



Monthly News • November 2011

Tena Koutou, Talofa Lava, Kia Orana, Fakaalofa Lahi Atu, Malo e Lelei,
Bula Vinaka, Taloha Ni, Kam Na Mauri, Greetings to all!

Data base: 4906 Whanau Carers.

From the National Office:

Urgent message: People are telling me they have left messages on my phone, which I am not getting. Di Vivian (Member's Services Manager) Please make sure you press ext.1 on our 0800 number. A mystery?

Your Voices:

Uses for plasters:

Have been encouraging Master 5 to eat nicely at the table, and mind his manners. Said he couldn't be noisy, and jump around at a restaurant etc. Then uncle's birthday came, so plans to go to the local Indian for dinner. Master 5 was down in the dumps, and when asked why. "Oh I don't want to go to the restaurant, I might not be able to be good, and I might talk too much." (We had been putting a plaster on his foot) when he came up with an idea. Oh nanna, you could put a plaster over my mouth, so I could be very quiet. I could only talk like this (quiet voice). Needless to say we went to the restaurant and all had a good time. They gave him crayons, and told him he could write on the table cloth - it was a special one, (good old paper).

Who am I?

My two and a half year old great-grand-daughter who is being raised by Her Nana, came in to Nana all dressed up. In a big growly voice, she says, "Nana, I am a dinosaur!" Nana asks, "Are you a Stegosaurus?" "NO!" says the big growly voice, "I AM A LITTLESORUS!"

Is the grass greener?

Dear Grandson did the usual at age 15. He ran off, to try living with Dad who wouldn't be as strict as Gran. He took Dad and his partner for a merry ride- wagging school, lying, and drugs-- all the usual. Meanwhile Gran fretted and worried. Come the end of term three and guess who ricocheted home to Gran for the last push before Level One NCEA? Mr. Big. But then Kaitaia was still too small for our Mister. Oh dear, Mum turned up on the horizon from Australia. Let's try that as an out. Off to Adelaide went his lordship. End of schooling, drifting, back in to the drug scene, and wrong friends. Whoops, Mum goes to Perth and leaves him to get on with his life. More drifting, suddenly the inevitable, "Hi Nan, I'm in Sydney with no money and nowhere to stay the night" so she makes the usual suggestions. A quick ring round and everyone agrees it is time for the young man to take some consequences. No-one will help out with finance or an air fare. On with the circus and eventually he drifts up to the Gold Coast. Slowly he starts to turn around and try to get a job, when he is not surfing. Finds a girlfriend and soon is working-even if that means changing jobs from month to month. Nan decides that for his 20th birthday she will fly to visit him. Lots of tears good warm ones over hugs and heaps of them. Now he is in Perth, finally realising that buildup of fines and other debts need to be paid off and maybe the time has come to get some more qualifications. Wow. There is a light at the end of the tunnel. And has he ceased ringing? Never, good or bad news: who has to know? Gran of course and has she stopped caring? Of course not, will she ever? NEVER. Keep up the good work
Irene TC



My Little grandson of six we have had guardianship since he was 9 months old. The other night after being put to bed said to granddad when he went to check on him. "I can't sleep granddad because I'm nocturnal" Hoot, hoot.



Bubbles:

I had my Grandson then aged 3 years, we had filled the claw-foot bathtub to the top and got in together for a mid-winter bubble tub warm up. It's a coffin shape so narrow at the foot and wider at the top end and about 6 foot long, I'm at the bottom end so he had room for his toys at the other. At one point he clambered up my end and squeezed in beside me, wriggling down until we were both crushed tightly side by side on our backs and I looked down at him and said 'So what's all this about?' He yelled at the top of his voice 'Shanna! Sometimes, You've just gotta take a risk' He's turned 7 now, and has been a box of funny anecdotes his whole life. We are collecting his best ones for his 21st Birthday.

