

LIGHTING LIVES



FOR THE SAKE OF OUR CHILDREN TRUST

Official Newsletter February 2012

ABOUT US:

Trust Vision

Our vision is to see New Zealand become a place where our children:

- are safe from harm;
- have a sense of belonging, of feeling loved and valued;
- have access to the necessities they need to engage fully with life and realize their own unique potential.

Trust Mission

We aim to be a "voice" for the "voiceless".

We do this through **educating, promoting and raising awareness of the wellbeing of our children** in New Zealand and the need for **strong families and communities** to support them.

CONTACT US

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National Marriage Week 12th-19th Feb 2012 Let's Celebrate everything GOOD about Marriage



Christian Network - a New Zealand based organisation is gearing up to promote and celebrate National Marriage Week, 12-19 February 2012.

Many Western countries already celebrate Marriage Week, and groups in this country, including NZ Christian Network, believe it would be good to raise its profile here.

At For the Sake of Our Children Trust, we advocate the message for all New Zealanders to celebrate everything that is good about marriage, promoting the simple message, "if you are fortunate enough to be in a marriage - you should look after it".

Available research on the benefits of marriage for families and children indicates children fare much better in life as compared to children born into single parent environments, or children who come from family breakdown environments.

The focus week has now spread around the world, attracting broad support from Church, politicians and media. Countries across Europe from Ukraine to Ireland, Australia and the US all host their own Marriage Weeks, and are part of Marriage Week International.

This movement has started from a Christian initiative to be lead by the Church, but at the Trust we believe as a

Nation where we are seeing too often in the media the negative outcomes for our children vulnerable or not a movement needs to be ignited within our own communities.

Starting within our own families sharing the message that marriage is a good thing that should be celebrated, supported and strengthened and this message should be relayed to our children, to our young people and to those who are married already.

Maybe, just maybe if a movement is created within New Zealand an official Marriage Week could be launched and maybe, just maybe we might see a change in attitude and statistics over represented in social adverse areas concerning our children who come from broken families.

Marriage Is Good For Children

The Western Centre for Law and Policy in America provided an excellent article on the *"Social Benefits of Marriage Talking Points"* in which we have taken the below information from and related it back to New Zealand. For the full article please go to our website.

Research clearly demonstrates that family structure matters for children, and the family structure that helps the most is a family headed by two-biological parents in a low conflict marriage.

The Centre for Law and Social Policy Brief concludes,

"Research indicates that, on average, children who grow up in families with both their biological parents in a low-conflict marriage are better off in a number of ways than children who grow up in single-, step-, or cohabitating-parent households."

Some General Benefits:

Personal Stability:

- understanding
- encouragement
- support

Socialization/Norms:

- moral training—teaching right from wrong.
- cultural rules/mores/norms
- manners: social lubrication (how to get along with others)

Modelling: there are strengths that only a mom can bring, and strengths only a dad can bring. Children from intact families (mom and dad together) demonstrated significantly lower incidents of negative social behaviour (premarital sex, underage drinking, school expulsion, shoplifting, fighting, etc.) especially children from intact families that attend church regularly.

Twelve leading marriage scholars surveying recent studies concluded the following:

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Meet Our Chairman



As a businessman for over 30 years John has always had a degree of community involvement whether it has been assisting with the establishment of "halfway houses" in Otara, commencing youth programs, initiating re-training of the long-term unemployed to taking mentoring in schools.

John has a vision and strong desire of doing what he can to make New Zealand a better place for children.

John is the Founder of the For the Sake of Our Children Trust. He has strong views of the destructiveness of many of New Zealand's social policies and the damage they are causing our children. He is a promoter and a champion of caring communities.

John has many other business interests including Treetops Lodge & Resort in Rotorua and Florence Court, a category 1 historic mansion which is run as a boutique hotel. John is married to Alma and they have two children, James & Natasha.



Update on the Trust's Submission on: The Green Paper: Vulnerable Children: Thrives, Achieves, Belongs

A submission has been prepared by For the Sake of Our Children Trust board and management and supported by friends of the Trust.

A board meeting was held in January to discuss in detail this Green Paper and provide recommendations. The Trust have also met and further discussed with various supporters of the Trust to include organisations and individuals who support our views in our submission.

