

Grey Power Napier & Districts

PO Box 4247, Marewa, Napier 4143

Quarterly Newsletter

www.napiergreypower.org

Winter 2019



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Agenda AGM:

Reports - President, Financial

Elections - for President, Deputy President, Treasurer, Secretary, Publicity Officer, Membership Officer, plus up to 6 Committee Members.

Guest Speaker

Raffles Draw

Afternoon Tea

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Come along to our JUNE PUBLIC MEETING

This is our AGM, plus we have a guest speaker:
Voluntary Support worker **Aynsley Richard**,
Fire and Emergency Services speaking on:

"How fire-safe are you?"

Learn the basics on how to make
your home fire-safe

When? Tuesday, 18 June
1:30 pm

Where? St Columba's Church
176 Gloucester Street, Taradale

Bring money for subs, raffles, fruit; goods for
the Foodbank; enjoy a delicious free afternoon
tea and great fellowship!

ALL MEMBERS PLEASE BRING YOUR 2019-
20 MEMBERSHIP CARD

ALL WELCOME

JOIN OUR COMMITTEE!

Hi Everyone!

Well we don't get a lot of perks being on the Grey Power Napier committee, but this was one out of the box! Prime Minister Jacinda Adern elbowed her way through the crowds at the May Federation AGM to have her photo taken with me... yeah (sort of) right!

Our shared message is: we need YOU on our Grey Power committee! All positions are up for grabs at the AGM, especially the Treasurer's position which is now vacant.

Just give me a ring if you're interested and I'll let you know what is involved.

Jacinda and I would love to have you as part of the team!

Enquiries: phone Bruce Carnegie 06 844-5635





LIFE LESSON #17
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President's Annual Report 2018-2019

Warm greetings from myself and the Committee.

It's been a privilege to have served as your President for a year and when I look back our organization has grown from strength to strength.

Much of that has been through the efforts of a strong team of voluntary helpers, especially Committee members namely Maxine Boag, Carol Brunton, John Wuts, Isabel Wood, Anne Mitchell, June Graham, Rana Dallas, Russ Wyeth and Lillian Rennett. We meet monthly the Friday after our public meetings, to discuss finances, membership, our meetings, publicity and advocacy. Carol Brunton's recent resignation as Treasurer has left a big gap and we thank her for her years of service. Catering crew coordinator Carol Cairns and her helpers have also provided our sumptuous afternoon teas: "the icing on the cake" which has been a major part of our meetings.

So what has happened in the last 12 months? Not long after I took office last year, past president Laurie Jenkin was awarded top recognition as Individual Volunteer of the year, mostly but not solely for his work as our President, in the Hawke's Bay Volunteers Awards ceremony. This was an exciting and well deserved honour.

Carol Brunton represented us in the Napier City Council's Positive Ageing Strategy focus group, so we were able to have strong input into the Strategy which should go to Council soon. It is a first step towards Napier becoming an Age Friendly city. We set up a display at the International Day for the Older Person held in the Rose Gardens and again at the International Day of the Disabled Person in Anderson Park. These occasions give us the opportunity to share what we are doing with many people.

As an advocacy group, we made a submission and presentation to NCC's 2018-2028 Long Term Plan last year and another this year to their 2019 Annual Plan - with some help from members who are not on the committee but are clued up on current issues. (You can read about this on page 9)

Deputy Chair and city councillor Maxine Boag provides us all with regular updates on council matters at our meetings though we would also like to establish regular meetings with the new Mayor after this year's elections.

We attend quarterly meetings with the HB DHB along with other Grey Power associations and Age Concern. This gives us the opportunity to share your health concerns. We are also on the board of the HB Positive Ageing Trust meeting every two months. All in all, we have developed positive relationships with local bodies, our sister organisations and through Zone meetings, with other Grey Power groups



Our table at the International Day for the Older Person : From left, Isabel Wood, Bruce Carnegie, Carol Brunton and Anne Mitchell.



The scene set for our Xmas luncheon at the Pukemokimoki Marare



Members Maxine Boag and Pete Findlay at the Memorial Square ceremony



At the Volunteers' Luncheon, from left, Diane, Dawn, Helen, Helen, Peter and Peter.

in the lower north Island.