I'm a little bit of Sharon and a little bit of Nanna to my Grandchildren and they all call me Shanna. *Sharon.*

Kia Ora



As a young person I dreamt of raising a family, as a mother I dreamt of seeing my mokopuna, as a nanny I dream of seeing my grandchildren grow into good people. I have to giggle because here I am looking in the mirror to make sure every follicle is covered, no, not with a hair dye or beauty product but with a nit eliminator. Still, given all the creaks and groans that come from my body, the moments of terror as I hear my grandson use his ever increasing, undesirable vocabulary and I get whip lash looking to see if anyone is within earshot, all the sticking plasters, Panadol, holey trousers, wrestling moves on the dog (lucky it's stuffed) and nit potions I would not be anywhere else in the world but right here looking at this giggling person distributing a sticky, smelly product through his hair. Aaaaah life is good. Take care everyone, treat yourself well and take the time to stop and appreciate the roses in your truly blessed lives.

Matthew: Who is living with us and is 8 years old. (We are his Grandparents) came home last night from school and said they have to pick a hero to write about. He then proceeded to say a lot of the kids are picking things like superman etc. but I have decided to pick Poppa as my Hero. I said, 'why is that Matthew' and he proceeded to say that Poppa has taught him a lot since he has lived with us, he is always teaching me things, and doing things outside with me.

I was quite taken aback as sometimes you do not realise what goes thru their heads, and if they appreciate the sacrifice we take to bring them us. Matthew has been with us 2 years this November. *Elaine*

Congratulations James:

James Peebles returned from Australia after competing in the NSW multi class disabilities championships. Tucked carefully in his bag was a gold medal, silver medal and a bronze medal. He also achieved his personal best cutting 4 seconds off his best time. The extreme hard work of 5 nights per week has REALLY paid off. His grandmother Virginia is really proud of him, and rightly so! Well done James, you are a STAR!



Dangers of Water:

3 children (6-9) in the spa having a wonderful time, laughter was ringing out. They had been in there for so long their skin had gone all wrinkly (what they call Nana skin, I might add) They were giving each other piggy back rides, thank God I was watching them, the youngest one was giving the older one a piggy back, but because of his weight he actually had her head under the water! He was unaware! She could not surface! With all the water safety we hear about there needs to be something for younger children about never ever hold another child under water! Innocent fun could have ended so tragically. Yes, they were all given a talk as to how you cannot breathe under water and the dangers of holding children under water, even accidentally. *Vigilant Gran*

On reflection: A Journey.

Where to start! Initially I was in shock for quite a while, why me I thought, why not one of my sisters perhaps. Why should I be given yet more struggles in life?

I had grown up with a very stressful home life due to mental illness. On top of that I had years of bringing up my three kids alone as a solo parent due to drugs and mental illness dominating my married life, wasn't that enough?

When my youngest had left home I was celebrating now was my time, finally. I had many dreams and great plans. This was to be my catch up time, my chance to earn and save, to reach my goals and enjoy life doing literally as I pleased, no one to answer too but myself, no one to be responsible for and no sacrifices to make, yay.....

I got nearly three years of freedom until mental illness struck my baby girl. She had been smoking drugs which triggered mental illness; she was also pregnant with my grandson and the "dad" was a mongrel mob prospect. What a dilemma, I spent the next few years supporting her with love and encouragement while she struggled as a solo mum with a mental illness. Unfortunately her illness became too intense and my grandson's wellbeing was suffering. My only choice was to take him and provide him with stability and love. He had no one but me to be there for him.

The first two years were full of unpredictability requiring lots of patience, quick thinking, and lateral thinking. Lots of uncertainty in my choice, lots of court cases and drama as well! Why me! There was a fair bit of crying, some quiet anger when he was asleep and that was not very often due to trauma but, thank goodness, there was quite a lot of laughter due to our favourite bonding wrestling games on the lounge floor. Gran was King Kong and grandson T Rex. Jumping on the tramp endlessly made me quite fit and that 15 minute a day rugby passes and mini tackles was more enjoyable than I thought it would be most of the time! This time was essential for his development allowing him to feel trust and consistency.

Now six years later my grandson is soon to be 12 and am I so grateful I have him.

We have both grown together; it took a load of faith in making the right decisions, a lot of talking with helpful organisations and lots of cuddles. We now live very happily on a farm with my partner of four years, 3 dogs, a cat, 7 hens, 4 lambs, a cow, 2 sheep and a ram.

I always have held the thought that our attitude is what makes our lives as they are. We should always be open to new learning and opportunities, always try to have faith that things will come good for you. Love the moments in life no matter how hard as they make us strong and great role models for those who need it.

