

MONTHLY NEWS



Editorial

Hi Everyone,

I am once again cleaning up after yet another dust storm! Housework and I do NOT have a good relationship!!!

For those of you who weren't able to make **conference**, there is a full report in this newsletter. It was one of the highlights of my recent history. I truly **thank Tracey** for all her hard work as the results were just fabulous.

Of particular interest to me was the support given to a **national body** by grandparent support group leaders from around the country.

I must admit that most of my time was taken up by meeting with all these people and listening to their ideas.

I found that we are, all of us, facing the same kinds of problems and that we are all of the opinion that a national is the only answer to overcoming these problems.

This will put a lot of pressure on this body to deliver. Still with correct guidance and the right people in the positions it CAN happen.

Those of you who were registered for conference will have already received a **survey asking for your opinion as to what you wanted to come from conference re the setting up of a steering committee**. Please respond to this survey as soon as you possibly can as it is pivotal to getting things on the move.

I truly believe that grandparent input is the most important thing and our national body must never lose that concept. I am referring to grandparents in trouble. They may be denied access or rearing but **they are not just any grandparent**.

You may find this newsletter a bit focussed on just the conference. This is because my whole life for the last month has been about trying to get a national body up and running.

I make no apologies for it as **this is one of the most significant steps foreword for grandparents in trouble that has ever happened in Australia**.

Love as always,
Maree



COGs

Conference Report

At this stage, I won't go into the National Body sessions as I want to devote a whole article to that topic.

It was fabulous to see so many grandparents and their support group leaders able to attend. We were treated to a wonderful cocktail party on the Wednesday night which gave everyone the chance to get to know each other and swap ideas and beliefs about the National Body session which had preceded the event.

This was our first indication of the quality of the food and the venue. It did not disappoint.

The welcome to country on Thursday was one of the best I have witnessed and set the scene for a conference which was not just going to be a boring set of lectures. Aunty Pat started it by Getting right "off track" as she put it and filling us in on her personal "grandparenting" experience and it moved on to Debra Byrne giving the most realistic and person summary of the issues grandparents face.

Professor Margaret Sims pointed out that if just 5% of the money spent on the military was directed elsewhere we could feed and nurture the world's population. She also had some riveting information of how a child's brain functions.

We were also treated to some new information on the value, or otherwise, of praise and our Maged kept us informed on Family Court issues, we heard some amazing statistics from Joan Hughes of Carers Australia and how important this will be to us in the future. The day ended with workshops.

Friday gave us an insight into the future with Dona Graham who was raised by her grandparents and is a practising solicitor in the area of elder abuse. Val gave us great advice on getting our point across and several other speakers shared their wisdom about grandfamilies. To cap it all off we had the incredible Dean Vagas and his Elvis impersonation.

I have had to keep this report down to a minimum because of space restrictions, but enough to say it was a very enjoyable and informative conference.

Again this was because of the hard work Tracey put in to ensure it all went well. **Many thanks Tracey**



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
Beucare, 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.
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

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Atherton Tablelands

Meets first Tuesday of the month
9.30 am – 11. 30 am

Family Support House Atherton, 38 Mabel Street.
Phone Nicole or Kristy on: (07) 4091 3850 or email:
Nicole@cst.org.au

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.

National Body Update

www.nationalbodyforgrandparents.net

It was just wonderful to see at conference how many grandparents were committed to setting up this body. We will always have differences of opinion, and that's how it should be, but the big picture comes first. Grandparents certainly showed this to all.

By now you would have received a post conference survey if you registered for conference. As absences weren't recorded, this is the only fair way to judge what might have been voted on had the Friday session called for a vote as they should have.

81 people were therefore sent the survey and for nominations for the positions on the steering committee to be sent out this year a majority have to agree to Nev and me taking on the role.

As responses come in they will be registered against the name of the person registered. Please contact one of us if that is a problem as other methods of response can be taken as long as only one per person is received.

Should more than one be received and they are identical, only one will be recorded to that name; if they are different further contact will be made to ascertain the correct response for that person.

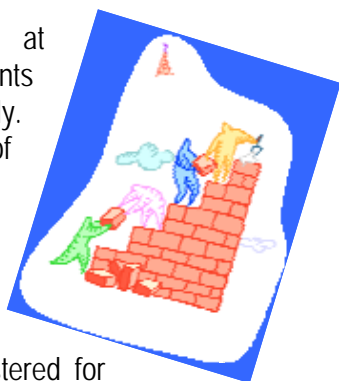
We believe, as long as sufficient responses are received by the due date, that the nomination forms will be sent out in early December to be returned by the end of January and a decision on the steering committee can then be made in February.

Hopefully the steering can then begin working. All the relevant material will be posted to the current website for transparency. (www.nationalbodyforgrandparents.net)

I have been told that this website can remain operational as long as we need it. Once a new name has been chosen, then a new website can come into effect.

For now it is most important that you reply with your opinions to the survey. Remember, this is your opportunity to have your thoughts heard. If you decide not to participate then you are giving that right away needlessly.

