



Supporting and empowering grandparent and whānau care families to achieve positive life outcomes since 2001

Welcome

Tena koutou, Talofa Lava, Kia Orana, Fakaalofa Lahi Atu, Malo e Lelei, Bula Vinaka, Taloha Ni, Kam Na Mauri Namaste, Hallo, Bonjour, Hola and Greetings this month to our **5294** member families and all our non-member subscribers!

Keeping it Current

Please let us know if there has been a change to your contact details. Our aim is to do the best we can for our members, but this becomes difficult if we are unable to keep you informed of what's happening.

Letting us know if you've moved or had a change to your mobile phone or email is easy to do with the following options:

Visit our website www.grg.org.nz and click on the green **Update Your Member Details** button or [click here](#):

Or email us at office@grg.org.nz

0800 GRANDS

Call us on our free helpline service for support, information, advice and referrals to our Outreach and Advocacy team.

[0800 472 637](tel:0800472637) or [09 418 3753](tel:094183753)

Monday - Friday 9am to 2pm

[Facebook.com/grg.org.nz](https://www.facebook.com/grg.org.nz)



Update Your Member Details

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Key Dates Coming Up

- Extraordinary Care Fund Closing Date for the next round is 9 October 2020

Kate's Take



Kate Bundle
Chief Executive

Since our last newsletter, it has been wonderful to welcome Francesca Greenslade, our Client Services Administrator back from maternity leave, and I am privileged to share with you all her wonderful news of the birth of her baby boy Jacob in January earlier this year. Congratulations Francesca and Sam from us all at GRG! While on maternity leave Karla Macdonald fulfilled the temporary role of maternity leave cover and we are fortunate to have her join the team now in a new role as our **Communications and Projects Coordinator**.

Passionate about life, work and helping others - Karla comes from a background of mining, building, healthcare, retail, and hospitality. Combining her core and life skills Karla has come full circle with where she started to where she is today after returning to

Aotearoa following 19 years living overseas. Karla is proud of her roots, with her upbringing in the Waikato and is of Ngāti Māhuta, Ngāti Pou, Ngāti Raukawa. She started voluntary roles in her community at a young age and right through her schooling years. A highlight for Karla was fulfilling homecare duties as a health care assistant (before, after school and weekends) for her first client at the age of 16. Karla furthered her role as a health care assistant until her move to Australia in 1999.

Karla is responsible for the coordination of our client and stakeholder communications and a growing and diverse range of projects and events to complement our support services and the support available for our grandparent and whanau care clients nationwide. We are delighted to have Karla's infectious energy, sense of humour and enthusiasm in our team. Welcome Karla on behalf of us all at GRG!

Included in this month's newsletter we have an excellent guest blog article from **Smiling Gran** (see below); chronicling her experience through the Family

Court to gain legal rights of contact (access) to their grandchildren.

This is an issue that sometimes affects our members when the children return to their parents' care and her article is well worth the read with some excellent insights into the stages of the Family Court process.

We also celebrate the success of two of our member's grandchildren on page . Hannah discusses resiliency and the helpful concept of the "3P's" for changing perceptions and Tricia discusses eligibility for the OSCAR subsidy.



Karla Macdonald
Communications & Projects Coordinator

Grandparent Legal Access in New Zealand

Details of our journey to gain legal access to our grandchildren

We are writing this blog article in the hope that we can help other grandparents whose adult children have – for no good reason – disallowed them to see the grandchildren.

Hopefully our experience will give good grandparents an idea of how to go about securing visitation rights through the New Zealand Family Court if other avenues such as counselling have not been fruitful.

Firstly we would like to explain that our grandchildren adored us and we had a great deal of sole care of them with

absolutely no issues. All our time with the grandchildren was fun and loving.

Sadly *Riley, our adult child – decided completely 'out of the blue' to disallow us any contact whatsoever with our grandchildren, alleging (falsely) that Riley had been abused themselves by us as a child/teenager and that we therefore would abuse our grandchildren. Most parents, ourselves included, beat themselves up for having not been perfect but we had certainly not been abusive and in fact we must admit to having spoiled this child right through into

* Name changed to protect identity

adulthood, providing much too large a safety net.

Unfortunately raising a spoiled child resulted in a lack of appreciation as an adult to the point where, when we began to spend less and lower the safety net for Riley and spouse, Riley began threatening to disown us – thereby using our grandchildren as weapons against us. We found ourselves having to be very careful with everything we said and did as Riley would find fault wherever possible and make threats to ‘disown’ us. We now understand this was parental abuse.

