



## Monthly News • December 2011

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



**Data base: 4922 Whanau Carers.**

**From the National Office:**

**Warning:**

Read this and absorb; Grandma getting Unsupported Child Benefit (UCB) and grandchild still living with her aged 16. Unbeknown to grandma child went and applied to W & I to go on Independent Youth Benefit (IYB), they said she would have to prove she was not able to live with her family, they supposedly phoned the 'mother' who of course said no she cannot live here. (Grandma has Parenting Orders.) W & I obviously did not check on

their computer because if they had it would have popped up grandma was getting the UCB for her. They granted child IYB and back paid and then Grandma gets a bill for \$800. (Our GRG Beneficiaries Advocate Tricia is working on this) Also a point to remember is these kids are informing each other about how to do this via Facebook.

*If child is going to go on IYB and still lives with grandma (informal arrangement), then grandma must immediately cancel UCB, then take Board from the child's IYB. Yet, if this is a formal arrangement: IE. Parenting orders with grandma, how can this happen? Is this a loop hole? One would have thought Grandma would have been notified that her charge had applied for IYB and she would have to cancel UCB.*

*If child moves out then make sure you have notified W & I of the same and cancel benefit. Same applies if child under 18 begins working.*

**Update: The debt has been wiped and the child in question has had the IYB stopped, W & I apologized to the Gran and said it should never have happened. Wonder who now know owns the debt to W & I for the IYB?**

**Potty Training:**



Smart Solutions to Help Ditch the Diapers:

Sure, potty training is a major rite of passage for all children, but it also can be downright stressful for Mum and Dad or a Gran. The good news: It doesn't have to be! We asked parents whose little ones have already made the big transition for their best suggestions on how to ditch the diapers and stay sane in the process. Here's how to get through those messy days.

**Go Cold Turkey**

"As soon as you think your child is ready to potty train, then pounce -- just go for it and get it over with. When we thought the time was right, my wife stayed home with our daughter, Megan, gave her lots of water to drink, and let her run around in her underwear while she took her to the bathroom on a regular basis. Within three days, Megan gave up her diapers for good and has barely had an accident since."

**Never Underestimate the Power of Bribery**

"When my grandson, Mason, was three, he was obsessed with cars. So when I started potty training him, I bought a pack of Matchbox cars and left them in the bathroom closet. Then, every time Mason pooped on the potty, he could pick out a car. And whenever he peed, I gave him an M&M. I would also do a poo-poo or wee-wee dance in celebration. Between the prizes and getting to watch me acting silly, Mason was trained in one week."

## Throw a Little Shindig

“When I potty trained my grand-daughter, Gabrielle, we had a bye-bye diaper party. We gathered up all the diapers in the house and then she helped put them in a big bag so we could donate them to children who needed them. She loved the idea of helping little babies, and we never looked back.”

Read More <http://www.ivillage.com/potty-training-tips-really-work/6-b-370246#ixzz1Xlwj2L6P>



## GRG Conference: Growing Stronger Together

I really do not know where to begin about this amazing conference, with its amazing speakers and it's amazing attendee's. The caliber of the speakers and topic's just blew me away! To see 140 attend this event, the shared stories, aroha, tears, laughter and wonderful nourishing food was something to be seen. There are some special people I would love to thank from our GRG team who were instrumental in making this fantastic event happen. Rosemarie Dawson, Linda Storey, Colette Palmer, Jill Worrall, Diana East. To our Field Officers who worked at the event thank you one and all. I will let you speak.....

