

Auckland Home Educators Conference 2009

MORNING WORKSHOP SESSIONS

Designing and Teaching Art Programmes for Teens. Led by Erica Soman

In this session Erica will be covering a range of discussion points around developing successful art programmes for teens. We will look at the main considerations for parents when they are designing and structuring an art programme for teens which will inspire, broaden knowledge, develop technical skills and build student confidences. There will also be a hands-on practical component to this class to give you a chance to experience and reflect on the points made during the workshop discussion while exercising some simple artistic skills.

Erica Soman, Dip Tchg, MFA, is an artist and former secondary school art teacher. She lives in Devonport and runs art classes for children and teens in her studio by the sea.

The Indispensable Ingredient. Led by Diana Waring

The most important element in your curriculum is you. Diana has been there, knows what you are experiencing, and has talked with many others in your position. She will express your heart's cry that your children would grow in Godly character and knowledge, and encourage you that you can get it done. Through Diana's transparent examples and practical suggestions, this workshop will help you understand the pivotal role you play as a mentor, a model, and a facilitator in your child's education.

Educating - It's Not a Fix Up! Teaching Children With Special Needs. Led by Margi Leech

Some children are born with learning difficulties. It's how they're made. Thomas Edison was sent home with 'an addled brain'. How can we meet the needs of our children? What makes a learning difficulty? How do these children learn best? How do I find out why something's different? What does their future look like? How do I manage my own feelings about this? I thought home schooling was meant to be easy! This presentation will be followed by discussion.

Margi Leech has been a home school mum, teacher aide, teacher, specialist music teacher and now educator of teachers. Margi has two daughters, who she says have taught her so much, they are Stephanie (12) who is gifted with dyslexia and Emily (10) who has Down syndrome.

What's a Dad to Do? (Dads only) Led by a Panel of Home-Educating Fathers. Panel discussion

Home-educating fathers, Hear Ye! Come to this men-only gathering where you will have the opportunity to meet and listen to our panel of experienced, home-educating dads. This session will be an interactive Q&A type session where experiences are shared and learnt from, ideas are discussed and generated. All dads are encouraged to come along. Be inspired in the knowledge you are one of many who play the crucial role of 'father' in the home-education of their children.

The panel will consist of Bill Waring, Markus Hasler, David Burge and Wade Haldane.

The Big Experiment: Living in the Present While Keeping an Eye on the Future. Led by Brett Harrington

While we might feel confident about home educating our children, there are times when we wonder if we are doing enough to help them. We worry if our children have the self motivation to make home education work. We wonder when to push our kids, or to let them be. Brett creates a forum for discussion on these issues through amusing vignettes and anecdotes from the fictional home educating family of Jane Everymum, and her two kids, Ben and Lilly.

Brett Harrington and her partner took their kids, then aged 6 and 8 years, out of school prior to a holiday to New Zealand from the US. That was 7 years ago. They are still home-educating but now living in Auckland. Brett enjoys a lively discussion, particularly about home-education.

Giving Your Child the Gift of a Second Language. Led by Adriana Ross and Elaine Parnell

Ever wondered what all the buzz is about teaching your child a second language? When is the best time to start? Is it practical to raise your child with a language which is not your own? Learn about the benefits of being bilingual or even multilingual and the current research on linguistic brain development. Elaine and Adriana will also discuss how to bring another language into your everyday life, what makes effective language learning and provide curriculum suggestions for children of various ages.

Adriana Ross and Elaine Parnell have recently launched Los Chicos, a business aimed at teaching Spanish to children under five through active movement, interactive music and play. Their scope is expanding to include primary-aged children. Adriana, a native of Colombia, was raised in a bilingual family in the U.S. and is qualified in early childhood education. Elaine is a qualified Spanish and ESOL teacher with experience teaching tots to adults.

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AFTERNOON WORKSHOP SESSIONS

Straw into Gold: Lapbooking for Enjoyment & Understanding with Under-Twelves. Led by Rachel Larkin

Is learning a daily struggle in your home lately? Are you ready to inject some fun back into your children's learning time? Give 'lapbooking' a try! Come and hear Rachel Larkin share with you how her family recently discovered a fun way of learning. You can incorporate 'lapbooking' into your existing curriculum and it won't be a chore for Mum! Rachel will tell you how to get started in 'lapbooking', show you examples of lapbooks and give you some general how-tos. This type of learning is not just for girls!

Rachel has proved this with her three boys aged 11, 10 and 8, who she has homeschooled for over five years.

Homeschooling 101: Secrets of Successfully Home Educating in the Primary Years. Led by Elizabeth Herr and Katie Richards

Are you considering homeschooling and wondering how to begin? Do you need some encouragement to continue? What about learning and teaching styles, curriculum and socialisation? What are the facts and myths? Join Elizabeth and Katie as they present this interactive workshop, giving practical and interesting ideas and encouragement on how to make home education an inspiring, integrated part of everyday life.

