



NEWSLETTER APRIL 2017

DATABASE: 7117 WHANAU CARERS

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



Update from the CEO

March was a busy month for GRG with our Awareness Week (20th-26th) and a major fundraising event together with **The Warehouse Group** (TWG). This year GRG was chosen as the charity to benefit from the annual **Bob Tindall Golf Classic and Charity Auction** at the Muriwai Golf Course on Auckland's West Coast on 23 March 2017.

It was a fantastic day (despite inclement weather at times) in which around 200 golfers from TWG's suppliers not only enjoyed the annual golf tournament, but they also contributed items for the auction and raffles to raise funds to help extend and further develop GRG's caregiver education programme and community outreach services. GRG Trustees Des Brennan, Judith McKay and Jo-Anne Thomas (Chair) were delighted to accept the cheque for \$76,000 presented by TWG's Chief Executive Nick Grayston (see photo).

So many of our caregivers find themselves daunted

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with the task of looking after a child two generations younger, many of whom are vulnerable children impacted by the trauma of their parent's drug addiction, neglect, violence, imprisonment, mental illness or death. These funds raised by the Bob Tindall Golf Classic and Auction, will help us expand our services in what is an environment of increasing need. Our membership and demand for support services continues to steadily increase each month. Over 1800 new families joined GRG for support in the past three years alone.

TWG's media release following the tournament, noted the valuable role the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust plays, with some members

being employees at The Warehouse Group. "I admire grandparents who take on such a huge responsibility and it is great they have a range of support services through an organisation like Grandparents Raising Grandchildren," said Mr Grayston.

On behalf of GRG and the Board of Trustees our sincere thank you to The Warehouse Group organisers and staff, Seven Events Ltd, Muriwai Golf Club, our volunteers Sandy Watson, Roy Archer, Athol and Lynn Carr and the students at Education Action and the donors of the many raffle and auction items including the TWG suppliers, Netball NZ, Vector Arena, Auckland Theatre Company, Des Brennan, David White, Te Hihi Estate, Soul Bar & Restaurant, iSEE Digital and Angela Scott Photography. Thank you, thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your wonderful assistance and generous support that ensured the success of the day and an outstanding fundraising result!

The Warehouse Tokens Promotion

Checked out our local community good for bags whilst shopping in Birkenhead Auckland Warehouse today. Wahoo! We are doing REAL well and way ahead. Confused the counter lady by saying I wanted to purchase 20 bags at 10 cents but did not want them, I just wanted the tokens. It is like a \$2 donation. As the more bags bought the greater share we get.

Code Word for Children

Attempted child abduction thwarted when girl asks stranger for code word.

A 10-year-old girl thwarted an abduction attempt after asking a stranger for a code word that he did not know. The man attempted to lure the girl into his vehicle, which was parked in the school parking lot, police said. A female was in the vehicle at the time. The man told the girl her parents had sent him to pick her up. The girl and her parents shared a secret code word that would be used if someone approached her telling her they were there to pick her up. If the person was truly sent by her parents/carers, he or she would know the code word.

"She asked this person what the code word was and obviously they got it wrong," "She told them 'You got the code word wrong' and that person left." She reported this immediately to the school. Do you have a code word with your moko/whanau children, it does pay to also explain this is not only for stranger danger but for anyone, even if they know them.



Winter is Coming

Flu injections have arrived in Doctor Surgeries. We had ours yesterday, have you? Free for over 65's, those with medical conditions, or disabilities. Book an appointment with the Nurse to save a long wait time. Be prepared as they do make you wait 15-20 minutes afterwards to make sure there is no allergic reaction. Stay well.

From a 17yr old Grand-daughter

A Broken Family.

August 14, 2010 was and still is the saddest day of my life; it was the day I found out that my family had finally broken up. I was with a friend that rainy day when my grandmother called and told me that my brothers, sister, and I would be living with her and my grandfather from now on. At this moment, I knew in my heart that my life would never be the same, I knew why all this was happening, it had been going on for years now but I refused to believe. After years of the confusion and wonder, I came to my senses and it was clear to me that drugs had torn my family apart. As I flopped down on my friends couch all I could bring myself to say was "Thank God that we all had somewhere to go, someone who cared, and someone to take care of us."

After my friend had dried my tears and was there to comfort me, I began to think about everything that had happened. I remember now that the year was 2008, I was only an 8-year-old in the fourth grade when we lost our house for the first time and had to move in with my other grandmother. I had no clue why this was happening; I thought that we were just going to stay for a little while because my father was laid off from his job. A few months had come to past and my grandmother had to go take care of her mother, so her house became ours.

Strange people began coming to our house to talk to my mother and father, I didn't like this because they were always dirty and looked sick. A few weeks after my grandmother moved, my dad got his job back. My mother was now taking care of us by her-self and was almost always either cleaning or spending time with us.

I enjoyed the way my mother was acting and thought that everything would go back to the way it used to be, when we were happy, went to church every Wednesday, she spent time with the family, and things like that.