Upon learning that Riley was denying us any access to our grandchildren we were extremely distressed and waited three months before contacting Riley to allow time for reflection in the hope that this ‘ban’ would be rescinded. After three months we contacted Riley by several means over a period of five months begging for reconnection. Our requests were met with vitriol and there was certainly no chance Riley would ever back down.

Looking for answers we first discovered **Family Works Resolution Services (FWRS)** which we had hoped might assist through counselling between Riley and ourselves. Riley refused to participate but we continued through this service to attend a Parenting Through Separation course, also referred to as a ‘**Ministry of Justice Parenting Information Programme**’ (usually required between separating spouses, but can also be useful for situations such as ours).

The FWRS and Parenting Through Separation course mentioned above are required in order to make an application to the Family Court to ‘Apply for Leave’. Section 5(e) of the Care of Children Act 2004 states that “... a child’s relationship with his or her family group, whanau, hapu or iwi should be preserved and strengthened.”

Also of relevance is the ‘lower threshold test’ adopted by Judge Geoghegan from an earlier decision that: *The application is not frivolous, vexatious or vindictive; and The applicant is shown to have an appropriate and sustainable interest in promoting the welfare and best interests of (the) child; then It is sufficient if the applicant shows there is an arguable issue.*

Applying for Leave of the Court to apply for a Parenting Order is the first legal requirement. This process determines whether you, as grandparents, are eligible to

apply for a Parenting Order under section 48 of the Care of Children Act. [Download the form from the Ministry of Justice website](#) – you can do this yourself as we did, though if you’re not sure what information is relevant for these forms you may choose to hire a lawyer at this point. If you live in a different city to your grandchildren, you will need to **lodge this Application in the Family Court in the city in which the grandchildren live.**

The above application will cost \$220 (as at 2020) to lodge. [If paying the fee will cause you financial hardship, you may be able to have the fee waived \(cancelled\).](#) You are the applicant(s), the grandchildren’s parent(s) are the respondents.



Legal Aid may be available if you meet the income criteria.

The Family Court will send a copy of your application to the respondents and they in turn will lodge a submission to the Family Court. You will receive a copy of this and may at this time feel you need to lodge a further submission yourself in response.

We liaised with our lawyer at this point. You can try to manage all of the legal matters yourself but at the very least we would recommend that you contact a member of the [Family Legal Advice Service \(FLAS\) to get a little free advice.](#) Google FLAS or visit the Ministry of Justice website to find FLAS lawyers. It is very important to understand what information the Court wants from you. Hopefully if you cannot afford a lawyer you will be eligible for Legal Aid, because a lawyer’s input may make the difference between having time with your grandchildren, or not.

Our lawyer advised us from the beginning that the Court would be less interested in Riley’s historical allegations than our relationship and interactions with our grandchildren. This is absolutely true so no matter how difficult it was to resist defending ourselves against these allegations (and it was very difficult!), we did not file a submission involving the historical allegations by Riley. We did however make a simple clear statement in our initial application and in a further submission that Riley had not been abused.

We had many offers from family and family friends to write affidavits on our behalf and we settled on five affidavits which were provided to our lawyer, should the need arise to present these to Court.

A Lawyer for the Children may be appointed, as happened in our case. This lawyer visited the

grandchildren and spoke with them to find out their feelings about us and provided a report to the Court. The grandchildren's response was, not surprisingly, very positive. The lawyer also spoke separately with ourselves as applicants, and with the respondents. Our grandchildren are young enough not to understand the reason this nice person was visiting them.

You will be appointed a Court Case Manager (registrar or deputy registrar of the Family Court) who will advise you of the progress of your case through the Court.

Our first Court hearing was for the Application for Leave (to apply for a Parenting Order). This occurred four months after lodging our initial application. There is never a definitive time offered as to how long you will get to Court for any of the ongoing processes – it may take less time or

hearing we should spend the first half of the day in Court undertaking a 'Parental Hearing Programme' (PHP). PHP is a relatively new concept in the Family Court and is much kinder to all concerned as it is 'inquisitorial' rather than 'evidential'. In other words, instead of having to face cross-examination, it would be a much more casual setting and far less harsh. Both our lawyer and the Judge explained that if we had the standard evidential hearing, any discord between parties before cross-examination would be dramatically heightened after cross examination. In addition, with an evidential hearing all those who had provided affidavits on our behalf would also have to be cross examined, which would further alienate the parties from those people (many of whom were family). The PHP option would therefore be very beneficial to all concerned. The Judge also advised that for our upcoming

“not having our grandchildren in our lives was not an option”

more, depending on how busy the Court in your area. The Judge at this first hearing made specific mention of the following:

- a) We had attempted counselling through FWRS
- b) We had attended the Ministry of Justice 'Parenting Through Separation' Course
- b) We had previously had a good relationship with our grandchildren
- c) We denied all allegations of historical abuse
- d) The parents (respondents) had, up until their 'banning' of contact, been happy for us to have sole care of our grandchildren on many occasions.

