

THE HOME EDUCATORS NETWORK

Term 4 . 2012

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TERM DATES:

Monday 15th October –
Thursday 20th December

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

Telescope:

- Marietta Smith 849 9491

Microscope:

- Lori Silsbee 855 0110

Library:

- Sheena Harris

- Veronica Garcia Gill

THEN Library hours at Parents Place for term 4

Thu 25th Oct : A volunteer is
required in order to open.

Tue 6th Nov : 2:30 to 4pm

Thu 22nd Nov : 2:30 – 4pm

Tue 4th Dec : 2:30 – 4pm

Thanks to all those people who contributed or replied to me with information for this edition of THEN. I would especially also like to thank Margaret Evans and Cally Brown for their advice.

Margaret won't know this but she actually gave me an idea for a new section of the newsletter which I've called "Introducing ...". In this section we'll have a few families introduce themselves to the rest of our network. This term Josella kindly emailed me from PNG with her contribution. How cool is that! For next term's newsletter we already have a few people lined up who didn't quite have the time for this edition ... yeah!

We were advised by NZ Post that the last edition of the newsletter (wasn't that a really good read!) was too thick for standard postage. Whilst they let us off we are trying to slim the newsletter down a little so as not to incur extra costs. At the last THEN meeting it was "decided that as of the beginning of 2013, THEN will charge postage costs to people wanting a hard copy of their newsletter sent to them. The charge for this will be \$10/year."

Lastly, I sincerely apologise for the lateness of this newsletter. It took me a little longer to compile than I had anticipated but now that I think I may now know how things work it should be out a bit earlier in future.

Happy home educating, Lisa Piggott (Editor)

The Home Educators Network
www.thehomeeducatorsnetwork.org.nz
P.O. Box 275, Hamilton
Email inquiries to thenmail@gmail.com

CONGRATULATIONS

"Congratulations to the following home educated children who gained entry (from placing 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in their division at their respective local competitions) and represented home educators well at the recent 2012 Waikato Year 2-6 Regional School Gymsport Festival

Zachary Moir, 1st Overall, Mens Artistic Gymnastics Flyers Club division

Hannah Grant, 5th Overall, Womens Artistic Gymnastics Twisters Novice division

Alyssa Naude, 9th Overall, Womens Artistic Gymnastics Twisters Novice division

Sydney Steele, 10th Overall, Womens Artistic Gymnastics Twisters Novice division

It would be great to see more home educated students entering their local competitions, and hopefully again experience success at the regional competition next year!"

Watch this space – Oral Communication Assessments

Next year, near the start of the first term, I will be running Oral Communication Assessments for home school children. These are designed to meet the criteria of the school curriculum in the area of spoken communication skills. They provide an opportunity for the children to present a speech, recite a poem or do some drama and be assessed by an independent and qualified examiner. Examinations are available from year 1 level up to the year 12 level. The children will be examined in groups, with the children in the group usually being at a similar level. Certificates and badges are available for the successful participants. In my experience most students who sit oral assessments pass. So if you are thinking about options for next year as this year draws to a close this could be worth considering.

Margaret Evans

THEN INFORMATION EVENING

Following discussions with the Auckland Home Educators and within THEN, we have decided that it would be good to be able to offer an evening where parents who are considering Home-educating can come and find out more from those who already do!

We are looking for a few volunteers who would facilitate such a meeting. It's NOT a big commitment, but if you can remember how uncertain you were before you began and all the questions you had - perhaps you could realize the benefit of such an event. It may only be held twice yearly, at the most, termly. To give you an idea of what would be involved, we think that this could give you an indication:

- *1 person to organize the advertising of this e.g. newspaper community notices, libraries, e-mail etc.*
- *1 person to arrange venue and receive bookings from interested families.*
- *1 person to chair the meeting - welcome everyone, introduce those who will share etc., invite questions.*
- *2 or 3 people willing to share their home-schooling journey, preferably from different types of philosophies e.g. unschooling, structured curriculum, somewhere in between!*

I envisage this team working together either via a meeting beforehand (particularly just to get it going, once there's a 'formula' it'll be much easier on subsequent events) and then keeping in touch with the occasional e-mail.

If you think you might be able to contribute to any of the above roles or anything else connected, I would love to hear from you!

Thank you for your consideration and I await your enthusiastic response! :-)

*Sheena Harris
ph. 07 9811343
e-mail: sheenaharris.cm@btinternet.com*

INTRODUCING ...

