



## Newsletter July 2013

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



Like us at [www.facebook.com/grg.org.nz](http://www.facebook.com/grg.org.nz)

Data base: 5382 Whanau/Family  
Carers.

### From the National Office:

#### Attention Auckland members:

We have 1500 GRG families in the wider Auckland area and I am getting more and more requests to attend CYF family group conferences/Strengthening families meeting and to support grand's when applying for UCB at W & I. As one can well imagine I am run off my feet. Couple this with requests from various agencies to have an in-home support service. Therefore we have decided to pilot a part time outreach worker and as luck would have it we were also offered from Massey Uni a placement 4<sup>th</sup> year Social worker for 6 months. Margaret Aspinall (she has raised her 11 year old grand-daughter since birth) will be this outreach worker and Turaa Hotene is the placement worker. Therefore if you require them to assist you in their role please come to me first as I am their referral contact. 09 4806530 or email [office@grg.org.nz](mailto:office@grg.org.nz)  
They also will be able to help you fill in forms for Variety, Kidsacool camps and UCB applications, however they will not be able to do your shopping nor housework etc ☺, yes I know awe, if this was the case I would be first in line: *Di*

### New Plymouth/ Taranaki area

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren morning tea. Date: Friday 2nd August  
Venue: Northpoint Centre, 116 Mangati Rd, Bell Block Time: 10:30am  
RSVP to Nicky 7552374. Thank you **Nicky Joffe** The Parenting Place Coordinator New Plymouth

## Your Voices

**My grandson** will be three in two months' time; he has cystic fibrosis and has recently been diagnosed with Sensory Processing Disorder. He was watching a TV programme about three little monsters, which play tricks on their mothers and pretend to be each other, but at the last minute, decide to go home with their own Mummies. My little man says to me "That was a nice story Ganma, they went home with their Mummies. But I go home with you. And I'm proud of that". I could not see or hear anything but my own tears for a few minutes after that :) *Ganma Paula*

**My granddaughter Rebecca:** Our marching girl who is now a young lady of fifteen wrote this little story about me at primary school.



Her teacher at the time thought it was lovely, so to all the Nans and Granddads out there please know that our grandchildren do appreciate us when all is said and done. I read this and it makes me feel so special, needed and loved. So I do hope that this little story will remind us all that we are needed and loved by our grandchildren.

At times it can be hard but we are doing such wonderful things for our kids. As they grow it

gets easier and for me I am so proud of the job that I have done bringing my granddaughter Rebecca up.

*Penelope Munn*

### **My Grandma**

*My grandma has black curly hair like the night sky. Her skin is very soft and when people meet her they say "what beautiful skin you have" and then they start talking.*

*When my nanny was about 35 or up she went to 20 different Countries in the world and she still travels now. One time when I was 3 she took me to Samoa for a holiday with her friend and it was really fun. We stayed in a hotel near the beach and I caught a shimmering orange fish with my bare hands but of course I threw it away.*

*After school she normally lets me have PS2 game from Karori video shop. And she normally says "how was your day" and that makes me feel proud. When she says "I love you" I feel delighted and pleased she does. She's 59 years old but she looks 42 years old and when you look at her face it feels like Christmas Day.*

*She wears bright colours when she's happy and dark colours when she's not. Opps I haven't said her name yet its Penelope, Penelope Munn but everyone calls her Penny for short. She's an amusing person and exciting person to meet and you would think the same too.*

