

Grey Power Napier & Districts

P O Box 4247, Marewa, Napier 4143

Quarterly Newsletter

<http://napiergreypower.org>

Summer 2016



Merry Christmas



Highlights from our Xmas Luncheon



Richmond School's Kapa Haka group put on a lively performance at the Xmas luncheon, much to the delight of those attending (below).



From the Mayor of Napier



Shirley and I would like to wish our fellow Grey Power members all the very best for the festive season. In doing so, I would like to acknowledge the very important role Grey Power has played on the political scene in recent times.

The biggest and most influential meeting during the amalgamation debate was hosted by Grey Power. By far the biggest and most inclusive candidates meeting during the recent local body elections was also hosted by Grey Power and our more senior citizens are a very substantial part of voter turnout.

The October 2016 local body election returned a very good council to Napier. Sure it was sad losing four colleagues who had become friends, but 2/3 of the council were returned and 1/3 were new councillors. That provides both continuity and the injection of fresh enthusiasm and ideas.

The new council is already working very hard and amongst a wide variety of projects we will be looking at this term is a Positive Aging Strategy.

So all the best to you and your families for Christmas and may 2017 be a great and prosperous year for you all.

Cheers

Bill and Shirley Dalton

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You can join Grey Power on our website:

<http://napiergreypower.org>

Please hold off renewing until next year—see P 11

Save our Health System!

Eve Lemm, a Grey Power member, is the Hawke's Bay campaign leader of Action Station, a nation-wide campaign tasked with saving our struggling public health system.

Speaking at a recent meeting, Eve (picture right) produced facts and figures to show that our DHBs and essential health services are significantly under-funded by at least \$200 million.

There is no fault attributable to doctors and nurses, but the reality is that the government has failed to properly fund our hospitals.

As a proportion of GDP, N.Z.'s general government spending was considerably lower than for other OECD countries.

If we take into account inflation, population growth and increased costs associated with an aging population, our government has cut real funding to hospitals by more than \$200 million --- the equivalent of 800 doctors, or 3,000 nurses, or 12,000 hip operations.



Eve (above) presented the meeting with a petition, asking that the government take action to fund the DHBs and essential health services sufficiently, in order to save our flagging health system. The petition was very well-supported by Grey Power members present. You can find this petition at <https://our.actionstation.org.nz/efforts/save-our-dhb-s>

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The President's Report

Laurie Jenkin

“Time, you old gypsy man, will you not stay -- put up your caravan just for one day?” Here is a poet, like most in our demograph, who was very much aware of the tyranny of time in our lives! I’ve often thought what a wonderful thing it would be, if we could put precious moments into a state of suspension, and enjoy them ad infinitum! Alas, we live in a real world that slows down for no one.

Our newsletters are usually sent out a week before the next monthly meeting, but with the Xmas Luncheon being moved forward a week, because of a prior booking for Pukemokimoki Marae, we have already enjoyed our final wind-up meeting for the year. This venue is the most suitable for our needs because of size, parking facilities, and a good kitchen. Also the tangata whenua are very welcoming, helpful and cheerful. It is great to have them as our lovely hosts and hostesses.

Also much appreciated was the Kapa Haka group from Richmond School (below), who presented a lively and varied bracket of items to the 150-or so members and visitors who enjoyed the day.



Similarly appreciated was the three-person band, Lyn and Brian Berkin, with Alan Hessell who entertained us before our young performers took the stage.



Hands across the waters... Laurie and Deputy Chair Bruce Carnegie welcome Hastings Grey Power guests Jenny Edwards and Ken Mark at the Xmas luncheon.

Membership

Although there has been a steady flow of new members, we have not seen the meteoric growth we had last year. Most of our new members come from the monthly ad in the Napier Mail, or by recommendation of a friend. As at November 2nd we had 1083 financial members, with another 223 unfinancial. Amazingly, Wairoa had 1087 financial members – and only one unfinancial member. Wairoa seems to have broken most of the membership records, and their president, Les Hine, is the inspirational energy behind this – and at 86, this is one amazing man! If all N.Z. Associations had a similar members to population ratio, Grey Power would have half a million members!