- What a wonderful conference, and top marks for your efforts. I feel revived and able to face the challenges ahead with renewed energy, having met so many like-minded people, in the same situation, over the two days. Your speakers were the best and most relevant, that I have heard, having attended many conferences over my years in business.
- *Diana's closing session was excellent in that it provided an opportunity for several grand's to express what the conference had done for them and to say the least the impact of the two days on them was enormous! Enormously rewarding and affirming. There wasn't a dry eye in the room after a couple of grand's (one Maori and one Niuean-Cook Island) expressed their gratitude. Very, very, emotional end to the day.*
- Just to let you know how much I enjoyed the conference I learned quite a few new things I hadn't thought of before and Diane Levy was so much fun she has a wonderful sense of humour.
- *What a wonderful two days. It was so good to meet such interesting and lovely people.*
- Fantastic conference thought it was so inspirational.
- *Thanks for a wonderful two days, helps to fill the tanks again.*
- I found the presentations excellent and very informative. Another resounding success for GRG so congrats all round.
- *Congratulations all on the conference. It was excellent. Great speakers and I also had a lot of positive feedback from people attending that I met.*
- Thank you GRG Trust, thank you so much! To see all these elderly and not so elderly people and know they are raising their grand/kin children, (as am I) had such a powerful, empowering effect upon me. I felt proud and very privileged to attend such an awesome event and to be one of these very special people. The feelings were so strong I know I will carry those feelings for a long, long time. And it was so great to see grand-dads there also! Thanks also to our lovely Bernie our shuttle service driver who ferried us back and forwards to venue.
- *Thank you and the Board for the wonderful Conference - the three that came from Masterton really enjoyed it.*
- Thanks a million for the last two great days. I was so tired that night but could not sleep with all the info buzzing around the brain. Yvonne Godfrey was quite heart rendering and very close to a lot of our members own problems. I found every speaker fantastic.
- *Season's Greetings from Australia, everyone and huge congratulations for the most excellent conference. I can truly say, it had to be the best I have attended and that's quite few. That was the Grandpappy & Grandmammy of them all. Agenda-Excellent The quality speakers, brilliant, captivated us all. Only complaint was the time, too short to hear some more & question time limited. We wanted more!!! How much did we all get out of that? Heaps and then some, venue--smashing. Food--oh please!! Sooo much and such selection at Dinner and quality. Sorry Michael Buble didn't make it, but will be there at the next one eh? Then the Legend!!! The Grandma who made it all happen, our Founding member, Di Vivian. How hard has this lady worked with her team to make it all happen, not only the Conference, but for years! I salute you Di and thank you from the bottom of my heart for all the support you have given me and hundreds of others like me, not to mention what it's all about--our Grandchildren.*

Please advise the date of next Conference--- we are ready!!! We are already advocating for many departments and interested parties to attend this wonderful event, so beneficial and meeting people just like us with all too familiar problems.  
Sandy (Australia)

### Update on GRG Trust NZ:

We are in the process of employing a CEO to take over some of my jobs as this organisation has got so huge and become a very heavy load for me, as I am sure you can understand. With 4900 odd members, 39 support groups, 4 employed Field Officers plus all the other things that need to be done to make this organisation what it is today, is huge! I have been doing nearly all of this for nearly 13 years now voluntarily and I am getting tired.

Our recent Board strategic/future planning proved that we could become vulnerable with one person doing this and holding all information and I would never let that happen. So, I have chosen the jobs I love doing, writing the newsletters, speaking to you all via national phone, doing membership data base, new members, public speaking and arranging handbook packs and updating web site. I am still a Board member, Chair and the founding member. We now have an organisation that has been built over the years to form a very solid foundation; we need now, someone to lift this organisation further into the future. We have begun interviews and you can expect an announcement soon, of which I am very excited about, I am very much involved in this process. I have a new title which I chose and am very happy about: Members Support Manager. My baby has grown up and it is time for it to fly. God bless and love to all. Remember I walk your path too and am very loyal to our cause. Di ☺ ☺ ☺

