



## Newsletter April 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: 5094 Whanau Carers.

**From the National Office:**

### **SALT (Sharing and Learning Together)**

Specially designed for all grandparent/kin/whanau carers for GRG Trust NZ

**Nelson Workshop: Tuesday 15th May 2012: 9.30am – 2pm**  
**Presbyterian Church. 35 Muritai Street. Nelson**

**Wellington 31<sup>st</sup> May 9.30am – 2pm & Palmerston North 30<sup>th</sup> May 9.30am – 2pm you**  
**will be notified of venues upon registration.**

**FREE TO PARTICIPANTS (Morning tea and lunch provided)**

#### **Workshop Aims & Objectives:**

- To identify key strengths within you: Using strengths-based materials to identify some of the strengths you use in your care-giving role
- To acknowledge the strength of your resilience: An opportunity to positively identify and employ the elements of your resilience

**Nelson Registration by 12<sup>th</sup> May is essential.**

**Palmerston North 28<sup>th</sup> May is essential**

**Wellington 29th May is essential**

**Please contact and register:**

**Diana East 0800 472 637 (ext.4)/email [d.east13@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:d.east13@yahoo.co.nz)**

**A minimum of 8 and a maximum of 16 participants are required for this workshop to be held**

**Take advantage of this exciting opportunity and register NOW!**

### **TV Interviews on GRG Trust NZ**

If you missed Close-Up and Breakfast TV on us, then you can watch these on our web site [www.grg.org.nz](http://www.grg.org.nz) under TV Interviews on home page.



## Morning Tea with Ian Grant's Parenting Place : Wellington, Napier & Rotorua

Have a tea or coffee, sandwich or slice and the chance to listen to wise words and humour and meet other likeminded people. You WILL enjoy.  
**Wellington 9<sup>th</sup> May:** Theatre Room, The Professionals Building, 28 Cornwall St Lower Hutt. **10.30am – 11.30am**

**Napier 1<sup>st</sup> June:** Napier RSA 34 Vautier St. Napier. **10.30am – 11.30am**

**Rotorua 20<sup>th</sup> June:** Venue to be finalized **10.30am – 11.30am**

**Please register with Di on 0800 472 637 Ext. 1 or email [office@grg.org.nz](mailto:office@grg.org.nz) 3 days prior to event for catering purposes. This event is free to our members.**

More of these to come throughout the country, we will let you know.

## Some of our Heroes:



regained mobility.

**Amberly Sutherland** took over these kin children after her mother died, she is a kincarar. Amberly Sutherland, 21, said becoming caregiver to her niece Shaeane and nephew Aaron after her mum died was only natural. "It was never a question of whether or not I should; it was how am I going to be able to do it?" Taking the place of her mother Valerie (who was a GRG member), who died of cancer just over a year ago, Amberly gave up work and became caregiver to now 3-year-old Aaron and Shaeane, 13. Valerie (grandma) had been full-time carer for the two children. Amberly also suffered a stroke at just 18, leaving her paralysed on her left side. But after undergoing intensive physiotherapy for a year, she

**Alison McKenzie:** When my grandies came to me in June 2010 they were aged 2yr and 6 yrs.

They had had a turbulent 18months or so, going from being with their Mum, then to a caregiver, then to their Dad, then back to the same caregiver, and finally to me, and here is where I hope they will stay as I will be going for custody this year.

For nearly 2 years I have been telling people that I gave up everything for my granddaughters, which I effectively did. It was hard, and I grieved for it, but today I can say that life is good. We don't have a lot of money but we have clean clothes and food on the table and they are safe and loved. We have good friends, great family and a whole lot of love.



*We would like to feature some of our caregiver heroes every month, come on send us your picture and some information, let's be proud, sing our praises for what we have done! Don't be shy.*

## New Co's for GRG Support Groups:

Lynette Neilsen, is the new Co for **Invercargill** group, she can be contacted on 03 216 0411 email [jhandli@clear.net.nz](mailto:jhandli@clear.net.nz). And Nellie Te Rangi for **Kaikohe** 09 405 3057 [karenanellie@yahoo.com](mailto:karenanellie@yahoo.com) Thanks to both Christine Marsh & Ngaro Poa who have retired from their role.

