

MEDIA RELEASE

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From New Zealand Foundation for Character Education

For immediate use

Character Education an answer to Bay Classrooms

Rod Galloway, Chairman of the New Zealand Foundation for Character Education, said that “while he understands the challenges that so called “social devils” bring to Bay of Plenty primary schools the call for school social workers was not the answer.”

“All that would achieve” said Rod Galloway “was the expenditure of tens of thousands of dollars, the message of the management of unacceptable behaviour and failure to address the root cause of the problem, the formation of character.”

Several years ago the Bay of Plenty Community Trust funded a character education training seminar which seeded several of the finest “character education” schools in New Zealand. These include the Taupo-Nui-A-Tai College and the Kaharoa and Malfroy primary schools in Rotorua.

The success of these schools mirrors recent research, on the results of character education in New Zealand schools, undertaken by Dr. Gael McDonald, Professor of Business Ethics at Auckland UNITEC.

This research showed that intentional character education had positive outcomes, most noticeably on student behaviour, regardless of the school or college’s decile classification.

“Another highly significant outcome,” said Rod Galloway “was that a majority of schools in the study noticed a decline of 60 – 70 percent in vandalism. This amounts to thousands of dollars saved in school budgets.”

Dr McDonald also found that intentional character education has a positive effect on school discipline and stand downs because there was a clear definition of goals, expectations and behaviour. There was also more structure and consistency in dealing with discipline situations and students took responsibility for own actions and related them back to the traits of character.

“Character education” schools also found that they were less reliant on specialist services to assist with the management of unacceptable behaviour.

Rod Galloway said “that this is positive and encouraging news for schools facing of disruptive and unacceptable classroom behaviour.”

For these reasons the New Zealand Foundation for Character Education encourages Bay of Plenty schools and their communities to disregard quick-fix solutions,

celebrate and emulate the outstanding “character education” schools they already have in the region and address their “social devils” in the most positive way possible. That is by the restoration of character education to its historical and rightful place at the centre of the curriculum.

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The full report can be downloaded from www.cornerstonevalues.org Dr McDonald’s PowerPoint presentation is also available on that WebPage.

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The New Zealand Foundation for Character Education Incorporated is a non-profit organisation without religious or political affiliations, which was established in 1993 to fund the preparation, publication and promotion of character education resources.