

## GRG speaks out at Justice for Moko Rally



Yesterday one of our local GRG members, Te Clark hosted the Justice for Moko rally outside the North Shore District Court in Albany. Te planned and arranged this all meticulously, with Court Security, Police, the media, photographer, sponsored signs and invited speakers including Diane Vivian from Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ, Pio Terei and a spokesperson for Shine.

The BACA bikers (Bikers Against Child Abuse Auckland Chapter) were also there in a show of force and solidarity for the cause against child abuse. Te and Di planned well and had the little GRG signposted car ready and packed the day before. Blue ribbons (Moko's favourite colour) were tied all over the door handles and aerials. Di's two grandchildren aged 11 and 13 assisted with this task between heavy downpours. They said they could not wait to get to school to tell how they had helped their Nan as she was going on a protest march.

The morning presented with torrential rain and strong winds and was freezing. "We had decided that our particular rally was coming from the heart with aroha and to encourage those that needed it, to ask for help. We also wanted to portray that all children in our country needed heroes, be it Mum, Dad, Nan, Papa or a whanau member," explains Di.

Time came for Di's speech calling upon all people in our country to "become a hero for our children". As she looked amongst the 50 plus people standing in this bitter weather, her eyes fell upon 10 other GRG members, and they were acknowledged as heroes. This totally dissolved one Nan into tears. Her speech was stopped and a hug needed before continuing. "You see they do not see themselves as heroes, but yes they are! We all have a duty to be a hero for all our children. They did and so can you," explained Di.



Our message is simple. As an organization we are coming from a position that we need to put the children first and all bravely and courageously look out for them as a community. We need to speak out and as individuals stand up for the vulnerable children and youth in our communities. We were there to rally in support of vulnerable children and young people and in memory of Moko himself and why his terrible death means it is not an option for any of us to remain silent any more. Don't be silent. Reach out, speak up and ask for help.



For more information and support from GRG Trust NZ, see [www.grg.org.nz](http://www.grg.org.nz) or call 0800 GRANDS (0800472 637) and for more help on preventing child abuse and violence in our homes click on the following: