

TEACH Bulletin

Thorough Education Achieved in a Caring Home

Number 37

April 2000

Businesses Rate Values Over Qualifications

Home Educators have been saying for some time now that academic qualifications are not everything. The following extract from a *NZ Herald* article by Bronwyn Sell of 24 April 2000 may help to further calm the fears that many home educators continue to have regarding the importance of paper qualifications such as School Certificate, Bursary and their upcoming replacement, the NCEA.

Values will never entirely eclipse qualifications in such professions as law and medicine, but employers of all sizes are increasingly looking beyond the *curriculum vitae* and into the soul of a prospective employee.

"I hire people based firstly on their character, then on their ability," said Peter Allen, who runs a small accountancy business in Drury, South Auckland. "I have proved that knowledge can be gained on the job, but it is the character of the person that makes the difference between success and failure in business."

Mr Allen also homeschools his children, and said they majored in character development "because I know that it will equip them well for whatever careers they choose."

More and more employers were acknowledging the need to educate sensitive, creative and socially minded citizens. A survey by Colmar Brunton Research found that employers rated a number of items ahead of qualifications. The list, in descending order of importance, is:

- Reliability
- Motivation
- Work as part of a team
- Presentation
- Confidence
- Employment history
- Work-related skills
- Experience in industry

Previous training and finally, Qualifications

The recruiters at accounting firm Ernst & Young look for much more than an ability to balance the books. There also has to be a balance in the applicant's life outside work, according to marketing manager Marnie Jane Dyke. "All work and no play makes for a boring office." Staff have identified five core values: know clients inside out; strive for gold and deliver what is promised; keep a balance, energise others and have fun; trust and be trustworthy; and communicate well.

Shell in New Zealand calls its culture shift to a values-driven

A major shake-up of the tertiary sector seems certain under the new Labour government.

The party promised before the election it would dismantle the free-market funding model within the tertiary sector, and Associate Education Minister Steve Maharey, who's now in charge of tertiary education, has already sent strong signals that he intends to deliver, probably by the next academic year.

Universities and polytechnics will be encouraged to differentiate themselves from their competition by developing specific areas of expertise. Financial incentives will be used to encourage that differentiation; competition will be reduced in favour of co-operation.

A new Tertiary Education

company "the transformation". It surveyed staff two years ago and came up with some core values: integrity; respect for people; taking a long-term view; being professional; and taking pride in Shell "without arrogance". "We've completely re-engineered ourselves based on these values," said spokeswoman Anna Caird. The company uses the values as a benchmark to recruit and appraise staff.

Ponsonby Pies, a family business with 38 employees, is a much smaller company with a big emphasis on ethics. Director Katrina Cole said loyalty and commitment were probably the most important traits in employees, and trust and mutual respect were vital values in the company. "You treat people like you would like to be treated."



Advisory Commission, consisting of around seven people, will provide ongoing advice on the changes.

Maharey claims universities are presently "dumbing down" and teaching only the courses that they know will attract students. He wants universities to develop reputations for specialist areas of study, and to identify centres of excellence that he believes can be further expanded. He wants institutions to become known for their particular strengths, as happens in California.

Maharey says the competitive model would have eventually resulted in, for example, Massey and Victoria offering virtually the same courses, as each positioned itself to fight for students in the most popular areas. Other courses -

(Continued on page 2)

5th Annual
TEACH Forum
Mon. 27 March, 2000
Christchurch

A Verteran Reports

This was the fifth annual TEACH Forum and I believe the first to be held in the South Island. Apparently I have attended each year for the last four years (really ?), so I guess it has become a habit now, or is it an addiction?

Serving the needs of home educators on a regular basis can be a thankless task. There seems to be a public expectation that we should perform "as regularly and as well as" full time paid workers in community or government organisations. This requires a level of enthusiasm and efficiency that is not always easy considering the voluntary nature of support groups. The fact that as volunteers we already have full time jobs as parents and educators can mean we have added pressures and are more at risk of burn-out.

