



NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2014

DATABASE: 5632 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



Your Voices:

Little Mr. J who has autism was afraid of the thunder and lightning. I tried to convince him that it was just noise and it would not hurt him. He was not having a bar of that so husband and I put our heads together and came up with an idea, so with my phone I turned the camera on, set the flash and when the lightning struck I took a photo. When the flash went off and the thunder clapped, husband and I both clapped really loudly. When it was quiet I said to Mr. J that when the lightning strikes the clouds are taking a photo of

everyone and when there is thunder the clouds are clapping really loud because it was a great photo. So the next lot of thunder and lightning Mr. J was out there pronto smiling up at the sky for his photo to be taken.

Very, very clever grandies (Ed)

Josh 17...whom we have been looking after for the past two years...his dad, was our eldest son, who died suddenly of an undiagnosed genetic heart condition not long after his 35th birthday...almost 6yrs ago when Josh was only 11. He loved his dad and it broke my heart to see how heartbroken he was.



Josh has been through his parents' divorce at the age of 6....his mother remarrying a man who was extremely hard on him....they moved to Australia and not long afterwards CYF'S contacted them to say that they needed to come back to NZ to pick up the stepdad's two kids from a previous relationship....as the mother was a Meth addict...and the children had been abused by her rotating series of undesirable men that she let into the house...and very badly neglected.eg they did not even know how to use a knife and fork when they arrived in Australia.....and there were reports that their mum (and I use the term loosely) would lock them in the boot of the car and drive around Auckland with her druggie buddies.

When these children arrived they needed a lot of ongoing psychiatric care and counseling...and when Josh would walk past the girl she would hit herself then cry and tell her parents that Josh did it! Josh started to get into trouble at college...he mouthed off at a teacher and got stood down....when his mum asked him why he did it he shouted about how unhappy he was and how much he missed nana and granddad...so we offered to have him here. He was also spending most of his time in the garage, away from the rest of the family...in other words isolating himself.

Josh was pathetically thin when he arrived hollow and gaunt...so much so it really gave me a shock from the last time that I had seen him. He started to relax right away...is doing well at college...and his granddad lent him the money to buy a flash Canon camera...this has been an amazing thing in his life...he has won a competition on Stuff News...for a beautiful picture...has published his own Calendar...and is now up in Queenstown having just completed photographing the mountain bike festival....He is a keen trout fisherman...and has joined Fish and Game...and mixes a lot with older more settled guys who take an interest in him and do exciting things!

I am very thankful that he is not hanging around on a street corner with his nose in a paper bag...even though he probably has every reason or excuse to do so!

Nana V



SOME ADVICE

I have a bit of info I'd like to share with other members - more like advice from my grandson's psychologist than info I guess :)

My grandsons father (my son) visits often and joins us as often as he can on days out whereas the mother is not interested in her son whatsoever. My grandson, at 3.5 has started to notice that she never visits or comes out with us. Recently he asked if he could see her and I said no, sorry, as she was "busy". (Of course I would never tell him that she is disinterested). Each time we see his father, it is because I go and pick him up (they are without transport). So it was very confronting for my little man to tell me that it was my fault we couldn't see her as "you just don't go and pick her up".



I thought on this and worried about this for a very long time. My own children's father never bothered with them either and I made excuses for him saying he was at work or whatever and I've always wondered if I was doing them more harm than good. Now that they are adults they have both said that they knew in their heart of hearts that their father didn't prioritize them, but blamed me for it as it was me who told them he was visiting in the first place.

I must also admit that I felt resentful that my grandson blames me for his mother not being around when it is me that does the hard graft with him all day, every day, yet it's her immature actions that result in her absence.

So I discussed this with his psychologist who told me that I was right, I shouldn't take responsibility for her absence and that the word "wish" is a magic word for children. She told me say "I know you wish your Mummy was coming with us today darling, but she isn't". It absolves me from the responsibility, acknowledges his feelings but also tells him she's not coming in no uncertain terms. I have done this a few times since and he seems to move on immediately although I'm sure he is still disappointed.