### What Happened while I was attending GRG Conference:

Our 18 year old going on 12 decided to go AWOL while I was away, Pop had no idea where she was, she said she was coming home but did not show, not contactable via cell either. She appeared in the home at 4pm this avo and was very, very angry, shouting and yelling and using the f & c words, yikes we do not use bad language in our home, said she had not taken her mental health meds for 3 days, and was never going to again, she said she was going to get so bad that she could kill herself. Pop got up there as did her older sister, admittedly so did I for a little bit (mainly about her language and aggression). She was out of control! I asked them both to please be quiet. I remembered Judith Morris' talk about the skin which had closed and then remembered Diane Levy talking about the hug. I got down at eye level and looked into her eyes, tears welled. So I sat beside her and quietly held her and talked monotone and softly, tears fell from her eyes. I held her head to my chest and asked her could she hear my heart beat, she answered yes. I told her my heart was sad and hurting for her pain and she opened up that when she leaves our home and goes out with friends they do bad stuff and her friends cannot be trusted, we talked about where she felt safe, she said with Nan & Pop at home. Looking into her eyes I would say she was stoned. I just held her and let her talk and tears fell, she calmed. This took about ½ an hour; I then asked her to get a cold flannel and wash her face then said she needed to take her meds as without them it just makes things worse. I asked her to take them and then clean her teeth and pop into bed (she obviously had, had no sleep) She was compliant! After she had gone to bed my husband grabbed my hand and said, "well done, you said the perfect things" So thank you Diane & Judith, your speeches and advice was absorbed and put to good use, and it worked. I felt that skin that she uses to protect herself had a little hole pierced in it. Not to say it will not close again, nor am I saying this will not happen again. But for **that** moment it worked!

Nan D\*

### What is happening out there

Tricia Corin GRG Field Officer for Benefit Advocacy:



Client 1: Work & Income told her that because she had no Police or CYFS involvement she wasn't entitled to the UCB.

I got involved and she went back to Work & Income and kept mentioning GRG and her lawyer, so it was granted. She was so happy.

Client 2: Who was beside herself, I had messages on my answer phone with her crying. She too now has been granted UCB.

Clients 3 & 4: Two Grand's, one from Whangarei and the other from Whakatane.

The Whangarei one applied for the UCB in March, Granddaughter 14, she had to go to see another organisation, UCB declined as she could be going back to the mother, Applied again August, had to go to see another organisation again, the lady from that organisation was shocked she thought it was granted in March. They have now granted it and back paid only 6 weeks.

Not until March as it should have been, as they said they couldn't find the first application form. I will keep working on this.

Whakatane Gran 2x Grandchildren went into W&I beginning Sept to apply W&I told her they could do nothing until she had the Legal Custody papers, which she has now got but they have declined because the Judge has let both parents have limited access to the children. Mother has to be supervised and Father who is allowed to work up to a night only. I am still working on this because this is not right.

I was talking to one of our co-ordinators the other night and she went to the Benefit Review Conference hearing with the Gran I had been helping and she felt the committee panel, were very understanding so we are very hopeful with this case.

She was telling me that she has had many Grand's telling her that W&I have told them they have to have Legal custody before they can apply for the UCB. I told her this was incorrect so she emailed the Case Manager that deals with Grand's in her area and we now have it from her in writing that this is not true, so we are now hoping that Grandparents are not being told this anymore. This is not a criteria in granting UCB.

Another thing I am very disturbed about is CYFS picking up children from the parents and handing them over to the Grandparents without any financial support except to say, go to W&I and apply for the UCB. This is happening more often than we believe. Another client, her Grandson was uplifted by CYFS and they told her that if she didn't take him he would go into Foster care.

Of course she took him she loves him and no Grandparent wants to see their Grandchild go into Foster care if they can help it.

But no financial support except to say go to W&I and apply for the UCB, this so kind Social Worker from CYFS said she would send an email of support to W&I. This poor lady had to move town, went to W&I and was only given an advance on her benefit for school clothes (NB if this child was placed in Foster Care who would have paid for new School Clothes, I don't think the Foster Carer would have).

In desperation she went back to W&I a week later and they gave her a Food Grant and told her to get the UCB would take a long time.

Hence GRG involvement and I got her to sign an Authorisation form scanned that night from her daughter, less than a week later she has the UCB and back paid. The manager from W&I in this office is a lovely lady and very sympathetic to GRG.

