

MONTHLY NEWS



Editorial

Hi Everyone,
Well, I have taken on the task of putting out two newsletters for Maree while she is taking a well deserved trip to Thailand with the Soroptomists. It would only be Maree who would consider this a 'holiday'!

I am hoping that you all remember the process for these two newsletters as I do not hold the full email list in this office. People on the mailout list will receive theirs as usual, but Maree did send out a reminder notice to those on email so they will know when to look for it on our website.

I cannot undertake to include the variety of information that Maree has in the newsletter but I will have a report back on the progress of the OPSO-COGs SpeakOut issues that were raised in April.

There will also be some information from other organisations associated with the Council of Grandparents that may be of assistance with some ideas for the upcoming school holidays if you live in the Brisbane area.

Hope you enjoy this edition,

Regards

Tracey Douglas

Chair, Council of Grandparents



Linking seniors with community information

&

Grandparents Information

As was mentioned in the previous newsletter, the book being developed by Dr Sally Frye, Paul Harnett and Andrew Wood called "Grandma, you make me want to touch the sky!" was released yesterday at a special launch by the Minister for Communities at the Parliamentary Annexe.

It is a wonderful little book, full of great ideas etc and is available from SEL by calling 1300 135 500. At the same time the website www.grandparentsqld.com.au was officially launched. Again this is going to be a great resource and includes the newsletter developed by SEL called Grand Matters. This can be downloaded from the internet website but if you

have no access to the Internet, then contact Maree or myself on 5596 5523 and leave a message and I will send a copy out with your next KinKare newsletter.

This month I will be including the checklist of information, resources and referrals from SEL which grandparents can use to help to identify their support needs.



CHILD SUPPORT AGENCY

[Courtesy of Seniors Enquiry Line]

If you have care of grandchild/ren who are under the age of 18 years of age, you can receive child support from one or both parents of the children if you apply to the Child Support Agency.

From 1 July 2008 the Child Support Scheme will change. Under the new scheme there will be some changes to the way child support is assessed for non-parent carers. A non-parent carer includes **grandparents** with care of a child under 18 years of age.

Child support payable to non-parent carers will still be worked out using a formula based on both of the parents' incomes, cost percentages and child support percentages – similar to how it is worked out for parents. This helps ensure that both parents contribute to the ongoing costs of raising their children. The amount of care each parent has will also be taken into account.

If you are a grandparent carer with significant regular daytime caring responsibilities and no night time responsibilities, CSA recommends you and the parent/s make a parenting plan and provide a copy to CSA.

For more information contact Child Support Agency 131272 or visit www.csa.gov.au





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 has now decided to hold joint meetings with
Community Solutions.
Please see below

KinKare INALA

Meets 2nd Tuesday of the month @ 10:30am
We are trying to get this meeting happening again so
please let us know if you are planning to attend. It is
quite expensive for me to go only to find no-one there.
Ph Maree 3287 1664.

KinKare GLADSTONE

Please contact Pauline
Ph (07) 4978 0501

KinKare WARWICK

**Currently needing a facilitator.
Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.**

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

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

Please Note: Updated phone number



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

Just 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.



Please Note

All contributions to the newsletter
are gratefully accepted.

Please email them to me for transfer to the newsletter.

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.





Another OPSO/COGs Speakout for Grandparents

When: Monday 14th July 2008

Where: TriCare Community Room, 1748 Logan Road, Mt Gravatt.

Time: 9.30am to 2pm – lunch supplied.

RSVP: Friday 11th July to 5596 5523.

TOPIC:

Legal Issues for Grandparents with children in the care of DoCS and DoCs.

We had a great response from the last SpeakOut and are currently working on the legal issues raised from the previous speakout. We will keep you updated on these as they progress and are hoping to have some documentation about these available at this new SpeakOut.

We are also issuing invitations to representatives from the two departments as well as the two Ministers involved to attend and 'listen'.



School Holiday Fun

During the upcoming school holidays and in June itself there is a wide variety of activities for both younger and teen children to participate in. Some are free and some have a minimal cost to attend.