Court Appointed Psychologist:

Now, I wonder if some other grandparents experienced similar things with these assessments by court appointed psychologists.

Yesterday, the court appointed psychologist went right through the house to look at 'stuff'. Hubby and I looked at one another in amazement. Oh well...whatever. She then said that she did not notice any photos of the three children's parents on the walls. I said to her that she would notice that there are NO photos on the walls as this is a brand new rental property and that we are not allowed to put holes in the walls. She then asked that I get a 'decent' looking photo of them on the laptop as she wanted to see the children's reaction. Of course our baby girl does not know them and the boys only went "Oh, that's daddy and mummy. Let's go play."

I wonder if she thought they would burst out in tears and ask to go stay with them?

New decisions

I had to make a decision as to how we would cope ahead when we got the three children. I decided to up my skills and enrolled at Massey University. I completed a Graduate Diploma in Art (English) at Massey in June 2011 which I managed to complete in a year. I started the programme in July 2010 and at the same time started proceedings for a parenting order. I represented myself and my husband in court without a lawyer. I was able to push the parenting order through in three weeks and was stunned when the judge granted us a full parenting order until each child is sixteen. They currently are five, four and 20 months old. I now applied for a Graduate Diploma in Secondary Teaching and Lord willing hope to be accepted. My studies did not come easy and I know about burning the midnight oil! Literally - and we saved a ton of money as I managed our own court case.

Raising children at such a late stage in life is not easy but if you have the drive and determination, then anything is possible. I believe it is all in the mind as a strong mind conquers all.

I often get comments from people about "my" three little children when I am out somewhere. Some people openly comment that I look too young to be the grandmother when I tell them that I in fact **am** the grandmother. Well, thank you for the compliment, but I am now into my fifties! Fifty is the new thirty. This is what I have heard on a TV program and now I live by it. I am no glamour cat. I am fat and in my fifties - but, I am far from feeble! I live by determination and perseverance but most of all, by the grace of God!

Beauty

I want to tell all our lovely grandparents out there that what I have seen that is regarded as beauty is often a misconception.

What you see with young people is glamour. Beauty is not acquired by spending thousands on expensive facials or moisturizers, or even worse, plastic surgery! Who anyway wants to be the best looking corpse in the cemetery? No, beauty only kicks in later in life when you have had some life experience as inner beauty reflects to the outside and this is what we see in our grandparents raising grandchildren. However, my one and only beauty treatment, is Bio-Oil twice a day and that is as much time I spend to looking after my skin. Oh yes, I almost forgot, I do not smoke, drink and keep out of the sun.



GRG thank you once again for always lending an ear and advice.

Have a great and a blessed day! God bless and kindest regards

M.

From the National Office:

Age-appropriate:

Grandparents are known for their words of wisdom, or at least that's how it's always been in the past --our own grown children may not always think so. I loved and benefited from my own grandma's warmth and wisdom. Some of it was bitter, some of it was sweet, but it was always dished out with love and in more than ample amounts, like her food. "Eat! Eat! It's good for you!"



But too much of anything is usually not a good thing (unless, maybe, it's money.) That also holds true for a grandparent's answers to questions, as you will see when you read the following cute joke I received in my email inbox:

"Hunter was 4 years old and was staying with his grandfather for a few days. He'd been playing outside with the other kids, when he came into the house and asked, 'Grandpa, what's that called when two people sleep in the same bedroom and one is on top of the other?' His Grandpa was a little taken aback, but he decided to tell him the truth. 'Well, Hunter, it's called sexual intercourse.' 'Oh,' Little Hunter said, 'OK,' and went back outside to play with the other kids. A few minutes later he came back in and said angrily, 'Grandpa, it isn't called sexual intercourse. It's called bunk beds. And Jimmy's mum wants to talk to you.' "Author Unknown

Children know what they want to know. It's often the adults who need to tune in and provide age-appropriate answers. Striving for total accuracy and too much information is not always a good thing and won't necessarily answer the child's real question. When you ask a 2 year old where milk comes from, they may answer "the store". A five year old might answer, "Cows". They don't go into a long dissertation on the process, from milking the cow to purification and pasteurization to packaging and transportation to the grocery store. Just because you know more information about something, doesn't mean you should share all of it.

