



Newsletter February 2014

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



Database: 5537 Whanau Carers.

From the National Office:

Our Conference Countdown has begun:

March 5 and 6th in Auckland

- Do you want to hear high caliber speakers?
- Do you want to meet other grand's in the same situation as yourself?
- Do you want to be energised and empowered?
- Do you want a deeper understanding of issues you face?
- Do you want a real sense of belonging and remove isolation?
- Do you want this to be at a rate you can afford?

Then this is perfectly placed just for you our amazing member grand's and kin caregivers. This conference is heavily subsidized by amazing funders and GRG Trust. **\$20 p/p for the two days**, no that is NOT a misprint. If you also wish to attend the conference dinner on the 5th then there is an extra cost (see registration form below)

We are telling you that you will not want to miss this fantastic, exciting event.

Some of our great speakers:

- Rt. Hon. Paula Bennett
- **Nigel Latta, ONZM**
- Judge Laurence Ryan, New Zealand Principal Family Court Judge
- Pat Buckley, CEO of Amped4Life
- Grant Cleland, Chief Executive of Workbridge
- Paul Nixon, Chief Social Worker, Child Youth and Family
- Nathan Mikaere-Wallis, Brainwave Trust
- Sandy Biggs, Auckland Manager, Work and Income New Zealand

A special message:

We at GRG give thanks for blessings on our 15th anniversary.

Highlights:

- Winning NZer of the Year for Community
- Existing for 15 years as a successful not for profit organisation, ongoing we pray.
- Gaining some ground with extra payments for over 12000+ children cared for by kin/grand's

Thankful Blessings:

- For our CEO, Field Officers and volunteer Co-ordinators and Board members, amazing people.
- For Mitre 10, holding a silent auction which enabled us to give very cheap costs for members to attend conference in March.
- For our funders who see our passion and support us and value what we do.
- For our secretarial Service BPS Ltd.
- For Tracey Martin MP (NZ First) Members Bill for parity.
- For so many who donated goods, free tickets or dollars to us.
- For other NGO's who have referred to us and supported us.

Most importantly:

- For our grandchildren and kin children who are now safe and well loved.
- For you 'grandparents and whanau carers' what you do and what you often sacrifice for these children is nothing short of miraculous, you are so precious to us.

We are blessed to have you in our lives, we are blessed to support you and indeed battle for you, we are proud, so proud of you all. God bless you all and 'THANK YOU', for your trust in us. Rock on 2014, we are ready.

A humbled and privileged

Di

Chair: Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ

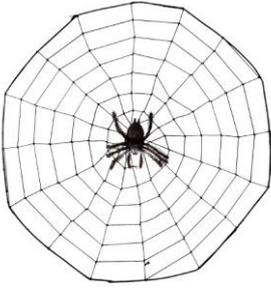
Love from the heart:

I am a grandmother with three grandchildren, I have been through breast cancer in and out of hospital for infections and I have one granddaughter who had a cleft lip when she was born and now she is 10yrs old. She also has eczema to cope with and has MRSA with it. The moral of the story is when she had it really bad, she was crying her little heart out I asked her what was wrong and what she said made me cry, she said, "nana why do I have to have this, I don't want it and how come only I have it" what could I say to that! But on the positive side I love my grandkids and all I want to do is make her better, so I'll keep on creaming her eczema and giving her medicines and hopefully it will work itself out, with a big helping of love.

Nanny C

Grand-dad writes:

Lying in bed with my 5 year old grandson having a lovely talk he says, 'koko (Papa) I know you were Batman so can you make me Spider Man'. "No trouble my boy" says I (and with a hand over



his eyes a bit of a shake) "hey there you go my boy," out he jumps into the bath room to look in the mirror runs back and says 'koko I'm not Spiderman', "not yet my boy but if you hurry get dressed fast for nana go to school and then when you get home school you will be Spiderman' I said with a wink.

