



July Monthly Newsletter 2012

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



Like us at www.facebook.com/grg.org.nz

Data base: 5178 Whanau/Family
Carers.

From the National Office: Your Voices

By any name tastes the same:

Asked young grandson would he like broccoli, with his dinner," no I don't like broccoli" I smiled then asked "would you like green trees then" "Oh yes I love green trees" he then ate the lot! *Heh heh heh*

A GRG member tells us:

She was driving with the 3 she raises in the back of the car and was pulled over in a random breath check, all was fine but the Police officer asked her to pull over to the side of the road. What now she thought. As he approached her car he must have noticed her GRG bumper sticker on back of her car. "Are you raising these ones' he asked, "Yes" she replied. "Well your warrant has run out, I will give you a ticket but if you get a new one within 3 days and take it to your local Police Station the fine will be waived"



How to push grandma's button:

One of our grandmothers reports that her 7 year old grandson asked for something (which was not important) and she replied, 'What makes you think I'll say yes". His angelic voice, quick as a wink replied, because you are old and wise grandma'. ☺ ☺ They sure do learn quickly!

Sarah Ulmer:

I was driving in Auckland's Herne Bay and stopped to wait for a cyclist, I always have my GRG magnetic car signs on my doors. The cyclist approached and had obviously read the sign, she gave me the most beautiful big smile which lasted for ages and yes it was Sarah. She quite made my day!

Di

SALT (Sharing and Learning Together)

Specially designed for all grandparent/kin/whanau carers

A Great Learning Opportunity for our Rotorua and North Auckland Members!!

Come to a free SALT Workshop during July/August 2012

'It's really important for us grandparents to nourish ourselves and this workshop is excellent for that.'

"I never knew that I would want to talk so much'.

'SALT ticks all the boxes'.

As we have said before, enthusiastic feedback clearly shows that our SALT (Sharing and Learning Together) workshops assist our members to gather strength, realise that they have resilience and courage and to discover ways of addressing the problems that confront them. AND people have fun, too!!

Now, especially for our Rotorua and North Auckland members, three further workshops (9.30am – 2pm each workshop) are to be held as follows:

- **Rotorua:** Friday 27th July (Win 07 345 5003)
- **Kaikohe:** Tuesday 31st July (Zeta 09 405 9977) is standing in for Nellie who has health issues
- **Whangarei:** Friday 1st August (Janet 09 435 0044)

Grab the opportunity NOW to attend one of these workshops! Contact either your local Support Group Coordinator or Diana East on 0800 472 637 (ext.4) or email d.east13@yahoo.co.nz. Further details will be provided upon registration.

A minimum of 8 and a maximum of 16 participants is required for each workshop to be held.



Minister Paula Bennett's Launch:

On June 22nd Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ: CEO Geoff Lawson and Founder Di Vivian joined Minister Paula Bennett and The Parenting Place's CEO Bruce Pilbrow, John Cowen and Caroline Jones, (Care

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ –

Specialist) along with invited guests to launch the new DVD Toolbox, which will be supplied free to all those who care for children not their own. A number of Grandparent caregivers feature in this DVD and also one grandchild, who is been raised by her grandparents.

"The 9 hour DVD can be watched in the caregivers own home, and at their own pace, and also contains worksheets for notes. This DVD contains specialist information which will assist the caregiver in raising often difficult children", says Geoff Lawson. "The Parenting Place have done a wonderful job in producing this valuable DVD with input from the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ and its members, which has been a most pleasurable combined venture, our grandparent and whanau caregivers will really relate to this" said Di Vivian.

The presenters are well known in their field and it is packed with great advice and the all-important humour. The DVD will be rolled out, which will see **all caregivers** raising receive this.

Paula Bennett

22 June, 2012

Grandparents raising grandchildren to get Toolbox

Social Development Minister Paula Bennett has announced that a tailored version of the Toolbox parenting programme will be provided free to grandparents raising grandchildren.

"We asked the Parenting Place to provide practical support through the Toolbox programme for people who take in and care for children."

"This is a specific, tailored programme that will help grandparents raising grandchildren with the skills to parent today's children," says Mrs Bennett.

"They do a tough job considering many are caring for children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect – they need this."

The tailored resource includes nine hours of practical parenting advice on DVD with a manual, which carers can work their way through at home.

Thousands of parents every year get a lot out of attending Toolbox Parenting Groups, but grandparents may prefer an at-home option.

"Some really well-known New Zealanders present the parenting advice on the DVDs including Dame Alison Holst, Bob Kerridge and Pio Terei."

"I am delighted to be able to offer this programme, free of charge, to up to 5,000 grandparents who are raising grandchildren," says Mrs Bennett.

