



## Newsletter January 2014

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



**Data base: 5511 Whanau/Family Carers.**

Like us at [www.facebook.com/grg.org.nz](http://www.facebook.com/grg.org.nz)

### From the National Office:

#### **Tears, Pain and Joy:**

I would love to share a story of tears and pain and a happy ending.

We took over the care of our grand-daughter when she was 8 months old. Her parents (my son the dad) were too young to take on the care of a disabled child. She was born with Arthrogryposis in all four limbs. Her future didn't look to great with arms that wouldn't bend and legs that were bent and feet going the wrong way. The process to take on Lilly was long and a struggle, it nearly ended our marriage on more than one occasion. As the legal side of things went along and aggression between the parents and us got more intense it seemed like a very black time for us all. Thankfully 2 years on we have full day to day care and guardianship of her. She is 6 now.

We spoke to a surgeon at starship about doing something to make her life a little easier. So started the process of a different way of life, what they don't tell you is how hard this will be on everyone, how things could go wrong and the complications surrounding this, we were never prepared for any of this. I'm not being selfish here when I say we weren't prepared because if we had being then maybe we could have handled things different or talked to our little girl a bit more about it. Late last year we started the process of getting her legs straightened. Not an easy task, as this required a long time at starship with promises of great things. This was not the case and after many months of countless surgeries and everything that could go wrong did go wrong. We have always been honest with her, she knows she has two mums and two dads, she choose to call us mum and dad, she knows she was born in her mummy \*\*\*\*\* tummy and now she lives with us and we look after her and love her. Time and time again the surgeries failed. After the first surgery to straighten her foot failed I was alone at starship with her. She was taken to surgery to have her foot amputated.

You can't explain that to child, I know cos I tried. After the surgery I'm standing beside her bed in post op and she looks down and cries and says "why did you let them cut my foot off and throw it in the bin". There is no answer to that but, I'm sorry. I cried for days when she was sleeping, the nurses were great. Days later the other foot, was amputated. More failed surgeries to straighten the legs and on 28 Feb 2013 she had a through knee double amputation.

That's the tears and pain.

Today she is learning to walk with prosthetics and a walker. She attends school every day when she is not having physio and learning to walk at the limb center. She has such a strong personality that she draws people into her circle. I can't thank the school enough for providing such an amazing place for her. Her mind is normal and she can read and write, it's just her body that is taking a little longer to catch up. She wants to dance and sing, I know she will do this. To us she is normal and nothing else matters, this is her normal. She has visits with her parents and loves them to bits, she also loves coming home, that makes it all worthwhile.

It's been such a long road. We read stories every night to her and play games like hide in seek, her idea of hide and seek is sitting in a corner with her eyes covered and I have to pretend I can't find her for ages. She can't run and hide quickly like other kids as she shuffles around on her tushy inside the house. We look forward to when she can toilet herself and she wants to be able to not wear nappies at school "but I will still have to wear them at night cos I won't be able to put my legs on quick enough to get to the toilet on time aye mum" she says.



She is brilliant and we love her to bits. Hubby and I are stronger now than ever. She tells me she is going to live at home forever as she loves us too much to leave, I tell her I love her so much to but daddy and I want to have some time to ourselves to and build a house by the sea so she can visit and we can go swimming. She thinks this is a good idea too.

Our goal is to have her independent and this is more achievable every day she learns new things.

The world is waiting for your brilliance baby, go dazzle them.

Love mum

### Job not over yet!

It was poppa's birthday the other week and our darling granddaughter (5) said to him, "poppa what do you wanna be when you get EVEN older". We all had a giggle.

*Nan Jayne.*

### Oh my goodness:

attended a wedding recently with grand-daughter who was a beautiful bridesmaid. There were four of us there bringing up grandies, that I knew about. We are definitely not alone. It is nothing to be ashamed of. Hold your heads up fellow Grandparents. We are the heroes of society. *And yes you all are.*



### Good one Tom:

I was busy on a Monday morning, and trying to hurry 9 year old Tom up and to get organised. He called out from the bedroom "Nana, I can't go to school today, it's too dangerous" I replied "Dangerous?" "Yes" he said "They give you homework!"

Quite a relief and a laugh, after I had been talking to him about what safety can look like!

