



GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN TRUST NZ

Raising resilient and healthy children and young people through empowering grandparent and whānau care families since 2001

Are you raising someone else's child full-time?

GRG provides support, information, advice, advocacy services and caregiver education programmes nationwide to full-time caregivers who are raising a child not born to them. Membership and services are free. Call us on toll free **0800 GRANDS** or visit **www.grg.nz** to join.

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Welcome! Tena koutou, Talofa Lava, Kia Orana, Fakaalofa Lahi Atu, Malo e Lelei, Bula Vinaka, Taloha Ni, Kam Na Mauri Namaste, Hallo, Bonjour, Hola and Greetings this month to our 6,300+ member families and all our non-member subscribers!

Financial support for raising someone else's child...

If you are raising someone else's child because:

- there has been a breakdown in the child's family, or
- their parents have died, or
- they are missing, or
- they have a long-term disablement

AND you are to be their principal temporary or long-term caregiver, from the date you apply to Work and Income for this support, then you are entitled to either the **Unsupported Child Benefit** or the **Orphan's Benefit** to help with the costs of raising the child.

The **Unsupported Child** or **Orphan's Benefits** are not taxable and they are not affected by your income or assets as a caregiver.

It is affected by any income the child might be receiving (e.g. ACC) and the child must be resident and present in New Zealand.

To qualify for it you must also be over 18 years of age, resident and present in NZ and you must not be a natural parent, an adoptive parent, or a step-parent of the child.

If these circumstances apply to you and you think you have been incorrectly advised or you realise now that you should be receiving this support, please contact us tollfree on **0800 472 637** or call our National Support Office on **09 418 3753** for a referral to our advocate, Tricia Corin.



Kia ora koutou kātoa and a warm welcome to the new client families who have recently joined GRG for support since our last newsletter.

In our last newsletter, we farewelled GRG's long-standing Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Kate Bundle. Currently, I, Judith McKay, am serving as the Acting CEO, having been a Trustee on the Board of GRG since 2013. I have temporarily stepped down from the Board to ensure a smooth transition as the Board recruits a permanent CEO.

Having retired as the Chief Financial Officer at Auckland University of Technology in 2014, my background brings a wealth of experience. My tenure on the GRG Board provided a broad understanding of our organisation, but assuming the CEO's responsibilities has deepened my appreciation for the dedication of our staff, volunteers and community partners to GRG's mission.

A special acknowledgment goes to Tricia Corin, Specialist Financial Support Advocate; Karla Macdonald, Communication and Projects Coordinator; Giselle Stalls, National Support Manager; Carol Bowers, Client Services Administrator; and Christina Howe, Senior Community Advocate, for their invaluable assistance during this transitional period.

With a touch of sadness, we say farewell to Merle Lambert, National Support Co-Ordinator. For four years, Merle has worked tirelessly to recruit, train and provide on-going support for our Support Group Co-ordinators (SGCs). We extend our gratitude to Merle for her commitment to GRG and wish her nothing but success and fulfilment in her future endeavours. As Giselle takes on the role of National Support Manager, we express our gratitude for her contributions.

Following Giselle's promotion, we have recruited a new Client Services Administrator, Justine Gibb (Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Rakaipaaka, Ngāti Matangirau, Ngāti Porou). She will be the new voice on the phone when you call the GRG National Support Office. Justine's previous role was as Centre Manager for Christians Against Poverty which she describes as providing a service which is "holistic and very much focused on all aspects of a client's life, from finance to relationships, health to emotional well-being". We feel that Justine will have real empathy with our GRG members and welcome her to the GRG team.

As we eagerly anticipate the appointment of a new CEO in the New Year, we extend our warmest congratulations to our esteemed Board member, Dan Bidois, on his recent election as Member of Parliament for Northcote. Over the past three years, Dan has been an unwavering advocate and supporter of GRG, contributing immensely to GRG's growth and impact. His dedication and commitment have been instrumental in shaping GRG's journey. We wish him well on this exciting new chapter.