Several committee members have attended four Zone meetings, held in Palmerston North, enabling Grey Power associations from Wairoa, across to New Plymouth down to Wellington, to get together and discuss common concerns. This helped us prepare for the Federation's Conference last month as we all benefited from working together.

Over the last twelve months our general meetings have been very successful with many prominent speakers sharing information that could be of benefit to our wellbeing. This included Garry Holden CEO of Pulse Energy, MP Stuart Nash keeping us up to date with what's happening with government, Janice Byford-Jones from Cranford Hospice and a particularly lively meeting to hear those for and against the sale of our Port. We always have about 150 to 200 people attend, so it reinforces our strength as a strong social and advocacy group.

Late last year we held our Christmas Luncheon at the Pukemokimoki Marae. 170 members and guests enjoyed a delicious lunch and entertainment by the Capella Fellas followed by singing from Nga Pakeke o Maraenui - the Elders of Maraenui.

The new year started with our annual luncheon at the RSA Napier with 57 of our volunteers. This year was very special as we presented certificates to nine members who had given ten years plus volunteer service to Grey Power Napier. To all volunteers a big thank you! Newsletter folders, deliverers, phoners, fruit pickers, catering helpers and others - you are our backbone!

Anzac Day is always a special day for us and our members, and once again this year we laid wreaths at Taradale, Memorial Square and Clive.

Our new Discount Book was produced, mostly by myself; a combination of free printed ads and coloured display ads. As always, we urge you to use it and save \$\$\$!

Last but not least, a huge thanks to our sponsors - Dunstalls have been enormously supportive sponsoring our monthly page in local mainstream media; plus all advertisers in our newsletter, Discount Book; to Beth Shan for sponsoring afternoon teas; our MP Stuart Nash; and you the members whose support and positive feedback keeps your committee going.

A final plug for new Committee members - especially a treasurer, and someone to help with publicity - but others keen to be part of a proactive, friendly collaborative team!

Looking forward to another busy and exciting year.

Best wishes to you all.

Bruce Carnegie, President.

Rates Rebates – don't miss out!

Time is running out for low-income ratepayers to claim their rates rebate for the current year, with applications closing on 30 June 2019.

Eligible residential ratepayers with a household income of up to \$25,180 p.a. (slightly higher than \$24,470 last year) may get a rebate of up to \$630 (an increase of \$10). Ratepayers who earned more may still qualify for a rebate, depending on the level of their rates, and number of dependants.

This year, for the first time ever, retirement village residents with a License to Occupy Agreement can apply for a rates rebate, since the passing of the Rates Rebates (retirement village residents) amendment Bill in February. Grey Power lobbied for this to happen.

The rates rebate is based on the homeowner's total income for the year ending 31 March 2018 and the amount of rates for both Napier City Council and Hawke's Bay Regional Council.

Established in 1973 as a means of reducing the impact of rates on low income home owners, the rebate was significantly increased in 2006 from \$200 to \$500.

However, since 2011, the rate of increase has lagged behind the cost increases of local authorities.

"Rates make up one of the largest expenses faced by home owners," said Napier Grey Power President Bruce Carnegie. "As the rates rise each year, the proportion covered by the rebate drops, so lowincome home owners are having to pay more and more out of a fixed income. Home insurance costs are also hugely increased, while rises in our pensions can't match the rise in our costs."

Contact Napier City Council open 06 834 4197 or go to their website to find out if you qualify and for how much.

But act now, as 30 June is the cutoff date!

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Government investing \$7.7 million into SuperGold Card website upgrade and new app

Senior citizens will see the benefits of the Government's Wellbeing Budget, to be announced this month, with investment going into the SuperGold Card, Digital Literacy Training and ACC.

Minister for seniors Tracey Martin today announced the three initiatives, including a \$7.7 million upgrade to the SuperGold Card, that will help seniors stay connected and improve their financial position.

The upgrades to the SuperGold Card, which is a discounts and concessions card for seniors and veterans, will include building a new digital platform for card holders and businesses.

Ms Martin says the card, which is widely used by the 750,000 cardholders in New Zealand's older community, had been "neglected" for several years, making it more difficult for people to know where they can use it.

"New Zealand's over 65s really appreciate the SuperGold Card," she said. "They particularly value the travel concessions and shopping discounts."

A key goal of enhancing the card was to help seniors on fixed incomes to stretch their dollar further so they could buy the services and products they need, Ms Martin said.

