



NEWSLETTER - JULY 2014

DATABASE: 5661 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



LEAVING HOME

Di's baby has grown up and leaving her dining room to a certain degree. YES a huge milestone for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ is happening. As of 1st July (which is also her 47th wedding anniversary) we will have our own GRG offices and an admin person working from 10 – 2pm Monday - Friday. As the organisation has grown so much Di's workload does need to have all the admin stuff removed and done by someone else, so she can concentrate on the things she loves to do, being this newsletter and talking to you all. Actually a holiday might be good too!

This organisation was born in Birkenhead Auckland and is most appropriate that we have found premises (very reasonable) in Birkenhead central village. Buses from all over Auckland come direct almost to our door. The C.A.B is directly across the road in the Library building, it is on the ground floor (no stairs to climb) our Local MP shares this building, and there is plenty of free parking outside the door.



There is a mixture of feelings about this move, excitement, nervousness; it feels a bit like when your child goes off on their first flatting experience, so yes worry too. But the timing is right, so we can proudly say GRG Trust has a new home.

WOW! Yet another BIG step for our wonderful agency, new location address is Suite 4 Rawene Chambers. 17 Rawene St. Birkenhead. Auckland. Our PO Box remains the same.

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to you into our GRG family. For this is what we are, family, brought together by circumstances beyond our control, something one never imagined but never the less here we are. You are not alone, for we walk this path alongside each and every one of you; we understand your issues in what you are all dealing with. The highs and the lows we share with you and if we can shine a light into that sometimes dark tunnel, we will. For now 15 years have passed for this organisation and personally for me 17 years of raising grandchildren. Some of us have success stories for these now young people and others not so good. But at the end of the day YOU were there for these children and for that you are heroes in our eyes. We must accept that we cannot undo the past from the children's early lives and the impact this has upon them, please never blame yourselves for you have been the children's voice and their safe haven. At times you may have entered unsheltered waters and we hope and know that GRG Trust has been a buffer in these times.

We, due to our long existence, are now hearing from Grand's whose grandchildren have moved on to independence and write and send us many emails to thank us for what we have done over the years, some ask to be removed from our data base, others ask can they still get our newsletter as they love it so much and that is fine. Some even share it with other family, so guess we and you guys have some wise words to share. Over the years this monthly newsletter has contained many wonderful stories, stories which need to be put into a book (one day) for we need to leave our footprint for generations to come.



Off to Church

We were getting ready for church on Sunday. Our five year old granddaughter came in and announced "you look very pretty today mummy". (She calls me mummy). I smiled at her and replied "thank you darling". She promptly asked, "when you die can I have your shoes". I smiled at her again and said "of course you can". Not that I plan on leaving anytime soon.

V Mum/nan.

My grandson's going to be a politician I feel!

He came out with something precious yesterday which brought tears to my eyes cause of his wisdom he said: "Trees are more powerful than power! IF I was Prime minister; I would ban tree chopping except for fallen ones; dead ones"! I hope you enjoy this.

M.C. Grandma.





TAKE A DEEP BREATH

My grandson now 5 has anger issues caused by witnessing some fairly aggressive behavior in the past and has physically lashed out at other children. After seeking

advice, we now have him blowing when he gets angry and when he is able he will blow up a balloon to help him calm down and then let the balloon go and with it hopefully, the aggression!

We all know that these things take time but last week at assembly he received a certificate for "making good choices and keeping his hands to himself", I was so proud I cried (as we do !) However the realization that our teachings really hit home when his father came to see him over Easter and was just casually telling us about an incident he had experienced on the way that had made him " angry". Master 5, who never misses a trick, plonked himself in the couch beside him, crossed his legs, held his hand, looked him intensely in the face and said: "Dad, you need to blow!!!!" My heart sings!!

Establishment Grant: What is it?

When you apply for the first time for the Unsupported Child Benefit from Work & Income, you are able to get the EG, this grant is to get the things you need for the children when they first arrive and came into effect in January 2014. It can be used to buy bedding, beds, draws etc. It is not granted to those who have taken the 'Homes for Life Package' nor is it available if it has been paid to a previous caregiver. This is a one off.

MY JOURNEY

I have been caring for my grandson since the death of his mother (from cancer). That was 9 years ago when he was 5. The journey has been full - Full of joy, sadness's and oh so much learning!! Possibly the greatest sadness was when 6 weeks after his Mum died I was invited to the End Of Year Prize-giving (the hall was small so only the parents of those receiving awards could be fitted in) He was given the Citizenship award -the first big moment of his life that I could not share with my daughter. I wept all the way home! Then... he went on to win that same award for the whole 6 years he was at that school!

I'm really, really, proud of him, especially with the way he has coped through some big lows since losing his mum...3 years after Mum a much-loved Uncle died and 3 years later we lost Granddad. But 3 years after that .. this week .. we are rejoicing in the birth of his twin cousins, identical boys who will be easy to tell apart as one is twice the weight of the other!! Born at 30 weeks but making progress. Big cousin says "they have just got to grow after all the prayer and support I have put into them". My 14 yr old sounds like a grown man!



