

grapevine

Giving Families a Lift

NOVEMBER 2009
UPDATE



WILL YOU HELP GRAPEVINE TURN ANOTHER MILLSTONE INTO A MILESTONE - WITH A CHRISTMAS GIFT OF \$100?

IT'S LATE IN THE EVENING – NEARLY MIDNIGHT, IN FACT – AND I'M SITTING HERE IN MY OFFICE THINKING ABOUT MILESTONES. You see, by the time you get to read this my wife and I will have celebrated a big one: our 40th Wedding Anniversary! And, I don't mind telling you, it's hard to believe. Seems like only yesterday that Robyn and I got married. We don't feel ready for such an important milestone. We don't feel old enough! And we're struggling to recall where those 40 years have gone ...

However, there's one thing I know for sure. No, two things, actually:

- (i) our 40 years together have been a wild and wonderful adventure which I wouldn't have missed for all the tea in China – and, according to Mrs Cooney, she feels the same;
- (ii) but (in case this sounds like some fairytale) whatever she and I have achieved is the result of LOTS of milestones – ups and downs, highs and lows, successes and failures, victories and defeats ... just like any relationship that endures. And, if you don't believe me, come around sometime and we'll show you our awards and medal ... and our scars!

Anyway, we've been newlyweds for 40 long years. And if you're wondering why you weren't invited to our celebration, it's because we couldn't fit you in. True. I'm taking my darling away for the weekend, somewhere quiet, private, romantic – and there's only room for two. Sorry about that ...

IT'S GETTING LATER NOW – WAY PAST MIDNIGHT – AND I'M STILL THINKING ABOUT MILESTONES ... AND MILLSTONES! You see, there are parallels with Grapevine. Grapevine is more than just a magazine. It's a relationship (with friends, supporters, readers) that's endured – not 40 years (yet), but nearly 30! And, like a long and lasting marriage, Grapevine is the result of lots of ups and downs, highs and lows, successes and failures, victories and defeats.

Robyn and I have recorded *our* history in photo-albums, videos, nick-nacks and memorabilia that's scattered all through our house. And Grapevine's history has been recorded in 'THE UNFOLDING STORY' – a walk-down-memory-lane sketch that appears on our website.

(Click on 'About Us' at the top of the page – and go to 'History' ...)

I hope you'll read it if you haven't already – or reread it, as I've just done. Because it's an inspiring, encouraging, uplifting tale of a 28-year project that's put fun and hope and wholeness and healing into

countless Kiwi homes.

The **MILLSTONES** are there – the burdens that nearly dragged us under and the obstacles we've had to overcome: like *"Grapevine is in serious trouble ..."* *"We're more-than-a-little-bit scared ..."* *"The next three months are going to be tough ..."* *"Our February issue jarred to a halt as we struggled to find funds ..."* *"We hadn't counted on this – OUCH!"* ... *"We're still really hurting ..."* *"Last week, in spite of all our efforts, Grapevine's fuel-gauge hit 'E' for empty ..."* *"We'd hoped this might be a good year ..."* *"I'd be lying if I said it's easy – because it's often just the opposite ..."*

But the **MILESTONES** are also recorded – the battles you helped us win and the turnarounds we'll never forget: *"We live to fight again – phew!"* ... *"The crisis has been averted ..."* *"You have no idea what a joy it is to receive your gifts ..."* *"There's a lovely sound at our printer's – the sound of Grapevines rolling off the press!"* ... *"With God's help and yours, our dreams are being realised!"*

2009 IS ALMOST OVER, AND 2010 WILL SOON BE ON US. BUT AN OBSTACLE MUST FIRST BE CLEARED: A \$43,000 SHORTFALL THAT WE CAN'T AFFORD TO CARRY INTO NEXT YEAR ... Despite our attempts to ignore it, deny it and wish it away, the Big Bad Recession has GOT US! Our sponsorship income has remained strong, but our general donations for the second half of this year have dropped \$43,000 behind.

