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# GREYPOWER

NAPIER ASSOCIATION INC

WINTER ISSUE 2026

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the age of Super?** *Page 19*

*Cover photo  
by Derek Rossiter*

Have you renewed your 2026-27 membership, or want to join?  
See page 23 for details.

# GREY POWER NAPIER

PO Box 4247, Marewa,  
Napier. 4143

Phone: 06 844 5635

[www.napiergreypower.org](http://www.napiergreypower.org)



## COMMITTEE

### **President - Bruce Carnegie**

(06) 844 5635 / 027 427 2023

[bpcarnegie@gmail.com](mailto:bpcarnegie@gmail.com)

### **Vice-President - Maxine Boag**

021 024 70484 | [maxine.boag@gmail.com](mailto:maxine.boag@gmail.com)

### **Secretary - Isabel Wood**

(06) 843 0524 / 021 106 7834

[iawood@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:iawood@slingshot.co.nz)

### **Treasurer - Ian Cook**

06 844 4862 | [ijcook@extra.co.nz](mailto:ijcook@extra.co.nz)

### **Membership Officer - Linda Mellor**

(06) 844 3837 | [greypowernapier@gmail.com](mailto:greypowernapier@gmail.com)

### **Publicity Officer - Maxine Boag**

021 024 70484 | [maxine.boag@gmail.com](mailto:maxine.boag@gmail.com)

### **Committee**

#### **Allison Beattie**

0221 077 653 | [allibeat@gmail.com](mailto:allibeat@gmail.com)

#### **Kay Nesdale**

021 261 9400 | [kaynesdale@gmail.com](mailto:kaynesdale@gmail.com)

#### **Carol Brunton**

022 425 3113 | [bruntoncarol9@gmail.com](mailto:bruntoncarol9@gmail.com)

#### **Gayle Peters**

022 600 4765 | [gayleforcebabe@yahoo.com.au](mailto:gayleforcebabe@yahoo.com.au)

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# ANZAC Day 2026





Bruce Carnegie  
President

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Warm greetings everyone – and a special welcome to our Wairoa members!

As the seasons change once again, it reminds me how quickly another busy few months have passed for our

association. One thing that continues to impress me is the support and friendship shown among our members. Grey Power is much more than meetings and newsletters; it is people looking out for one another.

At our recent meetings we have heard from some excellent speakers, covering topics ranging from health services to community issues affecting older New Zealanders. It is encouraging to see members continuing to ask questions, share experiences, and take an active interest in what is happening in our community.

One question I often ask myself is: What matters most to our members right now?

For many, it is the cost of living, access to health services, and staying connected socially. These are areas where Grey Power continues to advocate strongly on your behalf.

I would also encourage members to make the most of the Grey Power discounts offered and, for those of you over 65, the many businesses supporting the Super Gold card. Every dollar saved helps, and supporting local businesses that support seniors benefits them as well as the community.

A special thank you to our committee members and volunteers who quietly give many hours behind the scenes. Without them, much of what we do simply would not happen.

While we are sad to be losing our secretary Isabel Wood, we are hugely grateful to her for her 12 plus years of dedicated service to Grey Power Napier. Always cheerful, always dependable, a great team worker, we have been so lucky to have had her in this key role! We wish her all the best in her “retirement” but know we will see her at our meetings, still supporting the Association.

Our AGM is just around the corner and we seriously need more committee members to share and

lighten our work programme. Please let me know if you want to join our team. Without a secretary in particular, other hard-working committee members have to pick up extra responsibilities. Replacing Isabel is hard but not impossible.

In September we are holding a Parliamentary candidates’ meeting and would like your ideas on what policies you would like to see from the next government. Send them to me, or Maxine and we will try and incorporate them into questions we will be asking candidates and publishing in the next newsletter, as well as asking them at the meeting.

A big thank you to our generous sponsors: Beth Shan Funeral Directors and Kaweka Hospital. We appreciate your support, and that of our advertisers, without whom this newsletter would not be produced. Please support them when you shop!

Stay safe, stay positive, and I look forward to seeing many of you at our AGM. Mayor Richard McGrath is our guest speaker, so come along and hear what he has to say!

Kindest regards *Bruce Carnegie* | President  
“Stronger together”

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<http://napiergreypower.org>

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# Message from Mayor Richard McGrath

Cities that work well are the result of steady, deliberate investment in the things that matter most: infrastructure, roading, pipes and pumps, open spaces that are well used, safety and resilience. In Napier, these are the areas we're focused on.

Water is one of our biggest priorities. Over the coming years, we're committing \$700 million to three waters capital works. This is a serious, long-term programme that reflects just how important it is to get the foundations right. This year alone, \$27.6 million is going into 50 projects across the city. Last year we spent \$22 million upgrading pipes, pump stations and stormwater systems, completing 94% of planned work. This is an investment that will benefit future generations as well as people living in Napier now, and it'll improve our resilience and our ability to grow sensibly, whether it's in housing or in industry.

You'll have seen work underway in Marewa, where two 50-year-old culverts beneath Taradale Road and Herrick Street are being replaced. These upgrades double capacity and will protect homes and businesses from flooding for the next 50 years. At the Awatoto Wastewater Treatment Plant, two new storage cells, with capacity equivalent to 12 Olympic swimming pools, are now live, ready to handle overflow in an emergency. Coming up: a new reservoir on Hospital Hill, new bores and pipelines, a new wastewater outfall, and smarter stormwater infrastructure built for growth and a changing climate.

Alongside the physical infrastructure, we're working to make sure Napier's assets are managed

well for every ratepayer, now and in the future. Our investment entity is Ahuriri Investment Management (AIM). Run with an independent board, a commercial mandate and clear performance expectations, AIM puts Napier's airport shares, land and property to work. The returns help take pressure off rates, so the city's assets are pulling their weight.

Community resilience is part of this picture too. Thirty community emergency hubs are now established across Napier and the wider Hawke's Bay region. They are stocked, staffed with trained leads and connected to council. If power and communications go down, these hubs will keep information flowing and communities supported.

Internally, we're also taking a good look at how we operate. Shared services with neighbouring councils, smarter use of technology and data-driven decision-making are all helping us do more with every dollar.

You may have heard about new reform proposed to encourage councils to work together better. Central government has signalled change, and we're ready to meet it. The good news is we're not starting from scratch. Conversations are already happening, services are already being shared and the relationships between councils in our region are already strong. We knew reform was coming, not just from Wellington, but because we know we need to keep improving the way we do things. What matters most is that Napier's people stay front and centre. This is our opportunity to shape the response from the inside, rather than have it handed to us.