The perspective the Trust addresses in the submission is based on the number of children who have died to date of child abuse and neglect and what factors contributed to such outcome that

also have a direct effect and impact on the vulnerable children (the government's estimation of 163,000 children) of New Zealand.

In particular the Trust addresses the family structure and parent relationship i.e., Marriage

We have responded to the predetermined questions presented in The Green Paper and have identified the need for the Government to address fundamentally the issues of child and parent responsibility.

The Government must consider formulating a set of

strategic initiatives collaboratively across key sectors to include health, welfare, justice and education that collectively result in behaviour change and different outcomes.

No doubt, potential solutions will be presented through the public submission process; yet in the interim of this highly consultative timely process a death of another child to abuse is brought to our attention.

Our submission will be available on our website March 1st 2012.

N.A.R.K Nation of Advocates for the Rights of Kids

Cherie Kurarangi Sweeney after the loss of her own son to a tragic accident moved to small town Ngaruawahia to heal. Cherie trying to put back the pieces of her life had no idea what was going to happen next.

The house next door was about to lose a child too, little six month old Serenity. This however was no tragic accident, Serenity died because someone had shaken her so violently her tiny body couldn't take it anymore.

When the police arrived at her door questioning her on the matter concerning next door Cherie spoke out about what she had witnessed. She was considered a 'Nark' from members of the community and threatened for her actions. Cherie asked herself "who am I protecting by being silent?"

N.A.R.K. was founded by Cherie Kurarangi Sweeney after being branded a 'nark' for speaking to police about the death of Ngaruawahia baby Serenity Scott-Dinnington.

N.A.R.K.S mission statement is ***To raise awareness of child abuse in New Zealand and what you can do to help prevent this in your community.***

Cherie turned this label around into the Nation of Advocates for the Rights of Kids and that is a label she wears proudly!

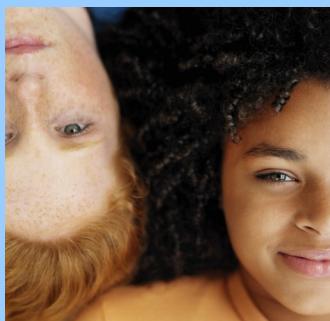
Cherie started a facebook page, **STOP Death by Abuse of OUR Children** to raise awareness of New Zealand's horrifying abuse record, put an end to the anti-nark culture and highlight what you can do in your community.

Within a short time 11,000 people joined her campaign from mums and dads to politicians.

On Page 4 we have taken from the N.A.R.K website a list of N.A.R.K angels who are all the children who have died at the hands of abuse to date in New Zealand.

It's ok to be NARK if it means saving a kid's life.

If you wish to assist this wonderful organisation and its Vision go to: www.nark.org.nz or email office@nark.org.nz



Meet Our Trustees



Angus Fletcher has had a long career in business, principally with Fletcher Challenge Limited and a long standing involvement in a wide variety of "not for profit" community based organisations.

Many of these community activities are directed to young people and involve education initiatives. Currently his trusteeships include the Fletcher Trust, Life Education Trust and Great Potentials Foundation.

In addition he is on a number of advisory boards and councils including Enterprise New Zealand Trust, Business in the Community, Methodist Employment Generation Fund and the Milestones Project.

What these Trusts have in common with For the Sake of Our Children Trust is that they all make a positive difference to our communities and society.



The Essential Public Purpose of Marriage



To understand this purpose we must ask: What is owed to the child?

The essential public purpose of marriage is to attach mothers and fathers to their children and to one another. To see the importance of this purpose, we must take the perspective of the child: What is owed to the child? Unlike adults, the child does not need autonomy or independence. The child is entitled to a relationship with and care from both of the people who

brought him into being.

Therefore, the child has a legitimate interest in the stability of his parents' union. But no child can defend these entitlements himself. Nor is it adequate to make restitution after these rights have been violated.

The child's rights to care and relationship must be supported proactively, before harm is done, for those rights to be protected at all.

Marriage is adult society's institutional structure for protecting the legitimate interests of children. Without this public purpose, we would not need marriage as a distinct social institution.