I have talked to so many Grand's that have said the same thing, some clients have been pushed backwards and forwards between CYFS and W&I as neither want to pay.

Our Client 2, who has two Grandsons for around 12 years said she had the two boys dropped on her by CYFS with nothing at all for them, no clothes, bedding etc., they had to go out and buy everything.

This is happening so often something needs to be addressed at CYFS National. I did bring it up at our training with the lady from CYFS and she pleaded ignorance and said this was a National issue and to take it up with them.



## Queensland Australia Benefits for GRG's & Kin Carers:



[Home](#) > [Child Safety Services](#) > [Foster care](#) > [Support for carers](#) > Financial support

### Carer allowance

Foster and kinship carers receive a fortnightly caring allowance, which is a contribution toward the costs of caring for the child or young person placed with them. It covers items such as:

- food, clothing, household provisions,
- gifts, pocket money, entertainment
- other everyday costs of caring for a child.

[Respite carers](#) receive the allowance in proportion to the amount of time they provide care for a child or young person.

- The allowance is not considered a payment for caring and it is not a source of income.
- It is a reimbursement toward the real costs of providing care.

The fortnightly caring allowance is not subject to tax and should not be cited as income for any purpose, such as yearly tax returns, applications for Commonwealth Government allowances and benefits, or when applying for loans from financial institutions.

<b>Carer payments (as at January 2011*)</b>	<b>Frequency of payment</b>	<b>0 - 5 years</b>	<b>6 - 10 years</b>	<b>11+ years</b>
Fortnightly caring allowance	fortnightly	\$421.43	\$454.01	\$493.52
Start-up allowance	one-off	\$90.81	\$90.81	\$90.81
Establishment payment	one-off	\$454.01	\$454.01	\$454.01
High support needs allowance	fortnightly	\$148.18	\$148.18	\$148.18
Regional remote loading (10 per cent)	fortnightly	\$42.14	\$45.40	\$49.35

\* All payments and allowances are reviewed in January each year in line with the consumer price index (CPI).

### **Foster and Kinship Carer Card**

Approved foster carers and kinship carers are also eligible to receive the [Foster and Kinship Carer Card](#). This card assists carers in their day-to-day caring duties by providing easy identification to government agencies and hospitals.

The card also provides access to a range of discounts from participating businesses and retail outlets for foster and kinship carers, and children and young people in their care.

A full listing of discounts is available in the [Foster and Kinship Carer Card Business Discount Directory](#).

### **Other financial support**

In addition to the foster and kinship care allowance, financial support is available at the start of a child or young person's placement with a carer, when costs are likely to be high.

- A one-off start-up allowance is provided to carers when a child stays in a placement for five consecutive nights or more.
- Carers also receive a one-off establishment payment when a child or young person comes onto a finalised [Child Protection Order](#). An additional allowance is provided to carers if the child is assessed as having high support needs.
- Once-off funding of \$300 per child in care is available to help children in foster or kinship care participate in sport and recreation activities during 2010.
- Assistance may also be available to carers for reimbursement of substantial additional costs when they form part of the case plan for the child or young person in care.

It is important that these costs are approved by the manager of your [child safety service centre](#) before you purchase goods or services.

*Take note NZ Government, Australia has many states and payments vary, but they tend to care and value the children in care and their carers.*

### **Your Voices:**

#### **You could have knocked us over:**

Grandson has turned 18, he has a different surname to us, he came to us and asked could he change his surname to ours by Deed Pole as he is now 18, he had even found out how much this was going to cost him. He went on to explain that we have always been his family therefore he wanted the same surname as us! What a HUGE compliment. This came out of the blue, he obviously has been thinking about this. *We are a heart family (not related)*



*Nan D\**

#### **Greetings to all GRG's over NZ:**

I have reflected back on our own children, not the ones whom we are caring for, thinking of happy days and to remembering little quotations they made. For example, five year old son came home from school. "Mum, we learned about baby Jesus today. He walked around asking for a bed for the night. Next day Baby Jesus arrived and when he grew up, he was Father Christmas!"

