



NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2014

DATABASE: 5798 WHANAU CARERS

TENA KOUTOU, TALOFA LAVA, KIA ORANA, FAKAALOFA LAHI ATU, MALO E LELEI, BULA VINAKA, TALOHA NI, KAM NA MAURI, GREETINGS TO ALL!

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ Mitre 10 Community of the Year



NO, NO, NO

It cannot be Christmas month! Surely?

IMPORTANT DATES

Extra ordinary Care Fund opens January 19th 2015. Take completed applications to W & I, you will need an appointment. Only UCB / Orphans Benefit clients can apply.

Applications open:	Notification date:
19 Jan - 27 Feb 2015	3 Apr 2015
18 May - 26 June 2015	31 Jul 2015
21 Sep - 30 Oct 2015	04 Dec 2015

Applying for a grant

You'll need to call Work & Income on **0800 559 009** to make an appointment and bring the completed form and supporting material into one of our service centres.

<http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/individuals/brochures/extraordinary-care-fund.html>

If you don't have internet access or can't print out the form, come in and see us or call on **0800 559 009** and we'll post one to you.

You can apply each funding round but you can only receive one grant for each child each financial year (1 July – 30 June).

Please refer back to examples of this sent previously to you by GRG Trust.



School Year Start up fund: Now accepting online applications ONLY.

From next year (between 12 January 2015 and 28 February 2015) clients **will only** be able to apply for the School and Year Start Up Payment online.

- The application form will be on the Work and Income website from 12 January, clients do not need a MyAccount or RealMe to complete the application, and will be able to apply without needing to come into a Ministry service centre (W & I).
- If clients do not have internet access they can come into a service centre to use a kiosk to apply online. If they require support to complete the application, staff will help them to do this.

<http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/documents/forms/school-and-year-start-up-payment-form.pdf>

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IMPORTANT DATES

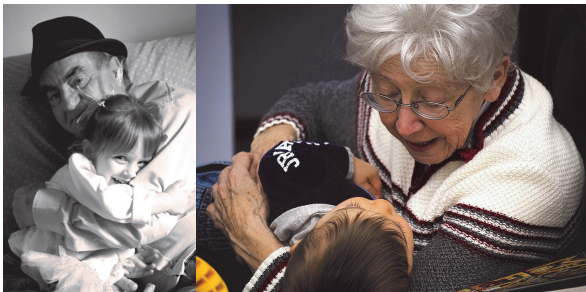
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Establishment Grant new changes:

From 1 December, the Establishment Grant will be automatically paid when the client's OB or UCB is granted.

The Establishment Grant will be paid directly into the client's bank account within 3 days of the OB/UCB being granted.

THE HARD STUFF



We are often asked and hear the angst and tears from our callers when they have to rationalise that the child they gave birth to, raised and loved is not able or capable of caring for her/his children (the grandchildren)

Some advice we give is: The parent is an adult in their own right, they have a voice and a choice, the grandchildren do not have a voice, nor a choice, so you (the grandparent/s) must be that voice and make the right choice for the precious ones.

Another little saying that has come about over the years in this role: Caring for these sometimes troubled children and indeed the family dynamics that arise from this situation is sometimes like standing on a moving mat, sometimes plain flying and other times hanging on with knuckles white as it swings from side to side.

SISTERLY LOVE

My husband and I bring up our grand-daughter, she has a lot of challenges in life. She is 8 years old, super strong, can't talk but can understand everything, still in pull-ups, very high empathy [emotional], and has many other issues.

Mum lives down the road with her brother, 3 years old.

Neither fathers are in the picture with any support, what so ever.

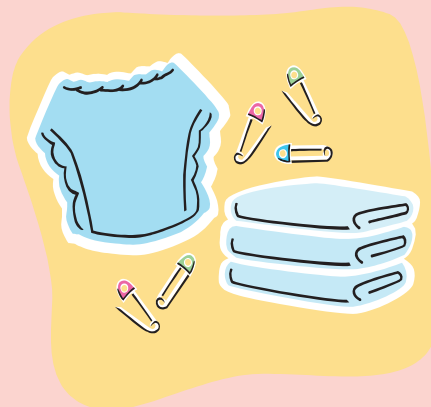
When her brother hurts himself, she would run to console him, [screaming herself], put her arms around him, or should I say his neck and lift him up! 'SEE OMA RUN..!!'

His feet dangling in a neck hold!

I have tried to teach her to go under the arms, which was all good, BUT, I am sure I almost heard the ribs crack.

Not as bad now, but always keeping my eyes and ears always on ALERT!

NOTE: If you have children 4 years still in nappies, contact hospital board, in continence nurse, and see if they can help. We found them really helpful, and it made it a big financial difference!



We are a White Ribbon Family against violence to our children and family! God Bless Everyone!!