In this edition, Recognising the challenges faced by our caregiver members in 2023 due to the "cost of living crisis," Tricia's column provides information on available support. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require additional assistance.

In the spirit of the festive season, we wish you all an enjoyable Christmas with your whānau and a Happy New Year.

Judith McKay
Acting CEO



Tricia Corin
Specialist Advocate
Income/Financial
Support

Tricia Advocating for You

Important reminders for all Caregivers who receive an Unsupported Child's Benefit or Orphans Benefit for a child in their care.

As we approach the holiday season, we want to remind all caregivers who receive an Unsupported Child's Benefit or Orphans Benefit for a child in their care about important allowances and payments that can assist with additional costs. These benefits are designed to support you and the children in your care during holiday, birthdays, and throughout the school year. Take a moment to review the information below to ensure you are aware of the available assistance, including the Holiday and Birthday Allowance, School and Year Start Up Payment, and the Extraordinary Care Fund.

Holiday and Birthday Allowance

This is paid automatically 2 weeks prior to Christmas and 2 weeks prior to a child's Birthday.

Holiday Allowance and Birthday Allowance rates (current)

Below are the rates of Holiday Allowance and Birthday Allowance for Orphans Benefit and Unsupported Child's Benefit at 1 April 2023. Each of these is a non-taxable, annual rate.

Please Note: *How much money you get depends on the age of the child you're looking after.*

Age of the child	Weekly rate for Orphan's Benefit or Unsupported Child Benefit	Birthday and Holiday Allowance rate
Under 5 years old	\$273.36	\$136.68
5 to 9 years old	\$275.25	\$137.63
10 to 13 years old	\$296.59	\$148.30
14 years and over	\$317.82	\$158.91

School and Year Start Up Payment

The School and Year Start-up Payment provides non-taxable, non-recoverable financial assistance to assist with school related costs or other costs relating to the care of the child.

Payment

The School and Year Start-up Payment is a one-off payment that a client can apply for every year between the first Monday after **10 January and the last day of February**.

The maximum amount of School and Year Start-up Payment will depend on the child's age as at the last day of February and is paid directly to the client's bank account.

To Apply: This is an **online Application**, which is available on the Work & Income Website and also a Link from Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ Facebook page. You can also go to your Local Work & Income office for assistance in applying.

School and Year Start-up Payment rates (current)

Below are the rates of School and Year Start-up Payment for Orphans Benefit and Unsupported Childs Benefit at 1 January 2015. This is a non-taxable, lump-sum payment.

Age of child (at end of February)	Payment
0 - 4 years	\$400
5 - 9 years	\$450
10 - 13 years	\$500
14 years and over	\$550

Extraordinary Care Fund

You can apply if a child you care for shows promise in a skill or talent, or because they are experiencing difficulties and need extra support. To qualify you need to get the Orphan's Benefit or Unsupported Child's Benefit.

- ♥ You can apply for one grant of up to \$2,000 each year.
- ♥ If you're caring for more than one child, you can apply for each child.
- ♥ A panel assesses each application. They meet 4 times this year, but you can apply at any time.

Please Note: *Work & Income will write to you to let you know the outcome of your application.*

If you apply before:	You will hear back from Work & Income after:
1 November 2023	11 December 2023
12 February 2024	18 March 2024
1 May 2024	10 June 2024
1 August 2024	16 September 2024
1 November 2024	9 December 2024

**If you would like help or have any questions,
please contact the GRG National Support
Office on 0800 GRANDS**



Christina Howe
Senior Community
Advocate

Christmas Holiday Considerations

It's that time of year again—where did this year go? If you're feeling caught off guard, rest assured, you're not alone! For caregivers of tamariki and rangatahi, it's essential to consider a few things during the holidays. Take a moment to reflect on how these considerations may relate to you and your whānau. A bit of thoughtful planning now can make all the difference in ensuring you enjoy the holiday season with your chosen company.