Well he was the fastest boy that morning and off to school happy as larry.

As the day went by I had forgotten all about our lovely talk and sitting watching TV waiting for his return and waiting for my big cuddles and kisses, in he walks with the biggest grumpiest face ever, 'koko you egg' I am greeted with, thinking it a joke I said "what my boy" 'you are an egg koko,' he repeated. "What's wrong my boy", with that he points his hand to the ceiling thrust it out time and time again and says 'you egg koko there is no web coming out' and in his disgust leaves to cuddles his nana.

So if you koko and nana want those big cuddles and kisses at the end of the day always tell your moko the truth, hahahaha, *Koko Geoff Hurihanganui*

They are resilient:

After the trauma, for her, of moving from Christchurch to Nelson August of last year, our 14 yr. old grand-daughter didn't settle in very well at the Learning Support Centre at Nayland College. The class makeup was different; there were more students than her class at Hagley. In spite of this, she got TOP Certificate for Woodwork, much to the disgust of others.

This year hasn't been going to well, both at home, and school. We have had a really rough year for many reasons, but still not as rough as some of you have it. To top things off, their wonderful Grand-dad, hubby Mike, was seriously ill for several days mid Nov. He is slowly getting better, and able to do more each day.

On Friday 22nd November, it was the L.S.C's Prize Giving Day, and although not feeling very well myself, both of us went along to support Eden. Much to our surprise, she got TOP MARKS in SCIENCE, a subject she has been a bit shy telling us about.



WOW, you could have knocked us over with a feather. It's a wonder we got through the doors, our heads are so swollen with pride. She has proven to us, that in spite of everything, she's more than capable of achieving whatever she puts her mind to. Next year, she's going to be doing "Main Stream" Maths, English, Drama and Hospitality, and told a Teacher's Aide today that if she wants to win ALL the certificates next year, she will.

I hope that this story will give others the hope that in spite of whatever else is going on, and believe me I know it's hard to do, DON'T give up on a problem child, there will be times like today when you will be so proud of them.

Mike and I have been raising 2 of our 9 grandchildren since 20/08/2002, after the death of their Mother, our daughter. She died of natural causes just as she was getting her life back together with her 4 year daughter Eden, and her 16 day old son Samuel. There has been no contact with their father for over 7 yrs. Their mother is buried in Nelson, one of the many reasons for coming here. Both have learning difficulties, but both have proven they can do things when they put their minds to it.

Take heart, and carry on with the good work that all of you are doing.
A very Proud Grannie, Shirley Barrow

Nana's Knickers:

It was the morning of new Year's day and we had many coming for lunch, so up early quick shower, clean clothes and off to the supermarket I hurried. The car park was busy and I had to park some distance from the store. As I quickened my pace due to lack of time, three times I had to hitch up my knickers. Odd I thought, had I put my leg through the top instead of the leg part in my haste. As I ventured around the supermarket the 'hitching' became more and more needed. Trying to do this discreetly and hoping no-one noticed, I thanked goodness I had on ¾ pants otherwise they may have dropped to the floor! I began to think; gosh had I lost that much weight that my knickers were now falling off. Yikes should I see a Doctor. Thoughts were rampantly dancing in my mind.

I did not even unpack the shopping and sort of ran to change, upon un-robing I found the biggest pair of knickers, which I had on, and I might add I had never seen before in my whole life! What the heck, where did they come from and how the heck did they get in my draw???? We only have tiny little female grandies in our home, one of life's little mysteries or do we have gremlins???

My Life:

Like many of you, I should be traveling, thinking of retirement, having the grand-kids over for special days. Instead I am figuring out child care, yelling at someone to stop playing basketball in the house, and saying "what ARE you doing" a hundred times a day. My laundry is not done, I hate going to the store with 3 kids so we have an ever present shortage of nutritious delicious entries on our menu, and you definitely cannot eat off of my kitchen floor. My hair is not done; I gave up wearing makeup because it runs when you cry. We are not the usual, we are not the norm but we gotta WHOLE lotta love. I have tons of respect for you all!



