



Newsletter April 2013



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

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

Data base: 5325 Whanau Carers.



Your Voices:

Who is a clever boy then:

We have a clever little 4 1/2 year old Adrian, He wanted a fizzy drink the other day and Nana said no, you can have a juice no he didn't want that so he went out to the fridge in the garage where the cold drinks are including beer and wine got a ginger beer just as well he knows the difference, he couldn't open the screw top so he went over to the neighbours who is busy doing up an old run down house it

was a hot day and said to Steve, the neighbour "boy its hot do you want to share a drink with me? " So Steve being none the wiser said 'ok Adrian' cheers and they enjoyed a nice cold one together. Now is that clever or not? You have to have a laugh. Steve called out to me later on and said," Thanks for the ginger beer it was just what I needed.

Nana Lorna.

Ted and I are raising 3 grandchildren...a 4 1/2 yr. girl & 3 yr. twin boys...the boys just love going for a ride on



the truck with granddad & every time he even looks like he's going somewhere they pipe up with "where you going?" or "we coming truck?"....the other day when he was heading out he got the usual "where you going?" from one of the boys, to which this time he replied "I'm going mad"...the little fella promptly turned and ran up to the bedroom and called to his brother "c'mon, c'mon, we're going mad!"

Nan J

God is always listening - When my grandchildren came to live with me permanently I started a mealtime ritual where we said Grace. I started first to give the children an idea about what to say. Basically I

thanked God for the food we had to eat and to please help bring food and safe drinking water to hungry children all over the world. From that point the children took turns at saying Grace and I've let them say what they want. Now their Grace includes many things after their basic thanks for food and their caring words for hungry children all over the world. I chuckle as I am often mentioned when they ask God to please help Nana's itchy head go away, to please help Nana grow more hair and to please get the cat to come in at night to sleep on Nana's bed to keep her company. One evening after asking God to get the cat to come in to be with Nana on her bed, they looked in my bedroom and saw the cat on my bed. They yelled out to me to come and have a look and said 'Look Nana! Look what God did!' Unfortunately I'm still waiting for my hair to grow back thick and shiny, but he got the cat to come inside didn't he?



Nana Barbara

My young grandson Regan participated in the Weetbix, Triathlon recently..... 100 meters swim, 4 kms bike ride (on his far too small bike) and then 1.5 km run..... I was so proud of him an amazing achievement.....no tears, no dramas, just went "hard" lost his adult supporters and so took himself to the lost kids tent and gave them my cell phone no..... found in a jiffy..... 8 years old...(just..) Love, Light, and abundance be always with and around you.... beautiful people



Valentines:

Christmas was just out of the way and young Master 8 declares that Valentine's day is next on the list of celebrations and would I please buy him a box of chocolates. On inquiring who they were for.... he tells me his girlfriend who goes to same school and Karate with him.... Closer to the day he tells me that his Aunty has bought the chocolates for him..... On the evening before Valentine's Day he chooses a card to make and proceeds to draw hearts on the front and to write the following message inside: "I have a crush on you. I've been looking for you "and he signs his name. I find some cerise ribbon I have saved and wrap it around the box and tie a bow.... he collects embellishment material from his room and proceeds to cover the ribbon with shiny hearts and some bigger hearts for the box. "I need a bag to carry it in..." he announces... off he goes into the bedroom and searches for one saved from Christmas time.... In goes the box and card and he commanders two of the heart shortbreads I have baked for the teachers at his school.....Neither of us know the girl's name.... she is one of a set of twins.... who have always been friendly towards Regan and he played soccer with them when he was 5 and 6. She is one year older. We arrive at school and go to a year 5 & 6 teacher that we are familiar with and ask if she has the twins in her class....have to describe them as of course we don't know their names..... I get a surname and information that they are in two different classes..... Approached teacher No 2 who we are also familiar with and get the names and Master 8 decides to give it to the sister to give to the "right" one. Out we go and sister is right there so now we know that is not the one so go into next class and chat with the 3rd teacher brand new to the school and ask where the lucky girl's desk is..... Master 8 dutifully asks if he may put his gift on her desk and off he goes and places it... Feat accomplished... Walking back to his class we come upon the recipient and she and my child exchange coy glances and greetings... as she passes he tells her he has left something on her desk for her. The gift was received with Grace and we met up with her and her

