

MONTHLY NEWS



Editorial

Hi Everyone,

It was so wonderful to see many of you at the Congress. From the comments I received from you, I could tell it was a great success.

One of our helpers there said it was good to see all the smiling faces. This particular lady comes to many "special" functions and said she felt warmed by the positive attitude of our grandparents.

It was a great day!

Many of you who were unable to attend requested a report on the activities and, as there were so many, almost all of this newsletter will be devoted to the Congress **and its outcomes**. Of course, there will not be space for details just overviews. **Details will be published early in the new year and will be available from COGs or Tracey (07 5596 5523).**

I apologize if I didn't spend much time with each one of you as I had many to get around and not the least of these, our guests.

The guests who were able to come at such short notice were very impressive and we extend a vote of gratitude to each one.

There were so many who were unable to attend that I feel next year will be even more exciting. In particular, as the election was so close, my politicians sent apologies. This was unfortunate, but a fact of life, given the parameters that we all had to work under.

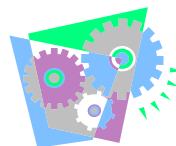
I am having a break over the Christmas period so there are NO KinKare MEETINGS or another newsletter until February.

I will, of course, still be available on the phone. Sorry this newsletter is late but I can only do what I can do...as they say. Hopefully I will be back at early in the month publications of the newsletter next February.

If anyone has difficulties providing over the break, please contact me. My details are listed in the footer at the bottom of the page.

My best wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

My love and best wishes as always,
Maree



COGs

Congress Friday November 23rd, 2007

General Overview

As mentioned earlier, this day was a wonderful success. We were addressed by many high quality speakers and a great deal of friendly, and helpful, networking was done.

After the opening, the first speaker was from Caxton Legal Service, Joe Ho, and although it was impossible for him to address personal problems, he gave us some very good advice.

The next speaker was Dr Sally Frye. She has worked with grandparents for some time now through the Dept of Communities "Time for Grandparents" programme. Her input and knowledge of grandparenting issues was incredible. I have never before encountered such dedication and understanding of our situation. More about that later.

In the middle session we had speakers talk about general grandparenting assistance. These included people from:

- Family Relationship Centres
- GINOS (Nth Q'ld) support group explaining their activities
- KinKare: I spoke on behalf of support groups generally
- Seniors Enquiry Line: Julie kept us up to date on what they are doing
- Centrelink: Todd Maller and Jodie Johnstone explained first hand what is available to our people
- Unfortunately Foster Care Q'ld was a no show/ no response. Very disappointing!
- Rebecca Lali and Kristina Hardeck presented some research they had done for their final year assessment in Health re grandparent s.

The afternoon session was devoted to workshops. The workshops were:

- Family Law Contact Issues
- Centrelink
- Time Out for Grandparents
- Indigenous Grandparents
- Dealing with the Media

Many outcomes are being addressed. More to follow.



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) 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

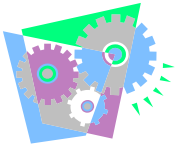
**All contributions to the newsletter are
gratefully accepted.**

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**



More on Our Congress

There is no way that I can possibly do justice to all that happened at Congress and the many people who spoke in the confines of this newsletter so I will just whet your appetite.

Caxton Legal Service

Caxton is one of many Community Legal Services available throughout Queensland and other States. (They graciously found time to fill in when others were all busy.) They are part of a network which services most of Q'ld and can help you with advice etc, but cannot usually represent you. As each individual case has so many differences it is hard for any legal people to give specific assistance in a group situation.

Outcomes:

This service has suggested that they may be able to assist grandparents by putting together a **booklet/pamphlet for grandparents on the processes and etiquette of court proceedings**.

Because of the need found at Congress, COGs is looking into about **different "forums" next year**.

- One for grandparents **wanting contact** through the **Family Law System** to find out the legal implications
- Another for grandparents **wanting residency** through the Family Law System for the same reason.
- One for grandparents troubled by **Dept of Child Safety issues** to be made aware of their legal status
- Two more will then follow to **present these problems to relevant authorities** for due deliberation by law makers.

