



NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2015

DATABASE: 5885 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



FROM THE NATIONAL OFFICE

Mid Life Crisis:

In your 40's I am told, you can expect to go through some sort of emotional roller-coaster with moments of contemplating your life, and moments of taking stock.

Considering if you are possibly halfway started or half way finished!

What I did not expect was for my "mid-life crisis" to come on the heels of an earthquake and in the form of a new born baby!

I had just started a full time job after years of raising my family and packing 'my baby' off to school. I was looking forward to being a grandmother and all the lovely doting times that lay ahead. I had even begun to plan, chocolate biscuits before sending the wee one home after visiting with granny and noisy toys to drive parents crazy!

Even though it was earlier in life and unexpected we were looking forward to being grandparents rather than parents.

However, the earth was not the only thing that got shaken that year! Our lives were turned upside down in so many ways and one of them was that we became responsible through a series of tragic events for our granddaughter. We had to fight CYFS and it was 6 months before we got her back into our hands full time. It took its toll on the entire family, but we battled on and pulled together, as we always do, and in the end after a lot of prayer and fight we won.



So, at 45 now I have finally returned to part time work, our two youngest have settled in middle school and our wee Miss will start school this year. Well, my "mid-life crisis" was as promised, an emotional roller-coaster and it has not been easy to return to the parenting role without feeling cheated of being a grandparent.

We have 3 more grandchildren now, so that gives me some more granny opportunities.

I will be honest with you, some days are better than others and we don't always have the energy for a pre-schooler, but we try, and we accept that this too, just like shakes and crisis will pass and life is becoming easier, day by day.

Sometimes I feel silly saying I am a grandparent, but now I embrace it, as it always comes with a compliment about how young I look!

Dannevirke

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support group met for the final time in 2014 for lunch.



This is Jim, one of our grandparents, explaining his reliable technology to one of our grandchildren. Jim is explaining how none of his messages get lost and how it never gets a flat battery like the new messaging technology today! As you will see Jims' messaging technology' is a good old fashioned pen and paper!

Poppa is raising 6yr old, boy & girl twins.

We were driving to Napier for our holiday and happened to be behind an ambulance in a string of cars. "What does St...St (stammer)...John mean?" asks master 6yr old
Bit of a story ensued about the healing saint and creation and God and after 15 minutes of explanation, with the occasional question, there was silence for the next 2 km.
"So ...is St John driving the ambulance?"
Easy to see why he would think that.

Pronunciation is a pet subject of mine, with the twins, and I try to be mindful of how I deliver the correction, so that it will stick and not crush there attempts at big words.
Some of the classics we can all relate to is "Hospital", which has taking 6 months to get them to pronounce. "Hopital" or "Hostable" always seemed to be the option.
The classic was Magpies which have been seen and discussed on a few occasions. There is always excitement when something new is spotted and sometimes the words give way to the nearest thing.
"Look Poppaehhhh pikelet birds"
I guess my burnt offering in the pikelet department could be the closest thing to the black and whites.

And finally, be careful who is in earshot of 6 year olds.
We rarely discuss family matters in front of the children and the, "mum' word, doesn't come up very often. We have had the twins since they were two and over time her presence has become less and less as she fights a losing battle against her addiction.
On this occasion Master L asked, "when will we see mummy again?" and before I could answer Miss S, his twin says, "She's been a bit busy lately so you just have to wait!"
I guess if there is no answer to the question we have learnt to defer, distract, or delay.

Pappa Pat



The light at end of tunnel:

For years I have worried that inherited genes from an alcoholic mother & a father who has been financially irresponsible, would determine the person my granddaughter would develop into as an adult.



I was 65, when at 16 months my granddaughter came to live with me during weekends, then full time from 2 years old. Her behaviour was often rebellious. Parenting her was challenging because in order to gain her love, her parents who had regular contact with her, countered the rules & boundaries I struggled to instil. Fortunately I was able to reduce my working hours & access excellent day care. By working till I was 68 & with money inherited from my parents, I was able to pay for many extra-curricular activities & to distance my granddaughter from her parents by having her in boarding school for her secondary schooling. Following that, a gap year working in a remote Field Science Centre, area an hour from the nearest town in the northern Lake District, UK, taught her to cope with ghastly winter weather. She benefitted from working with adults & doing a wide range of chores. She walked for an hour each way to join the activities of the local soccer club. Although she worked as a volunteer, she received a little pocket money which enabled her to travel cheaply to Europe & around UK.