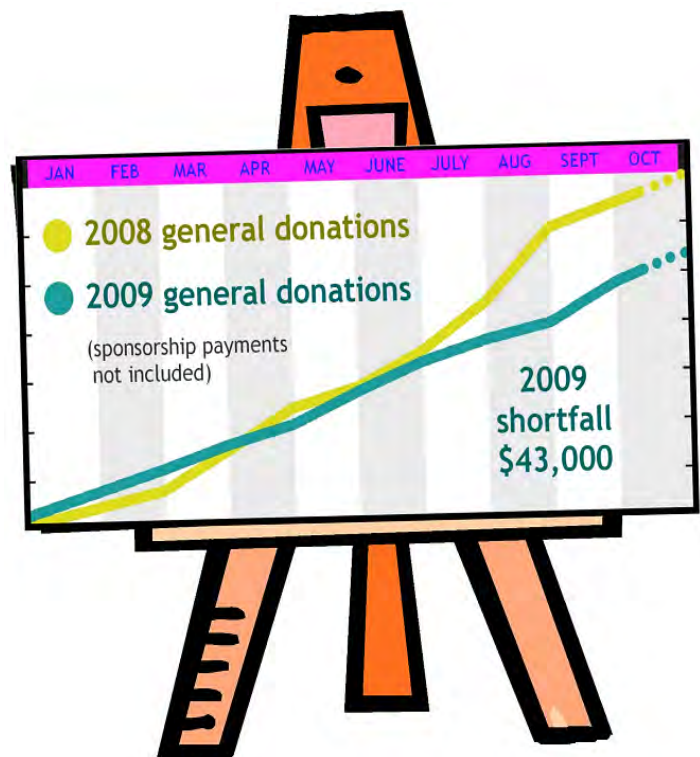
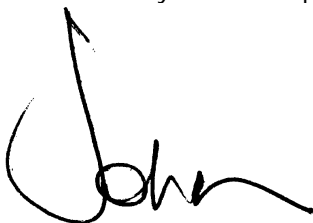
That's a big gap. And it'll be a millstone around our necks if it's still there in 2010 ...

SO I'M ASKING AND HOPING THAT YOU'LL RESPOND TO OUR 2009 CHRISTMAS APPEAL WITH A GENEROUS DONATION OF \$100.

\$100 is a lot of money, I know. But if enough of our friends gave \$100 each (or whatever they could afford) ... our problem would be solved, and another milestone would be added to our *'Unfolding Story'*.

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

Please act quickly. And please accept the thanks of everyone on Grapevine's team.



PS: We'd like to show our appreciation by offering some great-value **STOCKING-STUFFERS** (see over):

- ♥ MUSIC CDs: Cliff Richard & The Shadows – 'REUNITED' ... Michael Bubl  – 'CRAZY LOVE'
- ♥ BOOKS: 'GROWING GREAT MARRIAGES' Ian & Mary Grant ... 'DELICIOUS' Sophie Gray
- ♥ DVDs: ANDR  RIEU 'Live In Maastricht 3' ... 'BOLT' the new Walt Disney film for kids



CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2009

You could win a lovely

\$250

CHRISTMAS HAMPER!

Every donation received during November & December – no matter how big or small – qualifies you for an entry in our lucky draw ...



This is an annual appeal, 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 make up the shortfall we've incurred (thanks to the Recession). In fact, we're hoping we'll do **BETTER** than that – and exceed our target of **\$43,000**.

You're invited to make a very special pre-Christmas effort for a very special cause. \$43,000 will be a fantastic milestone. And, with what we've got planned for the next 12 months, we're going to need every cent.

WOULD YOU PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING \$100 TOWARDS OUR 2009 CHRISTMAS APPEAL?

If \$100 is too big a stretch, please just give whatever you can. Your gift will enable us to put more great magazines into Kiwi homes next year!

To show our appreciation we'd also like to offer you these

GREAT-VALUE CHRISTMAS STOCKING STUFFERS:

Donate \$100 or more, and you can choose one of these top-rated recent-release CDs, BOOKS or DVDs 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 BOOKS or DVDs



PLEASE RETURN THIS WHOLE PAGE (WITH YOUR DONATION) IN THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED



Yes! I'm happy to support Grapevine's 2009 CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Name

Address

.....

Here's my November gift of \$100 \$_____ (another amount)

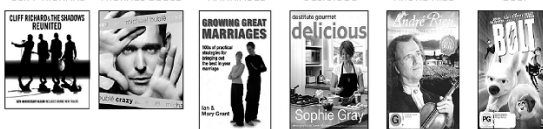
Please enter me in the draw for your free Christmas Hamper.

Don't forget to claim your CDs, DVDs or Books

DONATE \$100

or more, and choose 1 (tick):

- CLIFF RICHARD MICHAEL BUBLÉ MARRIAGES DELICIOUS ANDRÉ RIEU BOLT



DONATE \$300

or more, and choose 3 (tick):

Payment method: My cheque is enclosed

Please charge my credit card: Visa/Mastercard/Diners/Amex (circle)

Card no.....

Signature..... Expiry Date.....

To make a credit card donation: please visit our website – www.grapevine.org.nz or call 09-813-4956 – or 0800-47-27-38 toll free

To make an automatic \$30 phone donation: call our donation line on 0900-47-27-38

Donations to Grapevine are tax-deductible (Charities Commission No CC26674). Interim receipts are issued for all postal donations. Final tax receipts are issued in April of each year.