
3. There are a range of resources from early readers to teens. Many specific resources to Home Education such as Charlotte Masons' "Original Homeschooling Series" are books that cannot be found in the public library system (and they probably wouldn't buy it in especially either!).
4. There is a healthy pot of money in the THEN accounts waiting to be spent on even more fantastic resources. However, we will not commit to using this money until we see an increase in the use of the library facility! Use it or loose it!
5. The THEN library is contained within a tall office-style lockable cupboard in the front room at the Parents Place, 87 Boundary Road, Claudelands. It is carpeted and has comfy chairs to lounge and read (for older children perhaps) and a lovely space to bring a board game or pack of cards and play with others there.

There are currently just 2 of us busy home educating families opening the library – hence the short and infrequent opening times. We realize that this makes it difficult for you to get along when we are open. However, perhaps this term, you'll take a moment to note in your diary the times that we are open and it might mean that you are able to pop in whilst you are in town or fit it around your schedule.

We are greatly encouraged that 14 of your responded to a willingness to help us with opening the library. This will obviously take some time to establish a training session and working around people's schedules. With this many families we could open much more frequently and for longer sessions without requiring too frequent a commitment. We certainly don't want to over burden anyone and although we don't know who you are – thank you so much for sticking up your hand! ☐ We will put a plan together over this term.

So that's it. Thank you again to those of you who took the trouble to add your comments and suggestions. Keep an eye on the 'Activities' part of the newsletter for the dates and opening times for Term 3. See you there! ☐



Olympic Games 2012 Resources

by Leanne Nobilo

The Olympics games opens in London on 27th July and runs for 2 weeks. Here are some great web page resources that our family has been enjoying that I thought I'd share with you.

For starters there is the main Olympics web page <http://www.london2012.com/> . There are tabs on the torch relay, sports, times, countries, famous athlete biographies even. It also says that closer to the Olympics there will be a write up on each athlete at the games. So an incredible resource! The part of the website we have explored most at present is the section on the torch relay. It has lots of info from its history to a 'live' feed of the actual relay that is happening now. I really enjoyed the video that explains why this torch was designed the way it was <http://www.london2012.com/torch-relay/video/video=the-london-2012-olympic-torch-design.html> .There are also some really nice highlight videos of the torch relay for each day, and a summary of it so far. They have been to some really exciting places, and of course if you watch the live feed you discover that they go to some really standard places too!

We have also enjoyed resources from this website:

http://www.abcteach.com/directory/theme_units/sports/olympics/summer_olympics/

My younger ones liked the colouring in book you'll find there, and I also printed out an alphabetical order sheets and word search as well for my older one.

If you have a search you can find all sorts of free, fun and educational resources about the Olympics. The library also has some really good books, so have a hunt. My favourite one had a highlight about each of the 29 Olympics so far. It is a good snapshot of history of all sorts e.g. did you know there was a game of water polo that had to be canceled because the two teams started having a punch up, and the water was turning red with blood? It was a bit of bad planning as one of their countries had invaded the other just a week or two before the Olympics. Did you know that for the 1948 Olympics the athletes brought their own food, and slept in RAF huts in one of the London parks because no-one had the money to build a village proper, but they wanted to hold an Olympics to build morale.

There is so much to learn about people and countries, and politics, when studying the Olympics. Enjoy learning with your kids during this big occasion. I have learnt SO much.

Making Of A Masterpiece

Starting at birth, this interactive multi-media presentation outlines the wonder of human development for both mother and child working back in time to the moment of conception. Along the way, full colour pictures of the unborn child by renowned medical photographer Lennart Nilsson at each major stage of development are shown, supplemented by full-colour videos, 2D and 3D/4D ultrasound of babies inside the womb, realistic latex foetal models, and various other props. We have booked a session for those 12 years and older at 1:30pm, Wednesday 25 July, at The Link in Te Aroha Street. Please RSVP to thenmail@gmail.com with numbers, gold coin donation.

Check out the webpage for more information -

<http://www.masterpiece.org.nz/>

All you book lovers and buyers

– Here is another great reason to be part of THEN

THEN is now registered with www.wheelers.co.nz as an organisation. This gives all members of THEN, two great benefits.

1. Anyone who purchases anything from them (family and friends) and nominates THEN as their organisation of choice, gives THEN 10% of the cost of their order to TheHomeEducatorsNetwork to purchase books for the library.
2. Any member of THEN who uses the Wheelers account code **9991** and adds into the comment fields their own delivery address, can receive the schools discounts off their purchases as well as special library features.

You might ask, “Why would I buy books from Wheelers when there is the book depository which is so much cheaper and has free postage?” Well for two reasons.

