



NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2014

DATABASE: 5716 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

VARIETY CLUB

Term 3 has begun with a really positive start for Kiwi Kid Sponsorship. Recently, Variety received some wonderful media coverage of some of our sponsored children – “Kiwis sponsor kids” by The New Zealand Herald and “Money too tight for junior footie” by The Press. These stories have prompted an incredible response from the public keen to support children across the country.

What does this mean for you? We are happily in the position to enrol children on the Kiwi Kid Sponsorship programme right now! So, if you are currently raising and would like a sponsorship which would make a difference for a grandchild you raise, please ask for an application today. If we have already approved one or two children from your family, please consider applying for their siblings. At this time we are able to approve more than two children per family.

If you have any queries about the application process we are more than happy to chat with you over the phone or via email. We would like to make it as simple as possible.

Thanking you in advance,
Nicola Betts | Community Liaison
Kiwi Kid Sponsorship
Phone 09 522 3742 or email nicola@variety.org.nz
Variety – The Children’s Charity.
Brighter futures for Kiwi kids



LIFE DOES GET EASIER

When CYFs stepped in to take my 5 grandchildren I asked that they be put into my care. I couldn't stand the thought of them being put into foster care and very possibly being split up. The youngest was not quite 1 and the oldest was 9. It was, to say the least, life changing. I had to give up my job as every minute was dedicated to them. I'd have to say the first 6 months was the hardest. The kids lived out of boxes and slept wherever I could find room. My 1yr old grandson has exema and needed creaming down 2 to 3 times a night. At one stage he also had a very bad case of Cocksackie disease (hand, foot and mouth disease) which put me through hell. Also the 5 of them had chicken pox. There were many times I would lie on my bed and cry but not for long as I wouldn't have time for that.

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LIFE DOES GET EASIER [CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE]

The next 6 months was a little easier. Better organisation is the key to a lot less stress. By now the kids had draws, the sleeping arrangements were a lot better, they were 100% more settled and I'm used to getting up through the night to attend to the exema. Our routine through the week for school, kindy and day-care is a good one. We're halfway through the second year now and when I look back i don't even know how I did it all but now I don't think I could get through a day without them. They're my whole world. For any of our new grandparents raising grandchildren out there I just want you to know that it does get easier and they're absolutely worth it.

Nanny K



SWEET AS

Something happened this evening that was quite sweet and I share, it made me giggle and cringe at the same time.

My grandson Dominic (just turned 4) and I were cuddling by the fire when he gently reached up and stroked my face gently from forehead to chin. He looked at me with such adoration and said "Granma I love your saggy little face". I decided to take it as the nicest compliment I had ever been given. Ha ha.

Paula :)

TALENTED BALLPLAYER

The Ripken Baseball World Series in the US is a baseball tournament for 12 year olds. The 10 top teams across America compete, and the best 8 countries from the rest of the world join them. This is the first year that NZ has been invited to enter a team. A training squad of 30 boys was chosen from over 150 talented young Kiwi ballplayers from across New Zealand, Australia and the United States. These boys practiced hard before the final 15 were named in the team.

My grandson, Dominic, changed from softball to baseball this season. He went to the trials and was very excited to be named in the squad of 30. The other boys named were almost all older and more experienced but he worked really hard at the trainings and just continued to get better and better. I was so proud when he was named in the final 15. An amazing achievement for an 11 year old still in his first season!

The team continues to train hard as they prepare for the tournament in Maryland in August. The boys will be billeted by American families and our team gets to play some of the top teams in the world. What an amazing opportunity for them all.

Proud Nana

EYES WIDE SHUT

I would like to say how when I had my four grandchildren put into my care in 1997 I went in to it with my eyes wide shut. I knew nothing, thinking I could look after them with all the help in the world. CYFs asked me to take the four in and were there for me. Soon they said it would be a good idea that I get custody, guardianship and protection order. The father came around to where we lived picked the boys up who were playing at the neighbours house. I rang the Police told them what happened and was told to ring my lawyer the next day and to apply for a warrant to up lift. My lawyer told them a protection order was in place, they are on to it, to go pick them up and return them. The father had no breach of a court order.



The next two times he got smarter and did it on the weekend. I would ring the police, they said to go to the house and see if the boys were there before they would pick them up, which I did. This was a big mistake but I was listening to the people I trusted and knew no different. I ended up getting abused, name calling etc. In the end I had to move. Did that stop him? No. He came from Napier to Levin and picked the older boy up and took him back to Napier. I would ring the Police who told me it was CYFs problem, then ring CYFs who would say no you have court orders, the Police have to act. This went on most of the weekend until I could get hold of my lawyer.

My grandson's father would tell him to say Granddad was bashing him up. The Police would say they did not believe him as he had no marks and his story would always change. The children's father had made so many allegations about us - we were investigated every time and there were no signs of abuse. The children would tell them if they played up they got sent to their rooms or had something taken from them like their bikes or a toy. My grandson returned, but this happened again, twice more. In the end I let my Grandson go as now he is 15yrs old.

