



GREYPOWER

NAPIER ASSOCIATION INC

SPRING ISSUE 2025



Bagpiper Kieran Chisnall
welcoming all to
Candidates Meeting
on 19th August

Meet the Candidates
Q&A for all Napier contenders

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Health NZ meets with our reps

Page 8

Next Meeting - All welcome
Meet the NCC Ward Candidates
Tuesday 16 September 1:30pm St Columba's Church Taradale

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From the Editor



Kia ora

What a hectic run-up to this year's Local Body Elections! I may be retiring from Council, but everything else has picked up to fill any gaps!

As you'll see, we questioned all candidates on a huge range of topics and their answers are in

this newsletter.

Grey Power Napier organised two highly successful Candidates' Meetings (the second after we go to press) and as usual, had over 200 attend the first one and are expecting a full house for the second.

Prior to these meetings, several members emailed us, suggesting we ask some pointed questions of the candidates, for this newsletter and at the meeting, as that's what they wanted to hear.

So, working with co-chair Grey Power member Annette Brosnan (retiring Deputy Mayor – and this year's recipient of Local Government's NZ's Superhuman Award) we scrolled through candidates' responses to the questions I asked (all now published here) and their public record and came up with a bank of probing questions to ask on the day. We felt it was important particularly for Mayoral candidates to be able to 'think on their feet' and answer questions that they had not been able to prepare for in advance.

They all did well, and if you're online, go to our Grey Power Napier Facebook Page or Cr Sally Crown's page and you can watch her video recording of the meeting and see a list of the questions asked.

I was relieved to be asking rather than answering those questions!

We also had former HBRC Deputy Chair Christine Scott speak about the benefits of Māori wards.

As Annette said at the meeting, 99 per cent of over 65s are enrolled to vote, and 99 per cent of us are likely to vote in this upcoming election. With last Local Body election's turnout of only 40% of registered voters Napier, we hold a lot of sway.

Grey Power – we have it – use it!

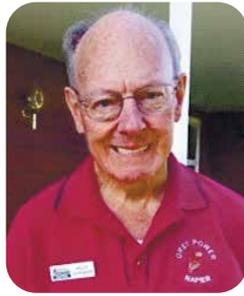
Ngā mihi **Maxine Boag** | Publicity Officer

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

With winter colds and flus now hopefully behind us, Grey Power Napier is looking forward to hosting one more Candidates' meeting on 16 September, for Napier's Ward Councillors; having MP Katie Nimon speak to us in October, with our Christmas luncheon in November to wind up the year and give us a breather over Xmas.

Our AGM in June saw all existing committee members re-elected, with one change: Shona Bayliss stepped down as Deputy Chair, but is staying on the committee; and Maxine Boag was elected to the role while continuing as Publicity Officer. We also ratified our new constitution, along with other branch associations across the country. You will see we're using our new logo – in keeping with the Federation's new branding - so all associations look the same.

We have received two awards as an Association; one the Grey Power Federation award for Outstanding Services in the 1500 or less membership; and the second one from HB Volunteering, we were awarded for outstanding services to the Community.



Bruce Carnegie
President



Maxine and Bruce showing off our trophies!

I've been part of the Planning Committee for the International Day of the Older Person, which will be a week (October 6 ending October 10) of activities and events, including a Silver Screen movie, well-being activities at the Aquatic Centre, the

Menz Shed, tours of the MTG and finishing with a celebration afternoon tea with a concert and guest speaker on Friday 10th. We will be letting members know once these are finalised so you can book your place!

On 22 August I spoke to Council's Future Napier Committee, tabling a petition seeking Council's consideration of free parking for Gold Card holders in the CBD from 9 am till 3 pm.

This has been in place in Palmerston North and other cities for some time, as a win-win for seniors and retailers. The petition was accompanied by letters of support from the Napier RSA, Peter Grant (Chair of our Age Friendly Committee) and Wendy Schollum (Chair of the HB Positive Ageing Committee).

It was very pleasing to hear that as a result, **Council passed a resolution asking that staff consider the Grey Power petition and bring a paper to a future council meeting, drawing on information from other cities.** Moved by Cr Browne, seconded by Cr Mawson and carried without dissent!

As this is our last newsletter for 2025, I'd like to thank all our members for sticking with us, our volunteers including our hard-working committee for your mahi, and for those of you non-members reading this, you can still join (we have no age limits) by completing the membership form on page 31.

Take care everyone, and please remember: when using courtesy crossings, always look both ways and ensure vehicles are stopping before you step out.

Nga mihi nui ki a koutou

Kindest regards *Bruce Carnegie* | President



Bruce presenting the petition to Council seeking free parking for seniors.

MEETING WITH HEALTH NZ IN MAY

Bruce and I attended the May quarterly meeting with Health NZ, chaired by **Suzanne Parkinson**, Principal Service Development Manager – Ageing Well. Delegates came from Hastings and Central Districts Grey Power Associations, with apologies from Age Concern.

Guest speakers were **Clinical Nurse Specialists Sandy Mawson** and **Leigh White**, and **Advanced Social Worker Smile Hu**, from the **Patients at Risk of Increased Length of Stay (PARIS) team**. Their work focuses on discharge planning for patients over 65, helping older people stay independent during hospital stays. Simple steps—such as getting dressed daily and moving about—reduce muscle loss and preserve dignity.

The team highlighted the importance of having an **Enduring Power of Attorney** and **Advance Care Plans**, especially for those with dementia. While hospital support is generally strong, challenges arise when moving into aged residential care. Families are often unprepared for shortages of places, premium charges for preferred rooms, and decisions around resuscitation. The **Eldernet website** was recommended as a reliable source of information.

Sandy shared positive news: the **Geriatric Emergency Department Initiative (GEDI)** will restart in June. Based in ED, GEDI assesses patients over 75 to help reduce unnecessary admissions. She also urged people to keep emergency contact details updated so families can be reached quickly.

Colonoscopy screening is available for people aged 58–75, with priority given to those with family history or polyps. Urgent cases are seen within two weeks, semi-urgent within six weeks, and follow-ups tailored individually. Extending the age range is under review.

Transport after discharge remains a concern, with many unable to afford taxis. Health NZ aims to discharge during the day when St John shuttle buses run, but this service is limited. **Waipukurau Lions Club** is exploring solutions, and Wairoa faces similar issues. Suzanne will follow up.

A very worthwhile and informative meeting! **Please let us know if you have issues you'd like raised at future sessions.**

Isabel Wood | Secretary.

Local Body elections

From 9 September on, you should be receiving your postal ballots in this important election. You will be asked to vote on who takes the Mayoral position; three positions on the HB Regional Council or one position if you're on the Maori roll; and three councillors in your Napier City Council ward (determined on where you live- note the ward boundaries have changed) or two in Te Whanga ward if you're on the Maori roll.

As well, in both ballots, you'll be asked whether or not you want to keep Maori wards. They will be part of the next triennium (2025-2028) but only stay as an option if more than half the voters agree to keep them.

If you have recently moved address, did not get the voting paper or did not register, the quickest way would be to go to the Customer Service Centre (06 835 7579) on Hastings Street, 8:30am – 5pm where you can also update your address. You can check your enrolment details here: <https://enrol.vote.nz/app/enrol/#/check-online> - note: type in all the information yourself, otherwise it will say you are not on the records!

Other special voting locations:

Taradale Library Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays 9am – 5pm from 10 Sept to Friday 10 October.

Voting van:

Maraenui Shops - 22 September, 1 October, 10 October 11:30 am – 1:30 pm;

Marewa - 4 October, 8 October 11:30 – 1:30 pm;

Sunday Market – 21 Sept, 28 Sept, 5 October

EIT Taradale – 24 Sept, 3 October 11:30-1:30

Onekawa Shops – 26 Sept, 6 October 11:30 – 1:30

Tamatea Pak n Save – 27 Sept, 29 Sept 11:30 – 1:30

Orange Ballot Boxes will be placed inside supermarkets, and other community facilities for posting your completed ballots.





Rebuilding the Heart of Napier

Napier is building new community spaces that will serve as a hub for connection, creativity, and engagement. Construction crews are now on site, signalling a new beginning after closure eight years ago. After four rounds of supportive consultation, we're creating spaces with community at heart.

Each \$1M spent on this construction project will add \$3.4M to Hawke's Bay's economy!

We're delivering four future-focused community assets

A modern library *\$30.3 million

It's more than books! Our new library will complement and fill gaps that online information sources can't provide. Library staff and services will meet residents' needs in the technological age. The library will support the community's educational, cultural and creative life. It will have books and learning spaces, creative and media spaces, community gathering spaces, child-friendly spaces, and access to technology.

Community meeting space and Council chamber *\$6.01 million

A multi-purpose meeting space that will be available for public bookings. You can witness local government in action when Council uses this space for its meetings.

Outdoor community space *\$7.9 million

This will be a place for day-to-day relaxation, or events and celebrations. It's more than a landscaping project. It includes construction site establishment, improved three waters infrastructure, drainage, service connections, tiering of sloped site over 10,000sqm, new laneway, landscaping and plantings.

