

TEACH Bulletin

Thorough Education Achieved in a Caring Home

Number 30

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On Any Measure You Like Home Schoolers Do Better

The following came from the 1 August 1999 issue of *The Age*, a Melbourne newspaper.

Jeff Richardson, a lecturer in education at Monash University who has spent the last seven years researching home education, says: "The evidence shows overwhelmingly that these children perform extremely well, above average, when they re-enter formal education.

"That appears to be across the board, whether they sat at home and had formal lessons from the Oral Roberts School of Fundamental Christians or whether they were up-a-tree hippies who had no formal learning pattern. **On any measure you like, socially or academically, they will do better.**

"It says something about schools and how well they work but there's a control factor in place. Anybody who cares enough about the education of their children, who turns around and says I don't trust the authorities to do as good a job as I can, is virtually guaranteed to succeed."

Richardson argues that schools these days are outdated. The rigidity and conformity they demand are no longer a useful preparation for a workforce where clocking in and out and an Orwellian devotion to punctuality has been replaced by flexi-time and working from home.

"Schools are quite unnatural. To squeeze 30 or so children of the same age behind desks from nine till three is quite a strange concept when you think about it. So much of school doesn't make sense. Where else are people of the same age forced to be together? How does that teach them about socialising? Imagine organising the workplace around age groups."

Richardson reckons the new flexibility of the workforce will soon be fostered in schools, enabling the "for" and "against" camps to reach a common ground. What a lot of home educators are doing nowadays is starting to turn up at local schools and register for certain lessons. There are principals who will turn around and say, "No, sorry you have to have the whole box of dice," but more enlightened ones will say, "Yes, of course."

Hopefully one day this same enlightenment will dawn in NZ! 

Universtiy Entrance via ACE Certificates

A recent letter from Robert Steedman, ACE NZ Co-ordinator, contained some very encouraging news regarding entrance to Universities for home educated students on the ACE (Accelerated Christian Education) programme.

Enclosed was a copy of a letter from J.F. Burrows, Professor of Law, Chair of New Zealand Vice-Chancellors' Committee, Subcommittee on Entrance dated 3 June 1997. It said:

The New Zealand Vice-Chancellors' University Entrance Subcommittee have considered your request to have the ACE qualification recognised for the purpose of University Entrance. I am pleased to advise you that the Subcommittee has resolved: "That students who have obtained the ACE Year 13 Certificate of Academic Excellence, including 4 subjects designated Year 13/Seventh Form level, may be granted admission *ad eundem statum* at entrance level." Please note that this resolution

does not guarantee admission in every case, particularly where admission to a course of study is limited. Each case will be treated on its merits.

Another letter from the Academic Officer of the New Zealand Vice-Chancellors' Committee states:

If any of your home schooling families are using the ACE programme I am happy to advise you that this has already been assessed by the NZVCC and a student achieving a **Year 12 Certificate** is eligible to be considered for **provisional entrance** by a New Zealand university.

And the University of Canterbury has said:

An alternative to Sixth Form Certificate that we have accepted in the past is the ACE course with the applicant being strongly supported by his/her teachers and results.

ACE home schooling materials are

(Continued on page 3)

Desk Copy

The Achievement of Boys

The ERO produced a Publication this year with the above title. It was quite an in-depth look at the performance of boys in NZ schools, with a number of tables of relevant statistics. (This and other Reports by the ERO can be found on their website address which is www.ero.govt.nz). Below are some extracts from the ERO's Report.

There is evidence that boys and girls learn and respond in different ways, and achieve best with different teaching styles. To address boys' underachievement, teachers need to be knowledgeable about differences in the preferred learning styles and behaviour of boys and girls. They need to be able to adopt a range of teaching strategies to help accommodate the differences. This may include grouping boys and girls differently for different activities

(It is good to see official recognition of the importance of teaching

and learning styles. Teachers, like parents, are unique, and each one's personal teaching style will not suit all the pupils. To encourage teachers to learn different teaching styles to adapt to the various learning styles is to promote individualised teaching: exactly what home education is all about.)

To assess whether there are common factors affecting the quality of schools' provision for boys, this report analyses ERO findings for a sample of co-educational schools where girls achieve much better than boys in results from School Certificate examinations and vice versa. The following findings are indicated by this analysis.

The overall quality of provision in schools where girls achieve better is often very high. This supports overseas research that indicates that differences in performance between girls and boys in co-educational schools are greater in efficiently managed schools than other schools.

can be limited if schools are unable to provide a wide range of programmes, including subjects which are of particular interest to boys. This is a particular issue for small rural schools.

"There is evidence that girls are more attentive in class and more willing to learn. They do better than boys on sustained tasks that are open ended, process based, related to realistic situations, and that require pupils to think for themselves.

Boys show greater adaptability to more traditional approaches to learning which require memorising abstract, unambiguous facts and rules that have to be acquired quickly. They also appear to be more willing to sacrifice deep understanding, which requires sustained effort, for correct answers achieved at speed."¹

Although not wanting to compare a classroom environment with that of a home, there do appear to be some clear differences in the way boys and girls respond to their environment and in the type of learning that generally speaking each gender more readily assimilates. Home educating parents may be able to use these observations to advantage in their own planning and practice.