Meetings

The meetings we hold are usually very interesting and well-attended. We can seat 265, but we don't expect to reach that any time soon! Though, with a General Election next year, one can never tell. Generally, Associations expect 10% of their membership at meetings, but we often have 20% attendance! Our two best attended meetings have been Sir Michael Cullen (March this year) with over 200, and the All Candidates' meeting (September) with 220. The afternoon teas we put on, sponsored by Beth Shan Funeral Directors, and led by a team headed by June Graham and Carol Cairns have been a major attraction.

Next year, our first monthly meeting will be on Tuesday, 21 February (no meeting in January) and with the 2017 General Election, there will be several meetings for all the parties who wish to be active in the electoral process. Our committee will be having a planning meeting in January to set the dates and speakers for the year ahead.

I would like to take this opportunity to once again give a heartfelt thanks to the many many volunteers and helpers who make up our enthusiastic and active Napier Grey Power team; and to wish them and all of you, our wonderful members, a very Merry Xmas and an Happy and Healthy New Year!

Laurie Jenkin

International Day of Older Persons

“Take a Stand Against Ageism” was the theme for this year’s October 1st International Day of Older Persons, marked by Napier’s Age Concern members and the Napier RSA with a morning tea at the RSA.

Age Concern Social Worker Caroline Hooker said that ageism – negative attitudes and discrimination based on age – is an insidious practice which has harmful effects on the health of older people.

“Ageism is an everyday challenge,” she said. Overlooked for employment, restricted from social services and stereotyped in the media, older people are marginalised and excluded by ageism in their communities.

It exists when the media portrays all old people as “frail” and “dependent”, attitudes which have negative impacts on health and well-being.

Older people who feel they are a burden may also perceive their lives to be less valuable, putting them at risk of depression and social isolation. Research shows that older adults with negative attitudes about ageing may live 7.5 years less than those with positive attitudes.

Age Concern Dignity Champions

Age Concern is keen to sign people up to become Age Concern Dignity Champions. This is what they say about this initiative:

“Age Concern strives to create a New Zealand in which everyone is valued, supported and empowered no matter how old they are. However, this is not the society we live in – not yet.

That’s where you come in. We need New Zealanders from all walks of life to join us and become Age Concern Dignity Champions.”

An Age Concern Dignity Champion pledges to:

1. **Reject stereotypes and focus on the uniqueness of every individual**
2. **Speak up when they hear people speaking negatively about growing old**
3. **Have the courage to question practices they feel are disrespectful to older people**
4. **Not patronise older people**
5. **Be patient, polite and friendly**
6. **Have zero tolerance for abuse or neglect**
7. **Build relationships – they combat isolation and loneliness by getting to know the older people in their lives.**

If you would like to sign this pledge, contact Napier Age Concern at 842 1436 or sign online at <http://ageconcern.org.nz/dignity>



Grey Power committee member Maxine Boag signs up as a Dignity Champion, with Age Concern president Janet Smith looking on.

Advance Directives and





“Do not resuscitate” Medic Alert Bracelets


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Memories of Napier



Do you have some great memories of
Napier to share with others?
Meet other like-minded people and share
a cuppa and chat at the Napier Library.

Meet on the fourth Friday
each month at 11am

Dates for 2016
26 August
23 September
28 October
25 November
23 December

ANNUAL TRIP TO PUKETITIRI



On 27th October, 14 of our members left at 9.10 a.m. and headed to Pat Magill's property at Ball's Clearing, a historic spot out at Puketitiri, about 60 kms from Napier. After a cuppa, we walked through Pat's rhododendron patch, where there were still some lovely flowers to be seen.

We were appalled at the damage caused to many trees by a large dump of snow, but the walk through Pat's native bush section was very pleasant, with many species of seedlings springing up in many areas.

We even saw deer prints on one section of the path – something fairly rare for Pat's place. Some of us saw one of the very large, tame eels in the pond.

After lunch, we visited two other places, the first about 500 metres from Pat's place. The trees with new foliage were beautiful, and masses of bluebells thrive among tall, sparse grass, along with some very healthy, exotic flowers.