Financially sustainable redevelopment of the office and customer service centre *\$29.9 million

The five-storey office tower will be the beating heart of our customer service to the community. The ground floor will have a public café and social space and other community organisations will be based there. Surplus space will be leased, bringing in income to offset rates. The remaining floors will be for Council staff. Adapting the existing office tower instead of demolishing it saves \$10 million over the building's life. We're targeting 50 to 75 percent reuse of furniture, fixtures and equipment.

We're maximising value and strengthening our community.

We asked contractors "How will you deliver the best value while supporting local businesses?" Local construction company MCLStead Limited is delivering that in spades. Almost 90% of the work will go to Hawke's Bay businesses. Local apprenticeships will be created. Smaller contractors will contribute. Napier's new library and civic facilities will be ready in 2027. They will house essential services and be a welcoming hub for our community. The project maximises local economic benefits and is a responsible use of ratepayer funds.

* Costs exclude professional fees and a contingency budget, which may not be needed. Some fees, such as for consenting, are paid to Napier City Council, so are cost neutral. The total project cost including contingencies is \$110.5 million.

Find out more at
napier.govt.nz/te-aka



Mayoral candidates' Q&A



Richard
McGrath



Kirsten
Wise



Nigel
Simpson

How will you manage rates affordability while still funding essential services, infrastructure, and major projects?

Richard McGrath: non-essential projects will be reprioritised and put on hold or cancelled, greater saving will need to be found across the organisation.

Kirsten Wise: I'll continue to prioritise spending on what's important, find alternative funding, improve efficiency, and keep working with the community so that rates stay fair while still funding the services, infrastructure, and projects Napier needs.

Nigel Simpson: The new Council will need to agree on what is 'affordable' then confirm funding for essential/required services including maintenance, then prioritise remaining affordable budget across new infrastructure or growth activities.

What two OTHER critical challenges will Napier face in the next three years, and what is your plan to lead council through them?

Richard McGrath: Government reforms and asset management will be challenges, work between councillors and council managers will require teamwork and trust to work through changes and stay ahead of the game.

Kirsten Wise: Climate resilience and housing demand are big challenges. I'll lead by driving investment in resilient infrastructure, strengthening emergency readiness, and supporting smart, sustainable housing growth. Working alongside iwi, government, and community partners will be key to finding practical, future-focused solutions.

Nigel Simpson: Costs and Growth are two critical strategic matters Council must address. Council needs to remove any unnecessary burden on rate payers and develop a deliberate strategy to encourage growth in existing businesses and attract new enterprise to Napier, to support this we

need to provide certainty on urban development opportunities.

Housing affordability and homelessness remain key issues. What concrete actions would you take to address these within council's role and powers?

Richard McGrath: keeping rates to a minimum by a back-to-basics approach and prioritising our core responsibilities first, action and implement government changes to the Building and Resource Management Acts leading to more affordable builds.

Kirsten Wise: I'll work with community housing providers to ensure we're building the right types of homes for local needs. I'll keep advocating for central government funding and support so we can increase affordable housing and reduce homelessness.

Nigel Simpson: Council must provide the most expedient building and resource consent processes and minimise internal cost to applicants. The new Council must be a better advocate to government on living costs.

How will you build a cohesive council team and work effectively with those who disagree with your decisions?

Richard McGrath: Good democracy means it's ok to disagree. A good induction program that fosters inclusiveness and participation is key, also consider a buddy system if required.

Kirsten Wise: I'll promote open, honest communication, mutual respect, and shared goals, encouraging healthy debate and collaboration.

Nigel Simpson: I will ensure all Councillors are listened to, Council to agree on common goals for the future of Napier and identify points of difference. I will encourage open honest factual debate.

How will you engage with Māori and mana whenua to ensure their voices are part of the council decision-making?

Richard McGrath: let's get in the room together and start building rapport. Continued communication is key.

Kirsten Wise: I'll continue building strong, respectful relationships with Māori and mana whenua, back genuine partnership, and ensure their perspectives are part of decision-making from the outset.

Nigel Simpson: Council must improve ongoing dialogue with Māori, to developing clear agreement of what is within Councils remit and identify opportunities to partner with Māori to advance social and economic wellbeing.

For transparency, please state your position on these issues and your reasons:

a) Rates Caps

Richard McGrath: Happy to explore what a rates cap could deliver - it might pull councils back to its core responsibilities

Kirsten Wise: I support exploring a rates cap model that allows us to fund essential services sustainably but gives our community confidence we're not spending on 'nice to haves'.

Nigel Simpson: Rates caps are simply a prudent strategic budgeting tool. Good competent strong strategic governors will stop the rates rollercoaster.

b) Three Waters

Richard McGrath: Three waters should be the highest priority and run inhouse by Napier people not palmed out to a regional model.

Kirsten Wise: I support a regional model for delivering water services that's community-led, affordable, sustainable, and safe, with strong governance, accountability, and long-term planning.

Nigel Simpson: I preferred the single CCO. Our community requested a joint CCO, I'll ensure that Napier gets the best out of that.

c) Council's Response to Climate Change

Richard McGrath: Climate change is an ongoing issue we need to continue monitoring and actively adapting to as we are a coastal city. Ensuring we are ready to respond to any significant future weather event.

Kirsten Wise: I back proactive climate response - reducing emissions, building resilience, and working together to create a sustainable, safer Napier.

Nigel Simpson: Council must understand climate risk and communicate consequences for Napier and act appropriately and prudently within existing programmes and affordability.

d) Maori Wards

Richard McGrath: The outcome for Maori Wards will be determined by the referendum I will support the outcome.

Kirsten Wise: I support Māori wards to ensure fair representation, strengthen Māori voices in decision-making, and bring a long-term view that benefits future generations - aligned with the approach to Māori seats central government.

Nigel Simpson: I have spoken publicly against Māori Wards. I believe the ward system prevents the most competent and capable standing for Council.

CLEANING

There are often kitchen items that get overlooked and one of those is a can opener. Like knives they should never be put in the dishwasher. Instead- scrub in hot soapy water. Use a toothbrush to clean the hard-to-reach areas and dry well. If you spot any rust on the blades, soak in vinegar and scrub well, rinse and dry.

Some other overlooked household items are remote controls, light switches, toothbrush holders and reusable grocery bags. Don't forget to remove your mobile phone from its case regularly and give it all a good clean. Don't you feel much better now you've done all that!

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0800 473 976

customer.care@greypowerelectricity.co.nz

or website:

www.greypowerelectricity.co.nz

One Day

One day at a time ... this is enough. Do not look back and grieve over the past for it is gone; and do not be troubled about the future for it has not yet come. Live in the present and make it as so beautiful that it will be worth remembering.

Ida Scott Taylor

Ward Councillor Candidates' Q&A

AHURIRI WARD COUNCIL CANDIDATES (3 positions)

Iain BRADLEY (ACT Local: Real Change. Lower Rates); Roger BROWNLIE (Independent); Lousie BURNSIDE (Independent); Sally CROWN (Experienced, Strong, Grounded); Karl GOODCHILD * (Lower Rates); Juliet GREIG, Lyndal JOHANSSON (Independent, fresh voice); Benjamin NEWPORT (Independent); Keith PRICE (Independent) * Chose not to advertise here



Iain
Bradley



Roger
Brownlie



Louise
Burnside



Sally
Crown



Juliet
Greig



Lyndal
Johansson



Benjamin
Newport



Keith
Price

What do you see as the three biggest challenges facing Napier over the next three years, and how would you address each?

Benjamin: Housing affordability, ageing infrastructure, and climate resilience are key challenges. I'll advocate for smarter planning and partnerships to boost housing supply, push for transparent infrastructure investment, and support proactive climate action, especially in flood-prone communities. Council must be future focused while preserving Napier's unique character.

Iain: Maintaining and upgrading infrastructure — this is the priority and must come first. Managing debt — look at options to maximise the return from council assets to reduce this. Reducing expenditure — review staffing complement, consider outsourcing, cancel or reduce expenditure on non-core services.

Juliet: Becoming financially sustainable — we need to stop funding some activities that are not core council business. For example, some of our commercial facilities are losing millions of ratepayer dollars per year; we need to look at closing at least one of them. Flooding during an extreme weather event — keeping stormwater drains free of rubbish and debris helps reduce flooding. We can lead by example by picking up street litter and

keeping drains clear. Public education on this issue can be put on social media. Ensuring the city has an adequate supply of water — with a growing population we need to reduce our water use and identify leaks in the system. A fair and equitable way to do this is through a user-pays system such as water meters.

Keith: Napier's biggest challenges are ageing infrastructure, affordability for ratepayers, and building community trust in Council. I'll continue leading core infrastructure upgrades, push for smarter spending to keep rates fair, and stay front-footed and honest with our community. It's about doing the work, being present, and making decisions that set Napier up well for the future.