It is essential that you reply, especially if you disagree with anything suggested.



Christmas is Here



Now it is time to celebrate and catch up with friends.! We have had a very busy and productive year and one that I believe will not be quickly forgotten.

There is still much to do, but it is time for a break now. As usual, this newsletter will be the last one until February next when I really hope I will have learnt to use publisher to produce a better quality product for you all.

KinKare groups throughout SE Queensland are combining for a celebratory lunch.

On December 4th @11:30am, we are "lunching" at the Beenleigh Tavern, 114 Distillery Rd Beenleigh.

(Take Exit 35 off the M1 and continue on the roundabout and take the Distillery Rd/Yatala exit. This leads to another roundabout where you will see the Tavern and its car park on your left. Take the service road exit from that roundabout and turn left through the brick gates into the Tavern car park.)

So far I have had responses from 19 people and I am very pleased to say we also have **members from GAGS joining us.**

So, if you are in the area on that day, please come and have some fun with us. I would appreciate knowing if you intend to come along as we are quickly approaching the numbers I have given the Tavern.

Bookings are NOT essential, but it would be best to give the chef an idea so he is not caught out.

Friends and neighbours are welcome. We are ordering from the bistro and meals start at about \$10 for the budget conscience. **There is an ATM at the Tavern for your convenience.**



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



Laughter is the Best Medicine

Get your Priorities Right!

Two elderly ladies meet at the launderette after not seeing one another for some time.

After inquiring about each other's health, one asked how the other's husband was doing.
"Oh! Ted died last week. He went out to the garden to dig up a cabbage for dinner, had a

heart attack and dropped down dead right there in the middle of the vegetable patch!"

"Oh dear! I'm very sorry." replied her friend,

"What did you do?"

"Opened a can of peas instead."



Read the Instructions First!

A caller dialled the operator: "Can you give me the telephone number for Jack?"

The operator said, "I'm sorry, sir, I do not understand."

The caller continued, "On page 1 section 5, of the user guide it clearly states that I need to unplug the fax machine from the AC wall socket and telephone jack before cleaning.

Now, can you give the number for Jack?"

More about Instructions

Grandma and Grandpa were watching a healing service on TV. The evangelist called to all who wanted to be healed to go to their TV set, place one hand on the TV and the other hand on the body part where they wanted to be healed. Grandma got up and slowly hobbled to the TV, placed her right hand on the set and her left hand on her arthritic shoulder that was causing her great pain. Then Grandpa got up, went to the TV and placed his right hand on the set and his left hand on his private part. Grandma scowled at him and said, "I guess you just don't get it, do you?" The purpose of doing this is to heal the sick, "NOT To raise the dead!"



One for the Girls!

I know my memory's fading. I actually kept my mammogram appointment. I chose a seat next to a man and his wife in the waiting room. "So...what are you here for?" Talk about a showstopper.

Dead silence just as "Nurse Ratchet" announced my name in her best baritone voice. I thought, "Great..a name to match." I hurried after the angel of no mercy.

Rounding the corner, I was met with, "Hi! I'm Belinda!" This perky clipboard carrier smiled from ear to ear and crooned, "All I need you to do is step into this room right here, strip to the waist, then slip on this gown. Everything clear?" I'm thinking, "Belinda...try decaf. This ain't rocket science." Belinda skipped away to prepare the chamber of horrors.

Call me crazy, but I suspect a man invented this machine. It takes a perfectly healthy cup size of 36-B to a size 38-LONG in less than 60 seconds. Also, girls aren't made of sugar and spice...it's Spandex. We can be stretched, pulled and twisted over a cold 4-inch piece of square glass and still pop back into shape.

Belinda said, "Hmmm. Can you stand on your tippy toes and lean in a tad so we can get everything?" Fine, I answered. I was freezing, bruised, and out of air, so why not use the remaining circulation in my legs and neck and finish me off? My body was in a holding pattern that defied gravity when we heard, then felt, zap! Complete darkness.

"What?" I yelled. Oh, maintenance is working. Bet they hit a snag." Belinda headed for the door.

"Excuse me! You're not leaving are you?" I shouted.

Belinda kept going and said, "Oh, you fussy puppy you'll have the emergency hall lights. I'll be right back"

Before I could shout "NO" she disappeared.

And that's exactly how Bubba and Earl, maintenance men extraordinaire, found me, half-naked and parts of me dangling from the Jaws of Life. After exchanging polite "Hi, how's it going" type greetings, Bubba asked, to my utter disbelief, if I knew the power was off.

Trying to disguise my hysteria, I replied with as much calmness as possible. "Uh, yes..., thanks."

"You bet, take care" Bubba replied and waved good-bye as though we'd been standing in the line at the grocery store.

Two hours later, Belinda breezes in wearing a sheepish grin and making no attempt to suppress her amusement, she said. "Oh I am so sorry! The power came back on and I totally forgot about you! And silly me, I went to lunch. Are we upset?"

"And that, Your Honour is exactly how her head ended up between the clamps....."

Have a Great Break!