Hello, my name is Josella Hagoort, though some of you reading this might remember me better as 'Josie Bodle'. Eileen - my mother - home schooled my brother (Andrew) and I. Andrew was home schooled until completion, whereas I was home schooled until the 3rd form (year 9).

I fondly remember my home school years. Many days and hours were spent learning in many different ways and places and while spending hours upon hours playing and learning with my friends long lasting relationships were formed. One of my closest friends was also home schooled and to this day we are still very close. The bonds you form with other home schooled children and parents are very strong and you will always have something in common with them.

Now it is my turn to be the home school mother! I have three little ones that I have just started to home school this year. Chloe will be seven in December, Isaiah has just turned five and Sjannette (pronounced Sha-net) is three and a half. Currently we live in Huntly where my husband, Logan, is studying at Laidlaw College via distance to get his Bachelor of Theology.

Before we decided to home school, our eldest daughter spent a year at school. She did really well there, enjoyed her time and finished her first year at school a few years ahead of her age academically. Originally, Logan had reservations about home schooling the children, he went right through a Christian school system, the majority of which through the Hamilton Christian School. Because of his experience with the time spent at school he was concerned that I would not be able to manage both home schooling and running a home, let alone other responsibilities around life. But after much discussion we felt that the right choice for our family at this time was to home school our children.

Home schooling three little ones can be hard work, but it can be fun too and is always rewarding. Seeing each child learn at their own pace and seeing them come to terms with new concepts in their own way is a real joy to me as their 'teacher'.

I enjoy the flexibility that comes with home schooling with being able to start our 'schooling' time early in the morning or later in the day depending on what we are doing or, more often than not, what the children are doing. We are able to slow down and take life easy if that is what we need, or to fill up our week with the delights of learning. Being able to include our extended family in the children's education, such as my mother, who as an ex-home school parent, is able to participate through things like piano lessons, reading to the children, doing activities with them, and more importantly (to me anyway) share her knowledge and experiences of her home schooling journey with me is a great advantage. Another advantage to being able to set our own schedule is being able to take 'holidays' when the children's Opa and Oma are here from overseas so that we can spend as much quality time with them as possible.

I do not use a set program for home schooling but rather an eclectic style of teaching. I use some text books and printed worksheets, but also as much as possible I aim to integrate what the children are learning into our everyday lives. We learn as a family with both Logan and I getting involved and Chloe (6) especially enjoying 'teaching' us what she has learnt.

As we have only been home schooling for two terms so far we are definitely all still learning. Discovering what works for us all as a family and also what works for each individual child. Some days/weeks we spend our time learning about life, how to keep a house functioning, how to take time out to care for ourselves when we need it, how to look around us and to learn through what we see and what we do. We learn and investigate things together. The children are learning that mummy and daddy do not know everything but together we can learn new things.

INTRODUCING ...

I, Lisa Piggott, am originally from across the ditch, the shopping Mecca Melbourne to be precise. Seventeen years ago I accepted a 2 year transfer with the International Shipping Company that I was working for. I was a dedicated career girl and after spending a few months travelling the US, I arrived in Auckland to take up my new position. Just two weeks after arriving in the country, I met Iain. We lived what I suppose you could call was a very yuppy lifestyle. We had a house near the bay, the obligatory dogs to walk along the waterfront, we ate out two or three times a week, had a housecleaner (Oh how I miss that!) went on yearly overseas holidays and had busy and challenging careers. I had never even heard of homeschooling and even if I had I doubt I'd have considered it.

Fast forward six years and we had a sweet, wee girl, Tehana. Two years later, another little blessing, our cheeky Samara arrived, and we were no longer living in the Auckland inner city. We now lived in rural Te Kauwhata on a wee lifestyle block. We thought a rural lifestyle would be healthier and better for the children, I have no idea why, as both Iain and I were born and bred city people. These days we have cows, chickens, goats, etc. and I no longer try and wander around the paddocks in my high heels, much to the locals amusement I am sure.

As earlier mentioned, I knew nothing about homeschooling and then one day whilst in the local toy library the lady who worked there brought it up. Her preschooler was being babysat by a homeschooling family on the days she worked there. I was absolutely fascinated by this thing called "homeschooling" and went home and started to look into it further. Tehana had been having nightmares (she woke crying in the night) about the thought of going to school and so we'd considering waiting until she was six years old before sending her to one. We agreed that I'd homeschool her for just that year. These were famous last words! That first year we had a blast; we did fumble our way along for a while as I didn't know anyone at all who homeschooled but we survived and she flourished. I probably panicked and worried too much about her education and socialization and should have been more laid back, but I really was clueless.