mother and twin at Karate today and all was well..... I explained that it was a real gift from his heart.... To watch the care and love that went into the preparation and execution of this task was amazing and I could see that it was a gift from his heart and indeed his soul.... It gave me and the rest of this child's family great joy to support and receive feedback for him.... His mummy died in a house fire when he was 3 and I am a single grandparent raising him with help from my daughter and her partner who live in the same street as us..... Bodes well for his future as a sensitive caring man that I trust he will grow into....

Nan

Our Grandchildren:



Ann Tahitahi sends us a picture of her grandson Zak (kneeling on right) in this picture he has just finished a 3 month course that the army made them all do. They had to come to Devonport's Philomel base to complete the course and here he is with other soldiers receiving their tickets...very proud of him. *Wow Zak!*

Grand-dad writes: Isaiah (pictured here with James Franklin) won, through ANZ, the opportunity to coin toss for the Black Caps v England cricket match on Saturday 9th February.

Way to go Isaiah!



Teenagers:

(tearing my hair out here) Now these grand's are 19 & 21, you would think they know better but NO. For years and years I have asked them to clean their rooms, bring down their washing and no food in rooms. Needless to say it did not happen, so we compromised that every week-end they would clean rooms etc. Time moved on and nothing happened, in the end I just gave up, figuring if you run out of clothes, towels etc. well just too bad. I had noticed we were running very short of cups, glasses, bowls, and cutlery from the kitchen. Over the Uni holiday's one took off to Australia for a month. I looked at that bedroom door shut for about 3 weeks and then decided to enter that room, (den of the unknown) expecting goodness knows what, and do a special clean as a surprise. What assaulted my eyes was unbelievable, not an inch of the carpet was visible! First step was to pick up all clothing and towels, bedding and throw into hall way for washing. Everything else was then placed upon bed. Finally I could see carpet and do the vacuuming. The bed was piled high, with all manner of items, mostly rubbish, empty coke bottles, cans, which filled the recycle bin!



Paperwork/mail for goodness knows what, was deposited into one draw. All electrical, and computer bits were placed in another draw. In all the draws there was not ONE item of clothing, instead they contained many bowls, glasses, cups and cutlery. With varying bits of rotten food and dregs of goodness knows

what! All pens, coins were placed in a jar, the rubbish IE. Plastic bags, tags, receipts from newly bought clothing etc. filled a clean sack. So that's what they do, don't wash it just buy more clothing!

The dust upon furniture was thick, and required 3 goes to get it all cleaned up. Washing machine had three loads to get it all done. Once dry and folded it was now placed in draws or hung up in wardrobe. On the up side there was not one bit of drug paraphernalia or anything untoward. So one supposes one can count blessings.

He is due back in a couple of weeks, what do you think my chances are of it staying clean! NIL, I suspect. As for the **females** room that door remains firmly SHUT! That tells a story in itself! And we still have a lack of kitchen goods! *Nanny**

Gisborne New Co-ordinator: Hi my name is Jo Gregory and I have been appointed as the GRG Coordinator for the Tairāwhiti area. I am solo mum of 4 children aged 22, 21, 18 and 3. My 3 year old lives with me and I am raising my grandson who is also 3 years old. I grew up in Gisborne attending Mangapapa Primary School, St Mary's then Lytton High School.

I am Early Childhood trained and have been working in the field for about 20 years with the last 8 years managing a homebased childcare service. I am at present studying a Bachelor of Applied Social Sciences at EIT in Gisborne. I have a passion for children and what to make a difference in there worlds.

Meeting for Grandparents raising Grandchildren Gisborne support group

Monday 25 March from 9.30am Council Chamber Rooms

To find the chamber rooms you go in the front door of Council and go straight down the corridor in front of you – Council Chambers are at the end of the corridor and clearly marked.

We will discuss how and what we want this group to look like at this meeting

Please show your support for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren!



