

Grey Power Napier & Districts

P O Box 4247, Marewa, Napier 4143

Quarterly Newsletter

<http://napiergreypower.org>

March-April 2018



Yoo Hoo!
Time to renew
your subs!

If you don't have a YELLOW sticker on your membership card, then your subscription ends on 31st March.

So now's the time to renew to keep getting cheaper Electricity, discounts from our Discount book, and supporting our voice in local and central government!

Bring the invoice on page 11, with your subs, in an envelope to our meeting on the 20th; or send to our PO Box; or join on line at <http://napiergreypower.org>

Guest speaker for
Our March meeting:

Gary Holden

Pulse Energy
CEO

**"Grey Power
Electricity -
Lower prices in a
competitive market"**



When? **Tuesday, 20 March**
1:30 pm

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

Bring money for subs, raffles, goods for the Food-bank; enjoy a delicious free afternoon tea and great fellowship!

All welcome.

2017-18 Grey Power Committee

President:

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mivpahhb@gmail.com

Deputy Chairperson

Bruce Carnegie
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bpcarnegie@gmail.com

Secretary

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(06) 8430524
iawood@slingshot.co.nz

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bubblesmunro@xtra.co.nz	
Rana Dallas	844 7347
ranar@xtra.co.nz	



Front from left: Bruce Carnegie, Lillian Rennett, June Graham, Bubbles Munro, Maxine Boag, Anne Mitchell
Second row: Rana Dallas, Carol Brunton, Jane Smart, Isabel Wood
Back: Laurie Jenkin, John Wuts

Summertime
is just memories
waiting to happen.



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From the President's Desk

Napier Grey Power has made a very positive start to 2018, and this augurs well for the rest of the year.

We started with the volunteers' lunch on January 30th, attended by 54 of our volunteers. The committee are glad to honour them in this way as they are virtually the "life blood" of our association.

In late February, the committee met at the Tamatea Community Church for a planning day, made all the more enjoyable with June's delicious catering treats and endless cups of tea!

Our first public meeting on the 20th February drew a crowd of 200, who listened to a very interesting talk by guest speaker Graeme Taylor, city councillor and CE of the Masonic Village Trust. Our hard-working secretary, Isabel Wood, has written up an article on Graeme's presentation; it's on page 5.

Our May meeting is the AGM, where there will be the opportunity to elect a new President and committee members. Any member may stand for any position and can put their nomination in on the day, as long as it is seconded.

If you think you might like to join our committee, why not come along to our March and April committee meetings, held the Friday afternoon following each

general meeting, at the Tamatea community centre, to see what it entails?

As well as bringing members together at our monthly meetings, to learn and talk and enjoy our afternoon teas, Napier Grey Power has an advocacy role to play in local and central government.

This year we have members representing us on the Council's Positive Ageing Strategy Steering committee; we made a first-time submission to the HB Consumers Power Trust's membership review (see page 7) and are preparing to see what is in the NCC and HBRC's Long Terms Plans, in order to give our feedback. With the strength of our numbers, we are a force to be reckoned with!

This will be my second-to-last newsletter, since I am retiring at the May AGM. After eight years as President, I'm thrilled to have seen our membership grow from 400 to 1250, but accredit that to the strength of the team around me, to Dunstalls' sponsorship of our monthly ad; to the volunteers who keep us connected with our membership; and to you, the members out there, whether or not you come and enjoy the fellowship of our meetings, for having sufficient faith in us to continue paying your subs!

Laurie Jenkin



Our Volunteers' luncheon



For all Gold Card Holders

New Zealand Government

The AA will put a photo on your Gold Card for you. Take in your Gold Card and proof of identity.

This can be useful if you don't have a Drivers Licence or a passport.

Many will then accept the card with photo as identification.

Kiwibank helps Grey Power

If you have a Kiwibank account, tell them you are a member of Grey Power and they will flag the account as a GP member. Then your account will attract sponsorship (at no cost to you) for Grey Power NZ.

Over \$100,000 p.a. is received by GP in this way.