Louise: Cost of living crisis — many Napier residents are struggling to make ends meet. Council can help by keeping rates rises in line with inflation rather than excessive rises. Ageing population — ensuring that streets and facilities are safe and practical for the frail and disabled. Ageing infrastructure — focusing the spend on these essentials.

Lyndal: Water — stop this being a political issue, and give it to engineers to plan and execute, managed centrally across Hawke's Bay and supported by long-term financing, not rates. Rates — keep rises to a minimum by spending less on consultants, focusing

on core activities, and looking at other sources of revenue. Urban development — encouraging more housing, transport options, and amenities.

Roger: Rates — keep the increases to within inflation, working to ensure every dollar of ratepayers' money is spent wisely with clear accountability and transparency. Go back to investing in the core infrastructure responsibilities (3 Waters, roading, and drainage) to ensure it is fit for the future, with ongoing maintenance and upgrades to support a resilient city. Working together and advocating for inclusive decision-making that reflects the voices of our community.

Sally: Rates affordability — keep a tight grip on costs and use every available tool to ease pressure on ratepayers. Central government reform — make sure Council adapts efficiently to try and minimise cost and disruption to services people rely on. Trust and expectations — sharpen how council communicates so the community feels informed, included, and confident in Council decisions.

How will you keep residents informed?

Benjamin: Regular community meetings, transparent digital updates, and accessible feedback channels will be my priority. Listening is as important as informing — I'll make sure local voices shape council decisions.

Iain: I will hold public meetings every 3 months to update and engage with residents and be available 24/7 to meet with residents. This is fundamental to who I am.

Juliet: Knocking on doors, attending community meetings, being available by phone or email.

Keith: I keep people informed by fronting up, answering my phone, and meeting face-to-face. I advocate strongly for residents and make sure their voice is heard inside Council.

Louise: Attending meetings, answering emails, and my Facebook page.

Lyndall: Residents are currently well informed but consultation is mostly a rubber-stamping exercise. Telling residents your preferred option is not genuine engagement. The new Citizens' Assembly promises to let residents' voices make a difference.

Roger: Being available by phone or email and attending ratepayer events.

Sally: Ward clinics for face-to-face conversations, regular newsletters, and active social media. I'll remain approachable and available, ensuring residents can easily raise concerns and get answers.

Which way will you be voting on the Māori Wards referendum, and why?

Benjamin: Irrelevant. What's important is fair representation, stronger decision-making, and diverse voices at the council table.

Iain: I will be voting no. My firm belief is that we shouldn't be dividing our voting system along racial lines.

Juliet: Yes. There have been only 3 Māori councillors in the last 150 years.

Keith: I won't share my vote — this decision belongs to the community. I respect the process and support fair democratic outcomes (Note: Cr Price voted in favour of Māori wards in both 2021 and 2024)

Louise: I will vote in a way that preserves the essence of democracy, where every citizen's vote is of equal weighting and people are not divided by race. We are all in this together. Our predecessors have fought and died for democracy — we must be vigilant in protecting it.

Lyndall: Retain the Māori ward, to help even up representation on Council.

Roger: Māori Wards referendum is a democratic process and it should be the best Kiwi for the job. I will vote against.

Sally: For Māori Wards. They uphold one person, one vote, reflect our founding document, and mirror the national electoral system.

How would you approach resilience and preparedness for future climate-related events, especially in vulnerable parts of Napier?

Benjamin: Work with local communities and experts to plan ahead, invest in critical infrastructure, and support adaptation. Preparedness must be local, data-driven, and funded — not left until disaster strikes.

Iain: In all honesty, I cannot give a short answer. Council should explore all options and ensure any decisions are accountable to the community.

Juliet: Promoting neighbourhood emergency hubs and ensuring they have enough supplies and resources for a climate event.

Keith: We know rainfall events are increasing in intensity. I've helped action Napier's Stormwater Masterplan to guide targeted investment, especially in our most vulnerable areas, to better prepare for the future.

Louise: Council needs to be ready to act appropriately.

Lyndall: Implement the recommendations of the

(continued on page 10)

**(continued from page 9 -
Ahuriri Ward Council candidates)**

inquiries into the Cyclone Gabrielle response. Ensure that cellphone towers and other basic services can continue in the face of a power cut. Improve flood protection where feasible.

Roger: Flooding — we need to make sure maintenance is continually kept up on drains, stopbanks, and infrastructure required for pumping. Earthquake/tsunami/flooding — making sure early warning systems are in place and personal safety is the first priority.

Sally: People first — equip households with practical resilience knowledge. Planning — prioritise and invest in projects that strengthen mitigation, adaptation, and preparedness for future climate impacts, especially in vulnerable areas.

What role should Council play in addressing homelessness and supporting vulnerable communities?

Benjamin: Council should work with NGOs, iwi, and central government to deliver housing-first solutions and wraparound support services. Prevention, not punishment, is key to building a more inclusive city.

Ian: While there is no obligation on councils to tackle homelessness, where appropriate and feasible Council should offer assistance.

Juliet: Supporting the Napier homeless shelter with funding while it is being established.

Keith: Council advocates, provides targeted seed funding case-by-case, and drives local action — while recognising ratepayers don't directly fund homelessness support, which remains primarily the responsibility of central government.

Louise: By partnering with agencies to provide temporary shelter until long-term arrangements are made.

Lyndall: Exactly the role they played in the pilot men's shelter in Napier — partnering with community groups and agencies who know how best to deliver these services, using proven models.

Roger: Napier City Council should help find accommodation by partnering with other services to help Napier's vulnerable and communities.

Sally: Advocacy and public sector leadership. Council should collaborate with others to support in ways that best serve the cause, whilst being financially prudent.

Why are you standing for Council now and what unique perspectives, skills, and experience do you bring? (non-incumbent councillors)

Benjamin: I bring commercial acumen, governance

experience, and deep community roots. With a background in business and advocacy, I can bring fresh thinking and action-oriented leadership to Council, bridging local priorities with long-term strategy.

Iain: I'll prioritise core services, reduce debt, and drive efficiency. Without change, rising debt will consume our budget and cripple essential services. I bring leadership experience from the NZDF, budget management, and recent business ownership to deliver results.

Louise: My professional experience as a clinician at both our local hospital and in the community, with a passion for patient safety, gave me insight into the realities faced, particularly by our elderly residents and the growing requirements of this demographic as they reach the frailty pathway. I returned to NZ to advocate for and help negotiate my late mother's final years in Napier. I have spine and principles. I will make a difference.

Lyndall: Working for Sport Hawke's Bay, NZTA, and as a volunteer in many local organisations has given me a broad network of community relationships and a solid record of public service. I now have the time to dedicate these skills and experience as your representative on Council.

Roger: Having put in a submission to a change of the rating process, I became disillusioned with Napier City's decision-making process. Napier needs to get back to its core fundamentals. I'm Napier born and bred, I'm an orchardist and have owned a retail business. I have served on the Summerfruit NZ Board. Local. Practical. Proven.

Incumbent councillors: What do you think were Council's biggest successes and failures this last term?

Juliet: Success: The new library has started to be built after much planning and designing.

Failure: Some of our commercial facilities continue to be a drain on rate-payer money.

Keith: Our biggest wins were in infrastructure — over \$110m invested in water, new bores, pumps, Stormwater Masterplan, tidal gates, culvert upgrades, and roading improvements. Biggest failure: communications. We must better tell our story, listen, and show how we act on feedback.

Sally: Failure: the widening trust gap between community and Council. How we work and communicate with our community must change to ensure our people can have confidence in their Council. Success: committing to legacy projects like the modern library and new water reservoir, which will serve Napier for generations.

July Grey Power Meeting report

By Maxine Boag

At our July meeting we had two presentations: one from Darran Gillies on Te Aka, the Napier Library and Civic Precinct development; the other by MJ Bloem from the Mobility Centre in Hastings.

Darran filled us in on the reason for the new library and civic building – that the previous structures were earthquake prone and built in the 60s and 80s – and the comprehensive process of community consultation and Long Term Plan budgeting that had started in 2018 leading up to the construction that has just started. Our President Bruce and secretary Isabel were involved in community feedback as the library was planned. With a very temporary library within the MTG and having council staff scattered around three different buildings, bringing them all together makes sense. (See advertisement on page 5).

Questions about parking, accessibility, and what the civic chambers will be used for were all answered to the satisfaction of our members.

MJ Bloem from the Mobility Centre in Hastings came with several bags of amazing goodies – all designed to help those of us who struggle with some of the daily tasks that get harder as we age and want to maintain our independence.

I was fascinated by many of them – light and easily packed-down mobility scooters, a walking stick you can turn into a seat, tipping kettles, an aid to put your socks on, a handle to help you open your car door, a waterproof bib for when you're sitting and eating, arthritis gloves, can

openers, and one of my favourites – a silicone cap for opening all sorts of containers from bottle tops to jam jars! (A great Xmas present!). Waterproof travel bags, shower mats, a grab stick-reacher (she showed us how it will pick up confetti-sized bits of paper!) – visiting the Mobility Centre (345 Heretaunga Street West – opposite John's Bakery) is a must do next time I'm in Hastings!



