



## Monthly News • October 2012

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



Data base: 5212 Whanau Carers.

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**From the National Office:**

**Grandparents Raising Grandkids:  
Perspective of the Grandchildren. USA.**

With so many children being raised by grandparents, it is important to understand how *grandchildren* feel about their relationships with their parents and grandparents. There is very little research on how grandchildren think and feel about being raised by grandparents. What we do know is based on interviews with adolescent grandchildren.

### **Relationships with Parents**

Grandchildren living with grandparents often struggle in their relationships with their parents. Although grandchildren may want to spend time with their parents, their parents may be absent, estranged, not permitted or unavailable. When parents are involved in grandchildren's lives, they can sometimes be unpredictable or break promises. As a result, some grandchildren's feelings about their parents include anger, grief, resentment, and confusion. In addition to these difficult feelings, grandchildren may feel frustrated when their parents try to discipline them or act like a parent—especially if they have not been very involved in caring for the child. Grandchildren may also distrust their parents and be aware that their parents cannot provide them with a safe environment.

There are some grandchildren who describe positive relationships with their parents. In these relationships, parents tend to be more like siblings or friends. In these cases, grandchildren say that they enjoy doing things with their parents such as eating out, going shopping, playing video games, and seeing movies. Grandchildren having these types of relationships with their parents often say that they want to spend more time together.

### **Relationships with Grandparents**

Grandchildren often describe close, trusting relationships with grandparents who are raising them. Many grandchildren describe their grandparents as being just like parents. Also, grandchildren often believe that their grandparents provide stability in their lives and want to help them grow into productive adults. Grandchildren feel that their grandparents give them values, a strong work ethic, and a desire to succeed.

In addition to feeling close, grandchildren describe a strong sense of gratitude and appreciation for the work their grandparents have put into raising them. Grandchildren recognize the sacrifices their grandparents have made and say that they want to provide care for their grandparents in the future. Still,

grandchildren may worry that they are a burden to their aging grandparents and wonder if their grandparents really want to be raising them.

Although many grandchildren are close to their grandparents, conflict and tension may occur. When grandchildren have trouble getting along with their grandparents it is often because of the generation gap. Grandchildren and grandparents may not agree about clothing, music, leisure activities, household rules, chores, and dating.

*This is something GRG Trust NZ is keen to know more about and will be researching further.*

### Grandparents Raising Grandchildren DVD Toolbox:

The Parenting Place are still in the process of delivering these to you, if you have got yours already fabulous, we are hearing great stuff about it. If not keep a look out for it, they are being couriered and if you are not home keep a look out for those "Call for redelivery or pick-up" cards in your letter box.

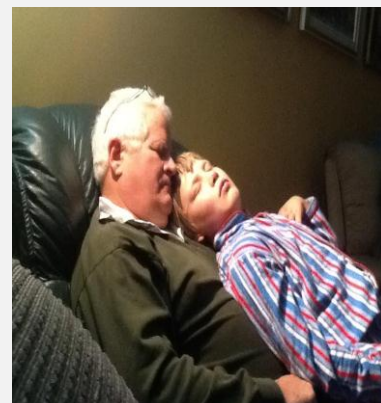
May we also draw to your attention these DVD's are for our Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ members only, they are not available to schools or any other Agencies.

### Our Heroes



**Blake & Julie Herbert** raise now 10 year old Ryan and have done since he was a shaken baby. Cordically blind and with high special needs, this makes for some very hard caregiving indeed. This devoted couple not only ensure the best life possible for him but are also champions for other children in the same situations. Julie & Ryan recently featured in a DVD that is supplied to all new mothers on the dangers of shaking a

baby. Julie's love of music has also impacted on young Ryan who loves to listen to music. Blake & Julie in picture to left are off to get his Distinguished Service Decoration and the picture to the right says it all, Bless !