Help needed with Deliveries

My newsletter delivery area includes all of Tama-tea plus Parklands. As the latter is growing steadily, it would be helpful if someone from that area were to take over the newsletter delivery from me. It is a good opportunity to get to know your streets!

John Wuts, Membership Secretary



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RETIREMENT VILLAGE & RESIDENTIAL CARE

By Isabel Wood

What happens when you consider moving into a retirement home?

This was the topic tackled at February's meeting by Graeme Taylor, Chairman of the Hawke's Bay branch of Aged Care NZ, CE of Masonic Villages and a Taradale ward councillor.

He gave an insightful presentation of the Journey of Life for an imaginary couple to the 200 members present. This fictitious couple in their mid-seventies owned a mortgage-free house in a good suburb valued at \$500,000.00.

They decided they wished to enter a retirement village on an occupation right agreement (Licence to Occupy).

What they had to consider was: the capital sum – the amount paid for the unit; the weekly service fee which covers costs for rates, maintenance; general costs such as power, contents insurance and telephone costs.

Also to consider is the deferred maintenance fee, the amount deducted by the operator at the termination of the agreement which is set in the contract at the start and is calculated on the number of years spent residing in the unit. Payments made on the resale of the unit can vary according to the original contract.

Government subsidies are available for those needing financial help to pay for continuing care. MSD will determine the level of residential care subsidy. Those below the defined asset threshold qualify for government funding - the retirement village operator receiving most of the person's Superannuation with a small amount left to cover personal costs.



At every meeting you will see Lillian Rennet and a helper, this time Shona Jenkin, selling raffle tickets and giving out chocolate fish!

Acknowledgements:

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Those eligible for care subsidy are those with assets valued at being equal to or below the following thresholds: \$224,654 or less for couples, or \$123,025 for a single person. This amount, for those qualifying, is calculated on a yearly basis and allows residents to continue living a comfortable retirement.

Graeme Taylor stressed to those present that all documents should be perused carefully, emphasising the importance of having an Enduring Power of Attorney, for both property and care. It is also important to have a successor named for the trustee or your Power of Attorney in situations where the initial trustee may not be available.

A very interesting presentation giving us all insight into the care provided by retirement villages.



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GREYPOWER MEMBERS 20% OFF!

Stuart NASH MP for Napier

There are two big updates I want to share with Grey Power members. One looks back, to an important achievement of the first 100 days of the new Labour-led government. The second looks forward, and is my way of keeping you informed of a big project I will be working on during 2018.

I hope by now you are aware of the support you will get with your power bills once the colder months arrive. Our new Winter Energy Payment was passed with the support of Labour's coalition partner New Zealand First and our confidence and supply partners in the Greens. You do not need to apply for it if you receive NZ Super or a Veteran's Pension or the Jobseeker allowance - it will be paid automatically.

From 1 July, you will receive an extra \$20.46 per week if you are single, and \$31.82 for a couple. The payments run for five months, and amount to an extra \$450 per year for singles and \$700 for couples. From next year, the payments will kick in from May. A word of advice though – if any of you are lucky enough to be heading overseas for more than four weeks, the payments will stop.

Looking forward, I'm also excited about the new Government's first budget, to be delivered on 17 May. Here's some inside knowledge – expect an update on how we will start rolling out the big boost to Police numbers. The Labour - NZ First coalition agreement undertakes to increase Police by 1800 over three years. The Commissioner of Police has the independence in law to decide how they are deployed, so we will wait and see how Hawke's Bay fares out of this policy.

I also want to give you an assurance about the way we will operate Government accounts – we will run surpluses, we will keep debt down, and we will maintain spending in important areas, like housing and helping people prepare for retirement. Yes - balancing the books matters but so does making sure people aren't sleeping in cars and your children and grandchildren are not living in poverty.

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 of Small Business

Authorised by Stuart Nash, 155A Tennyson Street, Napier



"Willis Life."