Grandparents Raising Members important news re Funding Nationwide

You may be eligible for support for children in your care!

At Variety – The Children's Charity, we believe in helping children in our own backyard, and want to see each and every child given the same opportunities to reach their goals. That's why we have launched Kiwi Kid Sponsorship and as a member of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren we thought you might be interested.

This programme is designed to provide some of the basic needs for children who would otherwise miss out on due to financial pressures in the home. Grandchildren in your care may be eligible.

Key points:

- Children should be aged between 3-12 years-old and a New Zealand resident/citizen.
- Parents/Caregivers can access funding for your child's basic needs throughout the year, paid as and when the expense is incurred, to a limit of \$336 per year.
- Parents/Caregivers are financially disadvantaged with income (from all sources) of \$756 per week (after tax) or less for one child; two children - \$808 per week (after tax) or less; three children or more \$834 per week (after tax) or less.

We are open to many areas of funding, including but not limited to: medical fees, prescription charges, school related costs, e.g. stationery, school camps, school trips, uniforms (excludes school fees/donations), essential clothing such as a warm jacket, shoes for school, underwear, pyjamas and bedding, optometry costs, books, transport, extra-curricular costs, e. g. sports fees, sports uniforms & footwear, music/dance/swimming classes, other agreed costs relating to the well-being, health and education of the sponsored child.

If you have any queries or are interested in this programme please contact:

Grant Liaison and Regular Giving Co-ordinator

Variety – The Children's Charity

Phone: (09) 5223741

Tell them you are a grandparent raising grandchildren and would like application forms for the Child Sponsorship fund.

MEMORIES from a friend:

My Dad is cleaning out my grandmother's house (she died in December) and he brought me an old lemonade bottle.

In the bottle top was a stopper with a bunch of holes in it. I knew immediately what it was, but my daughter had no idea.

She thought they had tried to make it a salt shaker or something. I knew it as the bottle that sat on the end of the ironing board to 'sprinkle' clothes with because we didn't have steam irons.

Man, I am old.

How many do you remember?

Headlight dip-switches, on the floor of the car.

Ignition switches on the dashboard.

Trouser leg clips for bicycles without chain guards.

Soldering irons you heated on a gas burner.

Using hand signals for cars without turn indicators.

Free caregiver Training courses. Term 1

Please complete the application form and email to:

caregivertraining@cyf.govt.nz or fax to + 04 918 9294

Or send to National Caregiver Training Programme, PO Box 1556, WELLINGTON 6140

Free phone: 0800 227 305

For applications forms: <http://www.cyf.govt.nz/info-for-caregivers/national-caregiver-training-programme/applying-for-courses.html>

Please note:

- Morning and afternoon tea will be provided. Attendees will need to provide their own lunch.
- An attendance certificate will only be issued on completion of the full course.
- Attendance at the course does not constitute approval as a caregiver