The girls are now 10 and 8 and fully immersed into the homeschooling lifestyle. At times I need to nag them and at other times I need to nag myself. Yes, I still have those days when I wonder if it wouldn't be easier just to send them out the door off to some poor unsuspecting teacher. Yet I know that they are blossoming in this environment so in the end I don't. I suppose if you want to put us in a box, we are classical, eclectic learners. We use some curriculum, like math-u-see, others for language subjects, etc. but I also like to make up lap books and do eclectic studies to avoid boredom for both me and them.

I adore making up schedules, and planners and do "try" and keep to them but, really who am I kidding! My girls do like me to make them for them as they really like to work through a list. I find if I am having a busy day they can often work away on their lists and call me when they need help. I have had Samara work her way through the list before I have even got out of bed, in my defence she's an early riser and really likes her schoolwork! Tehana would much prefer to be doing something arty or sporty.

We three girls are involved in GirlGuides New Zealand and have been for nearly six years now. Both my girls also love horse riding, looking after their goats, swimming, gymnastics and dancing but are equally happy on their little motorbike or learning to fish and shoot with their dad.

The downside of homeschooling for me is the constant challenge and struggle to keep up with the housework and I never seem to find time to look after myself. Iain works shifts at the Auckland airport, so there's extra pressure when I have to look after the farmlet and everything else, almost by myself. Thankfully it doesn't last for long as his shifts change constantly but it does mean it is rare for me to ever get any time alone. Saying this I wouldn't have it any other way, except for maybe having a cleaner again and oh yes, being able to go to the loo without hearing ... "muuuuum, where are you?"

BLOGS IN NEW ZEALAND

There are some brilliant blogs out there but many of them are from our friends in the US. I thought it would be nice to share some of our very own Kiwi ones with you.

http://homeschoolingkiwistyle.blogspot.co.nz/2012_05_01_archive.html

We are a Christian home-schooling family consisting of Dad, Mum, four daughters and one son.

<http://bankwhitt.wordpress.com/>

<http://romankidshomeschoolacademy.blogspot.co.nz/>

Homeschooling family (six kids) in Rotorua, New Zealand

<http://www.cynthiahancox.com/>

This is Cynthia's internet site but you can link through to her blog from here.

<http://www.dreamforthree.co.nz/about/>

Homeschooling family of three (situated in Northland).

<http://www.rosieboom.com/>

Renowned author, homeschooler and mother of six (3 graduates) from Northland.

<http://rabbits-nest.xanga.com/>

Mother of 10, a home educator - still teaching the youngest 4 children, wife to farmer of sheep, cattle & mussels.

<http://rachellarkinblog.wordpress.com/about-2/>

Rachel Larkin homeschooling her 3 boys with her husband of 19 years.

<http://www.last-in-line.info/p/more-about-us.html>

My husband of 24 years, Dn, and I are blessed with 2 children, Bobs (12) and Daisy (10): who quite enjoy having internet aliases and from time to time let me prattle on here, at length, about their individual homeschooled successes, or struggles.

<http://katherinearmon.blogspot.co.nz/>

Homeschool mum, writer and photographer living in Auckland

BLOGS by THEN MEMBERS

This is what I am pretty excited about ... a few blogs by some of our very own THEN members. Please make sure you visit and support them as most of them were very shy about sharing their musings with you, and they didn't think anyone would be interested. I've had a chance to view them (see why this took longer than I thought it would) and they are all just lovely. We have some amazing, diverse homeschooling families around!

<http://pononga.wordpress.com/>

Lori Silsbee - We began our blog in 2006, after a number of our Northern Hemisphere friends and family members asked to hear more of the nitty-gritty about our life down under in New Zealand. I enjoy sharing various bits of our mixed-culture life, including pieces that may be humorous or [hopefully] inspiring. The blog is written from a Christian worldview. At this stage of homeschooling and parenting, I have more ideas than time to write, so the quantity of posts is not prolific.