- Firstly, when you compare Wheelers with other NZ on line bookshops, you will see that it is always cheaper than Fishpond and other local choices . The price difference on books like Yesterdays Classics and other paperbacks is very small when compared with The Book Depository and other overseas book sellers. When you take the discount off that, it is often cheaper, but by the time you add postage, there is no difference. With purchases over \$50.00 Wheelers offer free postage, so you just keep your cart filling up over the weeks and months until you hit \$50.
- Secondly, there are a lot of books that Wheelers stock that you can't buy on The Book Depository or Amazon. Books that often say “no longer available” on those sites, are often available at Wheelers. And most importantly, there are a lot of NZ and Australian literature that you can only buy from NZ sources and Wheelers is almost without a doubt a few dollars cheaper than other sites.

So tell your friends and family about Wheelers and get them to nominate THEN and we will receive a 10% fund raising credit from all of their purchases. And if you want to take advantage of the schools discount for your own purchases, register with the code above and most importantly make sure you put your own delivery address in the comments box. All this information will be added to the THEN website, with a direct link that you use for easy access.

Just another good reason to be a THEN member!



Salt Crystal Snowflake - <http://dltk-holidays.com/winter/msaltcrystalsn>

Create your own sparkly snowflake

Materials: Hot water (preferably boiled beforehand) A cup or mug
Salt (we used table salt) Very thick **black** paper

Instructions: Boil water and pour it into a cup that can withstand hot water. Add a couple of teaspoons of salt and stir with the paintbrush until it dissolves. Continue to add salt a teaspoon at a time until it no longer dissolves and there are salt crystals at the bottom of the cup even after stirring for a while. Paint your snowflake. Provide the children with a few pictures of snowflakes for inspiration.

Remember every time you go to dip your brush in the salt water be sure you to stir the solution so that your salt crystals don't all sink to the bottom of the cup. Leave your art to dry overnight

Snow Globe

By: Amanda Formaro

forwarded by Lara Kenny

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow! This craft is made from recycled baby food jars, or any other type of jar you have sitting around collecting dust. Enjoy!

What you'll need:

Baby food jars (medium or large) or any other type of jar with a lid

Florist clay (can be found at any craft supply store)

Small figurine

White and/or silver glitter or fake snow

Hot glue gun or aquarium sealing glue (hot glue is less expensive)

Ribbon or felt (optional), Garland plastic greenery

How to make it:

Wash and dry your jar completely, including the lid.

Attach figurine to inside of jar lid using florist clay. If you are using a small object, it's a good idea to build up the clay so the object will appear taller. Attach any optional items with the clay (fake greenery, etc.).

Important: Use your imagination but make sure whatever you use is waterproof and won't dissolve.

Fill jar with water to within 1 cm of top. Use cold water, warm water tends to cloud. Sprinkle 1/2 teaspoon of glitter, or "snow" into water. Adjust glitter amount according to your size jar.

Using hot glue gun, line inside of lid with glue. Insert figurine in water and screw on lid.

Dab lid dry if any water dripped or spilled. Apply a layer of hot glue around the rim of the lid to seal shut. Let stand and dry overnight -- lid side up.

Decorating the lid rim is optional, you could use decorative ribbon, coloured felt, lace Use white or craft glue to run a squiggly line around the felt then sprinkle with glitter and let dry. Glue on buttons, use stickers, or personalize your globe by writing your name in glue and sprinkling with glitter. You may also paint the lid rather than use ribbon or other embellishments.

Tips:

Keep your globe secure. Make sure the objects are secure in the clay, you could even glue them for added security. Choose your figurine wisely. Choose a figurine made of a material that will not dissolve or deteriorate in water over time. Cake toppers, small ornaments with the hanger removed, miniature toys and dolls are all possibilities.

Easy-to-find greenery. You will only need small pieces so look for stems in the floral department that are on sale or inexpensive. You can also trim pieces from silk and plastic greenery, or you can even fashion your own small trees out of chenille stems. Another option is to use tiny plastic pine trees found in toy train and car sets.

Glitter tips. Before gluing or sealing the lid, make sure you have sufficient amount of glitter.

Depending on the size of the jar, you may need more or less. Be careful! Too much glitter will completely obscure your figurine.

Add colour and pizzazz. To make a more elaborate snow globe, add tiny objects to "float" in the water, use a drop of coloured oil to create a swirling effect or use food colouring in the water. Or, instead of using just white or just silver glitter, mix the two coloured glitters. Silver tends to fall faster, the white floats more. Putting them together creates a fun effect. Use your imagination and have fun.



Things to do in Hamilton <http://www.visithamilton.co.nz>

forwarded by Lara Kenny

Lake Rotoroa ('The Hamilton Lake') The 3.8 km scenic path around the lake makes it a suitable venue for walking, cycling or running. Take a picnic and enjoy.

