

TEACH Bulletin

Thorough Education Achieved in a Caring Home

Number 33a — Special Edition

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Desk Copy

School Suspensions & Socialisation

A total of 3,968 students were suspended from school between April 1 and June 30 this year. That's an average of nearly 80 suspensions for each of the 50 school days in the term. It only takes the state system 17 days to boot out of their schools more students than the Ministry of Education gave exemption certificates to in all of last year!

Ministry of Education figures show that during the same quarter last year, 3,552 students were suspended...revealing an 11.7% increase this year. No matter how you slice it, things are getting bad.

A Ministry statement said the increase in students suspended showed how necessary it was to give schools a better way of dealing with student behavioural problems. But this wasn't a call to bring back the birch. No, it appears they will instead sanction a hitherto illegal practise known as "Kiwi Suspensions", where an unruly child was simply told to stay away for a while, to have some "time out", with nothing being noted on their school record.

According to Helen Sturm, Ministry Acting Operations Support Manager, new rules mean schools will now have the option of standing down a student. This allows schools to provide a warning of the need for behavioural change without going as far as suspension, the formal removal of a student from school until the board of trustees decides what to do with the student.

The greatest number of suspensions between April and June in the second quarter were for continual disobedience. These accounted for 865 suspensions or 21.8% of the total. Physical as-

saults on other students accounted for 801 or just over 20% of all suspensions. Drugs, including substance abuse, at 792 or just under 20% of the total, remained the third highest category. Other suspensions were for smoking, alcohol, physical assault on staff, sexual harassment and sexual misconduct as well as theft.

These are serious problems. And the ones documented in these reports are only the ones serious

enough to have merited the formal suspension process. The "less serious" cases of theft, drug abuse, sexual misconduct, physical assault, etc., are not even being documented.

And we haven't even mentioned head-lice epidemics!

So why is it the first criticism people level at home educators is the lack of proper socialisation as provided in schools? Such people obviously are not reading these Ministry of Education reports.

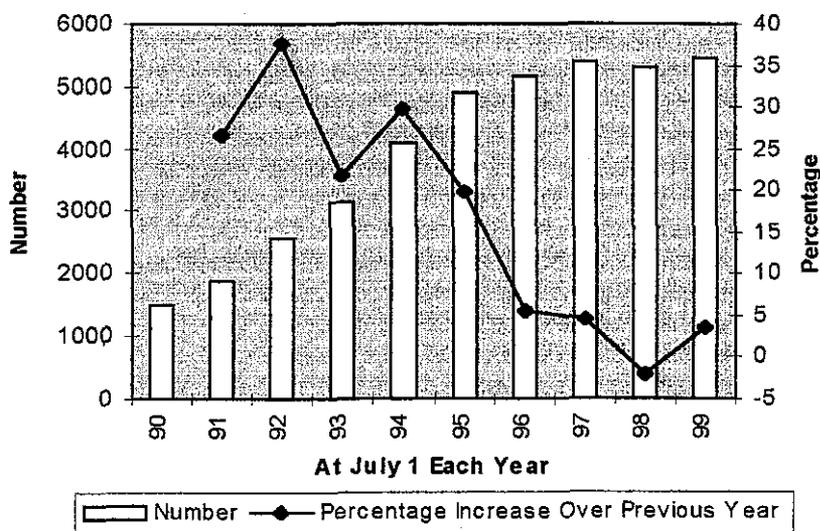
(Facts drawn from Ministry of Education Press Release of 3/09/99)



Home Educators' Numbers Increase

After an unexplained drop in total numbers last year, those home educating this year has increased to an all-time high (see Fig. 1).	1990 = 1479	
	1991 = 1873	= 26.6%
	1992 = 2578	= 37.6%
	1993 = 3141	= 21.8%
	1994 = 4074	= 29.7%
Between 1 July '98 and 1 July '99 1,296 commenced home education while 1,119 finished, showing a rather large turnover for the year.	1995 = 4882	= 19.8%
	1996 = 5151	= 5.5%
	1997 = 5384	= 4.5%
	1998 = 5274	= -2.0%
	1999 = 5451	= 3.4%

