



AUCKLAND
**Home
Educators**

Learning together 2015

HOME EDUCATION CONFERENCE

SATURDAY 9 MAY, 9 AM – 5 PM, ACG PARNELL COLLEGE



Learning Together 2015

It's our hope that the A.H.E Learning Together Conference will be an opportunity for you as a home-educating parent to be inspired, encouraged and equipped for the daily rhythm of learning together with your child/ren. We hope too that you will get to meet other home-schooling parents and enjoy some good discussions and connections.

We are thrilled with the quality and experience of our speakers and workshop facilitators. Whether you're investigating home-education for the first time, or on a well-trodden path, we hope the conference will give you tools and enthusiasm for the road.

"Home education is not about creating mini-school at home. It's about nurturing young minds, setting a feast of learning before your children, growing with your children, and growing together as a family, choosing love, forgiveness and life-giving values as pointer stars. Achievements will happen by the by, rather than because they are the focus of your life."

Stephanie Walmsley

PROGRAMME

8.15 am Registration

9.00 am First speaker: Stephanie Walmsley – Creating a Home Where Learning Happens

10.00 am Morning tea/Vendors

10.45 am Workshop 1 (1 hour)

12 noon Workshop 2 (1 hour)

1.00 pm Lunch/Vendors

2.15 pm Second speaker: Larne Edmeades – Growing Great Learners

3.00 pm Main Panel Discussion

3.45 pm Workshop 3 (1 hour)

4.45 pm Finish

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Stephanie Walmsley, married to Philip, started home-schooling the oldest of their five children in January 1985. She finished home-schooling their youngest child in July 2012. Stephanie has been an inspirational home-educator and mentor for many parents – leading support groups, writing and presenting courses and workshops, organising and speaking at conferences. She currently helps parents worldwide through her online courses. Her passion is family life and especially home-schooling family life. You can learn more about her at: homeschoolfamilylife.com/courses-for-homeschooling-parents



Larne Edmeades is a home-schooling Dad (his wife, Rosemary, leads the home front) and Principal of ACG Parnell College. Passionate about education, and a strong advocate of the benefits of home and family in providing the best environment for learning, Larne will share from his experience of home-schooling four children, and his perspective as a professional educator. Why does the principal of one of Auckland's leading schools choose the alternative of home? Come and hear Larne's unique perspective.



WORKSHOP OPTIONS

	A	B	C	D	Teen
Workshop 1 10.45am	Home Education as a Way of Life - Stephanie Walmsley	Learning Together with Lotsa Kids - Rachael Ayres	Approaches through Secondary: Qualifications or not? If so, what? - Panel	Nature as Teacher: Using the natural world as inspiration in homeschooling - Anissa Lijanta	Entrepreneur from Home: Starting your own business - Ken & Audrey Wells
Workshop 2 12 noon	Making Maths Manageable Rosie Griffiths & Julie Murphy	Shakespeare: What's not to love? - Celia Harding	Natural Learning: Exploring unschooling and child-led approaches to home-education - Angela Carter, Janet Wilson, Anthea Ogilvie	Simplify and Declutter Your Home and Schedule - Rachel King and Jess Angove	Taking Responsibility for your Own Learning - Larne Edmeades
Workshop 3 3.45 pm	Practical Help with Learning Difficulties - Lynn Beresford	Dads On Board: Dad's role in home-education - Panel	Inspire them to Write - Val Robb	Home Education Information Session - Michelle Pepper and Erin Parkinson	Transitioning from home to school, employment or tertiary study - Panel

Note: There is a concurrent programme for teenagers.

WORKSHOP 1: 10.45 – 11.45 am

A Home Education as a Way of Life

In this session we will look at ways of finding a pace and style of life that reflects the needs and personality of you and your family, so that you can feel confident and happy in your home education.

There will be practical suggestions, tips and lots of good ideas and recommendations, with time for questions and encouragement.

Stephanie Walmsley

Stephanie is one of our main speakers, and the voice of experience! Read her bio above. Her holistic and thoughtful approach will inspire and help you.

B Learning Together with Lotsa Kids

How do you home-educate with a mix of pre-schoolers, primary schoolers and possibly a teen? Can learning happen? (Yes!)