Contact Arrangements

Consider initiating discussions about holiday contact arrangements now. Adhere to the specifics outlined in your Parenting Order, especially if it designates supervision at an approved contact centre. These centres close down and book up early, so confirming a date everyone agrees on is crucial. If your order requires supervision by an agreed person, plan accordingly. Given the busyness of the holiday season, early planning ensures smoother coordination.

Without a formal agreement, consider how contact arrangements would work for you during the holiday season. Early consideration leads to smoother coordination, enhancing everyone's enjoyment of the holiday season.

Holiday Destinations

The extended school holidays offer a perfect opportunity for a brief getaway. I'm drawn to the beach, and I'm even considering trying camping for the first time—wish me luck! It's crucial to keep in mind the rules regarding Additional Guardianship. As an Additional Guardian, you act as an extra guardian alongside the parents. This entails that decisions related to guardianship must be discussed and agreed upon by both you and the parents, circumstances permitting.

e.g. For a short beach trip like to the beach, you can proceed without needing consent from other guardians. However, if you plan to travel overseas, obtaining consent from the other guardians is generally required in most cases.

Urgent Applications

Let's discuss a challenging scenario. If parents don't return the children after contact, be prepared to file urgent applications in the Family Court. With a Parenting Order and Additional Guardianship Order, file a Warrant to Enforce Day to Day Care. This warrant empowers the police to go and uplift and return the children to your care.

Never fear if you lack these orders; you're still protected. If you've been caring for the children for a period of time and you can say that they habitually reside with you, meaning you and can establish they live with you regularly, you can urgently apply for a Parenting Order, Additional Guardianship Order, and a Warrant to Enforce simultaneously.

Family Court Closures

Family Court will be closed from 12.00pm on Friday 22 December 2023 and reopen officially on 3 January 2024 (for the bigger courts). During this period, you can submit urgent applications on the 27th, 28th and 29th December 2023, keeping in mind that all urgent applications need to meet the 2pm deadline on each of these days.

You will need to file these applications via email as court counters will be closed. Each courthouse will likely have a list of lawyers displayed on their window that are working and available over the Christmas period closure for you to contact and work through these applications with.

Wishing everyone a restful and peaceful holiday season.

Resignations

This will be the last time that I address you all as the National Support Coordinator for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren.



Merle Lambert
National Support
Coordinator

I came into this role a little over four years ago and joined an awesome team of people doing some extraordinary things. Although I met some challenges in those early days developing the role, I received amazing support and respect from colleagues and Support Group Coordinators, something I will always be grateful for. I have enormous admiration for the grandparents that have taken on the responsibility of raising their grandchildren in often very challenging circumstances. And then there are those grandparents who become Support Group Coordinators because they have experienced GRG's support and know the value of it and selflessly want to give back. I hope that I have in some way helped these wonderful people in their dedication and commitment in supporting their own. For myself, this role has enabled me to grow as a person and professionally and I value that learning as I can take it forward in whatever I do. My time with Grandparents Raising Grandchildren has come to an end. I plan to take some time to rejuvenate and spend time with family and friends. I will take with me the good thoughts and wishes that have been extended my way and thank those people for enriching my life.

Porirua - Roma Paull

Regrettably, Roma, Support Group Coordinator for Porirua, has resigned. In January 2012, she left a high-ranking government position to care for four grandchildren removed from foster care in Australia. Roma, an inspiring coordinator, enriched our GRG Porirua family with her dedication and knowledge, benefiting not only our support group but also others in Wellington and Kapiti. While we're saddened by Roma's departure, we acknowledge her ongoing commitment to GRG and anticipate her continued strength and wisdom for her family.

Thank you, Roma, for eleven memorable and impactful years. *Tribute by Cecilee Donovan.

Levin - Dott Hari

With regret, we acknowledge the resignation of Dott Hari, Support Group Coordinator for Levin. Dott has not only dedicated herself to the GRG but has also raised four grandchildren. In her brief time as Support Group Coordinator, she successfully built a supportive community in Foxton, fostering a group with plans for continued growth. We extend our best wishes to Dott as she takes the time to focus on herself and her whanau.