CREPE PAPER DECORATIONS: CHRISTMAS' PAST

As a child growing up we just simply could not wait for the day when we got home from school to find our Mother had put up the hand-made decorations in the kitchen. Bright colourful ribbons of crepe paper danced across the kitchen ceiling. Twisted some and criss-cross folded others. In each corner hung a Christmas bell, they were flat and when you opened them up and clipped the clip, they presented as a most pretty bell. The Christmas tree of course was a real pine and took pride of place in the lounge. They even hung colourful lights outside the house. Not like the little ones you see today, these were the real McCoy, a full sized coloured light bulb. Christmas eve all the Aunts and Uncles would come over, Blackberry Nip, Sherry and Pims come to mind, I suppose the men had a beer, being a female child I was only interested in the Ladies (my Aunts) who were beautiful and teetered ever so carefully upon very, very high stilettos, and boy could they talk! We watched in awe.

The children all played outside until dark and then we were allowed in to have brief visits with them all. How old was I then, perhaps 8, my, that was 60 years ago, I wonder does anyone put up decorations in their kitchen today?

I remember all my Aunts and Uncles all fondly today and sadly most have passed away. Being 5 children in our family Mum and Dad could never afford very much but she was a wonderful knitter and sewer, I remember with delight my very first 'stiff petticoat' it could stand on the floor all by itself. She had also made a polished cotton dress to go over it. I was over the moon; this was made even more delightful as my Aunt Gladys had bought my sister and me a spray bottle of perfume. Wow something bought from an actual shop instead of being homemade and all these years later I can still remember its name "Electric".

We carry on this tradition and our grandchildren make those same decorations from crepe paper folding and twisting, no thumb tacks today we are up with the play with blue tack. To see the look of joy on the grandchildren's faces is a delight, because they created the decorations. The Christmas tree is now replaced with a fake job 6 foot in height and each and every year it has different decorations added to it, all made by the various grandchildren. I smile as I see decorations made by them with their name and age in childish writing, as some are now in their 20's, but still the younger ones still keep adding. Happy Christmas to all.



MEMBERS NEEDING TO CONTACT OUR FIELD OFFICERS?



Due to the heavy workload for these amazing ladies and the need for us to be accountable for funding for their wages this contact is now a referral service only via Di, 0800 472 637 ext 1, or Kelly ext 2 referral will be noted on your membership data base that you have been referred, this way it makes it so much easier for us to be accountable. And with the full list of all contacts on our answer phone too many people were getting confused as to who they needed to talk to. F/O were getting calls that did not belong under their contract or job description. Once referred, you will be given the 0800 number to phone.

Cell phones cannot be connected to the 0800 number we simply cannot afford that, so landline only. Thanks for your understanding.

TOILET ROLLS

Can you relate with this? Why is it that the grandies and 'others' who live in our home are incapable of replacing the toilet roll or even put the cardboard end roll in the bin? We have a stand which holds 3 rolls and they cannot even fill that. I had, had enough, no longer was I going to pick up those empty rolls, nor stack the stand. Empty cardboard rolls lay forlorn on the floor; I delicately stepped over them, feeling guilty. I watched with interest and the stack of new rolls slowly disappeared. But 'murphy's law' being just that, desperate to go I had to reluctantly replace one roll. Then a couple of days later I hear the call, "Nan can you get me some toilet paper I am doing a poo" called the 6 year old. Darn I muttered under my breath, as I passed him 1 roll and deliberately kicked the empty rolls on the floor and said 'goodness look at all these empty ones' he looked the other way. OK needed to think more about this. So, I googled uses for empty toilet rolls.

Guess who are fighting over these rolls now! And Nan is happy, great craft making for a wet day.



They all 3 have their own stashes of the empty rolls now, and I can toilet in comfort knowing there is always a roll ready to use, although it is a little unnerving to have them waiting outside the bathroom door calling, are you finished yet, and it is not because they want to use the toilet!

CHANGES TO GRG CO'S

Sharyn Parker is no longer a Christchurch Support Group Coordinator for GRG. We have started the process of appointing a new Support Group Coordinator but in the meantime Veronica Brunt will look after members in the area. Please feel free to contact Veronica on (03) 942 5935 on any matters relating to GRG. You can also contact Di on 0800 472 637 ext 1. We remain committed to providing the best service possible to our members in the Christchurch area.

Maureen Murphy Boyd of Tauranga has resigned due to a new relocation to another area, we are in the process of enlisting a new Coordinator. Michelle Lark has also resigned as Co for the Napier area and for the time being Nola Adams will take over this role until a new Co is appointed. She is contactable on 06 845 3141.

We would also like to welcome the following:

Tokoroa - Jo Gregory

Phone 027 862 5538, email jaygee933@gmail.com

Te Kuiti - Kay Higgins

Phone 07 878 5053, email palmdrive@xtra.co.nz

Whanganui - Jenny Morton

Phone 027 443 7780, email jaydeez@clear.net.nz



SO WHY DO I NEED TO BE A MEMBER OF GRG?

CAN I BECOME A MEMBER?

Only if you are a grandparent or kin carer raising grand or kin children **full time** and live in NZ.

HOW DO I BECOME A MEMBER?

You can phone the Member Support Manager on Toll free 0800 472 637 ext 1.

OR: Go to our website www.grg.org.nz and complete the details under the 'join now' button.

As a member you will receive a welcome pack containing our handbook and other information, and an on-going monthly newsletter, plus GRG DVD's on raising children who have suffered trauma or had a difficult start in life.