GRG Winner of the Community of the Year

Toyota is providing 25 national charities that get the most Votes in its *25 Ways to Say Thanks* challenge with the use of a Corolla for three years. Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (GRG) is part of this challenge for the first time ... currently we are well short of being in the top 25! **We need your help. You do need to be a Facebook user to cast a vote; if this is you then please do vote and help us make GRG visible, and take their place with other major causes in NZ!**

Just follow these easy steps to vote:

- Go to: <http://on.fb.me/WQliSn>

- Log into your Facebook account to vote.
- Wait one moment while the page 'scrolls over' to Grandparents Raising Grandchildren.
- Then click on the red "Vote Now" box.
- Click on "Go to App" tab when prompted.
- A "Thanks for your vote" box will pop up. It will also ask if you want to ask your friends to vote.

Please click on the red "OK" tab so that your friends can support us as well.

Should you get stuck just search the charities in the campaign for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, then click on our name to cast your vote. GRG provides a wide range of services in local communities to grandparents raising grandchildren on a full time basis. We have over 5,200 members spread from Kaitia to Invercargill. We are trying to win a Corolla so we can travel into the communities in which our members live. We intend to have our 0800 helpline number and web address on the car if we win, so we can also reach the many 'invisible carers' who don't know we're here to help.

Please share our link with your Facebook Friends and anyone who would like to support GRG's Toyota Challenge campaign! Thank you so much for supporting us, and for promoting the campaign in your networks.
Geoff

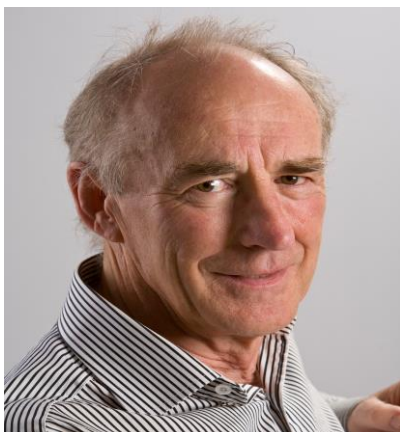
TRUST NEWS:

If you missed the recent media on Campbell Live and Newstalk ZB got to our web site www.grg.org.nz and there are links to the 3 media articles. Main page on your right.



And YES we were the winners of the Mitre 10 Community of the Year 2013. We were judged by our peers and this was the result, Proud, you bet ya! Look out for a special pack just for you on this.

Two new Board members appointed:



Des Brennan has enjoyed a wide-ranging business career in leadership and strategic roles. These have been with prominent New Zealand organisations. These include New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, Yachting New Zealand, Montana Wines, Fletcher Building, Television New Zealand, and Anchor Foods (New Zealand Dairy Company). He has served on the boards of Netball New Zealand, The New Zealand Way, as well as several trade organisations. He currently is a director of the New Zealand Recreational Association. He was admitted to the New Zealand Marketing Hall of Fame in 2007.

He has a BSc in Chemistry from Victoria, and an MBA (with distinction) from Massey University. He is a member of the Institute of Directors.



Judith McKay is the General Manager Finance and Estates for AUT University where she has responsibility for the Finance and Property portfolios.

In her career prior to joining AUT, Judith was Finance and Administration Manager for the Union Shipping Group of companies, company accountant for a number of manufacturing companies, an auditor at Price Waterhouse and a Cobol programmer.

Judith is a Chartered Accountant and a member of the Institute of Directors. She has been married to Ross for 43 years, has two adult daughters and three young grand-daughters

The Board are delighted to welcome both Des and Judith and Des and look forward to working with them.

Trust News:

Recently the Board submitted a paper to the Law reform Bill and we asked to be heard by the committee:

We spoke on the reform bill, and told them how it is, quoted research etc, did not falter once, there was a gallery of people and several followed me out and said it was the best verbal submission they had heard all day.

