

Coming to New Zealand!!!!

Michael Piechowski !!!!

17-27 March 2010

The man who brought “overexcitabilities” to the world of gifted education

“One of the stand-out figures in gifted education internationally” – Roger Moltzen



Michael Piechowski ... a very special name in gifted education.

Michael has dedicated his years in this field to understanding the emotional and spiritual world of the gifted young person.

His insights have inspired and helped countless educators, parents and students, and brought home to us the extraordinary intensity of life experience for gifted youngsters, an intensity which brings with it both great vulnerability and great promise.

He introduced us to the work of Dabrowski, and made overexcitabilities an integral part of the language of gifted education.

We are thrilled that he has agreed to come here to share his wisdom with us.

Very excited about Michael coming... To me, he's one of the stand-out figures in gifted education internationally. He does not recycle or rework the same material but is constantly exploring new ideas and approaches. Michael has a presence about him that is quite awe-inspiring. - Roger Moltzen.

Click [HERE](#) to read an interview with Michael talking to Rosemary Cathcart about his unusual introduction to gifted education and his life's work in the field.

Michael is presenting in Hamilton, Auckland, Wellington & Christchurch, with sessions for educators, parents AND students.

Michael's books will also be available. Further details below.

Workshop topics

Michael is presenting a full-day workshop open to both educators and parents in each of the four centres he is visiting, consisting of Sessions 1, 2 and 3 described below.

In *Auckland* and in *Christchurch*, Michael will present two additional workshops:

- (a) Specifically for students: *Living with Your Intensities and Sensitivities*. (Session 1, see descriptor below, adapted for students themselves and based on Michael's years of experience in working with gifted young people). Highly appropriate for gifted students in Years 7-13.
- (b) For parents and educators: *Empowering Children Through Personal Growth*. (Session 4, see descriptor below).

Important special note re Session 4:

[1] In Auckland, this session will be held as the final session in a one-day AGM mini-conference organised by *giftEDnz* which includes an address by the Minister with responsibility for gifted education, the Hon. Heather Roy, together with other workshops. For full details including the cost for the full day, please go to the *giftEDnz* website, www.giftednz.org.nz. (You can find this on our Links page if you have trouble connecting here). Parents and educators are welcome either to book just for Session 4, or for the whole day.

*** Bookings for session 4 **only** should be made through REACH. Bookings for the mini-conference should be made through *giftEDnz*.

[2] In Christchurch, this session will be held as the second session in an afternoon AGM mini-conference organised by the NZAGC, which includes a presentation by MindLab. For full details, please go to the NZAGC website, www.giftedchildren.org.nz. (You can find this on our Links page if you have trouble connecting here). Parents and educators are welcome either to book just for Session 4, or for the whole day.

**** Bookings for session 4 **only** should be made through REACH. Bookings for the mini-conference should be made through the NZAGC.

Session descriptors

In a vivid image, Piechowski writes of gifted youngsters being “quiveringly alive”, and comments, “When we talk about heightened excitability, we are talking about a distinctly different quality of experience....The perception of how everything appears, feels and is understood, differs in essence, depth and complexity ... Contact with such intensities enlightens and enriches the experience of the rest of us.” How can educators and parents and students themselves learn to understand and live with these rich differences?

Session 1: Living with Intensities and Sensitivities

Gifted and creative children and youth manifest “overexcitabilities,” ways of experiencing marked by intensity and sensitivity in five areas: psychomotor, sensual, intellectual, imaginal, and emotional. These intensities and sensitivities are often misunderstood and treated as something abnormal. Ways of understanding and strategies for handling them will be presented.

Session 2: Beyond Flow: The Way of Imagination

For anyone who likes Imagination! The subject of imagination is vast. Is the imagined real or not? In what way do imaginary entities exist in the person? Can they affect the body? An analysis of responses to questions about imagination suggests that it unfolds in two different dimensions: free play of the mind or focused, purposeful activity.

Session 3: Spiritual Giftedness

An unusual question for teachers to consider, perhaps – parents may be more likely to be aware of such responses in children. But it is an aspect which is gaining more and more attention in psychology and which has implications for teaching as well as for parenting. Studies of gifted children and youth reveal inner potentials for spiritual awareness and experience of non-ordinary realities. Some children spontaneously discover techniques of entering transcendent states. This session will review case material showing dimensions of experience that go beyond ordinary reality.

Session 4: Empowering Children through Personal Growth

Personal growth is largely misunderstood and left to chance. This session includes an experiential demonstration of the ways of tending personal growth with the aid of simple exercises to focus attention, raise sensory awareness, train one’s will, discover different aspects of the self, and so on. This approach is part of the Yunasa Summer Institute for highly gifted children.

Dates and times

Wed 17 March	Hamilton, workshop day, 9.30 – 3. Sessions 1, 2, 3.
Fri 19 March	Auckland, workshop day, 9.30- 3. Sessions 1,2,3.
Sat 20 March	Auckland. Session 1 for students, 10.00 – 11.30. Session 4, parents & educators, 2.30 – 4.00.
Tues 23 March	Wellington, workshop day. Sessions 1,2,3.
Thurs 25 March	Christchurch, Session 1 for students, 9.30 – 11.00
Fri 26 March	Christchurch, workshop day, 9.30 – 3. Sessions 1, 2, 3.
Sat 27 March	Christchurch, Session 4, 3 – 4.30.