*We have much admiration for Julie & Blake you are amazing!*



**Bonnie Williams:** Bon and her husband Greg have raised their grand-daughter since birth; she is now 19 and has special needs. (Bonnie is pictured here meeting "Sir Anand Satyanand" our last Governor General at Government House) where GRG Trust NZ were invited. She is a dedicated carer not only for her grandchild but is also a GRG support group Co-ordinator and a Disabilities Services Liaison worker. She loves keeping busy and assisting others in the same situations, altho we are sure Greg would like her to slow down a little, but knowing our Bon that is not likely to happen any day soon.

*Our hats off to you both Bonnie & Greg.*

### Your Voices:

#### Do I need to worry?

Grandparents raising Grandchildren is never far from my thoughts: I absolutely adore this organisation and what we all do to assist you. I am so proud of you all and so committed to you all, as we are all at GRG Trust, but me probably more than most to be fair. You invade my thoughts at the most unlikely of

places. (altho Geoff tells me this is happening to him too). Little sister and I were given tickets to see Dame Edna a little while ago the theatre was chock full of mostly senior citizens. Everyone was seated and waiting, Dame was late coming on, I said to my sis, "Hey we have a captive audience I could just pop up on stage and do a little talk on GRG" You will get kicked out was her quick reply! Thoughts then drifted, as to how silly was I, this would have been a great opportunity to have people outside handing out our brochures. It does get worse than this folks, at my seemingly now regular stints in hospital, I now know when I am beginning to get better, I have a strong desire to give a talk to patients in the day room! Oh My !

Di

### Words for teenagers:

Northland College principal John Tapene has offered the following words from a Judge who regularly deals with youth.

"Always we hear the cry from Teenagers, "what can we do, where can we go?"

"My answer to this: Go home, mow the lawn, wash the windows, learn to cook, build a raft, get a job, visit the sick, study your lessons and after you've finished, read a book. Your town does not owe you recreational facilities and your parents do not owe you fun.

The world does not owe you a living, you owe the world something. You owe it your time, energy and talent so that no one will be at war, in sickness and lonely again. In other words, grow up, stop being a cry-baby, get out of your dream world and develop a backbone. Start behaving like a responsible person. You are important and you are needed. It's too late to sit around and wait for somebody to do something someday. Someday is now and that somebody is you." *This can so apply to teenager's being raised by us too !*



### Morning Tea with The Parenting Place: 'Wairarapa'

Oct 17<sup>th</sup> Venue to be confirmed please register with Di on free phone 0800 472 637 Ext. 1 for catering. Or email [office@grg.org.nz](mailto:office@grg.org.nz) These are free for our members. Venue: Wairarapa Community Centre 41 Perry Street Masterton at 11.30am

### Two different Doctors' Offices:

Boy, if this doesn't hit the nail on the head, I don't know what does!

Two patients limp into two different medical clinics with the same complaint. Both have trouble walking and appear to require a hip replacement.

The FIRST patient is examined within the hour, is x-rayed the same day and has a time booked for surgery the following week.

The SECOND sees his family doctor after waiting 3 weeks for an appointment, then waits 8 weeks to see a specialist, then gets an x-ray, which isn't reviewed for another week and finally has his surgery scheduled for 6 months from then.



Why the different treatment for the two patients?

The FIRST is a Golden Retriever.

The SECOND is a Senior Citizen.

Next time take me to a vet!

Gt Gran Wendy

**Apology:** We had Catherine Butson (Dunedin Co) phone number wrong in last Newsletter is should be 03 489 2942

## **VICTORIOUS!!**

Well today certainly was a day worth celebrating!

Not only was it husbands 37th birthday but today we won a battle that had gone on for so long we were beginning to despair.



Nearly two years ago now our beautiful granddaughter Maddisson came into our world and through no fault of anyone became no longer our grandchild but our child, as we took on her full time care.

Child, Youth and Family Services treated us in a way that can only be recorded in our minds as cruel and extremely unfair. As we fought back for our child and grandchild and gained custody, the battle raged on to gain recognition of the losses our entire family had suffered through.