NEW Support Group Coordinators



Kathy Procter

Kathy Procter, Kapiti/Otaki

For 11 years, Kathy has been the primary caregiver for her granddaughter, dedicating herself to upskilling and acquiring knowledge to support her special needs. Encouraged by GRG, Kathy now aspires to assist other grandparents, drawing on her expertise in disabilities and navigating support systems. Additionally, Kathy is a talented artist, creating landscape paintings that serve as a creative outlet and contribute to the balance in her life as a devoted grandmother.



Molly Crowe

Molly Crowe, Marlborough

Before Molly became a primary school teacher, she undertook counselling courses while working with "At Risk Children." Diligent and empathetic, Molly easily connects with diverse cultures. As an open communicator, she is always available to talk and support others. Molly's passion lies in ensuring others feel not only seen but also heard. Excited to volunteer her time for GRG, she is eager to navigate challenges together and offer support to families facing today's issues.



Shona Coster

Shona Coster, Taumarunui

For fourteen years, Shona has been raising two grandsons. One has left home, and the other has a year of school left. Born and raised in Taumarunui, Shona has formed wonderful friendships through GRG and anticipates building more. She is a warm and open communicator with a keen listening ear. Shona looks forward to meeting everyone in the new year.



John McRae

John McRae, Turangi

Initially anticipating semi-retirement for writing and artistic pursuits, John unexpectedly became the primary caregiver for his toddler great-grandchild in Tūrangi. GRG provided crucial and invaluable support. With a background in communications, advocacy and education, John is keen to spotlight GRG's benefits in his community, aiming to create a strong and effective support group for kuia and koro raising mokopuna.



Cameron Gay

Cameron Gay, North Shore

Cameron, new Support Group Coordinator for East Coast Bays on Auckland's North Shore, brings valuable experience gained from raising three grandchildren with his wife. This hands-on experience has provided insight into the challenges of caring for children from dysfunctional homes. Recently retired from a global retailer as a learning and development manager, Cameron has extensive experience facilitating shared learning in small group sessions. He looks forward to helping people gain insights from others' experiences, enhancing their effectiveness in raising grandchildren.

Caregiver Education

SALT Programme Training Forecast To be confirmed in 2024



February: Timaru & West Coast

March: Taumaranui, Te Kuiti and Te Awamutu

April: New Plymouth, Whakatane, Wairarapa, Levin/Foxton, Whanganui, and Gisborne

REGISTER NOW at SALT@grg.org.nz or phone 0800 472 637

Grand Reflections

Exciting Developments and Grand Plans Unveiled for GRG Fundraising Events!

Zonta Yellow Rose Run and Walk

Celebrating Success: Zonta Yellow Rose Run and Walk Raises \$8000 for GRG!

A heartfelt congratulations is in order for the triumph of another Zonta Yellow Rose Run and Walk! On Sunday 8th October 2024, a vibrant sea of yellow illuminated Christchurch, Auckland and beyond, courtesy of the Zonta Yellow Rose Run and Walk for GRG. This inspiring event, fuelled by Zonta District 16's unwavering commitment to fundraising for GRG, showcased a remarkable display of solidarity and community spirit. Despite the challenging circumstances the country has faced, the collective efforts of participants, sponsors, and supporters have not only raised \$8000 for GRG but also exemplified the generosity and dedication of New Zealanders. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Zonta District 16 for orchestrating this impactful initiative and express appreciation to all the sponsors and supporters who contributed to the success of the Zonta Yellow Rose Run and Walk. Together, we celebrate the triumph of community collaboration in support of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ.



The partnership with Zonta District 16 is highly valued and the positive impact it has on the meaningful work undertaken at GRG is deeply appreciated. Sincere appreciation is extended to the Four Christchurch Clubs: Zonta Club of Christchurch-Canterbury, Zonta Club of Christchurch South, Zonta Club of Christchurch North, and Zonta Club of Waimakariri.