The SuperGold website, which hasn't been updated for six years, would be upgraded and easier to use, as well as a new SuperGold app, linked to the website, would also be created to help show seniors where the card can be used when they are out.

These will be launched before the end of the year.

"The opportunity that doing these things and revitalising the card creates, is to find more discounts," Ms Martin said. "There will be one million over 65s within the next decade, which presents a very large consumer group."

She wants to hear from businesses wanting to access and help older New Zealanders.

The Wellbeing Budget will also give new funding for Digital Literacy Training for seniors, and provides for ACC changes that better support working superannuitants who are injured.

Ms Martin says as New Zealand's population ages and technology increasing changes, some older people who no longer work are getting left behind.

"The Budget contains \$600,000 to provide some computer training and skills for those who need it," she said.

"We want older people to be able to access information and services online, and not miss out, and we want them to have the technology skills to stay in touch with their families."

The ACC changes, which will begin on July 1, will mean older people who are still working and are seriously injured will no longer have to choose between receiving NZ Superannuation or ACC weekly payments.

"At the moment if someone is eligible for Super or the Veteran's Pension they have to make that choice ... we're changing that."

"If an older person is entitled to weekly ACC compensation for a personal injury, they will be able to receive those payments

along with NZ Super or the Veteran's Pension for up to two years," Ms Martin says.

The changes will allow an injured person's financial situation to more closely reflect their income.

"That's only fair – especially as we are going to increasingly want older people to stay in paid work if they want to."

One News 20 May 2019



Minister for Seniors, Tracey Martin with Deputy Prime Minister Winston Peters at the Grey Power Federation's Conference.



Cara Rountree

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Stuart NASH MP for Napier

Improvements to Emergency Services

This month has seen the introduction of the number “ten-five” for calls to the police which are not urgent. It is designed to provide better service to the public and to take pressure off the 111 phone number.

Police receive more than two million calls a year. Almost 900,000 are to the 111 service. Just 20% of these 111 calls result in an emergency response. Some involve complaints about such things as parking, noise or cheeky children which are not emergencies.

The introduction of the 105 (“ten-five”) number will make it easier for callers to get in touch with the right part of the police service for the right reasons.

There are also other ways the public can get help with community safety and crime prevention. The *555 number is for urgent but not life threatening road incidents. There is also the 0800 555 111 Crime Stoppers line and the 1737 mental health support line.

The police workforce has never been larger, and earlier this year passed a record high number of 13,000 frontline officers and support staff.

Furthermore, the government has announced extra support for road ambulance services, where, especially in rural areas, there is a growing demand. Ambulances now respond to over 550,000 emergency 111 calls a year. That is why the government is investing \$21 million into our ambulance service over the next two years.

These changes are a crucial part of the Coalition Government’s efforts to improve the wellbeing of communities.

Thanks for your support. My office hours are 9.00 am – 4.00 pm Monday to Friday and we are just a phone call away on (06) 835 6093.

Stuart Nash MP for Napier

• Minister of Police • Minister of Fisheries • Minister of Revenue • Minister for Small Business

Authorised by Stuart Nash, 155A Tennyson Street, Napier



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Housing pensioners in the future

My nana Elsie Macdonald was one of the early tenants in Napier's Henry Charles pensioner flats in the 1960s, after years of living with her eldest daughter. She had suffered a stroke when she was 47 so lived with family because her left eye and side were affected.

She gradually got better and in 1960 when the flats went up her doctor certified her for independent living and she moved in to Henry Charles. I can still see her sitting in her little living room, a pedal organ in one corner, all shelves cluttered with photos of children and grandchildren, with a picture of Jesus in the middle of the mantelpiece that lit up at night. It was her happiest place.

Walking in to Henry Charles flats today is not much different. Despite the fact they have no wheelchair ramps or accessible toilets, they have been insulated and the waiting lists are long. They are part of council's portfolio of 376 subsidised rentals, 304 of which are tenanted by seniors with limited incomes and assets.

Built with government assistance in the '60s and '80s, many are reaching the end of their life span and over the next 10 years will need an injection of millions of dollars to be refurbished or replaced.

This dilemma has been faced by many councils across New Zealand that, similarly, built pensioner and low-income flats with government support and some, faced with the need to find money to make them fit for purpose, have sold or leased them to Social Housing Providers (SHPs).