It is incredible to say that over the last 12 months we have battled negative press, as it were, around us on all levels. Nevertheless husband is a faithful man and has relied on supporting the God given gifts and talents that the good Lord has placed in my life.

One of those is a sense of justice, to stand up and fight back for the underdog! This time we were the underdogs and taking on this very corrupt government department was no easy task and not without a lot of opposition, often from close quarters.

However the lie they had been caught in could not be denied and the evidence was in the hands of our Supreme God, who does promise that "no weapons formed against us shall prosper".

Today we celebrate as a formal apology for the wrongs done to our family was handed over.

All glory for this outcome belongs to God, for we all know that CYFS never apologise and when they do it rarely comes with compensation. Our losses have been restored and the victory has been won, not only for us but I am pleased to say for the others in the same position.

It was never about just our family and the gains are for the many who have suffered injustice. We now have closure at last and can move forward in the full restoration of our family.

I write this personal account to let you know never to give up on who God says you are. Seek Him out and discover who he says you are to Him, you will be delighted in what you find and encouraged to stand fully and with honour as who you are created to be and not who MAN says you should be. Amen. *Sharon*



### **Miss 6 year old:**

Great Grand-daughter told me the other day what she wanted to be when she grew up. "I want to take care of all the babies and children, when Mummies can't" she said, nearly broke my heart but you know what I smiled, yes she does have empathy. By the bucket load!

### **A member email on Funerals:**

I will not be having a funeral. My body will be collected from either home or hospital by the undertaker, \$210.00, Cremation Casket, \$395.00, Medical Documentation, \$180.00, Death Certificate, \$26.50, Professional Service Fee, \$500.00, Cremation Fee, \$695.00, Notice for paper, approx. \$200.00. That makes a total of \$2507.48.

There is no embalming either. The family will not be burdened, and if one has to get help from WINZ, the total funeral will be covered.



## GRG E-Coffee group on SKYPE to start:

One of our grandparent members, Jo, has offered to host and begin a Skype chat with like-minded other grands. Hopefully this will appeal to those who live in isolated places and want to meet others raising grandchildren:



Basically

1. People need a computer, a webcam and headphones with a mic. The webcam and headphones are each about \$10-20 on Trade me, depending how flash you go. (But most new computers come with these all built in now.)
2. Then you download and install Skype for free from <http://www.skype.com/intl/en-us/get-skype/on-your-computer/windows/>
3. Then you get yourself a skype ID and 'look' for Jo - or your friends'. Jo's skype ID is **jo.poland**
4. Then it is a bit like a phone call except by computer.

Skype is pretty user-friendly and stable, and the free version is one on one. However you only need one person with the Premium version in order to group video conference (I paid 48 pounds (UK) for a year of Premium, to try out for 'work', but can use it as much as I like in that year. Here is a link to a little info about group video conferencing: <http://www.skype.com/intl/en-us/features/allfeatures/group-video-calls/>

Jo is suggesting **10.30am on a Wednesday and 7pm on a Monday** to see how things go. If you are interested, email her at [jo@polands.ws](mailto:jo@polands.ws) or give her a phone call on 09-232-9925. You do need to contact her to be accepted, as I have found out. (new for me too folks) *Di*

A bit about Jo: She is bringing up her niece's 6 year old triplets (2 girls and a boy) and has had them since they were 18 months old. They live at Port Waikato, a very small community on the wild west coast, a bit over an hour south of Auckland. She also manages a small non-profit organisation (the Adult Literacy Trust) on a voluntary basis, from an office in her garage.

*Thanks Jo.*

## This is by an American author who has written a book called “The Sacred Work of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren”

I have interviewed over 100 parenting grandparents over the last several years and realize that one of the heaviest burdens you carry is the loss of your own adult child. Whether that loss is due to illness, death, drugs and other addictions, imprisonment, alienation, divorce, or other causes, the grief you feel is a deep wound in your heart. This wound is made even deeper when your grandchild either “longs” for their parent(s) or fears they might appear without notice and in a word, “kidnap” them.

