

MONTHLY NEWS



Editorial

Hi Everyone,

Another year has nearly bitten the dust! The shops have all their Christmas things out and I have to think of what to buy the family. I find such joy in now being able to shop for grandchildren as well as both my children.

It doesn't take much to make us happy does it? So why do we have to fight governments so hard for such simple pleasures in life?

Well. That's just the way it is for now, but you **CAN** make a difference. **Please register to attend our conference and show them how many voters we represent.** You need to move now or you may well miss out.

Immediately below is a report on our picnic by one of our grandparents.

Many thanks, MG, for the contribution to the newsletter. It makes my job soooo much easier.

Heaps of new things again this month; so happy reading.

My love and best wishes as always,
Maree



Picnic Time

Sunday October 14th

What a great day we had at Southbank for our annual picnic. The weather was kind and we enjoyed the company and much conversation.

After filling ourselves with sausages in fresh rolls, salad and cold drinks we set off on the Sea Cat for a cruise on the Brisbane River.

For those who missed out, see you next year.

Thanks go to Julie and Maree for organising the event.

A day not to be missed.

Editors note: So glad to finally meet you Mary.



COGs

Council of Grandparents

Congress Friday November 23rd

There has been a fabulous response to the congress by both grandparents and service providers. I urge all of you who can attend to do so as it is very important that we show our numbers to the politicians. This is our best way of convincing them that there are enough of us to warrant their attention.

If you have not yet registered, please call the number on the registration form. The RSVP was for October 30th in order to arrange transport and accommodation for those travelling long distances.

However if you are travelling from the South-East Queensland or have arranged your own accommodation, there is still some time to get in. Child care needs and catering need only one weeks notice. Places are filling fast so you will need to be very speedy though.

When investigating public transport, the address is 52 Merthyr Rd, New Farm. It is a short taxi trip from Brunswick St station and buses leave from just past Ann St. If you prefer you can catch a bus from the Cultural Centre Busway at Southbank or even a City Cat. By bus or City Cat there is a short walk to the Centre. Check out the distance in the UBD Map 23 L1.

At this stage we are still waiting on confirmation from some of our invited speakers. We do have several other people who have requested time to speak and they will be slotted in as possible.

The congress will provide information for both those raising grandchildren and those denied access. There is no eligibility barrier for any relative carer. If you would like to be there but have a problem, please let us know as we are more than willing to help in any way possible. I am really looking forward to it as there have been so many replies from grandparents I have not yet met as well as from groups I didn't even know about. It will be very exciting.

KinKare thanks both Tracey Douglas and those administering the Pam Byde Bequest for all their efforts in getting this day going.



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 www.kinkare.com.au

Ph. (07) 3287 1664 Email mlubach@optusnet.com.au

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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 @12:00
Nerang Neighbourhood Ctr
Ph Maree 3287 1664

SUNSHINE COAST KinKare

Meets the Second Wednesday of the month 9:30am@ the
Salvation Army Hall Maroochydore
Phone: Lynne: 5444 6270

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

Meets 2nd Friday of the month 10 am
Ring Jo at Mercy Services 4635 8600

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 Donna 5477 5955

CAIRNS & DISTRICT

G'parents Support Group

Meets the first Wednesday of each month
@9:30am, Hambleton 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) 4623 3520

Email trcota@bigpond.net.au



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



Kay's Last Hooray

As reported previously, Danni and I spoke to the Enquiry into the effects of illicit drugs on families and their report (**The Winnable War on Drugs**) is now out.

Kay Elson MP spoke to this report in Parliament on September 19th 2007.

The following transcript from her speech shows the compassion and understanding with which she views the problem. This particular passage really hit home for me and I am so grateful that our politicians are being made aware of the human side of our circumstances.



"I think the final quote hit home. This is from a parent—and a lot of parents go through this silently—who said:

Through conflict about the drugs and the subsequent lifestyle including some criminal activity my son chose to live away from the family home.

At the time we were relieved and grateful for the peace until eventually he was brought home by friends who could see his downward spiral and knew he needed to be cared for.

He weighed 45 kgs, by now the father of a one year old son who I was helping to raise.

The heart break of watching his toddler son try to rouse his dad as he lay drug riddled on the couch was too much to bear. My son would slowly raise his arm and tousle his son's hair, the deep love fighting against the grain of the addiction.

I learnt to live with my fear.

was fearful he would die; he would be bashed, hurt in an accident, attacked by other drug users, jailed, bashed by police or just disappear.

My body jarred with the sound of a siren, a newsflash, a sudden thud ...

My grieving began. I grieved for his lost potential, his lost personality, his own peace, and my wants for him as a person. Constantly I have had to re-evaluate my own values, I have let go of my need to have a house with walls intact, furniture that matches, and my own career and I have peeled back the layers to value the person, to value keeping him alive at all costs."



In Parliament Again!

When I was looking up Kay's speech, I happened to come across this speech in the same sitting. This fellow is from the **ALP (NSW) and is their Chief Whip**. Both sides, same sitting, what is everyone waiting for???