Rachael will share how she and her children have done learning together over the years – with a wide range of ages and abilities. She will discuss practical ideas – the ones that haven't worked as well as the ones that have! Rachael will introduce you to her family and let you be a fly on the wall, peeking into some snippets of their days over the years.

There will be time to discuss and hear others' ideas too.

Rachael Ayres

Rachael loves rhythm to the day – and spontaneity; having plans and not following them; adventure despite being risk-averse. She hates to miss out on conversation, and also loves solitude. Her educational philosophy is an eclectic mix of individualised inspiration, "better late than early", lots of good books, students taking responsibility for their own learning, informality within a classical-ish structure....and when the family travelled overseas with their eight kids for 15 months they suspended ALL formal learning – to no-one's obvious detriment.

C Approaches through Secondary – Qualifications or Not, and if so, what?

This workshop will provide an overview of what the options are for your child through the high-school years. Many home-educators opt to do no qualifications, yet their children are able to go on to tertiary study or employment. NCEA is the national qualification, yet it's not very well understood by home-educators. How does NCEA work and how can you do it as a home-educator? Cambridge International exams have gained popularity with home-educators. These will be explained. Also, ACE (Accelerated Christian Education) has enabled many home-educated children to go on to tertiary study.

Panel

Parents who have used and understand each style or system will talk about how it works, benefits and drawbacks. They will also recommend further points of contact.

D Nature as Teacher: Using the natural world as inspiration in home-schooling.

This workshop will look at how incorporating nature study and nature based activities into learning enriches our lives.

Nature costs nothing. Nature is always on our doorstep so is super accessible. And nature definitely has the best ideas. Anissa will share ways to tap into nature's curriculum – through all ages. She will look at the arguments on why learning in and about the natural world is important in these changing times. You will dive into a few activities that are easy to recreate at home. And importantly, you will leave inspired and with a list of resources to continue the journey at home.

Anissa Ljanta

Anissa is a writer and blogger over at GrowMama.blogspot.com. She is passionate about homebased learning and living a fun, more sustainable life. She was staff at summer camps in the NZ bush in her teenage years and later co-facilitated homeschooling at an intentional community. She loves to write and read about different ways of learning and is having a blast homeschooling her son. Her family's natural history library is formidable.

WORKSHOP 2: 12.00 – 1.00 pm

A Making maths manageable

Do you need confidence in teaching maths at home? In this workshop we will explore ways of using homemade materials, games and other hands-on learning to help your children grasp key mathematical concepts.

An outline of the main concepts you need to cover will be provided and we will look at tools to help you do this. We will evaluate several available curricula and allow time for questions and discussion at the end. The main focus will be on the primary years but we're happy to touch on secondary if the need is there.

Rosie Griffiths and Julie Murphy

Rosie home-schooled her five children for nine years, before they went to high-school. Rosie has a background in Primary Teaching and Teaching English as a Second Language to adult migrants. She embraced a 'living maths' approach in the early years, using fun, games and everyday life to teach mathematical concepts.

Julie loved the adventure of homeschooling her four children through a mix of primary and highschool. In another life she did a degree in Maths and, now that her own are off doing other things, she borrows other people's children to tutor in Maths. She is involved in mentoring women at her church, and reaching out to her local community through teaching budgeting.

B Shakespeare – What's not to love?

This is a workshop for parents of children aged seven and up, presenting practical ways to introduce Shakespeare to children. Celia will inspire home educators to feel confident teaching Shakespeare and enjoying it alongside their children.

Topics covered will include:

- Why Shakespeare is important
- How to approach Shakespeare
- What age to start
- Resources to help

Celia Harding

Celia is a home-educating mother of two boys. She was home-educated herself and has never been to school. Celia has a first-class Honours degree in English Literature and is currently doing her Masters'. She has a great love of Shakespeare and is passionate about introducing children to quality literature.

C Natural learning: Exploring unschooling and child-led approaches to home education

What is 'unschooling', 'deschooling' and child-led learning?

Join Janet, Anthea and Angela for an exploration of this philosophy of learning. What are the basic principles or ideas behind this approach? What is it like on a day to day basis? What about meeting MoE requirements? What is it like being an unschooling parent?

Questioning the status quo and trusting the process.

Angela Carter, Janet Wilson, Anthea Ogilvie

Anthea is a homeschooling mother of one and step-mother of one. Her pre-child life was spent working for environmental change, her last role was as a senior adviser for the Ministry for the Environment. Anthea's partner introduced her to the attachment parenting philosophy when she was pregnant with her daughter, and it stuck! For her, the natural learning approach to education fitted most closely with that.

