



## Newsletter February 2013

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



**Data base: 5273 Whanau Carers.**

**From the National Office:**

Happy Birthday Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ, we are 14 years old.

WOW!



### **Your voices:**

#### **Double Role:**

Attended Grandson's end of year "Grandparents day (we raise him too) He gave us a card with these words written in:

"Nan, I wonder. Pop, I wonder.

Where do you keep your wings, are they hanging in the closet, with the rest of your things. Do you put them away and just use them at night? I know you have wings, for this must be true, cause God always gives them to Angels just like you.

#### **Wise words:**

Today when all the screaming starts, arguments break out, laundry piles up and the bills follow. You start to wonder where Mum and/or Dad are and exactly why you are here. You think of all the things you missed and all the things you have sacrificed. You realize this was not your choice. Think about this. Out of all the people in this world God picked you to parent again. Out of all the places you could have went he has chosen for you to be here for these children. If you really think about it you will realize not



only have you made a difference in their lives they made a difference in yours. They have taught you, patience, brought you smiles and given you purpose. Together you have faced disappointment and loss and have decided to be there for each other. Together you have been heroes in a battle no one signed up for.

### **Living with young adult grandchildren:**

Uni. has finished and we find ourselves living opposite lives to our grandchildren.

Us: up at 6am. Them: up at 3pm.

Us: Bed by 8.30. Them: up all night.

The other night as I headed off to bed I could hear a strange male voice coming from granddaughters room, Mmm, did not hear anyone come into house, turns out she was talking to a male friend on SKYPE, things are not as they seem that's for sure.



### **From one of our grandparents!**

I may not be rich but my Grandchildren are my jewels.

#### **Other words of wisdom:**

You catch more flies with honey than vinegar.

#### **Bubbles:**

1 1/3 cups of very hot water: 1 ¼ Tbsp glycerine: ¾ Tbsp soap flakes: ½ Tbsp sugar & food colouring:

Pour hot water into a pint jar. Add soap flakes and let dissolve. Add glycerine, sugar and a few drops of food colouring.

Shake until everything is dissolved. Strain thru cheesecloth and let cool. Do not use until all the small bubbles have settled down. Have fun, but do not let the children drink, supervise them.

#### **Finger Paints:**

1 cup cold water: ½ cup talcum powder: 1 cup soap flakes: 7 cups boiling water: 1 cup laundry starch: food colouring.

Mix cold ingredients into a paste. Slowly stir in the boiling water. Cook mixture for 5 minutes or so or until it is thick and glossy. Pour into small jars. Add ½ teaspoon of food colouring to each jar. Shake well and store in covered containers.

### **Wish for a smile:**

The Wish For A Smile Trust is a public health initiative of the New Zealand Association of Orthodontists (NZAO). The Trust aims to make specialist orthodontic treatment available to young New Zealanders who would otherwise be unable to access orthodontic care.



Wish For A Smile orthodontists are full NZAO members and registered orthodontic specialists. Participating orthodontists have undertaken to treat selected children within their community who are unable to access orthodontic care because of financial hardship.

The Wish For A Smile programme is only available in those areas serviced by participating members of the NZAO.

Orthodontic treatment can make a huge difference to a child through increased self-esteem and an optimistic future outlook. Unlike standard dental care, orthodontics is not free for young people in New Zealand.

**Applications to the Wish For A Smile Trust are based on:**

- Dental need based on the severity of the orthodontic problem ([Clinical Assessment Form](#) to be completed by a dental professional)
- Demonstration of family financial hardship (as per the [Patient Application Form](#))
- Age of the patient (must be aged between 11 and 18 at the time of application)
- Applicants must reside in a community serviced by a participating Wish for a Smile Orthodontist
- Willingness on the part of the child to have, and care for, orthodontic appliances
- Commitment from extended family/Whanau to contribute towards the cost of treatment
- **A willingness and commitment from the applicant to perform 20 hours of community work during the course of the orthodontic treatment**

The Wish For A Smile Trust board meets in February, June and October to consider applications.