Tamaki Makaurau, Auckland

Kate Bundle and Karla Macdonald, GRG Communication and Projects Coordinator participated in the Zonta Club of Auckland's Yellow Rose Run and Walk. It proved to be a fantastic day, offering a wonderful chance to contribute, raise funds and connect with an amazing group of ladies and their families. This marked Kate's final engagement before signing off from GRG as Chief Executive.



Bruce Hopkins: A Journey of Resilience and Compassion

As we enter the holiday season, we're thrilled to showcase the incredible journey of our Honorary Life member, Bruce Hopkins. His life story, woven with diverse experiences, continues to enrich the tapestry of our GRG community. Bruce's journey, from Middle Earth to the Te Araroa Trail, highlights his vibrant array of diverse roles. As a lead support in the Lord of the Rings trilogy, Bruce's adventures extend beyond the cinematic realm. A passionate tramp, he conquered the 3000km Te Araroa Trail, chronicling his experiences in the RNZ podcast

"The Long Way Home", showcasing his love for exploration and storytelling.

For over 13 years, Bruce has embraced the joys and challenges of being a grandfather, infusing his outlook with richness and wisdom. In celebration of Bruce's 68th birthday, he is setting his sights high on raising more funds for GRG. Currently in the initial planning phases, Bruce is gearing up for a spectacular fundraising event in January 2024, aiming to surpass last year's success. Keep an eye out for updates on our socials and join us in being part of this thrilling journey!

Bruce's past feats raising funds for GRG, include backflipping into the ocean 67 times on his 67th birthday, raising over \$2,500. Additionally, his walk of the Te Araroa Trail, raised \$30,000 for GRG. As we celebrate the holiday season, let's applaud Bruce's resilience and unwavering support for GRG, making a real difference in the lives of grandparents and grandchildren across New Zealand. Wishing you all a joyful and heartwarming festive season!

If you would like to support Bruce raising funds for GRG please go to: <https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/somersaults-for-charity-bruces-68th-challenge>



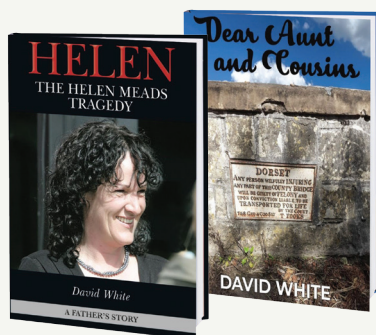
David White

David White's 'Dear Aunt and Cousins' is more than a book; it's a compelling journey raising funds for charities. Following the tragic murder of his daughter, Helen Meads, David and his wife Pam became full-time caregivers for Helen's three children, solidifying their commitment to GRG.

As the author of 'Helen, The Helen Meads Tragedy' and 'My Name is Matilda', David embarked on a touching journey to craft the sequel, 'Dear Aunt and Cousins'. Inspired by their role as grandparents raising grandchildren, David and Pam's narrative unfolds over 14 years. David's granddaughter Samantha, now 22, encouraged him to continue the family legacy.

Last year, David and Pam's research expedition to the UK led to the establishment of Matilda Press. Now armed with 'Dear Aunt and Cousins', David aims to sell 500 books by Christmas, raising \$5,000 for each chosen charity: GRG, Cancer NZ and AMMF with UK sales.

You also have the opportunity for David to add a personal touch by signing your copy. Simplifying the ordering process, The Underground Bookstore website guarantees a smooth and seamless experience.



Celebrate family, resilience, and the spirit of giving by securing your copy or doubling the joy with two at <https://www.theundergroundbookstore.nz/david-white/> - This Christmas, unleash the magic of generosity with David's inspiring journey.

GRG Support Groups Nationwide

MID NORTH

Contact: Cheryl London
021 680 863 / Midnorth@grg.org.nz
Meets: 3rd Tuesday of the month.
Please contact Cheryl for time,
as this varies.
Location: Te Kona Digital Business
and Learning Hub, 74 Guy Road,
Kaikohe (Totara/Board Room).