Hamilton Gardens: Whether you want to stop in for an hour or a day, there is something for everyone at Hamilton Gardens.

Waikato Museum & Excite (Interactive Science) 1 Grantham Street (Open daily 10:00am – 4:30pm <http://www.waikatomuseum.org.nz/>)

Waikato River Walkways: A recently completed 11km walkway along both banks of the Waikato River which runs through the centre of Hamilton offers endless opportunities to walk, ride bikes and watch boats on the river. Whether you want to relax and unwind, or burn off some energy with a run or walk, this is the perfect place for that.

The Hamilton Astronomical Society's prime goal is to provide people with an opportunity to learn about astronomy and to share their enthusiasm with like minded people.

<http://www.has.org.nz/index.html>

Hamilton Zoo, 183 Brymer Road, Dinsdale, home to over 600 animals native and exotic animals, each with its own unique identity. 9am to 5pm.

Walkways and cycleways: Hamilton City now has an extensive network of walking and cycling routes across parks, through gullies, alongside the Waikato River and on roads.

http://hamilton.co.nz/page/pageid/2145824984/Walkways_and_Cycleways

Taitua Arboretum: is a collection of mature trees covering 20 hectares of open pasture, lakes and woodland gardens linked by a network of walking tracks and bridges. The park also features great views and wonderful bird life. Lovely areas for picnicking. Open 7 days from 8am to half an hour before dusk.

Go Karts:

Daytona Indoor Raceway, 46 Sunshine Avenue, Te Rapa

or

Full Throttle Karts, Corner of Avalon Drive and Forest Lake Road 8470755

or

Blastacars, 82 Duke Street 846 6455

Callum Brae Family Golf Centre - mini golf, pitch and putt, play area, food/beverages.

Callum Brae Drive (off Hukanui Road) - Open 7 Days - 9am till dusk (Weather permitting)

Leisure Hits Fun Park - mini golf, driving range and baseball batting, 97 Borman Road

The Bowlevard has **Tenpin bowling**, **Megazone laser tag** (over 7 yr olds), Timezone and Blend Café all under one roof! (Level 2 of the SKYCITY Hamilton complex)

Miniature Trains. Minogue Park, Tui Avenue. Trains are currently operating every Sunday, between 10:30am and 3pm (weather permitting). \$2 per ride or 10 Fares (Concession) \$15

Extreme Edge Indoor Rockclimbing, 90 Greenwood Street 847 5858

Roller Skating: Public sessions: Sundays 10.00am to 12 noon and Thursdays 7.00pm to 9.00pm.
Melville Park, Normandy Avenue 847 4527

Swimming pools: - **Waterworld's** under-cover pools and hydrosides offer endless in-water activities. Open till 9pm each day. Garnett Ave, Te Rapa
- **Gallagher Aquatic Centre, Collins Rd Melville. Weekdays till 9pm, weekends and public hols till 8pm**

Skateboard Parks

Chedworth Park	Carlyle Avenue
Elliott Park	Hyde Avenue
Fairfield Park	Clarkin Road & Heaphy Terrace
Melville Park	Normandy Avenue

Outside Hamilton

Candy Land, Henry Road RD1, Taupiri. Open 10AM - 5PM Candy making shows weekends
10.30am & 1pm phone 07 824 6818

Donkey Farm, 372 Whitikahu Road, Gordonton. Phone: (07) 824 3735

Waingaro Hot Springs 3 hot-water pools. New Zealand's longest hot-water slide, bumper boats, private spa pools, children's play area, gas BBQs (under cover), poolside canopies and camp store. Animals, deer park and aviary. Open Daily 9.00am to 9.30pm. 825 4761

Winter Crafts, Activities and Printables for Children

forwarded by Lara Kenny

<http://dltk-holidays..com/winter/crafts.html>

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/winter/>

<http://www.apples4theteacher.com/holidays/winter/kids-crafts/>

http://www..daniellesplace.com/html/winter_crafts.html

<http://www.busybeekidscrafts.com/Winter-Activities-for-Kids.html>

<http://crafts..kaboose.com/holidays/seasons/winter/>

On line Games for children *forwarded by Lara Kenny*

Pooh's corner <http://www.poohscorner.us/pageinfo.html>

Pre-school learning games http://www.preschoolexpress.com/game_station.shtml

Seussville: Click on the Playground link for many games. <http://www.seussville.com>

Count Us In games - designed to help children understand basic concepts in mathematics.

<http://www.abc.net.au/countusin/games.htm>

Web Tots: online toddler & kids games <http://www.webtots.co.uk/>

Calvary Kids: online Christian games, printable pages, devotions, teen corner and more

<http://www.calvarywilliamsport.com/kids-index.html>