

Questioning the Quality of Current Qualifications

Many Modifications Mean Messy Qualifications

The previous and recently past government was going to introduce external exams into primary grades. The present government has canned that idea. But the present government, just like the previous one, is going ahead with external exams and other types of external assessment for senior secondary students.

Now the exams as most know them, School Certificate and Bursary, will almost certainly disappear. These will be replaced by the NCEA, the National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA), which will have several levels. Level 1 is similar to finishing 5th Form, Level 2 is at 6th Form and Level 3 at 7th Form. There may be a Level 4 which would be equivalent to Scholarship Exams, but these may be determined from the best of the Level 3 qualifiers.

One doesn't have to gain Level 1 or even 2 to acquire Level 3; one aims at the Level one ultimately desires. That is because there are not likely to be any end-of-year exams acting as gates one must pass through before getting to the next. Instead one collects both the existent Unit Standards and the proposed but yet-to-be-introduced Achievement Standards during one's secondary educational career, which are assessed throughout the year. These are to be partly internally assessed and partly externally assessed. It is all pretty much still drawing-board stuff, but the MoE became keenly aware of the public's disquiet about the comparability and fairness of internal assessment plus the high credibility of the

more objective external exams in the public's mind, so some adjustment to the Unit Standard was required for some subjects. Hence the Achievement Standard. In addition, the Hon Trevor Mallard, Minister of Education, announced on 1 March that the introduction of Achievement Standards will be pushed back to the year 2002.

So what is an Achievement Standard? Many have said it is like a Unit Standard only it deals with more difficult to assess

conceptual knowledge. The Ministry itself says: "An achievement standard is simply a way of making explicit the things that we want to report about student achievement: what we expect students to know and be able to do in order that they'll be entitled to gain credit towards a qualification. It's not enough simply to describe what students will be taught, but what they need to know and be able to do. An achievement standard differs from a unit standard in three very important ways:

1) expert panels are required to ensure that achievement standards describe broad outcomes unlike unit standards which many people

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Home Education Out-Performing Schools

A visiting educationalist has thrown out a challenge to New Zealand educationalists to examine a system which he says is bordering on failure. Sir Christopher Ball, the chancellor of the University of Derby and the Millennium Visiting Fellow at the Auckland University of Technology, said the new century brought with it a challenge for teachers to examine the direction the education system was taking.

Educationalists could "grimly" continue with what had been done in the past and reinforce what was close to a failure, or they could look at the alternatives, Sir Christopher said. "The education process developed in the English-speaking west is so disappointing in its outcome, particularly for people from disadvantaged areas, that you have to say it is very nearly a failure. So shall we reinforce it, put more money into it and grimly press ahead with it?

Or do we say now is the opportunity to sit back and say there might be another system."

Parents could be given the choice between full-time education for their children, parttime education or home education, and given some financial support.

"Education at home in many parts of the world is out-performing school education and we need to think about that and why does that work so well," he said.

In any study of high-achieving people, three factors kept emerging:

- Warm, demanding adults who loved and challenged their children throughout their lives;
- an exploratory curriculum with an opportunity to explore new ideas and interests that arose in the mind of the learner rather than a totally imposed curriculum;

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felt 'atomised' learning;

2) achievement standards are being defined to recognise superior student performance - students will achieve at credit, merit, or excellence level, unlike unit standards which were defined at only one level: students were either competent or not yet competent;

3) at least half of the qualifications credit available from achievement standards in any conventional subject must be obtainable by external assessment."

Hopefully this will provide some incentive for more able students to excel which is lacking in the Unit Standards. Overall credit towards an NCEA will be able to be gained from curriculum related Achievement Standards as well as curriculum and vocationally related Unit Standards. There is talk of several pathways to an NCEA, different proportions of internally and externally assessed work: but they all pass through Unit Standards and Achievement Standards.

This transition period we find ourselves in is messy and is already posing problems. Home educated students are wondering if they should aim for School Certificate or Bursary while still available, or go for the new NCEA? But then what Level NCEA to aim for? The Achievement Standards one must attain to get NCEA are supposedly being introduced over three years, 2002 through 2004, but we have already had a one-year delay announced this month. These are planned to be 50% internally assessed, so are they even accessible to home educated students anyway? Will we be able to link with state schools in order to attain Achievement Standards as we do to sit School Certificate at present, or do Achievement Standards mean NZQA qualifications are even less available to home educated students than they are now? It is assumed the Correspondence School will offer Achievement Standards just as they now offer Unit Standards, and at the same price for those 16 and above, but are we still to be forced to pay those very high prices if we happen to be aged under 16? This

ageism is still discriminatory toward home schoolers and still very much an immovable gateway for all the talk of the greater flexibility in attaining the NCEA over the present exams-based system. Perhaps it will mean even more home schoolers will need to by-pass the school-leaving certificate issue altogether and go straight to prospective employers or tertiary institutions seeking jobs and provisional enrolment based on personal portfolios of their characters, abilities and accomplishments.