This is one of the biggest challenges parenting grandparents confront, yet it is rarely spoken about by them. On the other hand, it is a frequent source of criticism by people, even friends, neighbours, family members who ask: “Why are you raising your grandchildren when you could not even raise your own child successfully?” Inherent in this question is blame, judgment and criticism.

I have met many a grandparent who have lost friendships and the support of family because they have been judged to be unfit to raise their children's children. Let me say emphatically, that most parenting grandparents were quite successful raising their children. Inexplicably, which can happen to any parent, one of our children struggles and becomes alienated from society, if not life, itself.

One adult child, who did not raise her own daughter but is currently in recovery from alcohol and cocaine addictions, told me that she had what she uniquely referred to as, “twisted thinking.” It had nothing to do with her parents, and she emphatically told me that she could remember having twisted thoughts from the time she was 5 years old. When I asked her what “twisted thinking” was by her definition, she

told me it was making bad decisions but thinking everything would turn out alright. She told me after the birth of her daughter when she was 17 years old, she quit high school and worked while her mother watched and cared for her daughter.

However, she was not making enough money to support herself and her baby daughter, so she found another job. Her fatigue was so great from working two jobs; she started using “crack” to give her the energy she did not have. Her crack habit became so serious that the money she earned working two jobs ended up supporting her addiction and not her child. This is what this adult child referred to as her “twisted thinking.”

Along with her “twisted thinking,” she also had low self-esteem, considered herself not good enough and from the time she was in kindergarten believed she was lesser than her two sisters. All three sisters were raised by the same parents, and yet, two of them have by anyone’s definition, successful lives, while this one struggled from the time she was a child.

It is not only hard to understand what happens to some of our adult children who struggle and feel alienated from life, it is also hard to not blame ourselves for their these lives gone wrong. As I continue to interview parenting grandparents from all over the United States, let me assure you, the alienated adult child is not simply a victim of class, race, ethnic group, etc. They are not simply victims of abuse, neglect or abandonment. Many of them come from what any of us would term good homes. Yet, something has gone wrong for these adult children. Until we have more research studies and can better understand what has happened to the adult children who are not, cannot or won’t raise their own children, let us not judge their parents. Parenting grandparents make enormous sacrifices on a daily basis to give their grandchildren a safe home, a sense of security, and a lot of love.

Parenting grandparents need our support and respect, not criticism. To each grandparent raising your grandchild or grandchildren, please know your work is noble and sacred. With Gratitude, Elaine

**Working for Families Tax Credits** IRD: 0800 227 774



*Grandparents raising Grandchildren may qualify for the UCB, however in some cases FTC is the only option. Also that you can only get one or the other, FTC or UCB.*

### **What are Working for Families Tax Credits?**

Working for Families Tax Credits are an entitlement for families with dependent children aged 18 or younger. It includes four different types of payments (tax credits).

### **The types of payment and the amounts you can get depend on:**

- how many dependent children you care for
- your total family income
- where your family income comes from
- the age of the children in your care, and
- any children you share care for.

### **Who is eligible**

All payments are made to an eligible parent to help with the family’s day to day living costs.

### **Who pays it**

- Work and income generally pays your family tax credit if you receive an income based benefit as your main income.

- Inland Revenue pays working for Families Tax Credits if your income is from working, a student allowance, NZ Super or ACC.
- If you receive an income-tested benefit you can choose to receive from either Work and Income or Inland Revenue.

### **Important**

You can only receive Working for Families Tax Credits from either Work and Income or Inland Revenue.

### **What payments are available**

The table below lists the four types of Working for Families Tax Credits payments and describes them briefly.

### **Important**

You may be able to get more than one type of payment.

### **Payment Type**

- **Family Tax Credit** - Paid to families with dependent children 18 or younger.
- **In-Work Tax Credit** - Paid to families with dependent children 18 or younger who work the required hours each week.

