

THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION

BY BILLY GRAHAM

Education is everything. Maybe I value it so highly because I didn't spend much time at school? But I have never stopped learning. I make sure I mix with people who have something to say and are happy to share it with me.



Billy Graham in his library at the Naenae Boxing Academy.

Our son David has just come back from two months in USA. When he was not snowboarding David spent his time with our wonderful friends and colleagues Mike and Debbie Gardner in Cincinnati and Ed Weichers in Colorado.

The Gardners are expert martial arts trainers and ex-Police. Ed was the USA Air Force Academy Head Boxing Coach for 30 years and has now been snapped up by USA Boxing. How valuable for David! He has come back to take up his Vodafone World of Difference (WOD) scholarship with a lot of extra information under his hat.

The Vodafone Foundation has education and development as one of the main priorities for every recipient during their WOD year. David is going to be learning as much as he teaches in 2015!


As for we more mature folk (I like to call us 'experienced') we are very fortunate to have a capacity building advisor working with us until May, on contract from 'Not For Profit Works' and generously funded by The Tindall Foundation. We are going to be better than before – with more efficient systems, so we can serve the youth of the Hutt Valley more effectively!

My wife Kerri and I are working on our personal 10-year plan and will have a succession plan for the Naenae Boxing Academy coaches and staff worked out this year.



The longevity of the Naenae and Cannons Creek Boxing Academies, plus the ability to replicate our model around NZ if at all possible, depend on our careful planning now.

2015 is our 10th year and is an excellent time to be planning our next 10+ years. So this old dog is learning new tricks. I am willing to learn. Education is everything.

billy.graham@nyct.org.nz



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David Graham with the Gardners, 'learning' from Abraham Lincoln.