



National Council of Home Educators New Zealand

NCHENZ Quarterly Newsletter

April 2017

Dear NCHENZ Member,

Welcome to our quarterly update.

In this newsletter:

- [Home Educators in the News](#)
- [Member Offers for Term 2](#)
- [Update from MoE and MoJ Meetings](#)
- [Project Volunteers Required](#)
- [Auckland Home Educators: Conference 2017](#)
- [ID Cards - Renewal Time](#)
- [Membership](#)
- [Pinterest and Other Useful Links](#)
- [Funny Corner](#)
- [About NCHENZ](#)

Home Educators in the News

[Young Author](#)

[Arthur Family Orchestra](#)

[Homeschool Network strong in Tauranga](#)

[Franklin Woodturner's Club](#)

[Invercargill Teen headed for Globe Theatre](#)

[Invercargill Ballet Dancer leaps for perfection](#)

[Palmerston North girl wins Film Award](#)

[Growing Knowledge pays](#)

If you see home educators in the news please email NCHENZ the link or a scan of the article, our email address is info@nchenz.org.nz.

Member Offers for Term 2

by Nadia Sole, Member Services Co-ordinator

We have the our usual offers available for term two plus a great deal for [National Geographic](#) as we're nearing the expiry date. This has proven to be an amazing research tool with access to almost 130 years of National Geographic articles, images and videos. Users can search by magazine, article, image, topic, date, books, maps, and even advertisements. Enrol now for just \$10 (for the whole household), expires 24th July 2017. [Click here for more details.](#)

The [Education Perfect](#) World Championships kick off on 15th May with [Languages](#) first. These competitions are popular with home educators and registration is free with your NCHENZ subscription. You can choose to subscribe to just Languages (\$20/student); either Maths, English or Science individually (\$45 per subject); or to Languages and all three subjects for \$105/student. Education Perfect runs for a calendar year so technically the subscription expires 31st December 2017, but they don't require us to re-enrol until the following February so you get a couple of extra months for free. [Click here for more details.](#)

If you're looking for some great art inspiration over winter, check out [Jarratt Create & Educate](#). We've had this in our mix of offers to members for a couple of terms now and the feedback is fantastic:

"I was intrigued initially when I looked into Jarratts because of their approach to learning and being creative. Because of that I decided to try their Radical Recall project with my 7, 9 and 11 year old daughters. I liked that the project was broken into bite sized chunks, and that their video lessons were easy to follow. They also had plenty of examples from which we could draw ideas from too. I liked the fact that they challenged the kids to be creative and think outside of the box and they had plenty of guidance along the way. At times we did find things challenging, but it pushed the kids and myself to think beyond what we conventionally believe to be art, or how we are supposed to do art. In the end I was blown away with what my girls produced, and I think that they were pretty proud of themselves too. I found that my 7yr old struggled with some of the technical aspects and so needed a lot more assistance, but overall I believe that they all enjoyed the experience of the project. My kids are looking forward to starting another Jarratts project!"

It's a very cost-effective way to do a term-based art project. One child is \$20, Up to three children \$25, and up to five children is \$30. Note, the children do not have to be all from the same family. The Jarratt's encourage families to work collaboratively so that the children can learn from each other and gain more creatively. Consider working with a number of other families in your area and holding a joint celebration at the end of the term where the children can show their work. [Check it out here.](#)

[Reading Eggs](#): Term 2 subscription fee is \$20 per student, expires 27th February 2018

[Mathletics](#): Term 2 subscription fee is \$35 per student, expires 27th February 2018

[Spellodrome](#): Term 2 subscription fee is \$17.95 per student, expires 27th February 2018

[Music Ecademy](#): Runs for 12mths from your start date. \$50 for your first child, \$45 for your second child, and \$40 for your third and subsequent children.

As a final note, please be aware that I will be **off-grid for a week from 27th April to 3rd May**, so if you email me during these dates there will be a short delay with getting your subscription set up. Term 2 pricing applies from the start of the school holidays, and you're welcome to get in early!

Update from Ministry of Education and Ministry of Justice Meetings

by Cynthia Hancox, Government Liaison Team

February's meeting with Ministry of Education staff was very positive and productive. The new staff member who is now our main point of contact is committed to providing better service to Home Educators, and is working hard to bring action and resolution to the numerous points we raised.