DARGAVILLE

Currently Vacant: If you or someone
you know would like to consider
becoming the local Support Group
Coordinator for the Dargaville area,
please contact Giselle Stalls at
Giselle@grg.org.nz / 09 418 3753

WHANGAREI

Meets: First Friday of the Month.
Location: Anglican Care Centre,
Drummond Street, Whangarei at
10am. Currently vacant. If you or
someone you know would like to
consider becoming the local Support
Group Coordinator for the Whangarei
area, please contact Giselle Stalls at
Giselle@grg.org.nz / 09 418 3753

TAMAKI/EAST

Contact: Tess Gould-Thorpe
09 535 6903 / Tamaki@grg.org.nz
Meets: Date and location varies.
Please get in touch with Tess for
confirmation of the next meeting.

NORTH SHORE

Contact: Cameron Gay
021 190 3594 / Northshore@grg.org.nz
Meets: Date and location varies.
Please get in touch with Cameron for
confirmation of the next meeting.

AUCKLAND CENTRAL

Contact: Helen Hewitt 021 469 964
Aucklandcentral@grg.org.nz
Meets: First Wednesday of the month
from 12pm.
Location: Melville Cricket Pavilion
18 St Andrews Ave, Epsom, Auckland.

NEW LYNN/AVONDALE

Contact: Faye James
022 417 7840 / Newlynn@grg.org.nz
Meets: Third Wednesday of the month
at 10am.
Location: Fale Avondale Community
House, 50A Rosebank Road, Avondale.

MANUREWA

Currently Vacant: If you or someone
you know would like to consider
becoming the local Support Group
Coordinator please contact Giselle
Stalls at Giselle@grg.org.nz
09 418 3753

PAPAKURA

Contact: Shirley Afoa
021 129 4151 / Papakura@grg.org.nz
Meets: Second Thursday of the month
at 10am
Location: Smiths Avenue Community
Hall, 20 Smiths Avenue, Papakura.

PUKEKOHE/WAIUKU

Contact: Anne Doddrell
027 471 8297 / Pukekohe@grg.org.nz
Meets: Fourth Tuesday of the month
at 10am
Location: St. Andrews Church,
43 Queen Street, Pukekohe

NGARUAWAHIA/HUNTLY

Contact: Trevor Don 027 229 2041
Ngaruawahia@grg.org.nz
Meets: Date and location varies.
Please get in touch with Trevor for
confirmation of next meeting.

MATAMATA-PIAKO

Contact: Jennifer Porter 027 683 6207
Matamata-piako@grg.org.nz
Meets: Date and location varies.
Please get in touch with Jennifer for
confirmation of the next meeting.

HAMILTON EAST

Currently Vacant: If you or someone
you know would like to consider
becoming the local Support Group
Coordinator please contact Giselle
Stalls at Giselle@grg.org.nz
09 418 3753

HAMILTON WEST

Contact: Pat Davis 022 600 7672
Hamiltonwest@grg.org.nz
Meets: Last Thursday of the month at
10am to 11.30am
Location: St Davids Hall, Rifle Range
Road, Dinsdale, Hamilton (Opposite
Frankton Primary School) .

TOKOROA

Contact: Debbie Newton
027 284 2103 / Tokoroa@grg.org.nz
Meets: Last Friday of the month
at 10am
Location: Salvation Army Corps
139 Balmoral Drive, Tokoroa
(corner of East Grampian & Balmoral).

TURANGI

Contact: John McRae
021 521 900 / Turangi@grg.org.nz
Meets: Date and location varies.
Please get in touch with John for
confirmation of the next meeting.

TE KUITI

Currently Vacant: If you or someone
you know would like to consider
becoming the local Support Group
Coordinator for the Dargaville area,
please contact Giselle Stalls at
Giselle@grg.org.nz / 09 418 3753

TAUMARUNUI

Contact: Shona Coster 027 468 8492
Taumarunui@grg.org.nz
Meets: Date and location varies.
Location: The Women's Club,
Miriamia Street, Taumarunui.