The beginning of each academic year starts slowly and a little

reluctantly for me. The holidays never seem long enough to catch up on that pile of reading and all those domestic chores left undone. I suffer from post-holiday blues. People require things of me and I'm a bit grumpy.

Fortunately in February or March of each year the Home Education Foundation hosts the annual TEACH Leadership Forum - peer support for support group volunteers.

This national forum of veteran home educators provides the stimulation and focus I need to kick-start my year. I'm one of those right-brained artistic types who need to see the BIG picture, to have a creative vision and sense of purpose. Meeting with people from different parts of the country with different experiences and expertise in order to discuss national issues is a wonderfully stimulating and morale-boosting activity. As individuals, we can return to our support groups with updated knowledge, renewed vigour and a clearer focus for the year ahead.

It was a great experience to visit with Christchurch home educators this year, most of whom I've never met before. Such a dynamic group of people, so experienced and organised, had a lot to offer. Together we brainstormed ideas and discussed a variety of important issues affecting our lives as home educators: the promotion of home education to the general public, the role of churches and pre-schools in promoting home education, getting home education books and magazines into public libraries, funding and continued access to the National Library,

possible access to educational resources such as the correspondence school, secondary education and new NZQA proposals, regional differences in the exemption process and ERO reviews, truancy officers and the rights of home educated children, student ID cards, the needs of home educators with special needs children and dealing with social welfare agencies, the role of regional groups, legal requirements and tax status options for new support groups.

There's still a lot of work to be done in home education support, so why work in isolation; why not problem solve together? Synergy is the creative co-operation between groups of people, while valuing each others' differences, to create new alternatives.

The next TEACH Forum will be held in Wellington at the beginning of 2001. I will be there. I really hope you will join me.

Kathy Lane

(Continued on page 3)

TEACH Bulletin

is a monthly publication of the Home Education Foundation, and is concerned with those things which may impact on home educators. Articles will deal with political developments, statist and professional trends, correspondence with educationalists, and other items of general interest to home educators. Information herein is not to be construed as legal advice. Opinions expressed in TEACH Bulletin are those of the writer and should not be assumed to reflect those of the Home Education Foundation Trustees or Board of Reference Members.

TEACH Bulletin is available for a subscription of \$16 per year for 11 issues (none in December) or two years for \$30.

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Hear, my son, your father's
instruction, and reject not your

(Continued from page 1) **Co-operation** - those which are more expensive to run, but which might have provided essential graduates for economic development -- would have been dropped.

"Our model will be more responsive to educational and research drivers, and less responsive to strict market criteria. The Tertiary Education Advisory Commission is being set up to help us design the policies which will allow this to happen."

Career-educationalist Norman Kingsbury is to chair the newly-established Tertiary Education Advisory Commission (TEAC). Mr Kingsbury has a long and distinguished career in tertiary education. He is currently the Chief Executive of the New Zealand Qualifications Authority.

(From *Massey* [Palmerston North], Issue 8, April 2000, pp. 11-12.)



Trading Post



Wanted:

Audio Tapes "Scripture in Song", Vol 1 & 2, "Songs of Praise".

Contact:

Mrs Burge
Scarborough Rd.
R.D. 3
Pahiatua
ph. 025 246-7349

For Sale:

The Penguin Historical Atlas of Ancient Greece (new).....\$20

Contact:

M. Posthuma
ph. (09) 479-6804
Auckland

For Sale:

Bob Jones

Math 4 Student Work text.....\$20
Math 5, Teachers Ed + Student workbook.....\$40
Reading 3-1 Student text.....\$10
Reading 3-2 Student text.....\$10
Reading 3-2 Work text.....\$10
Reading 4 Work text.....\$20

Maths Plus for NZ Schools 4....\$5
Read Well 5.....\$8
Books all unmarked, most new & unused.