**Note :** To get this payment, couples must work at least 30 hours a week between them, and single parents must work at least 20 hours a week.

- **Minimum family Tax Credit** – Paid to ensure that the annual income (after tax) of a family with dependent children 18 or younger does not fall below \$22,568.

**Note:** To get this payment, couples must work at least 30 hours a week between them, and single parents must work at least 20 hours a week.

### **Example1**

Richard and his wife Susan work full-time and have a total annual family income of \$58,000 before Tax. They have two school aged children. They would be entitled to get a family Tax credit and an in-work tax credit.

**Child Support** – Money paid by parents who are not living with their children to help financially support their children when:

- A couple who have children split up or
- Two people have children and aren't living together.

### **Eligibility criteria**

You must meet all four of the eligibility criteria to be entitled to Working for Families Tax credits.

The Table below explains each of the criteria in details.

### **Dependant Child**

- You can receive Working for Families Tax Credits payments for each “dependant child”.  
Dependent children are all in your care who are: 18 years or younger, and financially dependant. This means children you support financially who don't:
- Work more than 30 hours a week, or receive a student allowance, a benefit or other government assistance.
- Children aged 18 years of age must be attending either secondary school or tertiary education and not financially independent. You will receive payments up to the end of the calendar year (31 December) in which the child turns 18, or the date the child becomes financially independent, whichever is the earlier.

## **Important**

All children for whom you are applying for Working for Families Tax Credits must have a IRD number. If any of your children do not have an IRD number, you must apply for one. Simply download an *IR595 – IRD number application – individual form*, or call 0800 self service line on 0800 257 773 to request a copy. Please have your IRD number handy.

## **Principal Child Carer**

- The principal child carer is the eligible parent or the person responsible for the day to day care of the children. It is not someone who cares for the children part-time or who works as the child minder.

## **Your Age**

- You must be aged 16 or over.

## **Residency**

- You must meet at least one of the following residency requirements:
- You're a new Zealand resident and have been in New Zealand for at least 12 months at any time.
- You must be both a tax resident and resident in New Zealand when you apply for your payments, or the child(ren) you're claiming for are both resident(s) and present in New Zealand.

## **Note**

Children born in New Zealand before 1 January 2006 are considered residents. From 1 January 2006 onwards children born in New Zealand, (or in the Cook islands, Tokelau or Niue) are only considered residents if at least one of their parents :

- Is a New Zealand citizen, or
  - Has permanent residency (ie they're entitled to be in New Zealand or Australia indefinitely).
- Or
- Is entitled to reside indefinitely in the Cook Islands, Tokelau or Niue.

If you and your children are in New Zealand unlawfully or hold only a temporary permit or Visa, you're not a New Zealand resident for Working for Families Tax Credits purposes. If you're unsure if you meet the residency requirements, please call on 0800 227 773. You can call IRD.

## **Applying for Working for families Tax Credits**

You can apply for Working for Families Tax Credits at any time during the year. Before you apply you need to make sure you have all the information needed to complete the registration form.

## **Choose when you get paid.**

### **What you can do**

You can choose to receive Working for Families Tax Credits from IRD:

- In weekly or fortnightly payments, or
- As an annual payment, paid as a lump sum after the end of the tax year (31March).

## **All payments**

IRD make all payments directly into a bank or building society account of the principal care giver.

## **Weekly or Fortnightly payments**

- You need to estimate your family income for the year as accurately as possible because IRD will base your payments on this estimated amount.
- At the end of the tax year, IRD will assess your yearly entitlement based on your actual income for the year.



- If you underestimated your income, you may end up having to pay IRD back after the end of the tax year.

### **Annual Payment**

Annual payments are paid as a lump sum based on the actual family income for the related tax year.

#### **Choosing the Annual lump sum payment.**

You can choose to receive Working for Families Tax Credits as an annual lump sum payment if:

- Your family income changes each week, eg the hours you or your partner work changes each week, or
- You or your partner are unsure of your income, or
- You find it hard to accurately estimate your family income.