When a 2 year old asks, "Where do babies come from?" A suitable answer might be "the hospital" or "mummy's tummy" rather than a description of sexual intercourse, which is more suitable for a child of age 10 or 12, because they can understand and process the information on a higher level. In an effort to be accurate, I found that saying "mummy's uterus" (which is more accurate) was not a satisfactory answer, leading to more questions that were meant to be answered another time. "Tummy" is a word a young child can relate to and when they see a pregnant woman, it makes perfect sense to them.

But what about the bully?

With the prevalence of bullying causing deep and ongoing concerns in our NZ communities and schools, we want to let you and your colleagues know that Skylight has just launched 2 new support resources to assist bullying prevention in New Zealand. Our bullying resources, including these 2 new ones, may be relevant to those you support in some way, or to colleagues. Bullying is our shared concern so we hope this is helpful.

We have paid attention to the bully themselves this time and the new booklet WHO ME? (for 10-17yr olds) focuses on the bully, giving them better understanding about what bullying is, insights into its effects on themselves as a bully and those bullied, and key steps to help them to stop their bullying behaviour. Cost \$3.50

When the Bully is Your Child is an 8 page booklet for parents and carers who aren't sure how best to respond to their own child's bullying. Cost \$2.50

These resources are best-evidence and best-practise based, as culturally inclusive as possible and easy to read. Both will be useful for those who work with young people and all who work towards bullying prevention in schools, communities and families in any way.

Other Skylight bullying support resources can be found here.

<http://www.skylight.org.nz/Shop/Bullying>

Freephone 0800 299 100



Angry kids

When your child struggles with angry outbursts, telling them to calm down rarely works and suggesting they ignore what's making them angry isn't that helpful either. Teach them how to be good managers of angry feelings by counteracting the 'hot' thoughts that flash through their heads with 'cool' ones. In this way, "It's not fair!", "I never get a turn!", or "No-one cares what I think!" can be challenged with "Oh well", "I can handle this", or "Getting angry won't help me get what I want".

Your child doesn't necessarily have to believe the 'cool thought' to experience the benefits of this strategy, although hopefully they will with time. The key is that they're doing something active to prevent the anger from taking over. Parents Inc.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Many grandparents, including myself (with two small grand-sons), say that the best thing about grand parenting is that you can love and enjoy them and send them back. But what if "sending back" is not an option? What if grandparents find themselves full-time and long-term carers for their children's children?

Grandparents raising grandchildren is nothing new. It has happened for centuries as a result of the parents' death or other emergencies. In some cultures it is normal practice. Traditionally, the Maori whanau has taken children to be adopted or fostered as whangai by grandparents or other kin.

But in countries with welfare states and child protection laws, grandparents' taking over the role of parents has been identified as a growing social "problem". We don't know exactly how prevalent it is, but there are estimates of over 10,000 New Zealand children being parented by their grandparents.

And a Families Commission survey estimated that 12,000 grandparents were raising grandchildren. Maori and Pacific respondents were five to six times more likely to be in this situation than others.

Who are the grandparent carers?

They are likely to be older than non-related foster carers, mostly over 50.

About half are married, but those who are unpartnered are predominantly women. Most of them have raised their own children and are nearing or have reached retirement. This means that energy levels may be less and earning capacity decreased. Just as they are looking forward to a time of greater leisure and relaxation, they are thrown into the stresses of child-rearing again.

They have to come to terms with social values and expectations very different from those when they were raising their own children. They may find their own marital relationships are threatened and often break under the strain.

Why are grandparents caring for their grandchildren?

It is because the biological parents either cannot or will not care for the children satisfactorily. Neglect is the leading reason in the New Zealand surveys, often associated with drug and alcohol use and domestic violence.

Throw in child abuse, mental and physical illness, imprisonment, and child abandonment – usually there is a mix of factors. New step parents may not want the children of a previous relationship. Death of a parent is sometimes associated with domestic violence or suicide.

Often grandparents take on the child/ren without any legal basis or intervention from Child Youth and Family. Sometimes they expect the arrangement to be short term but it may not turn out that way. The grandparents may fear that, if they seek legal custody or report their concerns to the authorities, the parents may contest it and the children's stability will be threatened. Many cannot afford legal fees or fear that formal action will damage already fragile relationships with the children's parents.