Contact:

Karen Reid
ph/fax (09) 837-4797
54 Fairdene Ave.
Henderson
West Auckland

For Sale:

Mathematics in Action - MacMillan (Intermediate Level).....\$10
HBJ Maths 4.....\$10
HBJ Maths 6.....\$10
HBJ Maths 6, Teachers Edition.....\$10
ABeka God's Gift of Language B.....\$10
& Teacher/test key.....\$10
ABeka Swells & Shells, Level D.....\$10
Abeka Language 3.....\$10

Contact:

Ph. (07) 855 3386

(Continued from page 2) **TEACH Forum**
Auckland

A First-Timer's View

On Monday 27th March, a group of home educators from around the country gathered at St Christopher's Church in Christchurch for a breakfast of bread and jam and donuts. Not having been to a TEACH Forum before, I was a little unsure of what was going to be discussed but soon found that it was to be a very practical meeting with ideas flying from one end of the country to the other. Each person there had something useful to share that will be of help to the other groups, from getting free copies of home schooling magazines, to what is being done locally to promote home education. Issues such as reviews came up, and discussion on this particular one yielded a few ideas to be worked on at a national level.

Home Education Awareness Week was discussed at length with numerous ideas for promoting home education being put forward, including moving HEAW to the end of term 3. The reasoning behind this being that it would give interested parents the holidays to get their heads around the concept of home schooling or to get their exemption if they were really keen converts. Much is being done around the country, and being able to share our efforts with one another has a double benefit. One group can build on what another group is doing without having to start from scratch themselves, thus saving precious time and energy. A cohesive effort builds a strong inner framework which presents to the general public and the authorities a focused and credible group of people working together for the good of home education. Forums such as this one are a very valuable way of sharing experiences, expertise and information with each other as well as being a lot of fun! I would encourage each group to send a representative to the next one; you may save yourself a lot of time and energy by doing so.

Jill Hanna

A Meeting with the Minister

On Tuesday 4 April 2000, seven home educators from around the country visited the Minister of Education, the Hon Trevor Mallard, and Liz Gordon, Alliance MP and Chair of the Science and Education Select Committee.

These were introductory visits to demonstrate to the government that there are a number of home education organisations and networks who are working together. The home educators were: Peter George, Hamilton, of the National Council of Home Educators; Kathy Lane, Auckland, of Auckland Home Educators (AHE); Sharon Prouting, Christchurch, of Canterbury Home Educators (CHE); Mike Limmer, Christchurch, of CHE; Maureen Julian-Miles, Auckland, of AHE; Craig Smith, Palmerston North, of the Home Education Foundation; and Craig's daughter Genevieve, who was totally home educated and is now a Legal Executive with a law firm in Palmerston North.

The meeting with Mr Mallard in his Beehive office elicited from him the comments that it would be impossible to regard each home educating family as a school for funding purposes; that he would like to formulate some terms of reference before discussing MoE and ERO home education policy with home educators, and that these terms of reference may be formulated via the MoE website with input from any interested party in order to get a "balance of views"; that he would like to see a widespread consensus on the issues; that it would be wasteful to spend a lot of money reviewing home schoolers; that the vast variation in the length of time between the granting of exemptions and the initial review could be looked at; and that the terms of reference idea may appear on the MoE website in a couple of months.

Liz Gordon went straight for the

(Continued on page 4)



(Continued from page 3)

jugular: "Who are you; who do you represent; how much do you want?" In the process of explaining this, she said we gave in too quickly over the Education Legislation Amendment Bill No 2 a couple years ago which extended the powers of ERO Review Officers; she considered them somewhat extensive and was hoping to fight for us. Issues she was interested in following up included: home educators' use of the Correspondence School; selected specialist classes at secondary schools such as chemistry lab being available to home educators who want it; and ready access to resources for special needs children being home educated. She was very encouraging as she gave us advice such as agreeing on a political programme, "something coherent and modest", and getting local support groups to develop ties with their local MPs. Liz Gordon could be a key ally, for she is passionate about fighting for justice and fair treatment.



National Snapshot of NZ Home Educators

Between September 1999 and April 2000 the Waring Family had the unique experience of travelling from Dargaville and Moerewa in the Far North and Invercargill in the South, not only speaking with hundreds of home educators, but staying in their homes virtually every night. Diana Waring was asked to comment on what they'd encountered. At the April 1 Workshop in Auckland she gave a full run-down on the family's travels throughout the country and a commentary on a number of things they had observed about us Kiwi home educators. The commentary is summarised below. (A much fuller transcript of her and Bill's comments is in the May 2000 issue of *Keystone*.)