The Judge also ordered that we should have a course of counselling with the respondents through a Court-appointed counsellor. We had several sessions alone with our counsellor and ten sessions with the respondents. The counsellor does not provide a report to the Court and in fact the Judge said, at our final hearing, that he was not interested in the goings-on at counselling.

Our second Court hearing (a full year after our initial application) was to be for our **Settlement Conference**, whereby we and the respondents were to attempt to settle on a visitation regime for ourselves and our grandchildren. The respondents were not ready to settle and requested further counselling before coming to agreement, which was granted by the Judge. At this point the Judge made it clear that we posed no risk to our grandchildren and that he planned at the next (final) hearing to make a ruling in our favour, regardless as to whether or not the respondents agreed to visitation. At this hearing the Judge also suggested that for our final

final hearing, the second half of the day would be dedicated to settling a visitation agreement.

Our final Court date was fourteen months after our initial application (two months after the previous hearing detailed above). Bearing in mind the Judge had already made it clear that we were to gain access, the respondents reached agreement for visitation. We have regular visitation initially with Riley's spouse to ensure our grandchildren are comfortable with us after such a long time – it had been two years since we had seen them so it was understandable that they should have a parent to reassure them.

We had our first visit with our grandchildren nine days later! They still remember and love us and in a few months we expect there will be no necessity for Riley's spouse to attend our visits as by then our grandchildren will no doubt be fully comfortable with us. The Judge ruled that the maximum time Riley's spouse would need to attend these visits (to ensure our grandchildren are comfortable with us) would be six months.

So, how much did it all cost? Thankfully far less than we imagined, largely due to the fact that we were able to have a PHP rather than a full final hearing with cross-examination. It's no small sum but legal costs came in at around \$20,000.

The **emotional toll** is also huge. It certainly was for us but not having our grandchildren in our lives was not an option. We are happy to help with any questions if you email **Smiling Gran** at: grandparent.access@gmail.com

Resiliency and the 3P's



Hannah Morris
Community Outreach
Advocate

One of the most important traits when raising children is resiliency. Resilience simply put is 'the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties'. Resilience is being able to bounce back from stress, tragedy, challenges, trauma or adversity. When children develop their resilience, they appear to be braver, more adaptable, and ultimately confident while entering

the world.

Resiliency is of course a fluid concept. Some inhabit more resilience at one time in their lives as opposed to another because a person ultimately does not have a fixed amount of resilience and this is in fact fantastic news, because resilience is something that can be nurtured and further developed in all children. Resilience is like a muscle and it can be built up, and by building this muscle early in children's lives we help them to learn how to process past and future trauma and prepare them to grow into healthy adults.

A psychologist by the name of Martin Seligman also discussed this idea of resilience in more detail and was inspired in a moment of tragedy when he had a familiar thought that many of us have all faced before - believing or not knowing if we will ever feel joy again. Seligman in this moment discovered that this was not the case, grief must run its course and life will get better and so he introduced the idea of the 3 P's.

Personalization, Pervasiveness and Permanence.

The 3 p's are important to recognise as these are areas which can stunt recovery;

Personalization is the belief that we are at fault.

Pervasiveness is the belief that the event will affect all areas of our life; and lastly.

Permanence, is the belief that the aftershocks of the event will last forever.

Research and studies have proved that children and adults recover much faster when they are able to realize that hardships are not their fault, will not affect every aspect of their lives and that they will not last forever.

If these 3 P's are addressed and focused on by the individual and also their support system (*you the caregiver!*) they will in return be less likely to get depressed and will be better equipped to cope with difficult life events.

A [helpful exercise](#) which involves this concept of the 3 P's looks at how to **change your perception** on difficult events that happen in your life. For example, imagine you have been made redundant and lost your job? The negative 3P's thought pattern you might have could be:

Personal: I am not good enough / There's something wrong with me.

Permanent: I will never find another job

Pervasive: I am also a terrible parent

Now—change the perspective to the positive

Impersonal: The company is struggling / my skillset doesn't fit with their current needs.

