



NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2015

DATABASE: 6105 WHANAU CARERS

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

From the National Office

GRG Awareness & Appeal Week 27 October to 2 November 2015

This is our opportunity be loud and proud and GRAND and to raise awareness and appreciation of the amazing jobs GRGs do raising some of our most vulnerable children and why you need better support..

Tune in to Good Morning on Wednesday 28 October- when Di Vivian and David White will be speaking about GRG. David White is a new GRG Board member raising a grandchild too.

Many Libraries around the country are supporting GRG week. We will be posting information as it is confirmed closer to the date on what is happening locally on our website in the Events section. If you have any ideas for raising awareness please email Kate@grg.org.nz



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Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
Awareness & Appeal Week
27 October to 2 November 2015

Reminder: Hope your applications for Extraordinary Care fund are all done? Closes 30th October. Please see the last GRG newsletter.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Winner



Heralding GRG Successes

- ◆ 1999 Founded
- ◆ 2001 Became a registered not-for-profit charitable trust
- ◆ 2002 Production of GRG handbook
- ◆ 2005 First GRG research done in NZ
- ◆ 2007 Worked with MSD on 'Help for Kinship Carers brochure'
- ◆ 2009 2nd GRG research completed
- ◆ 2009 Achieved parity with basic foster care rate (took 9 years of battle) for the UCB
- ◆ 2009 1st GRG Caregiver Training Conference
- ◆ 2009 Employment of 4 Field Officers part-time
- ◆ 2010 Respite Care Camps for GRG's 'KidsAcool' consultation
- ◆ 2011 Development of SALT GRG training sessions nationwide (ongoing)
- ◆ 2011 2nd GRG Caregiver Training Conference
- ◆ 2012 GRG Submission on the MSD White Paper on Vulnerable Children
- ◆ 2012 Employment of Outreach worker (Auckland only)
- ◆ 2012 Outcome of Green Paper on Vulnerable Children results in extra \$ for GRG's
- ◆ 2013 3rd GRG Caregiver Training Conference
- ◆ 2013 Won NZ'er of Year for Mitre 10 Community category
- ◆ 2013 GRG on Ministerial Reference Panel to decide use of extra \$\$ from Green Paper
- ◆ 2014 GRG appear before Select Committee arguing for parity with foster carers for clothing allowances
- ◆ 2014 GRG on Ministerial Panel for Extraordinary Care fund applications
- ◆ 2014 School Year Start-Up payments/UCB begin
- ◆ 2014 Extraordinary Care Fund/UCB begin
- ◆ 2014 Establishment Grant upon getting UCB begins
- ◆ 2014 Employment of GRG Office Manager
- ◆ 2015 Clothing Allowances Bill passes into law providing UCB recipients parity with Foster Carers (start date 2018)
- ◆ 2015 Employment of Business Development (Funding) & Communications Manager
- ◆ 2015 Presented to the Expert Review Panel reviewing CYF
- ◆ 2015 GRG's Awareness week begins 27th October
- ◆ 2016 GRG members training summit 4th (work in progress)



Fathers Day

We often wonder what the children we raise think about their situation once older, this below is what was written on a card for Pop by our 21 year old grandson.

"Dearest Pop, You've given me so many opportunities, support and guidance that I would never have had without you taking me in. I am forever grateful for everything you've done for me. Thanks for being the best Pop/Dad ever"

Says it all really, don't you agree.

WOW

My grandson had to have special hearing aids which wasn't covered by the DHB, so the RTLb (resource teacher for learning and behaviour) applied for the \$5000 to be covered by the Ministry of Education and it was approved. He gets his hearing aids on Wednesday. All I did was mention it to her at school and she did the rest.

KidzaCool Camps

Confirmed weeks are for respite care camps. It is advisable to book your children in now or early November as they close down over the Christmas period. www.standforchildren.org.nz
18-22 January 2016, and then 25-29 April 2016

Why KidzaCool Adventures? Quality support and respite for foster/kin/whanau carers.



Our KidzaCool Adventures programme gives children the opportunity to play and relax in a fun, safe and sociable environment while foster/kin/whanau carers work, relax or catch up with friends and family. We like to think we offer foster/kin/whanau carers peace of mind while offering children, aged 5-12, a piece of the action!! The programme is a free service for caregivers. Register NOW!