Giving boys clear, unambiguous tasks, good role models, and allowing them to pursue personal interests are all areas in which home educators can excel.

Parents must note, of course, that this puts responsibilities on them: to be clear about what is required and/or expected from the child; to be a good example in speech and action; and to be flexible enough to incorporate interests outside the comfort zone.

Note:

1. Arnot, Madeleine *et al.*, *Recent Research on Gender and Educational Performance*, Office for Standards in Education, UK, 1998.

Boys' achievement

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.

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Hear, my son, your father's instruction,
and reject not your mother's teaching.
— Proverbs 1:8



Trading Post



For Sale:

"Writing to God's Glory: A Comprehensive Creative Writing Course for Ages K through Adult" by Jill Bond.....\$70

"The Big Book of Home Learning" by Mary Pride.....\$16

Wanted:

"Before Five in a Row"

"Five in a Row"

Contact:

Sue
ph. (06) 344-3349
Wanganui

For Sale:

Unused copy of "The Heavens Declare" (Astronomy guide with full Southern Hemisphere) by James Nickel (Christian home schooler with PhD in Maths) plus the Teacher's Guide....\$35

Contact:

Phillipa Williams
ph. (06) 3787345
kelly.phillipa@xtra.co.nz

For Sale:

Young Australian Maths
Level 1 Student Bk.....\$5
Level 2 Student Bk.....\$5
Level 2 Activity Bk.....\$7
Level 2 Teachers Guide.....\$26
Level 3 Student Bk.....\$5
Level 3 Activity Bk.....\$7
Level 3 Teachers Guide.....\$26
HBJ Maths Book 1.....\$9

Contact:

Hazel Wyatt
10 Heron Pl
Pakuranga
Auckland
Ph. (09) 576-1085

(Continued from page 1)

available through:

1. ACE Australia Ltd., PO Box 5470, Brendale M.D.C., Qld 5400, fax +61 7 3205-7331, ph +61 7 3205-7444.
2. Home Education NZ, c/- Robert Steedman, 9 Ruahine St., Ohauiti, Tauranga 3001, ph (07) 544-6423, fax (07) 544-6421.
3. NZ Christian Academy, c/- David Worboys, PO Box 291, Dannevirke, ph/fax (06) 374-7945.



Wanted:

The Westminster Shorter Catechism with Cartoons.

Math 3 Saxon Workbook or teachers edition.

Contact:

Evelyn
ph. (09) 439-2077
Northland

Wanted:

A Beka

Read & Think 6; Health, Safety & Manners Bk 1 & 2; Developing Good Health; Let's Be Healthy; The History of Our United States; New World History & Geography; Order & Reality; Matter & Motion; Of the Physical Creation; Biology; Chemistry; Physics (or Bob Jones Science Books from Gr. 5 up); Of People; Background to & Masterpieces from World Literature; American & English Literature Gr. 11 & 12.

Any Saxon Maths.

Any unmarked math's texts Gr. 1-3.

For Sale:

A Beka Language B Teachers Edition.....\$25

Contact:

Jenny
ph. (07) 578-1904
Tauranga

Waikato Responds

Tania Mallett, Assistant Manager, Admissions and Records at Waikato University, wrote the following on 23 August in response to the *TEACH Bulletin's* questionnaire to all NZ Universities regarding their experiences in admitting home educators. This letter adds just that little bit more to the emerging picture:

As you are probably aware, NZ universities are limited by the Education Act when determining who can be admitted to a degree or not. Only those who have university entrance (whether through special admission, the NZUEBS examinations, or a qualification deemed equivalent or provisional entrance) can be admit-

ted to a degree. The NZVCC has assessed the Year 13 Certificate of Academic Excellence, Accelerated Christian Education (as long as at least four subjects designated Year 13 have been taken) as equivalent to university entrance. I can remember two applicants with the Year 13 Certificate who were both accepted. One had also sat American SATs and these results were also taken into account when considering her application.

We are unable to consider applications from anybody under the age of 20 who cannot provide evidence or records of their secondary school achievements (or tertiary study for those who are transferring).



(Continued from page 4)

Waring Itinerary

(16 Sept Cont'd)

together, living together, walking together. When we discover that the 'key to success' in homeschooling is found in relationships, we go beyond survival mode and into abundance. Join Diana Waring as she shares transparently and humorously the stories of their family's experiences, and the lessons learned from their homeschooling over the last twelve years.

8.00 - 9.00pm Panel options. MUM'S SOS (SHARING OUR SECRETS) - Diana Waring talks to Mums; DAD'S TO THE RESCUE - featuring Bill Waring; or THE SECRET DIARY OF A HOMESCHOOLED TEENAGER - starring Isaac Waring. A cup of tea will be provided at each session. A cry-room is available for young babies. No children please. No registration necessary - just turn up. Diana's books and tapes on homeschooling will be available for sale. Contact Lynne (07) 572-4357. Email address is g&lpaton@xtra.co.nz

17 Sept 9:45am meet at the Surf Club - Walk up Mt Mauao

18 Sept Waring's go into their YWAM course.



Diana Waring Home Education Author and Convention Speaker

Home Education Consultant and Counsellor of Home Schooling Dads **Bill Waring** and their three teenagers, Isaac, Michael & Melody.