In some instances, this has given councils funds to construct more purpose-built rentals for pensioners. Others have leased, or divested all of them to SHPs enabling the dire shortage of public housing for a range of homeless people in their city to be alleviated. In these cases, the existing pensioner tenants in these cities were not evicted when flats were sold but when they died or left, they were replaced by new tenants using different criteria.

The main difference between Councils being landlords and SHPs is that their criteria for tenants is quite different. SHPs are funded only to house those on the Social Housing Register – people with the most urgent need for subsidised housing; low income families and individuals currently living in motels or seriously unsatisfactory housing conditions.

That enables SHPs to charge only 25 per cent of the tenant's income for rent, the rest being subsidised by central government under the Income Related Rent Subsidy (IRRS). Unfortunately, Councils are not able to claim the IRRS, which provides SHPs with funds to refurbish, build and even make a profit on social housing.

Only 8 per cent of those on the Social Housing Register nationwide are 65 or older, so selling or leasing what are now pensioner flats to a SHP changes the type of tenants.

While this would give some immediate relief to our shocking housing shortage (which central government should remedy but has been slow to do so), such a sell-off would result in a growing number of future pensioners having to find market rentals.

Scrolling through one-bedroom Napier listings recently, I found only eight, asking between \$220 per week (needing \$1100 up front) to \$425 per week. For a single pensioner getting \$411 per week, little if anything would be left for food, power and living costs.

A report released in 2016, The Retirement Sector Housing Demand Forecasts 2016-45, stated that about one-third of new-build



Elsie Macdonald, my maternal grandmother

housing in the Heretaunga Plains region between 2016 and 2045 would need to be retirement units to cater for our rapidly ageing population. This is about 3340, only half of which will be in retirement villages.

The rest must be to house those who enter retirement without the means of buying into a retirement village: pensioners with no house or a large mortgage and those dependent solely on the pension. The issue is: where will they live?

By 2038, one third of our residents will be 65 years and older, many of whom living solely on the pension.

With the changing situation and the dire housing shortage, it is yet to be seen what Council will do, although any changes to ownership of this asset will need to go through a rigorous community consultation process.

In the meantime, Napier City Council has joined forces with Wellington City Council and the Tauranga City Council asking Local Government New Zealand (in a remit to the LGNZ Conference next month) to seek funding and flexibility from central government to help those councils who want to, to continue operating, upgrading and growing our council housing portfolios; and to enable councils who wish to, to access the Income Related Rent Subsidy.

Working in partnership could be a win-win for not just local and central governments, but most of all for the increasing number of pensioners projected to be needing subsidised rentals in the future.

Maxine Boag is a Napier City Councillor for the Nelson Park Ward



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What's Napier Grey Power been up to?

Conference 2019

Two delegates, Chair Bruce and Deputy Chair Maxine, spent three days in Wellington at the Federation's Annual Conference in late May.

The Conference, attended by over 150 Grey Power members, was opened by Deputy Prime Minister Winston Peters accompanied by Tracey Martin, Minister for Seniors.

Winston mentioned how Grey Power evolved in the eighties mainly due to governments playing around with taxes and reiterated that this government is committed for the superannuation to stay at 65 years.

Tracey Martin mentioned the upcoming Wellbeing Budget which is going to spend 7.7 million to update, improve and modernise the Gold Card; make more digital training available to seniors and allow ACC to keep paying Seniors on injury for up to 2 years on top of your super (currently it stops after 1 year).

Another highlight was a visit by PM Jacinda Ardern who was warmly received and happy to be photographed with us at lunchtime.

The purpose of the AGM each year is for associations and zones to discuss and vote on remits that will give direction to the Federation Board on issues we consider important. Our remit asking the Board to lobby Central Government for financial assistance to local Councils, for the upgrade and growth of pensioner housing was passed unanimously.

Other guest speakers were Garry Holden from Pulse Energy giving us an update on what he called price protection, they plan two years ahead and have a price protection during this period so prices don't rise.

Also planning in the future is Broadband and discount fuel card, negotiating to get the best price / discount.

Kiwi Bank CE Steve Jankovic faced fierce criticism

when he spoke to us about doing away with cheques and suggested internet banking or pay accounts via the phone. This maybe an issue for some and we will address this as the year goes on.