Veterans & Servants

"You have a number of veteran home schoolers, and that's good news for NZ. These kind of folks have a lot to share with you, a lot

of experience, a lot of wisdom and success stories. You also have servants in the home school community, people who are willing to work on behalf of other home schooling families, who are willing to say, "Sure, I'll organise a support group; sure, I'll put on a conference", who are willing to spend a lot of extra time in talking to people just thinking about home schooling. Appreciate them, say thank you, recognise what they're doing, and perhaps you can become one of those servants for the home schooling community as well."

Dads Passing on Their Passions

"We saw examples of this over and over and over again: Dads teaching their children what they did, having them come alongside and working with them. Dads, introduce your children to those things which you love, take them along, let them grow with you. Invest yourself in your children."

They Like Their Children

"I've seen moms who really like their children. Now this isn't exclusive to NZ, but it really was precious. In so many of the homes we stayed in, you could see such an enjoyment of the children."

High Turnover

"There are about 1,000 who start home schooling each year and about 1,000 who drop out each year. Most of those who quit probably are not graduating from home school. They jump in and then they jump out. I would like to encourage you to see the long-term effects and benefits of home schooling. It's like planting a seed. How long does it take to get it from the seed to the fruit, like an apple? It takes a long time, but is it worth it? Absolutely."

Well-Functioning Families

"We've seen families who absolutely have fun together as families, who work together, share together, eat together, prepare food together, clean-up-the-house-really-quickly-before-the-guests-arrive together, who say, "Sure we don't mind if you have our bedroom." Everything is together. It is the essence of home schooling."

Fear over Paper Qualifications

"A lot of the questions we fielded had to do with School Cert, bursaries, how do you get into university. What we've seen is a lot of fear. We have met some of the young people in NZ who don't have bursary or School Cert yet are getting into universities and into programmes they are not supposed to be able to get into. In the USA we've seen every major university open their doors and change the requirements for home schoolers; they love home schoolers because our kids have learned how to think and how to work independently. They do very well in university situations, in the work place and in starting up their own businesses, by the way. You just need to teach NZ employers and universities who you are. It's not a them and us: they don't know you, they don't understand."

Supportive Support Groups

"Support groups who really support each other in wonderful ways are really helpful...when you're honest and work with each other. Look for opportunities to serve each other, for the chance to encourage one another."

Maori Home Schooling

"I was really excited to meet some Maori families home schooling. I think home schooling is the most powerful thing to happen in families in the last couple of hundred years. It's restoring people. It's restoring children. It's restoring parents in all kinds of ways. We've seen that here, and I'm very excited about it."

The Remarkables

"The *Keystone* magazine that Craig & Barbara Smith put out, in my mind, is head and shoulders above any other home schooling magazine in the world. You have remarkable laws, remarkable freedoms for home schooling and remarkable people defending you. Thank you for letting us into your hearts and lives and for coming into our hearts. We'll never be the same."



Diana Waring Tour, II

Part I has come and gone. Part II is partly over. The Waring spoke to hundreds of home schoolers in Northland, Auckland, Waikato and the Bay of Plenty and many more via a Radio Rhema talkback programme last September. They have since visited home educators in Rotorua, Raetihi, Stratford, Wanganui, Palmerston North, Otaki, Hastings, Masterton and Porirua. See them when they are near you!

Tentative Timetable: this will change slightly

22 Feb Port Ligar in Marlborough Sounds

3 March Top of the South Christian Home Educators' Seminar, Bridge Valley Christian Ranch, Wakefield

contact Raewyn (03)576-5238
email shand@ts.co.nz
10am - Beyond Survival - Diana
11:30am - Teen Panel - what happens when your children get beyond primary school?
12:30pm Lunch - Bring your own please

1:30pm "Different Strokes for Different Folks" - Bill & Diana. Please make arrangements for the care of your children during these sessions so we can all take advantage of hearing these messages without interruption.