Darran Gillies



MJ Bloem and the waterproof spill-catcher.

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Ward Councillor Candidates' Q&A

NAPIER CENTRAL WARD COUNCIL CANDIDATES (3 positions)

Te Kira LAWRENCE (Independent); Taiatini LEPAIO (Independent); Greg 'Grego' MAWSON (Working with you, for you); Richard MCGRATH (Your Community Representative); Craig MORLEY * (Get back to basics)

* Chose not to advertise here



Te Kira
Lawrence



Taiatini
Lepaio



Greg
Mawson



Richard
McGrath

What do you see as the three biggest challenges facing Napier over the next three years, and how would you address each?

Greg: Affordability, ageing infrastructure, and community wellbeing. Rates are rising faster than incomes, so Council must focus on needs over wants, while completing water and stormwater upgrades already underway. We need to continue delivering practical, inclusive initiatives that make Napier a safer, more connected place for all ages and backgrounds.

Richard: The biggest challenges are government reform, rates affordability, and asset management. Take a back-to-basics approach — reprioritise projects, fix what we currently have before new projects, embrace government changes, and get on with it.

Taiatini: Affordability — scrutinise full review to cut spending. Minimise the budget for rate decreases. Council housing — work more with local MP to advocate for policy changes in central government to prioritise housing builds. Climate reduction, readiness, response, and recovery planning — review current plan objectives with community-led processes. Council must budget like our families do — needs first, nice-to-haves later.

Te Kira: Rates affordability — keep a tight grip on costs and use every available tool to ease pressure on ratepayers. Central government reform — make sure Council adapts efficiently to try and minimise cost and disruption to services people rely on. Trust and expectations — sharpen how council communicates so the community feels informed, included, and confident in Council decisions.

How will you keep residents informed?

Greg: I've always been available! In person, online, or over a cuppa. I'll continue to listen, share updates, ask questions, and take feedback seriously so people feel genuinely heard.

Richard: It's time to try new ways to engage with residents and the community — think outside the box, set up outside supermarkets, at concerts and sporting events, go to where the people are.

Taiatini: True engagement starts with manaakitanga, not by ticking the boxes. Respectful, inclusive, accessible, meaningful interactions in person and through digital portals. Communities shape decisions — give members an opportunity to speak.

Te Kira: For big issues, I'd use referendums. I'll match Sally Crown's benchmark — active online and in the community — ensuring residents are informed and genuinely heard on decisions.

Which way will you be voting on the Māori Wards referendum, and why?

Greg: I don't publicly disclose how I vote in any referendum, just as I wouldn't ask anyone else to. That privacy is a democratic right. (Note: Cr Mawson spoke and voted in favour of Māori wards in 2024)

Richard: Māori wards will now be determined by the community via a referendum. I will respect that result. (Note Richard expressed his opposition to Maori Wards at a candidates meeting in August)

Taiatini: Yes, to strengthen communities, reflect cultural aspirations, and uphold Toitū te Tiriti, honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi in all decisions.

Te Kira: I respect democracy and won't influence anyone's vote in this important referendum. Personally, I support Māori representation and

believe that, as we've seen in recent years, strong Māori leaders are already stepping up naturally into governance roles without needing Māori wards to ensure representation.

How would you approach resilience and preparedness for future climate-related events, especially in vulnerable parts of Napier?

Greg: Continue to support flood mitigation infrastructure, community education, and strong Civil Defence partnerships. Vulnerable suburbs must be prioritised in resilience planning, not left to face future events alone.

Richard: Resilience is of the highest importance post-COVID and post-cyclone. We have some good systems being set up that involve the community, ensuring we have enough in-house response and are not too reliant on the region to help in an emergency — that approach failed us during the cyclone.

Taiatini: I already meet with vulnerable residents across Napier, joining community-led meetings to support emergency hubs and practical workshops. We are building partnerships that prepare and protect our most at-risk communities.

Te Kira: We must prioritise 1-in-500-year flood protection, like the Taradale stopbank, which safeguarded Napier during Cyclone Gabrielle, protecting thousands of properties from devastating floods.

What role should Council play in addressing homelessness and supporting vulnerable communities?

Greg: Council should continue to partner with social services and iwi, ensuring people aren't sleeping rough due to red tape. A community-led local response is essential.

Richard: Council has the liaison and advocacy role to address homelessness. We must be careful not to try and take over the responsibility of the government agencies charged with this responsibility, such as health, addiction services, Housing NZ, police, and the courts. But we need to hold them to account.

Taiatini: Council must continue working alongside mana whenua, central government, and the Napier Ahuriri Homeless Shelter Society to address structural issues and systemic failures that cause homelessness, ensuring solutions for communities.

Te Kira: Councillors must connect with social issues and work with organisations to understand needs. Council must advocate to central government to ensure vulnerable communities get proper support.

Why are you standing for Council now and what unique perspectives, skills, and experience do you bring? (non-incumbent councillors)

Taiatini: The timing is right; Napier Central Ward deserves strong representation from someone who already works in the community, who champions social cohesion, and tackles systemic inequalities. That person is me; I am ready to be that voice at the table.

Te Kira: Born and bred in Napier, raising a family here, I bring strong people skills, stakeholder experience, and a practical mindset offering realistic, innovative solutions for our community.

Incumbent councillors: What do you think were Council's biggest successes and failures this last term?

Greg: Delivering over \$111m in water projects is a big win, and water complaints are now below pre-chlorine levels. We haven't communicated wins well; a common challenge for any Council

Richard: The cyclone response and recovery were a success. Failure, prioritising non-essential projects ahead of water infrastructure



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Ward Councillor Candidates' Q&A

TARADALE WARD COUNCIL CANDIDATES (3 positions)

Ronda CHRYSTAL (Independent); Terry CORNISH *; Nigel SIMPSON (Independent); Graeme TAYLOR (Independent) * chose not to advertise here



Ronda
Chrystal



Nigel
Simpson



Graeme
Taylor

What do you see as the three biggest challenges facing Napier over the next three years, and how would you address each?

Graeme: Post-Cyclone Gabrielle recovery must continue alongside essential services, with every dollar accountable to ratepayers. Rising costs demand strategic borrowing and better asset returns. Climate change and central government reforms require growth that balances resilience to hazards, while District Plan and RMA changes create uncertainty for Napier's future planning and development.

Nigel: Controlling Council's internal costs, managing externally imposed cost consequences and delivering affordable, sustainable services for our community will be the greatest challenges. Reducing the number of staff will reduce overhead commitments, and maintaining a holistically prioritised long list of activities and projects will enable council to partner with local firms to competitively tender design and deliver community activities and amenities.

Ronda: Local water done well — the HB regional model needs a good structure and board so Napier ratepayers benefit from water infrastructure investment. Urban growth & strategic investment — make land available for growth, but what & where must pass rigorous checks for resilience. Funding asset & infrastructure investment — look for savings and alternative funding streams other than rates to fund fixing the basics.

How will you keep residents informed?

Graeme: Host in-person forums, drop-ins using the Taradale Town Hall facility — an underused council

asset. Interactive online platforms: allow residents to comment and see others' input in real time.

Nigel: Print and social media will continue to be key to keeping our community informed. Evolving "neighbourhood" Council's printed publication delivered to every (including rural) letterbox, partnering with cafes ensuring accessibility.

Ronda: I will continue to share information on social media, attend community pop-ups, and be active in the community. I'm always available to listen and respond to residents' enquiries.

Which way will you be voting on the Māori Wards referendum, and why?

Graeme: I supported the Napier City Council decision to introduce Māori Wards for the 2025 Local Body Elections. It is no longer a council decision.

Nigel: Competent Māori wanting to contribute to governance are very capable of contesting at large elections, I will vote against any ward.

Ronda: Yes. My focus is ensuring a fair, informed process so the community can decide what's right for Napier.

How would you approach resilience and preparedness for future climate-related events, especially in vulnerable parts of Napier?

Graeme: Map the hazard zones and make these maps available to the public (flooding, sea level rise, storm surge). Involve residents in co-designing solutions to build trust, ownership, and practical insight.

Nigel: Council and residents need well informed understanding of all risks and consequences to

implement effective action to protect, strengthen and future proof our community and grow our economy.

Ronda: Resilience requires integrating hazard mapping, early warning systems, well-resourced community hubs, and community training. This then needs to be backed up by Council and external agencies coordinating risk and recovery.

What role should Council play in addressing homelessness and supporting vulnerable communities?

Graeme: Council should lead, coordinate, and support practical community-based responses. They should show leadership and act as a connector between central government, iwi, NGOs, and community groups.

Nigel: Council needs to enable more mixed typology residential development, retain to expand our pensioner housing on a transparent cost recovery basis. Council needs to advocate to government on cost of living and homelessness.

Ronda: Council should enable safe, affordable housing and partner with agencies that provide wraparound services. It should also advocate for national policies tackling root causes of homelessness.

