Grey Power Napier & Districts

P O Box 4247, Marewa, Napier 4143 http://napiergreypower.org

May-June 2018

Quarterly Newsletter

Last call to renew your subs!

If you don't have a YELLOW sticker on your membership card, then your sub is out of date.

In that case, you will no longer be accessing cheaper Electricity and this will be the last newsletter you receive.

Bring the invoice on page 11, with your subs, in an envelope to our AGM on the 22nd; or send to our PO Box; or join on line at http://napiergreypower.org

WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!

You are invited to our AGM with Officer Reports and Election of the Committee We will also be farewelling President Laurie

ALL WELCOME

When? Tuesday, 22 May 1:30 pm

Where? St Columba's Church 176 Gloucester Street Taradale

After our AGM we have two guest speakers: Katherine Dunstall and Paul Morgan



2017-18 Grey Power Committee

President: Laurie Jenkin (06) 844 3734 mivpahhb@gmail.com

Deputy Chairperson Bruce Carnegie (06) 844 5635 bpcarnegie@gmail.com

Secretary Isabel Wood (06) 8430524 iawood@slingshot.co.nz

Treasurer: Carol Brunton (06) 843 0212 carolgarry@xtra.co.nz Membership Officer John Wuts (06) 844 4751 wutsie@xtra.co.nz

Publicity Officer Maxine Boag 021 024 70484 maxine.boag@gmail.com

Committee:

June Graham845 4353Anne Mitchell844 7011lilyannemitchell@outlook.comLillian Rennett843 9522Bubbles Munro845 4642bubblesmunro@xtra.co.nzRana Dallas844 7347ranar@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 SOMETIMES I NEED TO REMEMBER JUST HOW LUCKY I REALLY AM.



GET ON WITH THE THINGS THAT REALLY MATTER.

Our experiences in life play a huge part in how we define ourselves and those around us. Pre-planning your funeral ensures that everything from your favourite piece of music to the day's actual expenses are covered, allowing you to get on with experiencing more of the things that are truly important.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE NAPIER & DISTRICTS GREY POWER ASSOCIATION 2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

When I look back over the last eight years of my presidency I feel a profound satisfaction at the significant momentum we have developed as a really successful Association. It's been a great privilege for me to be able to convene such a wonderful, stable committee over that time and to run meetings where the members interact with humour and enthusiasm and enjoying the speakers and the afternoon teas at the end.

Over the last 12 months, our monthly meetings have usually been attended by about 200 members. We held two Candidates' meetings for the Central Government election, the others featuring speakers including Citizens Advice Bureau Manager Jenny Pearce, Katherine Dunstall from Dunstall's, lawyer Paul Morgan, Councillor Graeme Taylor, Sport Hawke's Bay Eana Young, Regional Councillor Paul Bailey and NCC Chief Executive Wayne Jack. We had a trip to Balls Clearing, Puketitiri in October; our Christmas luncheon at Pukemokimekoki marae was an enjoyable occasion, though we will definitely be using our own caterers this year! 54 attended our Volunteers Luncheon at the Taradale RSA; our way of saying thank you!

Behind the scenes, we have had sumptuous free afternoon teas prepared at our meetings by June Graham, Carol Cairns and their kitchen team. Thanks are due to those of you who bring donations for the Food Bank and for Gabriela's Orphan Shop in Hastings, and to our impressive team of volunteers who help with the meetings; phoning; folding and distributing newsletters, picking, bagging and selling fruit for our meetings; organising raffles – to say nothing of the year-long work done by the Committee members.

Sponsorship of a monthly page in the free newspaper by Dunstall's has been a huge help in enabling us to join up members and keep our name out there. We are very grateful to them for their generosity.

Our advocacy work on your behalf has included developing questions for our candidates' meetings; presenting a submission to the HB Consumers Power Trust; having input into NCC's Positive Ageing Strategy; making a submission to the NCC Long Term Plan; supporting the War Memorial petition; and more recently, placing wreaths in three locations on Anzac Day – Taradale, Clive and at Memorial Square.

Committee members have represented us at the quarterly Zone meetings in Palmerston, at the Federation's AGM Conference (see the report in this newsletter); we have produced four newsletters, spoken to groups about Grey Power and distributed our pamphlets far and wide.

One of the main reasons many join us is of course access to Grey Power Electricity, where members can get their power or gas at a lower rate. The Federation is also negotiating other member discounts, so watch this space! Our local Discount Book is another good reason to join us.