Venues

Hamilton:	University of Waikato, details will be emailed.
Auckland:	Friday: School hall, Kohia Terrace School, Mt Eden Saturday: <u>Students</u> : Kohia Terrace School <u>Session 4</u> : Sir Neil Walters Building NW200, Massey University Albany Campus (off motorway), <u>see booking note</u> .
Wellington:	Heretaunga Boating Club, 138 The Esplanade, Petone
Christchurch:	<u>Thursday</u> (Students) Room 304, Wheki Building, College of Education Campus, Dovedale Avenue, University of Canterbury. <u>Friday</u> : (Sessions 1, 2, 3, Educators & Parents) Room 304, as for Thursday <u>Saturday</u> : (Session 4) Room 302, Wheki Building, <u>see booking note</u> .

Fees

NB: Workshop-day fees include a catered lunch and morning tea.

Educators: Workshop day (Sessions 1,2,3); \$195 + GST.
Session 4, \$25 (GST incl).

Educators' Group Discount:
Workshop day: \$175 + GST for 2nd teacher from same school; \$160 + GST for 3rd and subsequent teachers from same school.

Parents: Workshop day (Sessions 1,2,3) \$45 (GST incl).
Session 4, \$25 (GST incl)

NB: Session 4: Remember that if you are attending the whole day in Auckland, an additional cost – check the giftEDnz website.

Concession: Bona fide fulltime university students can attend at parent rates. Documentation required.

Students: Session 1 for Y7 - & 13 students: \$15.00.

How to book your place:

Remember...

Sessions 1,2,3: Book through REACH.

Session 4: Auckland: Bookings for session 4 **only** should be made through REACH. Bookings for the mini-conference should be made through giftEDnz.

Christchurch: Bookings for session 4 **only** should be made through REACH. Bookings for the mini-conference should be made through the NZAGC.

Email reacheducation@xtra.co.nz, and:

1. State which event(s) you wish to attend – workshop day, Session 4, workshop day AND Session 4, Session 1 for Year 7-13 students.
 2. Please indicate in which city you will be attending – Hamilton, Auckland, Wellington or Christchurch.
 3. State whether you are an educator, parent, university student or school-age student.
 4. If you are an educator, please say whether your school is paying for you or whether you are paying for yourself.
 5. Include your name and a contact phone number.
- All bookings will be acknowledged by email.
 - Any queries, feel welcome to phone us on 07 357 4232.

How to pay:

If you are booking through REACH:

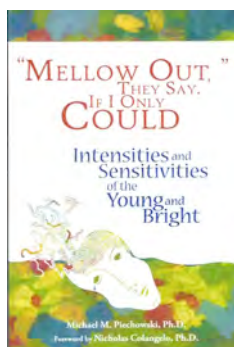
- Schools paying for staff to attend will be sent an invoice.
- **All others:** Please forward cheques made out to **REACH Education to: REACH Education, PO Box 48, Ngongotaha, 3041.** Bookings will be confirmed and a receipt sent as soon as payment is received.

If you are booking through giftEDnz or the NZAGC:

Those organisations will have payment information on their websites.

Michael's Books

Copies of these books will be available for viewing at each workshop, and the books themselves may be ordered through Learning Network. Order forms will be available.

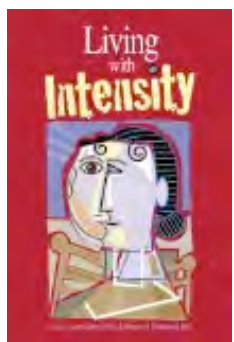


The purpose of this book is to give voice to the emotional life of bright young people, to show how their intensities and sensitivities make them more alive, more creative, and more in love with the world and its wonders. *Opening sentence of "Mellow Out".*

Reading these pages is like a heart to heart conversation with gifted youth – Annemarie Roeper.

For years I have waited for Michael Piechowski to put together the full picture of what it means to be gifted. In this volume, Mellow Out, he does just that. – James DeLisle.

It is like being introduced to my son for the first time. – Parent of a gifted boy.



Gifted children and adults are often misunderstood. Their excitement is viewed as excessive, their high energy as hyperactivity, their persistence as nagging, their imagination as not paying attention, their passion as being disruptive, their strong emotions and sensitivity as immaturity, their creativity and self-directedness as oppositional.

This resource describes these overexcitabilities and strategies for dealing with children and adults who are experiencing them, and provides essential information about Dabrowski's Theory of Positive Disintegration. Learn practical methods for nurturing sensitivity, intensity, perfectionism, and much more.

From Sal Mendaglio's Introduction: *A unique contribution to the social and emotional domain of giftedness... In Living with Intensity, Susan Daniels and Michael Piechowski provide us with a comprehensive discussion of various aspects of emotional development authored by an array of contributors, researchers and practitioners, all of whom are established experts in the area.*

A reader's view: *This is a fabulous book - it explains so much, from a much broader and yet more specific perspective than many other theories on human development. It focuses on giftedness explained from the perspective of Dabrowski's Theory of Positive Disintegration, of which the Overexcitabilities more commonly known of are but a component, but it is not only a book about/for the gifted I think - it is helpful in explaining so many things about human development in general.*