I explained the stresses grandparents were already under raising damaged children via sexual/physical abuse/ special needs children and traumatised children. I told them the 'parents of these children did not thank us for taking their children in and for an elderly person with all these stresses to have to confront and self-represent against their kith and kin and indeed gang members in some cases was unreasonable, and would very probably put a number of them in the ground! I also talked about the poverty level for these caregivers. To front up with \$600 was a big ask. One asked, "well then why go and get parenting orders and guardianship? My answer was direct: To keep the children safe to prevent 'parents' taking them back into dangerous/unsafe conditions/ to protect the children. Because most only want them back so they can get their benefit again. It is not about the children, it is about having \$\$\$ for their drugs etc. *Di*

Nationwide:

My name is Marilyn Weir and I am an early childhood teacher at Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu, The Correspondence School. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce our service to you. We provide a free quality early childhood programme based on The National Early Childhood Curriculum Framework, Te Whāriki. We work with, and are funded by the Ministry of Education. Our teachers are trained and registered and work in partnership with families, whānau and caregivers to plan a programme of learning that suits each child.

As part of the programme we provide resources and learning materials that you would find in a face to face early childhood service, such as; books, CD's, DVD's, art materials, manipulative equipment such as puzzles and construction equipment, science equipment, games and information leaflets about children's development with ideas of activities to complete at home. Many of our resources (art materials, puzzles, games and CD's we produce ourselves) are non-returnable and can be kept by families.

You may have families and whānau who may be interested in our free programme for their young children, and come within our enrolment criteria.

The enrolment criteria is:

- Children who live more than 6 km from a licensed early childhood centre.

Children may attend a licensed centre such as kindergarten, Playcentre or private centre for a maximum of 8 hours per week and still be eligible for our programme if the distance criteria is met. (Playgroups are at times not licensed, so children attending these groups are eligible for our programme providing they meet the distance or are referred by the Ministry of Education criteria below).

- Children with special educational needs.

- Children with high health needs or a child who has a sibling or caregiver with high health needs preventing their attendance at a licensed and/or chartered early childhood service.

- Special circumstances which prevent attendance at a local early childhood centre, or the service is only open for one or two sessions a week.

- A child referred by the Ministry of Education at its discretion as part of the Ministry's programme to increase participation in early childhood education. The Ministry of Education is the referral agency and all referrals must be signed off by a Ministry Early Childhood Manager, or their delegate in the area families live. <http://www.minedu.govt.nz/Parents/AllAges/PFWNews/Target-communities.aspx>

If you would like any more information, please contact me on the number below or email me. Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu Email: Marilyn.Weir@tekura.school.nz; toll free 0800 659 988 extension 8439

Jenny.Hayes@tekura.school.nz toll free 0800 659 988 extension 8699

Virginia.Simmonds@tekura.school.nz toll free 0800 659 988 extension 8475

Nationwide:

Are there children you're caring for who miss out on the basics? Variety's Kiwi Kid Sponsorship programme could be part of the answer to help to level the playing field for them.

We're excited to be approving worthy applications within just a few days and matching them with sponsors. This means we're able to fund some basic unmet needs for disadvantaged children very quickly. With your help the children you know could have access to funding now for basic items such as clothing (including uniforms), school camps, sports subscriptions, bedding, stationery, prescriptions and doctor's visits.

Please don't delay, we have more sponsors who are ready to step forward and help children on first come first served basis. 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.](#)

Kind regards, Chloe

Chloé Boyes | Grant Liaison Co-ordinator

Variety – The Children's Charity - *Brighter futures for Kiwi kids*

DDI (09) 522 3741 | www.variety.org.nz | 290 Great South Road | PO Box 17276 | Greenlane | Auckland 1546

*Ko ngā tamariki o ēnei rā hei rangatira mō āpōpō
The children of today are the leaders of tomorrow.*



Take care of our children

Take care of what they hear

Take care of what they see

Take care of what they feel

For how the children grow

So will be the shape of Aotearoa.....

Na Dame Whina Cooper

Te taonga o toku ngakau (The greatest treasure of my heart) Ko taku mokopuna e (Is my little grandchild)

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) 9am-4pm Mon-Fri

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
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 /North**	Jan Farquhar	03 313 6487	farlaw@xtra.co.nz
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
Kaikohe **	Nellie Karena	09 405 3057	karenanellie@yahoo.com
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	paulaeggers2000@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 **	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
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

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

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

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.