Impermanent: I will find another job soon.

Specific: This applies to work – it does not apply to my family life or other areas of my life.

This is a helpful tool and exercise to keep in mind when addressing traumatic events in our own or our children's lives.

As children mature they should continue to build and work on their resilience. This this will be done by learning new skills that can increase their ability to manage and regulate their emotions and response to stress e.g. **teaching our children about mindfulness and how this can help with stress, anxiety and feeling overwhelmed.**

Another important way to assist with building resilience is to strengthen the entire family unit. Strengthening your family can be achieved by learning more about child development, seeking help in times of need/crisis, and developing positive social connections. There are several fantastic programmes that can assist in these areas such as parenting programmes e.g. the *incredible years* or even *GRG's very own SALT (Simply Acquired and Learned TechniquesTM) caregiver training programme* uniquely designed for grandparent and other whānau caregivers.

Please give us a call on 0800 472 637 or email us at SALT@grg.org.nz if you are interested in attending the SALT programme!

Remember, our children are capable of extraordinary things! Ultimately, we cannot change the fact that they will face challenges throughout life - after all one thing is certain in life, we will all face ups and downs. What we can do, is provide them with the skills so that these difficulties are unable to break them! We need to ensure that they will ALWAYS see the light at the end of the tunnel and most of all remember that they are loved!

Links for further information:

<https://www.heysigmund.com/building-resilience-children/>

<https://theconversation.com/building-resilience-early-in-life-can-help-children-cope-with-trauma-77151>

<http://growingresilient.com/home/tools/3-ps/>

Support Group Update



Merle Lambert
National Support
Coordinator

New Appointments – Support Group:

This month we would like to extend a warm welcome to Karen Kilgour (Ashburton), Janette Bungard (Dunedin) and Colleen Saunders (Southland) to our SGC team!

Would you be interested in volunteering your services for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ?

With over 5,200 members families across the country, Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ the life-blood of our organization are our local volunteer Support Group Coordinators who provide hands on support, information and advocacy, in addition to

running regular support groups for members to get that peer support that is so valuable when sharing their experiences and accumulated knowledge. Currently we are seeking Support Group Coordinators in the following areas:

Kaitia, Kerikeri, Whangarei, Bream Bay, Hibiscus Coast, Mangere/Onehunga, Te Puke/Papamoa, Whanganui, Dannevirke, Levin/Otaki, Greymouth and Otago - Coastal.

If you are raising a grandchild on a full-time basis or have an understanding of the blessings and challenges that this role brings and would like to share your experience and abilities to support and empower other like-minded family/whanau, we would like to hear from you. **Please contact:** National Support Coordinator at Merle@grg.org.nz or **021 246 0553** or **0800 472 637** (9-2pm Mon-Fri).

Hamilton Members—SALT Coming Soon...

Coming up, our Hamilton Support Group members will have the opportunity to attend one of our free **‘SALT’ (Simply Acquired and Learned Techniques™) Caregiver Training Workshops** - Gain practical insight and understanding of the impact of past trauma on a child or young person and learn how to effectively parent a child who may be exhibiting troubling or challenging behavior in a way that reduces conflict and stress in the home and promotes safety, stability and security for the child and family. This workshop is very popular amongst

our members and in the words of some of them:

“Practical tools made understandable and useful”

“Clear and easy to understand. Has a good knowledge of grandparents issues.”

“[Facilitator] was awesome, very kind lady with a lot of understanding.”

“Good balance between theory and application. Interactive style. Very good.”

“Awesome. I wish we had the information when we were first bringing up our grandchildren”

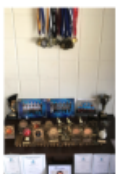
Please contact: **Pat Davis**, Hamilton@grg.org.nz for date and registration information.

Celebrating our member grandchildren’s achievements and success!

Congratulations **Marama** and Ryan from us all at GRG and to Marama’s grand-dad John Maiden and Ryan’s nana Trudi Joseph. Both very proud grandparents indeed!

Raised by his nana Trudi, since he was 4 years of age, Ryan was awarded a gold medal and silver cup for his great work and efforts during his last year at primary school at Cockle Bay in December 2019.

In year 13 at Pakuranga College, Marama has a string of outstanding achievements to her credit both on and off the field in basketball, Tag, cricket, indoor cricket and in 2019 she was awarded The Nga Kete O Te Matauranga Leadership award for Senior Female Maori Student at the college. Captaining her local club premier side in cricket she has also represented New Zealand at the Under-22 Girls’ Indoor Cricket Trans-Tasman International Series in 2019 and in February this year played for the NZ Maori Schoolgirls XI in their annual match against the Governor General’s XI in Wellington.





