

Hearthland Educators

We are a home educating support group for families living in the Kapiti, Horowhenua, and Manawatu.

We run as a cooperative with membership open to all families irrespective of beliefs and philosophies. As such, the spirit is one of sharing the responsibility of the group. Each family is encouraged to help organise, as well as participate in, a variety of group activities and gatherings throughout the year. We try to share the tasks and the maintenance of the group so that all the work doesn't fall on a few people. (Ma tatau, mo tatau – by us, for us) We hope that everyone gets to use their strengths and talents and possibly to take on new challenges. In concrete terms, contributions could be in infinite ways – helping with transport, writing a lobby, singing a karanga, etc.

This gives both parents/caregivers and children an opportunity to build up relationships, friendships, offer and receive support, share ideas and, importantly, have fun.

A number of activities have already been organised for 2009. On the last Friday of the month we have an organised outing. When time and weather permit, we go for bush walks. As the desire has arisen, we have also met regularly at different venues such as playcentres. This year we have been meeting to do art and craft.

Examples of things that we have done in the past include: visits to wildlife reserves, visits to the science centre, a production, midwinter camp, kite day, restaurant evening, childrens art exhibition. Musical, drama, science, art, technology and sporting events will also be available at various times during the year.

We produce a regular newsletter at the beginning of each month, and participate in the Scholastic book club, through which we often get free books, and are now starting to build up our own library. We also keep a copy of recent educational/philosophical goals (exemption documents) for people to look at; and we support people, as required, through the (exemption) process.

To help assist with the cost of advertising (community papers and flyers) and to cover the small extra costs of the group, each family is asked to contribute \$10.00 a year.

If you are interested in joining the group or would just like to get more information about our group, or about home education in general, please contact one of the people listed below. We would love to hear from you.

Kapiti/Horowhenua area:
Alice Kleinsman
ph or fax (06) 363 7575
email: badi@slingshot.co.nz

Palmerston North/Feilding call free area:
Madeline BatachEl
Ph 06 3233320

Postal Contact:
c/- 50 Stewart St Foxton