Lump sum payments are based on your actual income, so there is no possibility of an overpayment and having to pay IRD back at the end of the tax year. Lump sum payments are normally processed in June and July each year.

#### **How to tell IRD about your payment option**

You tell IRD what payment option you have chosen when you complete the *Working for Families Tax Credits registration* form. You can either complete this online, or post IRD as a completed form.

#### **If you are registering online**

- The questions shown on the online form will change depending on your chosen payment option.

#### **If you are posting your registration form to IRD**

- If you choose weekly or fortnightly payments, complete all the questions on the *Working for Families Tax credits registration* form.
- If you choose an annual payment, complete all the questions on the Working for Families Tax Credits registration form except for the "Family income" section.

### **Choose how you get paid**

#### **What you can do**

You can choose to have Working for Families Tax Credits payments from IRD direct credited to your bank account or your building society account.

### **Family Tax Credits rates (current)**

**Below are the Family Tax Credit rates at 1 April 2012**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Amount per week</b>
First or only child, 0 – 15 years	\$92.73
First or only child, 16 years or older	\$101.98
Second or subsequent child, 0 – 12 years	\$64.44
Second or subsequent child, 13 – 15 years	\$73.50
Second or subsequent child, 16 years or older	\$91.25
Further information go to <a href="http://www.ird.govt.nz">www.ird.govt.nz</a>	

**As long as you normally work the required hours you are still eligible if your income includes the following:**

- NZ Superannuation
- a veteran's pension
- parental tax credit or paid parental leave if you worked the required hours before taking parental leave

- accident compensation for an injury suffered after 1 January 2006, if you worked the required hours before your injury, or
- **foster care allowance, orphan's benefit or unsupported child's benefit, for one or more children, if this is the only benefit you receive from Work and Income.**

### Example

Adam and Linda are married with three adult children who have left their care, and three school-aged grandchildren. Adam receives NZ Super and Linda works full-time as a florist. They receive an Unsupported Child allowance from Work and Income, and they can also apply for an in-work tax credit from us.

All children for whom you are applying for Working for Families Tax Credits must have a IRD number. If any of your children do not have an IRD number, you must apply for one. Simply download an *IR595 – IRD number application – individual form*, or call 0800 self service line on 0800 257 773 to request a copy. Please have your IRD number handy.

*This is another article (above) we respectfully ask you to keep in case your circumstances change.*

### Free Caregiver Courses:

Email: [caregivertraining@fosteringkids.org.nz](mailto:caregivertraining@fosteringkids.org.nz)

Or phone your registration to: **0800 69 33 23**, ask for Christine

20-Nov-12	Napier	Gaylene Lawrence	9am-3:30pm	
28-Nov-12	Kaikohe	Gaylene Lawrence	9am-3:30pm	
28-Nov-12	New Plymouth	Gaylene Lawrence	9am-3:30pm	
Attachment and Resilience				
24-Oct-12	Levin	Susan Wall	9am-3:30pm	
30-Oct-12	Gisborne	Gaylene Lawrence	9am-3:30pm	
27-Nov-12	Whangarei	Gaylene Lawrence	9am-3:30pm	
Understanding and Managing Behaviour				
14-Nov-12	Masterton	Susan Wall	9am-3:30pm	
17-Nov-12	Manurewa	Sandy McPhee	9am-3:30pm	
27-Nov-12	Wanganui	Gaylene Lawrence	9am-3:30pm	
Maltreatment and Family Violence				
26-Oct-12	Grey Lynn	Jill Worrall	9am-3:30pm	
20-Nov-12	Tauranga	Lynne Matthews	9am-3:30pm	
28-Nov-12	Taupo	Lynne Matthews	9am-3:30pm	
5-Dec-12	Lower Hutt	Gaylene Lawrence	9am-3:30pm	
Identity and Belonging				
	15-Nov-12	Auckland	Jill Worrall	9am-3:30pm
Legal Issues				
18-Oct-12	Auckland	Jill Worrall	9am-3:30pm	
4-Dec-12	Hamilton	Lynne Matthews	9am-3:30pm	
Team Work				
1-Nov-12	Rotorua	Lynne Matthews	9am-3:30pm	
13-Nov-12	Palmerston North	Susan Wall	9am-3:30pm	
Carer Families				
13-Nov-12	Pukekohe	Sandy McPhee	9am-3:30pm	
Working with Adolescents				
25-Oct-12	Whakatane	Lynne Matthews	9am-3:30pm	

