



## **Hibiscus Coast Grandparents Parenting Grandchildren Inc.**

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### **Newsletter – September 2018**

Hello everyone,

It's been a very busy few months, with the new coordinator transition, our fantastic mid-winter Christmas function, monthly meetings and already our Annual General Meeting. Believe it or not, our next big event will be the Christmas party - didn't that creep up on us?!

It was a rather tear-filled monthly meeting we had on the 5<sup>th</sup>, saying goodbye to dear Sonia. We first heard about her fantastic trip to India, which sounded amazing, adventurous and a tad scary all rolled into one! That soon turned from ooh's and ahh's, laughter and a bit of envy to us hearing Sonia read her final Support Coordinators Report, getting a bit choked-up with her farewells, having us all welling-up. Followed by members goodbye's, Bjorn's speech & lovely gifts, there were more tears and finally with Pauline's heartfelt words I think the entire group was crying! Very emotional indeed. Sonia, from us all, you are an amazing woman who has played a key part in our members well-being for many years. You will be missed dearly, and we wish you a fond farewell with many hugs and wishes of good times and a wonderful future with your family ♥♥♥

We have had some other get-togethers over this time. The truly wonderful pamper day was especially lovely - for the ladies that couldn't attend this time, I would encourage you to come along next time because it really is a lovely day out ♥

The Feeling Fabulous team of volunteers led by Liz York are truly an inspiration for what they are doing for ladies in our community and beyond. Thank you, Liz.

I've had some wonderful conversations with most of you now, if not in person over a coffee in a cafe, at home or at a meeting, then we've spoken on the phone. For those I still haven't had a chance to chat to or meet properly yet, I'm looking forward to it - let's pencil in a date :)

We've had some fantastic giveaways, with the Foster Care Association & Variety Club offering us free tickets to the shows Pinocchio and the up and coming Razzamatazz this month. Also, the ever-fantastic Blue Light crew with their Rainbows End Fun Day for the 10-14 year olds. Not to mention our generous grans themselves who continue to share their offers of sports gear, clothing & shoes, knick-knacks and of course a shoulder or ear. All these for free for our wonderful grans and their charges; a fabulous giving spirit all round, thank you everyone.

The offer of queen-sized mattresses for children in care came as an unexpected but very nice surprise. Even though we were unfortunate in timing & didn't take up the offer of any due to them flying out the door, we are grateful to be thought of & we'd like to thank the Foster Care Association very much for thinking of us – we will be quicker next time! 😊

We really must mention also, City Impact Church who have again offered some of our gran's help around their homes with their Community Impact Day. Such incredible support from these organisations, we are truly blessed to have them on board.

We've also had some fantastic support from Kerry at the Whangaparaoa Baptist Church & Theresa from Northgate Baptist Church with donations of food, food parcels and meals for distribution to our grans. I'm also in contact with Julie King from Love Soup around these types of donations too. These people are invaluable to our community, thank you to all.

Please Grandparents, if you're ever in need of anything in this regard please do contact me.

The Matakana group with Anita at the helm is continuing to do fantastic work up north also. I've heard wonderful things about grans feeling valued, appreciated and empowered just by attending a group meeting, so credit to Anita, her team of grans and our fabulous groups for this ongoing support.

Both Matakana and HBC groups have new families on board with us now and we warmly welcome them. Please make yourselves known to them should you meet at one of our meetings; it's always nice to meet new grans. Welcome aboard folks! 😊

We were very fortunate to have guest speakers, Trish Mancer who offered ongoing support in the areas of life coaching, counselling, referrals to a behavioural optometrist and a vast knowledge in the areas of secondary schooling and how NCEA etc works. Trish continues to offer her support to anyone in the group should they wish to contact her. Thank you Trish.

Karen Pattie, another extremely valuable member of our community, spoke with us at our monthly meeting to offer her support and advocacy with anything Work and Income related. Several members have utilized Karen's 20year knowledge already and have found her advice and support invaluable. Thank you Karen.

We continue to make ourselves known in the wider community with our attendance at community network meetings. I've met some fantastic people who I can resource from, refer to and utilize as knowledge bases, so I find that particularly valuable. I also have a couple of exciting possibilities in the pipelines from these meetings - one is around digital learning for members in our group; a 'grans group session' at the library, and another around an event for our younger grandchildren in the next school holidays.

Watch this space 😊

Take care everyone.  
Donna