But legal arrangements will ensure that the children are secure and the grandparents have the legal standing to make important decisions, for example about the children's education and medical care². Without them, the parents, even when drugged or intoxicated, may take children away at any time. Formal custodial status may also be needed for carers to receive financial help from the benefit system.

There are various legal processes which can be used to make custodial arrangements more permanent, while accepting that children should remain in contact with their biological parents. Such contact is far more likely in kinship care than in foster care. But the type and duration of contact needs to take into account the wishes and safety of the children. Custodial grandparents describe having to manage complicated and stressful access arrangements, especially when they have children from different parents. Contact, as decreed by a court, can be regular or irregular, informal or formal, as in supervised access. Challenges to the legal status of grandparent carers are common and they may easily lose custody of the children.

Impacts on grandparents and children

Grandparents are frequently called upon to care for children during a crisis or after they have been neglected, abused, or, often, living in unsatisfactory conditions. It is not surprising that many of the children have physical and psychological problems and learning difficulties. Grandparents whose grandchildren were affected by foetal alcohol or "shaken baby syndrome," or by their parents' drug-taking, experience additional grief, knowing that the damage was caused by their own children.

There may be serious impacts on grandparent carers. Many have multiple caring roles, not only for children, but also for partners with health problems.

Their social activities are narrowed down to school and sporting events. They used to enjoy bowls, bridge, golf, croquet and Rotary, but these are now out of the question.

Raising grandchildren has a huge impact on work opportunities. Many grandparents stop work, reduce their hours and take early retirement so they can provide care. Trying to balance the needs of children and the demands of a job is difficult for all working parents. Grandparents, especially solo caregivers, may find it even more difficult to balance the personal and financial benefits of work alongside the needs and schedules of the children.

As a result, grandparent carers often face serious financial problems. Caring for any child is expensive, but when he/she has on-going physical, emotional and educational needs, the cost can be unmanageable. The most common reason cited for financial stress by kinship carers is the necessity to give up work, followed by legal fees.

Many find the legal system frustrating, confusing and expensive. This adds extra stress, as grandparents try to achieve safety, stability and permanence for their grandchildren while battling with legal complexities and the capriciousness of unreliable parents. Grandparent carers often feel ignored and unsupported by government agencies. The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ and the Families Commission have made recommendations to central government for improvements in welfare services and the legal system. Support groups of various types are clearly helpful to provide practical and emotional support. They allow the carers and the children involved to realise that there are others in similar situations.

On the positive side, the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ newsletters have many favourable and optimistic reports. It is heartening to hear of children and young people becoming independent, gaining confidence, self-control and self-esteem; and doing well at sports and school. Despite the stress, worry and anxiety, the tenacity of grandparents and their dedication to the children in their care shines out brightly and clearly.

Every Child Counts 2011 www.everychildcounts.org.nz

Two surveys have been carried out by Jill Worrall, on behalf of the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust.

- Worrall, Jill (2005) *Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Charitable Trust Research Report -Grandparents and other Relatives Raising Kin Children in Aotearoa/New Zealand*, Birkenhead Auckland: GRG Trust.
- Worrall, Jill (2009) *Grandparents and Whanau/Extended Families Raising Kin Children in Aotearoa/New Zealand - A view over time*. Research Report, Birkenhead Auckland: GRG Trust.

http://www.grg.org.nz/uploads/75791/files/GRGResearchReport_09.09.09.pdf

- Worrall, Jill (2007) *Grandparents raising Grandchildren. A handbook for grandparents and other kincarers*. Prepared for the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust N.Z. Third edition.



Advance notification:

Please keep an eye out in these newsletters. GRG Trust NZ are very happy to announce we are working with Parents Inc. to bring to you in the New Year “Morning tea with Ian Grant” nationwide. These venues, time and dates will be advertised in these newsletters, web site and direct email. Have a tea or coffee, sandwich or slice and the chance to listen to Ian’s wise words and humour. You WILL enjoy. Coming soon!



Our GRG SALT (sharing and learning together) courses:

A Taste of SALT Proves to be Very Stimulating

‘I would do this course again and it would not matter how far I had to travel.’