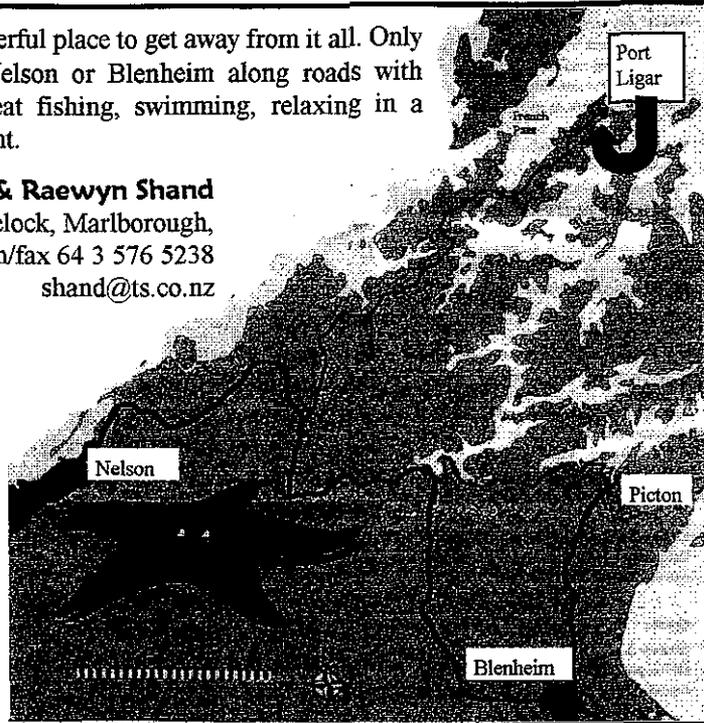
Figure 1: Home Schooled Students In NZ



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"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

(Continued on page 3)

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.

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

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.

TEACH Bulletin normally contains
 no advertising.

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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 keystone.teach@xtra.co.nz

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



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 Howick
 Auckland
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(Continued from page 2)

good a job as I can, is virtually guaranteed to succeed."

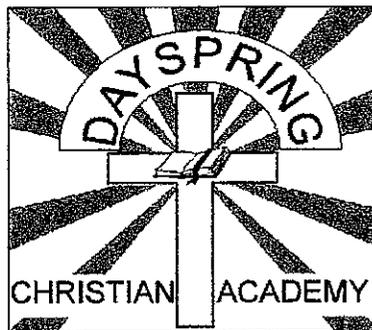
Richardson argues that schools these days are outdated. The rigidity and conformity they demand are no longer a useful preparation for a workforce where clocking in and out and an Orwellian devotion to punctuality has been replaced

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! Have your say: be sure to get a copy of the Ministry's discussion document, "Legislation for Learning" and make a reply: Ministry of Education, PO Box 1666, Wellington, ph. (04) 473-5544.



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The TimeChart of Military History 3000BC to the Present

This hardbound, 152 page book (255mm x 320mm), published by The Timechart Company of Hertfordshire, England, 1999, seems designed to let the student of military history, strategy, commanders and weaponry become totally and satisfyingly immersed in the topic. It has features to keep anyone fascinated by the scope and detail involved.

All the wars and battles of history, including the Maori wars of NZ, are listed in chronological order with generous annotations such as the names the conflicts are known by in different countries. They are also listed in an alphabetical index with date and combatant references. These same conflicts are then laid out on a single timeline, divided into various time segments per two-page spread. Each of these pages folds out to give details of the great commanders of that time period. There are additional sections on hand weapons, small arms, artillery, warships, naval air power, fortifications and armoured vehicles. Thirty-four battles from throughout history (from Marathon of 490BC to Kuwait of 1991) are illustrated with maps, field positions and statistics. Selected wars are shown in separate close up timelines, such as the Hundred Years War, Napoleonic Wars and American Civil War, plus a section on future wars. Photos and illustrations abound except on the pages of bibliography and lists of military museums and places of interest.

Only \$32.95 which includes GST and postage.

The Timechart History of Medicine

The thousands of medical developments over the centuries have been arranged according to different fields: Society, Public Health, Disease, Diagnosis, Treatment, Surgery, Healers & Teachers, Inventions & Discoveries, Mental Health, and World Events. Each of these streams can be followed across time from earliest history to the present, which is represented in nine overlapping time charts. Each of these further folds out to give extended information on particular developments within that period.

Additional separate sections deal with Disease, Pharmacy, Alternatives and The Future in an illustrated prose format. There are comprehensive annotated and illustrated lists of all the Nobel prize winners, women in medicine and contributions by countries as well as an extensive bibliography. The Fact Finder has multiple listings of names, diseases, developments, etc. Hardbound, 72 pages (255mm x 320mm), published by The Timechart Company, 1999.