We were also able to meet with staff responsible for managing [Down the Back of the Chair](#) (who manage and distribute resources such as textbooks, readers etc) and those working to develop the proposed COOLs (Communities Of Online Learning).

It was confirmed that home educating families are entitled to one of each available resource that is currently relevant to their children, without cost. Families need to understand that there is large demand for some resources, and staff have to balance availability against requests, so at times some resources may be unavailable. They also pointed out that some resources are available as free pdf downloads from the TKI website, and that there are also additional resources available in the form of forums, updates and events online, all of which can also be accessed by home educators.

The COOLs team explained the development process to us. They see this concept as the Ministry recognizing that these days people can learn anything, anywhere, anytime and in any way, not just in the traditional classrooms. If/when COOLs become a reality, they could potentially open up many new opportunities for home educators, though it remains to be seen if/how we will be able to access them.

While in Wellington, Meredith, Lynn and I also met with key staff from the Ministry of Justice to discuss difficulties home educators have been having when seeking to be excused from Jury Duty. Useful discussion ensued, and more information will be made available on this soon.

Project Volunteers Required

Have you ever thought of helping out, but don't have the time or energy to commit to a full year? Well, the NCHENZ Project Volunteer team may be perfect for you. You can undertake a time-limited project, contribute to your community, and give your NCHENZ committee a bit of a hand.

Project volunteers are *not* committee members and do not have to attend our monthly meetings. They do get to commit their talent, energy and time to a project of their choice for the betterment of the NZ home education community. These projects will have a specific goal and a timeframe and, after completion, you're done - until another project comes up that you would like to volunteer for!

If you are looking for some sort of voluntary role this year, perhaps this is for you. If you are interested in becoming a PV, you will have the time and energy to spend a few weeks on a project; have good organisational skills; be willing to work as part of a team; and be happy to share your knowledge and enthusiasm with us. A sense of humour also helps 😊.

Contact us [here](#) or email info@nchenz.org.nz to join the NCHENZ Project Volunteer team.

On the other hand, if being a Project Volunteer is just not enough "NCHENZ" for you, we have our AGM coming up in June and this is the perfect time to come onboard as a full Committee member. We always introduce Committee members in an inclusive, gentle way - you're not expected to take on a role til you've settled in and seen how it all ticks over, and then there are a range of roles to choose from depending on your interests, experience and expertise. It doesn't matter how long you've been home educating, all that matters is an interest in working as part of a team for the betterment of the NZ home education community.

Auckland Home Educators Conference 2017: Learning Together

Saturday 20th May, 9am–5pm

Raye Freedman Arts Centre, Epsom Girls' Grammar School

"Come and join AHE for an inspirational day of encouragement, ideas and networking to help you in your home-schooling journey. The AHE *Learning Together* Conference is a 'locally produced' event designed to help parents on their home-schooling journey. Whether you're investigating home-schooling as an option for your child, or have been underway for many years -there's something for everyone! Click [here](#) for more info and to register."

ID Cards- Renewal Time

by Debbie Thomas

Now is the time to check those dates on your student ID Cards. NCHENZ cards expire 31 January 2017, while AT Hop and CANDO cards expire 31 March 2017. To order your card please click [here](#). Any questions email Debbie on idcards@nchenz.org.nz

Membership

by Tanya Vivier

Wanting to [know your membership number](#), [update your contact details](#) or [cancel your membership](#)? These can all be done directly from our [website](#).

Pinterest and Other Useful Links

- We are on Pinterest! [Find great resources and useful ideas](#)
 - Check your group is on our [NZ map of support groups](#) and that your information is correct
 - New to homeschooling? [See our frequently asked questions](#)
 - Check out our Special Education Resource page [here](#). Any more recommendations please [email](#) us.
 - What does a typical day look like? [Read about what home educators get up to](#) - we have stories from a wide range of home educators in our Typical Day section on the website.
 - Want to chat with a committee member or other fellow home educators, but not keen on social media, then join the **NCHENZ Forum** [here](#).
-

Funny Corner *Shared with permission.*

"So as part of our exemption application I have been asked for a bit more info, which I can understand BUT this is one of the requests:

"If you can reply to this email with a sentence about miss 5's long term dreams (goals) e.g. if she wants to be a builder or a pilot or work with horses"

So I asked Miss 5 what she would like to be when she grows up?

Her answer, a cookie" 😊

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](#).