### **A Wee Treasure:**

I have been fortunate to have had my grand-daughter since she was 2 months old. It has been a pleasure to look after her. She is gorgeous and an absolute angel but can be a real character. She was a tiny wee treasure when I got her (Birth weight 4lb 12oz) but

she was a good eater and slept all night. She was 2 in January this year. I have put her into daycare as being a grandmother I don't know anyone with toddlers. She loves it and is doing really well as there was only she and I for so long she was becoming clingy. She has really come out of her shell. We have had some awesome times. It takes me three times as long to get anything done as she's usually right in the middle of everything like trying to make the bed with her getting under the sheets. Can't make a cuppa or get tea ready without help. If I want a bit of quiet to get things done without help, I let her loose with her books or toys. Anything to do with animals, DVD or books are a big hit or she loves outside in the garden with her trampoline or helping with the gardening and her bike. She is such a cuddly wee monster. She came into my bed the other morning so I pretended to be asleep by snoring she tried opening my eyes and called me a silly bugger. Shouldn't have laughed but it sounded so cute. She had the biggest smile when I opened my eyes. I got a big hug. She talks like a wee book and tries to organize everyone. Anyway I just want to say I have just loved every minute having her. I have had a couple of wee health hiccups which having her has helped me get over quicker.



*Nanny MK*

### **All grown up 'bless':**

My 9 year old grandson (Cobe) said to me on his first day back at school this year as he is now a senior.

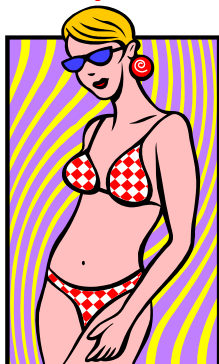
"Well Nana, your little boy is all grown up now, I'm a man!" I split my sides, trying not to laugh at him....so funny!

*Pam Eagles*

### **Just a thought:**

I have a 7 year old and it gets really hard at times and this happened last week. The other day my grandson Mitch called me horrible and a meanie because he could not do what he wanted. It upset me very much as all I ever wanted was to be a fun loving grannie for him: today I am a parent who does not get to enjoy being that grannie I always dreamed of. For that I am sad. *Understandably so Grannie. ☹*

### **Bras, yes we are talking Bra's:**



When my granddaughter was 8 I took her shopping with me to the big red shed, amongst other things I needed, were some new bra's, she disappeared as they do, I thought to the toy section, but oh no. She is loud, yes very loud. I hear her loud voice echo around the store. "nanny I have found some big comfortable bra's for you" she shrieked for all to hear, I scurried red faced to the bra section, with all eyes upon me. She was holding up a pair of what seemed and looked like size 25FFF, "look at these try them on they look comfortable she shouted" at that moment I wished I was as small as a mouse. As a consequence of this experience I just cannot bring

myself to try on bra's in a fitting room, I quickly grab my size pay and leave. Often I get home try them on and find they do not fit. With my two sisters who go up and down in sizes, we have a 'trading day' my daughter (not mother of child) was absolutely

horrified at this and left me with the comment 'oh well I suppose you ARE sisters'  
*Waste not want not.*

## **SPEC (South Pacific Education Courses) in New Zealand**

<http://www.spec.org.nz>

Grandparents raising their grandchildren in New Zealand who might have specific learning and developmental difficulties and needs might be aware of the ASDAN (Award Scheme Developmental Accreditation Network) Youth Award Scheme, which derives from the UK. This programme provides a structured, modular approach to learning. This programme is aimed at secondary school students aged 16-21 years. Several secondary and special schools in New Zealand are registered with the ASDAN-programme. I have taught the ASDAN –programme and have found it to be an excellent way of teaching and to even assist those who lack in an area of their development as it allows for a responsive teaching approach and interaction with the student. I then was introduced to **SPEC (South Pacific Education Courses)**.

I was privileged to attend a Professional Development course at Long Bay College on Auckland's North Shore. **SPEC** is the brainchild of **Carolyn Baines**. She is the **director and Curriculum Development and Quality Assurance Manager** and presented the course.

SPEC courses have the added advantage, opposed to the ASDAN-programme, that they are aimed at helping students to start their courses at primary level and then staircase it through secondary to tertiary level. Therefore primary school students now get the much needed support and guidance from primary level instead of having to wait until they would start college.