Other interested parties can request to receive our amazing newsletters and they do, but they will not be entered as a member and will **not** be entitled to any benefits we may offer. Also a reminder please if you are no longer raising grandchildren you need to be removed from our database as a member, although you can request to still get newsletters if you so desire. We must keep our members list pristine as these numbers currently raising families are used in lobbying Government. We archive members who are no longer raising for various reasons. IE children moved to independence/returned to parents etc. Our archived list is also a very rich source of history.

Also remember to join us there is no cost. We do not pass your details on to a 3rd party unless you agree and this will **ONLY** go to your local support Coordinator for GRG. All of our Coordinators, Board members and Staff have signed confidentiality agreements with the Trust and have been Police checked.

The Trust are working extremely hard for you all, we are at present revamping our web site for you all which we are excited about and it should be easy to navigate. The Trust Board, have recently been through Capacity and Strategic planning and a lot of this work you will see contained within the new web site, we in our role of raising these children are all on a journey and at different stages in this journey, that will be reflected in our road map with strategies for each stage of this journey. So no matter where you are on this road there will be something for you all now and into the future. And I must say here, one could not wish for more AMAZING travelling companions.

And just so you know we send out nearly 2000 snail mail newsletters per month, the rest get their newsletters by email.

AGENCIES

You can refer clients on to us via our 'join now' on our web page site, please ensure one has permission to do this as one would expect, please do not contact our coordinators direct this is something that does have to be done through the National office or members support manager, this way we have proper checks and balances, thanks. By joining this way this creates a chain effect, resources sent out, local Co notified, newsletter and DVD's sent. Or if you are a CYF Social Worker you can use the Partnered Response Referral form.

LOVE IS

My then 8 year old “grand” said to me, “I will never leave you Nana. I will push you around in a wheel chair when you are old, (as you can imagine I’m already old so I don’t know what she thinks “old” really is) and I will even chew your food”.

Now that’s love.



ON THE LIGHTER SIDE



The first shock of retirement is when you realise you don’t get a day off.



*Made faces in the mirror as a child?
Middle age is when the mirror gets even.*

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD MEMBERS

Kate, Des, Judith, Debbie, Jo-Anne & Di, we wish staff, volunteers and members a very happy Christmas, safe holidays and a wonderful summer. Enjoy, be safe and take care of yourselves.

The GRG Office will be closed from 23 December 2pm until 12 January 2015.

Di of course is still contactable on 09 480 6530 or 0800 472637 Ext 1 with the exception of Christmas Day.





Give a Little for GRG
<http://www.givealittle.co.nz/org/grg>



Anti-bullying



0800 456 450

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

Landline users only.

Auckland callers (09) 480 6530

Email office@grg.org.nz

Office Manager: Kelly Vivian

09 418 3753, email office2@grg.org.nz

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

www.raisinggrandchildren.org.nz

Email: office@grg.org.nz

Post: PO Box 34 892 Birkenhead, Auckland 0742

Office: Suite 4, 17 Rawene Rd

Birkenhead. Auckland 0626 (Ground floor)

GRG Trust Head Office hours are 9am – 2pm daily.

We are respectful, we listen, we learn *He rōpū manaaki, he rōpū whakarongo, he rōpū ako mātou*

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

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.

(We raise grandchildren too)

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

CYFs – 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.

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, or want to update your details, please contact Kelly at the Trust Office on 09 418 3753 or email Kelly@grg.org.nz 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

SUPPORT GROUP CONTACT NUMBERS

Locality	Name	Phone	E-mail Address
Ashburton **	Ruth Balantyne	027 833 9535	ruthallison@hotmail.co.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
Auckland Mangere East **	Teresa Van Kuylenburg	09 974 2388	teresa.mangere.grg@gmail.com
Auckland Papakura/Pukekohe**	Delphina Galvin	0275 053 808	delphinagalvin@live.com
Canterbury **	Veronica Brunt	03 942 5935	r.v.brunt@paradise.net.nz
Dannevirke**	Malcolm Johnson		
Dargaville **	Katy Edmonds	09 439 8395	kedmonds@orcon.net.nz
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Gisborne **	Molly Pardoe	06 867 8463	mollypardoe@xtra.co.nz
Hamilton **	Kerry Batten	07 560 0291	Kerry.hamiltongrg@gmail.com
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Kaitiaki *	Dianah Roberts	09 408 3489	molmolismum@gmail.com
Kerikeri *	Martha Taonui-Andrews	027 266 2653	marthataonuians@xtra.co.nz
Levin *	Ann Waddell	06 362 7269	ann.hen@xtra.co.nz
Napier **	Nola Adams (temp)	06 845 3141	laceforme@hotmail.com
Nelson **	Paula Eggers	03 544 5714	paulaeggers2000@yahoo.com.au
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Porirua Wellington **	Lise Maru	04 477 9445	lise.maru@clear.net.nz
Rotorua **	Sheree McKenzie	020 402 22910	rotoruagrg@gmail.com
Taumarunui **	Ruth Sandiford Phelan	027 757 8097	ruthsp@email.com
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