Maybe something a few of the other lovely grandies out there could use :)

Nanny P



THINGS HAPPEN FOR A REASON

I was feeling so desperate, not sleeping with worry, I had no resources left, not eating properly because I was making sure my GS had enough nutritious food as he was growing so fast. I think people who have felt helpless and desolate would understand that sometimes no matter how much you try to get through testing times something has to give...

breaking point. And, that was how I was feeling early one morning when I set off for a walk. It was cold and misty as we walked through the empty car park ehind the supermarket towards town when out of the mist came the shape of an old man with a walking stick, he was an elderly Maori man with a lifetime of experience etched on his face, he had an air of kindness and an aura of wisdom as he walked towards us. He stopped right in front of me, put his hand on my shoulder, looked straight into my eyes and said "everything is going to be ok, it is how it's meant to be," he then put his hand on my grandson's head like a blessing and looked me in the eyes again then walked away. The thing is when I turned to see where he went he was gone; completely disappeared, there was no where else to go but across the car park, no shortcuts or anything like that.

As we were living in a small town I kept looking for him again but never did, I wondered for a long time who he was because his words profoundly affected me in terms of courage and strength. Whenever I feel overwhelmed I think of him and those words and everything seems to make sense, because this is what has been given to me. I need to live life the best way possible and to teach my grandson how to be happy.

This really happened, when I told my neighbour in Waihi he said the person I saw was a Kamatua, that it's a powerful thing when one appears like that. I don't know if he was real or not, that doesn't matter because something inside shifted after that experience.

Nan



WISE WORDS

DryNites: www.drynites.co.nz for loads of valuable information about bedwetting. Pyjama pants for kids aged 4-15 years old. You can order a free sample on www.drynites.co.nz/bedwetting-products/free-sample/

I can't control your behavior;
nor do I want that burden...
but I will not apologize for
refusing to be disrespected,
to be lied to, or to be mistreated.
I have standards;
step up or step out.

- Steve Maraboli

www.stevemaraboli.com

My niece is being raised by nanna (my Mum), she would jump in to Nan's single bed and sleep with nan in the middle of the night, this happened until she was six yrs old.....one day my son and my niece were playing and niece came to me in a huff. Bruce is being silly she said "why what did he say " I questioned " he said when I get married I have to buy a big bed" I said "what's silly about that"She said "no a really big bed " then she ran away angry, I asked my son why is she so angry he said because I said she has to buy a really big bed to fit her, her husband and nanna in cause they won't all fit in nanas bed. Guess she thought they could all squeeze in nanna's single bed, her comfort zone.



REALLY !

I was reading last week's NZ Listener and discovered this under the Health Briefs Section !! not quite sure what to make of it .. Did make me laugh as most of us look after the grandchildren every day so what does that say about our mental ability?

"Grandkids' schedule."

Looking after the grandkids once a week helps keep grandmothers mentally sharp, according to a Women's Healthy Ageing Project study in Australia and published online in Menopause.

However, the researchers also found taking care of grandchildren five days a week or more had some negative effects on tests of mental acuity. The results support the view that being socially engaged benefits cognitive function, but too much of a good thing can be detrimental."



I did my life challenge on Saturday 3rd May 2014 and took on the 42.2 km , Rotorua Marathon the only thing missing was all my mokos especially Havana (8) and Leo (6) who helped me train in preparation of this huge challenge they were still on holiday with their daddy and stepmom. This achievement is dedicated to all my mokos.

Congratulations Ruby, well done!

IHC's HUMAN RIGHTS COMPLAINT

Please help them!