# Community Catch Up



**NAPIER**  
CITY COUNCIL  
Te Kaunihera o Ahuriri



**A rates rebate can reduce your annual rates if you own the property you live in.**

The amount depends on your income (including your partner's), your rates bill, and how many dependants you have, based on the tax year ending 31 March.

You can make one application per household each rating year, and it can't be backdated.

If approved, the rebate is applied to your rates account, with any balance still due by instalment dates or refundable if already paid in full.

Don't miss out, get your application in before 30 June for the year ending 31 March 2025. Find out more at [napier.govt.nz/rates](http://napier.govt.nz/rates)



**SILVER  
SCREEN  
SERIES**



**Save the date for the next free movie afternoon on 29 June at Reading Cinemas Napier.**

An opportunity for older adults to connect and enjoy a fun community experience.

Bookings open Monday 15 June, call 06 835 7579.



## Community Emergency Hubs

Community Emergency Hubs are a practical way for neighbours to come together when it matters most. They support people to share information, check in on one another, and coordinate locally in the aftermath of an emergency.

The hubs are community-led, with support from Napier City Council through training and resources. We're looking for people who are interested in getting involved, whether that's helping with planning and coordination, supporting response activity during an emergency, or simply putting the jug on for a cuppa.

If you'd like to be part of a hub in your area, we'd love to hear from you! Head to [napier.govt.nz](http://napier.govt.nz) to connect to a hub near you.



## Upgrades to culverts

After months of digging, dewatering, sheet piling and prep work, the Taradale Road culvert upgrade has reached a major milestone.

The concrete base is in, sections are being installed fast, with nine of 20 already placed. Crews are building end walls, with works set to be completed towards the end of June.



## Emerson Street upgrades

We're upgrading infrastructure around Clive and Memorial Squares and using the opportunity to also upgrade the streetscape.

There will be lighting and design improvements to increase safety. We'll install more seating and paving, making the area more accessible.

**Keep up to date with all things Napier at [napier.govt.nz](http://napier.govt.nz)**

# The Cost of Aged Care

Families trying to find rest homes for their elderly relatives have been shocked to discover that they must pay a premium room charge for care, even when they qualify for the government subsidy. Rest homes vary with their charge, which are charged on a daily basis, with some as high as \$105.

That is because rest homes are permitted to charge surcharges any time a room is not "standard" - and many providers are no longer building or offering standard rooms.

## No standard rooms being built

Anybody will need to pay for what is known as a premium room and that is a room with ensuite or attached bathroom. Cost seems to start around \$25 per day for the added luxury. If they don't have a standard room available and the family can't afford to pay for the premium room then they will need to shop around at other rest homes.

Ryman said in many newer or redeveloped villages, all rooms would exceed the minimum standard.

Metlifecare said it, too, did not offer standard care rooms.

Logan Mudge, head of communications at Summerset, said it had been converting standard rooms into premium rooms or care occupation right agreements since 2024.

"Situations where a resident's family could not pay may happen, however if family were unable to assist, they would need to look for availability of a standard room with another aged care provider, which would more likely be a facility in the not-for-profit sector."

## Under contract with Health NZ Age Care Providers are required:

To admit a person without charging them a premium if the person requests a standard bed and there are no standard beds at the right care level available within a 10km radius, and that facility is their preferred choice.

"This requirement applies regardless of what type of rooms providers are building."

*Extract from RNZ article 07/04/2026*



*A care room at Atawhai*

## The cost of Shingles *by Maxine Boag*

"It's like having a hot iron pressed against your body, and you can't lift it off!" was how a friend of mine described having shingles.

Having heard that, I enquired about getting the latest shingles vaccine, to discover each one of the two would cost me \$400!!

It is only free for 12 months after a person's 65th birthday, with two doses needed at 2 to 6 months apart. If the person gets their first dose when

they are 65, then the second dose is free.

But what about the rest of us? Who can afford \$800 on a fixed income?

The price of staying alive is prohibitive. Paying for medical check ups and treatment, dental treatment, rents, insurance, transport, power, rates, fuel, and food on a fixed income is often unaffordable.

You can see why the poor die young. They can't afford the cost of living.

## We Need Your Help – Could You Be Our Next Secretary?

For the past 12 years, our secretary Isabel Wood has given outstanding service to Grey Power Napier and the time has come for her to step aside, so we are looking for someone to continue this vital role.

This position sits at the heart of our Association. It's a chance to be closely involved in the work we do advocating for and supporting older people within our community.

The role includes preparing agendas, taking minutes at our monthly meetings, and helping with correspondence—but just as importantly, it's about being part of a committed and friendly team.

You don't need to be an expert. If you are reasonably organised, comfortable with emails and basic computer tasks, and willing to lend a hand, we will support you every step of the way during the handover.

Grey Power Napier is only as strong as its members, and this is an opportunity to make a real difference.

If you think you might be interested - or would simply like to know more - please get in touch with our president,

Bruce Carnegie

for a friendly, no-obligation chat.

Please contact Bruce  
by phoning 06 844 5635  
or Email  
bpcarnegie@gmail.com



*Isabel  
Wood  
our  
retiring  
secretary*

### Napier Library

1 Tennyson Street, Napier

### Taradale Library

24 White Street, Taradale

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# COMBINED GREY POWER MEETING REPORT by Isabel Wood

Recently a meeting was held in Hastings with representatives from Napier, Hastings and Central Hawke's Bay (CHB) Grey Power Associations, who met to discuss ways of promoting and growing membership in our areas. We broke into small groups to collect our ideas.

Positive points for joining Grey Power were: electricity, insurance, broadband and recently added fuel discounts; help in emergencies; fellowship; attending meetings with interesting speakers; advocacy and updates on relevant issues with central and local Government; promoting a positive image for seniors; volunteering, and Hastings Grey Power has a current Discount Book. Both Napier and Hastings have three newsletters published every year and we also have the quarterly Federation magazine available to all members – online, mailed for \$10 a year and which we also make available to the general public in the magazine stand located at Greenmeadows New World which has proved to be very popular.

Reasons why people may not join Grey Power negatives were: the cost of membership; transport difficulties; working when meetings are held; health issues; cost of living and for some lack of awareness of what Grey Power has to offer older people.

It was felt that the positives far outweighed the negatives.

Both Napier, with a membership of 1035, and Hastings 900, have regular newsletters informing members on many current issues with Napier also having a website and both using Facebook to inform the general public of upcoming events. Hastings has a regular radio talk session which has been most successful for them. CHB with a small membership of around 70 relies on photos and articles in the CHB local paper as well as telephoning members informing them of activities.

It was noted that we have many different organisations in our area dealing with our age group such as Citizens Advice Bureau and Age Concern who will direct enquiries to the correct organisation.

Hastings Grey Power are currently looking into the possibility of Hastings becoming an Age Friendly City like Napier, and Roberta, their Secretary/Treasurer has already attended a committee meeting to begin this development.

