



NEWSLETTER - MAY 2016

DATABASE: 6384 WHANAU CARERS

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

From the National Office

News Flash

In regard to this: It is with heart breaking sadness I have to inform you that after the April newsletter these will no longer be able to be sent out on snail mail.

Update:

We heard you and your disappointment. The Board and management team are reinstating the snail mail and are actively thinking outside the square to get this funded. Please say a prayer that this comes to fruition.

GRG 2016 Research

Our research waka is rocking and gathering speed. This survey finishes on 31 May 2016 so we need all who have not done this to dash for the finish line. If you wish to do this research via phone please call 0800 78 78 75 or if you require a paper copy (limited). We are a couple of hundred off hitting our target of 1000. Grandparent and whanua caregivers who have completed this research thank you. If you have not

done this yet please go to www.grg.org.nz you can do it there. Will you help?

We want **you** to
Have **your say** in our
2016 **Grandparents** and
Whanau Caregivers
Survey



Go to Survey



Inside this issue

- [News Flash](#).....page 1
- [GRG 2016 Research](#)page 1
- [New Commissioner for Children](#).....page 2
- [We Want to Say](#)page 2
- [Angry Kids](#).....page 3
- [Well Done](#).....page 3
- [Teen Poverty](#).....page 4
- [Today is Your 36th Birthday](#).....page 4
- [Community Law: Free](#).....page 5
- [Feijoa Dessert](#).....page 5
- [Grand's Reflections](#).....page 6
- [Fluffy Friend](#).....page 7
- [GRG Head Office contacts](#).....page 7
- [Support Coordinators Contacts](#).....page 8

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Winner



New Commissioner for Children

We send our heartiest congratulation to Andrew Becroft.

The new Children's Commissioner says he's not going to "sit passively and idly by" while adults routinely kill children in their care.

A Kiwi kid is killed on average every five weeks, the vast majority by someone they know. The latest high-profile case -- the death of three year old Moko Rangitoheriri -- has caused outrage, with his caregivers convicted of manslaughter, rather than murder, following months of abuse.

Andrew Becroft takes over the Children's Commissioner role on July 1, replacing Russell Wills. Mr Becroft has been a Youth Court judge for 15 years, so knows all too well what happens to children without a proper upbringing.

"Judge Becroft's experience of dealing with troubled and at-risk young people will be vital in the development of a youth justice service aimed at preventing offending and reoffending as part of the major overhaul," Social Development Minister Anne Tolley said yesterday.

But can he make a difference? New Zealand's child abuse statistics, in the bottom five of the OECD, have been stubbornly bad for years.

"I don't think I'd take the job on if I didn't think I could make a difference," he told Paul Henry on Wednesday morning.

"It's primarily a role of advocacy and monitoring. I guess it calls for courage, calls for careful thought. I don't want to be a house-trained poodle, but I want to be clear about what the issues are and I hope I can make a difference."

He'll oversee a time of big change, with Child, Youth and Family undergoing a significant overhaul in the next few years. While he says the embattled organisation unlikely to achieve "statutory or organisational nirvana" right away,



he's confident things will get better.

"It's seen as visionary and principled, but the devil will be in the detail. It will be important that it really is pushed through, and if it's not it'll be my office's role to blow the whistle on that."

Ms Tolley's appointment of Mr Becroft's has been welcomed across the political divide. Labour spokesperson Jacinda Ardern said he'd be "fantastic", and the Greens' Metiria Turei called his appointment "exciting".

Mr Becroft had only praise for his predecessor, calling Mr Wills "courageous and principled".

Newshub.

We Want to Say

Courageous, no-nonsense, to the point, smart, active listening and all-round Wonder Woman! These are all attributes of the Grand First Lady, Diane Vivian, of GRG.

She was the founder and is a warrior for us, we who have raised children and are doing it again. She knows the highs, the lows, the pitfalls and has seen the failure and blessings of kincarers and their grandchildren.

Being in the firing line requires nerves of steel. We respect, salute and commend you for your ongoing support in all areas of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren.

You got it Di!
Marlene & Eddie

Di, is the voice you hear on our help line, she also writes a blog for kiwi families. She also collates and writes this newsletter and therefore had great difficulty in including the above. But this couple were insistent.