Incumbent councillors: What do you think were Council's biggest successes and failures this last term?

Graeme: Success: The establishment of AIM, investment company. This is a critical step in getting a better return from our assets to reduce burden on our rate payer. Failure: Ignoring the advice of the Police and Health experts and not reducing the opening hours for On Licence premises and thus reducing alcohol related harm which costs our country and community millions every year.

Nigel: Evolving our grant schemes into a more transparent contestable community focused funding model and improvement in potable water quality were successes. The rates rollercoaster, not controlling rates raises and the War Memorial restoration overspend of \$1.2 million (50% overspend) were failures.

Ronda: Successes: Cyclone Gabrielle Recovery & Resilience work, such as successfully restoring the Wastewater treatment plant, navigating property buyouts. Focus on infrastructure resilience and upgrades in councils Long Term planning. Restoration of the Napier War Memorial. Failures: Inaccuracy of Flood Mapping

Let's Talk Road Safety: Reducing Hidden Risks

The data tells us that regardless of causation, if a person over 70 is hospitalised following a road crash, length of hospital stay increases. This is especially so from 80 years onwards. As we age recovery takes longer.



The free class-room based refresher course Age Concern run for older drivers includes focus on what we can do to keep ourselves safe on the roads. They share all sorts of tips like correct use of mirrors which must be adjusted to eliminate as many blind-spots as possible.

Some drivers of modern cars with light-up side mirrors that indicate proximity to other objects, are relying solely on those side mirrors to determine close objects. But these mirrors are not foolproof and blind spots still exist. In some cases, buying additional cheap compact mirrors and attaching them to side mirrors can extend field of vision which can help a lot. (They help with parking, too).

Most people do not realise how big blind-spots are. Cyclists and motorcyclists can get completely lost in them. Even so, a visual shoulder check should always precede a lane change, turn or merge. If a shoulder check is not used in these circumstances when a driver is required to take an on-road driving test (which can be required by a medical practitioner assessing a driver 75 and over for competence to drive), the driver will automatically fail the on-road test.

And that is one reason they would like to see more of our older drivers come to their free class-room based Staying Safe driving refreshers, funded by NZTA. It's an opportunity for older drivers to be affirmed in their knowledge, check they are up-to-date with all the key road rules and be able to discuss with other drivers what their solutions to local traffic situations might be.

Ward Councillor Candidates' Q&A

TE WHANGA MAORI WARD CANDIDATES (2 positions)



Whare
Isaac-Sharland



Kirk Kia-maia
Leonard



Shyann
Raihania

What do you see as the three biggest challenges facing Napier over the next three years, and how would you address each?

Kirk: The prices of housing, whether renting or buying — the answer will be how the council deals with this issue collectively. Next challenge is our water — Napier residents continuing to work collectively with council and vice versa. Homelessness is the last challenge (of many more challenges) and again council coming together to sort out this challenge, but that's if we really care about this issue.

Shyann: Napier faces a housing shortage, climate resilience demands, and declining community engagement. I will champion co-designed housing solutions, invest in long-term climate adaptation (especially in vulnerable areas), and open pathways for residents to shape decisions. This means ensuring transparent processes, prioritising intergenerational thinking, and delivering solutions that work for everyone, from our tamariki to our kaumātua.

Whare: Napier's biggest challenges are housing affordability, climate resilience, and community wellbeing gaps. I will back affordable housing like papakāinga, invest in resilient infrastructure for flood-prone areas, and ensure all Council policies put wellbeing first, guided by manaakitanga, kaitiakitanga, and Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

How will you keep residents informed?

Kirk: Will eventually have to start a Facebook page dedicated to communicating with Napier residents. Another way can be to have a monthly meet-up at a local hall. Phone calls as well.

Shyann: I'll use plain-language updates, marae-based hui, neighbourhood drop-ins, and online platforms, ensuring two-way kōrero so every voice — whether on the Māori roll or general roll — is

heard and valued.

Whare: I will connect with the community through events, citizens' assemblies, and hui with local whānau, hapū, and iwi. I'll also use social media and e-newsletters to ensure two-way kōrero so residents' voices shape decisions before they're made, not after.

Which way will you be voting on the Māori Wards referendum, and why?

Kirk: Will be voting to keep Māori wards and the reason why is we are indigenous to this land and we deserve to have a say. It's long overdue.

Shyann: I'll vote to keep Māori Wards. They ensure fair representation, honour Te Tiriti, and bring stronger, more inclusive decision-making for our whole rohe.

Whare: I support Māori Wards and will vote to keep them. They ensure fair representation, honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and strengthen Napier's decision-making for all communities.

How would you approach resilience and preparedness for future climate-related events, especially in vulnerable parts of Napier?

Kirk: The preparation needs to start ASAP — working with Civil Defence, police, our HBRC, and even asking all our marae, as these could be places we can all evacuate to, being high land.

Shyann: I'll advocate for early hazard planning, resilient infrastructure, and community-led readiness programmes, prioritising the most at-risk areas to safeguard lives, homes, and cultural sites across Ahuriri.

Whare: I will prioritise Māori-led and science-based solutions, investing in infrastructure upgrades, natural buffers, and community-led emergency planning for our most climate-vulnerable neighbourhoods.

What role should Council play in addressing homelessness and supporting vulnerable communities?

Kirk: It starts with Council, in my opinion, to stop all this homelessness. If Council are serious about homelessness, we will work collectively to sort out this major concern.

Shyann: Council must partner with community organisations, enable affordable housing pathways, and address root causes through social support, financial literacy, and coordinated services that restore dignity and stability.

Whare: Council must partner with iwi, NGOs, and social services to deliver safe housing, wraparound support, and employment pathways, ensuring dignity and long-term solutions.

Why are you standing for Council now and what unique perspectives, skills, and experience do you bring? (non-incumbent councillors)

Kirk: I am running for Council because the time is right to step up to listen and help anyone who lives here in Napier. I currently sit on the board of our Taiwhenua, Ngā manukanuka o te Iwi and the HBRC.

Shyann: I'm standing to ensure all voices are represented, especially those often overlooked. My lived experience, governance leadership, and proven ability to deliver *aupapa* equip me to build a fairer, more connected, and future-focused Ahuriri-Napier.

Whare: I bring over 35 years' experience in health, education, *te reo Māori*, and *mātauranga Māori*, alongside 25 years in governance. I will help Napier honour *Te Tiriti o Waitangi* and ensure our future is shaped by genuine community voice.

Insight into Life with the Penan People of Borneo

At our May meeting, Grey Power members enjoyed an eye-opening talk from Jacky McLaren, founder of Borneo Bags. Jacky spent 10 years teaching among the Penan — a semi-nomadic tribe living deep in the rainforests of Borneo.

Life in the jungle is extreme: 99% humidity, morning mist, bird song by day, cicadas by night. The Penan language is unwritten and has few English words, but the people are gentle, cheerful, and closely tied to the forest that sustains them.

The Penan, made up of seven tribes, live simply and peacefully. They value kindness, respect, and non-violence. Hunting is done without rifles. They show reverence for the animals and trees around them.

From an early age, women learn weaving, while men collect rattan — now harder to find as logging spreads. Children are treasured. Families build stilt houses in just two hours. At night, fires provide warmth and cooking, though smoke often fills the air babies breathe.

Food is basic. Sago, a flour-like starch, is a staple. Men hunt wild pigs and fish in the clear jungle rivers. Jacky demonstrated a blowpipe used for hunting — a hollow hardwood tube firing darts at bullet speed.

River transport is vital. Longboats, powered by diesel engines, need two operators — one to steer and one to watch for hazards. Illness is common. Medical help is a three-day trek away, so Jacky always carries antibiotics. Fungal infections are rife.

Logging is a constant threat. It destroys Penan land and forces wildlife to scavenge. Jacky's photos showed both the beauty of the rainforest and the damage being done.

Jacky also displayed colourful Borneo Bags (Editor: I have seen these on sale at Chantel's). These are woven from palm fibres, stripped and prepared by hand. Every dollar from sales supports Penan children's education. The programme has already changed lives. One boy, Lonnie, became Dux of his school, then the first Penan to earn a university degree.

Jacky's talk was inspiring and moving. Her stories brought the rainforest and the Penan people vividly to life. President Bruce Carnegie thanked her warmly for sharing such a powerful insight into a community few of us will ever see.

Isabel Wood.



Jacky McLaren and the bags

Hawkes Bay Regional Council Candidates' Q&A

AHURIRI/NAPIER REGIONAL CONSTITUENCY

(3 POSITIONS, 6 CANDIDATES)

Paul BAILEY (Independent); Hayley BROWNE; Syed Khurram IQBAL; Neil KIRTON;
Hinewai ORMSBY; Louise PARSONS (Independent)



Hayley
Browne



Hinewai
Ormsby



Louise
Parsons



Syed
Khurram
Iqbal



Neil
Kirton



Paul
Bailey

MĀUI KI TE RAKI MĀORI REGIONAL CONSTITUENCY

(1 POSITION, 2 CANDIDATES)

Michelle MCILROY (NEE LEWIS); Shelton WHITE



Shelton White
Māui ki te Raki Māori ward



Michelle
McIlroy
Māui ki te Raki
Māori Ward

What is the most significant challenge facing Hawke's Bay's environment and communities, and what is your plan to address it over the next decade?