This regional get-together was deemed to be very useful in sharing ideas for promoting Grey Power to the wider community and another meeting has been organised in three months' time.



Working together – Napier, Hastings and Central HB Grey Power committee members

**BECOME A SUPPORTER and JOIN GREY POWER**

A reminder, that supporting Grey Power as a member is for anyone of any age. Someone in your life may well benefit from the work we do advocating for the rights and wellbeing of everyone as they age. The strength of any organisation - and its ability to influence politicians - depends on the size and engagement of its membership.



## COMMUNITY DAY PROGRAMMES: ENLIVEN OLDER PEOPLE

Enliven Havelock North, located at JH Mason Village on Durham Drive, reimagines community day programmes with a fresh approach in a cozy hall setting. We offer morning tea and lunch, accredited falls prevention exercise classes, and a variety of engaging activities on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

### We have community day programme spaces!

To find out more about community day programmes for you or your family, ask your GP about Enliven Older People services, call a Needs Assessment Service Coordinator (NASC) directly on 06 834 1871, or have a chat with our Enliven Older People team on freephone 0800 436 548.

To donate to support local older people, call 0800 002 953 or we can come to you with a mobile EFTPOS terminal in Napier or Hastings.



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Ask your GP about Enliven Services or contact us to find out how we could support you or a relative to stay independent and connected.

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# Our April meeting – Health and Disability

## Advocacy by Isabel Wood



At our April meeting we welcomed Juliet Mawley from the Hawke's Bay Health & Disability Advocacy Service, a free, independent and confidential service promoting people's rights and helping resolve complaints about health and disability services. Juliet spoke about our rights when receiving health or disability support and services.

An interesting point was that the Health Disability Allowance is not just for seniors.

It helps people with regular ongoing costs because of a disability or health condition not covered by another agency such as the Ministry of Social Development (MSD). It can assist with doctors' and specialists' fees, travel costs, medical alarms and other special expenses.

Juliet outlined three key rights for customers, patients and clients.

First, the right to be treated with respect; second, the right to fair treatment, especially for vulnerable consumers; and thirdly, the right to independence — to care for themselves as much as possible while receiving appropriate support and care.

She stressed the importance of meeting individual needs to prevent further harm. Three principles are involved — participation, professionalism and partnership — with providers, patients and families working together through good communication and consumer input. Providers should clearly document conditions, options, costs, waiting times for results and other relevant information so consumers can have confidence in the process.

People with brain injuries or dementia often need a trusted support person to act on their behalf. An Enduring Power of Attorney, or similar documentation, is important to help ensure correct support is provided. If medication is not improving a health issue, patients and support people should feel confident about speaking up. They also have the right to access recorded information and to choose who attends consultations, with consent required. Support people should be able to ask questions or seek more information without fear.

Juliet stressed that Health & Disability advocates work for and with consumers to promote fairness, respect and better outcomes. Speaking up for your rights can help improve care for everyone.

For complaints in the Hawke's Bay area, covering Wairoa, Napier, Hastings and Central Hawke's Bay, response times are currently about 20 days. Juliet was pleased to report that the region is performing very well compared with other parts of the country. Contact number Freephone 0800 555 050.

After answering members' questions, Juliet was thanked by Bruce for her informative and well-received presentation, with members then enjoying afternoon tea together.

## It's all in a name

by Maxine Boag

Flying in to New Zealand on an International flight all passengers have to fill out a form which asks, among other things, our "Occupation".

Easiest to say "Retired" (which sounds passive and harmless) but should I put "Retired Schoolteacher", "Retired Councillor", "Pensioner" or "Community Volunteer"?

"Activist" would be more descriptive of my current involvement in a myriad of causes and community groups; but a word like that could result in my being body-searched and held in an interrogation room for hours when I landed.

So if the plane crashed and I was killed, I wouldn't be described as "grandmother" or "housewife" (being neither) or even "a retiree" but probably an "elderly woman". And fair enough as I'm about to turn 78.

"Elderly" sounds really decrepit, but how about "Elder"? It somehow implies wisdom and seniority from experience and knowledge.

Yes, I'm going to try that next time I'm asked my occupation, and see if it engenders the respect that we Elders deserve!

# How Grey Power Helps to Protect Your Interests

## 1. We stand up for your rights.

Grey Power works to ensure older New Zealanders are treated fairly. We advocate on issues including:

- Rates affordability
- Electricity pricing
- Superannuation security
- Health services and wait times
- Housing and tenancy concerns
- Transport and mobility needs

**We speak directly with local councils, government agencies, MPs, and service providers so your voice is heard.**

## 2. We provide reliable information.

Staying informed is essential to protecting your wellbeing.

We help by offering:

- Local and national newsletters featuring articles on issues affecting older people
- Monthly guest speakers on topics relevant to seniors
- Advice on avoiding scams and fraud
- Health and safety information
- Guidance on accessing support services

**We make complex issues easy to understand.**



## 3. We help reduce your living costs.

Grey Power has worked for many years to negotiate discounts and advocate for fair pricing. Benefits may include:

- Local and national discounts
- Electricity savings through Grey Power Electricity
- Member deals on services, products, and essentials

**Every bit helps when living costs keep rising.**

## 4. We strengthen Community connections.

Social connection is one of the best protections for wellbeing.

We provide:

- Monthly meetings
- Afternoon tea and connection
- Opportunities to meet new people
- A supportive community you can rely on

**No one should feel alone as they get older.**

## 5. We Represent a powerful Voice.

With national membership numbers behind us, Grey Power has real influence.

We work to ensure:

- Older New Zealanders remain valued
- Policies affecting seniors are fair
- Your rights are protected at national and local levels

If you care about fairness, support, connection, and having your voice heard, Grey Power is here to help.

**Together, we are strong.  
Grey Power Napier and Districts is working for you.**

**Being twenty in the seventies was much more fun than being seventy in the twenties.**

**No matter who you are, or what you are going through, Samaritans are here to listen.**



Samaritans listen without judgement, available 24/7, so that no one in New Zealand ever has to feel alone when dealing with life's challenges.

**samaritans** 0800 72 66 66  
Aotearoa New Zealand samaritans.org.nz

# Our Submission to Napier City Council's Annual Plan 2026-27

Grey Power Napier Association Inc is an advocacy group for Napier's senior citizens. We currently have close to 1,000 members and our monthly meetings usually attract 80-120 people. Grey Power Napier held two well-attended Candidates' meetings before the Local Body elections last year, and congratulate all those elected.

We publish three newsletters each year and appreciate NCC's input.