Other interesting remits were: attempts to force all Associations to only take over-50s was defeated; asking the Board to lobby for increases in Superannuation; plus other remits on dental hygiene services for elders, retention of Post Offices and restricting immigration were all robustly debated. A big plus was that the Vice President, Pete Matcham, was re-elected for a second two-year term.

Both delegates got up and spoke to remits when relevant so the Napier Association's delegation was not only seen but also heard!

As Bruce says, "Over all the AGM was very positive and I was pleased to have been with Maxine representing our Napier association with opportunity to meet many other members and share ideas."



Maxine and Bruce at the Conference

Annual Plan submission

Napier Grey Power made a written submission to the City Council's Annual Plan in May and our comments were taken into consideration in the Council's deliberations in early June.

In summary, what we said was:

- Hearings would have been better than written submissions
- Those who were not on line were not encouraged to submit by lack of Freepost forms
- A 6.4% increase in rates was too high
- Pensioner housing must continue and increase
- Waste management - could Council find a cheaper alternative
- Remove chlorination from the town supply
- War Memorial - restore the plaques and flame
- Prebensen Pools - wait till new council is in place

We know we won't get all we ask for, but it's always good to state what our members are seeking.



Pete Matcham, re-elected as Vice President



Jacinda Ardern followed by President Mac Welch

Acknowledgements:

This newsletter was compiled by Publicity Officer Maxine Boag with the assistance of committee members. It was printed by VW Print, folded and distributed by member volunteers and delivered by members or emailed by the Membership Secretary. John Wuts and Maxine Boag took most of the photos. Neither the Association, nor any person or persons associated with it accepts any liability whatsoever for the contents of this newsletter, nor do we necessarily endorse any product advertised.

It costs the Association \$2 for each newsletter to be printed in full colour; so we appreciate emailing it where applicable which saves us a lot of money. Thank you!

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To enquire about availabilities at the village phone Shona on 06 835 3018
145 Battery Road, Napier



Renew or Join Grey Power

Here's the guff: if your membership is out of date, so now's the time to renew!

It's only \$15 per person, \$27 a couple to join and this will give you full membership in Napier's Grey Power from 1 April 2019 till 31 March 2020.

With your membership comes:

- A free 2019-20 Discount Book with over 180 entries from businesses offering discounts exclusively to Grey Power members
- Access to lower-cost medical insurance
- Grey Power Electricity – lower rates only for members (if you're already joined up to this, renewal of your GP membership is essential to stay on the lower rate)
- Automatic payout of \$2000 from AIG for any members who die in an accident
- Four local newsletters and four national magazines
- Monthly meetings, usually the third Tuesday afternoon each month, with interesting speakers, updates on current issues, great raffles, free afternoon tea, opportunities to socialize with other members

You're part of an effective, respected advocacy group which is dedicated to supporting the well-being of all older people; and voicing their concerns, particularly those of the most vulnerable.



Top: Members enjoying their Christmas luncheon at Pukemokimoki Marae. Below Left: John Wuts and Bruce Carnegie with their pickings! Below Right: Shona and Laurie Jenkin with Laurie's Volunteer of the Year Award.



INVOICE for GREY POWER MEMBERSHIP 2019-2020

If you are a NEW member; or an EXISTING member (and the sticker on your Grey Power membership card is not BLUE) your membership fees are due and this is an invoice for you to pay for membership from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020.

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PLEASE DO NOT PAY YOUR GREY POWER ELECTRICITY BILL INTO OUR ACCOUNT!
If you pay us on line, please help us identify you! We need a membership number or a full name

This year's Grey Power meetings All at 1:30 pm at St Columba's except November

June 18 - AGM & Fire service
 July 16 - Nourished for Nil speakers
 August 20 - HB Regional Council candidates
 September 17 - NCC election candidates

October 15 - End Of Life Choices
 November 19 - Xmas luncheon @
 Pukemokimoki marae

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A free shortbread biscuit with every hot drink purchased plus Grey Power members will be signed up to a key tag programme. This gives an amount which will be paid to the members cafe programme which can be spent on food or drink during future visits to the café.

**The amount accumulated will equal
10% on coffee, 5% on food, 3% on cold drinks**

Café Ahuriri

16 Mahia Street, Ahuriri
 Ph: 06 834 3833

Sender: Napier & Districts Grey Power
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