**Thames** has Sonja Senior at the helm 07 868 4846 email [chchapple@xtra.co.nz](mailto:chchapple@xtra.co.nz)

**Hamilton** has Kerry Batten he is contactable on 07 853 8626 [kbatten@gmail.com](mailto:kbatten@gmail.com) and &

**TeKuiti** is Patsy Roach on 07 878 6704 [roachp@waikatodhb.health.nz](mailto:roachp@waikatodhb.health.nz) Tauranga group is in the pipeline. Thank you one and all.

This brings our total of formal and informal groups in NZ to 47.

## Your Voices

### Lucky No 8

Seven out of eight started a new school this year, Matua and Nana realized these grandchildren enjoy getting lost in the large numbers at their old school.

For years they have bullied other children, stolen lunches, refused to engage in activities, steal from their teachers and list goes on and on.

Today they are enrolled in a Christian bi-lingual school with a roll of less than 70. OMG (Oh my gosh ) They are being spotted when they try their tricks from their previous school and find out that it doesn't work in small numbers. Since being there they've learnt many things that are different to the state schools, such as the day starts off with a prayer and engage very willingly plus learning respect for other people, and their property. What use to be "I can't do it" or " I won't do it "is no longer acceptable, this has changed to " I haven't done this before "and "can you help me "?.

Yes, they had a problem with admitting they don't know it all and I'm not going to ask for help.

And now they have accepted this, everything is now done with eagerness and happiness. Socializing and enjoying sports is much easier now because they have a better understanding and have excelled in touch rugby netball and athletics. Hooray for teamwork. Just as well the Coach (Matua) and Assistant Coach (Nana) have a lifetime of experiences raising their own immediate whanau and recognized at an early stage that



when the plan isn't working, make the necessary changes. This makes the team more flexible to adapt to any situation.

Although there is a long way to go, at the moment, this path works for seven. And number eight is doing well ruling the roost at his Puna Reo (Day Care).

- 8 is enuff

### **Helen: The Helen Meads Tragedy. By: David White.**

I have just finished reading this book; I admired David's open, honest and raw account of the most horrendous events. I appreciated his telling a most difficult story with a "straight from the hip approach" his common sense in all of this and upon reflection.

The lack of common sense in our Court systems, Family Courts and all those associated with this process at times beggars belief, but not unknown to so many of us who walk alongside David and Pam in varying degrees.

This book should be compulsory reading by every Lawyer, Judge and anyone involved in this system including Child Youth & Family and many other Agencies or any Agency associated. The damage and potential long term damage could be minimized with common sense which appears to be lacking, we know there is a job to be done but some compassion would not go astray.

David, Pam, Michael, Kimberley and Samantha and extended family, I wish you peace and although you say 'It is a changed wonderful world' and you may not have that original 'wonderful world' but may it never the less, be a wonderful world for you all, definitely tinged with sadness and loss and is that not what makes us more feeling, caring compassionate human beings. I wish none of you had to experience this. A box of tissues, were a must.

I must say I am deeply saddened that I am not as outraged as perhaps I should be, you will understand, when I say it bought me to tears rather than outrage, as said perhaps this is because this is not unknown to so many of us. May the rest of NZ public come to understand what this is like for us all who tread this path?

*GRG Trust Member*

### **And**

To say that this book stunned me would be something of an understatement. I opened it while still at New Zealand Post one morning last week when it turned up in my mail box. Because it was written by a former long-serving member of the book trade, (a man I knew well back in those days before he retired from bookselling to a rural life in order to grow a garden and to be nearer to his family), I opened the book immediately and started to read it at the Victoria Street Mail Centre in Auckland city. That was a big mistake because by the time I reached page 14 I was totally awash with tears streaming down my face. So much so that a woman approached me and asked me if I was okay. At that point I popped the book into my bag with the other mail and headed for my home office where I sat and read the entire book in one long sitting. I couldn't put it down.