Six year old daughter's cat caught a bird. Sadly bird died, so we found a shoe box and dug a hole to bury it. Six year old filled in the dirt around it, but lifted one wing up above the ground. Upon asking her what she was doing, her reply was "So he will grow again!"

Sweet memories to cling to: We need to stop blaming ourselves! We didn't make their choices! *Nana Nat*

## Happy Birthday:

My birthday was coming up in a few days and while out shopping, I asked my grandson (9) if he wanted to go into the dollar store to buy a gift for me. He replied, quite indignantly, "Nana! I made you two pictures and a card on the computer. That's enough!" It still makes me smile!



## Thank you GRG:

Thank you for your uplifting and supportive newsletters sent over the past years. Our wonderful granddaughter is now is back in the fulltime care of her Mum who has finally grown up. I feel both admiration and empathy for all those wonderful grandparents that are giving their grandchildren their all in often difficult situations and with great financial sacrifices.

## Our Grandson:

Despite all our grandson seems to be coping reasonably well. Still enjoying his ukulele and a stand out performance in his school play – he has just got so much potential and off to College next year. We are so proud of him. A.S



## We are a Doss House:

She has been asked to leave school, she cannot get a job, and she goes missing for days on end. Neither eating nor sleeping doing goodness know what, but I can well imagine (we were right in what we thought, she has admitted to smoking weed, and drinking heaps). She eventually will come back home, sick, hungry and tired. Then she sleeps for 2 days solid, eats, and washes the same clothes she has been in whilst being away, puts them back on and goes again. When one asks where and who she is going with, it is 'mind your own business and mates' some nights she will get a text and then go out at 1am and not return. What we have also noted now, she has very little clothing left, all her 'electronic gadgets' have disappeared, claims friends have sold them for drug money. Mmmmmm. We did not come down in the last rain shower. She eventually did get an offer for a job, but guess what, her friend (Deputy Manager) who assisted her in getting the job is a friend on her F/B, he checked her facebook, where smoking dope is openly discussed, now this may not happen, they may require her to do a drug test, she tells us.

We have told her she will end up in trouble, but what do we know! She thinks she knows better. Chickens will come home to roost sooner than later. J\*

## The revolving bowl:

It is stainless steel and spends its time between our place and his place: This grandson does not live with us, but at times one does wonder. He is 18 and every third day this bowl returns empty, only to be filled up and continue its journey back the next day. Does it contain Nan's special baking? No, it contains kumara. No-one, he says can make mashed kumara like Nan he proudly tells everyone. I have shown him how to make it, told his mum, but no, not the same he says. What is my secret? After kumara is cooked till soft it is whipped with an electric beater, adding cream and a big blob of real butter. No big secret really, I tend to think the magic ingredient is love and the fact it is made just for him. \*

## It's Christmas time:

On behalf of the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust



NZ, Board, Field Officers and Co-ordinators, we wish you all a very happy Christmas and safe and pleasant holidays. Take care out there. God bless you all.



GRG National office will be closed from 20<sup>th</sup> December until 9<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

'Nga Mihi mo Hari Kirihimate me Nga Mihi mo te Tau Hou'...ki a koutou katoa  
Season's greetings for Christmas and the New Year.

## NetSafe information:

### Websites with information:

[www.netsafe.org.nz](http://www.netsafe.org.nz) (NetSafe's home page with Q & A format and links to other websites)

[www.inmyday.org.nz](http://www.inmyday.org.nz) (NetSafe's website for adults who want to know more about what young people are doing online. Short animations with audio)

[www.hectorsworld.com](http://www.hectorsworld.com) (NetSafe's website for the very young 2 – 9 year olds and yes they start using digital technology very early. Has sections for parents and caregivers)

[www.cyberbullying.org.nz](http://www.cyberbullying.org.nz) (NetSafe site about cyberbullying with a section for caregivers)

[http://us.norton.com/familyresources/resources.jsp?title=online\\_safety\\_guide](http://us.norton.com/familyresources/resources.jsp?title=online_safety_guide) (Put out by Norton, full of useful information for families)

<https://www.facebook.com/safety/groups/parents> (from the Facebook Safety Centre lots of information about Facebook)

### Websites for children:

Go to your child's school website – they often have links to recommended websites for children.