We often hear the objection that some marriages don't

have children. This is perfectly true. However, every child has parents. Depriving a child of relationships with his or her parents is an injustice to the child, and should not be done without some compelling or unavoidable reason.

The objection that some marriages don't have children stands the rationale for marriage on its head. It views marriage strictly from the adult's perspective, instead of from the child's perspective.

Extracts from this article have been presented. You can read the full article on our website.

Dr. Jennifer Roback Morse is founder and president of the [Ruth Institute](#), a project of the National Organization for Marriage.

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- Cohabitation is not the functional equivalent of marriage.
- Children raised outside of intact married homes are more likely to divorce or become unwed parents themselves.
- Children in intact married homes are healthier, on average, than children on other family forms.
- Divorce increases rates of mental illness and distress in children, including the risk of suicide.

"Marriage is an important social good associated with an impressively broad array of positive outcomes for children and adults alike....whether New Zealand society succeeds or fails in building a healthy marriage culture is clearly a matter of legitimate public concern."

For this full article from the Western Centre for Law and Policy <http://www.christianexaminer.com/Images/PDFs/SocialBenefitsofMarriageTalkingPoints.pdf>



Marriage is Good for New Zealand

The family is the fundamental building block of society. When marriages and families are healthy, communities thrive; when marriages break down, communities break down.

Moral, polite, physically healthy and stable individuals make better community members and citizens. Thus, you can clearly see that as the family goes, so goes the society.

Twelve leading family scholars recently summarized the research literature this way:

Meet Our Trustees



Dr Muriel Newman is the founder and Director of the New Zealand Centre for Political Research. Muriel, a Member of Parliament for ACT New Zealand from 1996-2005, has a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics from Auckland University and Doctorate in Mathematics Education from Rutgers University, New Jersey, USA.

Her early career was in the education field at secondary and tertiary level in NZ and the USA. She became involved in the agriculture sector while running the family farm and raising her children, later moving into retail to become the NZ Assistant General Manager for listed retailer Michael Hill Jeweller.

During that time, she was elected President of the Northland Chamber of Commerce, and was appointed to the Northland Area Health Board, the Northland Conservation Board and the Northland Business Development Board.

She has two graduate children, is the joint author with her husband, Frank, of several books about money management, holds a black belt in Kung Fu and lives at Rocky Bay Cove in Tutukaka, Whangarei.

Email muriel@newman.co.nz, phone 09 434 3836, 021 800 111, or post PO Box 984, Whangarei.



N.A.R.K. ANGELS

Here you will find all the reasons why we do what we do, sadly all of these children died from abuse...they are our NARK angels...

