



Newsletter May 2013

Grandparents Raising grandchildren Trust NZ Mitre 10 Community of the year.

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



Database: 5353 Whanau Carers.

From the National Office:

Your voices:

GETTING OLD AND RAISING GRANDCHILDREN...

Age is a really ruinous time of life.

When I was younger, (about 5 years ago), okay, maybe 40 years ago I thought nothing of leaping out of bed at 5am, getting the old wringer washing machine on the go, cooking a huge breakfast for my family, whipping around making beds and packing school lunches etc. Spry as a spring chicken, I was and always busy with one thing or another. I always slept well and had the same energy after four hours sleep as I would with eight.

Now I'm exhausted by 7pm and even though I drag myself off to bed by 8pm at the latest it takes another hour or two or three before I fall asleep and little more than the cat walking past the window outside to have me wide awake again. In fact, everything wakes me. The neighbours toilet flushing, kids turning over in their sleep, a car going past in the street, the silver-beet growing... It's a bitch these sleep patterns that now plague me most every night!



You know, among many of my regrets is a nagging sadness that I never really had a lot of time for alcohol. The demon drink! I figure that getting really drunk may well have helped me to age a little more disgracefully. Now I'm in to facing my dotage constantly sober – and that's not a very nice thought at all. I've an aching stiffness in my hips and shoulders which sorely aggravates me if I sleep either on my back or on my side. Still, that is the lesser evil compared to waking with my arm wrapped around some child that's crawled into my bed through the night for a bit of comfort and finding my fingers locked in to a claw as arthritis clamps down on them. Removing my arm from around a warm little body and retrieving my painful fingers is a 'botheration' I can do without at times.

Every morning I have to snap each finger open with a glass-cutting crunch of agony. Still, it has become a routine morning exercise with under the breath embellishments that I've become accustomed to now. Some folks jump out of bed and do 50 push-ups. Me, I crack fingers...



Hobbling down the hall on swollen, aching ankles at as a fast a gait as I can muster I usually reach the loo with pathetic relief – my bladder not being what it used to be. Any kid perched within is moved out of my way without any guilt on my part

what-so-ever. Their pelvic muscles are young and stern and healthy while mine are stretched to the point where their elasticity is but a memory of a bygone era.

The next hurdle in my early morning schedule is my slow and persistent seclusion in the shower. They say your body is your temple and that you must maintain it over the years and take pride in it so that it will serve you well in your twilight years. Well, from where I'm standing in the shower box, I know that I've build a deck at the rear of my property and I have lovely cobblestones leading to a large over-hanging deck in the front. I think I must be doing okay in that area. Unfortunately I now have to sit down and prop my legs up on the shower wall in order to mow the grass on my legs. That's a task I used to be able to do standing up and simply bending over once upon a time, a long time ago. Like a lot of other things.

I find that if I'm careful I can crawl out of the shower and pull myself back up on my feet by using the towel rail. Getting myself dried and dressed is a slow process and by the time I've finished with these little personal attentions my two grandchildren are lined up outside the bathroom door wanting to brush their teeth. I usually let them pile in with me and we share the vanity so that I can check that they are brushing their teeth properly, top, bottom, round and round, back and forth. They're good kids and at first they used to watch wide-eyed and horrified as I used my dentures to show them how it was done. Now they accept plastic teeth that reside in a tooth-mug as quite the norm, which it is in this house. I just can't abide a mouthful of plastic when I'm fitfully trying to sleep these days. Back in their old life they hadn't even known what a toothbrush was for. Just goes to show how much they're moving forward in to lives of their own now. Which is good, I think.



Ablutions completed, time to head for the kitchen with the kids and try to survive the chaos of corn-flakes and coco-pops. Who eats unwholesome big cooked breakfasts anymore? Seems to me it's all up and go's and take-a-way coffee in cardboard cups. What next, I ask you?