We have a positive, active relationship with NCC Elected Members (Cr Mawson is our official link) and staff, with our Deputy President, Maxine Boag, co-chair on the Age Friendly committee, alongside our President Bruce Carnegie who also represents us on the HB Positive Aging Trust.

## What are the facts about Napier's seniors?

(source: Chat GPT)

- **A rapidly ageing population**
- 20–21% of Napier residents are 65+ (well above national average)
- Projected to rise to ~26% by 2040
  - 👉 Napier is ageing faster than most NZ cities
- **Limited incomes, high vulnerability**
- Majority live on **\$15,000–\$30,000** annually
- Heavy reliance on NZ Super
  - 👉 Highly exposed to **rent, rates, energy, insurance and health cost increases**
- **Housing pressure is critical**
- One-third live alone
- Strong demand for **affordable, secure, age-appropriate housing**
  - 👉 Council and community housing play a vital role
- **Health and support needs are significant**
- Over half live with a disability
- Falls are the leading cause of injury
  - 👉 Increasing demand for **accessible housing, transport, and 24/7 health services**
- **Risk of isolation**
- High proportion living alone
- Many located far from central services
- Digital access not universal
  - 👉 Social connection and transport are key issues
- **Major community contribution**
- 80% engaged in unpaid work (volunteering, caregiving)
  - 👉 Seniors are **contributors, not just service users**

## Comments on the Annual Plan and NCC's consideration of older citizens

- **Napier's accreditation as an Age-Friendly City:** This brings with it responsibilities and at this stage, we are pleased with the formation of an Age-Friendly committee and initiatives to relieve isolation like the Silver Screen series and International Day of the Older Person. We appreciate also the commitment to further research that Council has undertaken. However, **we would like the Age-Friendly lens to be applied more widely to Council's decision making, in a similar manner to your consideration of the effect of Climate change in any proposals.**
- **Fees and charges:** while any increase in these is not welcome in our current ever-deepening Cost of Living crisis, we appreciate you have **retained lower charges for seniors at some facilities** – the Aquarium, the Aquatic Centre, and at Ocean Spa.
- **Rates increases:** all rates increases penalise those on fixed incomes whether they are ratepayers or not. However, we agree with Deputy Mayor Graeme Taylor whose article in HB Today on 18 April explained that inflation costs and government mandates (eg Local Water Done Well) are costly; as are essential asset renewals and investments in water assets after years of underinvestment. Insurance, roads, three waters and resilience costs climb much faster than inflation every year and as former Deputy Mayor Brosnan said in an article in our last newsletter "Rates Caps Won't fix the Problem", rates caps of 2 to 4 per cent "do not fix what is broken".
- **Advocacy to Central Government:**
  1. **On the Accommodation Allowance:** With the increase in rents for Council tenants one of the mitigating factors was that they could apply for the Accommodation Allowance to subsidise their rents. Unfortunately, this Allowance has very low and unrealistic asset and savings thresholds, (\$8,100 for singles and \$16,200 for couples) – set in 1993 - making it almost impossible for seniors who have put aside modest savings to qualify.

Ageing is costly, with high medical and dental bills, saving for a funeral, replacing whiteware, car repairs and so on. Those who have been

prudent and have saved more than the threshold allows will not qualify for the Accommodation Allowance which is unrealistically out of date.

**We would like you to write to the Minister of Housing, and Deputy Prime Minister Nicola Willis, cc Katie Nimon, to ask that this threshold be raised considerably in order to help people struggling to pay rent on a fixed income – including those in your pensioner flats.**

2. **Health services in Napier:** Napier residents have to go a long way for the free, 24/7 emergency care Hastings residents can access at ED. Any

medical attention at the Wellesley Road Medical Centre (when available) is very costly. Our members raise this regularly as a pressing issue.

**We would like your advocacy to Central Government in expanding medical services for Napier residents, and reducing the costs to make them affordable.**

We look forward to maintaining and strengthening our relationship with NCC in the coming year.

Bruce Carnegie (President)  
and Maxine Boag (Vice President)



Grey Power stand at Council's Whanau Fest, with John Wuts, Sheron MacGregor, Carol Brunton and Bruce Carnegie

# ***People, Place and Prosperity*** **– The Case for a Population Strategy**

A new report from the Koi Tū Centre for Informed Futures argues that New Zealand is entering a period of profound demographic change and urgently needs a long-term, non-partisan population strategy to respond.

The report highlights four major trends reshaping the country. First, population growth is slowing, with fertility rates now well below replacement level.

Second, New Zealand's population is ageing rapidly. By 2048, around 22% of the population is expected to be aged 65 or over.

Third, the country is becoming increasingly ethnically diverse, with nearly half of New Zealanders projected to identify as non-European by mid-century.

Finally, immigration is becoming the primary driver of population and workforce growth, particularly as more New Zealanders leave the country and fewer babies are born.

These trends have significant implications for older people. An ageing population will increase demand for health services, aged care, appropriate housing, and accessible transport.

At the same time, a shrinking working-age population will place pressure on the tax base that funds pensions and public services. The report suggests that without careful planning, these pressures could undermine both economic sustainability and social wellbeing.

A key message is that current policymaking is too short-term and fragmented. Issues such as immigration, housing, workforce shortages, and superannuation are often treated separately and influenced by political cycles. However, demographic change unfolds over decades. The report argues that New Zealand needs a coordinated, long-term approach that aligns these policy areas and looks beyond immediate pressures.

Immigration is a central part of the discussion. The report finds that migrants play a critical role in filling workforce shortages, especially in sectors such as healthcare and aged care. Evidence suggests immigration has generally had a small positive impact on wages and employment overall,

although effects can vary by region and economic conditions. Importantly, immigration alone is not a solution to productivity challenges; economic growth also depends on investment, innovation, and infrastructure.

The report also warns that population growth—whether from immigration or natural increase—must be matched by adequate infrastructure, housing, and services. If growth outpaces investment, it can reduce productivity and strain communities. Conversely, well-managed population change presents opportunities for innovation, economic development, and stronger, more diverse communities.

To address these challenges, the authors propose the development of a national population strategy supported by robust data and cross-sector collaboration. They suggest establishing an independent population commission to provide long-term advice, monitor trends, and help depoliticise decision-making. Such a body could ensure continuity beyond electoral cycles and support evidence-based policy.

Importantly, the report emphasises that a population strategy should be grounded in a rights-based approach, recognising the needs and wellbeing of all groups, including older people. It also highlights the importance of social cohesion—ensuring that communities remain inclusive and that people feel they belong, even as the population becomes more diverse.

In summary, the report makes a compelling case that demographic change is one of the most significant challenges facing New Zealand. Without a clear, long-term strategy, the country risks reactive and fragmented decision-making. With the right planning, however, these changes could be harnessed to improve economic resilience, strengthen communities, and better support an ageing population.