LIFE'S EXPERIENCES ARE PRECIOUS AND SO ARE THE ASSETS YOU'VE BUILT UP OVER THE YEARS. IT MAKES SENSE TO ENSURE YOU PROTECT THEM AS CAREFULLY AS POSSIBLE.



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Power trust meeting gains support for status quo

By Andrew Ashton *HB Today*

Public hearings into the Hawke's Bay Power Consumers' Trust's review into its ownership of electricity distributor Unison threw up strong support for the existing situation - with Grey Power groups from Hastings and Napier among the strongest supporters.

A total of 19 out of 21 submissions received during the review supported the trust retaining a 100 per cent stake in Unison, with Grey Power Napier and Districts spokeswoman June Graham telling the meeting at the Napier Conference Centre that the club's members found the yearly dividend of great value.

"In a nutshell our organisation supports the status quo. Our members appreciate that they are shareholders in the company and as such they get a dividend, which would not happen if the ownership changed and the trust ceased to exist. This is a democratic model, that we believe serves the people well.

"We also appreciate Unison's record as an employer, in training apprentices and providing jobs for locals."

She pointed out that with the Napier and Hastings clubs both in support of the trust retaining the existing model, they represented about 2500 people.

"Many of our members are on limited funds, so they do find it difficult and they get a great deal of pleasure out of receiving a yearly windfall."



Napier Grey Power presenter June Graham delivering their submission to the Trust: from left, Stephen Dine, Trust secretary, Diana Kirton (chair), trustees Ken Gilligan, Barbara Arnott, Helen Francis, Kevin Atkinson. *Photo M. Boag*

Hastings and District Grey Power spokesman Ron Wilkins agreed. "We represent a large number of people. We believe that the trust continues this path. We do not believe the trust should give to charity, the trust was set up by the consumers, not for the community.

"We believe the profits of Unison should be spent within the district and that is good for our local economy. It also puts money in the hands of many low income people."

Trust chairwoman Diana Kirton said the 5-yearly ownership review had seen an increased level of interest from the public than the previous review in 2012.

"The increase suggests a growing awareness of what the trust is, and the purpose it serves.

Nearly all submissions were in support of Unison Networks Ltd remaining 100 per cent consumer owned.



The Grey Power team at the hearings: Ron Wilkins (Hastings President), Napier's Maxine Boag, Pete Findlay, Laurie Jenkin, Shona Jenkin, Isabel Wood, June Graham.

"However, a number of submissions raised some interesting points that trustees will take note of for future consideration. These included, concern about the voting process and poor voter turnout, value of the annual dividend, future growth strategies and suggestions the trust's website needs to be more visible and user-friendly.

"I am pleased to say that the trust is already actively working on the website visibility. Improvements have been made and the full project should be completed by the end of the month. This will give trustees a better platform to communicate with consumers from, as well as through regional and community newspapers."

The final decision of the Ownership Review will be made at a public meeting on Friday March 16, 10am, at the Unison building 1101 Omaha Rd, Hastings.



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-BETH SHAN-

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BS_870

Out & About

By Maxine Boag

*Publicity Officer,
Napier Grey Power*



It's been a busy start to what will be an interesting year, locally and nationally.

Locally, our Grey Power association is losing our President, **Laurie Jenkin**, who is calling it quits after serving us for eight years in that key role. During his term of office, our membership has gone from 400 to over 1200, still rising! With 200 at each monthly meeting, we had to find a new venue (St Columbas) to accommodate those numbers. Laurie has also attracted and retained a strong body of volunteers, including the committee around him.

While our hard-working deputy chair **Bruce Carnegie** has agreed to run for President this year, all positions are up for election in May and we welcome all nominations.

There are political changes afoot also in the **Federation**, and I'm looking forward to attending what will be a very interesting Conference/AGM in Blenheim in April. Our current national President, **Tom O'Connor** is stepping down after only one term, and four contenders seek to replace him. While remits on affordable housing, superannuation, health screening and rates feature, it is likely that a flagging Grey Power membership will be a hot topic for delegates to discuss at the conference. Although our branch has increased our membership over the last 12 months, overall Grey Power membership nationwide has dropped significantly between January 2017 and January 2018. Hopefully a new President will see this as a top priority.