3-5 March 2000 Nelson Camp

contact Raewyn (03)576-5238
email shand@ts.co.nz
Bridge Valley Christian Ranch, Wakefield. Those folk who are attending both seminar and camp are welcome to bring their own Friday night BBQ tea and cook it at camp.

3 March (Friday) 7pm Registration and Introductions

Supper and bedtime for younger children. Parents - "History via the Scenic Route" - Diana. Older children - Youth cafe.

4 March am - Dads & children -

come prepared to make yourselves simple costumes of a person in history of your choice. Mums - fireside chat time with Diana pm - Family Top Town Events: enjoy fun, fellowship and exercise together

Saturday night - Fashion Parade through History by Dads & children while Mums watch.

After Supper: bedtime for younger children. Parents - around the fire-side with Bill & Diana. Older children - "night activities".

5 March - Bill & Diana "Box Free Living" and "Things We Wish We

Had Known Before"
Children's Programme

Lunch, cleanup and farewells.

Contact for rest of South Island:

Dot (03)312-8790
i.brown@ext.canterbury.ac.nz

5 March Westport

contact Cathy (03)789-6592

kotare.dunes@xtra.co.nz

Casual evening meeting

6 March Hokitika

contact Lloyd & Sonja

(03)755-5300

Casual evening meeting

7 March Wanaka

Contact Dave & Fay ph/fax (03)

443-7170. Early morning meeting on the 8th.

8 March Te Anau

contact Nancy (03)249-8166

email nbarnes@teanau.co.nz

9 March Te Anau-Day trip to

Milford sound and boat cruise

out to ocean.

Casual evening meeting

10-11 Mar Invercargill Conference

Contact Gay Gibson

ph. (03)214-4493

Venue:

Invercargill Christian Centre

165 Leet St., Invercargill

9:00am - Registration

9:30 - Different Strokes for Different Folks - Bill Waring

10:30am - Questions

11:00am - Morning Tea

11:15am - Panel: What We Wish We'd Known

12 noon - Lunch

1:00 - Beyond Survival - Diana W

2 - 2:30pm - Questions

2:30-3pm - Parent & Teen Panel

3:00pm - Afternoon Tea

3:15pm - The Hilarious Home School

12-14 Mar Stewart Is. and/or Gore

15-16 March Dunedin

contact Erna (03)489-4026

email vans@xtra.co.nz

17-18 March Dunedin Conference

9:00am (Friday) Registration

9:15-10:30 "Beyond Survival"

10:30-11:00 Questions

11:00-11:30 Morning Tea

11:30-12:30 "The Hilarious Home School"

12:30-1:00 Questions

1:00-2:00 Lunch

2:00-3:00 Panel of parents (Diana,

Barbara, Maureen, Dot) to answer questions from new home schoolers or families considering home

schooling, eg, filling in forms, MoE requirements, ERO Re-

views, curriculum, etc. A break to give families time to

collect children, go home, have

tea and return for evening session.

7:30-8:30pm Panels: Mum's SOS;

Dads to the Rescue; Teenagers

8:30pm Feast for Fathers, a deli-

cious supper combined with some

music & skits.

18 March

9:00am Registration

9:15-10:30 "History via the Scenic Route."

10:30-11:00 Questions

11:00-11:30 Morning Tea

11:30-12:30 "Different Strokes for Different Folks"

12:30-1:00pm Questions

1:00-2:00 Lunch

2:00-3:30 Panel: Home schooling through high school

3:30-4:00 Afternoon Tea

4:00-5:30 Panel: "The Things We Wish We Had Known Before"

19 March A day for the Waring on their own in Palmerston

20 March Oamaru

contact Wendy (03)434-9107

Fireside chat

21 March MacKenzie Country

contact

craig.barbara.smith@xtra.co.nz

22 March Timaru

contact Ross and Hilary

(03)688-3604

ross@waughconsult.co.nz or

Annette (03)688-5494

Casual evening meeting

23 March Ashburton

Contact Cheryl (03)308-2606

Casual evening meeting

24 March Christchurch

pot luck lunch and afternoon mark

the inaugural AGM of the **National Council of Home Educators, NZ**; contact Peter: (07) 825-9914; ixoye@ihug.co.nz

Venue: Christophers Anglican

Church, 244 Avonhead Rd., Chch.