Was this the end? No. He started on the second grandson. I got a warrant and I had to argue for them to act on that and it ended up crazy. When we went to court and got the custody orders etc. the judge said whoever takes these children are going to need all the help in the world. I am sad to say did not happen. The children were up lifted because of the abuse of the father but he still had rights. He took me back to court three times and lost each time, but he knew how to use the system I did not.

The father had even sexually abused his step daughter who was placed into my care years earlier. The Police, CYFs, ACC, and her counselor all believed the abuse took place but the Police did not believe there was enough evidence to take it to court. Imagine how shocked I was when I found out this was not the first young girl he has sexually abused.

With their father the two boys have been in all sorts of trouble. They are now doing drugs, after all the good work we did. The two girls that are still with me are doing really well. But don't believe because you live a law abiding that life people are on your side. The father of the children has always lived a life of crime and plays it to his advantage. I was naïve, knew nothing and just believed the system worked.

Why am I telling my story? Because if I could do it over again, this is what I would do - make sure CYFs put everything in writing. Have an exercise book and write down everything that happens, people you talk to, Police who you talk to, and the date and time when you rang. I found out that the Police have nothing on file of any of the breaching of orders etc. I have proof of two accounts. My advice to you is to learn who is out there; learn to protect yourself with knowledge and proof. I could tell you so much more of the horror that became my life while protecting my grandchildren and doing what was right for them. People ask me would you do it again, and I say in a heartbeat because of what they were going through, BUT I hope I would do it with my eyes wide open. The father was never charged with breach of protection orders but was warned each time if he does it again he would be - yea right.

Nanny



CAPPS LISTING

WHAT IS IT, AND WHY SHOULD I CONSIDER IT?

Recently a 'mother' of child who is being raised by their grandparents (who have additional guardianship) attempted to take the child overseas while on a day access visit. Because the grandparents had the Border Alert in place the 'mother' was stopped at the airport and CYFs were contacted.

WHAT IS A BORDER ALERT (CAPPS LISTING)?

A border alert (formerly called a CAPPS listing) involves the listing of your child's passport number and other details in the New Zealand customs database. Should anyone attempt to remove your child from New Zealand whilst an alert is in force, they will be prevented from doing so upon presentation of the child's passport whilst being processed by customs. An Order Preventing Removal of a Child from New Zealand is a legal order granted by the Family Court. It is designed to prevent the unauthorised removal of children from New Zealand to foreign countries without the consent of all guardians.

This is a timely warning as one of our members 'parent' had taken the child for weekend access and was stopped at the airport trying to leave the country with him. And on this subject if possible we advise you get a passport for the ones you care for and keep it safe, as when a parent has access there is nothing to stop them getting a photo of child and applying for a passport themselves which you may not be aware has happened.

ACHOO!

I had a heavy cold which quickly dropped to my chest. I was awake all night with a blocked nose, only able to breath through my mouth which resulted in a sore throat. The popular vapour rub and the nasal spray commonly sold at chemists (not naming names) did no good, so I bought the pictured balm from the \$2 shop - the white one, as the yellow version can stain clothing. I applied to my chest and lung area, and it sure cleared those pipes for a peaceful nights sleep. Adults only and remember to wash your hands very well after application, you certainly do not want to touch your eyes or anywhere else before washing hands if you get my drift. Heh heh heh.



There is a reason why I do not name products that have a registered trade mark, as I made this mistake many years ago and got a legal letter from the product company concerned asking me to remove it!



I PICKED A ROSE TODAY

It was the tiniest bud called Blackberry Nip (reminded me of my mum) what she used to have a glass of at Christmas from Christmas' past, a magnificent perfume, it sat in my little stem glass by my computer. As days went by this little bud developed many petals, it bloomed and bloomed with more petals and the fragrance permeated the room. It reminded me of how families grow: the children, the grandchildren, and indeed the great grandchildren. It also reminded me of how quickly time passes as its petals dropped one by one onto my desk. We are blessed.

WHAT GIVES?

The power bill has gone down, food bill has gone down, the fridge is almost empty, the washing has decreased dramatically, and the house is oh so quiet. Broadband usage has a dropped considerably and the chocolate biscuits remain in the jar for longer than one day! Yes grand-daughter did finally move out, I was beginning to think she would be coming with us to the rest home.

*Nan D**



ASHBURTON now has a GRG formal group coordinator, thanks to Ruth Balantyne. She can be contacted on 027 833 9535 or emailed at ruthallison@hotmail.co.nz.

PUMPKIN

As I have aged I have found the strength in my hands are not as they were and cutting pumpkin has caused more than a few cuts and issues. Recently I was given a whole pumpkin, oh my! I popped it in the oven on 120 and found that it quickly cooked, not as long as one would have imagined. I put the good old sharp knife into it which told me when it was ready. It was easy to peel, I allowed it to cool and scraped out insides easily. So, pumpkin soup is now needed, pumpkin muffins and pumpkin bread, I am busy!