<http://www.natlib.govt.nz> (the National Library site has links to all sorts of interesting websites for kids.)

<http://www.kidspot.co.nz/article+385+72+Best-websites-for-school-kids.htm> (NZ site listing websites for kids)

<http://www.kiwiwise.co.nz/article/ten-more-great-websites-for-kids>

*Many of the listed children's sites are based in the US and have commercial aspects to them. Please note that NetSafe does not recommend any specific sites, we are listing some for your information.*

### Computer Security:

[www.netbasics.org.nz](http://www.netbasics.org.nz) (the essentials to keep your computer secure)

[www.scamwatch.govt.nz](http://www.scamwatch.govt.nz) (the Ministry of Consumer Affairs up to date information on the types of scams which are current and trying to trick us all)



### Shirley & Marcy:

A mother was concerned about her kindergarten son, Timmy, walking to school. He didn't want his mother to walk with him.

She wanted to give him the feeling that he had some independence but yet know that he was safe. She had an idea of how to handle it.

She asked a neighbour if she would please follow him to school in the mornings, staying at a distance, so he probably wouldn't notice her.

The neighbour said that since she was up early with her toddler anyway, it would be a good way for them to get some exercise as well, so she agreed.

The next school day, the neighbour and her little girl set out following behind Timmy as he walked to school with another neighbour girl he knew. She did this for the whole week.

As the two walked and chatted, kicking stones and twigs, Timmy's little friend noticed the same lady was following them as she seemed to do every day. Finally she said to Timmy,

'Have you noticed that lady following us to school all week? Do you know her?'

Timmy nonchalantly replied, 'Yeah, I know who she is.' The little girl said, 'Well, who is she?'

'That's just Shirley Goodnest,' Timmy replied, 'and her daughter Marcy ....'

'Shirley Goodnest? Who is she and why is she following us?'

'Well,' Timmy explained, 'every night my Mum makes me say the 23rd Psalm with my prayers, 'cuz she worries about me so much.

And in the Psalm, it says, 'Shirley Goodnest (surely goodness) and Marcy (mercy) shall follow me all the days of my life', so I guess I'll just have to get used to it!'

### Enabling, do you?

In the true sense of the word, to enable is *to supply with the means, knowledge, or opportunity to be or do something -- to make feasible or possible.*

In its true form, then, Enabling behaviour means something positive. It's our natural instinct to reach out and help someone we love when they are down or having problems.

However, when we apply it to certain problems in living - addiction, chronic financial trouble, co-dependency, certain forms of chronic depression -- *enabling behaviours have the reverse effect of what is intended.*



### Here are some examples...

- *Repeatedly bailing them out* - of jail, financial problems, other "tight spots" they get themselves into
- *Giving them "one more chance"* - ...then another...and another
- *Joining them in the behaviour* when you know they have a problem with it - Drinking, gambling, etc.,
- *Joining them in blaming others* - for their own feelings, problems, and misfortunes
- *Accepting their justifications, excuses and rationalizations* - "I'm destroying myself with alcohol because I'm depressed". "I act like this because of my upbringing"
- *Avoiding problems* - keeping the peace, believing a lack of conflict will help
- *Doing for them what they should be able to do for themselves* -
- *Softening or removing the natural consequences of the problem behaviour*
- *Trying to "fix" them or their problem*
- *Repeatedly coming to the "Rescue"*
- *Trying to control them or their problem*