### What!

The other day my eight year old had his 9 year old friend over to play, they planned to go on the computer then go to the park to play soccer. They did what they wanted to do and we walked along the footpath to the park.. chat, chat, chat, then the nine year old said "it was a pedophile" I thought pedophile, what is the world coming to when nine year olds sadly know about people like that" then my eight year old said "yes, you get pedophiles' in windows" by then I was stunned and asked them was there a pedophile when they were on the computer... they both said "yes" and at school too. I spent hours trying to figure out how could they know there was a pedophile in the window, the room where the computer is looks out onto the street and footpath, so there I was thinking that a pedophile was looking in windows and somehow had found them through the computer.



The funny thing is that I am so aware of keeping him safe on the computer that when I google subjects the security settings ask me for a password so I really couldn't figure out how on earth they would know what a pedophile was.

I thought something had gone wrong with my security settings and then I looked back at what sites they had used. Then I rang the nine year olds mother to tell her somehow they were exposed to a pedophile. Panic, and more panic. I felt so bad.

Then the Mum said "are you sure they weren't talking about a PDF file". I laughed and laughed and felt so foolish but it would have been worse if I had gone blazing to the school. Awareness I guess. I'm still smiling at my horror: and how I was going to tackle the challenge of catching a pedophile.

*Gran Ann*



### Love this:

Qw were at our local church's 150 year celebration. We had visitors from lots of different parishes and a presiding Bishop. Normally we have our local priest who is a female, and a local sheep farmer.

So 4 year old 'Beetle' and I go up to the alter to take communion. Beetle stuffs his wafer in his mouth, gulps some wine, looks the Bishop straight in the eye and says "Thanks God". The Bishop was suitably honored at his promotion

**Reminder:** If the children you are raising were included in your core benefit then just a reminder for those approaching 65 and moving onto a pension you will have to apply for Unsupported Child benefit if you are still raising children under 18 that are still in school.

**Yay:**

Hi there,

I just wanted to email and say thank you so much for the regular newsletters you have been sending to us. I realise a lot of you are volunteers and we are grateful for all the wonderful work you do on behalf of grandparents raising grandchildren.

I would also like to take this opportunity to inform you that thankfully our daughter has made huge progress and our granddaughter is back in her care. We can only but pray everything will work out for the best in their future.

Good luck for your future workings within the Trust. Wishing you all a safe and very Happy New Year

**Youth Services NZ**

**Who is it for?** <http://www.youthservice.govt.nz/>



Youth Service is a new approach to working with young people. Youth Service providers work actively and intensively with young people by providing ongoing support and mentoring to improve their educational and employment outcomes.

**Youth Service is for:**

- at risk 16 and 17 year olds (and some 15 year olds) who are not engaged in education, employment or training
- 16 to 18 year-old young parents
- 16 and 17 year olds who can't live with their parents or guardians, or be supported by them or anyone else
- 16 or 17 years old, who have no dependent children and are the partner of a specified beneficiary
- 16-18 years old, who have a dependent child or children and are the partner of a specified beneficiary.

**If you are a young person not in work, education or training, and not on a benefit:**

Youth Service providers can offer you coaching and mentoring to help you into education, training or work-based learning. They can also offer you guidance and support towards an independent future.

**If you are a young person needing financial support:** You may be eligible for the Youth Payment. Youth Payment is a payment to young people aged 16 or 17 who do not have dependent children, and are in need of financial assistance.

For example, if you are single, you may qualify for Youth Payment if you can't live with your parents or guardian or get financial support from them or anyone.

Young Parent Payment is a weekly payment for 16 to 18 year old parents who have dependent children, and are in need of financial assistance.

For example, to qualify for Young Parent Payment you may be:

- 16 or 17 years old, living with your parents/ guardian, and they are eligible for Family Tax Credit, or
- 16 or 17 years old and can't live with your parents/ guardian or get financial support from anyone, or
- 18 years old with no partner.

As a condition of receiving these payments you need to be working with a Youth Service provider and meeting a number of obligations.

**About Youth Service providers:** Youth Service providers are organisations working in your local community. They are used to working with young people and know where to get the services you may need.

They can talk through options for education, training or work-based learning and will help plan how to get you where you want to be.

In some areas Work and Income will provide this service in-house, and you will be working with a specialist case worker.