Katie has four children (aged 12 to 5yrs) and has been homeschooling for over six years. She grew up in Papua New Guinea, before settling into NZ when she was 15. Katie was a high school teacher before having children. Elizabeth has been home educating her two children (aged 9 & 6) for five years. She grew up in South-Africa and has a background in mental health nursing.

Spanner for Your Toolbox: Add Drama to Your Kit of Essentials! Led by Terry Allen

Drama is an effective learning tool – with just a little imagination you can make lessons extraordinary. This workshop looks at basic tools to help you get creativity and communication flowing. Explore ways of using drama in the curriculum: Learning can be fun, fresh and alive. "I hear and I forget, I see and I remember, I do and I understand." Recognize opportunities to make memorable lessons, develop communication skills and confidence. Bite size ideas and tips for getting drama happening. Can be utilised at all stages of schooling. Terry Allen has many years experience in teaching, performing and directing drama and has her Masters Degree in Theatre. She has been homeschooling for 17 years, and runs the Love Learning Drama classes for home school students.

Developing Good Thinking Skills in the Course of Life. Led by Helen Pearson

This seminar gives ideas to help us to extend our children's thinking past the recall of the "right" answers through to research, reasoning, reflecting, responding and reviewing. It will be practical, home educator-friendly and immediately useful in whatever unit study or subject you are learning about. In the course of the session, Helen will briefly introduce the Interact Curriculum, a flexible, integrated, Christian curriculum based on these principles.

Helen and Dean Pearson have been home educating their five children for 15 years. Helen has worked as teacher and principal, she has trained student teachers and led seminars for homeschoolers and she is the author of the Interact Curriculum

How to Enjoy Science with Your 10-14 yr old. Led by Nathalie Thomas

Kids of all ages like science, especially if it's hands-on. In this workshop Nathalie will give you some ideas on how to incorporate science knowledge and science skills into your programme for your 10-14 year old. She will also give you an overview of what's covered in schools, leading up to NCEA level 1.

Nathalie Thomas has a Master's degree in Chemistry and a Teaching Diploma (secondary). She has taught for more than 10 years in NZ schools and is now home educating her two sons in the Bay of Plenty. She also regularly runs science courses for home educators.

The Ups and Downs of the 'Teen Years' Led by Stephanie Walmsley and Celia Walmsley

Teenagers are a special delight and living with them can be an exhilarating experience. But teenagers also bring new challenges which make many parents feel inadequate and taken by surprise. Educational and social pressures are real, but not insurmountable, and 'going to school' is not always the best solution. Stephanie and Celia will lead a discussion, sharing insights and practical suggestions on living with teenagers to encourage parents to "keep on keeping on".

Philip and Stephanie Walmsley currently have two wonderful teenagers at home. They have had teenagers since 1993, and they have homeschooled all five of their children through high school. Celia Walmsley Harding is in her mid-twenties. She was home educated throughout her school years and she is planning to home educate her own children.

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DIANA WARING'S PLENARY TALKS



Not Just Your Average Genius In this fast-paced, easy-to-understand workshop, you will distinguish three different grids that impact the unique way each one in your family learns: learning modalities (visual, auditory, kinaesthetic); learning styles (Feeler, Thinker, Sensor, Intuitor); learning intelligences (interpersonal, intrapersonal, linguistic, spatial, math-logical, bodily-kinaesthetic, musical, naturalist). Discover how to honour (not curse!) that wiggler in your midst; how to create a rich atmosphere for learning that will attract every learner; how to utilise your children's strengths to learn subjects that are hard for them; most importantly, learn how to delight in the incredibly individualised mechanisms for learning inside each of us! With this insight, including new research on intelligences, you will be able to adapt your teaching strategies AND choose your curriculum wisely.

History Via the Scenic Route Are you tired of force feeding history to your children? Does history make them yawn? Or, do you have one of those hungry-for-history type students that would devour far more than you could ever dream up to provide? Diana Waring will take you on an extraordinary learning adventure as she shares with you how to make the facts come alive and the learning go deeper! Join Diana for her "sit-on-the-edge-of-your-chair-in-suspense" history approach, using literature, music, art, science, cooking, and more, that has captivated home schoolers across five nations.

Actively ENGAGE Learning & Actually ENJOY Learning! One of the biggest questions people ask is, "How do I get my kids to finish their school work?" The deeper question is actually, "How do I get my kids to be self-motivated?" We will examine the answers to these critical questions, and look at specific ways to encourage and assist our children in developing ownership of their education. We must learn the critical difference between controlling and directing; between pushing and releasing; between coercing and facilitating. It is the essence of a master teacher who says, "I can not teach you how to do it, but I can help you learn to do it." This is an interactive and practical workshop that you can put to use immediately!

YOUR CONFERENCE ORGANISING TEAM (In alphabetical order)

Beth Evans, from Point England. Home educating her four year old daughter.

Christina Shadbolt from Browns Bay. Home educating her five year old and ten year old sons.

Megan Israel from Howick. Home educating her five year old daughter and three year old son.

Michelle Berriman from Beachlands. Home educating her two year old son and daughter.

Stephanie Walmsley from Hillcrest. Home educating her 14 year old daughter, finished home educating her four older children.