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**A Case Study of Outdoor Education: Implications for New Zealand
Schools.**

A thesis presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements of Masters in Education.

At Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand.

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Abstract

This descriptive case study explores outdoor education, one of the key learning areas in the Health and Physical Education in the New Zealand Curriculum. It is a single site case study based on an Intermediate School's end of year camp programme and explores the teachers', students' and parents' before and after perceptions related to the camp experience. The methodological tools used were teacher interviews, student and parent questionnaires, field notes and teachers' logs.

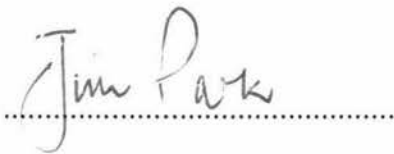
The focus of the study and the analysis of the data were based on a number of themes: teacher, parent, and student expectations, personal and social development, learning about self, others and the environment, transfer of learning, safety in the outdoors and the use of outside providers at residential outdoor centres.

The results of the study suggest that teachers and parents have similar expectations of a camp experience for the students: fun and enjoyment, teaching of outdoor skills, environmental awareness, a concern for safety and the use of the outdoors as a leisure outlet. This study showed that the students' expectations have a far greater focus on fun and enjoyment and social aspects and less on the learning of outdoor skills and environmental awareness. The findings of the study put a focus on the importance of transfer of learning and impact of a residential camp experience on the development of friendships and social relationships as well as the management of safety and use of outside providers, in instructing outdoor pursuits activities with Intermediate School students in a residential outdoor setting.

The study reinforced the philosophy behind the new Health and Physical Education curriculum and the role of outdoor education as one of the key learning areas. Outdoor education is still a powerful learning medium in the development of the students' personal and social development and outdoor pursuits activities can have a positive effect on students developing a positive attitude about self, others and the environment.

Declaration

I declare that this thesis represents my own work and the contents have not been previously included in a thesis, dissertation, or a report that has been submitted to this University or any other tertiary institution for a degree, diploma or other qualification.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Park". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal dotted line that extends to the right.

Jim Park

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