ROTORUA

Contact: Anne Donnell
022 059 5107 / Rotorua@grg.org.nz
Meets: Third Monday of the month
at 9:30am
Location: Linton Park Community
Centre, 16 Kamahi Place, Pukehangi,
Rotorua.

TAURANGA

Currently Vacant: If you or someone
you know would like to consider
becoming the local Support Group
Coordinator for the Dargaville area,
please contact Giselle Stalls at
Giselle@grg.org.nz / 09 418 3753

WHAKATANE/KAWERAU

Contact: National Support Office
0800 472 637 / Office@grg.org.nz
Currently Vacant: If you or someone
you know would like to consider
becoming the local Support Group
Coordinator please contact Giselle
Stalls at Giselle@grg.org.nz
09 418 3753

NAPIER

Contact: Beth Thurston
022 073 9900 / Napier@grg.org.nz
Meets: Date and time varies,
please contact Beth for confirmation
of meetings.
Location: The Octagon Room,
All Saints Church, 23 Puketapu Road,
Taradale.

HASTINGS

Contact: Nga Ngatae Heather
022 341 7789 / Hastings@grg.org.nz
Meets: Third Thursday of the month
at 11am.
Location: The Club, 308 Victoria
Street, Hastings.

NEW PLYMOUTH

Contact: Jeanette Hinton 021 059
0954 / Newplymouth@grg.org.nz
Meets: Date and time varies. Please
get in touch with Jeanette for
confirmation of next meeting.
Location: Taranaki Rugby Club,
1 Rogan Street, New Plymouth.

PALMERSTON NORTH

Contact: Jacqui Phillips 021 229 0455
Palmerstonnorth@grg.org.nz

Meets: First Thursday of the month at 12.30pm

Location: Christian Community Church, 54 Pascal Street Palmerston North.

WAIRARAPA

Contact: Jonathan and Margaret Hooker
027 448 6645 / 027 284 476
06 377 1572 / Wairarapa@grg.org.nz

Meets: Date and time varies, please contact Jonathan and Margaret for confirmation of meetings.

KAPITI/OTAKI

Contact: Kathy Proctor
029 249 9543 / Kapiti@grg.org.nz
Meets: Date and location varies. Please contact Kathy for confirmation of the next meeting.

LOWER HUTT

Contact: Maria Zoetebier
021 148 0549 / Lowerhutt@grg.org.nz
Meets: Date & time varies, please contact Maria for confirmation of meetings.
Location: Walter Nash Centre, 22-26 Taine Street, Taita.

WELLINGTON

Contact: Cecilee Donovan
021 1586 643 / Wellington@grg.org.nz
Meets: Date and location varies. Please contact Cecilee for confirmation of the next meeting.

NELSON

Contact: Sharon Norriss
03 548 6710 / Nelson@grg.org.nz
Meets: Every second Friday of the month at 10am.
Location: The Nelson Golf Club, Bolt Road, Nelson.

MOTUEKA

Contact: Rankeilor Arnott
021 133 7299 / Motueka@grg.org.nz
Meets: Second and fourth Thursday of the month at 12.30pm to 3.00pm
Location: St Andrews Church Lounge, 64 High Street, Motueka.

MARLBOROUGH

Contact: Molly Crowe 0274 705235
Marlborough@grg.org.nz
Meets: Every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 10am
Location: Room 1, Marlborough Library (Te Kahu O Waipuna), 15 High Street, Blenheim.

NORTH OTAGO

Contact: Robyn Cleverley
027 897 3913 / Northotago@grg.org.nz

Meets: First Friday of the month at 1.30pm

Location: Waitaki Recreational Centre, 43 Orwell Street, Oamaru

CHRISTCHURCH

Contact: National Support Office
0800 472 637 / Office@grg.org.nz
Currently Vacant: If you or someone you know would like to consider becoming the local Support Group Coordinator please contact Giselle Stalls at Giselle@grg.org.nz
09 418 3753

ASHBURTON

Contact: Karen Kilgour
027 741 2039 / Ashburton@grg.org.nz
Meets: Date and location varies. Please get in touch with Karen for confirmation of the next meeting.