Attending?	Date	Location	Trainer	Duration
Child Development				
	12-Mar-14	Nelson	Catriona Ward	9am-3:30pm
	15-Mar-14	Waitakere	Sandy McPhee	9am-3:30pm
	9-Apr-14	Rangiora	Laura Hall	9am-3:30pm
	10-Apr-14	Rotorua	Lynne Matthews	9am-3:30pm
	12-Apr-14	Kaikohe	Gaylene Lawrence	9am-3:30pm
Attachment and Resilience				
	18-Feb-14	Kaitaia	Judi Oliver	9am-3:30pm
	26-Feb-14	Manurewa	Sandy McPhee	9am-3:30pm
	19-Mar-14	Paeroa	Lynne Matthews	9am-3:30pm
	8-Apr-14	Gisborne	Mary August	9am-3:30pm
	11-Apr-14	Kaikohe	Judi Oliver	Evening
Understanding and Managing Behaviour				
	13-Feb-14	Timaru	Laura Hall	9am-3:30pm
	19-Mar-14	Invercargill	Barbara McElligott	9am-3:30pm
	12-Apr-14	Manukau	Sandy McPhee	9am-3:30pm
	13-Apr-14	Kaikohe	Gaylene Lawrence	9am-3:30pm
Health and Wellbeing				
	12-Feb-14	Whangarei	Judi Oliver	9am-3:30pm
	25-Mar-14	Hamilton	Lynne Matthews	9am-3:30pm
	27-Mar-14	Cromwell	Barbara McElligott	9am-3:30pm
	2-Apr-14	Dunedin	Barbara McElligott	9am-3:30pm
	15-Apr-14	Waitakere	Dallas Pickering	9am-3:30pm
Safety and Prevention				
	18-Feb-14	Levin	Mary August	9am-3:30pm
	11-Mar-14	North Shore	Jill Worrall	9am-3:30pm
	25-Mar-14	Lower Hutt	Gaylene Lawrence	9am-3:30pm
	27-Mar-14	Napier	Gaylene Lawrence	9am-3:30pm
Maltreatment and Family Violence				

	25-Feb-14	Nelson	Catriona Ward	9am-3:30pm
	5-Mar-14	Greymouth	Catriona Ward	9am-3:30pm
	5-Mar-14	Christchurch	Laura Hall	9am-3:30pm
	6-Mar-14	Whakatane	Lynne Matthews	9am-3:30pm
	13-Mar-14	Palmerston North	Mary August	9am-3:30pm
	18-Mar-14	New Plymouth	Mary August	9am-3:30pm
Identity and Belonging				
	22-Feb-14	Masterton	Mary August	9am-3:30pm
	27-Feb-14	Oamaru	Barbara McElligott	9am-3:30pm
	3-Apr-14	Manukau	Dallas Pickering	9am-3:30pm
Legal Issues				
	11-Feb-14	Christchurch	Laura Hall	9am-3:30pm
	18-Feb-14	Tauranga	Lynne Matthews	9am-3:30pm
	18-Feb-14	Blenheim	Catriona Ward	9am-3:30pm
	20-Feb-14	Ashburton	Laura Hall	9am-3:30pm
	26-Feb-14	Dunedin	Barbara McElligott	9am-3:30pm
	27-Feb-14	Hastings	Gaylene Lawrence	9am-3:30pm
	8-Apr-14	North Shore	Jill Worrall	9am-3:30pm
	9-Apr-14	Whangarei	Judi Oliver	9am-3:30pm
Team Work				
	27-Feb-14	Grey Lynn	Dallas Pickering	9am-3:30pm
Carer Families				
	25-Feb-14	Waitakere	Dallas Pickering	9am-3:30pm
Working with Adolescents				
	19-Feb-14	Porirua	Mary August	9am-3:30pm
	12-Mar-14	Tokoroa	Lynne Matthews	9am-3:30pm
	25-Mar-14	Grey Lynn	Dallas Pickering	9am-3:30pm

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



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 8.30am – 2pm daily. (We raise grandchildren too)

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

We are a voluntary not-for-profit organisation.

All donations to the GRG Trust are tax deductible.

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 Address: PO Box 34 892 Birkenhead, Auckland 0742

5 - 6 March 2014
Novotel Hotel • Ellerslie
Auckland • NZ

Register
Today!