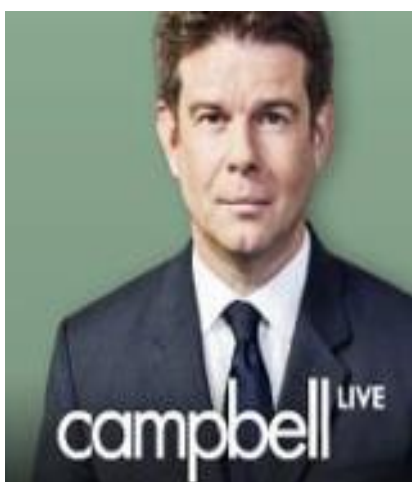
If you have any questions, please check our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page, or [contact us](#). <http://www.orthodontists.org.nz/wishforasmile>

- **In regard to:** A willingness and commitment from the applicant to perform 20 hours of community work during the course of the orthodontic treatment. We were at a loss to understand this particular requirement so we asked the Wish for a Smile Board. After speaking to them we are most satisfied with the rationale behind this, it is the pay it forward scenario. You receive and then give back. This is at their discretion and if challenges are there they may waiver this.

**GRG Tool box DVD:**



The Parenting place ask please if you can get those evaluation forms back to them now!



### GRG Trust NZ Featured in a fantastic media article:

Campbell Live 23 January TV#. If you missed it here is the link to it.

Thank you to our wonderful grandparents who featured, we are indebted to you.

<http://www.3news.co.nz/Embracing-parenting-a-second-time-around/tabid/367/articleID/284157/Default.aspx>

### White Paper Survey Results as at December 11<sup>th</sup> 2012 (Final)

To date we have received 237 responses to our electronic Survey Monkey survey and 394 responses from our Mail Survey totalling 631.

Sadly 125 snail mail ones were invalid. Yes we know you want all benefits but that was not the question.

In regards to 'other' suggestions there have emerged some very valid comments: Leading this lot were:

- |   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| • Free school bus /train travel (Very valid)      | * Orthodontic work assistance |
| • Assistance with petrol cost for parental visits | * Optimist's assistance       |
| • Assistance with costs for power                 | * More /some respite care     |
| • Computer grant (needed for homework)            | * Food allowance (Allergies)  |
| • Assistance with after school care/pre school    | * Food grants                 |

### In regard to "other" above:

**Respite Care:** Your grandchildren aged 5-12 are able to access this through KidsaCool camps, which we advertise in these newsletters.

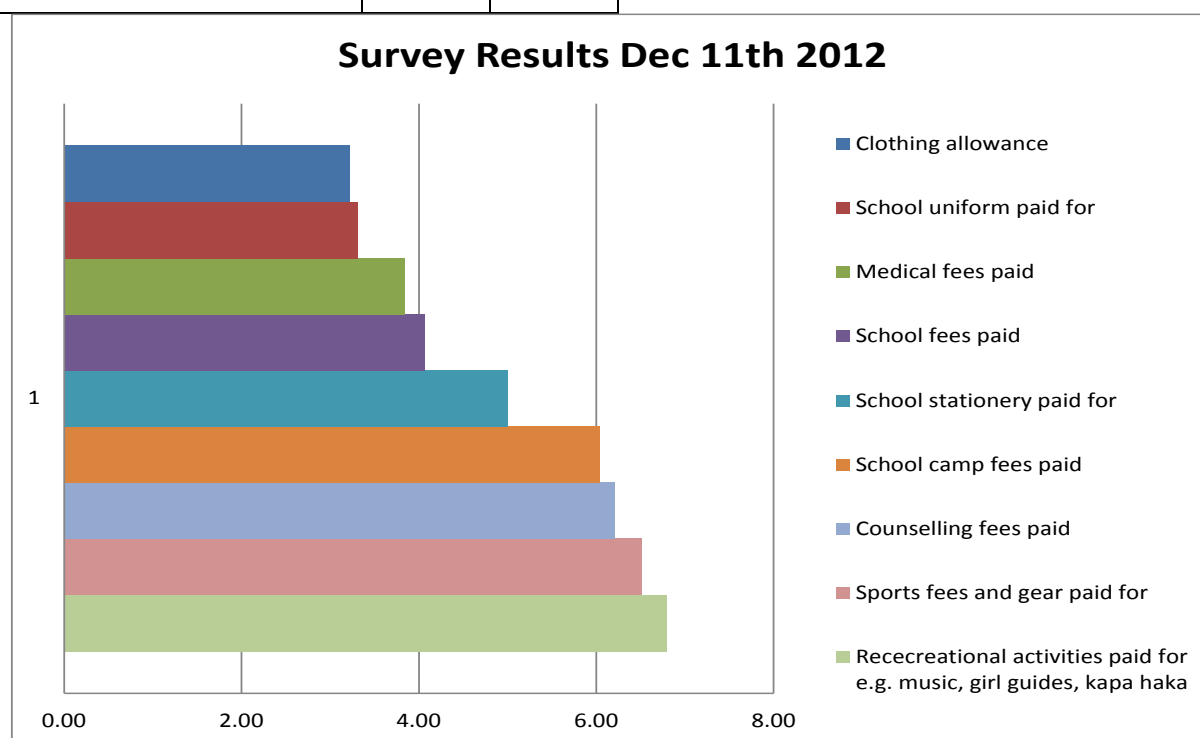
**Pre/After School assistance:** Check out OSCAR subsidy through Work & Income.

