



Quarterly Newsletter - October 2017

Welcome to the October 2017 edition of the NCHENZ Newsletter.

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From the Co-Ordinator...

by **Debbie Thomas, Co-ordinator**

At our AGM in July, we agreed to appoint a Kaiārahi to assist us with the process of providing content on our website that reflects the needs of home educators following Māori educational principles. We would like to thank Tania McDonnell for taking this important role on.

Also, this quarter we welcomed two new committee members, Alice and Cathy. Alice Collard joins our Government Liaison Team and Cathy Norris has taken on ID Card Coordinator.

Welcome ladies to the Committee. We hope you have an enjoyable time with us on the Executive.

We also welcome Angela Meyer as our Te Kura Advisor, this is a sub-committee role under Government Liaison. Angela approached us offering her services and knowledge with Te Kura's systems and processes, see her section below and a more comprehensive [article on our website](#).

From the Special Education desk...

by Tatiana Holmes, Special Education Adviser

I have been unusually busy with questions around Home Education for children with special education needs. We have had more enquiries about this than ever before! With this in mind, we have decided to develop a brochure addressing the most common questions we hear from parents about home educating children who have special education needs.

Irene Kane, from ASD Homeschooling Auckland, has kindly agreed to assist me with compiling a list of these questions. Once we have a shortlist of the most common questions we will start work on the brochure. We are hoping to have the new "Home Educating Children with Special Educational Needs" brochure completed by the start of 2018. If you have a suggestion for a question to go in this brochure we would love to hear from you, email me at specialed@nchenz.org.nz.

NCHENZ Te Kura Adviser

Te Kura is one of the popular pathways that Home Educating families take to get their teenagers' qualification for tertiary study. We have the situation of teenagers entering the 'school' system at 16, sometimes for the first time ever. Neither they nor their parents are necessarily familiar with how NCEA, Te Kura, NZQA or for that matter, school, works. Te Kura may be unaware of the extent of this lack of knowledge.

Some teenagers appear to be missing out on their educational opportunities because they don't understand how Te Kura operates or they can't get in touch with their teachers or they just get disillusioned by the way things work (or don't work for them). This need not happen.

Te Kura is a fantastic school and we can use it to get our children qualifications for Tertiary entry - but it is disappointing when it doesn't work for people.

NCHENZ has appointed Angela Meyer to be a Te Kura Adviser. If you have any queries or need help with any aspect about Te Kura, you can email Angela [here](#).

Member Offers for Term 4

by Nadia Sole, Member Services Co-ordinator

Important Reminder:

All of the information you need about our discounted subscriptions are on the NCHENZ website. Please do not email me asking for the NCHENZ bank account number, offer details, links to further information, etc. I deal with literally thousands and thousands of emails per year, and the subscription details have been purposefully put on the website to reduce emails where possible. The only exception to this is Reading Eggs, our supplier does not permit the details to be publicly available so you do need to email me to enquire. Also, there are specific email addresses for each subscription and I prefer not to be Private Messaged on Facebook with enrolment details. I appreciate all of the lovely messages I get with enrolments (even if I'm brief in my response), thank you :)

[Mystery Science](#) starts on 10th October and runs for one year. We have been offered the same amazing price of \$25 per family, however we are limited to 150 families. It's about three-quarters full at the moment, follow the instructions in [the link](#) to enrol. Once we reach our maximum the offer will be closed. There are no further enrolments for this, it's only offered once a year.

[Reading Eggs](#), [Mathletics](#) and [Spellodrome](#) are great value at this time of year because we get the summer holidays for free but we only pay Term 4 prices. Reading Eggs is \$10/child, Mathletics

\$15/child, Spellodrome \$9.35/child - check them out and then you'll know if you want to continue with a full year subscription when we do renewals at the end of February.

[Maths-Whizz](#) has just started. From this point onwards we can only enrol students in groups of ten or more. The expiry date remains the same (21st September 2018) and the rate is reduced for a later enrollment. We usually have a group of 10+ to start at the beginning of Term 4.

[Education Perfect](#) has a half year offer of \$55 for all subjects or \$12.50 for languages only. Technically the subscription ends on 31st December each year, but they let us use our subscriptions through til the end of February, so this is another program that is good value for money at this time of year.

Also check out the website for information about [Music Ecademy](#), [Jarratt Create & Educate](#), [StudyLadder](#), discounted gratitude journals, and [student ID cards](#).

Chess Champions

Eight homeschooled children from Canterbury are South Island Chess Champions after competing for the title in Ashburton in September.

The team event (four people per team) saw **Kaiden Mann** (9), **Ben Sole** (9), **Mikey Brown** (9) and **Max Harris** (9) enter the Primary School section; and **Noah Brown** (12), **David Evans** (10), **Henry Sole** (11) and **Zak Shearer** (12) in the Intermediate division.

Both teams worked hard during many rounds of Chess over the course of the day. It was very close for the Primary team as they went into their final nail-biting round, with all four members winning their games which gave them a decisive first place ranking.

The Intermediate team performed brilliantly in every round, scoring first place by a significant margin.

Congratulations to both teams!

Sadly they will not get the opportunity to compete at national level as the NZ Chess Federation rules were changed a couple of years ago to explicitly exclude home educated children from the Nationals.

Home Educators in the News

- [Homeschool students add some drama in their lives.](#)
 - [Children using LEGO Mindstorms kits to design robots at First LEGO League competition](#)
 - [Homeschool students take Taihape event](#)
 - [Home-schooled sisters loving practical aspects of community college courses](#)
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Supervisory Allowance

It is that time of year again. The Supervisory Allowance letter should almost be in your mailbox.

Dates for the Declaration are:

Return by 27th October

Payment on 17th November

Please note: sometimes it takes a while for the letter to arrive in all areas, but if the end of the month is getting closer and you don't have a copy, you should contact the Resourcing Division of the Ministry of Education.

All the contact details for this Division are on our website [here](#).

From the Membership Desk...

by Tanya Vivier, Membership Secretary

Groups wishing to become a member, please apply [here](#).

New Individual Members apply [here](#).

Existing Members update your details [here](#).

Need your Membership number? Request it [here](#).

Need to cancel your Membership? Do it [here](#).