SPEC courses, other than the ASDAN-programme, are New Zealand based, but are so successful that they have been adopted in Australia and Rarotonga too. The SPEC booklets are easy to read and understand. They are aimed at preparing students from primary age to develop life-long skills as they progress through their schooling. Courses are structured to give students a goal to work towards and to reward them for what they have achieved. Both the ASDAN and SPEC programmes are accredited by **NZQA**.

### ***SPEC qualifications approved by NZQA are:***

#### ***Certificate in Learning Support Level 1 (72 credits)***

- Students will demonstrate personal growth, self-management, self-esteem, motivation and a sense of worth.

#### ***Certificate in Mainstream Studies Level 2 (96 credits)***

- Students who complete this course will be able to think, relate to others, use language, manage self, participate and contribute.

#### ***Certificate in Mainstream Studies Level 1 (63 credits)***

- Students who complete this course will be able to think, relate to others, use language, manage self, participate and contribute.

(New Zealand Qualifications, n.d.)

Students are able to accrue NCEA credits using unit standards from the 'core generic' sector. The identified unit standards most relevant for this Certificate in Mainstream Studies Level 1 can be used with a range of SPEC tasks particularly in the ONE Star Award and many of the Mainstream Interest modules.

The number of credits can range from student to student, however it is possible over this two year course for the Certificate in Mainstream Studies Level 1, for students to gain 13 Level 1 NCEA credits.

In addition there are many SPEC tasks that cover the criteria for the Literacy and Numeracy unit standards. The guidelines for the Literacy/Numeracy unit standards fit well with the SPEC requirements with both requiring authentic evidence gathered over an extended period of time and presented in a portfolio. Many schools are using a range of SPEC resources and in particular the Mainstream Interest Modules to engage students. The students choose a module of interest to them and as a result of their own interest being the focus of the work they are producing 'good' evidence for the Literacy and Numeracy standards.

***(South Pacific Educational Courses, 2013)***

A school in your area might be a registered SPEC provider. For a list of SPEC member schools in New Zealand, view at <http://www.spec.org.nz/page10.html>

SPEC is dynamic as it continues to develop, always aiming to provide the individual student with the best outcome and to prepare them for life ahead.

**References**

New Zealand Qualifications Authority. (n.d.). *Organisation: South Pacific Educational Courses Limited*. Retrieved from <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/nzqf/search/results.do?org=642779001>

South Pacific Educational Courses. (2013). Can students gain NCEA credits using SPEC courses? Retrieved from <http://www.spec.org.nz/page28.html>

**Marlene Smith** Teacher (Secondary) *Grandparent raising three grandchildren*

***By a 20 year old female: (Unedited)***

Mum and Dad: Effects From Your Child Abuse You Caused For us Girls :

I'm so tired of being sad suppressed from all my childhood fears  
and it just won't leave me alone these wounds won't seem to heal

this pain is just too real

there's just so much time cannot erase you used to captivate me by your cruel ways  
now I'm bound by the life you left us with, when I cried you didn't wipe away all of the  
tears, when you screamed I was paralyzed, your face still haunts me' you chased away  
all sanity in me.

I've tried to tell myself you're gone, but though you still haunt me in my dreams

I'm still here and am going to fight against it, so I can get along with my life

and become the better person, so you can't fully destroy me

fuck you mum and dad I'm better than you, I pity you so much

STAND UP FOR CHILD ABUSE TO STOP!!!



## What is hand, foot, and mouth disease?



Hand, foot, and mouth disease (HFMD) is a fairly common viral illness in children. (HFMD is not the same as foot-and-mouth disease, also called hoof-and-mouth disease, which affects animals.)

© Biophoto Associates / Photo Researchers, Inc HFMD

This most often occurs in preschoolers, although adults and children of any age can get it. Most adults have developed antibodies against it from previous exposure. HFMD most often shows up in the summer and fall.