Dratted kids have scoffed all the milk again before grabbing their lunch boxes and heading out the door for school. Still, there is usually a little bit still swilling in the bottom of their cereal bowls. A corn flake or two may be still floating in it but it serves me well for my cup of tea. Anyway, they need the milk more than I do. Got a lot of growing to do yet....

Look around and see spilled sugar over the kitchen counter, a half-eaten apple laying on the floor, comic books piled in a chair, dirty dishes all over the place, unmade beds, washing not even gathered up and put in the laundry. Cats mewling around my aching ankles wanting their bowls filled too....

Well, if you expect bright-eyed and bushy-tailed go catch a squirrel



WRITTEN BY PAULINE SLOAN

Things do not always go the way we expect:

They arrive as little children, in need of care and protection and a grandparents heart melts with anguish with the nurturing that is contained within our mothering female body. We will stand strong against CYF, Family Courts and yes indeed the "parent/s" for the love of our grandchildren. We will experience the most difficult parenting we have ever faced like none before. We at times through this buckle under the load, but we do not break, just bend a little. Now fast forward the clock some 10 years. That vulnerable little child has turned into a pre-teen or young teen and something happens. They can become argumentative, and yes sadly violent.

How or why does this happen? Yes part of the picture firmly belongs to early child abuse and neglect, abandonment is another factor. For no matter how much love and caring you have done for these precious ones, they have little holes on their hearts and you couple that with puberty and identity of who they are, things can easily turn to custard. Again I stress the importance of getting early counselling or therapy for all children who have experienced a less than ideal early life. Some children may not display

any untoward things at a young age. But it is my experience that tells me it is lurking in there yet to emerge. The minute you see things beginning to change get help! Choose your help carefully tho.



Remember it is not you who has failed the child/ren, it was their 'parent/s' so with this in mind you must not blame yourself. Do not let this stop you seeking professional help early.

What to do when things are getting really bad: Of late we have heard from many grandparents who are being abused by the very grandchildren they stopped their lives for. Now this is: gut wrenching. We have heard from grandparents who are verbally abused on a daily basis, threatened by the grandchildren (if you do not do this I will do this) some are being punched and others have had teeth knocked out, some have had knives pulled on them and others have had precious items stolen from their homes to be sold for drugs etc.

If this is happening to you please do not hesitate to call the Police. And do this **every** time something happens, daily if necessary. This is the only way you will get other Agencies involved and something will happen. If the young person is old enough and Police have been regularly calling, get the young person trespassed from your property. Again this forces 'others' to take some action. Remember these words also for Police. "You have a care of duty for this person". If the children are younger and have ever been, or are under the Care and Protection of CYF you can contact them and hopefully get a 28 day stay in a Family Group home for this young person. If they have never been under CYF you can still contact them about the violence issues and in many cases where Police have been to your home they will, or should do this.

All the time you have had these (sometimes ticking time bombs) grand/kin children in your home you have perhaps 'unknowingly/unselfishly' put them first, that is just what we do BUT if any of the violence, bullying etc. described here, are happening to you it is time to put yourselves first, as this is a most unsafe situation for you. And trust me when I say it is not just males either, this is happening from the females as well. (This is my personal opinion)

Di

White Noise:

Was driving in the car with oldest g/daughter now 21 and the radio announcer was talking about white noise, "what is white noise?" I asked.' She replied, "well it is a little like the humming of a computer or a fan whirring constantly, you can download it and play it through your ear phones" "Oh I have that all the time," she looked at me dubiously, I replied "only we call it Tinnitus" Should have kept quiet as then I had to go on to explain what Tinnitus was..... Cicada's singing comes to mind! (my white noise and they are not real!) And these kids today like this!!! Suppose they can turn it off, I would love to know where the off button is for my personal white noise.



Nan D *

Deep thinker:

We have a routine in our house whereby I, G/Gran. put 7 year old Lily to bed each night with a story, and before she drops off, she just "talks" about whatever comes to mind. This night was quite special as follows:

Lily: "Mum, I guess you will be really glad to get to Heaven, won't you?"

