



NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2015

DATABASE: 5820 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

SCHOOL START UP FUND

We sadly heard today that a number of grandparents who are able to apply for this are not, because they thought they had to go into Work & Income and talk to them about this. You do not, as it can be done on line on your home computer etc. (Direct link to form under this article) So traumatized have some of them been with past experiences with W & I staff. Even after reassurance that it was very simple and easy, they are terrified. What a shocking state of affairs!

May I say to any in this situation PLEASE, please do this, as if it is perceived by powers that be, that this fund is not being picked up, it will be assumed it is not needed. Now we do not want that to happen do we? I promise you with this particular fund it will be all OK, have been told takes less than 5 minutes and it is often in your a/c within 2 days. If you are in a position where you do not have a computer at home and do need to use the one in the Kiosk, at W & I take a friend/neighbour with you. Or perhaps use the Library one.

Available to all those getting UCB or O/B from W & I: The amount paid is based on the age of the child at the end of February.

Age of child (at end of February 2015 and on-going)

0 - 4 years \$400

5 - 9 years \$450

10 - 13 years \$500

14 years and over \$550



This will be automatically put in you a/c for school fee's/stationary/camps/uniforms/pre school fee's. It is a one off. Once you have applied online. Closes February 28th 2015.

Direct link to SYSU fund form:

<https://services.workandincome.govt.nz/form/workandincome/govt/nz/form.req?requestType=workandincome-govt-nz-kin-carers-form>

Extra Ordinary Care Fund:

<http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/documents/forms/extraordinary-care-application.pdf>

19th January opens for Extra Ordinary care fund, closes 27 February download an application or pop into W & I from this date. You do need to take forms and all supporting documentation back to W & I and make an appointment please.

W & I phone 0800 559 009

Available to all those getting UCB or O/B from W & I.

Top tips for raising grandchildren:

Often grandparents find themselves unexpectedly placed in a position where they are needed to raise their grandchildren. This is a life changing situation for all involved and can leave one floundering as to where to start, stress and family dynamics add to this mix, uncertainty, where to begin, not to mention the legal requirements, schooling and the necessities of life. Your life may be turned upside down and this includes the children caught in these circumstances. First and foremost we applaud you for opening your hearts and homes to your moko, but these are also unsheltered waters as through the passage of time parenting has changed, your finances may be already stretched being older, your health may not be the same as when you were younger. Love in the heart has no boundaries, so we have therefore supplied some top tips to ease your journey. And it is a journey but it does not have to be done alone. There is help.

The '6 R's' which Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ have developed will assist you no matter which part of this journey you are on, these are: Response, Rights, Relating, Rebuilding, Resolution and Resilience.

Response and Rights are the first two stages, when the children first arrive:

- Make sure you have a regular routine every day, these children need this for security and with your reassurance they will be fine, never put the parent/s down in front of the children, regardless as to how you feel, reassure them that parents do love them, as this reflects to them that they were **not** the problem, as this is what they think and this can have long lasting effects
- Seek support GRG Trust NZ is excellent as they understand all your issues and you can get free resources and advice, their GRG handbook deals with all issues you shall face in your new role
- Sort out child care and schooling as quickly as possible for stability
- Ask what financial support is available for you. Work and Income can assist or Child Youth and Family if they have 'orders' over the children
- Seek legal advice if necessary, your local Community Neighbourhood Law Office may be able to assist, a Lawyer or your local Family Court or if Child Youth and Family have 'orders' over the children consult with them and make sure you get their 'Caregiver Handbook'
- Keep your home a 'safe' home if parents have access and there is conflict it is not advisable to have visits in your home
- Join a local GRG support groups so you are not isolated and can share with others raising

Relating and Rebuilding: Settling and beginning to move on.

- You will receive free DVD's from GRG Trust also addressing the issues of trauma and parenting advice, made for NZ grandparents raising and featuring some GRG members, we suggest when an issue arrives for you watch that particular segment, seek out any parenting courses you may think advisable, Fostering Kids provide free caregiver training, which GRG advertise
- Some children may need counselling or specialist advice, seek out that assistance
- Keep these children busy, join sports/ arts groups and remember yourself in this too, we need you well
- GRG Trust can also advise you of free respite care camps, these are advertised in their monthly newsletter

Resolution and Resilience: New challenges and sustainability.

- Moving forward: as children reach puberty this can bring up a myriad of issues for our children who may have had trauma in their formative years, again seek out professional assistance, there are also many community organisations that run grief and loss and anger management courses.
- For your resilience see if you can attend a SALT Course run by GRG Trust (Sharing and learning together) take time out as you are important too
- Read anything you can lay your hands on, as many of our children may develop unexpected issues which may have not manifested in the early years, but present in later years, there is help out there and understanding for you.
- Last but not least, be proud of them but also yourself.