September Itinerary (replacing earlier itineraries: this is pretty well the final schedule):

- 2 Sept Arrive Auckland 5.00a.m.: rest. Email contact jduthie@ihug.co.nz
- 3 Sept 9.00-11.00 a.m. Interview with Radio Rhema

4 Sept **South Auckland WORKSHOP** Contact: Christine (09)292-8454. Papakura Baptist Church, 55 Clevedon Road, Papakura. (See TEACH BULLETIN No. 28 June '99 for details)

5 Sept Sunday night fireside meeting in Helensville. Email contact Inglewood@xtra.co.nz

6 Sept Stop at Matakoho Kauri Museum - Early Settlers Museum. Dargaville evening meeting BOX FREE LIVING. Contact Kathy (09)439-0099. Email: randalls@xtra.co.nz

7 Sept **Whangarei Conference**. Contact Huriana (09) 436-3649 or Sharyne (09)433-5617 email contact sjfamily@igrin.co.nz. (See TEACH BULLETIN No. 29 July '99 for details)

8 Sept Leave for Kaitaia via Dargaville, Waioua Forest to visit the Big Trees, Opononi.

A casual group of homeschoolers for singing, discussion and supper. Contact Jenn (09) 408-7871

9 Sept Visit Ancient Kauri Kingdom at Awanui. Visit Paihia then boat to Russell-Russell Museum, Bay of Islands. Stay Moerewa. Contact Jill (09)404-0763. A casual meeting at 17 Massey Street.

10 Sept travel to Auckland.

11 Sept **North Shore WORKSHOP** Contact: Dorinda (09)480-6878. Email: jduthie@ihug.co.nz Windsor Park (See TEACH BULLETIN No. 28 June'99 for details)

13 Sept staying with Peter and Francis George (07)825-9914 Email contact ixoye@ihug.co.nz

10.00am to 1.00pm Hamilton Home Educators hosting an informal get together, including lunch, for the Waring and the Smiths. A possible stroll through the Hamilton Gardens afterwards.

Evening seminar 6.30 pm to 9.30pm. 2 topics "BEYOND SURVIVAL..." and "DIFFERENT STROKES FOR DIFFERENT FOLKS", with a break in between. Venue: Central Baptist Church, Charlemont St. Cost \$5.00 per adult, \$2.00 per child

14 Sept Attend the Hamilton Support Group's Family Day 10.00am to 3.30pm Venue: Central Baptist Church, normal 'Family Day' charges apply, \$5.50 per family. Bring own lunch. The Waring will be here for you to meet personally and discuss any factors of home education that is of concern to you and answer all those questions you have. They may also perform their family story-telling concert, "Yankee Doodle Tells A Tale". After the Family Day, we will travel to Waingaro Hot Springs (about 3/4hrs) where we will have a BBQ tea and enjoy a relaxing swim/soak and Hydroslide.

15 Sept Travel to Morrinsville 10.00 morning tea at Edwards then climb Mt Te Aroha and have a picnic lunch. Possible horse riding for those interested. A pot luck tea at Morrinsville Bible Chapel in Anderson Street, for everyone starting at 6 p.m. and then having an informal evening about anything. Stay in Morrinsville for the night. Contact Ann (07) 889-3797 Email contact EdwardsFamily@xtra.co.nz

16 Sept **TAURANGA BOP Conference** Contact Lynne (07)572-4357 or Jenny (07)578-1904.

Session one: Mount Baptist Church 1-5pm Cnr Ranch Rd & Tui St, Mt Maunganui \$5.00 per family. Teens welcome.

1.00pm - 2.15pm HISTORY VIA THE SCENIC ROUTE - Does history make you yawn? Are you tired of 'force feeding'? Do you yearn for a new way of presenting 'old' facts. Try using literature, music, art, science, cooking, and more! Join Diana for some fresh ideas presented in a 'sit-on-the-edge-of-your-chair-in-suspense' history approach that has captivated homeschoolers across America.

2.15pm - 3.30pm DIFFERENT STROKES FOR DIFFERENT FOLKS: LEARNING STYLES Whether you know lots or little about the learning styles of your children, this workshop can help! Join Bill as he makes the different learning styles come ALIVE through the use of skits, music, colour, comedy and concrete examples.

4.00pm - 5.00pm Panel on Teens - HOMESCHOOLING THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL. Wondering which direction to take with your children in the teenage years? Join Diana for ideas, inspiration and possibly a whole new way of looking at your children's education.

Session two: Mount Family Church 7-9pm 138 Newton Street, Mt Maunganui. \$5.00 per family.

7.00 - 8.00pm BEYOND SURVIVAL - A GUIDE TO ABUNDANT LIFE HOMESCHOOLING

- Homeschooling is far more than books, tests, schedules, and curriculums. It is learning together, laughing

(Continued on page 3)