Me: "Well, I can't say I am racing to get there!"

Lily: "Yes, but when you get there, you will be able to see your Mum and Dad and your little Amanda again" (Our baby Amanda died 50 years ago!)

Me: "That's one way of looking at it I suppose!"

Lily: "But, how will you know which one is Amanda, 'cause she will be really



old? Pause "Oh, I guess God or Jesus will bring her to you, won't he?
Me: "Yes, I guess that's how it will be! Great Grandma

I have now heard it all!

Social workers seem to be everywhere now, in schools, in various Agencies but what really shocked me was to find that some Doctors surgeries have them as well! What has the world come to?



Over 300 disadvantaged children are now supported through Variety's Kiwi Kid Sponsorship programme.

It's not too late to enroll your grand/kin child/ren you may think would benefit from some additional funding for their children's needs - especially as colder weather becomes a health concern for children living in un-insulated and substandard housing. It's lovely to hear about the difference this funding is making, so I thought you'd like to read this, a message from a young boy's grandmother:

"My grandson and I would like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts. I have been raising TJ on a widow's benefit since he was 9 weeks old and generous thoughtful people like you have made our struggle just that little bit easier. I got TJ quite unexpectedly and at the time I was living in a friend's garage. Thanks to a few organisations such as Family Start, Grandparents Raising Grandchildren and CYFS, we are now in a semi comfortable Housing NZ home. This house is freezing over winter but thanks to you TJ now has warm bedding, pyjamas, winter thermals and track pants, gloves, hat and scarf for our walks to Kindy. It was like Christmas when the items arrived."

With winter on the way, the cost of essential warm clothing such as warm hats, scarves and jackets may be real concerns for your family.

We're excited to continue approving worthy applications within just a few days and matching them with sponsors. We have members of the public ready to become sponsors and help out these families in need, through a minimum amount of \$336 per annum. Whilst over 300 children are already receiving the benefits of Kiwi Kid Sponsorship, we know that there are many more families who struggle through the colder months.

If your grandchildren/kin you know could benefit from sponsorship but are not yet part of the programme, please don't delay. The application form required can be [found online here](#). Should you have any questions please email me. We look forward to receiving the applications and with your help, making a difference to Kiwi kids in need.

Chloé Boyes | Grant Liaison Co-ordinator Variety – The Children's Charity
DDI (09) 522 3741 chloe@variety.org.nz

Grandma knew what to do:

Little one aged 3 came back from week-end access visit and appeared wobbly on his feet, he was wearing a skivvy that grandma had not seen before. Upon undressing him for his bath she discovers a big red welt around his neck. Grandma says "oh ouch", little man says "daddy rope" Quick thinking grandma manages to get a urine sample and off they go to Doctor, who photographs injures and then off to Starship Te Puaruru Unit. Blunt force trauma is the result to child's neck, reports done, CYF involved and by end of that day grandma has guardianship (already has day to day parenting) and all access visits stopped by a Judge. Please keep a check on children when they come back from access visits and trust your gut

instincts. Below is taken from Starship web site in Auckland, we are sure there are similar units at other hospitals.

Starship Paediatric Te Puaruruhau (Child Protection)

Hours: Normal working hours are 8.00am - 5.00pm, Monday to Friday. Outside of these hours you can contact Child, Youth and Family services (CYFS) on 0508 FAMILY (0508 326 459), or the Police dial 111.

Te Puaruruhau is the ADHB health service for children and young people who have experienced abuse or neglect. The name literally means "the sheltering of the bud". This service is located in a multi-agency centre with Police and the Department of Child, Youth and Family, at 99 Grafton Road (opposite the Starship building).

The centre, which was established in 2002, is named Puawaitahi which literally means "blossoming in unity" or "as one" which reflects the bringing together of the three statutory agencies involved in specialist child abuse investigation and the common aim, which is to enhance the recovery and care of those affected by child abuse.