You may have noticed in the media last week that IHC filed an amended complaint with the Human Rights Review Tribunal about the discrimination experienced by disabled children and young people at school. Six years ago IHC received huge support from families and organisations in the disability, education and children's sectors, when we asked for the evidence we needed to support our discrimination claim to the Human Rights Commission. Examples of discrimination against disabled children and their families, because of government policies and procedures that we heard about in 2008 were:

- Schools refusing to enrol a child because of their disability,
- Disabled children being sent home early when teacher aide hours stopped,
- Schools refusing to let disabled children participate in usual classroom activities when there was no teacher aide support available,
- Disabled children being excluded from activities such as sport, music, camp and school trips,
- Disabled children being suspended or excluded from school despite their behaviours being related to their disability,
- Sign language not being available for deaf students,
- Parents being asked to pay for their child's teacher aide,

- Difficulties in getting specialist support e/g speech language therapy, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and behavioural support,
- Difficulties with ORS funding applications,
- Classroom teachers without the skills or knowledge needed to teach a disabled child.
- IHC's amended complaint has now been filed with the Human Rights Review Tribunal, and we need your help again. We need recent examples of difficulties faced by disabled children and young people such as those described above. If you have examples or know of others who have a story please contact Trish Grant directly on 04 4952773 or by email; trish.grant@ihc.org.nz. Please support IHC by circulating this request.

For more information about IHC's discrimination complaint:

<http://www.ihc.org.nz/campaigns/education-complaint/>

Trish Grant

Director of Advocacy

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Level 14, Willbank House 57 Willis Street PO Box
4155 WELLINGTON 6140

PRAYERS



We send out our heartfelt prayers to those of you who are unwell, in hospital or struggling at present, we have heard many sad stories of late and wish you all a speedy recovery, Lynette, Bonnie, Pearl, Tui, Lyn, Julie, Alan to name a few.

We also send kindest thoughts to the people who love and care for these family members.

Take care, folks you are so precious to us all.

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



We have uploaded and linked 4 speakers who were filmed at our recent GRG conference onto our face book page. If you would like to have a listen and look go to www.facebook.com/grg.org.nz

Hon. Paula Bennett: Dr Simon Rowley, Brainwave Trust: Chief Family Court Judge Laurence Ryan and Family Court Lawyer Hana Ellis.

Whilst there please click our like :)

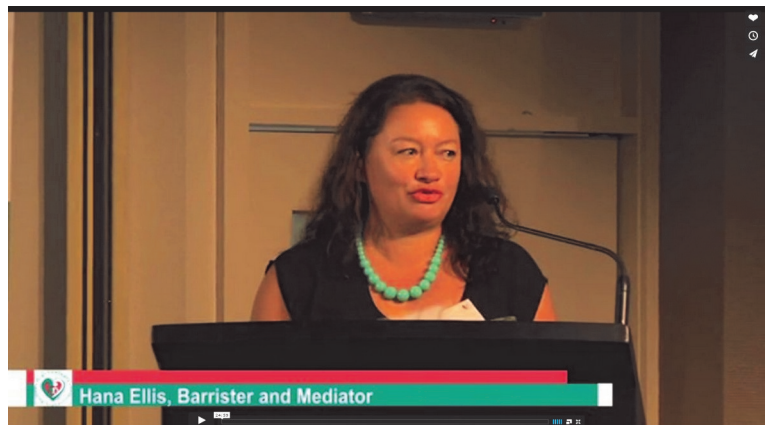
CHILD DISABILITY ALLOWANCE

The Child disability allowance is not income or asset tested.

To qualify for the CDA the child or young person must be under 18 years of age and:

- have a serious physical, sensory, neurological, psychiatric, intellectual disability or chronic medical condition.
- need constant care and attention because of that disability and be likely to need that care and attention permanently or for a period exceeding 12 months.
- meet the required living arrangements.

To get your CDA application form call 0800 559 009 or download www.workandincome.govt.nz or visit your nearest WINZ.





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)

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.

Are your children under CYF?

Do you have trouble getting hold of your Social Worker? If this is the case then you can call 0508 CARER (0508 227 377) and they will then make sure you are spoken to by your Social Worker and if they are not available then someone else will talk to you.

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

www.raisinggrandchildren.org.nz Email office@grg.org.nz

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

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* Telephone support only

** Telephone support and meetings