‘Thank you for a fabulous course. We really enjoyed it. Lunch was wonderful and we learned so much.’

‘Hopefully more people will come when they realise what they have missed.’

Feedback from those who did attend has been overwhelmingly enthusiastic.

Each workshop day comprised two 2-hour interactive sessions with a variety of activities and discussion. Participants were strongly encouraged to value the experiences of each other as a source of learning for themselves and others. Thus the uniqueness of each group was utilised to help shape the delivery of these opportunities for GRG members to share and learn together.

Topics covered included:

- Key Strengths within You: Using strengths-based materials to identify some of the strengths grandparents/kin carers use in their care-giving role;
- Acknowledging the Strength of your Resilience; Using Eco Maps and other tools to positively identify and employ the elements of personal resilience.

As a ‘feelings check’ the South Auckland participants were invited to select from a basket of varied pieces of fabric one piece that reflected how they were feeling about the day (unfortunately, time did not allow for this activity to happen for North Shore participants). Clearly the different colours, textures, patterns and shapes of the fabric pieces reflected different emotions. Comments included ‘I’m fired up, ready to go and try new things’; ‘I’m feeling very happy/good/more free/clear about things – today has helped to clear a lot of the dust’; ‘I live in two cultural worlds. I feel very colourful inside – starting to accept that change is inevitable. I know I can face the reality and I am going to celebrate my grief/time of change’; ‘I feel sad about the stories I have heard’; ‘I feel overwhelmed/stretched but very positive’; ‘I feel inspired, nurtured, ready for growth’.

Written evaluation responses (N = 13 with some multiple responses to question 2) revealed that:

- 77% of participants rated the workshops as excellent and 23% rated them as very good;
- 62% rated the opportunity to share thoughts/ideas/stories and bond with each other as one of the ‘most enjoyed’ activities. Other most enjoyable activities included the ‘Growing Stronger’ board game (38%) and the whole day (23%). The Eco Map, ‘I have/I am/I can’ formula, talking about strengths and having lots of fun and laughs were also rated highly;
- Only 3 participants suggested ideas to do anything differently, including clarifying the outline for the day, having more time and omitting the board game;
- Asked for suggestions for changes to future SALT workshops 92% provided nil responses or commented ‘it was fine doing what was done today’ and ‘just keep it going’. One person suggested including ideas for keeping kids busy/tough love/discipline;
- 55% commented that it was ‘a most enjoyable day/great meeting everyone’ and 23% said ‘great facilitators/well done’. Other comments included ‘I had fun’, ‘excellent atmosphere that encouraged participants to be open and forthcoming with confidence’ and ‘thank you for your input/information and guidance you have left us with.’

Further SALT workshops are being planned to be held in **Rotorua, Napier and Whanganui** during the week of 20-24 February 2012. Don’t miss out on this opportunity in your area!! See our next newsletter for further details or contact Diana East – Freephone 0800 472 637 (ext. 4) or email d.east13@yahoo.co.nz

Free KidzaCool Camps: For Programme Dates and Locations for Jan 2012

Camps: FREE

Families need to apply direct to camps for application forms: numbers are listed below: Please book in plenty of time for the next school holidays. Tell them the number of children wanting to go when you are applying for applications

via phone. www.healthcamps.org.nz click on main menu on KidzaCool Camps. You can download application forms from their website. **Ages 5-12 years, but applications for a sibling group can include 13-14 year old siblings should the caregiver want to have to have a full break. We do encourage you to apply NOW for January school holidays. GRG is your referring Agent and we do not need to sign forms.**

- Maunu Children's Health Camp, Whangarei, Phone: 09 437 9050
- Pakuranga Children's Health Camp, Auckland, Phone: 09 534 4017
- Princess of Wales Children's Health Camp, Rotorua, Phone: 07 345 9097
- Te Kainga Whaiora Children's Village, Gisborne, Phone: 06 867 5614
- Otaki Children's Health Camp, Otaki, Phone: 06 364 8069
- Glenelg Children's Health Camp, Christchurch, Phone: 03 332 2541
- Roxburgh Children's Health Camp, Roxburgh, Phone: 03 446 8119

Wainuiomata coffee group: Next meeting Wednesday 7th December. Phone Tricia on 971 3538 or Theresa on 568 6222