The team offers a 24 hour urgent medical service for acute abuse cases, and carries out nursing and social work assessments for alleged physical or sexual abuse or neglect. If you are concerned for a child or young person who you feel may be at risk, please seek medical treatment as soon as possible, or contact CYFS on 0508 FAMILY (0508 326 459).

Flu time Jab folks:

Just a timely reminder it is Flu jab time and in most of our cases this is free for you, ask your Doctor, we need you well and so do your grandchildren.



ALERT:

Keep your credit cards safe: Boys in Auckland aged 9-11 are sneaking and using the card numbers online to purchase music or games, they are sharing these numbers with mates, who swap them for their caregiver's card numbers at school or via SKYPE.

KidzaCool Adventures Holiday Programme Dates for 2013 Camps



Quality support and respite for foster/kin/whānau carers.

Our KidzaCool Adventures programme gives children the opportunity to play and relax in a fun, safe and sociable environment while foster/kin/whānau carers work, relax or catch up with friends and family.

We like to think we offer foster/kin/whānau carers peace of mind while offering children, aged 5-12, a piece of the action!! The programme is a free service for caregivers. Apply NOW!

It is advisable to get in early. Please note that GRG Trust are your referring Agency.

Whangarei - Maunu Children's Health Camp, Phone 09 437 9050 ; 22 - 26 July

Auckland - Pakuranga Children's Health Camp, Phone 09 534 4017 22 - 26 July

Rotorua - Te Puna Whaiora ki Rotorua, Phone 07 345 9097 22 - 26 July

Gisborne - Te Kainga Whaiora Children's Village, Phone 06 867 5614 22 - 26 July

Otaki - Otaki Children's Health Camp, Phone 06 364 8069 22 - 26 July

Christchurch - Te Puna Whaiaora ki Christchurch, Phone 03 332 2541 22 - 26 July

Roxburgh - Roxburgh Children's Health Camp, Phone 03 446 8119 22 - 26 July



[Give A Little](#) For GRG.

Press Release by New Zealand Government at 5:52PM, 16 Apr 2013

Justice Minister Judith Collins says the Legal Assistance (Sustainability) Amendment Bill, which passed its second reading in Parliament today, is another step towards a fairer and more sustainable legal aid system.

“This Bill reinforces access to justice. It strikes the best balance between ensuring the financial viability of the legal aid system, and ensuring the most vulnerable people in society are protected.

“The types of cases people can get legal aid for are not changing, and neither are income and asset test thresholds. The current financial means test for criminal legal aid is also unchanged,” Ms Collins says.

Original proposals in the Bill – as introduced to Parliament in August 2011 – included limiting eligibility for legal aid, the reintroduction of user charges for some family and civil legal aid cases, and charging immediate interest on legal aid debts.

In October 2012, the Government referred a supplementary order paper (SOP) on the Legal Assistance (Sustainability) Amendment Bill to the Justice and Electoral Select Committee for further consideration. The SOP proposed changes to the Bill to align it with the benefits of the Family Court reforms, and provide a better balance between the needs of legally aided people and ensuring access to justice services.

Ms Collins says the select committee accepted the changes which will help ensure a fair, effective and sustainable legal aid system.

The main changes included the SOP and accepted by the select committee are:

- reducing the proposed user charge for civil and family cases from \$100 to \$50.
- changing the point at which legal aid debts will begin accruing interest. Interest will now be imposed six months after the total debt is finalised, rather than immediately.
- removing the proposal to tighten the financial means test for less serious criminal cases, such as theft, assault or careless driving.
- keeping the existing approval frameworks for lawyers who can provide lawyer for the child and youth advocate services, rather than creating new criteria and standards.
- retaining the list of types of proceedings eligible for legal aid in the Legal Services Act 2011. This means changes to the list must be made by Parliament, rather than the Executive.
- allowing applications for civil legal aid to be refused if the applicant is in arrears for repayments on previous legal aid grants, unless the interests of justice require otherwise.