Recently I passed on a cheque for \$2000 to a new widow from AIL Insurance. Her husband had sadly had an accident from which he did not recover. I think it is wise for all couples joining Grey Power to sign up to the AIL offer of a free insurance payout of \$2000 in the event of accidental death or dismemberment. Nobody knows if they are going to die by accident. It pays to be prepared. There is no cost and no obligation – just fill in the yellow card and send it in. If you don't have one, ask at the next



Laurie and Shona - looking forward to having more time for other things! Photo by P. Gilroy

meeting.

I leave with absolute confidence in the leadership to drive the Asociation forward with great success. I hope I am around to see the 2000th member! That is well within our reach. I have been so privileged to have been at the helm of our association for the last 8 years. My task has been so much lighter because of the diligence, willingness and eye for detail of all our excellent Committee members. I will miss the camaraderie of our committee meetings, but will still be in a voluntary role.

My thanks and appreciation to all 1,300 of our members, without whom there would be no Association. I applaud your participation in all our meetings; your willingness to volunteer for different tasks; and for your good humour and patience. And last but not least, I thank my dear wife Shona, who has supported me throughout my Presidency but will, I know, be relieved that I am stepping down.

My very best wishes to you all

Laurie Jenkin (retiring President)



Laurie as members mostly see him - at the lecturn, setting the tone for our meetings with stories and jokes to put a smile on our faces before we listen to our guest speaker, draw the raffle and enjoy our scrumptious afternoon tea!

FUTURE MEETINGS

Our monthly meetings are usually held starting at 1:30 pm on the third Tuesday of the month (the last two an exception) at St Columba's Church, 176 Gloucester Street Taradale. They are open to the public. There is always an interesting speaker.

We collect donations for the Napier Food Bank, and for Gabriela's Orphanage Shop; there are great raffles and a scrumptious afternoon tea.

Here are the dates for the rest of the year: **19 June 17 July 21 August 18th September 16th October**

27 November - luncheon at Pukemokimoki Marae



Napier City Council Chief Executive Wayne Jack speaking to us about the Council's Long Term Plan at our last meeting.



At the Conference and AGM of the Grey Power Federation

This year the Federation held its annual Conference and AGM in Blenheim. It was attended by 120 delegates representing 50 associations. Bruce Carnegie and Maxine Boag were our delegates. Generally the atmosphere was one of pleasant interaction both inside and outside the conference venue. The meals were healthy and much enjoyed. President Tom O'Connor ran a smooth and friendly meeting with time to converse with other Associa-

Some of the highlights:

tions.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP. This is decided by voting at the AGM which has proved very embarrassing. This has now been changed to nominations from Association and the Board to a special committee so that the names are no longer voted on in public. Longstanding and hard-working Board secretary Jan Pentecost was the only recipient this year.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Former President Roy Reid convinced us that the Federation's finances are in good hands. However, the Board's intention to buy office premises met with divided responses.

ELECTION FOR FEDERATION PRESIDENT: There were three candidates for the position of Federation President. They polled thus: Lloyd Falck - 43 votes; Jo Millar - 28; and the winner Mac Welch - 57. Mac Welch is from Matamata and has a long history of working as part of the Grey Power Association. **PULSE ENERGY:** Gary Holden from Pulse Energy – the parent company of Grey Power Electricity - spoke to the conference. Pulse has some interesting future projects such as supplying broadband, solar panels and using smart meter technology. The solar panels will be installed free of charge. There are now 45 electricity retailers and the retailers are intensely competitive. Pulse and Electric Kiwi grew the most last year. There are 12,000 Grey Power members of Grey Power Electricity and 1000 are new members. **REPORTS FROM NATIONAL ADVISORY GROUPS**

The report on Kiwibank revealed a new scheme for cheque books. From now on cheque books will cos \$15 each as will deposit books. Each cheque will attract a fee of \$1 when it is used. Grey Power both at Federation and Association level agreed to lobby Kiwibank and the Banking Ombudsman for free cheque facilities (except for the stamp duty we normally pay).



Newly elected Grey Power Federation President Mac Welsh

INTERNATIONAL TRADE TREATIES NATIONAL ADVISORY **GROUP:** Grey Power takes an interest in these matters because of the effect of these treaties on the organisation Pharmac, in New Zealand. There is also the matter of suing governments. Changes to Pharmac are of particular interest to the elderly. Grey Power NZ is giving cautious support for CTIPP. Japan and Chile have not signed the Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) settlement clauses and this means that they are able to sue our government. The Prime Minister has said that before CTIPP will come into effect there will be a select committee process, followed by parliamentary debate. NOT TO FORGET... the social side of the Conference which was highlighted on Tuesday evening with a dinner and guest speaker. The speaker was Tracey Martin, the Minister for Seniors whose mother was a delegate! . She is shaping up to be an effective minister. By Marie Dunningham with slight editing from Maxine Boag



Napier delegates Bruce Carnegie and Maxine Boag with Seniors Minister Tracey Martin.

