

would you please give us a hand at our
END-THE-YEAR WORKING-BEE?

toss-catch-stack

Got a load of firewood earlier this year. Got it dumped on my driveway. Got my two oldest grandkids to help stack it under the house. Got a few nicks and scratches in the process ... plus a lot of laughs ... plus a gentle reminder about the value of teamwork and the power of encouragement.

They're big, strong boys, these two. Both in their teens, if I remember right. And we took a vote and formed a chain-gang: one on the woodpile ... one up the steps ... and me under the house.

It took a bit of practice, some wild passes, some even wilder near-misses. But we were soon going at it like seasoned lumberjacks – tossing and catching and stacking, tossing and catching and stacking.

There were some big lumps of wood in that woodpile, some heavy chunks that could've broken a bone or made a mess of someone's face. And it didn't help that we were doing it in the half-dark. But we DID it – in record time! And, apart from a lot of huffing and grunting and the odd bruise here and there, we did it without killing each other!

JOB DONE! YEEHAA!

As we picked over the final scraps and swept the drive clean of sawdust, we took another vote. The younger boy declared: "That was cool fun!" And his big brother said: "Hey, Granddad, not many 60-year-olds could stack wood like you just did!" I reminded him that I wasn't 60 – that I was nowhere near THAT old! – but I couldn't help chuckling at his encouragement. We'd enjoyed some male bonding. We'd pulled together

as a team. We'd done something really worthwhile. And it felt darn good!

I don't *always* feel that good, I must admit. I don't always feel good when I'm watching six-o'clock TV, for example. Or when I'm reading the paper. Or listening to the radio, on the hour, every hour. The seemingly endless bad news ... the constant reminder of what's gone wrong here and overseas ... the shock-horror-sadness of it all.

It wears you down – don't you find? And you feel so powerless – right? I mean, what can you do? What difference can you make?

But a few minutes doing stuff with my grandsons soon restores my good feelings. And a few minutes thinking about Grapevine soon puts things back in perspective. The truth is, there's LOTS we can do – especially here at home, where we

live and work and raise our families. We're NOT

powerless. And we CAN make a difference – no end of difference! You and I can choose to be agents for peace ... a force for good ... a bridge over troubled waters. We can practise random acts of kindness and senseless acts of beauty. We can spare a thought for the last, the least, the



lost, the lonely ... and make an effort to love our neighbours. And we can help make this gorgeous corner of Planet Earth a safer, friendlier, happier place for our kids and grandkids to grow up in.

You and I – together, as the Grapevine team – can keep doing what we've been doing for more than quarter of a century: giving families a lift.

Listen to what **Charmaine** recently said: *"I used to deliver Grapevine many years ago, but we've since moved from Palmerston North. However, on occasions I still receive a copy in my letterbox, and I want to encourage you and your team to continue the great work. You see, I picked up a copy today, and started reading it from start to finish. And it truly was a blessing. I'm not that young anymore, but I could still relate to many of the articles. And I had to smile at some. It was refreshing and uplifting, and I just wanted to thank you for this magazine which I was obviously meant to read today."*

Sue: *"Thank you for all the good that you're doing. I especially enjoyed the "tiny seed" story about Grapevine's early beginnings (published in a recent Update). Wow – what a challenge. And what a breathtaking result!"*

Graham & Val: *"We don't know how you manage to make them so fresh each time, but Grapevine keeps going around our family and doing its work. Keep it up!"*

Mary & Peter: *"We think Grapevine is wonderful! We've supported you for years, and use your articles and one liners and advice when dealing with hurting people in the work we do. All the best!"*

If Grapevine had a giant pile of firewood that needed stacking, we'd invite you along to a giant working-bee ... and I know that many of you would turn up. But it's not about firewood, of course. It's about putting our warm-hearted magazine into many more Kiwi letterboxes, and sharing our mix of fun, hope and wholeness with families that are currently missing out.

So I'd still like to invite you to make a very special effort ... and give Grapevine a pre-Christmas shot-in-the-arm.

This is an annual working-bee, you may recall. Last year's was successful. So was the year before. And we're hoping that, this year, our Nov/Dec donations will beat all previous

records. In fact we've got our hearts set on raising more than \$60,000.

But, to achieve that, we'll need each supporter to make an extra-generous giant-sized Christmas donation!

WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO DONATE \$100 TOWARDS OUR CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2007?

If you can donate more than \$100, please go right ahead – and thanks! If \$100 is too big an 'ask', no problem – just donate whatever you can.

Grapevine's a not-for-profit charity. It receives no Government or corporate assistance, but is entirely funded by supporters like you. And your NOVEMBER DONATION, large or small, will enable us to put more great magazines into more Kiwi homes this coming year!

To encourage you to respond quickly, we want to offer you these GREAT VALUE CHRISTMAS-STOCKING-STUFFERS:

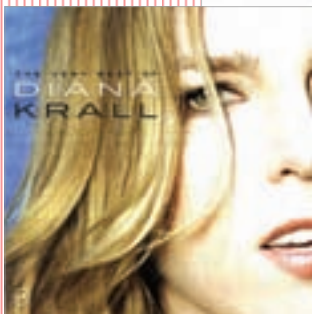
Donate \$100 or more, and you can choose **one** of these top-rated new-release MUSIC CDs or KIDS DVDs – (see below) – which we'll send you FREE as a 'thank-you' from us!

Or, better still ...

Donate \$300 or more, and you can choose **any three** of these CDs or DVDs – each a stunning musical treat for you to enjoy ... or a fun movie for your kids or teens ... or a perfect Christmas gift for someone you love!

Thanks for your partnership in Grapevine – we value you more than I can say! Please send your \$100 today ... and please accept a resounding *"THREE CHEERS ..."* from our team here at Grapequarters!

John



GRAPEVINE CHRISTMAS STOCKING-STUFFERS

DONATE \$100 or more and we'll send you ONE of these CDs or DVDs (your choice) FREE!

DONATE \$300 or more and you can choose any 3 items FREE!

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- Pavarotti – 'Forever'
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- Kids DVD – 'Happy Feet'
- Kids DVD – 'Meet The Robinsons'



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