Angry Kids

By John Cowan The Parenting Place. www.theparentingplace.com

Some mysteries are not that deep. If you and your partner are both placid, peaceful people who never get grumpy or raise their voice then, odds on, your children will handle their own anger well. But then there are the rest of us. My kids have seen me angry too often for me to be mystified where they get their tempers from. That might explain things but it doesn't excuse me from my responsibility to try to help my children process their anger well.

Most little kids do not control their anger well: they can be aggressive and unpleasant. Learning to handle anger well is a long term goal. There is nothing you can do that will suddenly switch them over to being serene saints who express their displeasure pleasantly with words rather than explosively with their fists.

It would be wonderfully easy to do anger training if it were only a matter of punishment and rewards but it doesn't work like that. And nor does encouraging your child to pound a pillow or punch a punching bag work very well. Ask yourself: whose face are they imagining they are smashing? It's a bit scary when you think they might be rehearsing punching their sister or even you! They may experience a cathartic release from the exercise but doing something in your head makes it far easier to do it in reality.

It can be useful to turn strong feelings into activity – shooting hoops or bouncing on the trampoline or going for a run works well with older kids; with younger ones I found sending them off to wash their hands can be amazingly effective... maybe the cool water actually cools their emotions.

A good parenting motto is, "The time to deal with a problem is when it is not a problem". The middle of an angry outburst is a rotten time for your child to hear your great wisdom. Wait until the heat goes – maybe when they are in bed that night – "Hey you were pretty mad this afternoon. Can you tell why you were feeling like that? What would be a better way of expressing that instead of yelling?" Steady coaching is the way to change angry kids. And good examples of mature anger control... our example! I wish this stuff was easier!



Well Done

This organization has been so pleasurable to be a part of, we look forward to our local picnic and newsletter which was a blessing over the years. We have had our grandchildren since the age of 5 months (male) 2 years (female) now they are at the age of 15 years and 17 years old. They ask, 'getting brought up by grandparents what is the difference been raised by parents' it was a sticky moment, but one that is sensitive to the person asking and taking a journey down memory lane. I guess your parents may have been just too young for responsibilities and also your father was raised with your great grandmother, said I.

So what I am trying to say is, we may be on a rocky road now the kids are older but they are in a good frame of mind, they are ready to face challenges that may arise out there in the world. We can only know for certain that we have done our best and they are still in school.

Teen Poverty

We just spent several hours observing teenagers hanging out at our local mall. We came to the conclusion many teenagers in America today are living in poverty. Most young men we observed didn't even own a belt; there was not one among the whole group.

But that wasn't the sad part. Many were wearing their daddy's jeans.

Some jeans were so big and baggy they hung low on their hips, exposing their underwear. I know some must have been ashamed their daddy was short, because his jeans hardly went below their knees. They weren't even their daddies' good

jeans, for most had holes ripped in the knees and a dirty look to them. It grieved us, in a modern, affluent society like America, there are those who can't afford a decent pair of jeans. I was thinking about asking my church to start a jeans drive for "poor kids at the mall."

Then on Christmas Eve, we could go Christmas caroling and distribute jeans to these poor teenagers.

But here is the saddest part...it was the girls they were hanging out with that disturbed us most. Never, in all of our lives, have we seen such poverty-stricken girls. These girls had the opposite problem of the guys. They all had to wear their little sister's clothes. Their jeans were about 5 sizes too small! I don't know how they could get them on, let alone button them up. Their jeans barely went over their hipbones. Most also had on their little sister's top; it hardly covered their midsections. Oh, they were trying to hold their heads up with pride, but it was a sad sight to see these almost grown women wearing children's clothes.

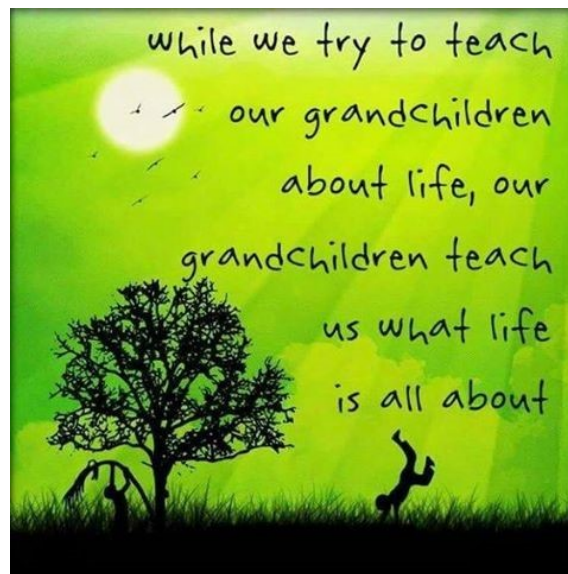
However, it was their underwear that bothered us most. They, like the boys, because of the improper fitting of their clothes, they had their underwear exposed. We had never seen anything like it. It looked like their underwear was only held together by a single piece of string. We know it saddens your heart to receive this report on