After returning to live with me for a few months she then found work as an au pair caring for 3 young children in Sydney. In addition to learning parenting skills, she had conversations with the parents who were university graduates & were into healthy eating & exercise regimes. After this second gap year her employers wanted her to continue to work for them but with excellent references she moved to work for a family with 4 young children where, unlike the previous position she now had separate accommodation on the property so was able to study 3 subjects at Sydney University. This year by working slightly reduced hours, she is doing 4 subjects & will eventually graduate debt free. Her intention then is to gain work experience before returning to do a post graduate degree.

The values I tried to instil might have been lost had my granddaughter not had such a broad education, (extra-curricular cultural & sporting activities) & the gap years living with adults instead of possibly testing boundaries by living with other teens away from parental guidance.

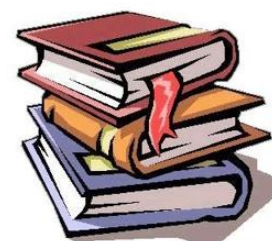
What I have learned is that in order to reduce the negative influences from hopeless parents, one needed to offer our grandchildren experiences from a wide range of activities & input from as many good role models as possible.

My heart goes out to other “grands” that have to face worse challenges than I had & with fewer resources. I never cease to be inspired by Di & am grateful for the amazing work she has done for “Grandparents Raising Grandchildren”.

Gaynor

UCB Child leaving school?

If they are leaving school and moving into ‘other’ education, The UCB can be paid until the 31st December of the year the child turns 18 if they are still in Education.



School is back!



Well life has a way of throwing you curve balls; well to be bringing up grandchildren is sure a big one. It took a lot of adjusting to having 2 pre-teens living with me. Then life had another curve ball, one of my preteens decided he wanted me all to himself. He packed his sisters things up and put them out the door and told her to go (in not nice language). This happened a lot. Once he realised she was not going anywhere he decided to be a right little pain. In the end I got respite care and sadly made the decision he could not come back. Although, I do have this one in the holidays. Well this is 2015 and my preteen girl had a birthday and became a Teen. This means new school, new uniform and new learning curves for both of us. This grandmother went cross eyed and was ready to pull her hair out.....and all over....a dam school tie. Yes you read that right a school tie. See it came with the uniform as a long foreign object. Ok so you-tube can help me, have you looked at how many videos there are to tie a Windsor Knot, I can tell you there are a lot. I even found one

with a rabbit and a hare....yep they sing a song and you tie a tie.

This morning I was a crying but very proud grandmother as my teen left in her new uniform to catch a bus to her new High School. My preteen left last night and he also starts a new school, intermediate. I feel proud and honoured to be able to step in and help these children become all they can. Good Luck to all those who need to have a school tie tied before school.

A Proud Grandmother



To all our members who came to the rescue for me in supplying stories for this newsletter, I think we had over 30 responses, I will use them all, for it is your stories that reach out to others via email or snail mail and shine various lights on different paths, of which we all walk to some degree or another. Collectively we have a light that reaches to the stars! Oh keep sending them in please!

Training

March 16 – 18 will see our volunteer support group co's, field officers and Board members gather in Wellington for internal training, so over this period of time you will not be able to contact them. This includes Di from our 0800 help line although I will be attending with them during the evenings, I have 3 days of work to do on the Extra-ordinary care fund applications along with 5 other panel members.

We are a voluntary not-for-profit organisation. All donations to the GRG Trust are tax deductible.

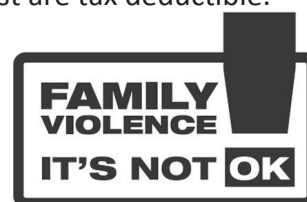


Give a Little for GRG

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



Anti-bullying



0800 456 450

When the grandchild becomes the abuser!