GRG Trust NZ are in the formative process of getting this 6 R's info onto a laminated form, and it will be posted on our web site and sent in our handbook pack to all new members.

A new Species?

I would just like to say that our 2 1/2 year old grandson gives us so much joy. He makes us laugh every day. He has just moved up to the "big Preschool" this week and he was so excited when I collected him last Friday after a "transition visit". His teacher told me to ask him what he saw in the cage during his visit and he looked at me with a serious look on his dear little face and told me that he saw a "Piggy Rabbit" - it turned out that he was talking about the pet Guinea Pig. He has talked about the "Piggy Rabbit" every day this week and I think from now on in this household Guinea Pigs have a new name.

Our grandson is such a blessing to our family and is loved by our family and friends. There is something very special about him and he brings a lot of joy to a lot of people. Almost without exception my husband and I are told each week by someone that they admire what we are doing and how do we cope. Yes it's tough some days (especially last week when he drew all over our walls and carpet with a black vivid permanent marker!!) but the rewards we are getting far outweigh the sacrifice we are making and yes there are a lot of sacrifices that we all know about but we just get on with it and enjoy all the love we are receiving in return from our precious little grandson.

Nanna J



School is back:

Crossing the Road:

I am taking up the challenge to suggest ways in which a parent might get a child to co-operate re holding hands when crossing the road. Some of these suggestions eliminate the need to actually hold hands, which isn't necessary as long as the child stays close beside you.

When requiring a child to co-operate, don't frame the request as a plea. Rather use a brisk, authoritative tone. Don't give any indication that you think the child might not comply.

A child needs to know of the dangers in crossing the road. They don't want to hear lengthy dissertations.

"Drivers can't see little people, so you need to hold my hand to keep safe. You don't need to hold my hand if you can be very clever and stay really close to me."

"Let's see if we can cross the road on tip toes. We'll need to hold hands in case one of us falls over."

"Let's be soldiers and march across the road keeping together. Left, right, left....." (No need to hold hands.)

"Let's see if we can keep in step as we cross the road together." (No need to hold hands.)

"You be my guide dog and lead me across the road." (Or vice versa.)

"How many steps do you think it would take to cross the road? Let's count." (Take the child's hand without comment.)



There is a tendency for parents to treat their children as equals rather than juveniles who need guidance which should be given firmly with respect.

Children need to learn that there will always be people who will have a degree of authority over them. If they don't learn this, how will they cope with accepting the authority of teachers, starting as subordinates in the work force, obeying societies rules etc.? Picking up a child to carry them across the road without haranguing the child, probably won't detract from the parent child relationship in the future. In fact being in control of a situation can engender respect.

Gaynor

PLAYSTATION FOR GRANNIES





Flies:

Sick of flies buzzing around you? Try this natural solution. Stick a lemon full of cloves and leave it on your windowsill. Flies hate the smell and it keeps them away! Our GRG face book people have tested this and tell us it does work.

It's our BIRTHDAY on February 9th.

We are 16 years old, how about that, where has time gone? We thought it timely to have a quick look back over the years



The early days of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

- In 1997 Diane Vivian became a grandparent raising grandchildren. The 2 children of one of Di's foster children suddenly and unexpectedly were left in her care.
- In 1999 Diane placed an advert for like minded Grandparents in the local North Shore Times Advertiser. Her phone never stopped ringing!
- Diane held a public meeting which was attended by the local community

coordinator, Jill Nerheny, and various other lawyers and MPs.

- It was agreed that a monthly meeting for grandparents raising grandchildren would be held at the local community house in Birkenhead.
- Ten grandparents turned up to the first meeting.
- With help of the Birkenhead Communities Facility Trust, the constitution, vision and mission were drawn up – these are still in place today.
- In 2001 Grandparents Raising Grandchildren became a Charitable Trust with appointed board members.

Founder's vision

- Diane's vision was a stand-alone agency with its own premises – a base from which grandparents could be visited or visit and for GRG social workers, counsellors and administration to work from.

