

MONTHLY NEWS



Editorial

Hi Everyone,

I am still trying to clean up after the dust storm but it is a near impossible job as it seems to just keep coming! I hope you are faring a little better in your area.

I can't believe it, just one more newsletter before my usual time off in December and January. Until then though, it will be a very busy time as we quickly approach **Conference**. I hope I will see all of you there.

Official **registration forms are now out** for conference and **everyone should have received them.** (If not you need to let me know immediately as the reply date is **October 10th.**)

It is very important that you fill in the official form. Even though you may have already filled in the "expression of interest" form you must still fill in the registration form. **The expression of interest was a non-binding form that gave us an idea of expected numbers. The official form is the only one which actually books your place at conference**

As is always the case, some agenda items we had hoped for were last minute deletions, but the final agenda will be sent to you with acknowledgement of your registration. **If you are applying for an accommodation or travel assistance package, make sure you contact Tracey,**

(07) 5596 5523 or tadcom@austranet.com.au

This will be the first grandparents' conference that I know of which makes it so affordable for grandparents to attend. **We really want you there and to hear you voice your needs.**

Also, don't forget to comment on our website for the discussion of the **National Body.** (www.nationalbodyforgrandparents.net) It is important for us to get as many ideas as possible expressed. **The site is for service providers, and anybody else with some experience in the area, as well as grandparents and support group leaders.**

Love as always,
Maree

During this month, I received an email alerting me to this survey. I am quite sure most of you know NAPCAN and the wonderful work they do. I am therefore asking you to take a minute of your time to read this and assist them with their survey.

NAPCAN

PREVENTING CHILD ABUSE

NAPCAN Survey of Community Attitudes 2009

NCPW 2009 marked the start of a 2 month campaign to engage the whole of the Australian community in the prevention of child abuse and neglect. The key message of the campaign is:

Walls protect child abuse not children.

Help break down the walls and bring child abuse out into the open.

Act now. Go to www.preventingchildabuse.com.au and complete the short online survey.

The safety and wellbeing of Australia's children is everybody's business – it is not just the responsibility of governments but a responsibility that should be shared by the whole Australian community; individuals, professionals, business and the media.

Did you know that over 30,000 individual children were abused or neglected in Australia last year? How can this happen in our community?

Perhaps it's because child abuse largely remains hidden behind walls - the real walls between us in our communities and the walls of fear, ignorance, denial and disinterest.

These walls protect child abuse, not children. So if we are going to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all of Australia's children we must **bring child abuse out into the open.**

As a first step NAPCAN is calling on all Australian adults to start thinking and talking about this issue, not just people who have children but everyone, to help solve this problem.

From the beginning of National Child Protection Week on 6 September to the end of Children's Week on 1 November, NAPCAN and its partners are conducting the largest ever survey of community attitudes. This survey has been designed with the assistance of leading researchers from across the country to gather information which will help in the planning of effective strategies to prevent child abuse and neglect. You can play a part in this.

Start by having your say at www.preventingchildabuse.com.au

If you do not have access to the internet you can be part of the survey by calling Ph: 1800 126 456



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

KinKare CLEVELAND

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

KinKare BEAUDESERT

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

KinKare GOODNA

Starts on November 17th 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 johnjanet@internode.on.net

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

The Townsville Grandparents Social Support Group

Meets on the last Friday of the month @ Thuringowa
Sound Shell 10.30am to 12.noon at the Dan Gleeson's
Memorial Gardens Kirwan, Townsville.
They invite grandparents along who are caring for their
grandchildren full time to come along and have a great
morning with the group have a cuppa coffee or tea and
goodies and meet other grandparents and exchange ideas
and discuss their issues. Bring the kids as well.

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

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Granpower

www.granpower.org.au
info@granpower.org.au

For details Ph Saz 0409 294 231

Please help!

We need your input. Articles, or even just requests for the
type of article you would like to see on these pages, are
always welcome.

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.



An International Perspective

This month, as a member of another organization, I was privileged to play hostess to **two Canadian ladies** for a day. They brought with them a magazine published in their area of the world for us to see the differences and similarities that our two countries have. As it happened, the feature (5 page) article was on **grandparents raising grandchildren**.

I could not keep myself away from this article. In the past, I had been led to believe that overseas grandparents had started before us in their bid for recognition and were therefore so much further down the track. That was not the case according to this article. The problems and lack of awareness, and government inaction, were just as we experience here. I read with great interest, how those raising were have the same **problems with school enrolments and permission forms and getting some doctors to treat the grandchildren without parental permission**.

There was also mention of those seeking access to grandchildren. Further research I did actually brought to light a legal professor who in fact maintains that Australian Law is in advance of most western countries. Obviously he has never had to put it to the test! A clear separation was made in this area between those who geographically were kept from developing a relationship with grandchildren and those who were denied this by the parents. I think it is very important to mention here that the real heartbreak comes through the breakdown of the whole network of family relationships. **The pain and trauma of having a child "turn their back on their upbringing" is extreme and shared by both those rearing and those denied access.**

Another interesting concept I came across was the idea of a Grandparents Day.