Once again, to be successful, it will take support from you to come along and be represented.

We all understand that your particular circumstance may be very delicate and you cannot appear personally. There are ways to keep your anonymity, but still bring your plight to the people who are charged with making a difference. More about these proceedings later in 2008.

Networking:

Some years ago a worker trying to assist grandparents and bring their plight to light made some very serious mistakes which have taken many support group leaders years to overcome.

I am pleased to say that those of us who were present at Congress have spoken openly since, and are eager to overcome her obstacles.

You will notice the difference in the new year.

Dr Sally Frye at Congress



It was a great honour to have caught up with Sally at Congress. I know many of you have been privileged enough to know her beforehand, but I had only spoken to her over the phone.

As everyone who was there will attest, this lady not only knows grandparents very well, and can help them, but has a passion about their circumstances. It was very refreshing to hear her presentation.

Dr Frye is part of the team who assists grandparents through the **"Time for Grandparents"** programme run by the Seniors Enquiry Line for the Dept of Communities.

I have attended so very many "seminars", for the want of a better word, where so called professionals addressed us on the problems of grandparents. Never before have I actually heard one who had the insight that Dr Sally Frye has. Never before had I heard one who truly was dedicated to helping our grandparents.

Through you I had heard great things about this lady and her team, but I was still astounded by the reality. Her words hit home with all of us.

It has made me even more determined to work harder so that those of you who are through the Dept. are not going to miss out on the sort of help she can offer.

The Dept has an obligation to support their relative carers and it is time they gave them the best support possible. Attending these camps is just that! And we must move together to ensure this happens, at least once, for every grandparent.



Foster Care Q'ld

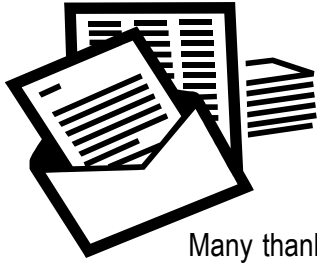
I have to say that it was **very disappointing** that this organization did not attend nor did they let us know that they would not be able to provide a speaker as expected.

There have been many callers that I have referred to them and, lately, these people have had less than satisfactory results.

This organization if funded by government and I expected better responses to our members.

As they are recipients of this newsletter, and have a devoted relative/kinship carer arm, perhaps they would like to explain what happened.





Our Personal Page

Many thanks for all the Christmas cards. I am so sorry that I cannot afford to respond to all of you personally, but please know that I think of you everyday and really appreciate you kind words.

My special Christmas wishes to all of you.

Love,
Maree



Laughter is the Best Medicine!

CHUCKLES FOR MATURE COUPLES AND OTHERS .

My husband and I divorced over religious differences. He thought he was God, and I didn't

Marriage is a three-ring circus: Engagement ring, wedding ring, and suffering.

For Sale: Wedding dress, size 8; worn once by mistake.

There are two times when a man doesn't understand a woman: Before marriage and after marriage.

Why are hurricanes usually named after women? Because when they arrive, they're wild, but when they go, they take your house and car.

The woman applying for a job in a Florida lemon grove seemed way too qualified for the job.

"Look Miss," said the foreman, "have you any actual experience in picking lemons?"

"Well, as a matter of fact, yes!" she replied. "I've been divorced three times."



My Living Will

Last night, my friend and I were sitting in the living room and I said to her; I never want to live in a vegetative state, dependent on some machine and fluids from a bottle. If that ever happens, just pull the plug. '

She got up, unplugged the TV, and threw out my wine.

She's such a b....!.

What does Love mean?

When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. .

So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love." Rebecca- age 8

"When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth." Billy - age 4

Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other." Karl - age 5

"Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs." Chrissy - age 6

Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen." Bobby - age 7 (Wow!)

"If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate," Nikka -age 6 (we need a few million more Nikka's on this planet)

"Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well." Tommy - age 6

"Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day" Mary Ann - age 4 .

"I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones." Lauren - age 4

