



Newsletter February 2012

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



Data base: 5015 Whanau Carers.

From the National Office:

Brainwave Trust: Learning & Understanding: Auckland

The first 3 years last forever:

21st March for our presentation – 12.30 – 2.00. It will be held at 569 West Coast Rd, Oratia. Safety, consistency and nurturing in the first three years can result in a lifetime of fulfillment. Neglect and abuse during these first early years can result in a lifetime of lost potential. Did you know?

- *The way you speak, handle and respond to a baby shapes the baby's brain?*
- *Prolonged early stress disrupts brain architecture and increases the risk of emotional and behavioural disorders?*
- *Nurturing and responsiveness in the early years builds a strong foundation for learning, behaviour and relationships? "We are the first generation to have this knowledge at our finger tips. We ignore it at our peril!"*

If you have never attended one of these, then may I say you will find it fascinating, it explains a lot!



Happy, happy birthday to us, 13 years ago a need and a vision was seen and here we are with over 5000 fantastic (members) or I should say hero's on our data base. How timely is that! Thank you: for having faith in us, and thank you, for being there for your grand/kin children, or your heart family. These children are blessed to have you in their lives just as I am sure you are blessed to have them.

Di

Free KidsAcool camps for GRG members

Dates and locations for the April 2012 school holiday programmes are:

Whangarei – Maunu Children's Health Camp	10 – 14 April 2012
Auckland – Pakuranga Children's Health Camp	10 – 14 April 2012
Rotorua – Te Puna Whaiora ki Rotorua	10 – 14 April 2012

Gisborne – Te Kainga Whaiora Children’s Village	10 – 14 April 2012
Otaki – Children’s Health Camp	10 – 14 April 2012
Christchurch – Te Puna Whaiora ki Christchurch	10 – 14 April 2012
NB due to Chch quake, this camp will be held at an alternative venue	
Roxburgh – Children’s Health Camp, Roxburgh	10 – 14 April 2012

How can carers apply?

You can download an application form from the Children’s Health Camps website, www.healthcamps.org.nz.

If your child has previously attended a KidzaCool adventures holiday programme, we will already have most of your details, so please use the Kidzacool Child Details Update Form, in which we only need recent information or changes updated with us.

You can also request an application form by contacting your regional camp site: Whangarei 09 437 9050, Auckland 09 534 4017 Rotorua 07 345 9097, Gisborne 06 867 5614, Otaki 06 364 8069, Christchurch 03 332 2541, Roxburgh 03 446 8119

Free Home Insulation

If you are a member family living in the South Auckland and Hamilton areas you could qualify for FREE home insulation if:

You have a

- Community Services Card
- Your home was built before the year 2000
- Your home is not a state house
- Both the ceiling and underfloor can be insulated



If you are interested in an assessment as to whether you qualify please call Right House on 0800 744 484 to register or email Neil Mettrick, Operations Manager, Right House at neil.mettrick@righthouse.co.nz The offers runs until the end of March 2012

We are needing Volunteer Co-ordinators in the following area’s

Te Awamutu: Tauranga: Hamilton: Taupo: Please contact Di if interested. Thank you

Going Digital Targeted Assistance Package Announced

New Zealand Television is going digital. The switch to digital television will bring a big upgrade to your television experience, but to be able to benefit, you need the right equipment.

The switch to digital television starts on the West Coast of the South Island and Hawke’s Bay in September 2012, with the rest of the South Island following in April 2013. The lower North Island and East Cape go digital in September 2013, and the upper North Island from December 2013. This will bring a big upgrade to your television experience, but to be able to benefit, you need the right equipment.

If you have Sky or Freeview, you have gone digital already, if not - you don’t need to buy a new TV, but you *will* need some extra equipment such as a set top box and the appropriate aerial.

The new Minister of Broadcasting, the Hon. Craig Foss, announced that the Government would be providing assistance to those groups most likely to be in need of financial and practical help to go digital. The Targeted Assistance Package is narrowly focused toward those New Zealanders who, through age or disability, face the greatest barriers in going digital.

To be eligible, people must be watching only analogue television and be either:

- 75 or over with a Community Services Card; or
- receiving an Invalids’ Benefit or a Veteran’s Pension; or
- former recipients of an Invalids’ Benefit or Veteran’s Pension who have converted to New Zealand Superannuation.

The assistance package will provide the installation of reception equipment and training needed. Going Digital National Manager Greg Harford says that those eligible will have plenty of time to get ready. “We will be writing to eligible people at least 6 months before their region goes digital, allowing plenty of time for people to opt-in to receive the Assistance Package. Eligible people don’t need to do anything until they receive a letter from Going Digital”



You can find out more information at www.goingdigital.co.nz, or by phoning 0800 838 800.