Tricia Corin
Specialist Advocate
Income/Financial Support

Advocating for you

This month I am breaking down the OSCAR subsidy that is available to some caregivers. There are a number of eligibility hoops to jump through so here goes...!

What is the OSCAR Subsidy?

OSCAR (*Out of School Care and Recreational Subsidy*) is a non-taxable payment that aims to assist low income caregivers **to enter and remain in employment.**

It can also be used for families where the principal caregiver, or the child or children of the principal caregiver **are experiencing, serious ill health or disability.**

Are you eligible for an OSCAR Subsidy?

You can receive an **OSCAR** Subsidy for up to 20 hours a week during a school term and up to 50 hours a week during school holidays if:

1. As the caregiver, you are in one of these situations:

- *working, studying or on an approved training course; **or**
- *involved in an activity that Work and Income has asked you to do; **or**
- *a shift worker who works nights; **or**
- seriously ill or disabled; **or**
- caring for a child in hospital or for a child for whom you get the Child Disability Allowance.

and

2. You are the principal caregiver of an eligible dependent child who:

- Is at least 5 or under 14 years of age **or**
- Is under 18 years old if the dependent child receives Child Disability Allowance **and**
- The child attends an approved OSCAR programme for a minimum of 3 hours a week **and**
- You don't have a partner who is able to provide childcare **and**
- *You meet an income test **and**
- *You are a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident (*i.e. you are not in New Zealand unlawfully, here on a temporary entry visa or temporary permit*) **and**
- *Generally, you are ordinarily resident in New Zealand

- (* These qualifications do not apply for if you are seriously ill or disabled, or where you are caring for a child in hospital or for a child for whom you get the Child Disability Allowance.)

If you are in paid employment, on a course of study (secondary or tertiary) or employment related training:

The **OSCAR** subsidy can only be paid during the time that you, as the caregiver, are engaged in employment or course (this includes your *travel time and lunch breaks*) up to a maximum of:

- 20 hours a week (*outside of school hours*) during the school term
- 50 hours a week (*during the day*) throughout the school holidays

If your employment is during the night, the subsidy will be paid for the time that you need to sleep during the day.

Please Note: *Paid employment includes when you are still employed, but not at work, such as sick leave, annual leave, or when weather conditions do not permit you to work. It does not cover periods of parental leave.*

Income Test

You and your partner (*if any*) must earn below an income cut-out point to be able to receive **OSCAR** Subsidy. The income cut-out points depend on the number of children you have in your care. The [MSD website](#) has a table that you can use to work out if you are eligible.

Note: if you are receiving the Unsupported Child or Orphan's benefit for a child in your care, this income support is **not included** in the income test.

Seriously Disabled or Ill Caregivers

You may be eligible for the **OSCAR subsidy for a child in your care if you are the primary caregiver and:**

- You have an illness or disability which results in a reduction of your independent function **and**
- your illness or disability is expected to continue for at least 6 months **and**
- your illness or disability is so serious as to warrant additional childcare **and**

Either:

- ⇒ You don't have a partner or there is a good and sufficient reason why your partner cannot provide childcare i.e. they are in employment, training or have another good reason **or**
- ⇒ the Child Disability Allowance is payable for the child

You do not need to have been receiving the **OSCAR Subsidy** prior to becoming seriously ill or disabled.

Whichever is the earliest event, the **OSCAR Subsidy** will cease as soon as

- the child turns 14 (*or 18 if they are receiving a Child Disability Allowance*) **or**
- You (as the caregiver) no longer require childcare for the child **or**
- the qualifications are no longer met

Child Receiving Child Disability Allowance

Children who receive a Child Disability Allowance (CDA) are eligible for the **OSCAR Subsidy**.

Sibling

If the child receiving the CDA also has a sibling, then the OSCAR subsidy is also available for the sibling (5-13 years of age) until the child receiving the CDA is no longer eligible for it.

Child's Principal Caregiver also Cares for a Child in Hospital

There is always extra stress and pressure on a family when a child is admitted to hospital. It is usually difficult for a caregiver to arrange childcare for other children so that the caregiver, can visit the child in hospital.

In these circumstances, up to 20 or 50 hours OSCAR Subsidy may be granted in respect of other children in such families, regardless of how many hours the caregiver spends visiting the hospital.

If you have any questions or need help sorting out your income support entitlements, please contact our National Support Office on **0800 472 637** for a referral to me, or via our [Facebook page](#) or email office@grg.org.nz.