**Orthodontic:** See article above, but we are aware that they cannot help everyone, therefore this is very valid and featured the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest need on the 'other' list.

**Food Parcels:** You may be able to get a grant for these from Work & Income, actual parcels from the Salvation Army and some Churches.

Final results rated are as follows with the **lowest score equalling the most important**.

Item	Score	Rank
Clothing allowance	3.23	1st
School uniform paid for	3.31	2nd
Medical fees paid	3.84	3rd
School fees paid	4.06	4th
School stationery paid for	5.00	5th
School camp fees paid	6.05	6th
Counselling fees paid	6.21	7th
Sports fees and gear paid for	6.51	8th
Recreational activities paid for e.g. music, girl guides, kapa haka	6.79	9th



## **FINALISTS ANNOUNCED - KIWIBANK NEW ZEALANDER OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2013**

Once again, congratulations **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ**– we are thrilled to advise you have been named as a **Finalist** in the **Mitre 10 Community of the Year** Category of the Kiwibank New Zealander of the Year Awards 2013. This is a significant achievement and follows a selection from hundreds of nominations and many difficult deliberations by our judges. The winner of each category of a \$5000

cash prize and bespoke trophy as well as the title, will be revealed only at the Gala Awards event at the Langham Hotel on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February and I will be forwarding information separately regarding attending this and inviting your family, friends and supporters.

As mentioned earlier, there is a lot of media interest in the Awards recipients and you may be contacted by the media wishing further information in regard to publicising the Finalists. Please do let me know if you have an issue with this and we can facilitate. I will be putting together a short video production and biography which will be used to introduce you at the Awards Gala and in the printed programme. We will review the imagery we have on file next week and be in touch should we require anything further and to sign off on the content.

The Finalists will be announced publicly tomorrow via a nationwide press released and also posted on our website.

For your reference please see the full list below (in no particular order):

<b>NAME</b>	<b>CATEGORY</b>
Assil Russell	COCA COLA AMATIL YOUNG NEW ZEALANDER OF THE YEAR
Sophie Pascoe	COCA COLA AMATIL YOUNG NEW ZEALANDER OF THE YEAR
Sam Judd	COCA COLA AMATIL YOUNG NEW ZEALANDER OF THE YEAR
Marcia Read	COUNTDOWN SENIOR NEW ZEALANDER OF THE YEAR
Ian Grant	COUNTDOWN SENIOR NEW ZEALANDER OF THE YEAR
Dorothy Hopkins	COUNTDOWN SENIOR NEW ZEALANDER OF THE YEAR
Scott Gilmour	Kiwibank Local Heroes
Heemi (Jim) Morunga	Kiwibank Local Heroes
Jade Temepara	Kiwibank Local Heroes
Bill Buckley	Kiwibank New Zealander of the Year
Swee T Tan	Kiwibank New Zealander of the Year
Dame Anne Salmond	Kiwibank New Zealander of the Year
<b>Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ</b>	
Uawa - Tolaga Bay	Mitre 10 Community of the Year
Hawea Community Association Inc	Mitre 10 Community of the Year

Once again CONGRATULATIONS and we are very excited to welcome you to the very prestigious Awards family of Finalists and look forward to corresponding with you in the lead up to the Awards Gala. The winners will be announced at the Gala night only on 28<sup>th</sup> February.