condition of our American teenagers. While we go to bed every night with a closet full of clothes nearby, there are millions of "mall girls" who barely have enough material to keep it together. We think their "poorness" is why these 2 groups gather at the mall; boys with their short daddies' ripped jeans, and girls wearing their younger sisters' clothes. The mall is one place where they can find acceptance. So, next time you are at the mall, doing your shopping, and you pass by some of these poor teenagers, would you say a prayer for them?

And one more thing...Will you pray the guys' pants won't fall down, and the girls' strings won't break?

We thank you all,

Two Elderly Concerned Grandmothers.



This phenomenon is happening here too

Today is Your 36th Birthday

We do not know where you are

Are you near or are you far
I gave birth to you, so beautiful and bright

You were your father's and my delight

You grew doing all the things little girls do

Happy in life, friends more than a few

Dance and netball you did excel

What happened that broke this spell

As you forged into adult life

You found a lot of strife

First it was just the weed

Your friend became what you called speed

Then you did far worse things

We prayed to the Lord for angel wings

Babies you produced at a great rate

Total number came to eight

Scattered everywhere they became

My tears, they feel like rain

For only three I could manage

And there is so much damage

Still, I grieve for the other five

As into the world they must strive

Today is your 36th Birthday

Community Law: Free

That everyone in Aotearoa knows and stands up for their rights
How we can help? www.communitylaw.org.nz/our-law-centres/

Got a legal problem? Maybe we can help. We're lawyers and we're also community workers. We listen carefully, we're whānau friendly, and we help you find solutions you feel comfortable with. We're passionate about making sure that everyone in Aotearoa, no matter how little money you have, has access to justice and enjoys real equality.

Community Law is all around the country, from Kaitiāia to Rēkohu (the Chathams). We offer all sorts of free legal help, from easy-to-read information, to community workshops, to one-on-one legal help.

Community Law lawyers, and caseworkers clock up hundreds of thousands of kilometres of travel every year. We hold legal clinics in most suburbs of our big cities. We travel to marae, community centres, Heartlands offices and many prisons, so that every person in New Zealand has equal access to free legal help, no matter where you live.

We have 24 Community Law Centres throughout Aotearoa New Zealand, and we send lawyers to over 120 outreach locations. We're in big cities and tiny towns, from the West Coast to Waitemātā.

There is no 0800 number and all centres and individual phone numbers are listed on this web site.

Feijoa Dessert



Ingredients

- 10 medium sized feijoas
 - finely grated rind of 1/2 lemon 2 tablespoons sugar
 - 125 g butter
 - 1/2 cup sugar
 - 1 egg
 - 1 cup flour
 - 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 cup milk

Method

Preheat oven to 180 C

Place chopped and peeled feijoas into the bottom of a pie dish or casserole dish. sprinkle over lemon rind and sugar.

Beat butter and sugar together until pale and creamy, add egg and milk. Sift in flour and baking powder. Spread the sponge mixture over the feijoas and bake for half an hour or until golden brown.

Grand's reflections...

Growing up

My husband & I have been raising 2 of our 9 Grandkids for the last 13 1/2 yrs., after their Mum died. In spite of all the ups & downs we have had over the yrs., and especially now with a nearly 18 year old girl, social media and boys, (HELP), we wouldn't change a thing.

In the early days / year's it was made easier with the girl looking up at us with her beautiful big brown eyes and saying "I love you." We still have those special moments, but not as often.

Sometimes I do wonder why we did it, but would do it again if I had to. Age, and ill health, is slowly catching up with us, as it does with everyone, but when I think of the problems others have with the child/ren parents with their lies and promises, we are very lucky in that respect.