Are you raising someone else's child?

If you are because there has been a breakdown in the child's family and you are likely to be their principal caregiver for at least 1 year from the date you apply to Work and Income for this support then you are entitled to this support to help with the costs of raising the child. The UCB is not taxable and is not affected by your income or assets as a caregiver. It is affected by any income the child might be receiving (e.g. ACC) and the child must be resident and present in NZ. To qualify for it you must also be over 18 years of age, resident and present in NZ for a continuous period of 12 months or more and you must not be a natural parent, an adoptive parent, or a step-parent of the child. If these circumstances apply to you and you think you have been incorrectly advised or you realise now that you should be receiving this support, please contact me on Tricia@grg.org.nz or our helpline on **0800 472 637** or call our National Support Office on **09 418 3753** for a referral to me.

Information About COVID-19

Our GRG website contains several webpages with information that we have collated for grandparent and other whanau caregivers. You can click on our gold COVID19 button on our website or below or [click here](#).



Grand Reflections

An elderly woman and her little grandson, whose face was sprinkled with bright freckles, spent the day at the zoo.

Lots of children were waiting in line to get their cheeks painted by a local artist who was decorating them with tiger paws.

"You've got so many freckles, there's no place to paint!" a girl in the line said to the little fella. Embarrassed, the little boy dropped his head.

His grandmother knelt down next to him "I love your freckles. When I was a little girl I always wanted

freckles, she said, while tracing her finger across the child's cheek.

"Freckles are beautiful!" The boy looked up, "Really?" "Of course," said the grandmother. "Why, just name me one thing that's prettier than freckles.

"The little boy thought for a moment, peered intensely into his grandma's face, and softly whispered, "Wrinkles."

If you have a Grand Reflection you would like to share with our readers please send it through to Karla@grg.org.nz.

A Blanket of Love

A blanket symbolizes warmth, friendship and a statement of kindness. A quilt symbolizes resourcefulness. Resourcefulness is the ability to find quick and clever ways to overcome difficulties, which many of us can relate to. Bring that altogether and you get a quilt made by Priscilla.

Priscilla spends countless hours bringing her thoughts to life – through an eccentric collage of colour, pattern and design. Each patchwork quilt tells a story, hidden within a landscape of inspiration lies a symbol of thought left by Priscilla. Seek and you shall find! Priscilla's creations have brought smiles to many little faces – Thank you Priscilla from us all at GRG ☺



Priscilla from the Bert Sutcliffe Retirement Village on Auckland's North Shore, with some of the many quilts she has made over the years for our tamariki in grandparent and whānau care throughout New Zealand



GRG Support Groups Nationwide



Meetings are held during school terms - with public and school holidays excluded unless otherwise stated.

KAIKOHE

Contact: Moengaroa Floyed 09 401 3057 / Kaikohe@grg.org.nz

Meets: Date and location varies. Please get in touch with Moengaroa for confirmation of the next meeting.

DARGAVILLE

Contact: Sandy Zimmer 09 439 4420 / Dargaville@grg.org.nz

Meets: First Wednesday of each month (starting 02/09/2020)

Location: Northern Wairoa Boating Club, Totara Street, Dargaville.

TAMAKI/EAST

Contact: Tess Gould-Thorpe 09 535 6903 / Tamaki@grg.org.nz

Meets: Date and location varies. Please get in touch with Tess for confirmation of the next meeting.

WAITAKERE

Contact: Esther Price 021 251 0690 / Waitakere@grg.org.nz

Meets: Date and location varies. Please get in touch with Esther for confirmation of the next meeting.

NEW LYNN

Contact: Robyn Robertson 021 309 365 / Newlynn@grg.org.nz

Meets: Third Tuesday of each month (starting 13/08/2020) at 10am

Location: House of Prayer, 9B Binsted Road, New Lynn.

PAPAKURA

Contact: Shirley Afoa 021 129 4151 / Papakura@grg.org.nz

Meets: Second Thursday of each month (starting 13/08/2020) at 10am

Location: Smiths Avenue Community Hall, 20 Smiths Avenue, Papakura.

PUKEKOHE/WAIUKU

Contact: Anne Doddrell 09 237 8161 / Pukekohe@grg.org.nz

Meets: Date and location varies. Please get in touch with Anne for confirmation of the next meeting.

NGARUAWAHIA/HUNTLY

Contact: Trevor Don 021 566 735 / Ngaruawahia@grg.org.nz

Meets: Date and location varies. Please get in touch with Trevor for confirmation of the next meeting.