Professor  
Paul Spoonley  
– one of  
the authors.

# Backing our Seniors this Winter

Winter can be a hard time of year for many people, and from conversations across Napier and Northern Hawke's Bay, I know it is often our seniors who feel that pressure most. That is why making sure our older generation feel supported through the colder months remains such an important focus.

From 1 April, NZ Superannuation and Veteran's Pension rates increased again, with around 960,000 New Zealanders receiving a boost. For a couple who both qualify, payments rose to around \$1,708 per fortnight, up more than \$50 this year and more than \$180 since the 2023 election. For many households, that extra support can make a real difference with everyday costs like groceries, power, and rates.

The Winter Energy Payment is also now available again through to 1 October, helping eligible seniors and families keep warm over the colder months.

We are also continuing to improve access to healthcare here in Hawke's Bay. It was exciting to recently see the first modular units moved into place for Hawke's Bay Hospital's new inpatient ward. An important milestone that will help expand hospital capacity and support our growing region.

Alongside local investment, this year's Budget includes record funding into frontline health services to help improve access to care for patients across New Zealand. Additionally, through the Government's Elective Boost programme, more procedures are being delivered, including cataract, hip, and knee surgeries, helping people get treated sooner and stay active and independent for longer.

We are also seeing progress in preventative healthcare, with the age for free bowel cancer screening now being lowered from 60 to 58, meaning thousands more New Zealanders will be eligible for earlier screening and better access to lifesaving early detection.

I have also heard real concern about the rising cost of council rates across Hawke's Bay. The Government has announced changes to the Rates Rebate Scheme, helping more SuperGold Card holders become eligible for support through a higher income threshold and increased assistance.

On another note, one issue I hear about regularly

is the experience some people have with retirement villages. Moving into a village should provide peace of mind, but for some families it can create uncertainty, particularly when it comes time to move on. That is why the Government is progressing reforms to strengthen residents' rights, including clearer repayment timeframes, greater transparency, and stronger dispute resolution processes.

At the heart of all of this is a simple belief: our seniors deserve to feel secure, valued, and well supported in their communities. You have given so much over the years, and it is only right that support is there when needed.

If you have an event happening in your community, would like me to come and speak with a local group, or need help navigating government support and services, please don't hesitate to get in touch with my office. My team and I are always here to listen and help where we can.

Wishing you a warm and healthy winter.



Katie Nimon | MP for Napier

## Here to Listen, Here to Help

**Katie Nimon** MP for Napier

katie.nimonMP@parliament.govt.nz  
06 835 2569

Sign up to my newsletter



# Safer Nights. Stronger Lives. Safer City.

by Sally Crown. Member Napier Ahuriri Homeless Shelter Society

In Napier, the conversation around homelessness is often visible in our streets, but the real story sits behind it. For those experiencing chronic homelessness, daily life can mean unsafe sleeping conditions, untreated health challenges, and disconnection from whānau and support. In 2024 alone, three people died on our streets.

Āhuru Mōwai is a community-led response that is changing that reality.

Operating seven nights a week, it provides a safe, respectful, drug and alcohol-free place for men to rest. But it is much more than a bed for the night. It is a pathway forward, grounded in manaakitanga, connection and self determination.

## And it is working.

Since opening, 29 men have been supported, with 13 moving into permanent housing and occupancy consistently full. Residents are reconnecting with health services, stabilising their lives and taking meaningful steps toward independence. Stories like Michael and Teina, now living together in their own home, show what is possible when the right support is in place.

Behind this is a unique and powerful grouping of organisations, agencies and individuals working together. That collective effort has enabled the funding and the transformations taking place at Āhuru Mōwai.

## But there is still more to do.

There are significant sections of our whānau pounamu not yet reached by this model. Wāhine, rangatahi, and other tāne need support, including food security, access to physical and mental health services, addiction support, and advocacy when navigating Courts, Probation and Government agencies.

As a collective, we can bring our community together to respond. Not in isolation, but in a coordinated, community-led way that builds on what is already working.

This is not just about helping individuals. It is about prevention. When people have a safe place to rest and access to support, we reduce pressure on emergency services, improve public safety, and create better outcomes for the whole community.

There are many ways to contribute. Financial donations, in-kind support such as clothing or toiletries, volunteering time or skills, and helping connect people to services all make a difference.

## Āhuru Mōwai is proven. Now it needs sustained support to continue and grow.

**Safer nights lead to stronger lives,  
and a safer Napier for all of us.**

**For more information or to support:**

**Email:** [napier.homeless.shelter@gmail.com](mailto:napier.homeless.shelter@gmail.com) | **Website:** [nahss.co.nz](http://nahss.co.nz)



Napier Ahuriri Homeless Shelter Society- A strong community collective, working together to support those experiencing homelessness and drive the outcomes we're seeing through Āhuru Mōwai. There's more to do, and space for others to step in and be part of the solution.

## Cr Mawson – Our Connection with Council



Cr Grego Mawson  
with Maxine Boag

As a Napier City Councillor with the responsibility of the Age Friendly and Accessibility portfolios, supporting older residents to stay active, independent, and connected is something I genuinely care about. I also value the work of Grey Power and the voice it provides for seniors in our community. Council has an ongoing relationship with Grey Power, including partnerships such as the Silver Screen Series. I try to attend monthly meetings where I can share what's happening at

Council, stepping into the space previously filled by my friend Maxine Boag.

Unfortunately, these meetings sometimes clash with Council commitments, but the connection remains important to me.

Last year, Grey Power presented a petition calling for free parking for seniors in Napier. I want to acknowledge the work that went into that and thank everyone involved. We encourage our community groups to put forward ideas like this, and Council genuinely wants to hear from our community.

Following the petition, Council requested a report on the proposal's viability, which came back in April. As with all decisions before Council, we had to consider the wider impacts across the city. As the Age Friendly portfolio holder, it was important for me to front up and explain our decision. One of the main challenges is that parking in Napier's CBD is already limited. Free parking for one group would likely increase demand and reduce availability for others trying to access shops, services, and appointments. Turnover is important in keeping the CBD accessible for everyone.

There were also fairness and practicality considerations. Not all seniors are under financial pressure, and introducing an age-based system would create added cost and complexity to administer and enforce. Parking revenue also helps fund infrastructure, maintenance, and services such as Napier Assist, with any shortfall ultimately needing to be covered elsewhere, e.g. through rates. It is also important to note that targeted support already exists through mobility parking permits for those with genuine accessibility needs.

After considering all the information, the decision was unanimous across Council. While councillors often come from different perspectives, in this case there was a shared understanding of the broader impacts and the need for a balanced approach. I appreciate the conversations we continue to have with Grey Power, and I look forward to catching up with you again at a future meeting when I'm able to attend.