Once again we are hearing too often about grandchildren who are abusing the grandparent. Yes we know these children have been abused in a past life, but in this scenario it can be a very dangerous situation for the grandparent particularly if the grandmother is raising alone. One could be forgiven for thinking these are all teenage children and yes indeed some are. What is really concerning me of late is some of these children are in the 7-9 year old age bracket. Please if you find yourself in this situation, phone the Police immediately, and do NOT feel guilty about it! If you see signs of aggression beginning in your young charge get them involved in an Anger Management programme, yes they are run for children too, earlier the better. Get your Doctor to do a referral to a Mental Health team, search out help, it is much easier to get them to go at a young age rather than an older age. One cannot walk on egg shells for the rest of your life, in fear; take control, before they do. Living this day in day out is extremely draining; I know I have been there, as many will know.

A member writes:

We have been raising our Grandson from the age of 6. He has just turned 14. He suffered serious physical abuse and mental abuse after our son died. Trying to get professionals to listen to our concerns when he was small was torture for us. It was only when he went to school and could speak for himself, the extent of the abuse was known. After four FGC's we were finally heard and we were awarded Guardianship and Custody of him. After that his mother made no contact for 5 years.

Once contact resumed our grandson became very aggressive and it was evident he had serious behavioural and learning difficulties. I suffered serious abuse from our grandson for at least 2 years. I lost two front teeth and had various bruises inflicted on me often. After being convinced to have the police involved in what they called "Domestic violence" when our Grandson was 12 (I didn't know it was called domestic violence when it was a child abusing an adult). The police were helpless and frustrated with what

little help they could offer but insisted we refer our Grandson to CYFS.

I made an urgent phone call to GRG help line one morning. Di was at the other end of the phone. I just wanted her to tell me what I wanted to hear and that was not to involve CYFS. However Di suggested that I listen to the Police advice and "Let whatever will be, will be". It took us a few days to ask for help which of course CYFS didn't want to know. They told us they would not uplift our grandson but did agree we needed respite and to ask family members!

Early one morning while getting ready for school our grandson attacked me kicking me in the kneecaps and punching me because apparently I had stolen his new school shoes! I phoned the police like GRG had asked us to using the 'duty of care' words and they came around immediately. They sadly arrested our grandson – handcuffs and all and took him away to CYFS. It was one of our saddest moments watching a police car drive out our driveway with our grandson's little head peering over the top of the window. He never returned to us to live. After this, he was placed into respite care and got the assessments that he needed to confirm various diagnosis. He is now in the care of another organisation with a minder caring for him for which we are extremely grateful as he appears very happy. We have dinner with him once a fortnight and he attends various family occasions with us. He can phone us when he wants to and is now having regular correspondence school work which works better for him than being with peers all day getting him wound up.

Thank you Di for encouraging us to step back and let "Whatever will be, will be". It turned out really well for us and we are so grateful. Keep up the good work Grandparents Raising Grandchildren. There is help out there but you do have to keep asking and pushing for help.

Nanny and Poppa

Stopping children leaving New Zealand

What happens if someone wants to take my child overseas without my permission?

If you believe someone is about to take your child overseas you can ask the Family Court to make an order to stop them – it's called an Order

Preventing Removal.

You'll also need to ask for a Border Alert, so Customs can stop your child from boarding an aircraft or ship leaving New Zealand.



Who can apply?

You can apply if you are the child's parent, legal guardian, a spouse or partner of the child's parent, or anyone else.

You can also apply if you have day-to-day care and/or contact with the child under a Parenting Order, or are about to apply for a Parenting Order.

What can the court do?

To stop someone taking your child overseas, the court can:

issue a warrant for the Police or a social worker to uplift the child and place them with someone suitable until the Family Court deals with the case

order that the child's passport be given to the court. This includes any parent's passport that has the child's name in it order the person who plans to take the child overseas to give their passport and/or travel tickets to the court.