24-27 March Christchurch - South Island Home Educators Conference

contact Dot (03)312-8790

i.brown@ext.canterbury.ac.nz

Venue: Christophers Anglican Church, 244 Avonhead Rd., Chch.

Fri 24 March

5:00pm Pizza & Chips

6:30pm late registration

7:00pm "Beyond Survival"

Sat 25 March

9:00am late registration

9:15am "Different Strokes"

11:00am Morning Tea

11:30am "History via S.R."

1:00pm Lunch break

2:00pm Panels: Dads to the Res-

cue and Mums Share Our Secrets

3:30pm Afternoon tea

4:00pm "Ancient Civilizations

and the Bible"

5:30pm BBQ

7:00pm Young People's Panel:

Home Ed. through High School

26 March Sunday

27 March

5th Annual **TEACH Forum**, start

ing with continental breakfast and ending with BYO lunch, contact

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

(06) 357-4399

craig.barbara.smith@xtra.co.nz

For all those involved in coordinating or wanting to start support groups, newsletters etc.

Venue: Christophers Anglican Church, 244 Avonhead Rd., Chch.

South Island Home Educators Conference Continues

2:00pm History

3:30pm Afternoon Tea

4:00pm Panel "The Things We Wish We Had Known Before"

5:30pm Break

7:00pm "Box Free Living" or "Hilarious Home School"

28-29 March Leave Christchurch for fun overnight trip to Hamner Springs

30 March Palmerston North stopover

31 March Auckland

contact: Dorinda (09)480-6878

email jduthie@ihug.co.nz

1 April North Shore Workshop

Windsor Park Baptist Church, 550 East Coast Rd., Mairangi Bay, Auckland. Last chance to hear the Waring Family before they leave NZ.

10 - 11:00am - Registration, morning tea, view wide range of resources for sale.

11-12:30pm sessions

1. Ancient Civilisations of the Bible - Diana Waring

2. Preparing for Homeschooling (0-6yrs) - Rachel Haythornethwaite & Alison Haworth

3. Taking a Child out of School - Maryanne Abplanalp

4. Homeschooling a Child with Special Needs - Kate Jaunay

5. Secondary & Tertiary Qualifications for Homeschoolers - Carol Munroe, Craig and Barbara Smith

6. Life as a Homeschooled Teenager-Discussion session featuring Isaac, Michael and Melody Waring. Moderator Bill Waring (age limit 12-20 yrs)

7. Science Teaching Resources for Scientifically & Unscientifically Minded Parents - Ros Smart and Julie Carter (Please bring a magnifying glass)

8. Teaching Reading using Phonics - Gail Able

12:30-1:30pm lunch - BYO - resources available again

1:30-3:00pm HOMESCHOOLING IN

NEW ZEALAND

- What we have seen

- What we have learned

- What are the benefits

taken by Bill, Diana, Isaac, Michael and Melody Waring.

Since the beginning of September 1999, the Waring family have been

touring throughout New Zealand speaking to a wide range of homeschooling families. Along with Craig and Barbara Smith, from the Home Education Foundation, they have gained a comprehensive perspective of homeschooling in New Zealand.

This workshop is their last speaking engagement before leaving New Zealand and returning to America.

3 April departure at the Auckland airport.

NEW NEW NEW

Diana Waring History Alive email discussion group

For those who are using the Waring resources. Moderated by Barbara Smith. Your questions can be directed to Diana Waring herself when necessary. To Subscribe, email:

dwaha@xtra.co.nz

(Continued from page 3)

Local Conferences

North Shore Workshop

Saturday

1 April 2000

Windsor Park Baptist Church

Mairangi Bay
Auckland

Contact:

Dorinda (09)480-6878

jduthie@ihug.co.nz