## Qips and Quotes from the NZ Listener

*"History is a vast early warning system"* **Norman Cousins**

*"Friendship is always a sweet responsibility, never an opportunity."* **Khalil Gibran**

*"Society is like a stew. If you don't stir it up every once in a while then a layer of scum floats to the top."*  
**Edward Abbey**

*"Go ahead. Try defeatism. Won't work".* **Eric Jarkokinski**

*"America is the only nation in history that miraculously, has gone from barbarianism to degeneration without the usual interval of civilization."*  
**Georges Clemenceau**

*"Millions long for mortality who do not know what to do with themselves on a rainy afternoon."*  
**Susan Ertz**

*"Temper is what gets us into trouble. Pride is what keeps us there."* **Mark Twain**

*"He ora te whakapiri, he mate te whakatariri."*

*There is strength in unity, defeat in anger.* **Maori proverb**

*"Men occasionally stumble across the truth, but most of them pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing has happened."*  
**Winston Churchill**

*"Trash is for tossers."*  
**Lauren Singer**

*"Why don't people just accept that life is sad and cheer up. After all, it's not going to last forever."*  
**Jeremy Hardy**

# Federation AGM

*On 6-11 June this year, Grey Power Federation is holding their AGM and Conference in Wellington. President Bruce Carnegie is representing our branch.*

*The AGM is the supreme body of the Federation and will be looking at some gnarly issues; one being the change in the Federation's structure replacing regional representatives to those elected At Large.*

*Another matter will be the election of a new President, as the current President Gayle Chambers, who had intended to run again, has had to resign (just this month) because of serious health concerns, so while the very capable Deputy President David Marshall has stepped up, there will be an election for this critical role.*



*left:*  
Gayle  
Chambers



*right:*  
David  
Marshall

*Our branch has (as usual!) submitted a remit for the AGM to vote on and it will be up for debate. We felt it touched on some of the key issues affecting our members. Here it is.*

## Remit for Federation AGM from Grey Power Napier and Districts

**That the Grey Power Federation Board ask each of the main political parties for their position on the following issues, and publish their responses in the Federation Newsletter before the 2026 Parliamentary election:**

### 1. **Retaining 65 as the age of universal superannuation; and retaining the current level of the government superannuation.**

Raising NZ Super eligibility would disproportionately harm manual workers, carers, Māori and Pasifika with shorter life expectancy and poorer health. Universal super reduces elder poverty, avoids costly bureaucracy, and supports participation and local economies. Delaying or reducing payments risks hardship, higher benefit use, and increased pressure on health and social services.

### 2. **Significantly increasing the entry threshold for the Accommodation Supplement**

The Accommodation Supplement asset thresholds, unchanged since 1993, are unrealistically low and penalise modest savings, including KiwiSaver. Increasing them would better support renting seniors, encourage responsible saving for essential expenses, and reduce incentives to hide assets or transfer money, which can increase vulnerability to financial and elder abuse.

### 3. **Increasing support for Dementia Care by activating the Dementia Mate Wareware Action Plan 2026-2031**

NZ's ageing population will significantly increase dementia prevalence, placing growing pressure on families, health services, and the economy. Much care is unpaid and provided by older partners, leading to burnout and earlier residential care. Early intervention and stronger community support can delay costly care while maintaining dignity and independence. The refreshed Action Plan provides a clear five-year roadmap to improve prevention, support services, and coordinated government action to meet an urgent and already significant national challenge.

### 4. **Increasing public housing stock for superannuitants**

New Zealand has seen rising poverty and housing stress among older people, with many living in poor-quality homes and growing numbers renting. Housing strongly affects health and wellbeing, yet superannuation often cannot cover market rents. As council housing declines and eligibility pressures increase, expanding suitable, affordable public housing for superannuitants is essential to support ageing populations, reduce hardship, and prevent higher health and social service costs.

### 5. **Repealing the Equal Pay bill which saw carers lose their claims for equal pay**

The Equal Pay Amendment Act 2025 halted existing pay-equity claims and introduced stricter thresholds, making it harder for aged-care carers to achieve pay increases addressing historic undervaluation. This risks prolonging low wages, worsening workforce shortages, and undermining the stability and quality of care relied on by older New Zealanders.

## Should New Zealand raise the age of NZ Super?

Chelsea Daniels | The Front Page podcast host·NZ Herald·  
13 May, 2026

On paper, New Zealand Super is one of the simplest parts of our welfare system.

Most people become eligible at 65; it's not means-tested, and for decades it's been treated as a kind of social contract: work hard, reach retirement, and the state will be there.

But that contract is under growing pressure.

As our population ages and governments look for ways to contain long-term costs, the debate keeps returning. So, should we raise the age of eligibility and, if we do, who pays the price?

Prime Minister Christopher Luxon has confirmed National would be campaigning on gradually raising the age of eligibility for New Zealand Superannuation, which it believes is becoming unaffordable - a view shared by the OECD.

Coalition partner and NZ First leader Winston Peters is holding firm, however, telling TVNZ's Breakfast the issue is "not a bottom line, it's a top line" and that it's "not going to change".



University of Auckland Business School associate professor Susan St John (pictured) told **The Front Page** that the debate resurfaces because people are uneasy about paying a universal pension to everyone, including wealthy people.

"We've got this wonderful scheme, and everybody gets this income at 65, whether or not they're in full-time, well-paid work or whether they've got millions or billions of dollars of assets.

"The Australian one is enormously complicated, and I think most New Zealanders, if they looked at how it operated and how low the thresholds were before you started losing 50 cents out of every extra dollar earned or your asset level was so low that, you didn't have much of a buffer there before you were penalised from the asset test, I don't think they would have a bar of it.

"Remember, too, in Australia they jointly income and asset test, so that for married women, they can miss out on the age pension simply because their partner earns too much," she said.

*Our committee has submitted a remit to the Federation's AGM reiterating our position in maintaining the age of eligibility and the universality of Government Superannuation.*

## The Italian Film Festival returns to The Globe Theatre

The popular Italian Film Festival returns to Ahuriri's Globe Theatre from 23 July until 2 August, with a carefully curated season for those after a tour of Italy without leaving the country.

In its eleventh year, the nation-wide festival is owned and organised by local film-enthusiasts Paolo Rotondo and Renee Mark who live in Havelock North.

The complexity of relationships is a central theme woven through many of the films selected this year, from thriller to comedy, drama to westerns, documentaries to Italian classics.

The opening night film is the multi award-winning comedy *Somebody to Love*, Italy's surprise number one box office hit of 2025. Chronicling the first date between a philosophy professor and a furniture restorer, it's gatecrashed by a list of uninvited guests; the noisy 'Italian chorus' of emotions in their heads. Given five stars by New Zealand Listener film reviewer, Sarah Watt, it's a highly entertaining take on a comedy romance.