The pumpkin soup recipe called for the use of a stick blender, luckily I was given one year's ago which resided in the top of the pantry covered in dust. A good clean and I was set, or so I thought. Just a word of warning 'watch that stick blender'. Mine got out of control! First it stuck firmly to base of the bowl, then when I finally got a rhythm going around and around, suddenly a tidal wave of liquid pumpkin rose and splattered me from head to toe, what a sight! Luckily I had let the pumpkin cool first. I was a granny in charge of an out of control stick blender or perhaps visa versa.

EVENTS THIS MONTH

KAUMATAU / KUIA RAISING MOKO IN TOKOROA

Tiaki Tamariki Maia

Free 'Building Awesome Whanau' Parenting (and Grandparenting) Course

When: From Wednesday 27th August for 6 weeks, 12.45pm to 2.45pm.

Where: Raukawa Trust, 26 - 32 Campbell Street, Tokoroa 3420

To Book: Contact Neala. Phone (07) 885 0260, text 021 1900 551, or email neala.gilvray@rauakawa.org.nz.

If you're looking after tamariki, The Parenting Place can help you become an awesome parent or grandparent or caregiver – even more awesome than you already are! Whether you are already a super-parent or one who is struggling, Building Awesome Whānau will give you lots of good ideas.

There are six sessions with a small group of other parents and a friendly facilitator. You'll watch short video clips (featuring Pio Terei and other parents) and then discuss how the ideas could work at your place.

No tests, no judgement, no boring bits... just lots of fun and useful stuff. And it's made right here in little ol' Aotearoa, so the ideas will work at your place.

For more information visit the website www.theparentingplace.com



COFFEE GROUP

An informal coffee group is starting in the Matakana / Warkworth area for grandparents raising grandchildren fulltime. If you are interested in joining please call the organiser, Anita, on 021 2053973

MOTEUKA GRG HUI

This hui/meeting will explore how self-help support groups build members' strengths and consider the establishment of an ongoing Motueka GRG support group

When: Wednesday 24th September 2014, 9:15am - 1pm (lunch included)

Where: Dining Room, Te Awhina Marae O Motueka, 133 Pah St

Facilitators: Diana East, GRG Field Officer, and Paula Eggers, GRG Nelson Support Group Coordinator

To Book: If you are interested in attending, or require more information, please contact Paula on 544 5714 or Diana on 0800 472637 x4 or email d.east13@yahoo.co.nz

JUST SAYING HELLO

East Auckland GRG meeting at the Dunkirk Activity Centre, Pt. England was a very positive one, enjoyed tea and delicious scones made by Gloria.

Meetings are held 10.am on last Monday of the month, with the exception of school holidays.

Tess



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 callers (09) 480 6530

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

Disclaimer: Any article, services offered may not have an endorsement from Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ, discretion is advised.

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.

Abbreviations:

GRG – Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust

BOT – Board of Trustees

CYFs – 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.

www.grg.org.nz or www.kin.org.nz or

www.raisinggrandchildren.org.nz

Email: office@grg.org.nz

Post: PO Box 34 892 Birkenhead. Auckland 0742

Office: 17 Rawene Rd, Birkenhead. Auckland 0626
(Ground floor)

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



SUPPORT GROUP CONTACT NUMBERS

Locality	Name	Phone	E-mail Address
Ashburton **	Ruth Balantyne	027 833 9535	ruthallison@hotmail.com
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
Auckland Mangere East **	Teresa Van Kuylenburg	09 974 2388	teresa.mangere.grg@gmail.com
Auckland Papakura/Pukekohe **	Delphina Galvin	0275 053 808	delphinagalvin@live.com
Canterbury North/South **	Sharyn Parker	03 342 5528	davessharyn.parker@xtra.co.nz
Canterbury West**	Veronica Brunt	03 942 5935	r.v.brunt@paradise.net.nz
Dannevirke**	Malcolm Johnson	06 3740407	
Dargaville **	Katy Edmonds	09 439 8395	kedmonds@orcon.net.nz
Dunedin *	Catherine Butson	03 489 2942	cmbutson@ihug.co.nz
Gisborne **	Molly Pardoe	06 867 8463	mollypardoe@xtra.co.nz
Hamilton **	Kerry Batten	07 560 0291	Kerry.hamiltongrg@gmail.com
Invercargill **	Lynette Nielsen	03 216 0411	jhandli2@xtra.co.nz
Kaikōhe *	Zeta Danielson	09 405 9977	zeta.slade@xtra.co.nz
Kaitia *	Dianah Roberts	09 408 3489	molmolismum@gmail.com
Kerikeri *	Martha Taonui-Andrews	0272662653	marthataonuians@xtra.co.nz
Levin*	Ann Waddell	06 362 7269	ann.hen@xtra.co.nz
Napier **	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
Papamoa *	Rawinia Macredie	07 562 2850	rawiniamacredie@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	07 386 8033	viv.maree@gmail.com
Tauranga *	Maureen Murphy-Boyd	07 570 0175	murphy.boyd@xtra.co.nz
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	021 024 27882	cherryl@teatawhai.maori.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	jpuriri@ihug.co.nz