31-Oct-12	Wairoa	Gaylene Lawrence	9am-3:30pm	
20-Nov-12	Takapuna	Jill Worrall	9am-3:30pm	
Advanced – self harm /suicidal behaviours				
	18-Oct-12	Palmerston North		9.30am-1pm
	30-Oct-12	Grey Lynn		9.30am-1pm
Strengthening Engagement				
15-Nov-12	Hamilton		9am-3.30pm	
15-Nov-12	Porirua		9am-3.30pm	

**When I was in my younger days,** I weighed a few pounds less,  
I needn't hold my tummy in to wear a belted dress.  
But now that I am older, I've set my body free;

There's comfort of elastic, where once my waist would be.  
Inventor of high-heeled shoes, my feet have not forgiven;  
I used to wear a six, now I wear a seven.



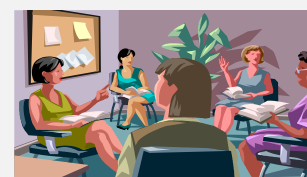
And how about those blasted tights -- They're sized by weight, you see,  
So how come when I put them on the crotch is at my knee?  
I need to wear these glasses as the print's been getting smaller;  
And it wasn't very long ago I know that I was taller.  
Though my hair has turned to grey and my skin no longer fits,  
On the inside, I'm the same old me, it's just the outside's changed a bit.

But, on a positive note... I've learned that no matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life does go on, and it will be better tomorrow.

### **Formal Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Groups: All welcome.**

#### **Locality, Name, Phone, E-mail Address.**

Ashburton\*\* Jude Suddens 03 3072147 [jude.brian@clear.net.nz](mailto:jude.brian@clear.net.nz)  
Auckland East \*\* Tess Gould-Thorpe 09 535 6903 [pan@xnet.co.nz](mailto:pan@xnet.co.nz)  
Auckland North \*\* Bonnie Williams 09 473 9055 [willingclan@xtra.co.nz](mailto:willingclan@xtra.co.nz)  
Auckland South \*\* Virginia Peebles 09 256 1620  
Auckland West \*\* Debbie Hall 09 818 7828 [debron@xtra.co.nz](mailto:debron@xtra.co.nz)  
Mangere East \* Teresa Van Kuylenburg 09 974 2388 [teresa.mangere@grg.gmail.com](mailto:teresa.mangere@grg.gmail.com)  
Christchurch/North\*\* Jan Farquhar 03 313 6487 [bunnies2@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bunnies2@xtra.co.nz)  
Christchurch/ South\*\* Sharyn Parker 03 342 5528 [davesharyn.parker@xtra.co.nz](mailto:davesharyn.parker@xtra.co.nz) (NEW)  
Coromandel\* Keitha Jenkins 07 866 8273 [northbrook@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:northbrook@slingshot.co.nz)  
Dargaville \* Barbara Sterling 09 439 4555 [ladybee@orcon.co.nz](mailto:ladybee@orcon.co.nz)  
Dunedin\*\* Catherine Butson 03 489 2942 [cmbutson@ihug.co.nz](mailto:cmbutson@ihug.co.nz)  
Hamilton\*\* Kerry Batten 07 560 0291 [kebatten@gmail.com](mailto:kebatten@gmail.com)  
Hokitika \* Fran Edwards 03 755 8142  
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**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*

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.

**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.