Other areas of

concern surrounding the introduction of the NCEA were recently highlighted by Simon Carlaw, chief executive of the Manufacturers' Federation. He said more time was needed to make sure the country got a qualifications system which addressed shortcomings in education which were contributing to skills shortages. It is to be hoped that more informed debate can take place in light of the delay in introducing Achievement Standards. "This cannot be left solely to the education industry and its unions," said Mr Carlaw. "Parents and prospective employers are also key stakeholders in the process." And these key stakeholders also need to know that the NCEA will make a "real contribution to addressing the failure rates evident in our schools." Mr Carlaw also mentioned a lack of benchmarking of the new NCEA against internationally recognised



- giving people only limited access to their peer groups.

It was not by chance that, at an early stage of their education, high achievers did not have huge access to people of their own age, Sir Christopher said. "The reason is that peer groups tend to dumb you down. We are very strongly affected by our peer group norms, so if you put a group of relatively low achievers together they find their mean and conform to their mean. It is very difficult to encourage them to develop their own personal excellence which everybody has within them. So be careful with peer groups, especially with boys."

The education system had to be doing something wrong to consistently produce an 18% failure rate over 100 years, he said.

(From "Educationalist Issues Challenge", *Timaru Herald*, 4 March 2000, p. 4)



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

Trading Post



Wanted:

Weaver Interlock Preschool Programme

Contact:

Graham or Lee
ph. (06) 376-4881

For Sale:

ABeka
Arithmetic Teachers Guide/
Curriculum, Grade 1.....\$40

Phonics/Reading/Language
Teachers Guide/Curriculum,
Grade 1.....\$40
Letters & Sounds test Key
Grade 1.....\$7

Contact:

Antoinette
ph. (07) 855-3077

Wanted:

Saxon Maths 65

Contact:

Kay
ph. (09) 266-9218
robert.ryan@xtra.co.nz

For Sale:

LLATL Purple Activity Book
Ordered by mistake.....\$40
Maths Mentals Plus Books (new)
Year 3,4,5,6.....\$15 each

Wanted:

Saxon Maths 65

Contact:

Frances George
Ph. 07 825-9914
ixoye@ihug.co.nz

For Sale:

Calvert Correspondence School
Grade 6 Course. Needs a few
reading books which can be
borrowed from the library, plus a
World History Text. Course
covers: Composition, Grammar,
Maths, Science, Art History
(Sculpture), Geography, Spelling,
Reading
Excellent Material.....\$150

Contact:

Linda
ph. (09) 420-7907
ingles7@ihug.co.nz

Wanted:

To borrow or buy
"Two years before the mast"

by Richard Henry Dana

Contact:

Vicki Jones,
ph (07)8252 835
wpjones@voyager.co.nz

For Sale:

Hooked on Phonics Reading
Programme:

Tapes/Flashcards/Drill Books
Includes: SRA Reading
Laboratory. Great for
Comprehension
Skills.....\$280

Contact:

Sharon
ph. (09) 836-8368
kevinlj@xtra.co.nz

For Sale:

Learning Language Arts Through
Literature
Yellow Book (Gr 3).....\$15

Wanted:

Writing with Results
by Joanne Moore

Contact:

Susan
ph. (06) 344-3349
Wanganui

Wanted:

Any second hand Miquon Math
materials.

Contact:

Robyn Smith
ph. (07) 847-3515
114 Amanda Ave
Hamilton
robyn_smith@clear.net.nz

For Sale:

Learning Language Arts through
Literature
Orange Book.....\$32
Purple Book.....\$32
Five in a Row
Book 1.....\$20
Book 2.....\$25
Maximum Maths (Maths
guidebook for K-
8).....\$25

Contact:

Helen
ph. (03) 303-6259
Ashburton

Modern Apprenticeships

The Associate Education (Tertiary Education) Minister, Steve Maharey, said the Modern Apprenticeships scheme launched on 22 March 2000 is a key component of the Government's comprehensive employment and skills strategy.

Modern Apprenticeships is a new work-based education initiative, targeted at young people, providing a mentored and supported training pathway into highly valued skills and qualifications. Modern Apprenticeships programmes will be piloted by Skill New Zealand during the latter part of 2000 and following evaluation will be extended nationwide from 2001.