For those keen on food and wine, *Trifole*, set in the beautiful Langhe valleys of the Piemonte region, is a warm-hearted film about a truffle hunting grandfather, the return of his granddaughter and a noted stand-out performance by truffle dog, Birba.

Ultra-lush and visually stunning, *Diamante* is set in the 1970s in the famous Roman fashion house Canova. With spectacular costume design, it focusses on the high-pressure world of the women-led enterprise of costume creation for the film industry.

There's the political; *La Grazia*, a western; *Heads or Tails?*, a great documentary about old books; *Umberto Eco - A Library of the World*, and many more...there's definitely something Italian for everyone!

The full programme can be picked up at The Globe Theatre and other venues around Hawke's Bay, or found online at the event website

[www.italianfilmfestivalnz.com](http://www.italianfilmfestivalnz.com)



# Age-Friendly Napier

By Rachael Kawana, Community Resilience Advisor

It is with great pleasure that the Napier Age Friendly Advisory Group welcomes Maxine Boag as our new Co-Chair, joining Whaea Lexia Puna in leading the group. Many readers will already know Maxine through her longstanding community involvement and as editor of this newsletter.

Maxine brings a wealth of experience, knowledge and passion to the role, having previously served as a Napier City Councillor and through her involvement with many community organisations and initiatives, including Grey Power and Tū Tangata Maraenui Trust. Her commitment to advocacy and community wellbeing will be a tremendous asset as Napier continues its Age Friendly journey.

We would also like to sincerely thank outgoing Co-Chair Peter Grant for his dedication and leadership since the Advisory Group was established in 2022. Peter has been a strong advocate for older people in our community, consistently advocating for equality, inclusion, accessibility, and helping ensure Napier remains a place where people can age well and stay connected. His contribution has helped lay important foundations for the work continuing today.

The Advisory Group is also excited to share that research undertaken in Napier on age-friendliness has now been internationally published in the journal *Urban Studies*. Michele Grigg from Napier City Council, alongside researchers from New Zealand and overseas, contributed to the study which validated the Age Friendly Cities and Communities Questionnaire (AFCCQ) for use in Aotearoa New Zealand and highlighted Napier as the pilot city for this work.

Many Napier older residents, including many Grey Power readers, contributed to the 2024 survey. This publication means your voices are now helping shape the understanding of what makes communities age friendly. The survey found that older people in Napier generally rated housing accessibility (note this does not include availability or affordability), social participation, communication, and inclusion positively, while also identifying areas needing ongoing focus such as transportation, community support, health services, and financial wellbeing.

Importantly, the validated questionnaire now

provides councils and communities across New Zealand with a reliable tool to measure age-friendliness, track progress over time, and help guide future planning and initiatives. For Napier, this means local experiences and feedback can continue to directly influence future planning, services, accessibility improvements, and community initiatives that support people to age well and remain connected.

This publication is an important recognition that Napier is contributing to national conversations about ageing well, inclusion, and creating communities where people of all ages can thrive. The article is available for open access via:

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/epub/10.177/00420980261443199>



New co-chair  
Maxine Boag



Peter Grant and Lexia Puna  
– a dynamic team!

## Ministry of Social Development Useful contact numbers

Seniors	0800 552 002
Working age	0800 559 009
Supergold card	0800 254 565
Community Services card	0800 999 999
information@supergold.govt.nz	
Veteran pension	0800 650 656
veteranspension@msd.govt.nz	
veterans affairs (not MSD)	0800 483 8372
Residential Care	0800 999 727
residential support (under 65)	0800 999 779
International Services	
(from NZ)	0800 777 227
international.services@msd.govt.nz	

**Next Meeting - Tuesday June 16th,  
at St Columba's Church, Taradale, 1:30 pm**

**Guest Speaker, Mayor Richard McGrath followed by  
Grey Power Napier & District Association**

# **Annual General Meeting**

## ***Agenda:***

- Confirmation of minutes of the last meeting
- Adoption of President's Report
- Adoption of the Treasurer's Financial Report, and Annual Financial Statement
- Confirmation of subscriptions
- Appointment of suitably experienced person to review annual accounts for this year
- Elections of officers | Any motions presented by members

***Afternoon tea.***

**Election of officers** – With the adoption of our new Constitution, the election of officers is slightly different. All positions are open for nominations, and are:

- a. **President** \* Incumbent Bruce Carnegie has confirmed he is running
- b. **Vice President** \* Incumbent Maxine Boag has confirmed she is running
- c. **Secretary** - vacant
- d. **Membership Secretary** \* Incumbent Linda Mellor has confirmed she is running
- e. **Treasurer** \* Incumbent Ian Cook has confirmed he is running
- f. **Publicity Officer** \* Incumbent Maxine Boag has confirmed she is running
- g. **No fewer than 2 (two) or more than 6 (six) other Committee Members.** \* Incumbents Allison Beattie, Kay Nesdale, Carol Brunton and Gayle Peters have confirmed they are running.

If you wish to run for any of these, regardless of whether an incumbent officer is running, you are required to complete and send in to maxine.boag@gmail.com or ring Maxine 021 024 70484 to pick up, the following template for candidates **NO LATER THAN 5pm MONDAY 8 JUNE**. We have to send out your responses to all members a week before the meeting.

**Note:** there will be no nominations from the floor of the AGM unless insufficient nominations have been received (eg Secretary and two Committee members at present). An election will only be held if there is more than one person running for the same position.

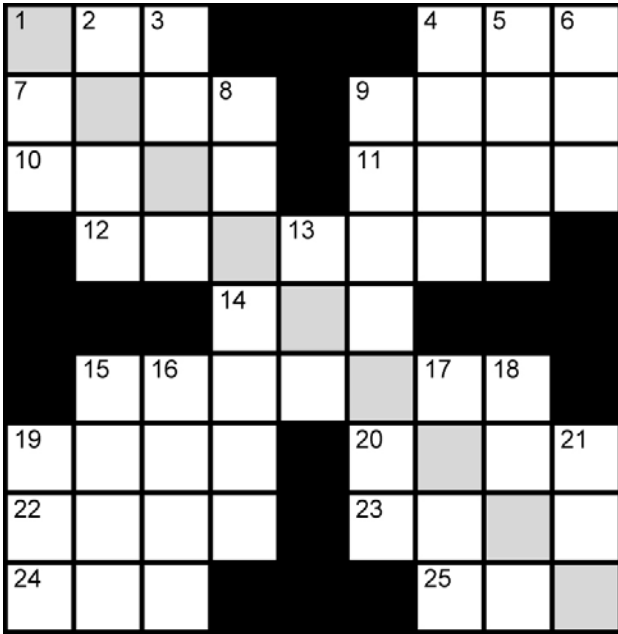
## **Required from all members running for Grey Power Napier office holder positions:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ confirm that I am a current financial member of Grey Power Napier and District Association; I am not disqualified from running for office under the Grey Power Napier constitution clause 11.2, and seek election as (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Publicity Officer, Committee member) (Circle what you are volunteering for) on the 2026-2027 committee.