The last contact the kids had with their Dad, and any of his family was 10 years ago, and they are pleased about that. Over the year's, I've tried to instil in them that although there were many problems between their parents, leading to our daughter moving away under Women's Refuge Protection, there were still a few good, happy times.

The kids have to sort out their feelings themselves, and the less I say the better then I can't be accused to turning them against him, if he ever turned up again.

My heart goes out to all the others out there raising Grandchildren and having to deal with the problems their own children cause between them. Easier said than done at times But, chin up, try to stay as positive as possible, and hang onto those special moments when they happen, they help to make it worthwhile doing what we do, especially when we think of the alternatives.
Signed Grumpy Grannie

A Grandma's Email

When will this thug life stop? Why do young Maori men want and feel the need to be thugs and gangsters? Not all of course, but from South Auckland there are many. I call them peasants. Most of all this thugginess concerns "P"....it drives the gangs today, whoever has it, someone else wants it, and some are losing their lives over it, it's the greed of money of power and of image. So what if you have flash cars, so what if you have the meanest boats or the best clothes or the best of whatever it is your money can buy??? My whanau is on the same road, they are peasants in my eyes, they give up a wonderful loving partners and beautiful kids for what? They are out every night and most of the day, doing what? Gone is the love, the intelligence, the generosity, the best fathers and mothers, chasing the next bag, the next hit, the next best deal. They had all they needed, they had it all. Are they happy? Are they reeling in joy?

The woman are no better, they are chasing to, I call them hoes or toe rags, they will do whatever they need to for their next hit, the next good thing. They will abandon their children for days on end, text and tell you how they miss their babies, and they'll be back real soon, yeah right! To say I have had enough of this shit, would be putting it mildly, I have seen and heard every aspect of gangs, drugs, thieves, stolen cars and motorbikes and putting people in boots, beatings...you name it! But most of all its the kids, these kids have seen it all, have lived through the fear, the insecurities, and so I stepped in, I didn't set out to take all the kids I have, it just sort of happened or I was just there when I needed to be. I can tell you some days are just beyond me, I feel like giving up, throwing in the towel. I think to myself "why the hell should I do this? Where the hell is my life? I'm too old for this shit! That's some days like today....but tomorrow will be better, I hope....

Fluffy Friend

Well we are certainly enjoying the littlest addition to our family. After raising two daughters now aged 30 and 28, we find ourselves raising our grand nephew aged 13 months. What a delightful little man he is. At this age what delightful little things he gets up to, too. We have had a Bishon Frise for the past 15 years and she thought she was King Pin but not so these days. Over the past 4 months K and Kiri have had to find their place in the family and who is in charge. Well K sits in his highchair discarding any food items he is no longer interested in. Sometimes the toast, banana, grapes don't get 5 seconds on the tray when he suddenly heaves them overboard for the waiting ball of fluff sitting patiently below. A big toothy grin appears, K is very pleased with his generosity, and Kiri is even more pleased. Prior to K coming into our lives Kiri would only eat labelled dog food. Interesting isn't it when another small person has taken the limelight and eats grapes, watermelon, pears, apple, etc. What's good for the goose is good for the gander so to speak. Kiri has put on ½ a kilo since K's arrival. But this dog is not complaining, she just waits patiently below the highchair every mealtime, and then oopps! More jetsam and flotsam.

Mamma C



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

Members' Support Manager:

Di Vivian
Auckland/free callers:
(09) 480 6530
Email Di at: office@grg.org.nz

GRG Trust NZ
PO Box 34892
Birkenhead
Auckland 0746

Suite 4 (Ground floor)
Rawene Chambers
15 Rawene Rd
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Office Manager:
Kelly Vivian 09 418 3753
Email office2@grg.org.nz or
kelly@grg.org.nz

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

www.grg.org.nz



[Anti-bullying](#)



0800 456 450



Give a Little for GRG

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

www.powertoprotect.net.nz



SUPPORT GROUP CONTACT NUMBERS

Locality	Name	Phone	E-mail Address
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Auckland West **	Debbie Hall	09 818 7828	debron@xtra.co.nz
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Whakatane **	Shirley Faulkner	07 308 8524	shirleyfaulkner@xtra.co.nz
Whangarei **	Janet Puriri	09 435 0044	

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