The average age of people in industry training rose during the 1990s, so that by last year only 10 percent of trainees were in the 16 to 19 age bracket.

The government wants to make Modern Apprenticeships a viable option for small and large employers. Apprenticeship Coordinators will be appointed to assist employers to recruit and manage the training of apprentices. The Coordinators will also provide ongoing mentoring, training support and problem solving advice to apprentices.

"Modern Apprenticeships will lead to a nationally recognised trade qualifications at levels three and four of the National Qualifications Framework," said Mr Maharey. "We want Modern Apprenticeships to be seen as a high prestige training option which many young New Zealanders will aspire to."

"We will be investing \$5.5m in Modern Apprenticeships this financial year to fund piloting and the roll out for the first half of 2001. The Government is aiming to have 3,000 modern apprentices in training after the scheme goes nationwide next year."



**Final Workshop
of Warings'
New Zealand Tour**

**North Shore
Workshop**

Saturday
1 April 2000
Windsor Park Baptist
Church
550 East Coast Rd.
Mairangi Bay
Auckland

Contact:

Dorinda (09)480-6878
jduthie@ihug.co.nz

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 Homeschool-
ing (0-6yrs) - Rachel
Haythornethwaite & Alison
Haworth
 3. Taking a Child out of
School - Maryanne Ab-
planalp
 4. Homeschooling a Child
with Special Needs - Kate
Jaunay
 5. Secondary & Tertiary
Qualifications for Home
schoolers - Carol Munroe,
Craig and Barbara Smith
 6. Life as a Homeschooled
Teenager-Discussion ses-
sion featuring Isaac, Mi-
chael and Melody Waring.
Moderator Bill Waring
(age limit 12-20 yrs)
 7. Science Teaching Re-
sources 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 HOMESCHOOL-
ING 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.

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:

dwha@xtra.co.nz

Part two of the Waring Tour
started on 7 February with a
~~shared lunch meeting with several~~
home schoolers in Rotorua, hosted
by Mark & Heidi Breetvelt. From
there we drove past Huka Falls
into Taupo and on to David &
Jenny Waldron of Raetihi. Next
day, David helped the Waring
teens conquer Mt Ruapehu, while
Diana spoke to several
homeschool mums.

It was a long drive to Stratford
where 26 adults came to hear
Diana and a similar crowd of
children and minders joined in for
tea.

Thursday we circled Mt Taranaki
and on to Wanganui, speaking to
13 parents there over lunch.
Each group in each town is SO
different! That evening Diana
spoke to over 60 in Palmerston
North.

Next day over lunch was the first
time the Smiths and Warings had
all to themselves. It was so hot
and we were so tired, we couldn't
remember any of those thousands
of issues we both wanted to
discuss.

Friday through Sunday (11-13
Feb) was a home school family
camp at Otaki. People came from
Hawkes Bay and Wairarapa; it
was a great time of extended talk

and play and getting to know so
many others...especially around
the swimming pool!

Colin & Tracey MacDonald of
Napier gave the Warings their
house facing the sea for a couple
days of rest. Tuesday 15 Feb
there was a picnic with several
mums in Hastings and that night a
talk with about 34 parents. Next
day we drove to Masterton for a
casual evening chat with 13
parents.

Thursday we drove over the
Rimutakas and into Wellington
for a look around Parliament and
shopping downtown. Pete &
Jocelyn Young hosted us for the
next three nights in their ex-
monastery in Porirua. They also
hosted a great full-day seminar
with about 45 attending.

Sunday the 20th, Barbara and
Zach Smith took over driving/
escort duties from Craig Smith
and the tour party crossed the
Cook Strait to Picton and then
Blenheim. Mike & Karen Gray
provided one of those magic days
with a cruise around Queen
Charlotte Sound, and sure enough,
they were surrounded by a pod of
40 performing dolphins for about
two hours!

The next 10 days were in a place
you need to visit. Book in a week
for your next holiday in a self-
contained bach with Tim &
Raewyn Shand at Port Ligar.
This is a three hour drive from
Rai Valley along a one-lane dirt
track at the top of the ridge of a
finger of land going way out past
D'Urville Island. Catch fresh cod
every day. Watch the stingrays
and octopi in the bay. Harvest
mussels at the muscle farm.
Study the brightest stars you've
ever seen with no light pollution
for many, many miles around. Go
boating past wildlife sanctuary
islands, islands with hermits,
islands of stone arches. Even
while grubbing weeds, just to lift
your eyes is an inspiration, for the
vista that meets your gaze is so
unique.

(To be continued!)

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 Reviews, 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 delicious 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 Rescue 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**, starting with continental breakfast and ending with BYO lunch, contact

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(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