- 1 Coral Ellen Burrows (6 years)
- 2 Amber Lee Cruickshank (2 years)
- 3 Alicia O'Reilly (6 years)
- 4 Karla Cardno (13 years)
- 5 Delcelia Witika (2 years)
- 6 Nia Glassie (3 years)
- 7 Teresa Cormack (6 years)
- 8 Ngatikaura Ngati (3 years)
- 9 Saliel Alpin (12 years)
- 10 Olympia Jensen (11 years)
- 11 Hinewaoriki Karaitiana-Matiaha (Lillybing) (23 months)
- 12 James Whakaruru (4 years)
- 13 Mereana Edmonds (6 years)
- 14 Pirimai Simmond (17 months)
- 15 Melissa Sale (14 months)
- 16 Iris Davidson (23 months)
- 17 Jhia Tua (2 years)
- 18 Alyssa Murphy (6 months)
- 19 Will Mercer (6 months)
- 20 Kelly Gush (12 years)
- 21 Amber Lundy (7 years)
- 22 Jonelle Tarawera (17 months)
- 23 Tangaroa Matiu (3 years)
- 24 Cash McKinnon (3 years)
- 25 Serenity-Jay Scott (6 months)
- 26 Cherish Tahuri-Wright (3 years)
- 27 Chris Kahui (3 months)
- 28 Cru Kahui (3 months)
- 29 Duwayne Toetu Taote (7 years)
- 30 Riley Justin Osbourne (16 months)
- 31 Cezar Taylor (6 months)
- 32 Jyniah Mary Te Awa (10 months)
- 33 Karl Perigo-Check Junior (30 months)
- 34 Tamati Pokaia (3 years)
- 35 Seini Unaloto Ikamanu (3 years)
- 36 Tyla-Maree Flynn (22 months)
- 37 JayRhys Ian Te Koha (5 weeks)
- 38 Jarius Reti (5 months)
- 39 Dylan Hohepa Tonga (3 years)
- 40 Sahara Jayde Baker-Koro (5 years)
- 41 Tahani Mohamed (11 Weeks)
- 42 Jacqui Peterson-Davis (2 years)
- 43 Trent James Mathews (13 months)
- 44 Hail-Sage McClutchie (22 months)
- 45 Anna Sangha (2 years)
- 46 Liotta Leuta (5 years)
- 47 Jaelyn Maxwell (6 years)
- 48 Veronika Takerei-Mahu (11 months)
- 49 Sara Nixon (7 years)
- 50 Robert Grant (4 years)
- 51 Victoria Watson (8 months)
- 52 Shae Hammond (17 months)
- 53 Anaru Te Wheke Donny Te Moananui Rogers (17 months)
- 54 Brittany Crothall (3 years)
- 55 Jamoure Chaney (10 months)
- 56 Tishena Valentine Crosland (2 years)
- 57 Peti Taihuka Cherie Kokiri (12 years)
- 58 Marcus Te Hira Grey (2 months)
- 59 Liam Sullivan (3 months)
- 60 Nivek Dodunski (17 months)
- 61 Jaydon Perrin (10 months)
- 62 Craig Manukau (11 years)
- 63 Kelly Rae McRoberts (6 years)
- 64 Lucy Carter (7 years)
- 65 Thomas Carter (4 years)
- 66 Holly Carter (3 years)
- 67 Audreana Aramakutu (15 months)
- 68 Lisa Hope (8 years)
- 69 Simon Tokona (18 months)
- 70 Winiata Tokona (3 years)
- 71 Nicholas Han (4 years)
- 72 Christina Han (2 years)
- 73 River Michael Manawatu-Wright (8 months)
- 74 Israel Aporo (3 years)
- 75 Keziah Te Huia Smith (11 months)
- 76 Alice Perkins (8 years)
- 77 Maria Perkins (6 years)
- 78 Cherie Perkins (23 months)
- 79 Daniel Marshall Loveridge (13 months)
- 80 Thomas Lance Darshay Schuman (2 years)
- 81 Levi Wright (10 months)
- 82 Caleb Moorhead (6 months)
- 83 Dominique Hingston (6 years)
- 84 Nikita Hingston (5 years)
- 85 Ryco Lance Mauri (10 months)
- 86 Brodie Gordon (2 months)
- 87 Shontelle Marks (4 months)

- 88 Kalin St Michael (2 years)
- 89 Jordan Ashby (3 years)
- 90 Elwyn Pakeha (4 months)
- 91 Wend De Dai (Wenda Zeng) (10 years)
- 92 Anahera Ross Lewis (3 years)
- 93 Caleb Tribble (4 months)
- 94 Rocky Wano (15 years)
- 95 Gabriel Harrison-Taylor (8 months)
- 96 Raiden Nania (4 months)
- 97 Te Hau Te Horo O'Carroll (10 years)
- 98 Ngamata O'Carroll (2 years)
- 99 Molly Rose McRae (6 years)
- 100 Cameron Fielding (10 years)
- 101 Kathleen Harris (7 months)
- 102 Krystal Fielding (8 years)
- 103 Mereana Clements-Matete (14 months)
- 104 Sarah Rebekah Haddock-Woodcock (3 months)
- 105 Britney Angelique Abbott (9 years)
- 106 Aaliyah Morrissey (2 years)
- 107 Staranise Waru (7 months)
- 108 Arwen Fletcher (23 months)
- 109 Alyssa Wilson (4 months)
- 110 Alex McRae (2 years)
- 111 Robert Harlen (19 months)
- 112 Jillayne Peterson (10 months)
- 113 Keira Watson (4 years)
- 114 Ellah Watson (2 years)
- 115 Sarah Curry (8 years)
- 116 Cory Harrington (5 months)
- 117 Jeanette Rikihana (5 months)
- 118 Nikita Hart (5 years)
- 119 Baby Golovale-Siaosi (Newborn)