

# MONTHLY NEWS



## Editorial

Hi Everyone,  
Another year has begun! This one too is already shaping up to be another busy one.

Thanks to some good advice given by Volunteering Gold Coast, we may be getting a "new look" newsletter in the very near future. So if things start to look a bit different you will know why.

There is also going to be another **conference** style meeting in February as well as the one we are still hoping for in June.

Just a few days ago the Attorney-General announced **more assistance for grandparents**. The aspects he deals with were very closely tied to topics we discussed with him last year.

People from the offices of **Senator Joe Ludwig** and **Minister Jenny Macklin MP** have also been in touch re appointments we have requested. These two Federal Departments deal with Centrelink matters (amongst others). Each in a different way.

**The Commissioner for Children, Young People and Child Guardian** has requested space.

There is a great **Kinship Carers picnic** coming up soon and a wonderful contribution from a grandparent which will make you both laugh and sigh.

**Details of all of these can be found in later articles.**

Even though we no longer have Lisa as a paid employee, much of the work she did has engendered this activity as well as made it possible for me to keep up with it and service our new groups.

Watch out, though, because I do intend to ask some of you to assist in order for us to keep growing and gaining more benefits for all grandparents.

Lisa has kept her contact details going so KinKare can still be reached through her. Lisa intends to volunteer for us whenever she can, given the time restraints of her new job.

My "break" has certainly been a busy one, but all this good news can never come at a bad time!

Isn't it amazing how a bit of good news can rejuvenate even the tireddest old body?

Happy reading!



## Petition Circulating

There is a petition circulating which KinKare thinks has value.

This was started by another group and we are trying to help them gain more signatures.

One signature to a line please, when all 18 lines are complete, send it back to us. We will then pass it on.

The petition will be included for mail members and attached for email recipients. There will also be an explanatory note included.

Original signatures are required, no faxed or emailed ones. Our email people will have to print this off and post back the completed form.

Our address is in the footer of each page of the newsletter.



## Grandparent Forum

**Paradise Kids** is holding a grandparent forum on February 11<sup>th</sup> @ their facility (11 Dunkirk Close Arundel.) from 9:30am to 3:30pm. There is a suggested donation of \$5 and a coffee shop is on the premises.

This is an organisation which has had extensive experience in handling grief and loss with children.

Dr Sally Frye is the guest speaker. You will have heard me sing her praises many times before. If you haven't yet heard her speak, then this is your chance to hear her on the Gold Coast..

Afterwards, the centre hopes to open a group for grandparents. It will have a definite basis in counselling so quite different from KinKare groups, but it may well suit you. I therefore encourage all to come along and make up your own mind.

**For further details contact:**

**Mireille Allen or Theresa McEwen 5574 6853**



## MEETING DATES

*Please call first as many groups do not meet in school holidays*

### KinKare EAGLEBY

Meets the second Friday of each month @10:30am,  
Eagleby Community Centre  
Ph Maree 3287 1664

### KinKare NERANG

Meets the fourth Wednesday of the month @12:30pm  
Nerang Neighbourhood Ctr  
Ph Maree 3287 1664

### SUNSHINE COAST KinKare

This group now meets with Community Solutions.  
Please see below

### KinKare INALA

Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month @ 10:30am,  
The Hub, Corsair Ave  
Ph Maree 3287 1664.

### KinKare CLEVELAND

Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month @ 10:30am  
The Donald Simpson Centre  
Ph Maree 3287 1664 or Maged 3207 7200

### KinKare BEAUDESERT

Meets 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month @10:30am  
Beaucare, 44 Tina St  
Ph Michelle 5541 3290

### KinKare GOODNA

Starts on November 17<sup>th</sup> 10:30am  
Neighbourhood House 33 Queens St  
PH Maree 3287 1664

### ZILLMERE & SOUTHBANK

#### Indigenous Grandparent Support Group

Meets twice monthly  
Please ring Tess Ph 3252 4371

#### Grandparents As Parents

Community Solutions Inc.

#### Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay

Please phone Sharon 5437 9499



### CAIRNS & DISTRICT

#### G'parents Support Group

Meets the first Wednesday of each month @9:30am,  
Hambledon House Community Centre, Edmonton  
Ph Janet or John (07) 40 555 161  
Email [johnjan@ Cairns.net.au](mailto:johnjan@ Cairns.net.au)

### TOWNSVILLE region

#### Nth Q'ld G'parents in Need

#### of Support

(GINOS)

For details of this group, please contact  
Ph. Nev (07) 4723 3520  
Email [trcota@bigpond.net.au](mailto:trcota@bigpond.net.au)

### WESTERN AUSTRALIA

#### Granpower

[www.granpower.org.au](http://www.granpower.org.au)

For details Ph Suz 0409 294 231  
PO Box 172 Cannington WA 6987



### Group Meetings

For those who would like their meetings placed in this column, just drop me an email or letter and I would be only too pleased to spread the word.