**Your Voices:
Lucky No 8**

We thought that we would like to share snapshots in our household on a monthly basis, so here we go.

We currently have 8 out of 12 children in our care, and yes they all have the same parents and are extended Whanau to us. The ages range from 2yrs to 12 yrs old. All 8 have been in our care just a little over 12 months. The day they arrived, it happened to be my birthday, not many can say they received 8 little people as their birthday gift.

Before they came into our care, the only dance style they knew was the dancing that they saw at home parties when people were on drugs and drunk. Yep you got it, the “Once were warriors “style.

Since then 6 of them have joined Bev Birch School of dance that teaches Jazz ballet and Tap-dancing. They have performed in their first ever live production, competed against other Dance schools and received trophy’s, medals and ribbons at the end of the year prize giving for the following:



- Boys Zone Trophy
- Pre primary Trophy
- 1st place in Jazz Ballet Grade Trophy
- Achievement Award Trophy
- Best Attitude at Lesson Trophy
- Most improved Trophy
- Merit Award Trophy

The extra positive outcome that they have gained is

- Self Confidence
- Self-discipline
- Deportment

At the next GRG Regional or National Event they have been invited and look forward to performing for you all.

8 is enuff

Wishing all the GRG Network a Happy New Year for 2012.

We are happy to be a part of the West Auckland GRG Group, with the great support we receive coming from Debbie Hall and all the other members. In just over a year, we have made so many friends and widened our support network in all aspect, these are the events we have attended

- Monthly West Auckland GRG gatherings
- National GRG Conference 2011
- Auckland Regional Annual Fun Day.

Ten years of Caring:

We have not had a break for all those years, sorry only when they are at school. The children are excellent scholars, winning awards and one being offered a netball scholarship, hopefully if our fundraising goes to plan one will be off to Singapore on an educational trip.



We all attend church, and last night our ten year old read Isaiah chapter 39 and 40, this was in front of a full congregation, he has great self-confidence.

Proud Gran emails:

I just want to thank you and your organisation for all you have done for me and my grandson over the



past 3+ years. When he came into my care he was, according to the psychologists, 'very damaged' from abuse and neglect. Look at what a lot of love and support have done for him - this is his best report card ever from anywhere and because of being able to access camps over the years through membership in GRG, he has come a long, long way.

We thank you with all our hearts. He started high school this year and we look forward to him becoming a fine young man!

Respond, don't react

The New Year is a great time to make small changes that make big differences to the atmosphere in your family. We invest a lot of effort in teaching our children to stop and think before they act, but don't always model the skill very well!

If you make a habit of stopping to breathe deeply and consider your options when your child throws you a curve-ball, you're much more likely to respond in a way that you will still feel proud of later. No-one needs an instant answer or to be disciplined at the speed of light, so slow down and breathe. It is okay to say to a child "I am taking a minute to consider what needs to happen here." Parents Inc.



Oldest 'Fairy' in town:

Di at Auckland GRG picnic with Sharon Lee our Field Officer in background. Now you may ask yourself, why is she doing this? Late teen grandchildren decided they were too old to be fairies this year, so I set them an example ☺

Never too old, to have some fun and look silly, life is what you make it.

FREE CYF Caregiver Courses

Location	Workshop	Date/s	Duration
Napier	Safety and Prevention	Tuesday 6 March	9am-3.30pm
Dunedin	Safety and Prevention	Tuesday 6 March	9am-3.30pm
Hamilton	Maltreatment and Family Violence	Wednesday 7 March	9am-3.30pm
Paeroa	Child Development	Wednesday 7 March	9am-3.30pm
Christchurch	Safety and Prevention	Saturday 10 March	9.30am-4pm
Takapuna	Safety and Prevention	Saturday 10 March	9.30am-4pm
Rotorua	Safety and Prevention	Tuesday 13 March	9am-3.30pm
Whanganui	Identity and Belonging	Tuesday 13 March	9am-3.30pm
Gore	Safety and Prevention	Wednesday 14 March	9am-3.30pm
New Plymouth	Maltreatment and Family Violence	Thursday 15 March	9am-3.30pm
Lower Hutt	Safety and Prevention	Friday 16 March	9am-3.30pm
Greymouth	Legal Issues	Tuesday 20 March	9am-3.30pm
Mangere	Legal Issues	Tuesday 20 March	9am-3.30pm
Tauranga	Legal Issues	Wednesday 21 and Wednesday 28 March	6pm-9pm
Cromwell	Legal Issues	Wednesday 21 March	9am-3.30pm
Westport	Safety and Prevention	Thursday 22 March	9am-3.30pm
Oamaru	Safety and Prevention	Thursday 22 March	9am-3.30pm
Whangarei	Legal Issues	Thursday 22 March	9am-3.30pm
Hamilton	Legal Issues	Wednesday 28 March	9am-3.30pm
Grey Lynn	Child Development	Wednesday 28 March	9am-3.30pm