KidzaCool Adventures Holiday Programme

Northern Office, Phone 09 437 9050

Auckland Office, Phone 09 534 4017

Midland Office, Phone 07 345 9097

East Coast Office, Phone 06 867 5614

Central Office, Phone 06 364 8069

Christchurch Office, Phone 03 332 2541

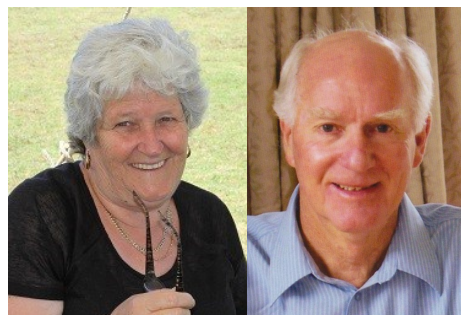
Southern Office, Phone 03 446 8119

- Please phone for registration forms or you can download from their web site.

GRG appoints two new Board Members

We warmly welcome to our happy team Sharon Richardson and David White.

Sharon has been a long time member of GRG and is thrilled to contribute her skills and experience to GRG. Sharon's experience includes fostering children for 30 years, running a day care for 40 years and she is also a respite carer for Child Youth and Family caregivers. Sharon loves volunteer work and also visits local rest homes for Age Concern and the Salvation Army. Married to Gary since 1968, they are raising a grandchild together. Sharon is also a fabulous cook and loves to share her baking with the elderly in care.



David and his wife Pam became grandparents raising grandchildren one morning in 2009 when he collected them from their schools and told them their mother had died. Like too many others, becoming the children's full-time caregivers was an enormous hurdle, and for a time, felt like an impossible one. A stabilising influence was a call to Di Vivian and joining GRG. Knowing they weren't alone, and that there are others who were already walking down this path gave them the confidence to continue raising a new generation. Having accepted help from others, David got to the point of then being able to help others in turn.

Over the last five years, his main drive has been to campaign against the family violence that took his daughter's life, which has included speaking to many groups and organisations from primary school children on showing respect to each other, to prison inmates on a better way to live. David also spends a lot of time helping others through the Court system, guiding them through depositions and writing Victim Impact Statements, or just holding their hand through the emotional turmoil. He has taken his experience to Parliament and made submissions to Select Committee Hearings on many aspects that have affected them and where improvements can be made, including the call for children in grandparent care to receive the same clothing allowance as available to children in foster care.

David and Pam were married in 1966 and have ten grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Teach Your Toddler

Every time you try to get something done around the house -- dinner, laundry, sweeping or just generally tidying -- your toddler is there, trying to get in on the action. Toddlers love being helpful, but sometimes their eagerness to get involved with whatever you are attempting to accomplish ends up being an adorable hindrance.

Two-year-olds love to copy those around them, which is why they are so interested mimicking their parents as they work around the household. They've also reached several developmental milestones and now have the gross and fine motor skills, not to mention the verbal and cognitive skills, necessary to take on new tasks.



Moreover, allowing toddlers to help with chores teaches them self-sufficiency and can build self-esteem. As children get older, having chores built into their normal routine will give them a sense of responsibility, sets expectations, and teaches them that the family operates as a unit.

Before you try to dissuade your toddler from "helping" around the house simply because you can get the work done more efficiently, try to choose a few chores that they can easily assist with and that may end up actually being (kind of) helpful! Here are five to get you and your toddler started.

1. Take Off and Put Away Shoes and Outerwear

Teach your toddler how to take off and put away shoes, mittens, hats, gloves and coats. Make the landing spot for outerwear easy -- hooks by the door that are low enough for your toddler to reach, a cubby or a simple basket should be sufficient. Your toddler will quickly get the hang of this and save you the time of having to do it for him.



2. Unload the Dishwasher

Obviously, you need be careful of sharp and breakable items, but for an older toddler that is steady on her feet, helping to unload the dishwasher is doable. Start by having her put away spoons, forks, spatulas and other safe utensils. Or, move her kid dinnerware -- like plastic plates and sippy cups -- to a low cabinet where she can easily stow them. Remember, everything may not be sorted and stacked to your specifications, but as long as it's functional, that's OK.

3. Feed Pets

If your dog or cat eats dry food, there's no reason why your toddler can't start learning how to take care of the family pet. You'll need a measuring cup or some kind of container that ensures you're toddler won't over feed your furry friend, but scooping up food and dumping it out into a bowl is definitely a toddler-friendly chore.