Link to watch the trailer:



[Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Toolbox - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K4yEvgYdL6k)

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Dispelling some misinformation about the DVD:

1) The DVD did not cost \$600k to produce. \$25K actually as it was done on a shoe-string and not in some flash recording studio, out back of The Parenting Place's back room and to keep the light out from windows black plastic sheets were used. All presenters and professional presenters gave their time free of charge as they all considered this a heart commitment. Obviously there will be more costs in getting DVD onto disc's and postage & printing, but this was just one project for funding, this was not our contract and we are not privy to the rest. But we are thrilled we were part of this project.

2) It does **not** contain your run of the mill parenting tips, which we all know you already have, it is chock full of tips to assist us that are raising children who have experienced less than ideal situations in the past which means extremely hard caregiving for us. **Issues addressed amongst others are attachment disorders, angry children** and positively salutes you as a grandparent in your role. It also has heaps of humour which sees us through those difficult times.

3) You will see some of your fellow GRG members featuring in this where they talk about their experiences and feelings and what it has been like for them, so many of you will relate, as a lot of us are isolated in our role. This DVD will connect you, so you are not feeling so alone and isolated. You will find yourself saying, "yes I feel like that" or "hey I never considered that approach". Trust me when I say you will enjoy and get value from it. For those of you who have attended our GRG conference and raved about them, this is pretty similar, a conference on a DVD which means you can watch it at your own pace and time frame, no traveling and no costs involved.

4) We are aware there has been a bit of knocking about this DVD (on a community page) in regard to parity with Foster care payments, we need to assure you we have not let that go, but we will take anything that is offered to you wonderful people if it makes your lives a little easier. This will also be supplied to all under CYF also.

For those that do not have a DVD player it can be watched on your computer. These will be posted directly to your home.

Founding Member: *Di & Danielle (Grand-daughter) who appeared in the DVD.*

We send out heartfelt thanks to grandparent members, Sharon, Tess, Deborah &

Gabrielle who appeared on the DVD, and gave up their time. Some of the presenters: Dame Alison Holst – Sir Bob Kerridge – Jason Gunn – John Cowen – Pio Terei – Diane Levy - Jenny Hale – Petra Bagust to name a few, all who also gave their time free.



Steph Soh(TPP) with grandparents Gabrielle Buchanan and Deb McCulloch (GRG Members)



Geoff Lawson (GRG) with Caroline Jones (The Parenting Place, care specialist)

One grandparent wrote after watching the trailer: *"I have just watched the youtube video in the link you sent....and I am sitting here crying...it really spoke to me. And the Alison Holst bit was my favourite part. Thank you so much for the link."*



Congratulations!

Jill Nerheny was awarded the Queen's Services Medal in the recent Queen's Birthday honors list. We are very proud of her and it was a well-deserved award. Jill is our local North Shore Community Co-ordinator in Auckland, she was instrumental in helping me start GRG Trust. She helped with our mission statements and our constitution; and has over 13 years been an avid supporter of GRG. Her service to the wider

community is 30 years of service. Well done Jill.

Some of Our Heroes:

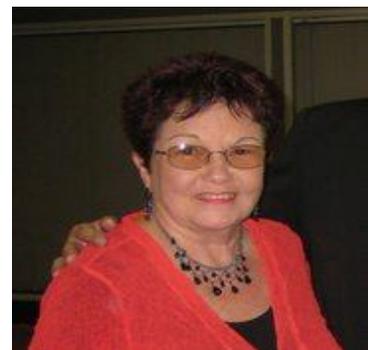


Joanne O'Keefe: My husband and I have been bringing up our granddaughter since she was 3 months old, her mother was living with us at the time which made it really hard for us. She kept going out leaving us with the baby and not getting in till all hours of the night and of course we both worked. When baby woke she wouldn't get up to her so I had to do it plus go to work. Things started to get worse so we told her we are going to take care of her and went for

custody which we got. It was a hard road but we did it we love our granddaughter to pieces and there is nothing we wouldn't do for her. She is now 5 years old and loving school, it took me a long time to accept that our lives were at a standstill and that we

had a responsibility to bring up this little girl. But we have never looked back it's a thing you just have to get on with. Yes we do get very tired as we both work but then we come home and see that little smile on her face it all makes it worthwhile. I would just like to say to all those grandparents bringing up grandchildren you are doing a great job and just remember our turn will come when the kids get older.
Congratulations Joanne

Jean Johns: Jean has raised Zac since he was 3, now 17. Zac as well as being a prefect and on the Students Art Council has managed to find time to direct the school musical 'Godspell' As well as learning the full musical score he also conducted the 6 piece band. Zac said, "I have thoroughly enjoyed this, as theatre and music has always been part of my life, since my grandmother first took me aged 3". When speaking to Jean just recently she said after the show she just about burst with pride".
And proud you should be Jean as it was you who gave him the gift of theatre and music.