Acknowledgements:

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Stuart NASH MP for Napier

Taking care of those who need it

Any good society takes care of its vulnerable, and especially those who have fought in our military. It's a yard stick for how well we are doing as a country.

While we have Anzac as a day to remember those who have served in our Defence Force, every week should be about supporting those who have spent their lives contributing to New Zealand.

That is why I'm happy to announce that Labour has two new policies to support elderly and veterans: the Positive Ageing Strategy and a grants donation to the RSA and No Duff charity.

Minister for Seniors Tracey Martin is currently looking at initiatives to make our ageing population growth a lot easier for everyone involved. While it is great that we are living longer and healthier, we need to be realistic about what that population growth means on our services and infrastructure. It is always necessary to be prepared, and having a plan will make it easier and less stressful.

Minister for Veterans Ron Mark has announced \$1.1 million dollars over the next four years to go to the RSA and No Duff charity to deal with Post-Traumatic Stress Injury (PTSI) for veterans. No Duff and the RSA are on the frontline for the 41,000 veterans we have in New Zealand.

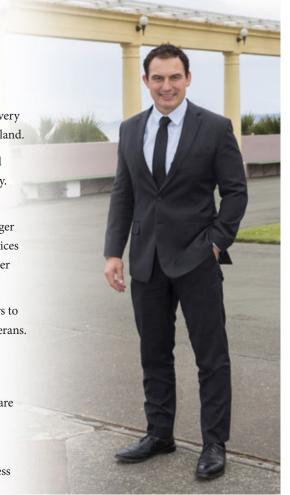
These are the groups who need our continued support, and Labour is committed to them.

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

"Wills L

• Minister of Police • Minister of Fisheries • Minister of Revenue • Minister of Small Business Authorised by Stuart Nash, 155A Tennyson Street, Napier



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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Previously Willis Toomey Robinson Scannell Hardy

Our Submission to Napier City Council's Long Term Plan 2018-28

Napier Grey Power makes submissions every year for the Long Term or Annual Plans put forward by our city council. Last year, there were no Annual Plan hearings unfortunately but this year we took up the opportunity to submit to the Long Term Plan.

At our monthly meeting 24th April members were asked for suggestions for our submission which we have incorporated into the concerns raised by the Committee. This is slightly abridged. Bruce Carnegie will be speaking to this when hearings are held on 5th and 6th June. As we go to print, we do not know when this will be, but call Bruce at 844 5635 to find out so you can come along and listen and support our submission.

Dechlorinated water stations – we recommend either no water stations or user pays ones;

Aquatic Centre – we support the proposed 25m x 25m pools but have concerns about public access to the new sites and the entry costs for low income users; Ahuriri master plan – we support the proposed 12 projects but have some questions;

Aquarium – we support the expansion but note that a lot of pensioners cannot afford to go to the Aquarium at present even with the seniors discount, so would like to know what the new entry costs would be; and to recommend having free days as well as a reduced entry fee for ratepayers;

Leasehold land – we support the recommendation. **Other issues of importance**

Council Flats: We are very disturbed at the suggestion that Council may be selling or leasing out any of your existing Council Flats, for both pensioners and low income tenants. The rental housing situation has reached crisis proportions in Napier and we strongly believe that the Council should be retaining full ownership and management of your flats, and borrowing money if needs be to further refurbish, upgrade and add to your existing stock.

Parking: Mobility Car Parks near Council facilities are inadequate – eg there is only one near the entrance of the Municipal Theatre; we would also like NCC to consider providing free parking at Council carparks in the CBD to Gold Card holders between 9 and 12 am every weekday which Palmerston North does – their Grey Power issues display cards to pensioners for \$10 per year. This has worked well there.

Use of Council facilities: Members have complained about the "colossal" rental charges at the MTG and the Municipal Theatre for those using the pianos there for Music exams. They said the pianos were paid for by the public so there should be some way for locals to have reduced costs.

Rates Increases: We represent people on low and fixed incomes and rate increases above the COL increase hit our members hard.

As well, Rates Rebates do not match increases in rates, so would like Council to lobby central government to increase the amount rebated for low income home owners.