This is a father's story about the cold hearted murder of his much loved daughter by her husband on their Matamata farm. It is a story that made the headlines back in September 2009 when Greg Meads shot his wife Helen at point blank range following years of his control and abuse which finally led to Helen saying she could take no more and was leaving him.

*Beatties Blog*



## **A Journey:**

I have raised my grandson since he was 5mths old, he is now 19 years. What a joy it has been, and hard work at the same time. He has special needs as well, Soto's Syndrome (cerebral gigantism) fetal alcohol effects, which he has social problems, learning difficulties, intellectual problems. He has come a long way in those years, but was difficult for him for long years of bullying, hard to make friends. main stream was very difficult 5yrs - till about 11yrs, then he went to Halswell school for intellectual boys in Christchurch for two years, what a wonderful school may I say, he become a better person in those two years. He went to a high school when he came back but didn't work out for him, ended up going to a special needs school in 2008 and this is his 4th year attending vocational program for 16- 21 yrs. He has achieved credits in NCEA, done so many courses as well, the life skills he has learnt but wouldn't have if mainstreamed. We have had our ups and downs with him, but he is an awesome young person, caring willing to help others. He got his learner's license, no jobs as yet but they do work experience as well. I know that others have a very difficult time with our grandies, but they are certainly better off with us. So there is light at the end of the long dark tunnel, God Bless you all, I do enjoy reading the wonderful and sad stories in our wonderful newsletter. Keep up the good work.



*Regards Nana C.*

**Our granddaughter** came to live with us three years ago when she was just six. As with most children who have come through a traumatic time, she was anxious hyper vigilant and afraid. Over the past three years we have seen her grow in confidence and independence as she has just blossomed. She moved to a new school at the start of last year and this has turned out very well, she has once more become the beautiful child she used to be and we are blessed to have her as part of our lives, she makes us laugh every day!

At the start of this year she told me that she would like to support a charity and we cast around for something that would suit a nine year old girl. Then she chanced upon Purple Cake Day, an idea conceived by Nelsonian, Emily Sanson-Rejouis to celebrate the spirit of her daughters, Kofie-Jade (5) and Zenzie (3), who were lost with their father, Emily's husband Emmanuel, in the devastating Haiti earthquake in January 2010. One year old Alyahna survived and was rescued after 22 hours buried in the rubble, sheltered by her father's body.

Purple Cake Day is inspired by Emmanuel's compassion for children less fortunate and by Zenzie who wanted not one, but two purple cakes for her 4th birthday. Purple Cake Day connects children around the world. It is a day of celebration, education and action and encourages our children to learn about their role in the global community and empowers them to take action for children in need worldwide.

Our granddaughter took such an interest and became so involved that she was appointed as the first ambassador for Purple Cake Day and is working hard through the year to raise

funds and awareness for the foundation. She spoke with her teacher and the other staff and they all decided to celebrate Purple Cake Day on March 1 by decorating purple flags to adorn the Primary School and making purple artificial flowers to decorate their school hats. Through the foundation, the flags will then be sent on to a school in Nepal as an exchange of friendship and good will. Our granddaughter took orders for cupcakes to be sold on Purple Cake Day and this was very successful - she sold 235 cupcakes. I made them all with the help of two wonderful mums from her class and she and I made a purple icing flower for each cake. A lot of work but also a lot of fun and the school supported her all the way with teachers and girls taking part enthusiastically



We are so proud of the fact that she has moved from being introverted and afraid to becoming this lovely, compassionate young girl who cares deeply for other children and wants to support them. She prepared a power point presentation for the school about PCD and ended it with the words: 'Even though we are only children we can still make a difference. We are the children, we are the world.' Although I wouldn't ever wish suffering on any child, I am in awe of how resilient she is and how the hardship she faced has helped her to become more empathetic and strong. She was presented with the Principal's award for her work with the Foundation:

*Nanny L*

### **Never expected this in a million years:**

Grand-daughter 20: had asked me to tint her regrowth, as I was feeling really unwell, I asked would it be OK to do it tomorrow and headed off to bed for a much needed sleep. Sometime later I woke and headed down hall into kitchen and what I saw just staggered me. There was Pop (68) in his big plastic BBQ apron, wearing my bright yellow cleaning rubber gloves and with a tinting brush delicately placed in one hand, tinting the back of grand-daughters hair. She was giving directions; she had managed to do the front but not the back.