*We are GRG Trust are highly delighted that we have met this high prestigious stage and know that this is a salute to all of you who have stepped in for you precious moko/kin children.*



**From the USA:** As the new year began, we at the National Committee of Grandparents for Children's Rights USA said good-bye to a long-time friend and advocate, [Miss Patti Page](#).

You may know her as the woman who sang, "[Tennessee Waltz](#)" and "[\(How Much Is\) That Doggie in the Window](#)," but Patti, the Grammy Award-winning recording artist, was also a grandparent who, fifteen years ago, took custody of her two granddaughters because their mother had drug

problems.

Her passion for children didn't stop at home. Patti was a long-standing spokesperson for our organization and for grandparents and kinship caregivers everywhere. She performed at several NCGCR functions, including her signature event that benefited NCGCR, "Hold Up for Charity." Sharing her own personal experiences, she participated and testified at our First International Conference of Grandparent and Kinship Caregivers at the United Nations in 2007.

**We mourn the loss of our good friend, and we know that her music and passion for children will never cease to inspire.**

*I met Miss Patti Page at the first International GRG conference in New York in 2007 and what a wonderful lady, so gracious. RIP. Di*

### **Free Caregiver Courses: Feb-April**

Assistance may be available for travel and childcare expenses. Registrations are now open on our website by going to

:<http://schedule.fosteringkids.net/schedule.php>

or by completing the registration form and returning it to:

Post: PO Box 30-188, Lower Hutt 5040. Attention Christine

Fax: 04 5660295

Email: [caregivertraining@fosteringkids.org.nz](mailto:caregivertraining@fosteringkids.org.nz) Or phone your registration to: 0800 693 323, ask for Christine

Date	Location	Trainer	Duration
<b>Child Development</b>			
Exploring the importance of early brain development, recognising 'normal' milestones in order to respond to developmental deficits and acting as an advocate...			
13-Feb-13	Dunedin	Barbara McElligott	9am-3.30pm
5-Mar-13	Levin	Mary August	9am-3.30pm
9-Apr-13	Invercargill	Barbara McElligott	9am-3.30pm
<b>Attachment and Resilience</b>			



Identifying types of attachment, developing secure attachments and building resilience...			
21-Feb-13	Timaru	Gillian Lynch	9am-3.30pm
5-Mar-13	Christchurch	Nick Williamson	9am-3.30pm
13-Mar-13	New Plymouth	Mary August	9am-3.30pm
14-Mar-13	Wanganui	Mary August	9am-3.30pm
9-Apr-13	Grey Lynn	Dallas Pickering	9am-3.30pm
<b>Understanding and Managing Behaviour</b> Recognising the impact of beliefs on behaviours, encouraging desirable behaviours, responding to unwanted behaviours...			
21-Mar-13	Gore	Barbara McElligott	9am-3.30pm
17-Apr-13	Taupo	Lynne Matthews	9am-3.30pm
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b> Discussing basic nutrition, hygiene & childhood illness and identifying factors that may indicate a mental health disorder...			
28-Mar-13	Christchurch	Nick Williamson	9am-3.30pm
<b>Safety and Prevention</b> Identifying risky situations, exploring actions to keep yourselves safe and record keeping...			
12-Mar-13	Rotorua	Lynne Matthews	9am-3.30pm
<b>Maltreatment and Family Violence</b> Recognising indicators of maltreatment and family violence, dealing with a disclosure of abuse and addressing effects of maltreatment and family violence...			
26-Feb-13	Balclutha	Barbara McElligott	9am-3.30pm
6-Mar-13	Whangarei	Gaylene Lawrence	9am-3.30pm
17-Apr-13	Waitakere	Dallas Pickering	9am-3.30pm
<b>Identity and Belonging</b> Helping a child feel they belong in both a 'new culture' and their birth family, Exploring the impact of grief & loss and saying goodbye...			
26-Feb-13	Porirua	Mary August	9am-3.30pm
27-Feb-13	Waitakere	Dallas Pickering	9am-3.30pm
28-Feb-13	Ashburton	Nick Williamson	9am-3.30pm
27-Mar-13	Hamilton	Lynne Matthews	9am-3.30pm
8-Apr-13	Blenheim	Andeana Pilalis	9am-3.30pm
<b>Legal Issues</b> Exploring the laws covering children in care, discussing how children come into care and the impact of these laws in relation to Guardianship & Custody, Home for Life and Family Group Conferences...			
21-Feb-13	Grey Lynn	Sandy McPhee	9am-3.30pm
21-Feb-13	Nelson	Nick Williamson	9am-3.30pm
27-Feb-13	Whakatane	Lynne Matthews	9am-3.30pm