The next place was a bit off the beaten track, about 7 kms from Pat's place, owned by a couple, the man being the captain of a scampi fishing vessel that works out of Tau-ranga. Working on a "month on, month off" basis, he is not often home, so his wife tends the gardens and livestock that have the run of the property.

They have a "young" redwood pine, 100 years old that is massive as it is tall !! It is a most impressive tree !

The thing we noticed most about this place was that, even being relatively close to Pat's place, they completely escaped the ravages of the snow dump evident at Pat's property.

This proved to be a very enjoyable trip, and having been four other times, I can highly recommend it to our members.

Laurie Jenkin



Pat Magill telling the group stories of the area.

Supportive Services Provided by Age Concern Napier

A reminder Age Concern provides numerous supportive services on a regular basis.

If you have requests for assistance please telephone the office at 842 1436.

- ❖ Group transport grocery shopping twice weekly (Wednesday afternoon or Friday Morning)
- ❖ Personalised Assistance with grocery shopping for those who require a higher level of support can also be provided.
- ❖ Monthly trip to library.
- ❖ Monthly trip to Hastings or Napier for general shopping: Kmart/Mitre 10/Warehouse/Spotlight/Briscoes.
- ❖ Volunteers can provide transport to the Hawkes Bay Memorial Hospital or Royston for appointments at a very reasonable cost. (Please contact office as soon as you know your appointment date/time)
- ❖ Gardeners available for light gardening maintenance, also any small handyman requirements.
- ❖ Transport is also available for all our activities; please request transport when booking activity.

All of the above services are provided by our volunteers

From Napier Age Concern Bi Monthly newsletter, Sept-Oct 2016

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**From Stuart Nash
MP for Napier**

Wishing you season's greetings
and a safe and happy New Year.



As the cost of living increases it is important to know about the help and entitlements that are available in our Community.

This is why we have updated a comprehensive Information Kit that sets out services and entitlements for the over-60s. If you would like a free copy of the over-60s Information Kit please call into my Electorate office at 155A Tennyson Street, in Napier, or you can pick one up from your local library.

I am very much aware of the valuable contribution that older people have made and are continuing to make to New Zealand's way of life. We owe our current prosperity and way of life in no small measure to the contributions of our parents and grandparents. I am working hard on your behalf to ensure that all super annuitants are guaranteed a better standard of living.

My office is here to help you, the office hours are 10.00 am – 4.00 pm Monday, and 9.00 am – 4.00 pm Tuesday to Friday and we are just a phone call away on (06) 835 6093



Authorised by Stuart. Nash
155A Tennyson Street Napier

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I wonder how many people recall how New Zealand Superannuation (NZS) ceased to be a political football, and how small political parties are able to make policy gains? For example "The All-Party Accord" on NZS set the minimum and maximum rate of Superannuation payments to be between 65% and 72.5% of the net after-tax minimum wage. New Zealand First under Winston Peters had the numbers to lift the level to 66%.

In addition the party was able to get the Gold Card introduced. United Leader Peter Dunne had the length of summer time extended. More recently David Seymour, leader of Act, achieved the introduction of Chartered Schools.

How did these changes come about? Because the electorate dumped First Past the Post in response to the continual breaking of promises made on the hustings by National and Labour. Enter MMP.

Last month marked the twentieth anniversary of the introduction of MMP. Although a week in politics is said to be a long time, the portends are that after next year's election small parties will have significant presence in Parliament, thus able to leverage policy gains from the party with the largest number of seats.

Not every gain will be as significant as New Zealand First's increase in the rate of NZS or the introduction of the Gold Card or David Seymour's success over Charter Schools. But small gains can be made.

Have you visited the dentist recently? Ouch! First in your mouth and then in your pocket. Help from WINZ is minimal and desperately needs increasing. The minor parties should be lobbied to make such an increase part of their Supply and Confidence Agreements.

The changes to the Official Cash Rate have impacted heavily on the returns from term deposits. Immediately the OCR dropped, the banks lowered interest rates offered for term deposits. This will impact heavily on the risk averse retired who invest heavily in that way. They will still have to pay RWT at 17.5% on what interest they do get. There is of course an adjustment at the end of the tax year that takes account of the payment, but the need for income is always immediate.