Homes for Life via Child Youth & Family:

We are hearing that there appears to be confusion over this, so we thought it would be prudent to clarify this. This package is for children who are under the care & Protection of the Chief Executive under CYF only.



The Home for Life Support Package

<http://practicecentre.cyf.govt.nz/policy/permanent-care-and-creating-a-home-for-life/resources/home-for-life-support.html#top>

The home for life support package consists of three years support after the transfer of orders to the home for life parents. The package includes:

- reasonable legal costs for the proposed home for life parents
- a \$2,500 upfront payment paid after the home for life orders are granted
- follow up telephone contact with the home for life parents every three months and a support visit every six months
- access to the national foster care training programme
- a baby starter package for children under two years at the time of placement to cover the cost of items such as high chairs, cots, clothing or other things needed to get started with caring for the baby. These items can be provided as soon as the placement is made if required
- linking the home for life parents with the right financial assistance through Work and Income
- identifying needs that could be met by other agencies, and advocating and liaising with the agencies for services, as required

- working with the child or young person's birth family to support on-going contact so that it is safe and works well for the child or young person
- five days of respite care/holiday programme per year for three years if required. This is available for the child or young person in the home for life placement and can include other children in the home. If the parents also want to go to the camp with the children this is an option
- a review prior to the end of the three years to ensure any on-going support needs are identified and referrals to community agencies are made.

Payment of legal costs when seeking orders

Child, Youth and Family will pay the agreed reasonable legal fees for caregivers who are seeking orders to reinforce and support the home for life placement. This includes:

1. Proposed home for life parents applying for orders in their favour

Payments are made at legal aid rates for the experience level of the solicitor providing the services, using the legal aid level of experience. If the lawyer is an approved counsel for the child then Child, Youth and Family will pay the level two Lawyer for the Child rate for work provided by that lawyer (i.e. not for juniors of that firm).

Child, Youth and Family will pay reasonable costs (usually no more than 10 hours) for filing of applications to obtaining orders in a non contested case. If a case is complex and requires more funding or ongoing work you should obtain an estimate from the lawyer and seek the site managers' approval for additional funding. A prompt response to such requests from the site manager will ensure that the legal process is not unnecessarily delayed.

2. Home for life parents defending any subsequent proceedings bought by birth parents or seeking additional orders, in order to secure the child's home for life placement.

Funding is provided at the discretion of the site manager and approval should be sought first. Child, Youth and Family will not support applications that it does not feel are in the best interests of the child and are not being advanced in a constructive, child focused manner.

What does the payment of \$2,500 cover and when is this paid?

The \$2,500 is a payment for all home for life parents to provide for the individual needs of the child or young person. The payment recognises that there may be increased costs of an additional child in the home but is not calculated to reflect or replace any sum of money that would otherwise have been paid.

A payment will be made for each child or young person on the making of parenting or custody orders to the home for life parents.

Who will provide the home for life support?

Generally our NGO providers will provide the home for life support after the orders have been transferred to the home for life parents. The referral form for Home for Life support is available on CYRAS.

The Home for Life Contact Centre details are:

- Home for Life, PO Box 1126, Palmerston North
- Email: enquiries@homeforlife.org.nz
- Fax: 06 351 6341

In some circumstances, it might be more appropriate for Child Youth and Family to provide the support, for example, in the exceptional circumstances when a Services Order might have been granted.

Some home for life parents may decide they do not want any support when home for life has been achieved. If this is the case, they can be given the contact details of the home for life support agency in the event that they wish to make contact with them at a later date.

Financial support through Work and Income

Home for life parents are eligible to receive the Unsupported Child's Benefit (UCB) which is administered through Work and Income. The rate of the UCB is the same as the foster care allowance. Other supplementary assistance may also be available such as the Child Disability Allowance and a Child Care Subsidy.

Social workers will need to ensure that the home for life parents have met with a Work and Income case manager to clarify their entitlements and have made an application prior to the discharge of orders against the Chief Executive.

The process of determining eligibility and application for the UCB may be unfamiliar to home for life parents, and they will likely appreciate the support of their caregiver social worker or the child's social worker at this appointment. Work and Income will require the following information:

- the child or young person's birth certificate
- the home for life parents passport or birth certificate, their IRD number and a full bank statement
- a copy of the parenting or guardianship order, or a letter from Child, Youth and Family confirming which orders have been made
- details of any income the child or young person receives.

The home for life parent will be expected to make an application for child support against the birth parent/s of the child or young person. If the home for life parents are family members, this expectation could be discussed at a whānau hui. Ensure this has been discussed with the birth parents early in the process and that home for life parents are aware of how to keep their personal details confidential if this is required.

Additional support available for home for life

Child, Youth and Family will not continue to pay board payments, clothing allowances or other regular payments and does not expect home for life parents to seek those payments by way of services orders. The Unsupported Child's Benefit paid through Work and Income is intended to cover the general needs of caring for a child.