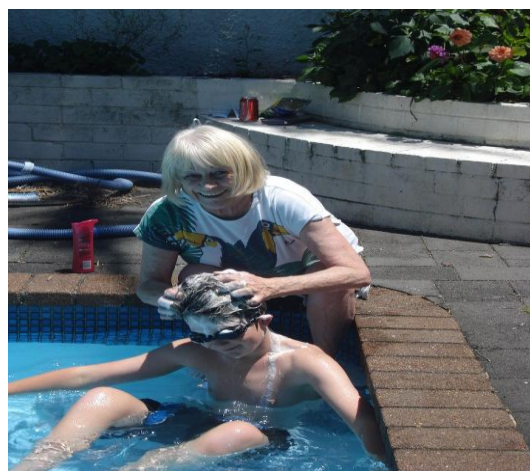
7-Mar-13	Kaikohe	Dallas Pickering	9am-3.30pm
6-Apr-13	Manurewa	Dallas Pickering	9am-3.30pm
9-Apr-13	Palmerston North	Gaylene Lawrence	9am-3.30pm
<b>Team Work</b> Identifying the care team and each member's role, building an ideal team, solving problems and exploring communications styles...			
13-Feb-13	Christchurch	Nick Williamson	9am-3.30pm
<b>Carer Families</b> Exploring your rights, responsibilities & skills, recognising impacts on your family, responding to stress and developing a personal learning plan...			
13-Feb-13	Tauranga	Lynne Matthews	9am-3.30pm
26-Feb-13	North Shore	Dallas Pickering	9am-3.30pm
20-Mar-13	Paeroa	Lynne Matthews	9am-3.30pm
26-Mar-13	Gisborne	Gaylene Lawrence	9am-3.30pm

### Children Struggling with their Homework:

We have found a site recommended by my little one's teacher [www.anyquestions.co.nz](http://www.anyquestions.co.nz) that helps with homework. You can chat to a real librarian who is at a library. So if you are not able to get out to the library to look up the reference materials, the child can 'chat' to the librarian. This is bona fide and safe, check it out. The teacher/librarian is only there between 1 and 6pm, have a look. You need to check this out yourself first. Don't just rely on my word. But it will save you a trip to the library. *Liz D.*

### Tip of the Day

- Always keep several get well cards on the mantle...so if unexpected guests arrive, they'll think you've been sick and unable to clean (I like this one)
- Wrap Celery in tinfoil and keep in fridge, it will stay fresh and crunchy.



Di and Grandson.

**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**

**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 11am - 5pm week days

**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**

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 Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Groups: All welcome.**

**Locality, Name, Phone, E-mail Address.**

Ashburton\*\* Jude Suddens 03 3072147 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 debbron@xtra.co.nz