Learning to use our devices

Taradale RSA, in conjunction with the HB Positive Ageing Trust, and both Taradale and Tamatea High Schools are offering two hours a week this term for seniors to get help with their electronic devices from a year 12 or 13 student.

As is the case with Brenda and Sage below, you can join in by ringing the Taradale RSA and talking to Administrator Nicky Beckett.



Local Bodies' Long Term Plans

While there are no Local Body elections this year, 2018 is still very significant. It's the one year in three in which all Territorial Authorities put out their Long Term Plan, outlining proposed spending for the next ten years.

For Napier City Council, there will be a strong push for all citizens to read the Plan and engage with councillors on its content. We are genuinely seeking your input on how we will be collecting and spending rate-payers money over the next decade. A print summary will be in your letterboxes around 24th April, the day I will be presenting it to you at our Grey Power meeting.



Remember this woman? Back in 1960 she was holding down a day job, pregnant and with small children. She is our Head of State, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

And nobody accused her of baby brain!

The New Government

The new Labour-led government has announced a Winter Energy Payment which will come to superannuitants and some other beneficiaries from 1st July.

For us, that means we will get:

- \$20.46 a week if you're single with no dependent children;
- \$31.82 a week if you have a partner or dependent children.

This will be paid from 1 July to 30 September 2018. From 2019, it will be paid from 1 May till 1 October. You don't have to apply for it.

If you leave NZ while this payment is being made (and you're still getting Super payments), your Winter Energy payment will continue for the first four weeks you're out of the country, but will stop from the beginning of the 5th week. If you're back in NZ before the Winter Energy payment ends, (eg 30 September 2018), you'll need to contact MSD about restarting it.

“It takes the stress away”

Life presents a lot of curly questions!
“What’s going to happen when I get older still? How can I feel safe and secure without being a burden?”

To see Liz’s full story

or for more information about the Ryman difference visit www.rymanhealthcare.co.nz or phone Shona on **06 835 3018**.


PRINCESS ALEXANDRA
RETIREMENT VILLAGE



145 Battery Road, Ahuriri



FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:

Because the Grey Power renewals have started to come in, could I (and our treasurer) make a plea to you when you make a payment to Grey Power,

In the past we have received payments but had no idea where it came from, so please, make sure you put in at least a 6 digit membership number, a name or a telephone number with your remittance; preferably all three!

What do you get when you join Grey Power?

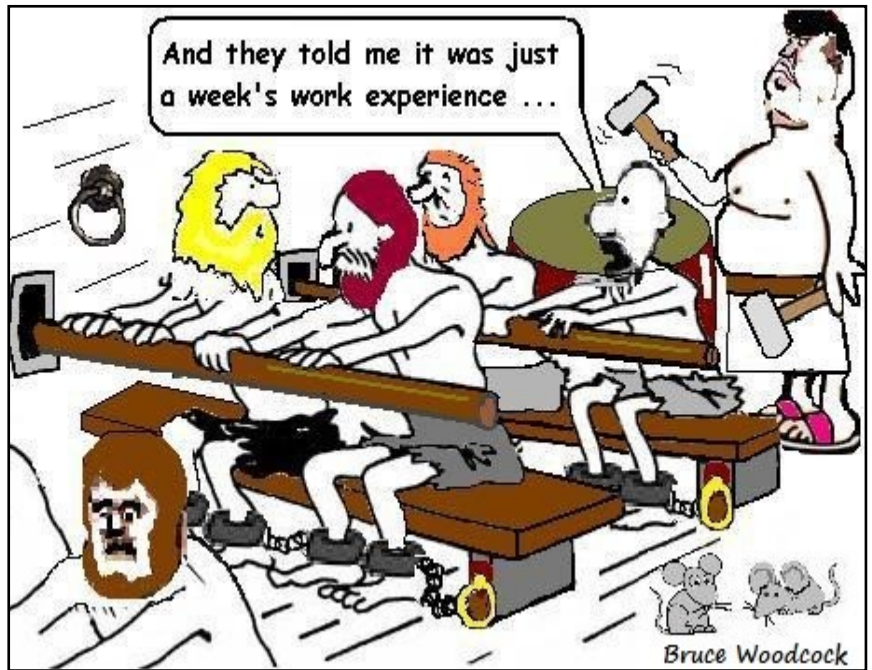
- ◆ A local Discount book
- ◆ Cheaper gas and electricity through Grey Power Electricity's lower usage rates for members
- ◆ Four local and four national newsletters
- ◆ Accident Insurance - \$2000 paid by AIL in event of death by accident
- ◆ Members can save up to \$100 per month on Vesta health insurance
- ◆ Give us a strong voice to speak on your behalf.