HFMD can be caused by any of a number of viruses, most commonly the coxsackie virus. Although in very rare cases HFMD can lead to [viral meningitis](#) or encephalitis (inflammation of the brain), children usually recover just fine, without treatment, in a week to ten days.

### What are the symptoms?

If your baby contracts HFMD, he'll first have a mild [fever](#). You may notice that his appetite isn't what it usually is. He may also have a sore throat and feel lousy in general.

### [SYMPTOM GUIDE](#)



#### [Is it serious? Find out fast](#)

A day or two after the fever starts, your baby will develop painful sores in his mouth — on his tongue, gums, or the inside of his cheeks. This will likely make him irritable.

Your child may also develop a rash on the palms of his hands, the soles of his feet, and maybe his buttocks.

The rash, which isn't itchy, starts out as small, flat, red dots that may turn into bumps or blisters.

**Is HFMD contagious?** Yes, the virus can be transmitted through nose and throat secretions, the fluid in the blisters, or stool. While your baby will be most contagious during the week he first shows symptoms, the virus can be transmitted for weeks afterward.

If your baby usually goes to daycare, check with the staff about the attendance policy. They may want you to keep your child home until his symptoms are gone or even longer.

**Should I call the doctor?** Yes. Although your baby's doctor won't be able to do much, she can make recommendations for fever and pain relief. And if you're not sure that HFMD is what you're dealing with, the doctor can confirm it by taking a look.

If your baby is under 3 months and his rectal temperature reaches 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, call the doctor immediately. (A baby this young with a fever needs to be watched carefully.)

If your baby is at least 3 months old, talk with his doctor about when she'd like you to call. She may suggest that you call if your baby's temperature reaches 101 degrees F or higher, or, once he's 6 months old, when his fever reaches 103 degrees F.

One thing your doctor will be watching for is [dehydration](#), because the mouth sores may make it difficult for your baby to drink anything. If your baby shows any signs of dehydration — such as a dry, parched mouth or going six hours or more without wetting his diaper — call his doctor immediately.

### **Are you caring for a Special needs child?**

Are you a **single person** caring for an Autistic or disabled grand/kin child? Get a form for the Child Disability Allowance from your Doctor.

You may then qualify for the DPB for the care of the sick & infirm. DPB CSI.

You will be better off as a single person on this benefit, and then also get the Unsupported Child Benefit (UCB) for the child/ren. On this type of Benefit you will not be required to work.

### **New benefit categories**

From 15 July 2013 most current benefits will be replaced by three new benefits – Jobseeker Support, Sole Parent Support and Supported Living Payment.

New Zealand's welfare system is changing to one that better recognises and supports people's work potential. It focuses on what people can do to achieve a better future for them and their families.

Three new benefits replace most previous benefit types.

#### **If current benefit is:**

Unemployment Benefit

Sickness Benefit

Domestic Purposes Benefit - Women Alone

Domestic Purposes Benefit - Sole Parent if youngest child is aged 14 or over

Widow's Benefit – without children, or if youngest child is aged 14 or over

**This will change to: Jobseeker Support**

#### **If current benefit is:**

Domestic Purposes Benefit - Sole Parent if youngest child is aged under 14

Widow's Benefit – if youngest child is aged under 14

**This will change to: Sole Parent Support**

### **If current benefit is:**

Invalid's Benefit

Domestic Purposes Benefit – Care of Sick or Infirm

**This will change to: Supported Living Payment**

### **Jobseeker Support**

Jobseeker Support is for people temporarily out of work, but who are seeking and available for employment. They have work obligations based on their ability to work.

This benefit is for people who:

- can work full-time, and who are taking reasonable steps to look for work
- because of a health condition, injury or disability, are limited in their ability to work, but can work for at least 15 hours a week (part-time), or
- because of a health condition, injury or disability can't work or can work fewer than 15 hours a week. They may be asked to do specific work preparation activities.

Most of those on Jobseeker Support will have full-time work obligations. Those temporarily unable to meet their work obligations may still be expected to carry out agreed activities to help them prepare for work.