Youth Enterprise Trust

For teens 16 to 24 years there is a range of programs through the Trust available to them. It is challenging and carefully structured. If you think there would be some benefits please contact Jeanette McGhee on 07 5543 6899 or email clo@yet.net.au You can look up further information on this on www.yet.net.au

OUT OF THE BOX

This runs from 10th to 15th of June, is aimed at children 3-8 years old and is at QPAC at South Brisbane. Some performances need to be booked but there are some free events available at this. You need to contact 136 246 or visit the website www.outoftheboxfestival.com.au

QUEENSLAND MUSEUM

This is at SouthBank and it has a free Museum Zoo running from 9.30am to 5pm daily. It covers a field trip through biodiversity teaching kids why the biggest creatures are not always the best. Ring 3840 7555 for more details.

They also have the "League of Legends: A Hundred Years of Rugby League in Australia" which is a free exhibition for the football fanatics that runs from 6th June to the 10th of August 2008.

Capalaba Park Shopping Centre

A free puppetry entertainment with life-size marionettes, with the David Hamilton Puppets is on from 30th June to the 5th July at 11am and 1pm.

Disney on Ice

This is expensive but very special. It is "Mickey and Minnie's Amazing Journey" from 25th to 29th June and you need to book for this on 132849 at Ticketek. Tickets start at \$25.

Brisbane City Council Libraries

These have a range of features for young people during the holidays. Most libraries across the State will be doing similar work so just check with your local library for more details of what is on there.

Pregnancy, Babies and Children's Expo

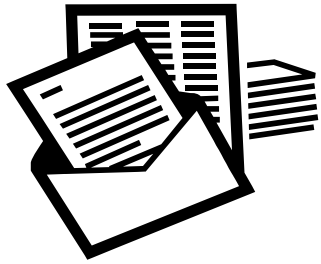
While this may sound a little scary, it is also a useful event as it includes free children's entertainment and a preview of the latest things in children's needs. It is on 27th to 29th June, cost is \$10 for pensioners with children under 14 being free. It is at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. More information on 08 8341 5945 or visit www.pbcexpo.com.au

The Fairies

These are at QPAC Concert Hall on Wednesday 2nd July. Contact is QTIX 136 246.

They are at the Gold Coast Arts Centre on Tuesday 1st July. Contact is 5588 4000.

Bring your wings and wand and join the Fairies for a fan-fairy-tastic day in Fairyland.



Our Personal Page

Many thanks go to all of you for your contributions to the newsletter.

During the last month or so, many service providers have mentioned to me that they are just now experiencing grandparents as clients. It has taken years, but I believe that the work is starting to pay off.

Yet another major seminar for grandparents is being organized for August which will have a slightly different focus from those already run as there will be more service providers there wanting to know how to help.

Please keep watching for details and support these activities as they come up because this is how we spread the word.

SPECIAL DATECLAIMER:

Planning is again under way for our second annual **Congress for Grandparents**. It will be on **Friday 5th September** at the same venue as last year's. We are already planning more displays and information as well as an interesting range of workshops in the afternoon.

Laughter is the Best Medicine!

[Courtesy of SEL]



I didn't know if my granddaughter had learned her colours yet, so I decided to test her. I would point out something and ask her what colour it was. She would tell me and always she was correct. But it was fun for me so I continued. At last she led for the door, saying accusingly, "Grandma, I think you should try to figure out some of these yourself!"

Do you know why grandchildren are always so full of energy? They suck it out of their grandparents – Gene Perret.



Grandmothers are mothers who are grand,
Restoring the sense that our most precious things
Are those that do not change much over time.
No love of childhood is more sublime,
Demanding little, giving on demand,
More inclined than most to grant the wings
On which we fly off to enchanted lands.
Though grandmothers must serve as second mothers,
Helping out with young and restless heirs,
Each has all the patience wisdom brings,
Remembering our passions more than others,
Soothing us with old and well-honed arts.



[This is an extract from "Grandma, you make me want to touch the Sky"]

Bullying – p83:

Bullying is more common than you may think. As awful as the thought is, if you have two children, then chances are that one of them will experience bullying at least once. Half of Australian children admit to being bullied at least once; on in five Australian students report repeated bullying. Cyber bullying can be carried out through internet services such as email, chat rooms, discussion groups, instant messaging, or web pages. It can also include bullying through mobile phone technologies such as SMS. Cyber bullying can include teasing and being made fun of, spreading rumours online, sending unwanted messages, and defamation. Some people say "bullying doesn't really hurt children – it helps toughen them up." This is simply not true. Remember that while some children are very resilient, others are more vulnerable.

Bullying can harm children and young people in many ways, including feeling isolated, feeling bad about themselves, and believing that what others say about them is true. It can affect their ability to learn at school and can contribute to anxiety and depression.