SOUTHLAND

Contact: Colleen Saunders
03 216 4173 / Southland@grg.org.nz
Meets: Second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 10am
Location: Family Works, 183 Spey Street, Invercargill.

COFFEE GROUPS

Maungatoroto Angela 0274 884 441
Whangarei Christine 021 061 5387
Birkenhead Flo 021 026 93639
Whitianga Gillian 027 454 0314
Te Puke Rae 021 235 6452
Paeroa Sue 021 029 16936
Matamata Jennifer 027 683 6207
Te Aroha Jennifer 027 683 6207
Cambridge Brenda 027 438 5401
Hastings Nga 022 341 7789
Opunake Jayne 027 586 5190
Waimate Maureen 029 775 1970
Timaru Lorna 021 262 8045

CURRENTLY VACANT

Would you be interested in volunteering your services for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren?

With over 6,200+ members across the country Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ rely on volunteer Support Group Coordinators to provide hands on support, information and advocacy in addition to running regular support groups for members to get that peer support that is so valuable when sharing their experiences and accumulated knowledge.

Currently we are seeking Support Group Coordinators in the following areas:

Kaitaia, Dargaville, Whangarei, Hibiscus Coast, Waitakere, Henderson, Glen Eden, Mangere/Onehunga, Hamilton East, Te Awamutu, Te Kuiti, Tauranga, Te Puke/ Papamoa, Whakatane/ Kawerau, Whanganui, Dannevirke/Tararua, Central West Coast, Christchurch, Dunedin and Otago Coastal.

Contact: Giselle Stalls at Giselle@grg.org.nz
09 418 3753 or

Call us on FREE on 0800 472 637 (0800 GRANDS)

Other Handy Helpline Numbers

EMERGENCY 111 for emergency services, fire, ambulance or police

PLUNKETLINE 0800 933 922 for advice on child health or parenting from a registered Plunket Nurse

HEALTHLINE 0800 611 116 for health triage and advice from a registered nurse.

COVID-19 Healthline concerns **0800 358 5453**

'NEED TO TALK?' Text 1737
Get help from a counsellor

LIFELINE 0800 543 354 or **Text 4357** – 24/7 confidential support from qualified counsellors and trained volunteers

YOUTHLINE 0800 376 633 helping families and youth

0508 CARERS (0508 227 377) a 24/7 Caregivers Guidance and Advice Line.

0800 WHATS UP (0800 942 8787) is a free counselling helpline for teenagers and children run by Barnardos.

DEPRESSION.ORG.NZ
Free text number 4202

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ

Established in 2001 as a registered charitable trust (CC20205), GRG supports over 6,200 grandparent and whanau care families nationwide, representing around 9,500 caregivers and over 16,000 children. Our vision and kaupapa is to empower grandparent and other whanau care families to achieve positive life outcomes, through providing support, information, advice, advocacy services and caregiver education programmes.

Have your circumstances changed?

Our aim is to keep you informed and of what's happening, key information and opportunities that can help you. If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter or you have changed address or phone number please update your details by clicking the button below or contact us.

Update your member details

Can we help you? Members ONLY services are available free of charge nationwide.

New members and existing members please call our Helpline 0800 GRANDS (0800 472 637) or 09 418 3753

Join GRG or subscribe to our newsletter via our website or click the button below.

Join GRG

Our Website

Donate

Donating to GRG with One Percent Collective means that every cent donated lands in our bank account – they don't take a cut because they're a charity too! We get 100% and they handle all the admin. They even make it easy to claim a 33% rebate on your GRG Trust donations at tax time!



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. He rōpū manaaki, he rōpū whakarongo, he rōpū ake o mātou – We are respectful, we listen, we learn.

Please pass this newsletter on to other grandparents and whanau caregivers who need support.

Ngā mihi nui – Thank you to our funders for their support for our newsletter.



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Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust New Zealand

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