Taumarunui	Legal Issues	Wednesday 28 March	9am-3.30pm
Taupo	Legal Issues	Thursday 29 March	9am-3.30pm
Christchurch	Legal Issues	Thursday 29 March	9am-3.30pm
Palmerston North	Legal Issues	Thursday 29 March	9am-3.30pm
Timaru	Health and Wellbeing	Thursday 29 March	9am-3.30pm
Balclutha	Attachment and Resilience	Thursday 29 March	9am-3.30pm
Henderson	Legal Issues	Friday 30 March	9am-3.30pm
Gisborne	Legal Issues	Monday 2 April	9am-3.30pm
Hastings	Legal Issues	Tuesday 3 April	9am-3.30pm
Nelson	Legal Issues	Tuesday 3 April	9am-3.30pm
Invercargill	Legal Issues	Wednesday 4 April	9am-3.30pm
Porirua	Legal Issues	Wednesday 4 April	9am-3.30pm
Pukekohe	Legal Issues	Wednesday 4 April	9am-3.30pm
Hamilton	Identity and Belonging	Wednesday 4 April	9am-3.30pm
Blenheim	Legal Issues	Thursday 5 April	9am-3.30pm
Dunedin	Teamwork	Tuesday 24 April	9am-3.30pm
Christchurch	Teamwork	Tuesday 24 April	9am-3.30pm
Tauranga	Teamwork	Tuesday 24 April	9am-3.30pm
Papakura	Teamwork	Tuesday 24 April	9am-3.30pm
Timaru	Legal Issues	Thursday 26 April & Thursday 3 May	6pm-9pm days)
Masterton	Legal Issues	Friday 27 April	9.30am-4pm
Lower Hutt	Legal Issues	Monday 30 April & Tuesday 1 May	10am-1pm days)
Gore	Legal Issues	Tuesday 1 May	9am-3.30pm
Pukekohe	Carer Families	Tuesday 1 May	9am-3.30pm
New Plymouth	Legal Issues	Wednesday 2 May	9am-3.30pm
Hamilton	Legal Issues	Wednesday 2 May	9am-3.30pm
Grey Lynn	Teamwork	Wednesday 2 May	9am-3.30pm
Napier	Legal Issues	Saturday 5 May	9.30am-4pm
Paeroa	Understanding & Managing Behaviour	Wednesday 9 May	9am-3.30pm
Palmerston North	Carer Families	Wednesday 9 May	9am-3.30pm
Takapuna	Attachment & Resilience	Wednesday 9 May	9am-3.30pm
Balclutha	Child Development	Thursday 10 May	9am-3.30pm
Tokoroa	Teamwork	Thursday 10 May	9am-3.30pm
Christchurch	Carer Families	Thursday 10 May	9am-3.30pm
Whangarei	Carer Families	Thursday 10 May	9am-3.30pm
Cromwell	Carer Families	Tuesday 15 May	9am-3.30pm
Ashburton	Carer Families	Wednesday 16 May	9am-3.30pm
Gisborne	Attachment & Resilience	Thursday 17 May	9am-3.30pm

Otago	Carer Families	Thursday 17 May	9am-3.30pm
Dunedin	Attachment & Resilience	Saturday 19 May	9.30am-4pm
New Lynn	Carer Families	Monday 21 May	9am-3.30pm
Hastings	Carer Families	Monday 21 May	9am-3.30pm
Levin	Teamwork	Wednesday 23 May	9am-3.30pm
Whakatane	Carer Families	Tuesday 29 May	9am-3.30pm
Invercargill	Carer Families	Tuesday 23 & Wednesday 30 May	6pm-9pm
Porirua	Carer Families	Thursday 31 May	9am-3.30pm

Please complete the application form and email to : caregivertraining@cyf.govt.nz

Or fax to + 04 918 9294

Or send to National Caregiver Training Programme, PO Box 1556, WELLINGTON 6140

Free phone: 0800 227 305 For applications forms

<http://www.cyf.govt.nz/info-for-caregivers/national-caregiver-training-programme/applying-for-courses.html>

Please note:

- Morning and afternoon tea will be provided. Attendees will need to provide their own lunch.
- An attendance certificate will only be issued on completion of the full course.
- Attendance at the course does not constitute approval as a caregiver.