I asked, (amongst laughter) 'why he had not used the gloves in the pack'. "Well they were too small when I tried them on they split" he replied. He is a BIG man; I am still shaking my head in disbelief, but laughing inside.

*What a picture\**



**Briar: My grand-daughter** had been picked for NZ under 17 woman's soccer team and that she has just got back from Argentina where they won both their games. She is also hoping to be picked for the world cup later this year. *Congratulations Briar, having seen you grow from a wee one, you have developed into a lovely, successful young woman. Well done also grandma, all those trips to sports events for so many years has paid off.*

## Self-Care:

The inevitable happened- After 40 years plus (probably more, being the eldest of 5 siblings) of taking care of others, family, ailing parents, extended family, raising more than difficult grandchildren, and an unwell husband, I fell over and I do mean that literally! Had, had 'other' grandchildren over to stay, as their Dad was sick, well no need to tell you what happened from there. Hit the deck like a ton of bricks, first could not breathe, off to A & E they whacked me on nebulizers x 2 every hour, for 4 hours, these had the effect of completely drying my body out and making my mouth take on the feeling of a 'floppy duck beak', desperate for water, then I began to shake violently, heart racing and head pounding (a result of the nebulizers) During all of this I was wired for sound with constant monitoring. As a result of drinking too much water to overcome the 'floppy beak feeling', needed to go you know where, NOW this is where I became very frightened, tried to get up, nothing happened, I simply could not get up! They took arterial blood from a vein in my wrist to see how much oxygen was in my blood stream. Not much from what I could gather, so no going home. I was admitted to a ward, which I would later find out was the Stroke Ward. *I was unaware.* I had not had a stroke but they were worried I would or was on the verge.

It was decided I needed to have a CT image done on my chest, so in an ambulance to another hospital and nil per mouth, for 3 hours prior. 'Floppy duck beak' descended once again. I decided in my "state" to take some breath mints for afterwards, upon being deposited in Ambulance the lid accidentally opened from that little plastic box of mints, they cascaded out, and to me what seemed like thousands of them bounced to the ambulance floor. I watched in horror as every corner we turned they shot from one side of the ambulance to the other and backwards and forwards. I apologised most profusely to the driver, but was in no state to pick them up, well better than some stuff he would have to have cleaned up in the past, I thought. That comforted me.

Now sitting around in a hospital bed is something I do not do easy, body may be weak but brain still going, albeit fuzzy. Most of the others in this ward were much older than me, perhaps by 10-20 years. It was without a doubt their families did care about them, but in their obvious busy lives, they did the next best thing for them other than being at their bedside.....supply them with mobile phones, with the briefest of instructions as it turned out. All through the wards and corridors phones were ringing with various rings, elderly people were shouting into these with 'hello, hello, are you there' over and over again, buttons were being pressed to no avail and many pleas to nursing staff and others as to how to work them.



Now, I have gone all over the garden path, (picture painted) so shall get back to the crux of self-care.

During the night heard an elderly man calling and no one answered, the nurses, busy. "Pat, Pat darling can you get me a drink of water" he called over and over again, this went on for 5 minutes, then it changed to "Hilda, Hilda are you there, then most upsettingly to "Dad, Dad, where are you" The caring gene in me had come to the fore, I

so wanted to get out of bed and go to him, and tell him it was ok, that Pat was here and give him some water. Such was the desire of that caring gene. I absolutely had to force myself to ring the bell and ask a nurse to assist him. I could do nothing else, I had no energy.

