

Real Special Times

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Real Special News

Lexion tester disks

We are delighted to now be able to offer tester disks for Lexion software (from the UK) to schools and speech and language clinics etc This is a specialised programme, (designed by speech and language experts) and is suitable for clients / students with aphasia or dyslexia, and helps develop reading, writing and spelling. The product is appropriate for use by specialist literacy teachers, SLT's, TOD's, RTLB's, SPELD teachers, SENCO's etc. Please note: the voice on the software has an English accent.

Lexion carries out the whole process- it tests the student, automatically creates the findings, and then generates appropriate exercises. There is a feature called "mini Lexion" which allows you to create exercises for your student which you can then email to them to work at on another computer, or for them to work at home (wonderful for tutors as the exercises are created for you!).

Lexion covers phonological awareness, letter-sound correspondence, syllable and morpheme segmentation and blending, etc. It is designed for use with students from Pre-School age to Year 9 (age 14), but can be used by older pupils in some cases, for example those with a lower reading age. The use of "age appropriate" photographs etc mean it can be used with a huge range of students.

PRICE INCREASES!!!! The manufacturers of Lexion have informed us they are going to have to significantly increasing the cost of this product from April 1st to all their

suppliers worldwide. This means our selling price will rise by approximately \$150 - please order now to avoid this extra cost. Lexion represents excellent value as it is a one-off payment only, with no yearly renewal.

Special Offers!

The full version of **Nessy Literacy programme** has over 1,500 printable resources, card and board games, worksheets etc combined with 12 onscreen games It takes all the hard work out of preparing resources, plus they are such fun that students actually want to do them! The programme is for those with SLD / dyslexia and the resources develop reading, writing and spelling. Suitable for students from ages 4 to adults, and the price is a one-off payment with no renewal fees. \$297.78 + \$37.22 GST, total \$335

Nessy GamesPlayer has exactly the same onscreen games as Nessy, but does NOT have any printable resources. This is an inexpensive way to give additional students access to the programme without having to buy the whole scheme again. Such a great price – only \$65 including GST (wonderful for families who want to encourage their children's reading and writing – Nessy does all the work for you!) Your children can play computer games that are actually helping their education! \$59.56 NZD + \$5.64 GST, total \$65.

Nessy "bundle" price:

Buy both together – normally \$400 (including GST), Special price \$375 (including GST) – offer valid until end of April 2007.

Wordshark / Numbershark

We will still be selling these at less than their 2006 price until 1st April. Buy now – they will be going up by an average \$10 each + GST.

Featured websites



This month's choices:

- A New Zealand encyclopedia
- Astronomy picture of the day
- Citing reference sources.

New Zealand Encyclopedia

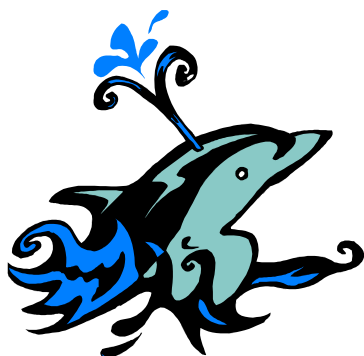
<http://www.teara.govt.nz/en>

This is an online encyclopedia of New Zealand topics. The whole site is available in English or Māori. Topics include:

New Zealand peoples - Discover the people who traveled from around the globe to settle in New Zealand.

Māori New Zealanders - Learn about New Zealand's Māori people, who define themselves as iwi (tribes).

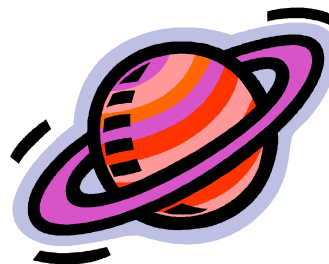
Earth, sea and sky - includes marine life (e.g. dolphins), people and the sea, natural resources, and shaping forces such as geology and climate.



Astronomy picture of the Day

<http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/astropix.html>

Each day a different image or photograph of our fascinating universe is featured, along with a brief explanation written by a professional astronomer.