4. Sort the Laundry

Laundry -- possibly the most-hated, seemingly never-ending household chore. Enlist your eager toddler's help with this dreaded task. Your toddler can help sort out her clothing, put those items

in her special laundry basket, and deliver them to her room. It may not be much, but when it comes to laundry, most of us will take what we can get.

4. Water Plants in the Garden

Toddlers love water, so why not let him help in the garden? All you need is a small watering can (make sure it's not too heavy) and a few tutorials on not overwatering. After a few tries, he'll get the hang of it.

There are plenty of other small chores that toddlers can help with -- sweeping, dusting, wiping down furniture, setting and clearing dishes. Take time to teach them how to execute the task and try not to get frustrated. You may just end up taking something off your own plate.



Source. About.com

The Love of a Grandchild

He is now 22 and lives in a 1 bedroomed flat below our home which has internal access to where we live. Recently Poppy had been having a spate of diabetic seizures which required the calling of an ambulance or two. Thankfully these have abated and he is back on an even keel.

For the last 3 weeks I have been having severe headaches which come on whilst I sleep, now these are cry material. I was in the kitchen with an iced flannel pressing against my head, moaning in pain, but I also had pain in my chest and I could feel my heart pounding. I thought I was having a stroke. The pain was so debilitating I was hunched over the bench and did not hear him. He took one look at me and said; "I am taking you to hospital" He woke Pop to stay with me while he brought the car to the front door, loaded me in and held my hand all the way to hospital. Got a wheelchair and popped me in and dealt with all the paperwork. Wheeled me down to the ED department and stayed with me all night, even though he had work in the

morning.

Thank goodness after a night and day stay in hospital attached to all manner of machines it was not a stroke. But it appears what I am having is cluster headaches, which come in repeated cycles hitting the eye, temple and top of nose. So I am off to see a neurologist. My heart was border line ok, some rhythmic thing happening.



What I did discover in our time together in ED is that every night after we are tucked up in bed he comes upstairs to check that we are OK. Now that is love.

Oh and on another note which sort of made me chuckle, a young Doctor, who looked all of 17, came to examine me and when he had finished his words were, "well you are past your reproductive years and are getting older" So I guess in his eyes it is all over for me cause I can no longer have babies, so therefore no good to anyone!

Nan D*

Grand's reflections...

My 11 Year Old Writes

I'd like to share this letter I got today from my 11 year old granddaughter. I got up in the morning and walked out to the hallway and found this note on the floor outside my bedroom. It's made all the struggles we've gone through so worthwhile and is confirmation to me that I must be doing something right! I've copied the letter with spelling mistakes included.

Regards, Barbara

NANA - When I think of you Nana I think

Kind, Caring, Confident, Unique, Fun,
Loving and Embarising

But thats only because your not afraid to get up at a show and Dance.

Your not afraid to wear a cowgirl hat that you just got at a two dollar shop around the streets.

You may be embarising but all of your kindness makes it all dissappear.

You took me in when nobody els did.

You loved me and looked after me when my parents couldn't.

Your like my Gardian ANGLE!

And although sometimes we just want a break from each other,

We are now a real family

And I admire you and love you and are thankful for everything YOU DO! LOVE (Grand daughter's name) xxx



Cute

One grandson asked me what we were having for dinner - because we were a bit short of meat I told him we would have scrambled eggs. He said "I HATE scrambled eggs Granma, I only like the one where the eggs are all bunched up together".

Granma P

Rainy Days

With the continuous wet weather it has been hard keeping Miss 3 and Miss 4 busy being stuck indoors. But one of our favourite things to do is baking - especially banana cake which reuses the old bananas and doesn't use large quantities of ingredients and is quite simple to do and they love smashing the bananas! Other ideas to keep them busy - 2 torches and a dark room, kitchen band using pots and wooden spoons (if you can handle the noise), and dress up (I buy interesting, sparkly, colourful clothes and jewellery from the op shops which go in a dress up box for them). Sometimes TV, books and colouring in gets a bit "boring" as they have done it all the time. I'd be interested in anyone else's ideas for rainy days???

Nan Louise

Congratulations Tanya

Tanya was at Hamilton for UNISS (Upper North Island Senior Schools) Tournament.