HAMILTON

Contact: Pat Davis 07 855 0530 / Hamilton@grg.org.nz

Meets: Date and location varies. Please get in touch with Pat for confirmation of the next meeting.

KATIKATI

Contact: Cathie Kenyon 021 088 78686 / Katikati@grg.org.nz

Meets: Date and location varies. Please get in touch with Cathie for confirmation of the next meeting.

TAURANGA

Contact: Pam Downing 027 224 9169 / Tauranga@grg.org.nz

Meets: Date and location varies. Please get in touch with Pam for confirmation of the next meeting.

OPOTIKI/KAWERAU

Contact: Sophie Wilson-Kahika 07 262 5136 / Opotiki@grg.org.nz

Meets: Date and location varies. Please get in touch with Sophie for confirmation of the next meeting.

ROTORUA

Contact: Anne Donnell 022 059 5107 / Rotorua@grg.org.nz

Meets: Third Monday of each month (starting 20/07/2020) at 9:30am

Location: Linton Park Community Centre, 16 Kaimahi Place, Pukehangi, Rotorua.

TOKOROA

Contact: Debbie Newton 027 284 2103 / Tokoroa@grg.org.nz

Meets: Last Friday of each month (starting 31/07/2020) at 10am

Location: Tokoroa Council of Social Services, Gate 1, Tokoroa Hospital (1st building on the right). Parking available at the back.

TE AWAMUTU

Contact: Ruth Gilling 022 045 4475 / Teawamutu@grg.org.nz

Meets: Date and location varies. Please get in touch with Ruth for confirmation of the next meeting.

TE KUITI

Contact: Kay Higgins 027 430 2939 / Tekuiti@grg.org.nz

Meets: Third Wednesday of each month (starting 15/07/2020) at 10am

Location: Tiffany's Café, 241 Rora Street, Te Kuiti.

TAUPO

Contact: Lesley-Anne Wells 07 377 3539 / Taupo@grg.org.nz

Meets: Date and location varies. Please get in touch with Lesley-Anne for confirmation of the next meeting.

TURANGI

Contact: Charmaine Timihou 027 645 2002 / Turangi@grg.org.nz

Meets: Date and location varies. Please get in touch with Charmaine for confirmation of the next meeting.

TAUMARUNUI

Contact: Jo Wickham 07 896 7515 / Taumarunui@grg.org.nz

Meets: First Monday of each month (starting 07/09/2020) at 10am

Location: Taumarunui RSA, 10 Marae Street, Taumarunui.

PALMERSTON NORTH

Contact: Jacqui Phillips 021 229 0455 / palmerstonnorth@grg.org.nz

Meets: First Thursday of each month (starting 06/08/2020) at 1:15pm and 6pm

Location: Crossroads Childcare Centre, 220 Church Street, Palmerston North.

HUTT VALLEY

Contact: Serenah Nicholson 021 743 414 / Huttvalley@grg.org.nz

Meets: Date and location varies. Please get in touch with Serenah for confirmation of the next meeting.

MOTUEKA

Contact: Rankeilor Arnott 03 528 5089 / Motueka@grg.org.nz

Meets: Second and fourth Tuesday of each month (starting 14/07/2020) at 1pm

Location: St Andrews Church lounge, 64 High Street, Motueka.

TIMARU

Contact: Angela Bennison 027 248 5468 / Timaru@grg.org.nz

Meets: Date and location varies. Please get in touch with Angela for confirmation of the next meeting.

SOUTHLAND

Contact: Colleen Saunders 03 216 4173 / Southland@grg.org.nz

Meets: Second and fourth Wednesday of each month (starting 22/07/2020) at 10am

Location: Family Works, 183 Spey Street, Invercargill .

RECRUITMENT IN PROGRESS

Papatoetoe, Whakatane, Gisborne, Napier.

CURRENTLY VACANT

Kaitaia, Kerikeri, Whangarei, Bream Bay, Hibiscus Coast, Mangere/Onehunga, Te Puke/Papamoa, Whanganui, Dannevirke, Levin/ Otaki, Greymouth, Otago Coastal.

If you are raising a grandchild on a full-time basis or have an understanding of the blessings and challenges that this role brings and would like to share your experience and abilities to support and empower other like-minded family/whanau, we would like to hear from you.

Contact: Merle 021 246 0553 (9am to 2pm, Monday –Friday) / Merle@grg.org.nz

NEW PLYMOUTH

Contact: Diane Richardson 021 185 1097 / Newplymouth@grg.org.nz

Meets: Date and location varies. Please get in touch with Diane for confirmation of the next meeting.