Grandparents

Mr PRICE (Chifley) (9.55 am)—Mr Deputy Speaker Causley, I want to shock you but, firstly, I want to praise an aspect of a state government's program and highlight concerns that I have about the national government. Parents as Teachers have provided some funding for grandparents who parent. I have met with the group a couple of times. They meet at the Madang Avenue Public School, and it is a great little group. What is unusual about them? It is just not that they are parents of orphans. Often these grandparents are in their twilight years and are accepting very young grandchildren and the responsibility for bringing them up. Why is this so? It is mostly because of alcohol abuse, substance abuse or domestic violence and sometimes because these children have been sexually assaulted. They often have very complex behavioural problems.

I would be critical of DOCS—I think DOCS could be doing a lot more to support these grandparents—but I also think that there is a role for the Commonwealth. This is a hidden group in our community that is doing a sterling job. But they are old, they get tired and they need a break. Often, respite is not available or they cannot afford to pay for it. They are doing a sterling job but it is very hard for them. Mr Deputy Speaker, you and I are grandparents and it is a joy. We have all the time and patience but we know that our grandchildren will go back to their parents. These grandchildren stay with their grandparents and I think the grandparents should be supported. The federal government needs to look at giving them additional assistance.

In my electorate some of the grandparents have worked but, unfortunately, they are now all dependent on social welfare. I do not think social welfare is meeting their needs, much less their grandchildren's needs. I say to the federal government: let us put politics and the argybargy of an election aside. This is a very small but growing group in our community who are taking on a huge burden. The government should be grateful for the good work they are doing, but they need more assistance. I have mentioned respite, but these grandparents also run up all the sorts of bills that parents do but without the income of parents. (*Time expired*)



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Our Personal Page

For some time now we have had the great privilege of having the folk from the **Seniors Enquiry Line** assisting us in every way they can. I particularly want to thank them this month for **the personal support** and help that **they give to me**.

It was very comforting for me to hear that, with all their resources, they too have to say to some grandparents that there is almost nothing we can do to help. This is the most difficult thing there is to have to say, but there is just not enough support out there.

The timing of the comment was perfect as just after I experienced, for the very first time in five years, **a bad attitude from a grandparent**.

Almost always the calls I get start with words like "Hope you have the time" and finish with "I'm sorry I downloaded on you".

Please remember we are acting in a voluntary capacity and are trying to do the best we can.

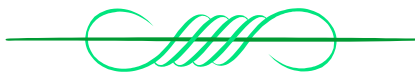
When you ring your local support group leader, please try to put the angst aside and remember they are, or have been, in a similar position of crisis and are just trying to help.



Laughter is the Best Medicine!

Thanks so much for sending these in. They gave me a good lift! Bob, a 70-year-old, extremely wealthy widower, shows up at the Country Club with a breathtakingly beautiful and very sexy 25 year-old blonde who knocks everyone's socks off with her youthful sex appeal and charm and who hangs over Bob's arm and listens intently to his every word. His buddies at the club are all aghast. At the very first chance, they corner him and ask, "Bob, how'd you get the trophy girlfriend?" Bob replies, "Girlfriend? She's my wife!" They're knocked over, but continue to ask. "So, how'd you persuade her to marry you?"

"I lied about my age", Bob replies. "What, did you tell her you were only 50?" Bob smiles and says, "No, I told her I was 90."



Remember to read this as an email.

Dear All

My thanks to all those who have sent me emails this past year.....I must send my thanks to whoever sent me the one about cockroach eggs in the glue on envelopes because I now have to use a wet towel with every envelope that needs sealing. Also, I now have to scrub the top of every can I open for the same reason.

I no longer have a lot of savings because I gave it to a sick girl; who is about to die in the hospital for the 1,387,258th time.

But that will change once I receive the \$15,000 that Bill Gates/Microsoft and AOL are sending me for participating in their special e-mail program .

I no longer worry about my soul because I have 363,214 angels looking out for me.

Thanks to you, I have learned that my prayers only get answered if I forward e-mail to seven of my friends and make a wish within five minutes.

I no longer can buy petrol without taking a man along to watch the car so a serial killer won't crawl in my back seat when I'm filling up.

I no longer answer the phone because someone will ask me to dial a number for which I will get a phone bill with calls to Jamaica, Uganda, Singapore and Uzbekistan. And thanks to your great advice, I can't even pick up the \$5.00 I found dropped in the car park because it probably was placed there by a sex molester waiting underneath my car to grab my leg.

If you don't send this e-mail to at least 144,000 people in the next 70 minutes, a large dove with diarrhoea will land on your head at 5:00pm this afternoon and the fleas from 12 camels will infest your back, causing you to grow a hairy hump.

I know this will occur because it actually happened to a friend of my next door neighbour's ex-mother-in-law's second husband's cousin's beautician.

By the way....a South American scientist after a lengthy study has discovered that people with low IQ who have infrequent sexual activity always read their e-mails with their hand on the mouse. Don't bother taking it off now, it's too late.

