



National Council of Home Educators New Zealand

NCHENZ Quarterly Newsletter

December 2015

Dear NCHENZ Member,

Welcome to our quarterly update.

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Quick Links

- Looking for a lovely Christmas idea for kids? [Gratitude journals - \\$5 off for NCHENZ members](#). Adult journals also available.
 - **NEW DISCOUNT** : NCHENZ members receive 15% off helmet hats for cyclists which provide sun protection for face, neck and ears (kids and adult sizes); and 15% off "Sundicators" which remind you when to reapply sunscreen and when to avoid the sun or cover up. [See more info here](#).
 - [Reading Eggs](#) \$7, [Mathletics](#) \$19.50, [Spellodrome](#) \$15.75 - all run til 27th February 2016 so a great opportunity to try them out for a reduced rate.
 - Need some "light" reading for the Christmas holidays? [Check out our list of Best Books](#), recommended by other home educators
 - Planning for 2016? See resource links on the NCHENZ website - [literacy](#); [maths and statistics](#); [science/environment](#); [social studies, history, geography, languages](#); [technology/applied science](#); [household skills](#); [all-in-one curricula](#); [teen specific](#)
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End of Year Co-ordinators Update

by Lynn Peake

It's the last edition of our newsletter for 2015. Wow! Where has this year gone? In terms of the NCHENZ year, we are half way through and I thought I'd write a short piece about where we want to go in the next six months to a year.

Our Vision for 2016

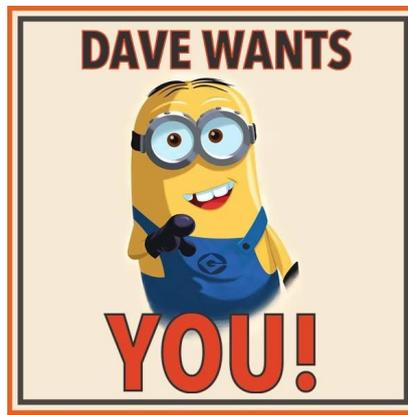
To keep our national representative body thriving we need two key things - good, keen **People** and a good, reliable source of **Money**. In the coming year we would like to invite those good, keen People from the community to join our team in a variety of roles. Our goal is seamless continuity within the Committee. We want to ensure a good handover period before specific jobs change between people, and with at least one or two current members looking to **step down** from their roles in the next year or so, that is now a high priority for us. We would like to have their possible replacements happily involved starting at the beginning of 2016. So if you've ever thought about joining us, please **don't delay**.

As for our funding situation, membership for groups, individuals and families are now completely free. This means we are solely reliant on our Member Services and affiliate schemes for our funding. This has been working very well for us so far, and we are eager to expand this - both as a method of supporting our community with reasonable priced access to resources and as a way of funding our existence. We are currently reviewing how this role is handled as it is so key to our future. Without this source of money we would not be able to have our regular meetings with the head office staff at the Ministry of Education or the Education Review Office. If you have any suggestions for new programs for Member Services we would be happy to hear from you.

Our goals for the remaining six months, once we have established those extra good, keen folk and secured our sources of funding for the longer term, are:

- establish a Regional Government Liaison Team
- appoint a dedicated Special Education Representative
- create a private Forum for members
- run a survey of families who home educate children with special education needs
- attend the regular meeting with MOE in Wellington
- investigate the option of webinars as a means of offering further support to our community
- look into the feasibility of running a national conference in 2017 or 2018

As always, the achievement of any of these goals is dependent on our people.



Vacancies

Government Liaison Team

This coming year the NCHENZ committee would like to step up our representation to the Ministry of Education Regional Offices. We would like to establish a Government Liaison Team, under the guidance of our Government Liaison Officer. This role is sub-committee, so no attendance is required at our formal monthly committee meetings, but regular discussions and contact with the Government Liaison is.

The ideal person for this role is:

- a good communicator
- good at establishing working relationships with all kinds of people
- passionate about advocating for the full range of home education styles
- works well in a team
- has reliable internet and the ability to use Google Hangouts
- has the flexibility to respond to issues as they arise

We are looking for two team members in the North Island and one in the South Island. If this sounds like something you would be interested in, please [contact us](#).

Minute Secretary

We have an opening for a Minutes Secretary as one of our committee members is stepping down from this role to devote more time to another role within the committee. Full instructions and guidance will be provided. Attendance at our online monthly meetings is essential. An estimate of the time required for this role is about 6-8 hours per month including the meeting. If this sounds like you, [email us](#).

Group Membership

Do you have a passion for supporting groups and their administrators? Can you help build the role and support around New Zealand Home Educators? Then come and join us, we would love to [hear from you](#).

Congratulations

Congratulations to Joshua Toon, aged 8yrs, who recently won the Mathletics World Education Games competition at year three level! He is a home educated student from Twizel who registered into Mathletics via NCHENZ. Joshua scored 4,727 points across three categories - science, literacy and maths - and was 344 points higher than that of his nearest competitor. Pretty amazing - over six million students from schools around the world competed this year! He was flown to Sydney with his Dad for the awards ceremony and also won a new laptop worth \$1,500.



Congratulations also to Sarah Ridsdale who recently won the Fair Go Kids Ad Awards. The competition required students to produce an ad with an animal theme. Sarah, aged 14yrs, came

first in the secondary school section with her 30 second ad featuring a claymation who duck rapping about the risk of didymo! Sarah is home educated in Palmerston North.

Warehouse Stationery Offer

We are excited to be a part of the new version of Support Your School™ Programme with Warehouse Stationery. The new rebate scheme will help NCHENZ to raise funds to continue to support our membership and community. All parents and members of the public can nominate our "school" either in-store at one of 66 nationwide stores, or you can enter our unique code BYS06PF while shopping online.

ID Cards

Current NCHENZ ID Cards expire 31 December 2015. You can now apply for your student ID card for 2016. Application form [here](#). Please note that the expiry of our new cards will be 31 January 2017. AT Hop and CANDO cards expire 31 March 2016 so don't apply for those two yet, please wait until the end of February 2016.

Amended Constitution Adopted

The NCHENZ Constitution amendments were adopted at a recent Special General Meeting. Thanks to all those who voted. The new [Constitution](#) is now up on the website.

About NCHENZ

Set up in 1998 for the purpose of [advancing the cause of home education](#) in NZ at a national level, NCHENZ is the only national homeschooling body in New Zealand. NCHENZ is a neutral organisation with no affiliation to any political or religious groups. NCHENZ is run by an elected [Executive Committee](#) who volunteer their time for the benefit of NZ home educators. If you are not yet a member of NCHENZ please join, it's free - [just go to our website](#).