This experience has given me time to reflect (not much else to do) and I began to ask myself some questions.

- Where am I in all of this?
- Are any of my needs being cared for or am I doing everything for everyone else.
- Where my feelings are at: am I happy, sad, numb, stressed or just putting one foot in front of the other. (The latter I think)
- And more importantly do I know how to say no and have it sit comfortably within myself, my soul.
- Do 'others' in your life give back of just take?

### **I did not like my answers!**

Or is it that we have been caring for others for so long, we have forgotten how to do anything else. Perhaps we at the GRG Trust need to, if possible think about including in, or developing, for the 'Learning and Sharing' Courses to include something along the lines of 'It is OK to say no and still feel comfortable'.

*Home at last.\**

*Make sure you read Loving detachment in next month's newsletter. It may relate to above article.*

### **New Credit Check of Fines Initiative:**

From February 2012, information on overdue fines and reparation can be requested as part of a credit check. This will allow companies that offer credit to make better informed decisions about a customer's credit risk. This initiative, called 'Credit Check of Fines' has been introduced by the Ministry of Justice to encourage people to pay their fines or reparation to avoid putting their credit rating at risk. [www.fines.govt.nz](http://www.fines.govt.nz)

### **Free CYF Caregiver Courses:**

**Nelson** Understanding & Managing Behaviour Friday 1 June 9.30am-4pm

**Manurewa** Working With Adolescents Wednesday 6 June 9am-3.30pm

**Rotorua** Carer Families Wednesday 6 June 9am-3.30pm

**Dunedin** Carer Families Wednesday 6 June 9am-3.30pm

**Christchurch** Child Development Wednesday 6 June 9am-3.30pm

**Masterton** Carer Families Wednesday 6 June 9.30-4pm

**Whanganui** Working With Adolescents Thursday 7 June 9am-3.30pm

**Westport** Teamwork Tuesday 12 June 9am-3.30pm

**Tauranga** Working With Adolescents Tuesday 12 June 9am-3.30pm

**Waitakere** Working With Adolescents Wednesday 13 June 9am-3.30pm

**Oamaru** Legal Issues Thursday 14 June 9am-3.30pm

**Greymouth** Carer Families Thursday 14 June 9am-3.30pm

**Kaikohe** Working With Adolescents Thursday 14 June 9am-3.30pm



**Gore** Working With Adolescents Tuesday 19 June 9am-3.30pm  
**Pukekohe** Working With Adolescents Tuesday 19 June 9am-3.30pm  
**Palmerston North** Working With Adolescents Tuesday 19 June 9am-3.30pm  
**Christchurch** Working With Adolescents Wednesday 20 June 9am-3.30pm  
**Napier** Working With Adolescents Thursday 21 June 9am-3.30pm  
**Hamilton** Working With Adolescents Thursday 21 June 9am-3.30pm  
**Dunedin** Working With Adolescents Tuesday 26 June 9am-3.30pm  
**Nelson** Working With Adolescents Tuesday 26 June 9am-3.30pm  
**Manurewa** Understanding & Managing Behaviour Tuesday 26 June 9am-3.30pm  
**Gisborne** Working With Adolescents Tuesday 26 June 9am-3.30pm  
**Blenheim** Working With Adolescents Thursday 28 June 9am-3.30pm  
**Lower Hutt** Working With Adolescents Thursday 28 June 9am-3.30pm

Please complete the application form and email to:

[caregivertraining@cyf.govt.nz](mailto:caregivertraining@cyf.govt.nz) or fax to + 04 918 9294

Or send to National Caregiver Training Programme, PO Box 1556, WELLINGTON 6140

Free phone: 0800 227 305

For applications forms: <http://www.cyf.govt.nz/info-for-caregivers/national-caregiver-training-programme/applying-for-courses.html>

Please note:

- Morning and afternoon tea will be provided. Attendees will need to provide their own lunch.
- An attendance certificate will only be issued on completion of the full course.
- Attendance at the course does not constitute approval as a caregiver

### Apology:

‘Drawing a line in the Sand’ article should have read Dingwall Trust NZ: It must be said that a number of our members emailed or wrote experiencing similar issues to this article. Having spoken to Dingwall Trust they have informed us they are a ‘pilot’ for this intuitive, may we suggest that this definitely needs to be run out nation-wide.