Kapiti coffee group: Next meeting Wednesday 7th December. Phone Aileen on 904 4073

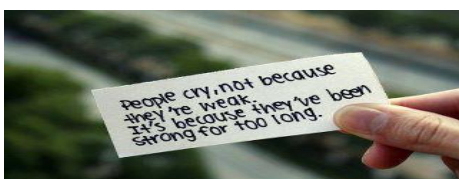
Proposed South Auckland McMac meeting: This is for working grandparents who live in the South Auckland area interested in meeting informally for coffee at a local McDonalds (ok to bring grandchildren with you as they can play safely while we chat). Meeting day and time to be decided by common agreement (but will obviously not be during business hours). Phone Trish on 266 7515 (out of business hours) or 021 1048 372.

Member Support Manager: Di & team (as a caregiver you are part of our team)

heoi ano, na. *E te Atua, aroha mai.... O God shower us with love. Ka kite*

Ka Whangaia ka tupu, ka puawai

That which is nurtured, blossoms and grows



Too true!

A guy is 72 years old and loves to fish. He was sitting in his boat the other day when he heard a voice say, 'Pick me up' He looked around, couldn't see anyone. He thought he was dreaming when he heard the voice say again 'Pick me up.' He looked in the water, floating on the top, was a frog. he man said, 'Are you talking to me?'



The frog said, 'Yes, I'm talking to you. 'Pick me up then, kiss me and I'll turn into the most beautiful woman you have ever seen. I'll make sure that all your friends are envious and jealous because I will be your bride!'

The man looked at the frog for a short time, reached over, picked it up carefully, and then placed it in his front pocket.

The frog said, 'What, are you crazy? Didn't you hear what I said? I said kiss me and I will be your beautiful bride.'

He opened his pocket, looked at the frog and said, 'Nah, at my age I'd rather have a talking frog.'

With age comes wisdom.



**Can we help you? Members Services Nationwide
Toll free line 0800 472 637**

Field Officers:

Sharon ext. 2

Sharon is a counselor with 25 years' experience. She has specific experience in working with families and the challenges of parenting, including children who have experienced trauma and issues of grief/loss for grandparent/kin carers and their families who are also parents, siblings of the original parents of the children in their care. She can assist with Family Group Conference's or Strengthening families as a support person when practical or give advice via telephone. Auckland callers use 09 419 0045 11am - 5pm week days

Nola Adams: ext. 3

Telephone advice can be given on the following topics Justice and Prison system, including Youth Court. Family Court applications: for persons wishing to self-represent: Child Youth and Family representation where practicable/advice. Disability advice and the Schooling system. Nola can be contacted on 06 845 3141 (Hawkes Bay callers)

Diana East: ext. 4

In depth knowledge on issues impacting on grandparents raising grandchildren; has many years working with mental health consumers and carers. This gives her a very good understanding of a wide range of mental health issues and issues effecting grandparents raising. Hours 9am – 5pm 04 970 8177 (Wellington callers)

Tricia Corin: ext. 5

Is a Beneficiaries Advocate, If you are having problems with your Benefits from Work and Income / Inland Revenue or are unsure if you are on the right Benefit, needing advice on UCB or DPB, Disabilities Allowance or recoverable and non-recoverable advances . Hours 11am 5pm 07 8685490 (Waikato callers)

Please note that our Field Officers are Part Time

Formal GRG Support Groups: All welcome.

Locality, Name, Phone, E-mail Address.

