

# July 2014 Newsletter

## NCHENZ Executive Committee Update

In this newsletter:

- ▶ AGM Update
- ▶ MOE's Red Tape Clutter Buster
- ▶ Member services: Artventure online art course
- ▶ Discount at Paper Plus stores
- ▶ Feedback from Groups
- ▶ NCHENZ Constitution
- ▶ Being reviewed?
- ▶ Stay in the Loop

## AGM Update

by Lynn Peake

The AGM was held last month. All of the existing Committee members decided to stay on, just with a bit of reshuffle of roles. This leaves us in a very strong position going forward. Your Committee for the 2014/15 year is as follows:

Me (Lynn Peake) – Co-ordinator, Correspondence Secretary

Astrid Hendra – Treasurer, Minutes Secretary

Meredith Connolly – Government Liaison Team

Nina Wright – Government Liaison Team

Nadia Sole – Member Services, Website Administration

Karen Grant – Membership Secretary

Debbie Thomas – Group Membership Secretary

Sue Pace – ID Cards Administrator

The AGM minutes and reports can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

## **MOE's Red Tape Clutter Buster**

by Meredith Connolly

We have a meeting with the Red Tape Clutter Buster project team from MOE with regard to the exemption process. In MOE's own words "The aim of this project is to reduce or stop those "red tape" activities that deliver little or no value; and to streamline and improve existing processes. In addition we are looking at resourcing forms and online templates. Our intention is to simplify forms, and retire ones that are low value."

This is an across-the-board project for MOE and is not solely focused on home education. We have been asked to participate and discuss the following questions as part of their process:

- What would the ideal process look like?
- What needs to be included in the process?
- How can forms, funding allocations, timing, etc, be improved to ensure the process works best?
- What types of activity is seen as entirely compliance driven for you?
- Do you have any specific examples of best practice that you believe should be considered in an improved model?

NCHENZ would love to hear your thoughts or ideas to contribute to the discussion. Email me at [info@nchenz.org.nz](mailto:info@nchenz.org.nz).

## **Member Services: Artventure Online Art Course**

by Nadia Sole

We have had a lot of interest in a bulk membership to the online art lesson course, Artventure, presented by Kirsty Shadiac in Australia – and can now confirm the details and open enrolments up to all NCHENZ members. Our start date is **Friday 25th July**. The price is normally \$105 for the public or \$32 for home educators; we have negotiated a further 25% discount so the cost for NCHENZ members is \$23.50 for a family for one year. The subscription gives you and your children access to a range of video art lessons off the Artventure website (see [www.artventure.com.au](http://www.artventure.com.au) for a free trial). To enrol please email me at [artventure@nchenz.org.nz](mailto:artventure@nchenz.org.nz) with your name and your family's Certificate of Exemption base number (all your children will have the same base number followed by -1, -2, etc). Feel free to let your homeschooling friends know about this service as we will only be doing one group into Artventure this year. This offer is available to current homeschooling families who are members of NCHENZ.

## **Discount at Paper Plus Stores**

by Meredith Connolly

After emailing a million Paper Plus stores I heard back from a select few who were more than happy to offer discounts to home educators! Each store will most likely ask for some form of ID (ie. exemption form or student ID card) in order to process the discount so remember to take something along – without ID to confirm you are home educating the discount may not be honoured.

The Paper Plus stores which offer discounts to home educators are:

- Highland Park (Auckland) – 20%, can also access loyalty programme
- Sunnynook (Auckland) – 20% off non-discounted stationery
- Papamoa (Tauranga) – 20%
- Taupo – 20% off non-discounted stationery, must join loyalty programme
- Rotorua (Tutanekai Street) – 20% off books and stationery not already on sale
- Rototuna (Hamilton) – see store directly for consideration and please let me know if you have problems
- The Base (Hamilton) – 10% off non-discounted stationery
- Greymouth – 10% through the loyalty programme

I'll keep you posted if any others come on board. If your local store is not on the list, feel free to pop in and ask if they would be interested in offering a discount to home educators. Let me know and I'll follow it up.

## **Feedback from Groups**

by Debbie Thomas

One of our main goals for 2014/2015 is to continue improving our communication with members. With this in mind, I would like to get feedback from homeschooling groups in NZ on how NCHENZ can support and provide value for money for its member groups. If you are involved in running a home education group in NZ, please get in touch with me at [info@nchenz.org.nz](mailto:info@nchenz.org.nz) and let me know how NCHENZ can support and assist your group. Would you be interested in having NCHENZ set up a forum so you can connect with other home education groups in NZ? Do you want support for your members with reviews? I am interested in hearing all suggestions you may have.

## **NCHENZ Constitution**

by Astrid Hendra & Nadia Sole

The Executive Committee have been working for some time on reviewing the NCHENZ Constitution. It was written before electronic methods were the main way of communicating with members, and at a time when there was a fee for individual membership. The changes have not yet been finalised by the Committee but when they are ready they'll be presented to members for approval.

## **Being reviewed?**

by Nadia Sole

In light of new information and member experiences with ERO, I regularly update the review section of our website. While there is a slim chance of being reviewed (only about ten families per year are reviewed out of a total of ~2,500 homeschooling families in NZ), it is fundamentally important that you know your rights and the process ERO must follow in a review. To check out the review section of the NCHENZ website, [click here](#).

## **Stay in the Loop**

by Karen Grant

NCHENZ has a Facebook group for members. This is where discussions can be started by members on issues relevant to homeschooling in NZ. We also have a Yahoo group where notices are posted about member services, etc. As part of our ongoing efforts to increase communication to our members, we are investigating the option of creating a NCHENZ forum attached to our website. This is in the early stages, but if you wish to give feedback or have the ability to assist in any way please contact me at [info@nchenz.org.nz](mailto:info@nchenz.org.nz).

## **Who are we?**

Set up in 1998 for the purpose of advancing the cause of home education in NZ at a national level, we are the only national homeschooling body in NZ. NCHENZ's intention is to be neutral and we have no affiliation to any political or religious group. NCHENZ is run by an elected Executive Committee. We are all homeschooling our own children and volunteer our time for the benefit of NCHENZ.

If you are not yet a member of NCHENZ please join, it's free – just go to <http://www.nchenz.org.nz/online-form-for-individual-membership/>.