### A Smile:



7 year old moko at dinner table looking at Koro, but speaking to Nanny said. "We girls have to stick together Nanny". And at another time said, "Nanny, I don't want to disagree with you but I have to stick up for myself"

*Koro Peter*

**It's never too late to have a happy childhood. But the second one is up to you and no one else.**

### Member Support Manager: Di & team (as a caregiver you are part of our team)

heoi ano, na. *E te Atua, aroha mai..... O God shower us with love. Ka kite*

*Ka Whangaia ka tupu, ka puawai*

That which is nurtured, blossoms and grows

**Can we help you? Members Services Nationwide**  
**Toll free line 0800 472 637**

**Chief Executive Officer Geoff Lawson ext. 6**

**Members Support Manager: Di Vivian New members and general information ext. 1**

**Field Officers:**

**Sharon ext. 2**

Sharon is a counselor with 25 years' experience. She has specific experience in working with families and the challenges of parenting, including children who have experienced trauma and issues of grief/loss for grandparent/kin carers and their families who are also parents, siblings of the original parents of the children in their care. She can assist with Family Group Conference's or Strengthening families as a support person when practical or give advice via telephone.

Auckland callers use 09 419 0045 Tuesdays & Fridays only.

**Nola Adams: ext. 3**

Telephone advice can be given on the following topics Justice and Prison system, including Youth Court. Family Court applications: for persons wishing to self-represent: Child Youth and Family representation where practicable/advice. Disability advice and the Schooling system. Nola can be contacted on 06 845 3141 (Hawkes Bay callers)

**Diana East: ext. 4**

In depth knowledge on issues impacting on grandparents raising grandchildren; has many years working with mental health consumers and carers. This gives her a very good understanding of a wide range of mental health issues and issues effecting grandparents raising. Hours 9am – 5pm 04 970 8177 (Wellington callers)

**Tricia Corin: ext. 5**

Is a Beneficiaries Advocate, If you are having problems with your Benefits from Work and Income / Inland Revenue or are unsure if you are on the right Benefit, needing advice on UCB or DPB, Disabilities Allowance or recoverable and non-recoverable advances . Hours 11am 5pm 07 8685490 (Waikato callers)

*Please note that our Field Officers are Part Time*

**Formal GRG Support Groups: All welcome.**

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

Ashburton\*\* Jude Suddens 03 307 2147 [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)

Canterbury North\*\* Jan Farquhar 03 313 6487 [farlaw@xtra.co.nz](mailto:farlaw@xtra.co.nz)

Coromandel\* Keitha Jenkins 07 866 8273 [northbrook@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:northbrook@slingshot.co.nz)

Dargaville \* Barbara Sterling 09 439 4555 [ladybee@vodafone.co.nz](mailto:ladybee@vodafone.co.nz)

Hamilton\*\* Kerry Batten 07 853 8626 [kbatten@gmail.com](mailto:kbatten@gmail.com) **(NEW)**

Hokitika \* Fran Edwards 03 755 8142

Huntly \*\* Lodi Liebert 07 828 6123 [rulo@clear.net.nz](mailto:rulo@clear.net.nz)

Invercargill \*\* Lynette Neilson 03 216 0411 [jhandi@clear.net.nz](mailto:jhandi@clear.net.nz)