**Contact us:** Are you a young person wanting to find a Youth Service provider? Do you want to refer a young person to Youth Service?

**Contact a Youth Service provider:** If you want to talk to a Youth Service provider or refer a young person to a provider, contact your local provider directly.

**About providers;** [Providers by region](#) [What do providers do?](#)

Looking for a youth service provider? Here is a list of organisations that can help.

## **North Island: Northland**

[Ngati Hine Health Trust - Kawakawa](#)

[People Potential Limited - Whangarei](#)

## **Auckland**

[Personalised Education Limited - Solomon Group - Manurewa](#)

[STRIVE Community Trust - Mangere](#)

[Youthline Auckland - Grey Lynn](#)

[Youth Horizons - New Lynn](#)

## **Bay of Plenty**

[WERA Aotearoa Charitable Trust - Rotorua](#)

[Te Waiariki Porea Trust - Rotorua](#)

[Kawerau Youth Care Centre Trust \(Manna Support Services\) - Kawerau](#)

[Waimarie Training and Development Ltd - Tauranga](#)

[Whakaatu Whanaunga Trust - Opotiki](#)

## **Waikato**

[NUMA \(Te Runanga o Kirikiriroa Charitable Trust\) - Hamilton](#)

[Te Wananga o Aotearoa Te Kuratini o Nga Waka - Te Awamutu](#)

## **Gisborne**

[Turanga Ararau Youth Services - Gisborne](#)

[Te Runanga o Ngati Porou - Gisborne](#)

## **Hawkes Bay**

[Central Health Limited - Waipukurau](#)

[Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga - Hastings](#)

[Te Kupenga Hauora – Ahuiriri - Napier](#)

[Wairoa Young Achievers Trust - Wairoa](#)

## **Taranaki**

[Tui Ora Ltd - New Plymouth](#)

[Ngati Maniapoto Marae Pact Trust - Te Kuiti and Taumaurunui](#)

## **Manawatu/Whanganui**

[START-Whana Tu - Palmerston North](#)

[Life to the Max, Horowhenua - Levin](#)

[Tararua Community Youth Services - Dannevirke](#)

[Pahiatua Community Services Trust - Pahiatua](#)

[Work and Income - Whanganui](#)

## **Wellington**

[Partners Porirua - Porirua](#)

[The Learning Shop \(Whitireia Community Polytechnic\) - Porirua](#)

[Kapiti Youth Support - Paraparaumu](#)

[Hutt Valley Youth Health Trust \(VIBE\) - Lower Hutt](#)

[Work and Income - Wellington](#)

[Southern Wairarapa Safer Community Council - Carterton](#)

## **South Island: Nelson**

[Tasman-Nelson Youth Service Limited - Nelson](#)

[Nelson Presbyterian Support - Nelson](#)

## **Tasman**

[Abel Tasman Educational Trust - Motueka](#)

[Golden Bay Work Centre Trust - Takaka](#)

## **West Coast**

[Buller Rural Education Activities Programme \(REAP\) Incorporated - Westport](#)

[Grey District Youth Service \(Karoro Learning\) - Greymouth](#)

[Presbyterian Support \(Family Works\) - Greymouth](#)

[Westland Rural Education Activities, Programme Society Incorporated - Hokitika](#)

## **Marlborough**

[Marlborough Community College - Blenheim](#)

[Blenheim Presbyterian Support - Blenheim](#)

## **Canterbury**

[Community Colleges New Zealand - Rangiora](#)

[Presbyterian Support \(USI\) - Christchurch](#)

[NUMA \(Te Runanga o Nga Maata Waka Inc\) - Christchurch](#)

[South Canterbury Community College - Timaru](#)

## **Otago**

[Dunedin Community College - Dunedin](#)

## **Southland**

[Southland Community College - Invercargill](#)