STEPS FOR GETTING A DRIVERS LICENSE



Yes our grandchildren do grow up! The information for you and indeed for them on getting a drivers license is available on the NZTA website.

How you get a car licence: There are three stages, as listed below, to getting a car licence. At each stage you earn a new licence with fewer restrictions and more responsibilities. It's illegal to drive without a current and valid licence – there are severe penalties for doing so. This means you have to get a learner licence before you start learning to drive.

Stage 1: Getting your learner licence.

You must be at least 16 years old before you can apply for your learner licence. You have to pass a road rules theory test to get this licence. To practice you can test yourself free online against the questions you'll come across in the theory test. Practice tests can be bought online from: <http://www.roadcodepractice.co.nz>.

While on a learner licence: You must only drive with a supervisor sitting beside you at all times. Your supervisor must hold a current full New Zealand car licence which does not have a supervisor condition. They must have held their full New Zealand licence for at least two years. Your car must display learner plates front and rear. Once you've got your learner licence, get in as much driving practice as you can.

Stage 2: Getting your restricted licence:

To apply for your restricted licence, you must be at least 16½ years old and have held your learner licence for at least six months. You can apply for this licence after six months on your learner licence. To progress to this step, you'll have to pass a practical test of your driving skills.

While on a restricted licence: You can drive on your own, but not between 10pm and 5am. Generally, you cannot carry passengers without the supervision of a licensed car driver. Your supervisor must hold a current full New Zealand car licence which does not have a supervisor condition. They must have held their full New Zealand licence (or an equivalent overseas licence) for at least two years.





Stage 3: Getting your full licence:

To progress to a full licence you have to pass a practical test by demonstrating safe driving behaviour across a wide range of traffic situations and road conditions. You must be at least 18 years of age before you can apply for your full licence. If you have completed an approved advanced driving skills course, this is reduced to 17%.

If you are **under 25 years of age**, you can apply after you've held your restricted licence for at least 18 months, or at least 12 months if you have completed an approved advanced driving skill course.

If you are **25 years of age or older**, you can apply after you have held your restricted licence for at least six months, or at least three months if you have completed an approved advanced driving skills course.



DIVORCE VS. MURDER

(HUMOUR)

A nice, calm and respectable lady went into the pharmacy, walked up to the pharmacist, looked straight into his eyes, and said, "I would like to buy some cyanide."

The pharmacist asked, "Why in the world do you need cyanide?"

The lady replied, "I need it to poison my husband."

The pharmacist's eyes got big and he explained, "Lord have mercy!

I can't give you cyanide to kill your husband, that's against the law? I'll lose my license! They'll throw both of us in jail! All kinds of bad things will happen. Absolutely not! You CANNOT have any cyanide!"

The lady reached into her purse and pulled out a picture of her husband in bed with the pharmacist's wife.

The pharmacist looked at the picture and replied, "You didn't tell me you had a prescription."



AUTISM NZ CONFERENCE WEBSITE IS NOW LIVE

[http://www.autismnz.org.nz/
conference_2014](http://www.autismnz.org.nz/conference_2014)

There is also a 'conference 2014' tab on the Autism NZ home page.

For those of us raising Autistic grand/kin children check them out

Autism New Zealand

Tel: (04) 803 3501

Fax: (04) 803 3502

Mobile: 022 639 0205

Website: www.autismnz.org.nz

STRIPED PAJAMAS

Brr was getting cold so bought myself a pair of black and white fleecy striped PJ's and showed them to Papa and grandson aged 9.



Next night I came down after my shower wearing them. With that Papa started singing. "Look there grandson can you see there's a Nan in striped pyjamas". Grandson immediately sang. "no that's not what it is at all, that's angel in striped pyjama's". One has to laugh living in this crazy home at least he did not call me a Zebra! *

HUGGING STRANGERS

I was paying for my gas and the lady (70ish) in front of me turned to me and said, 'your car sign (the GRG one) has bought back wonderful warm memories for me and made me smile, as I was raised by my grandmother and there were 4 of us with no support' and with that I got a great big hug! *Di.*



PRECIOUS GRANDCHILDREN

Playing online on the PlayStation I hear him saying, 'hang on my Nan is calling me' which must have sparked a conversation and next thing I hear is 'nah you don't need a mum when you got a Nan'.

Nan R



The GRG Trust Board recently presented all our volunteer Support Group Co-ordinators, Field Officers and Board members with an appreciation certificate, this was also volunteer week. Pictured below is our East Auckland Co Tess Gould-Thorpe. Thanks folks for all you do.

You all are AMAZING!



Give a Little for GRG
<http://www.givealittle.co.nz/org/grg>



Anti-bullying



0800 456 450

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

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)

Views expressed in this newsletter may not be the views of the GRG Trust.

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

CYF – 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

Postal Address:

PO Box 34 892 Birkenhead. Auckland 0742

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
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	davesharyn.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
Kaikohe *	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