Empowering Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

3rd National
Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust
New Zealand Training Conference

DON'T MISS this MUST ATTEND event for all grandparents raising their grandchildren, professionals and organisations working at the frontline of family and social welfare support, child advocacy and policy development

Hear from an outstanding line-up of leading NZ experts including



Nigel Latta
ONZM
Psychologist



**Dr Simon Rowley and
Nathan Mikaere-Wallis**
Brainwave Trust



Pat Buckley
Amped4Life



PLUS Jill Worrall MNZM, Minister for Social Development Paula Bennett, Shane Harris, Principal Family Court Judge Laurence Ryan, Paul Nixon, Catherine Atchison, Grant Cleland, Tricia Corin, Sandy Biggs and Hana Ellis

Gain inspiring and empowering insights into the key issues affecting grandparents raising grandchildren

Update on the **Government's additional \$35M support for GRGs**
Latest research and insights into early childhood brain development, the teenage brain and the value of kinship and grandparent care • Practical tips for raising teens who have suffered **abuse and neglect** • **New Family Court reforms** and how it will affect GRGs
Sexual behaviour in children and adolescents - **what's normal and what's not?**
NZ's youth drug culture - what's really going on? • **Guiding your grandchildren to make the right choices for life** • **UCB entitlements and Benefit reforms**
Estate planning • **Welfare guardianship** • **Transitioning disabled adult grandchildren into the workforce**

Proudly supported by



www.grg.org.nz

- 8.00 Registration and Coffee
- 8.30 Karakia and Welcome
- 8:50 Opening Remarks from the Chair
Jill Worrall MNZM
- 9.00 Keynote Address from the Minister
Honourable Paula Bennett, Minister for Social Development
- 9.40 Resolving Guardianship and Care Issues: Family Court Update
Court's perspective on legislative/policy changes
His Honour Judge Laurence Ryan, New Zealand Principal Family Court Judge
Practitioner's perspective on practical implications for GRGs
Hana Ellis, Barrister and Mediator
- 10.30 Table Talk
- 10:50 Morning Tea
- 11.10 Brain Development in Young Children: Why the Early Years Last Forever
Dr Simon Rowley, Paediatrician, Brainwave Trust
- 11.50 Open Forum
- 12.00 Lunch
- 12.50 Zac Johns and Elizabeth Sayegh Entertain
Inspiring young entertainers who were raised by their grandparents
- 1.10 Advocating for You and Your Right to Financial Support
Tricia Corin, Field Officer and Benefits Advocate, Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
Sandy Biggs, Auckland Manager, Work and Income New Zealand
- 2.20 Respect and Honour Youth
The Hip Op-eration Dance Group
- 2.40 Afternoon Tea
- 3.00 Who Will Look After My Grandchildren When I Am Gone?
Catherine Atchison, Partner, Martelli McKeeg
- 3.50 Empowering a Disabled Grandchild's Transition into the Workforce
Grant Cleland, Chief Executive, Workbridge
- 4.30 Open Forum
- 4.50 Closing Remarks from the Chair
- 5.00 Day One Concludes

- 8.50 Opening Remarks from the Chair
- 9.00 Kinship and Grandparent Care
Paul Nixon, Chief Social Worker, Child Youth and Family
- 9.40 Adolescent Brains: What on Earth is Going on in Their Heads?
Nathan Mikaere-Wallis, Brainwave Trust
- 10.30 Morning Tea
- 10.50 Complex Problems Don't Need Complex Solutions: Raising Teens Who've Suffered Abuse and Neglect
Nigel Latta ONZM, Clinical Psychologist
- 11.50 Open Forum and Table Talk
- 12.00 Lunch
- 12.50 Understanding the Sexualised Behaviour of Children and Youth – What's OK, What's Not, Why Not, and What Can I Do About It?
Shane Harris, SAFE Network
- 1.40 Table Talk
- 1.50 Heads Up on NZ's Youth Culture and the Drug Scene - What's Really Going On and How to Guide Your Grandchildren to Make the Right Choices in Life
Pat Buckley, Managing Director, Amped4Life
- 2.40 Open Forum
- 3.00 Closing Remarks from the Chair
- 3.10 Conference Concludes with Afternoon Tea

"Having two little boys again is hard. You don't fit in with the "normal" grandparents and you don't fit in with other "parents" as you are really neither. But...when you are feeling as if the world is against you and a little hand goes in yours and a little voice tells you they love you and you are the best...it makes all the hassles...worth it."
GRG Member

Conference Information

Wednesday 5 - Thursday 6 March 2014
The Novotel Hotel, Ellerslie, Auckland, NZ

Day One 9am to 5.00pm
Day Two 9am to 3.10m

Please refer to www.grg.org.nz for full conference abstracts and information about the speakers.