Hayley Browne: Our changing climate brings flooding, drought, biodiversity loss, and deeper inequality. I'll ensure communities have clear risk information, support practical local adaptation, and advocate for fairness; so people aren't stranded and solutions protect both our environment and our most vulnerable.

Hinewai Ormsby: Adapting to a changing environment is our region's defining challenge. We must strengthen land use practices, invest in nature-

based flood protection, and support community-led resilience. We must continue to prioritise flood protection and water security in preparation for flooding and drought.

Louise Parsons: National Disasters and a cost-of-living crisis are both urgent. The mistake is swinging too far towards one and ignoring the other. We must balance affordability and environmental protection by making smarter decisions with outcomes for all of the region, not some.

Syed Iqbal: As a long-term Napier resident, Chartered Engineer and Environmental Commissioner, I will address flood risks (\$500M), nitrate pollution affecting 35% of aquifers, and

climate change delays. Speed up wetland and flood infrastructure projects through joint funding; enforce industrial nitrate limits; allocate pollution fines to fund buffers; and reallocate disaster budgets towards prevention.

Neil Kirton: Cyclone Gabrielle showed us how exposed we are to devastating floods. The biggest challenge for Napier is investment in flood protection to save lives and property.

Paul Bailey: The most significant challenge facing Hawke's Bay over the next decade is the stop banks rebuild post Gabrielle. We need to be led by public input into what risk, and therefore cost, they are prepared to accept for our stop banks.

Michelle McIlroy: Climate change is no longer a distant threat — it's here, with more frequent extreme weather. We need early warning systems, strong community preparedness, and locally led Civil Defence to protect lives, livelihoods, and build resilience where it matters most.

Shelton White: Building resilience against extreme weather events — including flooding, erosion, infrastructure damage, road and bridge impacts, and rising sea levels — requires central government financial support alongside ratepayer funding to deliver and monitor future development.

How should HBRC work with other councils to deliver better outcomes for residents and the environment?

Hayley Browne: City and District councils can lead by example in biodiversity. HBRC should co-design achievable goals with them, then align staff and governance to deliver bigger, faster wins through shared leadership.

Hinewai Ormsby: Leaders working together to get as much possible done. We need to strengthen informal ties that cut through unnecessary bureaucracy.

Louise Parsons: HBRC needs to lead by example; no more finger-pointing or operating in isolation. Councils must collaborate, own their decisions, and start putting people first. Communities are over politics and desperate for change.

Syed Iqbal: Utilise expertise to align strategies (e.g., Future Development Strategy). Establish joint climate funds for wetland restoration and transport subsidies; co-manage waterways with iwi; reverse bus cuts; avoid new rates

Neil Kirton: HBRC and Napier City Council have agreed to work together in managing the City's storm water pump stations and waterways.

Paul Bailey: HBRC needs to maintain its role as

regulator and be prepared to challenge any actions which do not deliver good social or environmental outcomes.

Michelle McIlroy: Given the challenges we face, we must strengthen relationships between regional and local councils — Kotahitanga and Te Tiriti in action, working together to deliver better outcomes for our people and the environment.

Shelton White: All relevant information should be shared promptly among all partners for timely discussion and action. Collaboration with tangata whenua, farmers, horticulturalists, industry, schools, and the wider community will help achieve the best outcomes. Co-governance with iwi is vital — not only as a Treaty obligation but to avoid unnecessary rhetoric and foster genuine partnership.

Do you support keeping Maori wards and why/why not?

Hayley Browne: Yes. We must honour Te Tiriti, Māori wards are a mana whenua-endorsed step toward fairer, stronger, more inclusive decision-making.

Hinewai Ormsby: Yes, however I will accept the result of the referendum.

Louise Parsons: I don't support any fixed wards. Representation should reflect capability, not allocation. Let's hear the public voice in the 2025 referendum.

Syed Iqbal: Yes. As Environmental Commissioner, I uphold Treaty obligations: Māori wards ensure rightful representation, rectify exclusion, and democratise tangata whenua voices.

Neil Kirton: Councils must include and consult mana whenua in decisions. Māori constituencies have proven very effective in meeting these obligations.

Paul Bailey: Notwithstanding council's obligations under Te Tiriti I believe that Māori have a community of interest similar to that of Wairoa and Central Hawke's Bay significant enough to deserve representation. Therefore I will be personally voting in favour of retaining Māori wards.

Michelle McIlroy: I support Māori wards — Māui ki Te Raki is a result of 89% support. They uphold Te Tiriti and benefit everyone.

Shelton White: Yes, its important to involve and share co-governance with iwi partners as a Treaty right and to avoid unnecessary rhetoric.

What are your top priorities for protecting and restoring HB's rivers, wetlands and biodiversity?

Hayley Browne: Our changing climate brings

(continued on page 20)

*(continued from page 19
Hawkes Bay Regional Council candidates)*

flooding, drought, biodiversity loss, and deeper inequality. I'll ensure communities have clear risk information, support practical local adaptation, and advocate for fairness; so people aren't stranded and solutions protect both our environment and our most vulnerable.

Hinewai Ormsby: Adapting to a changing environment is our region's defining challenge. We must strengthen land use practices, invest in nature-based flood protection, and support community-led resilience. We must continue to prioritise flood protection and water security in preparation for flooding and drought.

Louise Parsons: I'm focused on protecting wetlands and biodiversity by listening to local experts and communities and making smarter more inclusive decisions. Learning from the past to get better outcomes for everyone.

Syed Iqbal: Enforce nitrate caps; expedite wetland restoration through pollution fines; co-manage waterways with iwi; repair infrastructure via joint-funded audits; promote managed aquifer recharge prioritising efficiency over rates.

Neil Kirton: HBRC supports a wide range of wetland restoration, pest control and native tree planting. Our room for rivers and nature-based solutions for river management will lead to better biodiversity outcomes.

Paul Bailey: To protect the Tukituki catchment and the upper Makarora I would take all necessary actions to ensure HBRC makes no financial contribution towards Ruataniwha Dam V2.

Michelle McIlroy: The biggest stressor on freshwater is sediment from erodible lands and runoff. Protecting our wetlands and taiao starts with putting Papatūānuku first in all decision-making.

Shelton White: Resilience measures include sea walls, spillways, stop banks, dredging where possible, controlling forestry debris and stock runoff, fencing, stabilising erosion-prone areas, and managing effluent, stormwater, and infrastructure. Native planting and poplar poles have shown excellent results and deserve greater financial backing.

What is your position on rates increases to fund environmental protection and climate adaptation, and how would you balance affordability?

Hayley Browne: These decisions are tough—Coastal Hazards shows that well. With outside funding unlikely, costs must be shared fairly: considering who causes impacts and who benefits, while ensuring vulnerable communities aren't unfairly burdened simply because of where they can afford to live.

Hinewai Ormsby: We must invest wisely in future-proofing our region but protect vulnerable ratepayers. I support targeted investment, greater central government funding, and ensuring polluters—not households—carry a fair share of environmental costs.

Louise Parsons: I oppose further rate increases. HBRC quietly shifted to rating on capital values during a national emergency. We must rethink this as well as focus on affordable solutions, for example, why are ratepayers being charged for services they don't receive?

Syed Iqbal: I oppose rate increases. Protect funding by redirecting pollution fines to buffers, repurposing \$1.2M/year consultant waste to pipes, and unlocking joint climate funds—using external financing to maintain affordability.

Neil Kirton: Adapting to climate change, especially mitigating flood risk, is very expensive but unavoidable. \$200 million is urgently needed for upgrades to Napier's stormwater network. Ratepayers can expect steep rises in the cost of protecting our lives and livelihoods.

Paul Bailey: It is highly likely that rates will increase to pay for stop bank improvements. We need to be honest with ourselves about this. How much they increase will depend on the public's appetite for risk and level of protection they deem suitable.

Michelle McIlroy: Rate increases impact financially on whānau already struggling with inflation and higher rents. We must find innovative, cost-effective ways to protect the taiao while ensuring affordability and equity for all communities.

Shelton White: Affordability issues — from rising rents, dairy prices, power, petrol, tariffs, fuel, RUC, and insurance — limit private sector contributions without full central government support. Strengthening local industry, horticulture, viticulture, and farming will create jobs and invest where most needed.

For non-incumbent candidates: What are two tangible outcomes in the community you have led or been involved in and how did you achieve them?

Hayley Browne: Alongside the Chairs, I've led our Coastal Hazards and Climate Action Committees—

publishing the region's first climate risk assessment and an adaptive coastal pathway. I've kept momentum through complex, often frustrating processes by keeping us solutions focused, tackling roadblocks, and ensuring communities have the knowledge to act.