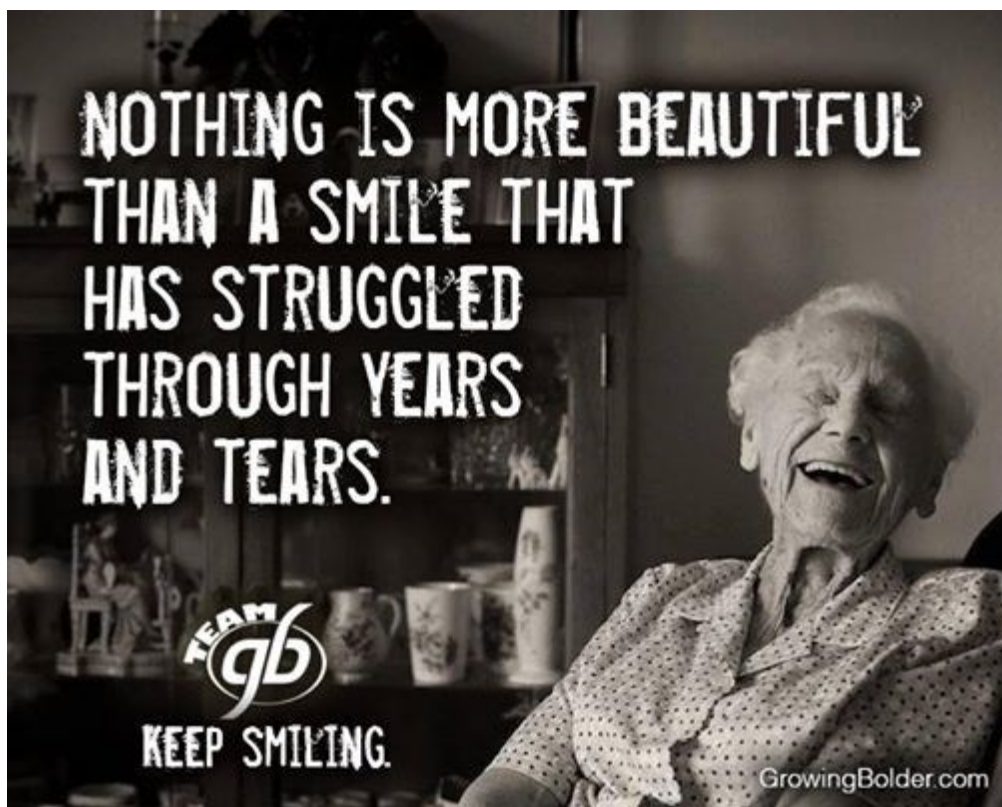
Milestones

- 2003 - Diane won a civic award for the North Shore and were featured in many magazine and media articles.
- 2004 - GRG won the Community Spirit Award of Excellence.
- 2005 - the first research project was completed; a snapshot look at grandparents raising grandchildren on a shoestring. GRG researched grandparents and other relatives raising kin children

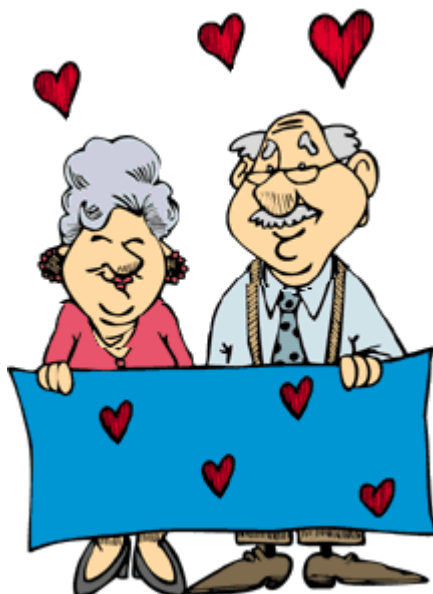
Milestones cont...

in Aotearoa New Zealand. The first major research undertaken in New Zealand and Australia and one that is now recognised worldwide. Jill Worrall

- 2007 - GRG won a community award. Diane was invited to go up to the very first international GRG conference in New York as a keynote speaker.
 - 2008 - GRG was the New Zealand Herald recipient of the Lost Children Charity.
 - 2009 - A second research study 'Grandparents and other relatives raising kin children in Aotearoa New Zealand' was completed. The study provided a longitudinal look at what was happening for our grandparents and those they raise. Jill Worrall.
 - 2009 - the first conference was held in Auckland.
 - 2010 - GRG was voted the Catholic Caring Foundation charity of the year.
 - 2012
 - GRG submitted to the Green Paper initiated by Paula Bennett and then the White Paper.
 - GRG collaborated with the Parenting Place to produce a DVD for grandparents and kinship carers raising whanau children. The DVD along with workbook continues to be sent to all GRG members.
 - 2013
 - GRG were the overall winners for 'New Zealander of the Year for Community of the Year' sponsored by Mitre 10.
 - Diane was honoured to be a finalist for Influential Woman of the Year.
 - Diane served on the ministerial panel for Extra ordinary Care Fund and School Year start up fund.
 - 2014 - GRG moved out of Di's kitchen into new premises in Birkenhead.
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And we certainly have done this in our role.



Happy Valentines Day!



Give a Little for GRG

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



0800 456 450



Anti-bullying

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

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

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

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)

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

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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