Only \$27.95 which includes GST and postage.

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Home Educators' Network of Aotearoa (HENA)

established 1995

to facilitate communication
between home educators
in order to share information,
ideas and activities

quarterly magazine and phone list
of subscribers and support groups
subscription \$15 per year

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contains information on exemptions, reviews,
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HENA

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Auckland Home Educators Incorporated

AHE Inc. is a society of home educating parents living in the Auckland region who actively facilitate their children's education on a full-time basis.

The aim of AHE is to collectively improve the day to day lives of home educators by sharing information and expertise Auckland-wide and to join together as a larger body when needed, eg. to liaise with the Auckland office of the MOE or to benefit from funding opportunities normally only offered to schools, eg. Telecom's 'School Connection programme'.

Benefits of membership:

\$10 starter pack includes membership & student ID cards, resource directory, curriculum reviews, ERO reports etc.

\$20 annual subscription includes quarterly newsletter, children's and teenager's magazines, quarterly discussion forums, starters/support evenings, access to home-ed library and automatic telephone /internet messaging network. Resource fairs are held each term (new and second hand). Camps/workshops /seminars/ conferences occur when energy and funds allow.

Auckland Home Educators Inc.

PO Box 91 530, Auckland Mail Centre, Auckland 1030.

ph 09 378 0547 fax 09 378 0545 email ahe@ihug.co.nz

Diana Waring Tour, II

Part I has come and gone. The Waring's spoke to hundreds of home schoolers in Northland, Auckland, Waikato and the Bay of Plenty and many more via a Radio Rhema talk-back programme. See them when they are near you!

Tentative Timetable: this will change slightly

- 4 Feb Rotorua
contact Ros (07) 349-1450
Casual evening meeting
- 5 Feb Raetihi
contact Jenny (06)385-4859
email waldron@xtra.co.nz
Casual evening meeting
- 6 Feb Choice of climbing Mt Ruapehu, 6a.m. start, OR do the Tongariro Crossing, both for those who like tramping.
- 7 Feb New Plymouth
contact Trish (06)751-5047
email yishrael@netsource.co.nz
7:30-8:30pm "Beyond Survival"
- 8 Feb South Taranaki
contact Julie (06)764-6113
email mavery@stratford.govt.nz
Walk up Mt Egmont (Mt Taranaki) to Dawson falls.
4:00-5:00pm "The Things We Wish We Had Known Before"
Panel with Bill and Diana and a couple of locals.
5:00-6:00pm Potluck
6:30-7:30pm "Different Strokes for Different Folks" by Bill and Diana
7:30 to 8:00 Supper
8:00 to 9:00 Teenage Panel
- 9 Feb Wanganui
contact Sharyn (06)345-8393
email cabri@xtra.co.nz
5:30pm BBQ tea. Visitors: bring your own plates, cutlery, cups, meat, buttered buns, hot and cold drinks. Wanganui families will bring salads & BBQ's to share.
6:30-7:30pm Panel for dads
7:45-8:45pm Panel for mums
- 10 Feb Palmerston North
contact Megan (06) 355-2368
email gmmcleay@xtra.co.nz
7:30pm "Beyond Survival"
- 11-12 Feb Otaki camp
contact Megan (06)355-2368
- 11 Feb 6:30pm Registration
7:30pm "The Hilarious Homeschool"
- 12 Feb 9:00am "Box Free Living"
11:00am "Different Strokes For Different Folks"
1:30pm "History via the Scenic Route"
- 5:00pm Celebration Dinner-
Manawatu Home Educators is
15years old
- 7:00pm Family Variety Show
- 13 Feb 9:00am "Heroes of the Faith"
- 14-15 Feb Napier/Hastings
contact Tracey (06)835-7531
colinmacdonald@clear.net.nz
Pot luck tea, informal meeting
- 16 Feb Masterton/Carterton
contact Rosalind (06)378-7013
email derek.cressy@xtra.co.nz
Christine(06)379-7229
email tony@access-info.co.nz.
Bush walks, BarBQs and informal chats with Waring's.
- 17-18 Feb Wellington
contact Jocelyn (04)237-7590
email pyoung@clear.net.nz
Cobblestones Museum in Greytown. In Wellington to visit Te Papa, shopping etc.
- 18 Feb Mountain Bike riding and horse riding for teenagers
7:30pm Cuppa and Chat - Diana "Beyond Survival"
- 19 Feb Wellington Workshop
9:30am Registrations
10:00am Diana "History via the Scenic Route"
11:00am morning tea
11:30am Panel discussion "The Things We Wish We Had Known Before"
12:30 Lunch and registrations for newcomers.
1:45 Diana "Unlocking the Mysteries of the Middle Ages"
3:00pm Afternoon tea
3:30-5:00pm Teen Panel
- 20-21 Feb Blenheim
contact Mike & Karen
(03)578-1435
Casual evening meeting
- 22 Feb Pt Ligar in Marlborough Sounds
- 3-5 March Day Seminar and Camp
Bridge Valley Ranch, Nelson
contact Raewyn (03)576-5238
email shand@ts.co.nz
- Contact for rest of South Island:
Dot (03)312-8790
i.brown@ext.canterbury.ac.nz
- 5 March Westport
contact Cathy (03)789-6592
Casual evening meeting
- 6 March Hokitika
contact Catherine (03)755-7603
Casual evening meeting
- 7 March
- 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 Workshop
- Contact Paula (03)213-0563
email vant_wout_d@clear.net.nz
- 12-15 Mar Stewart Is./Gore
- 16-18 March Dunedin Workshop
contact Erna (03)489-4026
email vans@xtra.co.nz
- 20-21 March Oamaru/Mt Cook
contact Wendy (03)434-9107
Fireside chat
- 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
- 24-27 March Christchurch -
South Island Home Educators Conference
contact Dot (03)312-8790
i.brown@ext.canterbury.ac.nz
- 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 for Dads & Mums
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
- 27 March
2:00pm History
3:30pm Afternoon tea
4:00pm Panel "The Things We Wish We Had Known Before"
5:30pm Break
7:00pm Diana speaking
- 28-29 March Hamner Springs
- 31 March Auckland
contact: Dorinda (9)480-6878
email jduthie@ihug.co.nz
- 1 April North Shore Workshop
Windsor Park Baptist Church,
Mairangi Bay, Auckland
12-4:30pm Two sessions slots,
wide range of resources for sale.
- 3 April Waring's depart 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