Auckland East ** Tess Gould-Thorpe 09 535 6903 pan@xnet.co.nz
Auckland North ** Bonnie Williams 09 473 9055 willingclan@xtra.co.nz
Auckland South ** Virginia Peebles 09 256 1620
Auckland West ** Debbie Hall 09 818 7828 debron@xtra.co.nz
Mangere East * Teresa Van Kuylenburg 09 974 2388 teresa.mangere@grg.gmail.com
Canterbury North** Jan Farquhar 03 313 6487 farlaw@xtra.co.nz
Coromandel* Keitha Jenkins 07 866 8273 northbrook@slingshot.co.nz
Dannevirke * Denise Henman 06 374 5855 denise.henman@gmail.com
Dargaville * Barbara Sterling 09 439 4555 ladybee@vodafone.co.nz
Hokitika * Fran Edwards 03 755 8142
Huntly ** Lodi Liebert 07 828 6123 rulo@clear.net.nz
Invercargill * Christine Marsh 03 216 9773 marshfamily3@xtra.co.nz
Kaitaia * Irene Turner-Crombie 09 408 3446 iturnercombie@gmail.com
Kaiwaka* Sarah Rogers 09 431 2194 sarah_jane@clear.net.nz
Kaikohe* Ngaro Poa 027 637 42357 ngaropoa@thook.co.nz
Levin* Ann Waddell 06 362 7269 ann.hen@xtra.co.nz
Napier ** Jo Bromley 06 843 5737 jo.b@slingshot.co.nz
Nelson ** Paula Eggers 03 548 6660 paulaegggers2000@yahoo.com.au
Otago * Est/Nth Aad & Leonie 03 465 1764 omaandopa@xtra.co.nz
Rotorua ** Win Macredie 07 345 5003 winmacredie@xtra.co.nz
Rotorua ** Cyril Anderson 07 347 8163 judycyril@xtra.co.nz
Te Kuiti * Leonie Tirrell 07 878 3220
Te Hiku Northland* Koha Mehana 09 408 3788
Upper Hutt ** Margaret Pearson 04 976 9475 maggiemagpie@paradise.net.nz
Wairarapa ** Wendy Archer 06 377 2236 marcher@paradise.net.nz
Wanganui ** Lynette Dickinson 06 344 2830
Cherryl Smith 06 344 1278 cherryl@clear.net.nz
Wellington ** Cecilee Donovan 04 477 0632 cecileed@gmail.com
Whakatane * Shirley Faulkner 07 322 8524 shirleyfaulkner@xtra.co.nz
Whangarei ** Janet Puriri 09 435 0044 jpuriri@ihug.co.nz



* Telephone support only: ** Telephone Support & Meetings.

We had a lady who was doing the Tauranga area as a support group facilitator, but due to unforeseen circumstances she ended up having to move way up North. Are you interested? Contact Di.

Very informal coffee groups – For times and venues:

Auckland Central: June 09 630 2409
Coromandal/Tairua/Whitianga: Brenda 07 866 4476
Christchurch (New Brighton): Annie 03 388 0928
Hamilton: Yvonne 07 829 8246
Howick/Manukau: Lorraine 09 271 2900
Kapiti: Aileen 04 904 4073
Marton/Huntermville: Sharon 06 322 9795
New Plymouth: Sue 06 756 7542 /027 8569242/txt
Te Kauwhata: Denise 07 826 3779
Wainuiomata: Tricia 04 971 3538
Wairarapa: Sheryl 06 304 9957



If you would like to start an informal coffee group in your area, please contact Di at Head Office

Together we will and do make a difference in a child's life.

www.grg.org.nz or www.kin.org.nz or www.raisinggrandchildren.org.nz Email office@grg.org.nz

Member Support Manager: Di Vivian

Free Phone 0800 GRANDS or 0800 472637 ext. 1 (not for use for Auckland callers) Landline users only.

Auckland callers (09) 480 6530

Postal Add: PO Box 34 892 Birkenhead. Auckland 0742

Please feel free to send/email this report on to others whom you think may be interested.

Please pass this on to other grandparents/kin carers you know of.

GRG Trust Head Office hours are 9am – 2pm daily. (We raise grandchildren too)

Views expressed in this newsletter may not be the views of the GRG Trust.

We are a voluntary not-for-profit organisation.

All donations to the GRG Trust are tax deductible.

Abbreviations:

GRG – Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust

BOT – Board of Trustees

CYF – Child Youth and Family Services

Co's – Co-ordinator/s

UCB – Unsupported Child Benefit

WINZ – Work and Income NZ now DWI – Department of Work and Income

BPS – Business Professional Services Limited. Our secretarial service.

Are your children under CYF?

Do you have trouble getting hold of your Social Worker? If this is the case then you can call 0508 CARER (0508 227 377) and they will then make sure you are spoken to by your Social Worker and if they are not available then someone else will talk to you.

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter please contact the Trust Office as this is where the total mail out membership is kept. Moved home or planning to? Be sure to let us know.

We are a Charitable Trust