Please Note: The GRG Trust reserves the right to make any amendments that we may deem to be in the best interests of the conference.

How to Pay

- Download a registration form at www.grg.org.nz and send completed form to GRG Trust NZ, PO Box 34-892, Birkenhead, Auckland 0746 or email to office@grg.org.nz
- Payment by credit card, crossed cheque payable to GRG Trust NZ or by internet banking to 06 0115 0203334 01 with your full name as the reference code
- or call 09 4190042 to register with credit card by phone.

Please note only payments over \$100 accepted by credit card

GRG Members	Non-Members Early bird Before 7 Feb 2014	Non-Members Full Rate After 7 Feb 2014
Two Day Conference \$20	Two Day Conference \$195	Two Day Conference \$225
One Day Conference \$10	One Day Conference \$125	One Day Conference \$150
Conference Dinner \$60	Conference Dinner \$60	Conference Dinner \$60
Conference and Dinner \$80	All prices include GST	





5-6 March 2014
Novotel Ellerslie, Auckland, NZ

Empowering
Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

3rd National Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
Trust New Zealand Training Conference

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete this form, save and either email to office@grg.org.nz or print and send with cheque / or if paying by credit card sign where indicated below and post to: GRG Trust NZ Conference 2014, PO Box 34-892, Birkenhead, Auckland 0746. If you have any enquiries, please direct these to 09 419 0042 or 0800472637; office@grg.org.nz, www.grg.org.nz

Delegate

Title	First Name	Surname

Position	Organisation

Email	Phone

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Postal Address

Additional Delegate

Title	First Name	Surname

Position	Email

How did you hear about this conference?
Direct Mail / Website / Email / Other (please specify)

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Please **tick** the option that applies to you. Or if you are completing this document on your computer please type **"YES"** next to the options that you wish to select. All prices include GST

	GRG Members ONLY	NON-MEMBERS Earlybird (ends 7 Feb 2014)	NON-MEMBERS Full Rate (after 7 Feb 2014)
Two Day Conference <input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$195 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$225 <input type="checkbox"/>
Conference One Day only (please select which day)			
DAY 1 <input type="checkbox"/> DAY 2 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$10 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$125 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$150 <input type="checkbox"/>
Two Day Conference + Conference Dinner	\$80 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$255 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$285 <input type="checkbox"/>
One Day Conference + Conference Dinner	\$70 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$185 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$210 <input type="checkbox"/>
Conference Dinner Only	\$60 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$60 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$60 <input type="checkbox"/>

Payment Options and Instructions

Please Note: Payment is due upon Registration and only payments over \$100 accepted by credit card

Pay by **cheque** \$ (Please post a crossed cheque payable to *Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ* with your registration form)

Pay by **credit card**
Please charge to my **Visa / Mastercard**
(Please specify)
Card Number **Expiry** /

Name of Cardholder Signature _____

Pay by **Internet banking** to account: **06 0115 0203334 01** (Please include your full name as a reference)

Cancellation: If you are unable to attend the conference a substitute delegate may attend in your place at no extra cost. Cancellations received in writing either by email, fax or post prior to 7 February 2014 will be eligible for a full refund, however unless there are exceptional circumstances, cancellations made after this date will incur a \$50 administration fee. **Disclosure:** The information you provide to *Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ* on this form is collected for the purpose of processing your registration and for keeping you informed of the Trust's upcoming news, events and services. The information recorded above may also be used by our conference sponsors.

If you do not consent to your details being released to our sponsors for information purposes please tick here