Kaitaia \* Irene Turner-Crombie 09 408 3446 iturnercombie@gmail.com  
 Kaiwaka\* Sarah Rogers 09 431 2194 sarah\_jane@clear.net.nz  
 Kaikohe\* Nellie Te Rangi 09 405 3057 karenanellie@yahoo.com  
 Kapiti\*\* Aileen Sloane 04 904 4073 [megsie@paradise.net.nz](mailto:megsie@paradise.net.nz) (NEW)  
 Levin\* Ann Waddell 06 362 7269 ann.hen@xtra.co.nz  
 Napier \*\*  
 Nelson \*\* Paula Eggers 03 5456118 paulaegggers2000@yahoo.com.au  
 Otago Est/Nth \* Aad & Leonie 03 465 1764 [omaandopa@xtra.co.nz](mailto:omaandopa@xtra.co.nz)  
 Palmerston North \*\* Martha Taonui-Andrews 06 356 6929 email  
[marthaan@inspire.net.nz](mailto:marthaan@inspire.net.nz)  
 Rotorua \*\* Win Macredie 07 345 5003 winmacredie@xtra.co.nz  
 Rotorua \*\* Cyril Anderson 07 347 8163 judycyril@xtra.co.nz  
 Te Hiku Northland\* Koha Mehana 09 408 3788  
 Te Kuiti\*\* Patsy Roach 07 878 6704 raochp@waikatodhb.health.nz (NEW)  
 Thames\*\* Sonja Senior 07 868 4846 chchapple@xtra.co.nz (NEW)  
 Upper Hutt \*\* Margaret Pearson 04 976 9475 maggiemagpie@paradise.net.nz  
 Wairarapa \*\* Tere Lenihan 06 304 8804 terelenihan@clear.net.nz  
 Wanganui \*\* Lynette Dickinson 06 344 2830  
 Cheryl Smith 06 344 1278 [cherryl@clear.net.nz](mailto:cherryl@clear.net.nz)  
 Wellington \*\* Cecilee Donovan 04 477 0632 cecileed@gmail.com  
 Whakatane \* Shirley Faulkner 07 322 8524 shirleyfaulkner@xtra.co.nz  
 Whangarei \*\* Janet Puriri 09 435 0044 jpuriri@ihug.co.nz

\* Telephone support only: \*\* Telephone Support & Meetings.

***Very informal coffee groups – For times and venues***

**Auckland Central:** June 09 630 2409  
**Coromandal/Tairua/Whitianga:** Brenda 07 866 4476  
**Christchurch (New Brighton):** Annie 03 388 0928  
**Auckland Central:** June 09 630 2409  
**Coromandal/Tairua/Whitianga:** Brenda 07 866 4476  
**Christchurch (New Brighton):** Annie 03 388 0928  
**Hamilton:** Yvonne 07 829 8246  
**Howick/Manukau:** Lorraine 09 271 2900  
**Marton/Hunterville:** Sharon 06 322 9795  
**New Plymouth:** Sue 06 756 7542 /027 8569242/txt  
**Te Kauwhata:** Denise 07 826 3779  
**Tauranga:** Lee 07 578 5870  
 Colleen 07 578 5341  
**Timaru:** Michelle Txt 027 2323583  
**Wainuiomata:** Tricia 04 971 3538  
**Wairarapa:** Sheryl 06 304 9957



If you would like to start an informal coffee group in your area, please contact Di at Head Office

**Together we will and do make a difference in a child's life.**

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.

**Abbreviations:**

GRG – Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust

BOT – Board of Trustees

CYF – Child Youth and Family Services

Co's – Co-ordinator/s

UCB – Unsupported Child Benefit

WINZ – Work and Income NZ now DWI – Department of Work and Income

BPS – Business Professional Services Limited. Our secretarial service.

**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.

[www.grg.org.nz](http://www.grg.org.nz) or [www.kin.org.nz](http://www.kin.org.nz) or [www.raisinggrandchildren.org.nz](http://www.raisinggrandchildren.org.nz) Email [office@grg.org.nz](mailto:office@grg.org.nz)

**Member Support Manager: Di Vivian**

Free Phone 0800 GRANDS or 0800 472637 ext. 1 (not for use for Auckland callers)

Landline users only. Auckland callers (09) 480 6530

Postal Add: PO Box 34 892 Birkenhead. Auckland 0742

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter please contact 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.

**We are a Charitable Trust**