Janet and Mike's unschooling journey, with Isla (9) and Quinn (6.5), started just over a year ago. They really enjoy time outdoors, camping, lego, dancing, costume designing and cutting their own hair! They connect with other natural learners in South Auckland particularly, but throughout Auckland and the country. It is certainly a journey, not a destination. Janet learns everyday too!

Angela is an artist and mother of two. Unschooling evolved from a family lifestyle and parenting choices, into a student/child led approach to learning. With a background in arts and education, and married to an artist who works in science IT, they love the flexibility and freedom they have to work together and on their own projects, pursuing ideas, information and solving problems.

D Simplify and Declutter Your Home and Schedule

Is your home overloaded with clutter, and your schedule bursting at the seams?

This workshop is about you finding practical and achievable solutions for simplifying your homeschool environment. You'll also learn how to create a workable schedule that gets rid of the unnecessary tasks to make more space to do what you love.

Rachel King and Jess Angove

Rachel is a mother of three, and a simple-living guru. She loves working with what people have to create beautiful spaces that reflect a family's values. She also works with people to edit their schedules down to the essentials, eliminating the excess so that they have room to breathe. Her words to live by, as quoted by William Morris, are "Do not have anything in your home that you do not know to be useful, or believe to be beautiful".

Jess, a recently reformed hoarder, is a homeschooling Mum of seven, who is now a convert to simplifying and decluttering her home and life. She has lots of practical tips and real life experiences of how she got started putting simple living into practice in the midst of a loud, busy household.

WORKSHOP 3: 3.45 – 4.45 pm

A Practical Help with Learning Difficulties

Home-education offers some distinct advantages to children with learning difficulties (though often not without challenges for the parent). Lynn will talk about how to get the best out of your child who may struggle with dyslexia, dyspraxia, attention deficits, aspergers etc. There will be time for questions and discussion.

Lynn Beresford

Lynn is a Registered Psychologist with over 30 years of experience of working with children, teenagers and adults with exceptional needs. Lynn has developed extensive and practical knowledge of these individuals who learn differently. Her work has included many home-educated children.

B Dads on Board

How can Dad support home-education in his family?
A panel of experienced home-educating fathers will talk about their participation: cheering on the sidelines to really getting stuck in. Each family is different... but Dad's role is vital. Hear how these Dads engage with their families in the home-education journey.

Panel

In this session you will hear from a range of home-school Dads, with varying philosophies and experience.

C Inspire them to Write

Do you have a child who detests writing and you need some ideas to get him/her going? Or perhaps your child thrives on writing and you want to develop this interest. Either way this workshop will provide you with some practical ideas for helping your child find their writer's voice and head in the 'write' direction.

Val Robb

Val is originally from Canada where she trained as a primary school teacher. She has 18 years of homeschooling experience. Her own six children have ranged from reluctant writers to passionate writers so she teaches from experience. Val has led writing workshops for home-schooling parents and has taught writing classes for home-schooled students for a number of years.

D Home Education Information Session

How do you get started in home-education?
What is the legal process? What are some approaches to home-education? Is home-education for me? Is it the right choice for my child? How do I do an exemption?

Perhaps you are starting the journey with a little one, or wondering whether to pull a child out of school. This session will seek to inform those who are investigating home-education for the first time.

Michelle Pepper and Erin Parkinson

Parents to four boys aged 11 down to 3, **Michelle** and her husband Craig have been officially on the home-school journey since 2009. Michelle stepped into the AHE role of facilitating the Info Session in 2014. She is passionate about encouraging parents embarking on the homeschool lifestyle.

Erin is mother to six children ranging from 3 to 13. She and her husband decided to home educate ten years ago after attending a conference similar to this one. They are "eclectic homeschoolers" – using ideas from Unschooling, Classical and Charlotte Mason to form their own unique home education flavour and with one child now attending high school they have another style of education added into the mix!

1 Entrepreneur from Home – It all started with wanting a dog!

Twins Maiya and Sophia (14) started their first business when they were 9, with the support and encouragement of their parents, Ken and Audrey. Now they're on to their second venture!

Come and hear their story and how you too can create your own Entrepreneurial Business.