Louise Parsons: After Cyclone Gabrielle I led public meetings exposing the looting crisis. This helped push for cameras and consideration for the Defence Force being deployed in future events. I meet with the Ombudsman this month to expose unfair buy-outs and inconsistencies in the flawed category process taking choices away from flooded residents.

Syed Iqbal: In the local government sector, I managed a capital works portfolio on time and within budget. I delivered local solutions, allocating 70% of contracts to local suppliers and boosting local employment. In the industrial sector, I reduced carry-forwards by 25% through workflow optimisation, ensuring strict environmental and safety compliance.

Paul Bailey: I am one of the lead advocates for Wise Water Use HB and we have been advocating for landuse change on the Ruataniwha Plains which has included leading public discourse against Ruataniwha Dam V2.

Michelle McIlroy: Led, alongside the Mayor and people of Wairoa, Hinemihi hub relief post-Cyclone Gabrielle, assisting 300+ homes. Coordinated and secured funding for 5,000 native trees planting to protect eroding riverbanks threatening marae and urupā. Campaigned for Māori seats, achieving 89% support through a committed team and whanaungatanga networks.

Shelton White: Post-Cyclone Gabrielle, I was involved when drains and streams in Nuhaka were cleared and replanted with over 10,000 natives by local pupils, tangata whenua, and mana whenua, creating a secure walking track. Ongoing Nuhaka River flooding and erosion require clearing problem areas and opening the river mouth more often to prevent further damage.

For incumbent candidates: What significant actions or outcomes have you personally contributed to during your time on HBRC, and how did you achieve them?

Hinewai Ormsby: Like many in Hawke's Bay I lost my home in the floods, so flood recovery was personal, not just my role as councillor. I have huge empathy for those who were affected, and especially those who lost their loved ones. Working with staff, my fellow councillors, politicians across the region and

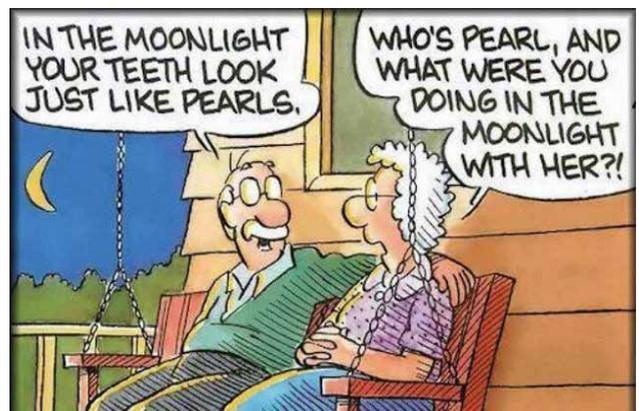
country we made real progress in the recovery and in preventing future floods from being as devastating.

Neil Kirton: The three Napier regional councillors ensured the \$20million Taradale stop bank upgrade was top priority. Without it, another 10,000 Taradale homes could have flooded in Cyclone Gabrielle. As a director on the regional council's investment company we have produced an exceptional dividend of \$15million, without which households would be paying an extra \$200 pa on their rates.

**My kids and grandkids
keep laughing about
me losing my memory.**

**They won't be laughing at
Christmas when there's no
eggs under the tree!**

**Note to
yourself:
You are not
too old and
it is not too
late.**



CANDIDATES' MEETING 19 AUGUST

Regional Council and Napier Mayoral candidates



Ministry of Social Development Useful contact numbers

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

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.



**CARING, ENABLING, SUPPORTING
WHILE YOU LIVE AT HOME**



Ask your GP about Enliven services or contact us:

Freephone **0800 436 548**

Email **enliven@psec.org.nz**

Visit our website **psec.org.nz**

enliven
PRESBYTERIAN SUPPORT EAST COAST

I DON'T HAVE AN EMERGENCY CONTACT - WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Whatever the situation, there are crucial moments when you'll be asked to provide an emergency contact. But what happens when you have no one to call on?



When nominating an emergency contact, a partner or family member might seem an obvious choice - but what if no one comes to mind? What do you need to consider when signing up someone to be your emergency contact?

Gayle Chambers, president of over-50s advocacy organisation, Grey Power, understands people may feel embarrassed or ashamed about not having someone to call on in emergencies, but she says isolation and loneliness are a problem for New Zealand's ageing and growing population. It's not just elderly people - international students, single parents or those without immediate family around may hit this issue.



Grey Power National President Gayle Chambers says there's no shame in asking for help.

If you haven't got anybody, where do you start?

Chambers suggests joining social or hobby groups like an exercise class or a knitting circle. Think of those near you, she says, like a neighbour who can check in on you when you're unwell. Churches are commonplace and could be a starting point, even if you aren't religious, she says.

Royal NZ College of GPs medical director Luke Bradford says it's very rare that a patient would be put on the spot to provide an emergency contact immediately. Often, doctors will suggest you bring a support person ahead of time if there's some bad news after running tests in the lab.

For patients suffering from serious or chronic illnesses and older members of the community, there are support groups available who could point you in the right direction, both Chambers and Dr Bradford say. Usually, emergency contacts are other family members, but sometimes a neighbour might be pre-approved to help.

What should I consider? When will they be called on? Think about who it is that's asking and consider

what kind of person would be best suited for that situation, Dr Bradford says. For work [paid or unpaid], Barlow says think of someone who is willing to be contacted on your behalf in a crisis.

"They're only used in serious situations — if someone has a medical emergency, is unreachable and there's concern for their wellbeing, or if urgent decisions need to be made. It's about duty of care; it's not about tracking or monitoring." Three key attributes she notes are trust, calmness, and reachability. "Ideally, they're contactable during the day and understand your basic personal circumstances. They don't need to be a family member or even live nearby, but they should be someone who could speak on your behalf in an emergency.

"You can list someone overseas, but it's smart to think about time zones and have a local backup if possible." Chambers agrees trust is key – you need someone who is not going to act for their own benefit. "It's really very much like when you're going down the enduring power of attorney checklist." It's entirely up to a patient whether they want their emergency contact to know about their condition, Dr Bradford says. They do need to let the practitioner know their wishes though. Be honest with your GP if you don't have anyone to put in as an emergency contact, or don't want them to be notified of your health condition.

Situations where an emergency contact would be called on to make decisions on behalf of someone are exceptional, and there are ethical considerations in those cases, he says. For most cases, they would be the next-of-kin to be notified if, for example, something was to go wrong in an operation you were undergoing, he says. He notes it should still be someone you feel comfortable with, and that could be someone you rely on for emotional support rather than say someone who drives you to the hospital or fills in your forms.

How do I ask someone to be my emergency contact? Never be afraid to ask for help, Chambers says. People are usually more than willing to help. "There's no shame. If you are alone and you need someone to help you, unless you tell someone they don't know." Also, if you have noticed a parent or a neighbour who appears to be alone, take it as an opportunity to see if they need help, she says.

Ref: Isra'a Emhail Digital Journalist RNZ

COST OF LIVING

OLDER KIWIS CUTTING BACK ON FOOD TO SAVE MONEY



Older New Zealanders are cutting back on food to pay the bills, with advocates saying some are making frozen meals last three days or skipping meals entirely.

Pre Covid-19, research in the Journal of Primary Health showed that out of 174 people going into residential care, 93 percent were either malnourished or at risk of malnutrition.

Research shows 40 percent of New Zealanders aged 65 and over have no other income besides superannuation, while 20 percent only have a little more.

"Those fixed costs that we reflected on earlier this morning, the rent, the power, the mortgage, the rates, the insurance, with them increasing the only movable bit of a budget is often that food spending," Billings-Jensen said. Some people are "living on toast".

Research from Massey University in 2021 found more than a third (37 percent) of older people who live in the community are at risk of malnutrition. She said older people need enough protein and iron to help keep their muscle mass. "If you are not getting the right energy in then it might be harder to be doing some of the things that will keep you active and keep you connected to the community and the people that you love," she said. "Nutrition is just so important to prevent chronic disease, disabilities and enable people to live in their homes."

Aged Care urges New Zealanders to have conversations with older people in their lives about what they are eating. She said they have seen an increase in older people using foodbanks. She also advises those struggling to reach out to Work and Income.

March 2025 Nine To Noon

New Sorted retirement navigator a one-of-a-kind tool for spending in golden years

A groundbreaking new Sorted tool has been released to help New Zealanders nearing or already in retirement feel more confident about their financial future and how to plan for it.

Launched by Te Ara Ahunga Ora Retirement Commission, the retirement navigator is free to use on sorted.org.nz

Rates Rebates

Rates, that huge expense home owners pay annually. Quite a burden especially for retirees who rely on fixed income.

The Rates Rebate scheme is a partial refund for eligible, low income rate payers who pay rates on their own home to the City Council. So why not enquire if you are eligible? Many don't use this scheme it is said.

Simply ring the Napier City Council on 06 835 7579 and ask to speak to someone who can advise you. So when you receive your Rates Account apply for the Rates Rebate.