There was an enquiry to the Seniors Enquiry Line regarding this and I had heard of it before in the States. Surprisingly, I read in one article that there was disappointment at the lack of support is had with grandparents.

We have a day for almost everything else, so why not start to give some thought to this. I would be very interested to hear if anyone is willing to take this idea further.

Such a concept, in my opinion, is the kind of activity our National Body should look into as it needs to be a nationally celebrated day to have a real impact on the community. The more I considered the whole thing, the more positives I could see coming out of it. Please send feedback on this issue.



National Body Update

www.nationalbodyforgrandparents.net

If we build it,

They will come!



Since the whole idea of a National Body was first proposed, I have received a tremendous number of phone calls and emails from both grandparents, support group leaders and service providers. Personally, it has been a very fulfilling time for me. We, of course, have some differing opinions but on the whole there has been overwhelming support. To date there have been communications with people from Canberra, Tasmania, Western Australia, New South Wales and many areas in Queensland. (Please forgive me if I have forgotten anyone.) The essential thing to report is that **NOT ONE person who has contacted me has spoken against the idea**. The devil, however, is in the details. This tells me that we must keep working to ultimately achieve establishing this body.

That is such an easy thing to state but there are so many **hidden obstacles** we must all work together to overcome.



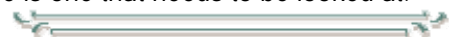
One of the most obvious, of course, is the fact that **government** would then have yet another community group demanding their point be heard. (We call that democracy.)

I have been talking with a couple of politicians, who have supported grandparents for a long time now, and I have been given some much needed encouragement to continue as well as some very good advice. I must, at this point, thank another grandparent support group leader who said to me that when I feel it is all getting too much to remember the support of all the grandparents out there. It's not too much, yet, but I am starting to realize that I am not as young as I thought.

I am convinced our time is near. It may not happen as soon as we all would want it to, but the important thing is that we get it right, from the beginning, so that as many grandparents as possible will feel this body is working for them.

Another very important issue brought up on the website is how our body would be funded.

One grandparent has suggested we may need to introduce a modest annual fee. (\$20 or so). I am hoping she will publicise this for discussion on the website as the idea of a fee scale is one that needs to be looked at.



A BOTTLE OF MERLOT

Laughter is the Best Medicine

WOMEN DRIVERS

This morning on the Freeway, I looked over to my left and there was a woman in a brand new Holden Calais, doing 110 kms per hr with her face up next to her rear view mirror putting on her eyeliner.

I looked away for a couple seconds! And when I looked back she was halfway over in my lane, still working on that makeup. As a man, I don't scare easily.

But she scared me so much; I dropped my electric shaver, which knocked the meat pie out of my other hand. In all the confusion of trying to straighten out the car using my knees against the steering wheel, it knocked my mobile phone away from my ear which fell into the coffee between my legs, Splashed, and burned Big Jim and the Twins, ruined the darn phone, soaked my trousers, and disconnected an important call. **Bloody women drivers!!**



THE SUPERMARKET OF THE FUTURE!



An exclusive new supermarket opened in Toorak some weeks ago.

It has an automatic water mister to keep the produce fresh.

Just before it goes on, you hear the distant sound of thunder and the smell of fresh rain.

When you pass the milk cases, you hear cows mooing and you experience the scent of fresh cut hay. In the meat department there is the aroma of charcoal grilled steaks and bratwurst. In the liquor department, the fresh, clean, crisp smell of tapped John Smith's beer. When you approach the egg case, you hear hens cluck and cackle and the air is filled with the pleasing aroma of bacon and eggs frying. The bread department features the tantalizing smell of fresh baked bread & cakes.

I don't buy toilet paper there anymore.



A man asked a waiter to take a bottle of Merlot to an unusually attractive woman sitting alone at a table in a cozy little restaurant. So the waiter took the Merlot to the woman and said, 'This is from the gentleman who is seated over there.' and indicated the sender with a nod of his head.



She stared at the wine coolly for a few seconds, not looking at the man, then decided to send a reply to him by a note.

The waiter, who was lingering nearby for a response, took the note from her and conveyed it to the gentleman.

The note read:

'For me to accept this bottle, you need to have a Mercedes in your garage, a million dollars in the bank and 7 inches in your pants'.

After reading the note, the man decided to compose one of his own in return. He folded the note, handed it to the waiter and instructed him to deliver it to the lady.

It read:

'Just to let you know things aren't always what they appear to be, I have a Ferrari Maranello, BMW Z8, Mercedes CL600, and a Porsche Turbo in my several garages; I have beautiful homes in Aspen, Miami, and a 10,000 acre ranch in Louisiana. There is over twenty million dollars in my bank account and portfolio.

But, not even for a woman as beautiful as you are, would I cut off three inches.

Just send the bottle back.'



GOOD MORNING!!!!

**My face in the mirror Isn't wrinkled or drawn.
My house isn't dirty. The cobwebs are gone.
My garden looks lovely And so does my lawn.
I think I might never**

Put my glasses back on.