**There is no requirement to be a KinKare group.**



### Newsletter Items

Another reminder to all groups, the newsletter articles are for distribution to any relative carers. Don't hesitate to pass on the newsletter in its entirety or relevant articles as you see fit. The only thing we ask is that the intent/content of the article is not compromised.

***We are considering going to a PDF format. Please advise if this will not suit you.***



### Please Note

If you need someone to chat to, we are always happy to hear from you.

Phone Danni 3299 1764 or Maree 3287 1664,  
or your local support group leader.





Attorney-General for Australia

18 January 2009

## NEW RESOURCES TO ASSIST GRANDPARENTS

Attorney-General Robert McClelland today announced that the Rudd Government will provide increased resources through the family law system to help grandparents maintain positive relationships with their grandchildren.

The initiatives being undertaken by the Government include:

- Commissioning the Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) to examine the impact of the 2006 family law reforms on grandparents;
- Producing information brochures, booklets and DVDs on the importance of children maintaining strong relationships with significant people in their lives, including grandparents;
- Developing and issuing guidelines to be used by Family Relationship Centres when dealing with cases involving grandparents; and
- Exploring how the Parenting Orders, Post Separation Cooperative Parenting and Supporting Children After Separation programs can better include discussions about the importance of grandparents and other extended family members.

This work complements the \$400,000 provided by the Rudd Government to Legal Aid Commissions last year to enhance the delivery of family dispute resolution services to grandparents and other extended family members.

"The Government is committed to investing in the relationship between a child and their grandparents."

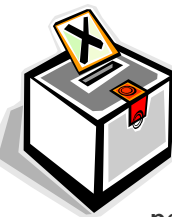
"It is a relationship that can provide children with love, support and additional care, particularly during times of family relationship difficulties," he said.

"I am confident that these materials will lead to better outcomes for families including grandparents and, most importantly, their grandchildren," Mr McClelland said.

*Tracey, COGs, myself and three other grandparents met with the Attorney General last November. We are just thrilled with these outcomes. (Many thanks to all). COGs and KinKare have since been invited to assist with preparing the resources.*



KinKare is an independent community group supported and auspiced by Connect the Coast Assoc. Inc.  
 Contact: Maree Lubach 15 Mimi Crt, Mt Warren Pk, Qld 4207  
 Ph. (07) 3287 1664 Email mlubach@optusnet.com.au



## State Elections

As we all know too well, we will be back at the polling booths sometime soon.

An election always means time to get your **wish list** happening. Please **send to me your own personal hopes** for grandparent's benefits that fit the **State areas** (not Centrelink for example.)

There is much that the State can do.

A **Carers Recognition Bill** is before State Parliament. It seems that we have once again been forgotten by the major parties. The State should be providing services; Health Education and so forth specifically for grandparents.

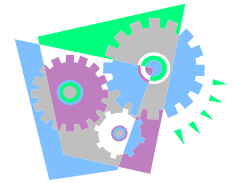
The section of government which deals with Seniors interests has shrunk to a mere handful of people. This is an absolute disgrace when **some states have dedicated a whole Department to Seniors**. Many organisations we have close ties with are hoping to change this.

**Please get onto to your local State member and ask why these things are happening!**

When a party hopeful asks put these issues to them. **Let's get all parties behind us.**



## The Council of Grandparents (COGs)



### Conference Date Claimer National Grandparent Conference June 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> 2009

Please put these dates in your calendar as you would hate to miss out.

As always, COGs will attempt to make all aspects free to grandparent participants.

**Watch this space!!!**



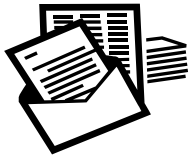
## Kinship Carers Picnic

### Date claimer

Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup> @ the picnic grounds in Blackbird St Beenleigh 12 noon. Take the first Beenleigh exit and turn off the roundabout at the last street before you go back onto the highway. There will be all sorts of fun for the kids. More details available from me.

**Please support those who support you!**





## Personal Page

**It is just great to get contributions like this from our members. I think this says it all!!!!.**

It's New Year's Eve, the grandkids are asleep and the hubby's snoring. I'm sitting at the computer, alone with my thoughts and a blank page staring at me. I look around the house and see unidentifiable food particles on the kitchen floor, toys scattered everywhere and hand prints on the TV. I know if I step into the toilet right about now, I will have to clean up the mistake of an exuberant 5 year old boy. I'm feeling old, tired and a little sorry for myself so I've decided to do some writing.