- Learn how to get started in business.
- Find a point of difference and stand out from the crowd!
- Learn how to build a simple Marketing plan for your entrepreneurial venture

Ken and Audrey Wells, with Maiya & Sophia Wells

Ken has owned and managed businesses in the professional services arena, and held General Manager positions in major NZ and Australasian corporates. He has worked with over 80 NZ companies in his consulting practice, helping them to achieve success.

Audrey has a background in banking and finance and is also a trained ESOL teacher. Her passion turned towards home educating twin girls 14 1/2 years ago when Maiya and Sophia were born. The home educating journey continues to be a wonderfully challenging and exciting one for her.

When **Maiya** and **Sophia** started "Little Miss Muffin" they set out baking 30 muffins one day a week, finishing up 3 1/2 years later baking 100 muffins and a dozen scones one day a week (and having to turn down requests for a 5 day service and a larger number of clients). Now they are pursuing another business opportunity which they have called "EZIGREENZ" where they run workshops and provide starter packs, teaching the elderly to grow Microgreens.

2 Taking Responsibility for your Own Learning

If you haven't already, then perhaps it's time? If you have, how can you be even more whole-hearted about life and learning?

Larne will get teens thinking about where they are going, what they want to achieve, and how they're going to get there. For those who simply have no idea yet what they want to do with their lives, he will give them ways to explore this important topic.

This will be an encouraging and inspiring session!

Larne Edmeades

Larne is Dad to four home-schooled kids (only two at home now), and works with teenagers all day, every day at Parnell College. He is passionate about young people taking responsibility for their own learning, and helping them to fulfil their dreams.

3 Making the transition from home to school, employment or tertiary study

What are some of the challenges of this transition? How hard is it, and what do home-educators need to be aware of?

Listen to a panel of ex-home-schoolers talk about their experiences: What's it like making the transition to formal study or employment? What home-school experiences helped them? With hindsight is there anything they wish they'd done differently?

This session is designed to help teens draw on the experiences of others to help prepare for the next stage of life beyond home-schooling.

Panel

A range of ex-home-educated young people will share their stories and discuss the issues.

Teenagers are encouraged to listen to the main sessions and come with questions to their workshops. They will have their own room, plus access to the gymnasium to play basketball during the morning tea and lunch breaks.

Note: the teen sessions are for teenagers only.

REGISTRATION

You can register [HERE](#) for the Learning Together Conference!

If you have any queries please contact Irene at conference@ahe.org.nz

Note, when you register you will be sent a confirmation email. Registration will not be complete until payment is made.

COSTS

	Member	Non-member	On-the-day registrations
Early bird (before 12 April)	\$30	\$40	n/a
Per person (from 13 April)	\$35	\$45	\$50
Couple	\$55	\$65	\$75
Teen	\$15	\$20	\$25

To become a member register online: aucklandhomeeducators.org.nz/join/ \$20 annual fee (\$10 till 30 June 2015; or \$30 till June 2106)

- * Shared option is available for couples who cannot attend together but will 'tag team'. Please inform registrations if you intend to do this.
- ** A limited number of scholarships are available for people for whom cost is a barrier. If this is you, or you know someone in this situation, please contact Irene at registrations. We would love everyone to attend who wants to!

MORNING TEA & LUNCH

Morning tea will be provided.

A hot lunch will be available to purchase for \$10. Please pre-order when you register. More details to follow.

You are also welcome to bring your own lunch.

VENDORS

A wide variety of vendors will be at the conference which will include specialist home-education materials, and educational resources. Watch this space for further details.

There will be a second-hand table for attendees who would like to sell their pre-loved (or otherwise!) resources. If you would like to do this please contact Auda at nicholasjenkin@hotmail.com before registrations close (2 May). Numbers limited.

CHILDREN

We unfortunately cannot offer a children's programme, so please take care to make other arrangements for your children for this time. We would like you to see this as a rare and welcome opportunity for home-schooling parents to get input without the diversion of children! Be assured that breast (or bottle-fed) babies are welcome.

If this is an issue for you, please talk to Irene at registrations.

MAIN PANEL DISCUSSION – QUESTIONS!

Have you got a burning question or issue you would like to put before our panel of experienced home-educators?

Please enter when you register, or send your questions to:

Anissa at anissaljanta@gmail.com



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aucklandhomeeducators.org.nz