WAIRARAPA

Contact: Tere Lenihan 021 509 493 / Wairarapa@grg.org.nz

Meets: Date and location varies. Please get in touch with Tere for confirmation of the next meeting.

WELLINGTON

Contact: Cecilee Donovan 04 477 0632 / Wellington@grg.org.nz

Meets: Date and location varies. Please get in touch with Cecilee for confirmation of the next meeting.

EAST CHRISTCHURCH

Contact: Anna Clare 021 058 77404 / Eastchristchurch@grg.org.nz

Meets: Date and location varies. Please get in touch with Anna for confirmation of the next meeting.

NORTH OTAGO

Contact: Margaret Pink 03 437 0837 / Northotago@grg.org.nz

Meets: Every 3rd Friday of the month alternated between Oamaru and Waimate commencing 21st August at The Hub, Waimate Main School, John Street, Waimate at 10.00am and then at Plunket, Severn Street, Oamaru on 18 September at 10.00am.

COFFEE GROUPS

Whangarei

Janet 09 435 0044

Warkworth

Shirley 09 423 7052

Auckland Central

Jane 021 424 801

South Auckland

Virginia 09 277 7514

Whitianga

Gillian 027 454 0314

Cambridge

Brenda 027 438 5401

Napier

Beth 06 843 9385

Upper Hutt

Margaret 04 976 9475

Blenheim

Juliet 03 571 6222

Christchurch

Elaine 021 025 08834

HASTINGS

Contact: Tom Kupa 06 879 4302 / Hastings@grg.org.nz

Meets: Date and location varies. Please get in touch with Tom for confirmation of the next meeting.

PORIRUA

Contact: Roma Paull 022 050 4761 / Porirua@grg.org.nz

Meets: Date and location varies. Please get in touch with Roma for confirmation of the next meeting.

NELSON

Contact: Sharon Norriss 03 548 6710 / Nelson@grg.org.nz

Meets: Date and location varies. Please get in touch with Sharon for confirmation of the next meeting.

ASHBURTON

Contact: Karen Kilgour 0277 412 039 / Ashburton@grg.org.nz

Meets: Date and location varies. Please get in touch with Karen for confirmation of the next meeting.

DUNEDIN

Contact: Janette Bungard 027 814 4135 / Dunedin@grg.org.nz

Meets: Date and location varies. Please get in touch with Janette for confirmation of the next meeting.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ

Established in 2001 as a registered charitable trust (CC20205), GRG supports over 5200 grandparent and whanau care families nationwide, representing around 9,000 caregivers and over 14,000 children. Our vision and kaupapa is to empower grandparent and other whanau care families to achieve positive life outcomes, through providing support, information, advice, advocacy services and caregiver education programmes.

For more information about GRG please contact us at office@grg.org.nz or +64 9 418 3753 | 0800 472637

Other Handy Helpline Numbers

111 for emergency services, fire, ambulance or police

0800 933 922 PlunketLine for advice on child health or parenting from a registered Plunket Nurse

0800 611 116 Healthline for health triage and advice from a registered nurse.

COVID-19 Healthline concerns call **0800 358 5453**

Text 1737 'Need to Talk?' Get help from a counsellor

0800 543 354 or **Text 4357** for **Lifeline** - 24/7 confidential support from qualified counsellors and trained volunteers

0800 376 633 Youthline, helping families and youth

0508 Carers (0508 227 377) a 24/7 Caregivers Guidance and Advice Line.

0800 WHATS UP (0800 942 8787) - a free counselling helpline for teenagers and children run by Barnardos.

Depression.org.nz – Free text number 4202

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ

Suite C, Chelsea Business Park
162 Mokoia Road
Birkenhead
Auckland 0626

PO Box 34892
Birkenhead
Auckland 0746

Phone: +64 9 418 3753
E-mail: office@grg.org.nz

Can we help you?

Members ONLY services are available free of charge

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. *He rōpū manaak i, he rōpū whak arongo, he rōpū ak o mātou*
We are respectful, we listen, we learn.

Please pass this newsletter on to other grandparents kin/whanau caregivers you know who need support

nationwide
New members and existing members please call our Helpline 0800 GRANDS (0800 472 637) or 09 418 3753

Or Join GRG via our website at GRG.NZ
Or click the Join GRG button below

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter or you have changed address please update your details by contacting the GRG Trust NZ National Support Office

If you have moved address or planning to please make sure to let us know.

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