TEACH Bulletin Opinion Poll #4

(Please tick ✓ one answer for each question.)

1. If the MoE stopped paying me the supervisory allowance:
a() I would continue to home school anyway.
b() I might have to re-think whether to continue home schooling or not.
c() I would definitely have to stop home schooling.

2. Whose responsibility is it to see that children get an education?
a() parents and/or family
b() the community or society as a whole via private enterprise, state schools or whatever system works
c() the civil government; the state
d() a and b together
e() b and c together
f() a and c together

3. Who should pay for the education of children (up through secondary level)?
a() parents and/or family
b() the community or society as a whole via private enterprise, state schools or whatever system works
c() the civil government; the state
d() a and b together
e() b and c together
f() a and c together

4. A spokesperson for a NZ home schooling organisation was quoted in a local press release this month (November 1999) as saying they "would welcome more ERO reviews beyond the initial one done at six months." Would you agree with this speaker's statement?
a() Yes
b() No
c() Don't Know/Not Sure

5. A spokesperson for a NZ home schooling organisation was quoted in a national publication which appeared this month as saying: "There are over 130 support groups out there, with a myriad of views and services, some very extreme and inferior, none monitored by the state. This seriously undermines the possibility of good home schooling opportunities." Are you happy for spokespersons of home schooling organisations to criticise other home schoolers to the national press in this manner?
a() Yes
b() No
c() Don't Know/Not Sure

6. Are you able to specifically name and locate any "very extreme and inferior support groups" in New Zealand?
a() Yes
b() No
c() Don't Know/Not Sure

7. Do you agree that the lack of state monitoring of home schooling support groups "seriously undermines the possibility of good home schooling opportunities"?
a() Yes
b() No
c() Don't Know/Not Sure

8. Do you agree that this spokesperson's statement itself may "seriously undermine the possibility of good home schooling opportunities" by perhaps giving the Ministry of Education enough cause for concern that it would tighten up on the granting of exemption certificates?
a() Yes, especially if they repeat statements like this again
b() No
c() Don't Know/Not Sure

Please take a few moments to mark your answers and post to (no stamp required):

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If more copies are needed for your support group, just let us know how many.