Soon I noticed a change in my mother and I could tell that she was becoming sick. Some days she would lie on the couch and others she would just sleep. The house became dirty; me being the oldest figured that it was my responsibility to clean it, I also thought since she was sick and my father had to work every day that it too was my

responsibility to take care of the younger kids. I was not the only one who noticed not only changes in my mother but changes in my father too, 2-3 times a week one of my two grandmothers would come to visit us or take us places. We loved to stay with them because we always had something to eat, something to do, and just a fun time.

A few months of this went past and even though my father had his job and my grandparents were helping him out with the bills, we were always short on cash. This is when I began to suspect something but loved my parents so much that I didn't want to do anything to get them in trouble or hurt them.

As more time passed it seemed like things were only getting worse, I began to take care of the kids full time and still had to go to school. Every day was the same, I would dread going to school because I never knew what was happening at home to my other siblings. When my younger brother and I arrived back home from school I would make sure his homework was done, I would also make sure that he and the other two kids had something to eat and were bathed before they went off to bed. My mother would still help out here and there when she wasn't "sick" and when my father was home he would do his best. When I came home from school it was hard to do all this and still keep my grades up, but somehow I was able to manage. One Friday when I arrived home from school my grandmother was already there to take us four kids out for the weekend; this was unusual because I had never known her to come up there before we got home.

Reason was because she and my mother had not been getting along lately, and I knew this because every once in a while I would hear them arguing on the phone, and sometimes even in person they would bicker. When the kids and I came back home from fun-filled weekend with our grandparents, my mother and father were fighting more and were headed for a divorce.

Spring saw my parents finally split up and my mother was sent to a rehab center to get well again. Her mother spent the whole 6 months she was there with us. My dad was clean for the little time that my mother was gone, he and my

grandmother took care of us and I thought we were going to be a family again.

Little did I know that I was very wrong because when my mother returned home they went right back to their old ways. I'd hoped and prayed this wouldn't happen because I loved my family more than anything, all I could think about was how we used to be.

A few months later my father's mother got the call from my little brother that they had been left alone and were scared. My grandmother had been waiting for something like this to happen. I thank God that my brother called her instead of someone

else, because if it wasn't for her I wouldn't be who I am today.

She has not only taken care of me and my siblings, and Dad just moved on. The only good thing that came out of this was making me a better person and opening my eyes and showing me first-hand what drugs can do to someone's life. I will never forget the things that my grandmother has done for me over the years that I've been with her, and can only I hope and pray that no one ever has to go through what I went through for those three years.

I'm so thankful to have someone who loves me and has taken me in when I had nowhere else to go.

Grandparents are wonderful!!!! *Christina*

Phone Scams

New Zealanders have been targeted in a 'Wangiri' phone scam over the past few days, where phone users miss calls that then cost big bucks to call back.

[Had calls from a weird overseas number lately? Here's why](#)

The phone numbers reported to Newshub have all started with 0088 or 0023. They seem to be originating from Chad, in Africa.

If you have a number like this calling you, then put your phone down, step back and read the Newshub guide on how to deal with scammers.

What is a 'Wangiri' scam?

Keeping it simple, a Wangiri scam works like this:

When you make a call to a foreign country, you are using infrastructure owned by another country's mobile network. This is why you are charged international call rates, so your mobile provider can pay for the use of that foreign network to have your call connected.

When the Wangiri scam is in place, the scammer essentially pretends to be a mobile phone network in another country, so any mobile users making calls to a number based in that "country" will be charged a fee, usually a high one.

This is why you'll be fine so long as you don't call back.

What should you do if you get cold-called?

The first bit of advice is if you have a missed call from one of these numbers is DO NOT call the number back. If the call is coming in to your phone, let it go to voicemail and then delete any record.

In this particular operation, the scammers make their money by you calling them back and therefore the caller is charged a connection fee.

Put simply, don't call back and there is no problem.

Although your friends may have all received the same call, don't worry, the scammers have not accessed

your phone directory. They will be using an automated system that tries every possible phone number combination. The fact it's happened to people you know proves just how widespread this spike in activity has been.

What can your telecommunications provider (telco) do for you?

CEO of Gorilla Technology Paul Spain told The AM Show it was difficult for telcos to do to a lot in these situations.

"That would maybe mean blocking all incoming and outgoing calls to a particular company," he said.

Vodafone said on Monday that it takes "the security of [its] network and customers extremely seriously", and it has security measures in place to protect its customers.

"Vodafone is working with our interconnect partners internationally to get all incoming and outgoing calls to the Wangiri phone numbers blocked altogether," it said.