### **Sole Parent Support**

This payment is for sole parents who care for children under the age of 14 and who can look for or prepare for part-time work.

Sole Parent Support has different obligations based on the age of the youngest child:

- Those with children under five are expected to prepare for work, and may be asked to do specific work preparation activities.
- Those with a youngest child aged five or over are expected to look for part-time work.

When their **youngest child reaches 14** they'll transfer to Jobseeker Support and will be expected to look for and be available for full-time work.

### **Supported Living Payment**

The Supported Living Payment is for people who are permanently and severely restricted in their capacity to work because of a health condition or disability.

Supported Living Payment also includes carers of people needing hospital-level (or equivalent) care. These people currently receive the Domestic Purposes Benefit – Care of Sick or Infirm.

People on this benefit may have work preparation obligations and can be asked to do specific activities to prepare for work where they're able.

### **Partners of people receiving Jobseeker Support and Supported Living Payment**

Partners of these beneficiaries will have obligations to:

- look for full-time work if they don't have children or their youngest child is 14 or older
- look for part-time work if they have a child aged five to 13 years
- prepare for work if they have children younger than five.



### **Kaikohe GRG members:**

It is with great delight we announce Zeta Danielson has taken over as Support group Co for this area Contact Zeta on 09 405 9977 zeta.slade@xtra.co.nz

### **Ingredients for Chicken Express**

- 1 chicken or chicken pieces
- 1 cup strained tea
- 1 – 2 tablespoons honey
- 1 –2 tablespoons soy sauce

### **Directions**

1. Cut chicken into portions.
2. Mix tea, honey and soy sauce. Pour over chicken and bake.
3. Baste frequently and pour over extra tea if liquid reduces too quickly. Yummy and easy recipe!



### **Ponderings:**

- Why: do banks leave vault doors open and then chain the pens to the counters?
- Why: the sun lightens our hair, but darkens our skin?
- Why: can't women put on mascara with their mouth closed?
- Why: don't you ever see the headline 'Psychic Wins Lottery'?
- Why: is it that doctors and attorneys call what they do 'practice'?
- Why: is the man who invests all your money called a broker?
- You know that indestructible black box that is used on airplanes?  
Why: don't they make the whole plane out of that stuff??

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**Wood Scratches** : Rub a walnut on scratches in your favourite wood furniture pieces to make those blemishes disappear.

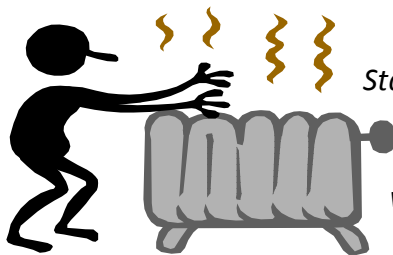
**Save Ink** : Whenever possible, print in Times New Roman. You'll get 100 more pages out of a cartridge than you will printing in heavier fonts like Arial or Verdana

**DVD Scratches:** if the disc is skipping, rub a cut banana over it and the polish off to seal those scratches

**A member emails us:** Got stopped by a policeman on the corner of Wellesley and Queen Street in the city. Told to go when lights turn green and park over the road! I park and he comes to the window again and says Are you Julie?? Nearly had a heart attack as I was thinking something has happened to the family!! Turns out my driver's licence has expired!!

\$400 thank you very much! MORAL OF THE STORY: CHECK YOUR LICENCES BEFORE YOU GO OUT IN YOUR

- The Police have a new computer system now you pass a parked car/van it photograph's your number plate and they can immediately check your car rego. License and warrant, they radio the cop further up the road and got ya. That's why he asked your name.*



*Stay warm and safe folks, the good Lord smiles upon you and your charges, you are all angels who are doing God's work on earth. You were chosen for this role. And we are indeed blessed to serve you.*

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[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)

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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**

**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.*

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