<http://library.lib.binghamton.edu/search/citing.html#suggestions>

Citing Internet Sources

<http://library.lib.binghamton.edu/search/citing.html#suggestions>

When writing articles and essays, often students get sources from the internet. However, "citing" a website (acknowledging it is someone else's work) is not as easy as it is from a book. All sources should be cited in a bibliography or reference list and in the body of the text of a research paper. Citations give credit to the author as well as enable other researchers (or tutors) to locate the cited item. This website gives some useful suggestions on how to do it

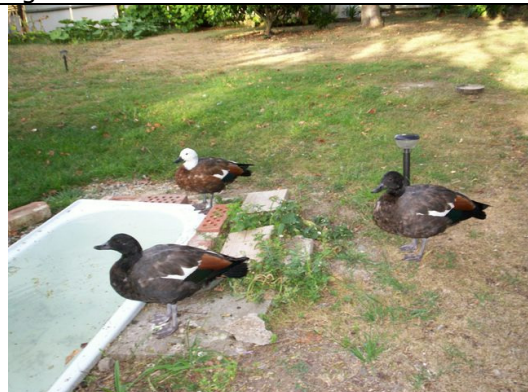


Edith the Poodle

Konichiwa (that means hello in Japanese), I'm Edith, the Real Special mascot. Well, today I am wearing a beautiful kimono that my friend Rimi brought me back from Japan. The patterns on it represent fireworks and celebrations. There are two Japanese festivals in March that I think I would particularly like – March 3rd is Girl's festival (hina matsuri) and March 14th is White Day (howaitto-dei) when boys give chocolate and candy to girls. Seeing as I am both white and a girl I should get a double helping of treats!



Did I tell you we have another new girl in the family - our female duck called Mary (we weren't sure if she was a girl or boy for a while). I think she is trying to copy me by turning white herself, but so far she has only managed to change her head. Her brother ducks are called Peter and Paul (I keep singing the rhyme "two little dickie birds, but when I get to the part saying "fly away Peter, fly away Paul, they don't seem to want to go!). However, I am now getting a bit more used to having to share the garden with them, and they are definitely welcome to go swimming in the bath as that is not something I like at all.



Just for fun - Edith's Jokes

- Q. What do you call a crate of ducks?
 A. A box of quackers!
- Q. Who has webbed feet and fangs?
 A. Count Duckula.
- Q. What kind of days do ducks like best?
 A. Those when it's fowl weather.

Sudoku for March

The Sudoku grid has three main elements. There are 9 columns, 9 rows and 9 blocks. Using the numbers 1 through 9, the 81 squares in the grid must be filled so that every column, row and block contains the numbers 1 through 9. No number can repeat within any column, row or block.

Good luck! The solution is on page 4.

	3		1	9				
			8			9		
7				2				3
				3	2		6	7
	1						2	
2	6		4	1				
3				8				4
		8			9			
				6	4		3	

Easy recipe - BBQ banana sundaes

Thank goodness the hot New Zealand weather is finally here! This is a great summer dessert that kids love helping to prepare

Ingredients:

4 peeled bananas
4 teaspoons butter or margarine
4 teaspoons honey or maple syrup
Vanilla or chocolate ice-cream
Favourite topping e.g. caramel, raspberry, chocolate sauce, nuts, etc

Method

On a sheet of tin foil, place a banana, a teaspoon of butter and a teaspoon of honey or maple syrup.

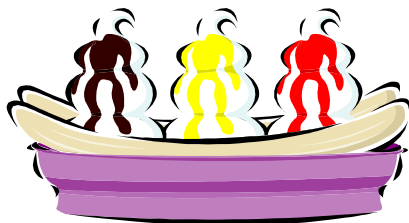
Do this four times

Wrap each sheet of foil into a secure parcel shape – scrunch the edges to make sure the melted butter can't get out!

Place each banana parcel on a hot barbeque and cook for 5-6 minutes

Remove the parcels from the BBQ and open the foil (be careful it's hot and steamy inside!)

Serve with vanilla or chocolate ice-cream – it is even nicer with sauce and nut toppings!



Sudoku solution (from page 3)

8	3	4	1	9	7	2	5	6
5	2	6	8	4	3	9	7	1
7	9	1	5	2	6	8	4	3
4	8	5	9	3	2	1	6	7
9	1	3	6	7	8	4	2	5
2	6	7	4	1	5	3	8	9
3	5	2	7	8	1	6	9	4
6	4	8	3	5	9	7	1	2
1	7	9	2	6	4	5	3	8

Real Special Holidays

We now have a new webpage showing our holiday accommodation

www.realspecial.co.nz/holidays

We have been really busy over this period of hot weather but still have vacancies for later in the year – we particularly love meeting overseas guests to show them what a beautiful country New Zealand is.

Last but not least:

We have an additional new phone number at Real Special, although calls to our old number will be diverted at no extra cost to you.

Our new number is

03 540 2804

Subscription notice. You have received this free newsletter because you have requested to subscribe to it – thank you. Your privacy will be respected – we do not pass on your information to anyone. Please feel free to forward this email to any other interested people. Apologies if you do not want to be on our mailing list - if you wish to be removed, please contact us.