We as grandparents have to be very careful we do not fall into this trap. When our young ones have had a troubled past, we tend to over compensate for this, the child learns very quickly that they can manipulate the grandparent. We do not want to see them fail, but what I also have learnt is we also do not want to be seen as failing either. So we go into damage control and this will bite you in the bum later on. Some of these young ones will also use abuse verbal or physical upon the grandparent to get what they want. Some have been known to state they will scream abuse until you give in, others threaten. This is an extremely difficult situation. Much easier to just give in for peace. But this does not teach them any responsibility for their own actions and consequences. Stick to your guns grandparents and ask yourself "do I own this problem" if the answer is no then don't give in to them. Not saying this is going to be easy, walk away, leave the home, go for a drive if the young person is over 14. Go have a shower and lock bathroom door. Remove yourself from the situation.

Ask the young person, how they are going to fix this problem. What can they do to change this situation they face. We as grandparents must not take ownership of their problem. One can assist with solutions but ultimately it is their job to fix the problem, this way they learn.

### Di & Team (you as a caregiver are part of our team)

Members Support Manager

heoi ano, na

*E te Atua, aroha mai..... O God shower us with love. Ka kite*

### Formal GRG Support Groups: All welcome.

#### Locality, Name, Phone, E-mail Address.

Auckland East \*\* Tess Gould-Thorpe 09 535 6903 [pan@xnet.co.nz](mailto:pan@xnet.co.nz)

Auckland North \*\* Bonnie Williams 09 473 9055 [willingclan@xtra.co.nz](mailto:willingclan@xtra.co.nz)

Auckland West \*\* Debbie Hall 09 818 7828 [debron@xtra.co.nz](mailto:debron@xtra.co.nz)

Mangere East \* Teresa Van Kuylenberg 09 974 2388 [teresa.mangere.grg@gmail.com](mailto:teresa.mangere.grg@gmail.com)

Canterbury North\*\* Jan Farquhar 03 313 1585 [farlaw@xtra.co.nz](mailto:farlaw@xtra.co.nz)

Coromandel\* Keitha Jenkins 07 866 8273 [northbrook@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:northbrook@slingshot.co.nz)

Dannevirke \* Denise Henman 06 374 5855 [denise.henman@xtra.co.nz](mailto:denise.henman@xtra.co.nz)

Dargaville \* Barbara Sterling 09 439 4555 [ladybee@vodafone.co.nz](mailto:ladybee@vodafone.co.nz)

Hokitika \* Fran Edwards 03 755 8142

Huntly \*\* Lodi Liebert 07 828 6123 [rulo@clear.net.nz](mailto:rulo@clear.net.nz)

Invercargill \* Christine Marsh 03 216 9773 [marshfamily3@xtra.co.nz](mailto:marshfamily3@xtra.co.nz)

Kaitaia \* Irene Turner-Crombie 09 408 3446 [iturnercombie@gmail.com](mailto:iturnercombie@gmail.com)

Kaiwaka\* Sarah Rogers 09 431 2194 [sarah\\_jane@clear.net.nz](mailto:sarah_jane@clear.net.nz)

Kaikohe\* Ngaro Poa 027 637 42357 [ngaropoa@thook.co.nz](mailto:ngaropoa@thook.co.nz)

Levin\* Ann Waddell 06 362 7269 [ann.hen@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ann.hen@xtra.co.nz)