Age Friendly Cities: We have appreciated being included in developing the Positive Ageing Strategy and are looking forward to its completion as a first step towards Napier seeking WHO Accreditation for Age Friendly City status.

Annual Plan hearings: We would like the NCC to go back to providing opportunities for the public to submit to your Annual Plans as well as the Long Term Plan. Removing this opportunity takes away our democratic right as ratepayers to not only have our say on key issues but also to have these placed on the public record, with a formal response from the Council (which does not occur when we speak in the Public Forum). **Loss of Council Chambers:** this has removed the "city hub" of council meetings provided by the chambers and we look forward to this being returned at a future date.



Grey Power representative Carol Brunton with Positive Ageing Strategy co-ordinator Michele Grigg. You can still put your views forward by filling out this online survey: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PosAgeing

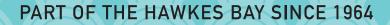




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Government's new winter

energy payment welcomed

28 Apr, 2018 8:00am By Nicki Harper HB Today

Hastings and Districts Grey Power president Ron Wilkins has a fan heater at present, but hopes an extra winter energy payment may mean he can afford an air conditioning unit. Photo/Duncan Brown

With the onset of winter comes the added expense of higher power bills, putting the pinch on everyone's budgets including the elderly.

This year, however, the burden is set to be eased with the Government's new winter energy payment to help people on a New Zealand superannuation or a veteran's pension to heat their homes.

The payments won't start until July 1, meaning in its first year those eligible will not receive the full annual amount, but from next year payments would be made in full from May 1 to September 30, amounting to \$700 for married couples and \$416 for a single person.

The money was not means-tested and was also to be paid to people under 65 on a "main benefit".

Hastings and Districts Grey Power president Ron Wilkins said while it was disappointing the full amount would not be available this year, it was good to be getting something.

"We are very pleased that at least they have listened to us.

"At a national meeting recently we heard some of our members, particularly in the South Island, are turning off the heating and going to bed at 4pm to save money - it's good they have done something this time round."

Mr Wilkins moved from Auckland to Hastings three years ago and said he was advised the region's line charges would be more expensive.

"After a year here I wrote to Mr Key about this in a personal capacity but was told it was my personal choice to move.

"So I then sent the same letter to Winston Peters who replied that he was looking at it."

Mr Wilkins said his power bill had reduced since moving into a masonic village unit in Havelock North, which was warmed by a fan heater.

"My wife and I will get an extra \$31 a week for power now so we can have a bit more comfort and may be able to afford an air conditioning unit."

Age Concern Hastings manager Deborah Biggs said that being the first year of the subsidy she could not say how people were benefiting but said people they had spoken to were looking forward to receiving it.



Ron Wilson, Hastings Grey Power President, talks about the hardship many pensioners suffer trying to stay warm in the winter. Photo: Duncan Brown

Napier Labour MP Stuart Nash said the payment was recognition of the fact that power bills went up substantially in winter.

"Too many people can't afford this cost in winter so do not heat their houses, and there are cases where people have got sick and so are not learning or earning, and possibly end up in hospital.

"There is a whole lot of preventable illness in winter because people can't afford to heat their homes and we thought that was unacceptable."



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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.**



145 Battery Road, Ahuriri

MAKING NAPIER SAFER

How can we make Napier safer for all? Napier is an accredited International Safe Community with over 40 agencies, organisations and groups working together in a coordinated approach to improve community safety in Napier.

Napier Grey Power sent two members - Isabel and Maxine to represent us in the annual workshop in March at Pukemokomoki marae, where about 50 of us discussed in groups how Napier was working towards its five goals and what we all thought could do be done to further reach them.

These goals are very aspirational, but why shouldn't we expect only the best for our lovely city! They are:

- Goal 1: People are injury free in Napier;
- Goal 2: Napier is free from crime;
- Goal 3: Napier roads are safe for all;
- Goal 4: People in Napier keep themselves safe; and
- Goal 5: Napier is free from addiction related harm.

So we're not there yet, but trying our best to move forward!



Pukemokimoki marea Chair Tiwana Aranui (centre) explained the meaning of the new artwork in the Whare Kai, where the Safer Napier workshop was held.

JOIN US - OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:

When you renew your Grey Power memberships, could you please help us to identify who you are by clearly making it easy for us.

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!

John Wuts

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 - call 0800 473 976 to check this out
- 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 call 0800 283 782 for info.

INVOICE for GREY POWER MEMBERSHIP 2018-2019

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ing: Top left, Carol and Garry at Taradale, bottom Alan and Helen at Clive; top right Pete and Maxine at Memorial Square.

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