Under MMP one has a party vote, the crucial vote, and a vote for the electorate MP. This enables choice of who to give one's party vote to and the other to a good electorate MP irrespective of the party they belong to.

The death of First Past the Post is mourned by a few, but thankfully MMP is here to stay.

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Demographic challenges facing the Bay

By Paul Spoonley

Many of New Zealand's regions are facing interesting - and sometimes daunting - options. The challenges are both economic and demographic.

What *The Economist* calls the Fourth Industrial Revolution is impacting on the nature of economies around the world. The twin impacts of globalisation and the disruption that is associated with digitisation will alter what we produce and how we work.

But there are also significant demographic changes under way as the baby boomers retire, fertility rates continue to decline and the prime working age population reduces in size.

Matariki - or to give it its full name, the Hawke's Bay Regional Economic and Development Strategy and Action Plan - is a welcome and ambitious plan to address some of these issues. But there is little acknowledgement of some of the other challenges facing the economy and communities of Hawke's Bay.

The strategy and plan are clear that it is business-led and relies upon relationships between the major players. There is a focus on improved infrastructure, business development and innovation, and additional jobs.

My concern would be that there is insufficient attention to demographic dynamics and trends. There is some acknowledgement of these challenges: reference to upskilling those not currently in the workforce, including Maori; the fact that the young leave the province; and the need to attract skilled migrants.

Hawke's Bay, like many regions, will experience a decline in those in the prime working age in the future, and this will be very obvious by the mid and late 2020s.

This will be a result of the increasing numbers in the 65+ age group (a 10-15 per cent increase by 2030) and a decline in the 15-24 age group as a result of declining fertility and out-migration.

More and more jobs in New Zealand, at least those that earn decent salaries, require post-secondary qualifications. Hawke's Bay has struggled to offer these jobs.

Between 1981 and 2013, Hawke's Bay slipped from 6th to 13th (out of 16 regions) in terms of average personal income. Whether Matariki will address this slide will be interesting. Let's hope so.



Prof Paul Spoonley

But there are also interesting dynamics in the seasonal, temporary sector with 30 per cent of all workers now being from outside the region.

The RSE has been a success story but even so there are two issues. Does it displace local workers? And given, for example, the demand for seasonal workers in areas like pipfruit, is the supply adequate to meet demand?

Or is there a cost to producers because there are simply not enough workers?

And there is little to indicate how the Bay will attract and retain skilled immigrants or immigrant businesses.

As I have noted previously in this paper, statistics show that immigrants do not stay - 1300 fewer immigrants were recorded as living in Hawke's Bay in the 2013 census compared to 2006.

How will Matariki address this, especially given that both temporary and permanent immigrant numbers are now at an historic high for New Zealand?

When we worked with Taiwhenua o Heretaunga on "Mahi Awatea" in the 1990s, the challenge was as much about people as it was about economic considerations.

My plea would be for those responsible for Matariki to factor in what will happen over the next decade in terms of the shape of local communities.

What will be done to retain and attract those who will provide the local talent pool?

Distinguished Professor Paul Spoonley is Pro Vice-Chancellor of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Massey University and is the editor of a recently published book, *Rebooting the Regions* (2016).

HB Today September 2016



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FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Because at our last AGM we decided to change our financial year to run from 1 April to 31 March, there are some changes in renewing your subscriptions this time.

If you have a blue membership card with an expiry on it of 31 December 2016, I am happy to change that to a blue sticker with the expiry 31 March 2017 on it so you can use your discount book until that date. All current financial members will not be required to renew until 1 April 2017.

It would be a big help if you all waited with renewing your membership until March 2017, I have very busy months ahead of me in January and February next year, so when you do renew in March, you'll get a membership sticker dated 31 March 2018 (not sure of the colour as yet, it is organised by our National Office).

If you have any questions about this, ring me on 844 4751 or, preferably, email wutsie@xtra.co.nz

Thank you all for your understanding, keep in mind we won't have this problem next year as our financial year and the Grey Power national body will be matching.

John Wuts
Membership Secretary
Grey Power Napier & Districts

Next year's Discount Book

Planning has started for the all-new 2017 Discount Book.

We are putting together an 80-page Discount Book which will feature approximately 300 advertisers giving more options to choose a trade or service when needed and to save money in doing so.

