

## Bruce McLachlan – Principal of Swanson Primary School (Auckland, New Zealand)

### – the ‘school with no rules’

**Bruce McLachlan**, father of three and grandfather of 4, is the principal of Swanson Primary School, a school of 500 in Auckland, New Zealand. In 2014 Bruce made international headlines for the approach his school is taking to rules governing children’s play. The school provides an environment where children have ample opportunities to learn from their mistakes, to manage risk within reason and to figure out what works by trial and error. Children ride bikes, build huts, climb trees and play-fight. The international media attention has been overwhelmingly positive. The idea of allowing ‘kids to be kids’ has resonated with people all over the world. Bullying, conflict and serious injuries are down, while creativity, problem solving and concentration are up.

**Malarkey PLAYwork** are proud to be bringing Bruce to Australia to speak at our national conference. He has taken his school, his staff, children and their parents on a journey that has tackled head-on the fears that everyone, except children it would seem, have over the idea of a risk taking playground.



<http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/education/9692464/This-playgrounds-lawless-and-kids-love-it>



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