IMMORTALITY

No, I haven't found the Elixir of Life but as we all know, death and taxes are the only certainties in life.

It would be helpful to the committee to have a volunteer who would be willing to be trained as a back-up to the membership secretary. I am happy to give full training, it is a fairly mundane and repetitive task but you would need to find your way around a keyboard. Someone in the Tamatea area would be ideal as it would be within walking/biking distance from my home.

I am very happy to be membership secretary and have no thoughts of chucking it in, but I feel that with over 1200 members we need to have a back - up to keeping track of our membership. *John Wuts*



INVOICE for GREY POWER MEMBERSHIP 2018-2019

If the sticker on your Grey Power membership card is not YELLOW, your membership has lapsed and this is an invoice for you to pay for membership from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019.

From: **Grey Power Napier & Districts**
PO Box 4247
Marewa 4143

Bank account number:
38-9009-0434068-00

To: **Your name/s** _____

Address _____

Phone _____ **email** _____ **m'ship no** _____

You are being invoiced \$15 for 1 member, \$27 for a couple.

Amount paid: _____ **Payment Type:** (Chq. Direct Credit, cash) _____

Would you like to volunteer with Grey Power? _____ **Can we email your newsletter?** _____

Please send this form with a cheque to the address above or Direct Credit our bank account above, put your **name and membership number** in the deposit details and notify wutsie@xtra.co.nz and carolgarry@xtra.co.nz John 844 4751

Napier's Positive Ageing Strategy

By Michele Grigg, Senior Advisor Policy, Napier City Council

I am pleased to give you an update on the Positive Ageing Strategy for Napier. It's been a busy few months since I last wrote. We've had a great time meeting people from all parts of Napier in our workshops and several speaking sessions.

We held two workshops with seniors during November and another workshop with agencies who provide services to seniors in Napier. They all gave us some great feedback about what's important to include in the Strategy. I started the New Year by talking with lots of groups (such as Taradale Senior Citizens, Rotary Clubs, Kaumātua groups etc) and encouraging people to give their ideas.

We are really keen to hear from you, and to 'test' the priority areas that have been identified. The seven priority areas at this stage are:

- Getting around
- Community spirit
- Health and wellbeing
- Being informed and involved
- Things to do
- Housing
- Being safe

Find out more about these and let me know your thoughts by doing our Positive Ageing survey. There's a couple of options for you – either complete it online using this link www.surveymonkey.com/r/PosAgeing or contact us for a paper copy, which we can send you in the mail. Carol Brunton also distributed some copies at one of your earlier meetings.

The survey also asks if you would like to see a copy of the draft Positive Ageing Strategy when it's ready.

My contact details: Michele Grigg, communityservices@napier.govt.nz, ph 8344130.



Seniors' workshop held at Age Concern

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Ray White

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- Proven skilled negotiator.
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- *John took out all the "what ifs" out of the situation, always being available at the drop of a hat, to answer a question, talk us through contracts, look at council plans, nothing was too much trouble".*
- *John is approachable and friendly so we were confident he would build good relationships with potential buyers at open homes. With John's experience, integrity and sound advice we wouldn't hesitate to recommend him to future vendors".*

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