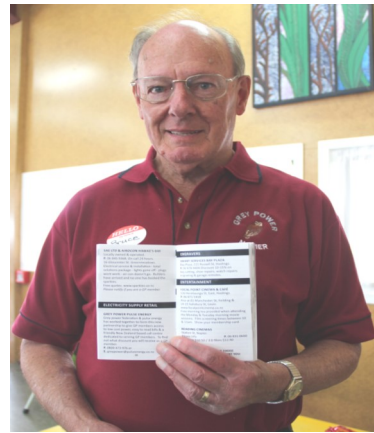
The new book will be modelled along the lines of the Hastings Grey Power discount book (and our old book) -with a few paid ads, but most smaller ones that are free for the advertiser—who have kindly shared their book with us to use as a template.

We will sell some pages, but most ads will be simple text-only, and free.

As with this year's book, members will all get the book for free when they join..

If you can recommend any businesses please contact Bruce on 844 5635 or Pete on 021 1619736.

- Bruce Carnegie.



Bruce Carnegie holding up the Hastings Discount Book, which we are basing our 2017 edition on.

What does Grey Power offer?

The benefits of joining:

FOR only \$15 per year or \$27 per couple, membership in Napier and Districts Grey Power enables you to access discounts across a range of local services and products, plus savings on power, as well as medical insurance.

Power: Members can access electricity and gas at a lower price from Grey Power Electricity. Phone 0800 473 976 with your current bill and see how GP Electricity compares.

Medical insurance: The Grey Power Board has approved a new deal for medical insurance for members. Through Partners Life Medical Insurance, members aged between 50 and 70 can get a permanent discount of 35%. Check them out at www.vestacover.co.nz or phone 0800 283 782 during weekday working hours.

Accident Insurance cover: all paid up members are offered a payout of \$2000 to their estate in the case of sudden death by accident.

Local Discounts: Members are able to access local discounts through our free Napier Grey Power Discount Book.

What do you think?

Would you benefit from having some help in using your smart phone, laptop or other devices? The HB Positive Ageing Trust is interested in ways in which older people could better access new technologies.

Send your ideas to me as your NCC rep on this trust and I will give your feedback to the trust, who may have some funds for such projects.

Maxine Boag, 2B Terrace Lane Napier, 835 6495,
maxine.boag@napier.govt.nz or 021 02470484



Volunteer Shona Jenkin and Life Member Lillian Rennett collecting raffle money and giving out chocolate fish!

Fire Safety in the home By Isabel Wood

Do heat pumps and HRV systems trigger smoke alarms? Why should you have a phone in your bedroom? Why is it important to turn off appliances if you are leaving your home for any length of time?

These were some of the questions Grey Power members asked NZ Fire Service officer Mike Finucane who was guest speaker at our October meeting. *(The answers are at the end of this article.)*

Mike told the meeting that statistics show that NZ fires are generally not in big hotels or high rise buildings but that domestic homes were most at risk.

"I can't over emphasise the importance of smoke alarms," he said. "Firemen call them Fire Angels."

When we are asleep, our sense of smell is reduced, and hearing the noise of the alarm is the first indication of a fire, so the most important location for an alarm is in the bedroom, followed by the hallway and lounge areas.

"When you're placing your alarms, its best to site them between you and your exit point, and keys for exit doors should be kept nearby," he said.

Kitchen fires are most common, so "looking while you're cooking" is a number one rule.

The best alarms we were told are the photo electric alarms which retail around \$39, as they are long life and have a 10 year battery system.

Mike, who has been working in the NZ Fire Service for 31 years, starting as a volunteer, also explained his role as a Fire Investigation Officer, in which he investigates any fatality or suspicious fires.

The NZ Fire Service is currently undergoing a restructuring, merging its urban and rural units into one, increasing its personnel to 30,000, most of whom are volunteers.

What was the most important advice he gave us? In case of fire, don't hesitate, call 111 and get out!

Answers to the questions: No, heat pumps and HRV systems do NOT trigger smoke alarms; have a phone in your bedroom to make it easier to call 111; and turn off appliances when you leave home for a length of time as they are ignition points and are potentially fire hazards.



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