My nomination is supported by the following information: (optional - you and/or a supporter can write up to a page here, knowing this will be sent out to all members before the election).

See the Grey Power Napier Constitution, with a link on the first page of our Website.

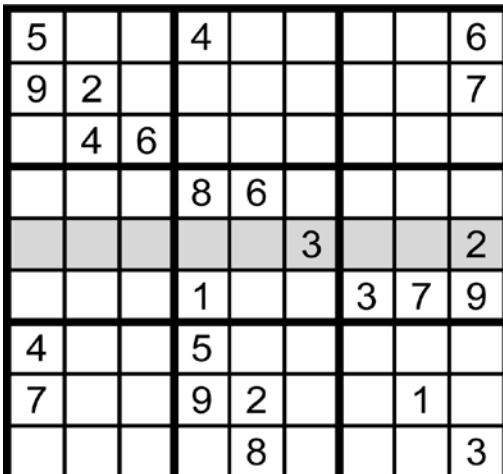
# Ancient Texting



- Across
- C.E.O.'s degree
  - Thickness
  - "Field of Dreams"
- setting
- Ashtabula's lake
  - Rocky peaks
  - Electric unit

- |             |           |           |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| ANGELL      | FRIED     | PASSY     |
| ANNAN       | GORE      | PIRE      |
| ARAFAT      | HENDERSON | RABIN     |
| ASSER       | HULL      | ROBLES    |
| BELO        | HUME      | ROOSEVELT |
| BRANTING    | JOUHAUX   | ROOT      |
| BRIDE       | KING      | SADAT     |
| CECIL       | KYI       | SATO      |
| CHAMBERLAIN | LANGE     | TUM       |
| CORRIGAN    | MONETA    | TUTU      |
| EBADI       | MOTT      | WALESA    |
| ELBARADEI   | MYRDAL    | WIESEL    |
|             | NANSEN    | WILSON    |
|             | OSSIETZKY | YUNUS     |

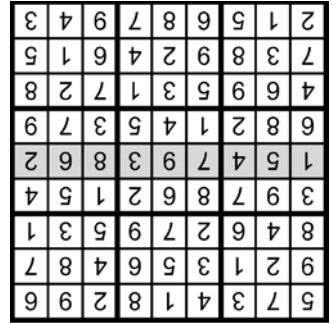
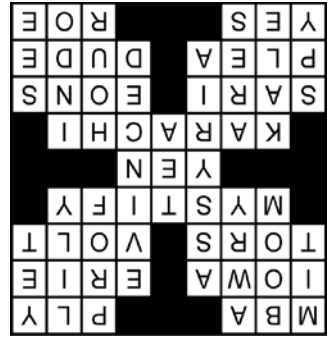
## SUDOKU



- Bewilder
- Craving
- Pakistani port
- Delhi wrap
- A long, long time
- Entreaty
- Dapper fellow
- "Absolutely!"
- \_\_\_ v. Wade

### Down

- Cambridge sch.
- Thundering noise
- Not straight
- Fac. member
- Easter flower
- "Are we there \_\_\_?"
- Present-day Iraq
- Expressed
- Oolong, for one
- Cabbagelike vegetable
- Mars, to the Greeks
- Part of a day
- Prefix with China
- 007, for one
- Bishop's jurisdiction



*The crossword headline is a clue to the answer in the shaded diagonal*

## Famous Names



*How to solve sudoku puzzles: No math is required to solve a sudoku. You only need logic and patience. Simply make sure that each 3x3 square region has only one instance of the numbers 1-9. Similarly, each number can only appear once in a column or row in the larger grid. The difficulty on this puzzle is easy.*

*Photos supplied by Neill Gordon*

# Gentle Reminder to Renew Your Membership

(if you have not already done so!)

For the period 1st April 2026 to 31st March 2027.

If you have already made the payment, please disregard this message, but we have around 300 members who have not yet renewed.

Your continued membership requires your attention now!

If you are not sure, contact Linda Ph: 06 844 3837

The fee is \$25-00 single and \$40-00 double.

## Payment options are:

- You can pay at our general meetings (3rd Tuesday each month) *or*
- Online, our bank no is 38-9009-0434068-00 Grey Power Napier & Districts *or*
- Drop into Linda's letterbox 10 Trigg Crescent, Taradale *or*
- Bruce's letter box 13 Blenheim Street, Taradale *or*
- Bruce can pick up. To arrange Ph: 06 844 5635

We thank you for your loyalty and support. We would not be able to continuously provide our members with valuable benefits and actively be involved within the community without your membership which makes what we do possible and is very much appreciated.

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

**Membership Subs are now due for the 2026/27 year**

**Cost is \$25 single and \$40 couple. Membership year is 1 April 2026 - 31 March 2027**

**ANYONE CAN JOIN - YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE OVER 65!**

### To pay your membership, you can:

1. Pay your sub online to **bank account number: 38-9009-0434068-00** Grey Power Napier & Districts; put your Surname, Initial and Grey Power membership number if renewing. If you are a new member, please email greypowernapier@gmail.com or phone Bruce 06 844 5635 to let us know you have joined. **OR**
2. Complete this form and mail it to us at Grey Power Napier & Districts, PO Box 4247, Marewa 4143 or phone Bruce and he will pick it up. Or scan and email. **OR**
3. Join online on our website [www.greypowernapier.org](http://www.greypowernapier.org)

Your name/s .....

Address .....

Phone ..... email .....

You are paying \$25 for 1 member (tick if applies) ..... or \$40 for a couple .....

Amount paid: ..... Payment Type: .....

Can we email your newsletter? ..... M'ship no .....

[www.napiergreypower.org](http://www.napiergreypower.org)

Find us on Facebook @greypowernapier



# Grey Power Napier Committee 2025-2026



Front from left: Carol Brunton, Allie Beattie, Ian Cook  
Middle: Gayle Peters, Isabel Wood, Linda Mellor  
Back: Maxine Boag, Bruce Carnegie, Kay Nesdale

## Upcoming speakers for Grey Power Meetings 2026

June 16th	Mayor Richard McGrath
July 21st	Claire Severinsen, Brain Injury
August 18th	Inspector Bryan Smith
September 15th	Election Candidates
October 20th	Nigel Hall, Fire Prevention Officer
November 24th	Christmas luncheon



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