If additional financial support or specific services are required to meet the specific ongoing needs of a child or young person these will be discussed and agreed prior to the home for life parents seeking orders.

In some instances it may be appropriate for Child, Youth and Family to provide support to home for life parents through a Services Order. Talk with your supervisor or practice leader about the best option based on the needs of the child or young person.

Despite people's best efforts, not every future contingency can be planned for. Therefore, ad hoc financial support can be provided to home for life parents through s389 of the CYPF Act.

Where services orders are already in place

Services orders that are already in place will continue and we have an obligation to see these through for the length of the order. At the review time you can discuss the new home for life package. Some caregivers may wish to consider replacing the services order with the home for life support package and this can be negotiated with them.

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/grg.org.nz

Some of our members have become upset about us opening a face Book page: May I reassure this is a professional face book page to inform our members of what we are doing and also to attract "friends of GRG" who are not necessarily members, so they get an understanding of what we do and are doing and possibly offer support to us and our members. It is not a page to post your personal stories, nor photographs of your grandchildren, as we are all aware of the dangers in that.

This page is well monitored and any posts of that nature will be deleted, we keep you and your grandchildren's safety a priority.

Formal GRG Support Groups: All welcome.

Locality, Name, Phone, E-mail Address.

Ashburton** Jude Suddens 03 3072147 jude.brian@clear.net.nz (NEW)
Auckland East ** Tess Gould-Thorpe 09 535 6903 pan@xnet.co.nz
Auckland North ** Bonnie Williams 09 473 9055 willingclan@xtra.co.nz
Auckland South ** Virginia Peebles 09 256 1620
Auckland West ** Debbie Hall 09 818 7828 debron@xtra.co.nz
Mangere East * Teresa Van Kuylenburg 09 974 2388 teresa.mangere@grg.gmail.com
Canterbury North** Jan Farquhar 03 313 6487 bunnies2@xtra.co.nz
Coromandel* Keitha Jenkins 07 866 8273 northbrook@slingshot.co.nz
Dargaville * Barbara Sterling 09 439 4555 ladybee@orcon.co.nz
Dunedin** Catherine Butson 03 489 2942 cmbutson@ihug.co.nz (NEW)
Hamilton** Kerry Batten 07 560 0291 kebatten@gmail.com (NEW)
Hokitika * Fran Edwards 03 755 8142
Huntly ** Lodi Liebert 07 828 6123 rulo@clear.net.nz
Invercargill ** Lynette Neilsen 03 216 0411 jhandli@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 Karena 09 405 3057 karenanellie@yahoo.com
Levin* Ann Waddell 06 362 7269 ann.hen@xtra.co.nz
Napier ** Phone Nola 06 845 3141 (temp)
Nelson ** Paula Eggers 03 545 6118 paulaegggers2000@yahoo.com.au
Otago * Est/Nth Aad & Leonie 03 465 1764 omaandopa@xtra.co.nz
Palmerston North ** Martha Taonui-Andrews 06 356 6929 email
marthaan@inspire.net.nz
Rotorua ** Win Macredie 07 345 5003 winmacredie@xtra.co.nz
Rotorua ** Cyril Anderson 07 347 8163 judycyril@xtra.co.nz
Taumarunui** Ruth Sandiford Phelan 07 896 7297 ruthsp@email.com (NEW)
Te Kuiti * Patsy Roach 07 878 6704 roachp@waikatodhb.health.nz (NEW)
Te Hiku Northland* Koha Mehana 09 408 3788
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 06 378 6041 terelenihan@clear.net.nz
Wanganui ** Cheryl Smith 06 344 1278 cheryll@teatawhai.maori.nz
Wellington ** Cecilee Donovan 04 477 0632 cecileed@gmail.com



Whakatane ** Shirley Faulkner 07 322 8524 shirleyfaulkner@extra.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

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

Can we help you? Members Services Nationwide

Toll free line 0800 472 637

Member Support Manager: Di Vivian: Ext. 1- New members and general information.

Field Officers:

Sharon Lee: ext.2

Telephone counseling on Mondays and Fridays. Sharon has 25 years of family counseling experience

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

Mental health issues impacting upon grandparents raising.

Hours 9am – 5pm 04 970 8177 for 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

www.grg.org.nz or www.kin.org.nz or www.raisinggrandchildren.org.nz

Email office@grg.org.nz

CEO: Geoff Lawson. Email geoff@grg.org.nz Ph. 09 360 8690 021 727 004

Member Support Manager: Di Vivian Email office@grg.org.nz

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 0746

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

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.*

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.

Wisdom from Grandpa:

It is difficult to understand how a cemetery can raise its burial costs and blame it on the cost of living!