**To Contact a formal Support Group coordinator in your area for advice and networking**

Locality	Name	Phone	E-mail Address
Ashburton/ Timaru**	Jude Suddens	03 307 2147	jude.suddens@woosh.co.nz
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
CanterburyNorth/East**	Sharyn Parker	03-342 5528	davesharyn.parker@xtra.co.nz
Canterbury West**	Veronica Brunt	03 942 5935	r.v.brunt@paradise.net.nz
Canterbury South**	Sharyn Parker	03 342 5528	davesharyn.parker@xtra.co.nz
Dargaville **	Katy Edmonds	09 439 8395	kedmonds@orcon.net.nz
Dunedin **	Catherine Butson	03 489 2942	cmbutson@ihug.co.nz
Gisborne **	Molly Pardoe (NEW)	06 867 8463	<a href="mailto:mollypardoe@xtra.co.nz">mollypardoe@xtra.co.nz</a>
Hamilton **	Kerry Batten	07 560 0291	<a href="mailto:kebatten@gmail.com">kebatten@gmail.com</a>
Invercargill **	Lynette Nielsen	03 216 0411	jhandli2@xtra.co.nz
Kaikohe	Zeta Danielson	09 405 9977	zeta.slade@xtra.co.nz
Levin*	Ann Waddell	06 362 7269	ann.hen@xtra.co.nz
Napier **	Michele Lark	06 842 2656	larkmichele16@gmail.com
Nelson **	Paula Eggers	03 544 5714	paulaeggers2000@yahoo.com.au
Otago * Est/Nth	Aad & Leonie	03 465 1764	omaandopa@xtra.co.nz
Palmerston North**	Martha Taonui-Andrews	06 356 6929	marthataonuians@xtra.co.nz
Porirua Wellington**	Lise Maru	04 4779445	lise.maru@clear.net.nz
Rotorua **	Sheree McKenzie (NEW)	020 402 22910	sheree@understatement.co.nz
Taumarunui **	Ruth Sandiford Phelan	027 7578097 8097	ruthsp@email.com
Taupo **	Viv Needham	07 386 8033	viv.maree@gmail.com
Tauranga **	Maureen Murphy-Boyd	07 5700175	murphy.boyd@xtra.co.nz
Te Hiku Northland*	Koha Mehana	09 408 3788	
Te Kuiti **	Patsy Roach	07 878 6704	roachp@waikatodhb.health.nz
Thames **	Sonja Senior	07 868 4846	<a href="mailto:chchapple@xtra.co.nz">chchapple@xtra.co.nz</a>
Upper Hutt **	Margaret Pearson	04 976 9475	maggiemagpie@paradise.net.nz
Wairarapa **	Tere Lenihan	06 379 5407	terel@swscc.org.nz
Wanganui **	Cherryl Smith	06 344 1278	cherryl@teatawhai.maori.nz
Wellington **	Cecilee Donovan	04 477 0632	cecileed@gmail.com
Whakatane/Kawerau**	Shirley Faulkner	07 322 8524	shirleyfaulkner@xtra.co.nz
Whangarei **	Janet Puriri	09 435 0044	<a href="mailto:jpuriri@ihug.co.nz">jpuriri@ihug.co.nz</a>

**Give A Little For GRG.**

**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



**Can we help you? Members ONLY Services Nationwide**

**Toll free line 0800 472 637 X 1 (Caregivers only please) Members support Manager: Di Vivian**

**New members and general information and referral ext 1**

[www.grg.org.nz](http://www.grg.org.nz) or [www.kin.org.nz](http://www.kin.org.nz) or [www.raisinggrandchildren.org.nz](http://www.raisinggrandchildren.org.nz)

Email [office@grg.org.nz](mailto:office@grg.org.nz)

Auckland callers(09) 480 6530 Postal Add: PO Box 34 892 Birkenhead. Auckland 0742.





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](mailto: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](mailto:office@grg.org.nz), [www.grg.org.nz](http://www.grg.org.nz)

### Delegate

Title	First Name	Surname	
Position		Organisation	
Email		Phone	
Postal Address			

### Additional Delegate

Title	First Name	Surname	
Position		Email	
How did you hear about this conference? Direct Mail / Website / Email / Other (please specify)			

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)
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Two Day Conference</b>	\$20 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$195 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$225 <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Conference One Day only</b> (please select which day)			
<b>DAY 1</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>DAY 2</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	\$10 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$125 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$150 <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Two Day Conference + Conference Dinner</b>	\$80 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$255 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$285 <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>One Day Conference + Conference Dinner</b>	\$70 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$185 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$210 <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Conference Dinner Only</b>	\$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

Card Number

Name of Cardholder

**Visa / Mastercard** (Please specify)

Expiry  /

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**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