A lawyer and a senior citizen are sitting next to each other on a long flight.

The lawyer is thinking that seniors are so dumb that he could get one over on them easily. So, the lawyer asks if the senior would like to play a fun game.

The senior is tired and just wants to take a nap, so he politely declines and tries to catch a few winks. The lawyer persists, saying that the game is a lot of fun...."I ask you a question, and if you don't know the answer, you pay me only \$5.00. Then you ask me one, and if I don't know the answer, I will pay you \$500.00," he says.

This catches the senior's attention and, to keep the lawyer quiet, he agrees to play the game. The lawyer asks the first question. "What's the distance from the Earth to the Moon?" The senior doesn't say a word, but reaches into his pocket, pulls out a five-dollar bill, and hands it to the lawyer.

Now, it's the senior's turn. He asks the lawyer, "What goes up a hill with three legs, and comes down with four?"

The lawyer uses his laptop to search all references he can find on the Net. He sends E-mails to all the smart friends he knows; all to no avail. After an hour of searching, he finally gives up.

He wakes the senior and hands him \$500.00. The senior pockets the \$500.00 and goes right back to sleep.

The lawyer is going nuts not knowing the answer. He wakes the senior up and asks, "Well, so what goes up a hill with three legs and comes down with four?" The senior reaches into his pocket, hands the lawyer \$5.00, and goes back to sleep.



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 Services Nationwide
Toll free line 0800 472 637 (Caregivers only please)

Chief Executive Officer Geoff Lawson ext. 6

Members support Manager: Di Vivian New members and general information ext. 1

Field Officers:

Sharon ext. 2

Sharon is a counselor 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 or Strengthening families as a support person when practical or give advice via telephone. 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

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

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)

Please note that our Field Officers are Part Time

Formal GRG Support Groups: All welcome.

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

Mangere East * Teresa Van Kuylenburg 09 974 2388 teresa.mangere@grg.gmail.com

Canterbury North** Jan Farquhar 03 313 6487 farlaw@xtra.co.nz

Coromandel* Keitha Jenkins 07 866 8273 northbrook@slingshot.co.nz

Dannevirke * Denise Henman 06 374 5855 denise.henman@gmail.com

Dargaville * Barbara Sterling 09 439 4555 ladybee@vodafone.co.nz

Hokitika * Fran Edwards 03 755 8142

Huntly ** Lodi Liebert 07 828 6123 rulo@clear.net.nz

Invercargill * Christine Marsh 03 216 9773 marshfamily3@xtra.co.nz

Kaitaia * Irene Turner-Crombie 09 408 3446 iturnercrombie@gmail.com

Kaiwaka* Sarah Rogers 09 431 2194 sarah_jane@clear.net.nz

Kaikohe* Ngaro Poa 027 637 42357 ngaropoa@thook.co.nz

Levin* Ann Waddell 06 362 7269 ann.hen@xtra.co.nz

Napier ** Jo Bromley 06 843 5737 jo.b@slingshot.co.nz

Nelson ** Paula Eggers 03 548 6660 paulaeggers2000@yahoo.com.au

Otago Est/Nth * Aad & Leonie 03 465 1764 omaandopa@xtra.co.nz

Palmerston North ** Martha Taonui-Andrews 06 356 6929 email marthaan@inspire.net.nz

Rotorua ** Win Macredie 07 345 5003 winmacredie@xtra.co.nz

Rotorua ** Cyril Anderson 07 347 8163 judycyril@xtra.co.nz

Te Hiku Northland* Koha Mehana 09 408 3788

Upper Hutt ** Margaret Pearson 04 976 9475 maggiemagpie@paradise.net.nz



Wairarapa ** Wendy Archer 06 377 2236 marcher@paradise.net.nz
Wanganui ** Lynette Dickinson 06 344 2830
Cherryl Smith 06 344 1278 cherryl@clear.net.nz
Wellington ** Cecilee Donovan 04 477 0632 cecileed@gmail.com
Whakatane * Shirley Faulkner 07 322 8524 shirleyfaulkner@xtra.co.nz
Whangarei ** Janet Puriri 09 435 0044 jpuriri@ihug.co.nz
* = Telephone support only ** = Telephone & Meetings.

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
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
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

Member Support Manager: 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