Mangere East \* Teresa Van Kuylenburg 09 974 2388 teresa.mangere@grg.gmail.com

Christchurch/North\*\* Jan Farquhar 03 313 6487 [bunnies2@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bunnies2@xtra.co.nz)  
 Christchurch/ South\*\* Sharyn Parker 03 342 5528 [davesharyn.parker@xtra.co.nz](mailto:davesharyn.parker@xtra.co.nz)  
 Coromandel\* Keitha Jenkins 07 866 8273 [northbrook@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:northbrook@slingshot.co.nz)  
 Dargaville \* Barbara Sterling 09 439 4555 [ladybee@orcon.co.nz](mailto:ladybee@orcon.co.nz)  
 Dunedin\*\* Catherine Butson 03 489 2942 [cmbutson@ihug.co.nz](mailto:cmbutson@ihug.co.nz)  
 Hamilton\*\* Kerry Batten 07 560 0291 [kebatten@gmail.com](mailto:kebatten@gmail.com)  
 Huntly \*\* Lodi Liebert 07 828 6123 [lodevika@hotmail.com](mailto:lodevika@hotmail.com)  
 Invercargill \*\* Lynette Neilsen 03 216 [0411jhandli@clear.net.nz](mailto:0411jhandli@clear.net.nz)  
 Kaikohe\* Nellie Karena 09 405 3057 [karenanellie@yahoo.com](mailto:karenanellie@yahoo.com) (on leave)  
 Levin\* Ann Waddell 06 362 7269 [ann.hen@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ann.hen@xtra.co.nz)  
 Napier \*\* Phone Nola 06 845 3141 (temp)  
 Nelson \*\* Paula Eggers 03 545 6118 [paulaeggers2000@yahoo.com.au](mailto:paulaeggers2000@yahoo.com.au)  
 Otago \* Est/Nth Aad & Leonie 03 465 1764 [omaandopa@xtra.co.nz](mailto:omaandopa@xtra.co.nz)  
 Palmerston North \*\* Martha Taonui-Andrews 06 356 6929 email  
[marthataonuians@xtra.co.nz](mailto:marthataonuians@xtra.co.nz)  
 Rotorua \*\* Win Macredie 07 345 5003 [winmacredie@xtra.co.nz](mailto:winmacredie@xtra.co.nz)  
 Rotorua \*\* Cyril Anderson 07 347 8163 [judycyril@xtra.co.nz](mailto:judycyril@xtra.co.nz)  
 Taumarunui\*\* Ruth Sandiford Phelan 07 896 7297 [ruthsp@email.com](mailto:ruthsp@email.com)  
 Taupo\*\* Viv Neeham 07 07 386 8033 [viv.maree@gmail.com](mailto:viv.maree@gmail.com)  
 Tauranga\*\* Maureen Murphy Boyd 07 570 0175 [murphy.boyd@xtra.co.nz](mailto:murphy.boyd@xtra.co.nz) (NEW)  
 Te Kuiti \* Patsy Roach 07 878 6704 [roachp@waikatodhb.health.nz](mailto:roachp@waikatodhb.health.nz)  
 Te Hiku Northland\* Koha Mehana 09 408 3788  
 Thames\*\* Sonja Senior 07 868 4846 [chchapple@xtra.co.nz](mailto:chchapple@xtra.co.nz)  
 Upper Hutt \*\* Margaret Pearson 04 976 9475 [maggiemagpie@paradise.net.nz](mailto:maggiemagpie@paradise.net.nz)  
 Wairarapa \*\* Tere Lenihan 06 378 6041 [terelenihan@clear.net.nz](mailto:terelenihan@clear.net.nz)  
 Whanganui \*\* Cheryl Smith 06 344 1278 [cherryl@teatawhai.maori.nz](mailto:cherryl@teatawhai.maori.nz)  
 Wellington \*\* Cecilee Donovan 04 477 0632 [cecileed@gmail.com](mailto:cecileed@gmail.com)  
 Whakatane \*\* Shirley Faulkner 07 322 8524 [shirleyfaulkner@xtra.co.nz](mailto:shirleyfaulkner@xtra.co.nz)  
 Whangarei \*\* Janet Puriri 09 435 0044 [jpuriri@ihug.co.nz](mailto: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 8.30am – 2pm daily. (We raise grandchildren too)  
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 We are a voluntary not-for-profit organisation.  
 All donations to the GRG Trust are tax deductible.

[www.grg.org.nz](http://www.grg.org.nz) or [www.kin.org.nz](http://www.kin.org.nz) or [www.raisinggrandchildren.org.nz](http://www.raisinggrandchildren.org.nz) Email  
[office@grg.org.nz](mailto: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