Napier \*\* Jo Bromley 06 843 5737 [jo.b@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:jo.b@slingshot.co.nz)  
 Nelson \*\* Paula Eggers 03 548 6660 [paulaegg2000@yahoo.com.au](mailto:paulaegg2000@yahoo.com.au)  
 Otago \* Est/Nth Aad & Leonie 03 465 1764 [omaandopa@xtra.co.nz](mailto:omaandopa@xtra.co.nz)  
 Rotorua \*\* Win Macredie 07 345 5003 [winmacredie@xtra.co.nz](mailto:winmacredie@xtra.co.nz)  
 Rotorua \*\* Cyril Anderson 07 347 8163 [judycyril@xtra.co.nz](mailto:judycyril@xtra.co.nz)  
 Te Kuiti \* Leonie Tirrell 07 878 3220  
 Te Hiku Northland\* Koha Mehana 09 408 3788  
 Thames\* Keitha Jenkins 078668273 [northbrook@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:northbrook@slingshot.co.nz)  
 Upper Hutt \*\* Margaret Pearson 04 976 9475 [maggiemagpie@paradise.net.nz](mailto:maggiemagpie@paradise.net.nz)  
 Wairarapa \*\* Wendy Archer 06 377 2236 [marcher@paradise.net.nz](mailto:marcher@paradise.net.nz)  
 Wanganui \*\* Lynette Dickinson 06 344 2830  
     Cherryl Smith 06 344 1278 [cherryl@clear.net.nz](mailto:cherryl@clear.net.nz)  
 Wellington \*\* Cecilee Donovan 04 477 0632 [cecileed@gmail.com](mailto:cecileed@gmail.com)  
 Whakatane \* Shirley Faulkner 07 322 8524 [shirleyfaulkner@xtra.co.nz](mailto:shirleyfaulkner@xtra.co.nz)  
 Whangarei \*\* Janet Puriri 09 435 0044 [jpuriri@ihug.co.nz](mailto:jpuriri@ihug.co.nz)  
 \* Telephone support only: \*\* Telephone Support & Meetings.



**Can we help you? Members Services Nationwide**  
**Toll free line 0800 472 637**

**Field Officers:**

**Sharon Lee: ext 2**

Sharon is a counsellor with 25 years' experience. She has specific experience in working with families and the challenges of parenting, including children who have experienced trauma and issues of grief/loss for grandparent/kin carers and their families who are also parents, siblings of the original parents of the children in their care. She can assist with Family Group Conference's as a support person when practical or give advice. Auckland callers use 09 419 0045 11am - 5pm week days.

**Nola Adams: ext. 3**

Telephone advice can be given on the following topics Justice and Prison system, including Youth Court. Family Court applications: for persons wishing to self-represent: Child Youth and Family representation where practicable/advice. Disability advice and the Schooling system. Nola can be contacted on 06 845 3141 (Hawkes Bay callers).

**Diana East: ext. 4**

Diana has in-depth knowledge on issues impacting on grandparents raising grandchildren; has many years working with mental health consumers and carers. This gives her a very good understanding of a wide range of mental health issues and issues effecting grandparents raising. Hours 9am – 5pm 04 970 8177 (Wellington callers).

**Tricia Corin: ext. 5**

Tricia is a Beneficiaries Advocate. If you are having problems with your Benefits from Work and Income / Inland Revenue or are unsure if you are on the right Benefit, needing advice on UCB or DPB, Disabilities Allowance or recoverable and non recoverable advances . Hours 11am - 5pm 07 8685490 (Waikato callers)

**Very informal coffee groups – For times and venues:**

Auckland Central: June 09 630 2409  
Coromandal/Tairua/Whitianga: Brenda 07 866 4476  
Christchurch (New Brighton): Annie 03 388 0928  
Hamilton: Yvonne 07 829 8246  
Howick/Manukau: Lorraine 09 271 2900  
Kapiti: Aileen 04 904 4073  
Marton/Hunterville: Sharon 06 322 9795  
New Plymouth: Sue 06 756 7542 /027 8569242/txt  
Te Kauwhata: Denise 07 826 3779  
Wainuiomata: Tricia 04 971 3538  
Wairarapa: Sheryl 06 304 9957



If you would like to start an informal coffee group in your area, please contact Di at Head Office  
**Together we will and do make a difference in a child's life.**

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

H/O – Head Office

H/B – Handbook

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

Grands – Grandparents

G/c – Grandchild/ren

Kin – Kinship Carers

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.

[office@grg.org.nz](mailto:office@grg.org.nz)

National Convenor: Di Vivian

Free Phone 0800 GRANDS or 0800 472637 ext. 1 (not for use for Auckland callers)

Landline users only. Auckland callers (09) 480 6530

Postal Add: 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**