Additional proposals added to the Bill by the select committee are:

- allowing legal aid providers to apply for review or reconsideration of decisions to decline payment of invoices which were claimed outside the approved timeframe.
- allowing overdue repayments on legal aid debt to be recovered through notices deducting payments from wages, benefits or bank accounts.

"I'd like to thank all those who submitted on the Bill and the Justice and Electoral Committee for its hard work.

"We now have a Bill that makes the savings needed to ensure a sustainable legal aid system, while achieving the right balance for vulnerable people who need access to legal assistance," Ms Collins says.

The Legal Assistance (Sustainability) Amendment Bill will pass through the remaining Parliamentary stages over the coming weeks. ENDS

Our Wonderful GRG Co-ordinators at Training in Wellington, they came from Dargaville right down to Invercargill:



Fabulous, fabulous people who all raise or have raised their grandchildren.

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 ONLY Services Nationwide
Toll free line 0800 472 637 (Caregivers only please)

Members support Manager: Di Vivian New members and general information ext. 1
Auckland callers/free callers 09 480 6530

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) Monday to Friday 9am – 4pm.**

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

To Contact a formal Support Group coordinator in your area

Locality	Name	Phone	E-mail Address
Ashburton **	Jude Suddens	03 307 2147	jude.brian@clear.net.nz
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
Christchurch /South**	Sharyn Parker	03 342 5528	davesharyn.parker@xtra.co.nz
Coromandel*	Keitha Jenkins	07 866 8273	northbrook@slingshot.co.nz
Dargaville *	Barbara Sterling	09 439 4555	ladybee@orcon.net.nz
Dunedin **	Catherine Butson	03 489 2942	cmbutson@ihug.co.nz
Gisborne ** (NEW)	Jo Gregory	06 868 7056	j.gregory@xtra.co.nz
Hamilton **	Kerry Batten	07 560 0291	kebatten@gmail.com
Huntly **	Lodi Liebert	07 828 6123	lodevika@hotmail.com

Invercargill **	Lynette Nielsen	03 216 0411	jhandli@clear.net.nz
Levin*	Ann Waddell	06 362 7269	ann.hen@xtra.co.nz
Napier ** (NEW)	Michele Lark	06 842 2656	larkmichele16@gmail.com
Nelson **	Paula Eggers	03 544 5714	paulaegggers2000@yahoo.com.au
Otago * Est/Nth	Aad & Leonie	03 465 1764	omaandopa@xtra.co.nz
Palmerston North**	Martha Taonui-Andrews	06 356 6929	marthataonuians@xtra.co.nz
Porirua Wellington**	Lise Maru	04 477 9445	lise.maru@clear.net.nz
Rotorua **	Rawinia 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
Taupo **	Viv Needham	07 386 8033	viv.maree@gmail.com
Tauranga **	Maureen Murphy-Boyd	07 570 0175	murphy.boyd@xtra.co.nz
Te Hiku Northland*	Koha Mehana	09 408 3788	
Te Kuiti **	Patsy Roach	07 878 6704	roachp@waikatodhb.health.nz
Thames **	Sonja Senior	07 868 4846	chchapple@xtra.co.nz
Upper Hutt **	Margaret Pearson	04 976 9475	maggiemagpie@paradise.net.nz
Wairarapa **	Tere Lenihan	06 379 5407	terel@swscc.org.nz
Wanganui **	Cherryl Smith	06 344 1278	cherryl@teatawhai.maori.nz
Wellington **	Cecilee Donovan	04 477 0632	cecileed@gmail.com
Whakatane/Kawerau**	Shirley Faulkner	07 322 8524	shirleyfaulkner@xtra.co.nz
Whangarei **	Janet Puriri	09 435 0044	jpuriri@ihug.co.nz

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.

Disclaimer: Any article, services offered may not have an endorsement from Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ, discretion is advised.

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

Happy GRANDmother's day

Picked just for you!