<http://www.homestead-heart.blogspot.co.nz/2012/06/i-did-think-it-was-wierd.html>

Laura Martin - A blog about family life, the garden, around the house projects and the occasional bit of thinking aloud. "Saved and thankful. Married to my Handsome Honey who is a pastor and shepherd of His flock. Mama to 4 of the sweetest blessings I have ever had the privilege of knowing. Owner of a crazy but adorable spaniel. Gardener, scribbler, tea drinker, furniture painter, homeschooler, day dreamer..... that's me. "

<http://sixofusnz.blogspot.co.nz/>

Hayley Morris - "This blog is just a little record of what we do, when we do what we do....Our kids rock, and we want to keep them rocking, so we freeschool. Love to hear your feedback soz don't be afraid to comment"

<http://juliejungle.blogspot.co.nz/>

Julie Wallace-Cooley - Julie's a new homeschooler to a sweet wee boy and a pretty wee preschooler.

<http://multi-tasking-mama.blogspot.co.nz/>

Lisa Piggott - Just my ramblings about the things we do (mostly the girls as mylife seems to revolve around them!) in our everyday life. It started as a way to keep my family (OK mainly my mum!) and friends in Aussie up to-date with our lives but has become a bit more of an online diary. I find I do tend to blog more in my head than online.

LARA'S LINKS AND LEARNINGS...

Summer Fun Links to check out:

Summer activities, crafts, etc

<http://www.dltk-holidays.com/summer/index.html>

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

http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/summer_crafts_for_kids.htm

<http://www.apples4theteacher.com/holidays/summer/>

<http://holidays.kaboose.com/summer/>

<http://www.stretcher.com/stories/03/03jul21h.cfm#.UGPpuLJISHMlist>

http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/summer_activities.htm

<http://www.angelfire.com/dc/childsplay/craftrecipes4.htm>

Water Fun Ideas

<http://www.kidactivities.net/category/games-outside-water.aspx>

<http://www.clever-toddler-activities.com/water-play.html>

<http://pinterest.com/sixkds4us/summer-water-play-ideas/>

Staying safe

To keep your child safe while playing with water, make sure to always supervise your baby or toddler. Accidents can happen in a second - and can be silent - so if the phone rings, or someone's at the door, pick your child up and take her with you. Once you're finished playing, empty all play pools, buckets and containers so they're not a drowning risk.

Hamilton/Waikato Activities - The diverse Hamilton & Waikato region provides an abundance of free activities and attractions so you can experience the wonders and hidden gems of the region on any budget.

- Hamilton Gardens. Cobham Drive - Immerse yourself in another country and time as you step from an Italian Renaissance Garden into a Chinese Scholars Garden and many more. Stop for a picnic beside the lake or playground and relax in the wide open spaces before continuing to exploring the 58 hectares.
- Hot water beach – Ocean Beach Road, Kawhia - Head to the end of Ocean Beach road at low tide , climb over the sand dunes down onto the beach, look for the hot water bubbling to the surface, then start digging to create your very own natural hot water spa.
- Maungatautari – Tari Road, Pukeatua - Maungatautari Ecological Reserve has many native bird species being released and nurtured in the mountain environment. The easy walks virtually guarantee a view of endangered New Zealand bird species.
- Mokena Geyser – Te Aroha Domain, Te Aroha - Resting quietly at the base of Mt Te Aroha behind the Te Aroha Mineral Spa, is the world’s only hot soda spring geyser. While you’re there take a walk up or around Mt Te Aroha with great views and quaint waterfalls.
- Kaimai Cheese & Over the Moon Dairy Company - Watch the cheese-making process at these boutique, award winning cheese factories.
- Kaimai Cheese: 2 Hawes Street, Waharoa Matamata
- Over the Moon: 33 Tirau Street, Putaruru
- Kiwiana Walk – Main Street, Otorohanga - Otorohanga, proudly celebrates all things kiwi; from No 8 wire to the pavlova and the iconic buzzy bee. Follow the Kiwiana walk through the covered walkway gallery which explores the history and quirky side of kiwi culture.
- Lake Rotoroa (Also known as Hamilton Lake). Plenty of open space for a picnic or to kick a ball around, or let the kid’s burn off some energy on the large playground. The lakeside walk provides picturesque views and you can feed the ducks as well as providing a popular fitness area.
- Waikato River – throughout the region. Try a spot of fishing, or head out on your boat or kayak to explore the river. If you are in Hamilton City the River walks and cycleways are a great way to take in the sights and explore the other side to the city.

Museums & Art Galleries – throughout the region - Take a step back in time and immerse yourself in the colourful stories, strong history, and unique collections of the region. Many of the Museums and Art Galleries throughout the region are free entry.

<http://www.hamiltonwaikato.com/articles/museum-guide>