How to keep safe:

Once your number is targeted, it's difficult to do a lot except wait until the scammers move on. So here are some top tips from Vodafone on how to keep yourself safe in the future:

- Set a password (not something easy to guess like 1234) on your phone, laptop, or tablet and keep them locked when not in use. Never share your passwords or PIN numbers and make sure they're not easy to guess. Set up a PIN for your voicemail, so only you can access it.
- Be cautious with sharing personal information on social networking sites, like Facebook or chat rooms. If possible, remove your date of birth and address from your page. Ensure that you have adequate privacy settings for your Facebook profile.
- Don't give anyone your personal details, unless you're very sure you know who they are. Just because someone says they're from your bank doesn't mean it's true.
- Watch out for phishing: where you get sent links online which might take you to a fake website. Do not open attachments sent to you from strange numbers, they might contain a virus.
- Buying online? Make sure the site address starts with HTTPS. This means the website is secure and your personal details and credit card details will be kept secure.

Lost or stolen device? Hop onto a PC and change all your passwords of the apps that have auto logins, for example Facebook, Email, Twitter. This will prevent the person who picks up your device from accessing these apps and potentially hacking into your personal details

Think you've been the victim of a scam or fraud?

Contact your bank and put a stop on your credit card, tell your local police, and change the passwords and PIN numbers on all your bank accounts. Get in touch with your telco provider immediately and let them know.

And don't be embarrassed! These people make their living by fooling intelligent people. Make sure you let the appropriate people know immediately, rather than suffering in silence.

Newshub

Grand's reflections...

Smiles

Granddad and I like to get up early (about 6.30am) to share some time over a cup of tea in the mornings before the kids get up. Every single morning our grandson will hear us up and about and will come hurtling into the kitchen, look at the time and then race off to get his school uniform on. What makes Granddad and I smile at each other is that we both know he can't yet tell the time....

Memories

Popped in to my local dairy this morning and was introduced to a new staff member about my age, (actually quite a bit younger ... but I digress) and they told her about how I had been raising my grandchildren over the years and how wonderful I was, and I say this with all modesty of course.

And then the owner of the dairy exclaims "I remember back when you used to scream in to the car-park here on your motorbike. Come in here with your black leathers, your bike boots, your white hair and your wild ways...."

My God, wild ways indeed! Did I ever have that kind of life I kept thinking to myself as I got back in to my car, grabbing a half-sucked lollipop that I had been sitting on and for want of somewhere to put it I popped it in to my mouth and sucked at it as I drove.

Arriving home I sat for a while looking through old photo albums and for just a little while (a couple of hours at least) I missed the motorcycling world. I was wallowing in the past, old friends, old times, amazing memories... But then my bikelets came in from school tired

and famished and life goes on...And I felt so much better despite my trip down memory lane. Highways ridden and bridges crossed and still many pathways yet to take in the company of this family that I love. Wouldn't change it for the world! But, maybe, for a Harley – *Pauline*.

Sprouts

Can't believe how fast these kids are growing. Sorted through winter clothes that I had in storage over the summer and just holding each article up I can see that it won't go anywhere near them this winter. Can't believe they grew so much in just a few short months. Should have realised it when I was speaking to grandson the other day and realised we were on an eye to eye level. And he is off to college next year...Next thing you know we are going to have girls hanging around here. Oh Lordie.... *Mrs Sloan*



I Did It!

Oh yes I did, I have fought against doing this for a very long time, the thought scared me silly, all those what if questions came to mind. Now

I have done this the freedom is amazing, so simple and quick. I needed the assistance of my now 25 year old grand-daughter whom we raised though. She quietly encouraged me and sat alongside me the whole time. At different times I had a little panic attack, but her, 'come on Nan you can do this' and I can, I did!

Yes I have joined the world of internet banking online, I LOVE it. She made sure everything is tight and secure, who says you can't teach an old dog new tricks.



Anti-bullying



0800 456 450



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Give a Little to GRG

<https://www.givealittle.co.nz/org/grg>

Can we help you?

Members ONLY services are available nationwide
Caregivers Toll free helpline
0800 GRANDS (0800 472 637)
For landline caregivers only please.
New members and general information please dial ext. 1

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If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter or you have changed address please update your details by contacting Kelly at the Trust Office as this is where the total mail out membership is kept.
Moved home or planning to? Be sure to let us know.

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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 Ka Whangaia ka tupu, ka puawai - That which is nurtured, blossoms and grows

We are respectful, we listen, we learn

He rōpū manaaki, he rōpū whakarongo, he rōpū ako mātou

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

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

We are a Charitable Trust

Advertise Your Business With GRG

Put your business in front of our 6000+ readers every month by advertising your business and services in our monthly newsletter.

Your support for GRG not only gets your business message out there but also shows that you support your local community of grandparents, whanau caregivers and the children and young people they are raising.

For more information and advertising options please contact: Kate Bundle on 027 2446763 or kate@grg.org.nz



TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA



Thank you to our Sponsors and Funders supporting GRG's Support Services throughout New Zealand including this newsletter



SUPPORT GROUP CONTACT NUMBERS

For the most up to date contact details please go to our website www.grg.org.nz

If you are a grandparent or whanau caregiver and need a referral to one of our Field Officers please call 0800 GRANDS (0800 472 637) or if you are in Auckland please call 09 480 6530

* Telephone Support ** Telephone Support and Meetings

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