If the court doesn't issue a warrant it can order that the child stay in New Zealand, either for a limited time or until the court makes another Order.

If an Order Preventing Removal is made, it will stop anyone taking the child out of New Zealand – including the person who asks for the Order. As part of your application you can ask to be able to take the child out of the country.

What is a Border Alert?

It's essential to request a Border Alert if you want to prevent a child being taken out of New Zealand. The court will send the request for a Border Alert (with a copy of the Order) to Interpol (New Zealand Police). The child's details will be entered into the Customs Service computer system for passengers. Customs can then stop the child from leaving the country at any port or airport.

Applying for an Order to prevent removal

Urgent and non-urgent cases

If your case is urgent, you can apply to the Court to make an order without notice. In this situation the person who is about to take your child overseas will be notified of any orders or steps the judge decides to take. You can use a lawyer to help you with an urgent application.

If your case is less urgent, you can apply on notice. The other person will be given a copy of your application and the chance to respond before the Court makes an Order. There are rules about using lawyers for non-urgent applications.

How to apply

Fill out the preventing removal application form and affidavit, plus the Border Alert form. There are different forms depending on whether you are applying for urgent help (without notice) or on notice. Your application will need to show the court that there's good reason to believe your child will be taken overseas.

Responding to an application for an Order to prevent removal

When can't I take my child overseas?

To take your child overseas you need to get the agreement of anyone who has the day-to-day care of, or contact with your child. It's a criminal offence to take, or try to take, a child out of New Zealand if:
it breaks any condition of a current Parenting Order
an application for an Order, or a case involving the child is about to go to Court.

What if I'm stopped from taking my child overseas?

If the child's other parent or guardian asks the court to stop you taking your child overseas, you'll be given (served) a copy of their application.

If the other person has convinced the court the case was urgent, and the court made an Order without notice, you'll be served with a copy of the Order and the original application.

If an application was made with notice, you'll have a chance to respond. If you don't respond within the given time frame, the judge can make an Order without hearing your views.

If you do decide to respond and ask the court not to make the Order or to make a different one (called defending the application), there are three steps you need to take:

complete the notice of response form and affidavit

deliver (file) your documents to the court

serve your documents on the other parties, that is, send them to their lawyer, if they have one, or to the person's address for service.

Where can I get application forms for an Order to prevent removal?

Application forms, a guide to completing them, and more information are on the Ministry of Justice website. Forms must be signed and dated. You will also need to have an affidavit sworn (witnessed), and that can be done at the Family Court.

Applicants should seek legal assistance from a lawyer or Community Law Centre. They will also work out if you are eligible for legal aid to help pay for legal costs.

Making an application is free of charge.

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/free callers (09) 480 6530 email office@grg.org.nz

Office Manager Kelly Vivian 09 418 3753 email office2@grg.org.nz

PO Box 34892 Birkenhead Auckland 0746

Suite 4 Rawene Chambers. 17 Rawene Rd Birkenhead Auckland 0626 (Ground floor)

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 of.

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

Disclaimer: Any article, services offered or views may not have an endorsement from Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ, discretion is advised. This newsletter is also has copyright

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter or 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



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Whakatane **	Shirley Faulkner	07 308 8524	shirleyfaulkner@xtra.co.nz
Whangarei **	Janet Puriri	09 435 0044	

Support Group Information:

Tauranga: Karen Ormsby has taken over from Maureen who has moved out of this area, She can be contacted on 07 579 3571 email jewelzs@hotmail.com

And Maria Noanoa has taken over Napier, she can be contacted on 06 870 3742 email puatai@xtra.co.nz, warm welcome ladies.

Matakana-Warkworth Coffee Group: This group meets weekly (except during school holidays) at a café in Matakana. All Rodney area GRG members welcome to join the group. Ph Anita on (09) 423 0336

Christchurch North: It would be great if we could find a member to become a support group Co for GRG. Ideally to develop a mutually supportive, positive working relationship with our existing Co to ensure that all Christchurch GRG members feel well supported at a local level. Christchurch is a very big area folks for one Co to take care of. Thanks everyone.