In 2013 she gained her Zone Theory for umpiring Netball, then she went on her Rotary Youth Exchange to Denmark. Having returned home in January 2015 she then set her mind to playing netball. Tanya would often arrive at the courts ready for the juniors start games at 9 am ready to umpire the younger teams as a warm up for the seniors. As there were three rounds Tanya would often umpire the first or last round and play the middle round.

While at UNISS Tanya was assessed by four senior Umpires and gained her Zone Practical Badge.



Can we help you?

Members ONLY services are available nationwide
Caregivers Toll free helpline
0800 GRANDS (0800 472 637)
For landline caregivers only please
New members and general information please dial ext. 1

Members' Support Manager:

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

GRG Trust NZ
PO Box 34892
Birkenhead
Auckland 0746

Suite 4 (Ground floor)
Rawene Chambers
15 Rawene Rd
Birkenhead Auckland 0626

Office Manager:
Kelly Vivian 09 418 3753
Email office2@grg.org.nz or
kelly@grg.org.nz

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter or you have changed address please update your details by contacting Kelly at the Trust Office as this is where the total mail out membership is kept.
Moved home or planning to? Be sure to let us know.

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

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

Ka kite Ka Whangaia ka tupu, ka puawai - That which is nurtured, blossoms and grows

We are respectful, we listen, we learn

He rōpū manaaki, he rōpū whakarongo, he rōpū ako mātou

Please pass this on to other grandparents/kin carers you know.

GRG Trust Head Office hours are 9am – 2pm daily. (We raise grandchildren too)

We are a Charitable Trust



[Anti-bullying](#)



0800 456 450



Give a Little for GRG

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

www.powertoprotect.net.nz



SUPPORT GROUP CONTACT NUMBERS

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Auckland North **	Bonnie Williams	09 473 9055	willingclan@xtra.co.nz
Auckland South **	Virginia Peebles	09 277 7514	
Auckland West **	Debbie Hall	09 818 7828	debron@xtra.co.nz
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	06 3740407	
Dargaville **	Sandy Zimmer	09 439 4420	sandy.zimmer@hotmail.com
Gisborne **	Molly Pardoe	06 867 8463	mollypardoe@xtra.co.nz
Hamilton **	Kerry Batten	07 560 0291	Kebatten@gmail.com
Invercargill **	Lynette Nielsen	03 216 0411	jhandli2@xtra.co.nz
Kaikohe*	Moengaroa Floyed	027 644 0978	floyedz@xtra.co.nz
Kaitaia *	Dianah Roberts	09 408 3489	
Kerikeri *	Martha Taonui-Andrews	0272662653	marthataonuians@xtra.co.nz
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Napier **	Maria Noanoa	06 870 3742	puatai@xtra.co.nz
Nelson **	Paula Eggers	03 544 5714	paulaeggers2000@yahoo.com.au
Otago Est/Nth *	Aad & Leonie	03 465 1764	omaandopa@xtra.co.nz
Palmerston North*	Martha Taonui-Andrews	0272662653	marthataonuians@xtra.co.nz
Papamoa *	Rawinia Macredie	07 562 2850	jnmacredie@kinect.co.nz
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
Taupo *	Viv Needham	07 378 1811	viv.maree@gmail.com
Tauranga	Karen Ormsby	07 579 3571	jewelzs@hotmail.com
Te Kuiti **	Kay Higgins	027 430 2939	palmdrive@xtra.co.nz
Tokoroa *	Jo Gregory	027 862 5538	tokoroagrg@gmail.com
Upper Hutt **	Margaret Pearson	04 976 9475	maggiemaggpie@paradise.net.nz
Wairarapa **	Tere Lenihan	06 379 5407	terel@swscc.org.nz
Wanganui **	Jenny Morton	027 443 7780	jaydeez@clear.net.nz
Wellington **	Cecilee Donovan	04 477 0632	cecileed@gmail.com
Whakatane **	Shirley Faulkner	07 308 8524	shirleyfaulkner@xtra.co.nz
Whangarei **	Janet Puriri	09 435 0044	

For the most up to date contact details please go to our website www.grg.org.nz

If you are a grandparent or whanau caregiver and need a referral to one of our Field Officers please call 0800 GRANDS (0800 472 637) or if you are in Auckland please call 09 480 6530