

HeliganChess is a chess coaching initiative based in Devonport on Auckland's North Shore, and run by Dr Helen Milligan. Its main aim is to improve the chess understanding of students in the rating range 1000 to 1700, with a view to better tournament and Interschools results.

The national NZCF Interschools competition has been an important event in New Zealand for many years. Regional qualifying events for school teams of four players (with the option of a fifth as reserve) take place throughout the country and the top teams compete in the Finals in late September.



Course Details: Students will be guided to self-improvement by means of the internationally acclaimed Steps Method, combined with the program *Chess for Beginners*, edited and recommended by the FIDE Chess in Schools Committee.

Method: Lessons for school groups will be tailored to fit the time available (and can be scheduled before or after school, or during the lunch break). Generally there will be a short presentation of a new idea, followed by practice. Students might be split into small groups to analyse positions, or into pairs to play out endgames. Occasionally they might all play against the coach. Free lessons in chess and Interschools rules for the teacher are included!



About the coach: Dr Helen Milligan is a licensed FIDE Instructor and International Arbiter, holding over-the-board CM and WFM titles. She has competed internationally for decades, initially for Scotland and recently for New Zealand. Her travels around the world have given her an appreciation of the value of chess in breaking down cultural and communication barriers, and her education (up to PhD level) an insight into the usefulness of chess as a complement to the basic school curriculum. She is co-author of the beginners' best-seller, *Chess for Children*.

Cost: Basic rate \$10 per lesson per student, preferably paid in advance for the full term (number of weeks to be decided by consultation with parents and the school).

Organisation: Lessons can be arranged by the school, or by the teacher in charge of chess at the school, or by a group of parents coordinating together. In any case, you will need to arrange the use of a room at the school, and payment of the course fees.

Extras: Tests for NZCF badges (Pawn, Knight, Bishop, Rook) can be arranged.

Please email initially: heligan@heliganchess.nz

