



## Hibiscus Coast Grandparents Parenting Grandchildren Inc.

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### Newsletter – April 2017

I can't believe that it is the last week of the first term, it feels that it has flown by. Summer is pretty much over and autumn is on its way with crisp mornings and warm days – hopefully the rain will stay away, at least for the school holidays. This is a long newsletter this month, so you may like to settle down with a cup of tea or coffee to help you through it.

It was great to see those of you who could make it on Wednesday and a warm welcome to Helen who came along for the first time.

Sadly, Shirley shared at the last meeting that she would not be coming regularly anymore and that she felt she was ready to move on to other interests. We will still see Bob each month and Shirley said that she will pop by at times. It has been wonderful to have Shirley as a regular member of our group and I will miss her encouraging words for us all. I really value having them both as a part of the group. We would like to wish Shirley all the best at the Master's Games later this month where she is competing in the doubles table tennis. Shirley has always had a love for table tennis and used to successfully compete as well as coach.

We would also like to wish George all the best as he also competes in the Master's Games. George was a very competitive and successful runner in the past and he has entered in two running events.

This month we had **Karen Pattie** visit with us from **BAIS (Beneficiary Advocacy & Information Service)** They are a free, non-profit service and have been operating for 27 years. They represent low income, grandparents raising grandchildren, retired people, beneficiaries. They are an advocacy service and can assist with processing applications at WINZ. There is generally a 2 week waiting period if you wish to visit with them and they will return your call in 24 hours.

Pattie informed us that they were attempting to arrange for grandparents to automatically receive the Unsupported Child Benefit (UCB) once they started receiving the superannuation this is not happening yet. So, you are still needing to apply for UCB once you begin receiving the superannuation.

The **Start Up grant** which you can receive at the beginning of each year for your grandchild's school costs can only be applied for online.

The **Talented Fund Grant** can also be applied for if your grandchild is needing extra assistance in an area. The closing dates for the fund can be found on the WINZ website.

If **WINZ make a mistake** and over pay you, you do not need to pay it back. Be sure to check who made the mistake first.

When **applying for the UCB**, Pattie encouraged us to write the following statement "it is my intention to have the child for 2 or more years." If you don't use this statement the allowance will not be granted. Since you are using the word 'intention' you are not binding yourself to the 2-year period in case circumstances change.

If you have a **grandchild who is over 18 years and is working or studying** they can apply for the accommodation supplement even if they are still living in your home. If the caregiver is not receiving an accommodation allowance it is recommended that you charge your grandchild rent rather than board. The grandchild will receive a larger allowance. They can also apply for **temporary additional support** to assist with transport etc.

A question was asked if you need to notify WINZ if you have a child on UCB and you are intending on travelling overseas – Karen said she would look into that.

WINZ have tightened up on the Child Disability Allowance and the Supported Living Allowance, making it more difficult for people to receive it.

Karen's contact details are: ph. 09 444 9543

Email: [bais@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bais@xtra.co.nz)

[www.bais.org.nz](http://www.bais.org.nz)

**Community Impact Day – Saturday, 10 June.** If you would like them to visit your place and do some odd jobs (gardening, painting, general maintenance, window cleaning, water blasting paths etc.) let me know so I can pass your name, details of what you would like done, phone number and address.

**Discipline Without Shouting, Force or Fluster with John Cowan, Tuesday 16 May.**  
Stanmore Bay Primary are hosting another Parents Centre parenting talk. If you would like to attend let me know and I will buy the tickets closer to the event. Remember to bring a cushion, the auditorium seats are really hard :)

**Holiday camps and programmes** - the school holidays begin at the end of the week if you would like your grandchild to attend a camp or programme let me know. Peter Snell Youth Village, YMCA Shakespeare Lodge are offering local camps. The Leisure Centre and Youth Centre offer daily programmes.

**Tom's Magical Imagination, Saturday 6 May** – Southern Stars are presenting another production these holidays. I have tickets for the 10am and 4pm session. There is usually a

1pm session so if you would prefer that, let me know and I can contact them to change the time. It is at the Logan Campbell Centre, ASB Showgrounds, Greenlane. One ticket admits 1 adult and 2 children (1-14years). Let me know what time session you would like and how many tickets and I'll pop them out to you.

**Next meeting, Jono Dempsey CYC Trust.** He is coming to talk about what it is like to be a pre-teen and teenager today and the pressures they may be under. Let me know if you have any questions and I can pass them onto him before he visits.

I hope you all have a wonderful holiday break and your grandchildren don't drive you too crazy :) I am away in the second week of the holidays so if you need anything please get in touch with Bjorn ph. 428 3419.

Hope to see you next month, Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 11am, Red Beach Methodist Church

Take care,

Sonia