Writing is cathartic. It gives me the chance to share some of my thoughts, reflect on my situation and probably laugh, after all life is too short. So for all the Nanas and Pops out there raising kids, I know you'll relate to my day.

I awake with a startle. Did I hear a strange noise? Did I lock the fridge? Will I find a full roll of toilet paper at the bottom of the bowl or worse yet, a rendition of a Jackson Pollock with the remnants of a nappy?

I wait for the noise again – nothing. I dare to close my eyes again and dream of some place else only to be rudely interrupted by a blaring TV. We're up and ready to go – its 5.30am. Breakfast and cartoons are on the menu. Forget the morning news.

Get them fed, dressed and outside and pray that it doesn't rain. I wish I had a dollar for every time I heard the words "Can I?" "I want!" "Why?" and "No".

The kids are happily playing outside and I am now left to clean the remains of breakfast. I look around and wonder to myself if it's not easier to just bring the dog in to clean the floor. I've got floors to clean, beds to make and washing to do before the kids kill each other or morning tea – which ever comes first.

Wait a minute, they're quiet. I look for them and its no surprise, they found water and mud. They are having a wow of a time and I'm letting them be. I know time is short and it won't be long before one of them is crying because of mud in their mouth, nose, eyes or any other orifice.

Right on que, I hear the scream. They're covered in it from "head to tail". Get them in, clean them up and feed the hungry little mites. What next? I know, lets watch the Wiggles and we can dance and sing for the next hour. Take a moment now, and picture this: My rather rotund overweight and grey haired husband with no shirt on singing "Quack Quack, Quack Quack Cockle Doodle Do" It's not a pretty sight but the kids love it. Thank God its lunch time because we're both bugged. The glory of lunch is that it is rest time afterwards. This is our hour's break. What shall we do? Mmm...let me think. Bring the washing in, mow the lawns, wash the floors or clean the bathroom? Perhaps I shall just have a cup of tea and think about my aching bones.

The afternoon ritual is a repeat of the morning. Food and then play outside while I prepare for dinner and bath time.

I've not mentioned the toilet training that is taking place – I think I'll leave that up to your imagination.

While I'm busy in the kitchen, I'm able to watch the kids playing in the cubby house we built.

Down the slide and into the sandpit they go. Enough of that, it's now the trampoline. No, not anymore—now it's the bikes, the scooter, the skateboard and any other toy that can fight over. As soon as I hear too much whinging I'll give them an ice block. I'm now blessed with peace for a few minutes peace unless the dog gets the ice block.

The end of the day is near and it's bath, food, bottle and bed. Don't kid yourself, its not that easy. After dinner, we try to send them into the bedrooms to play so that we can watch the news, but the toys keep coming out to us. I believe that children have an innate ability to find the loudest toy to run up and down a hallway while the news is on. Still to this day, I can hear my father yelling at us... "Be quiet, the news is on."

Okay, let's get the kids settled once and for all. Read a book, lights out and DVD on. I just love Postman Pat and Bottle Top Bill.

The day is now done. All are asleep and time to clean the remainder of the kitchen mess. It's now after 10.00 and time to hit the sack. I lie in bed and think to myself what life will be like when I'm 65 and raising a teenager? That scares me, but I look on the bright side - we won't have to worry about them eating play doe or choking on marbles.

2009 will mark our 30<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. I imagined spending that day on a beach in Broome watching the sunset with a glass of whatever in our hands. Okay now it's back to reality.

A night at the Paradise Resort with lots of activities for the kids and, the best part, a possible 4 hours of free time for us while the kids are entertained. We have the opportunity of a life time.

We are going to attempt to eat a meal together without sticky hands or spilt milk to clean. I can't wait.

We don't often see our friends anymore. They don't have small children. While they are out and about travelling to different countries, eating at fancy restaurants and going to concerts and live shows, we're busy raising two young boys to be good citizens. We're eating at MacDonald's and going to Wiggle concerts and parks.

I sometimes mourn for the life we should have had. However, I look into the eyes of those little boys and I wouldn't have it any other way. I pray to God each night that I live another day to watch those little faces smile and enjoy life.

We have given them a future.

I hope you enjoyed the journey. For all the other grandparents out there I just like to let you know how special you are. Not all of us have the opportunity to raise children twice and who knows - some researcher out there just might find a positive correlation between people over the age of 50 raising children and the late onset of Alzheimer's.

**I wish you all a Happy New Year**