If you are in a Retirement Village you can still apply for the Rates Rebate.

Council will help you fill in the papers and inform you of what you can expect. This is your right so why not receive reimbursement for your payments?

If you are unsure whether your smoke alarm is clean or working, or if you can't replace the batteries without assistance, ring your local fire brigade. They will provide this service for you

It could save lives!

Report on Grey Power Federation AGM/Conference

By Maxine Boag

From 16–19 June I attended the Grey Power Federation AGM/Conference at Brentwood Bay Hotel.

Highlights & Key Discussions:

- **Speakers and Issues:** Winston Peters promised to investigate the over-75 driving test. Other major topics were health workforce shortages, aged care funding, and rising electricity costs.
- **New Branding and Structure:** A new logo was unveiled. (Note: our branch has now adopted it) Delegates agreed to a constitutional change next year replacing Zone Representatives with five “at-large” board members chosen for their skills. This sparked debate over better governance versus loss of local representation.
- **Partnerships:** Current partners include GP Electricity, AIL of NZ, ATOPIIS Skincare, Gofuels, and Resonate Hearing. Potential partners identified were Carters Tyres, Noel Leeming, Specsavers, and Wireless Nation.
- **Health Portfolio:** Calls were made to restore pay equity for caregivers and achieve pay parity with hospital staff. Members were encouraged to lobby local MPs.
- **Energy:** Concern over higher fixed power charges, hitting low-use consumers hardest. Grey Power continues advocating for affordability, efficiency, and fair regulation.
- **Hearing Health:** Resonate Hearing offers discounted services for members, including affordable hearing aids, ear cleaning, and referral rewards.
- **Aged Care Commissioner:** Carolyn Cooper highlighted the lack of a national health and disability strategy for older people. She stressed the need for better discharge planning, adequate home support, and accountability for new funding.
- **Other Topics:** Housing initiatives, safer walking programmes for people with dementia, transport safety around school buses, and pension rules for overseas travel.

Remits:

- **Passed:** Removal of surcharges, petitioning for first \$25,000 of personal income to be tax-free, improved aged care (our Grey Power Napier remit, carried without dissent).
- **Lost:** Making superannuation tax-free, changes to proxy voting.
- **Carried:** Dispute resolution and privacy updates, support for members without a local association.

Recognition:

Our association received a cup and certificate, a proud moment for us all.

It was a valuable opportunity to speak up for our members. I was even invited by two board members to stand for the new Federation board next year – though my recent election as Deputy Chair of our association may keep me busy enough!

Federation conference photos



Pictured above:
Vice President David Marshall with logo choices

left:
Photo-bombed by Hastings President Ron Wilkins with our hard-won trophy!

Don't stress

Vote Yes



Keep Māori Wards

 maoriwards@gmail.com

WHAT IS GREY POWER?

Grey Power is not aligned with any politician or political party. We are an advocacy group and we present our views to Parliament and local Councils to try to get a better deal for all Superannuitants. As such we will speak to any political group or politician who is likely to make a difference on our behalf. We also seek to keep all our members informed on what Grey Power has been doing on their behalf.

Here to Listen, Here to Help

Katie Nimon MP for Napier

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

Sign up to the Newsletter



Authorised by Katie Nimon, Parliament Buildings, Wellington.



**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**

MOBILITY SCOOTER SAFETY

Yay. It's time to head out again... but please do a quick check before you go.

Finally, Spring is on its way and with the fine weather comes the desire to get out on your mobility scooter and explore the community again. Whilst there's no warranty of fitness for a mobility scooter (unlike a car), there are some things we encourage users to do before heading out.

Here are some:

- 1. Tyres** – check your tyre pressure is around 34 psi as this impacts on the steering and performance of your scooter, especially the range you can travel.
- 2. Battery** – keep your battery charged. Unlike some old-style batteries there's no need to let your batteries drain right down and then top them back up. These days you can top them up even if you've only been on a short journey.
- 3. Clean** – give your scooter a wipe over. Clean all the surfaces with detergent and a cloth to remove any built-up dust or dirt.
- 4. Check** – as with a car it pays to regularly get your scooter checked by a service technician to ensure everything is working fine and there are no issues which might emerge. As they say, "a stitch in time saves nine", so have your scooter checked thoroughly by a professional to keep you moving.
- 5. You** – take the time to do short trips and get the feel for your mobility scooter again. Many scooter retailers also offer group mobility scooter safety courses. This is a good way to ensure your skills are still sharp, and that you haven't accidentally



picked up any bad habits. It's also worth thinking about medications you take which might affect you when you're out. Have you started new blood pressure medications for example. If unsure, check in with your doctor as you need to be safe.

6. Be Seen – are you and your

scooter visible to others? Be sure that both you and your scooter are visible. Does your scooter have a safety flag? Do you have some high visibility clothing on? Always remember that just because you've seen someone it doesn't mean they've seen you.

- 7. Dress Safe** – while we encourage you to dress for the conditions, please take into consideration whether your clothing could impact on your ability to safely use the scooter. Does the hood of your jacket restrict what you can see? Could your scarf get caught in the wheels? Do gloves impact on your ability to use the controls?

This could also be a good time to think about whether your mobility scooter needs replacing.

If it's starting to prove unreliable, not going as far without losing battery power or costing a lot of money to repair, then you might want to ask a service technician to do a service check on your scooter so that you get an expert opinion.

For even more peace of mind, you could purchase AA Roadside Assistance. A roadside assistant can uplift your scooter as well as help you get home if you break down in a metropolitan area. It's comforting for you and your family, to know that you are covered.

Enjoy your mobility adventures and keep safe.

Grey Power Napier PUBLIC MEETING

Meet the election candidates

Napier ward candidates

Tuesday 16th September
1.30pm

St Columba's Church
176 Gloucester Street
Taradale

ALL WELCOME

afternoon tea to follow



Mobility freedom comes with a big bonus!

Buy an Invacare scooter today and get up to \$500 in vouchers to spend instore how you please. Stand out when you step out.

Visit us in-store today or book an appointment for us to come to you. Offer valid until 29th Nov, 2025.



Gift voucher
\$500

Invacare Comet Range
(Ultra, Alpine+ and Pro)

Get \$500 of vouchers!



Gift voucher
\$400

Invacare Pegasus Range
(Pro, Metro, Leo)

Get \$400 of vouchers!



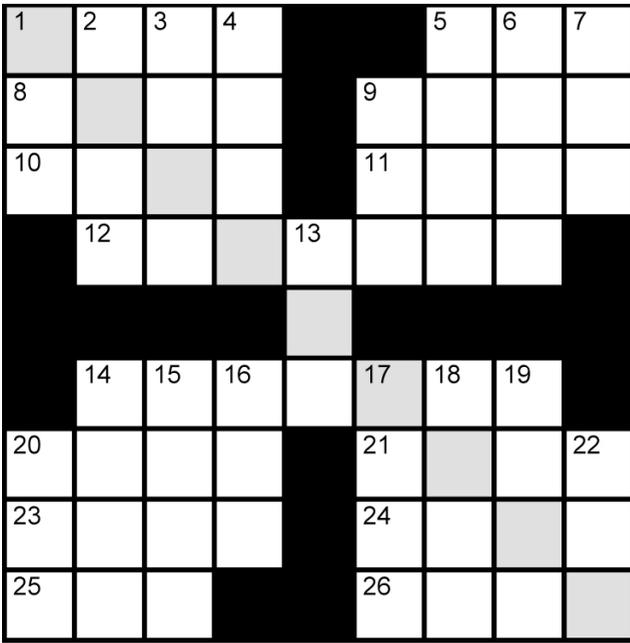
Gift voucher
\$300

Invacare Colibri Scooter

Get \$300 of vouchers!

0800 243 866 | mobilitycentre.co.nz | 345 Heretaunga Street West, Hastings

Expecting an Answer



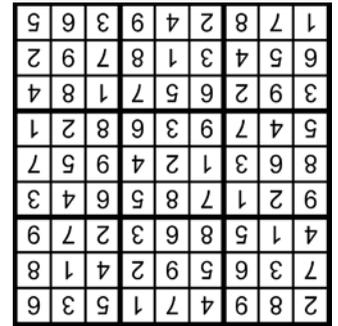
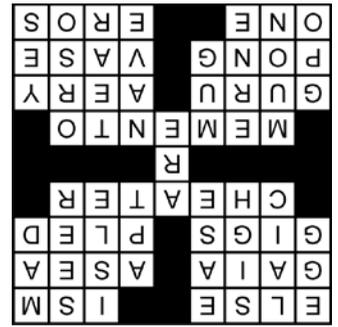
Across

- 1. "What ___ is new?"
- 5. Any doctrine
- 8. Greek earth goddess:
Var.
- 9. On the ocean
- 10. Jobs
- 11. Responded in court
- 12. Con man
- 14. Souvenir
- 20. Wise one
- 21. Eagle's nest

- 23. Early video game
- 24. Flower holder
- 25. "A Chorus Line"
number
- 26. Greek god of love

Down

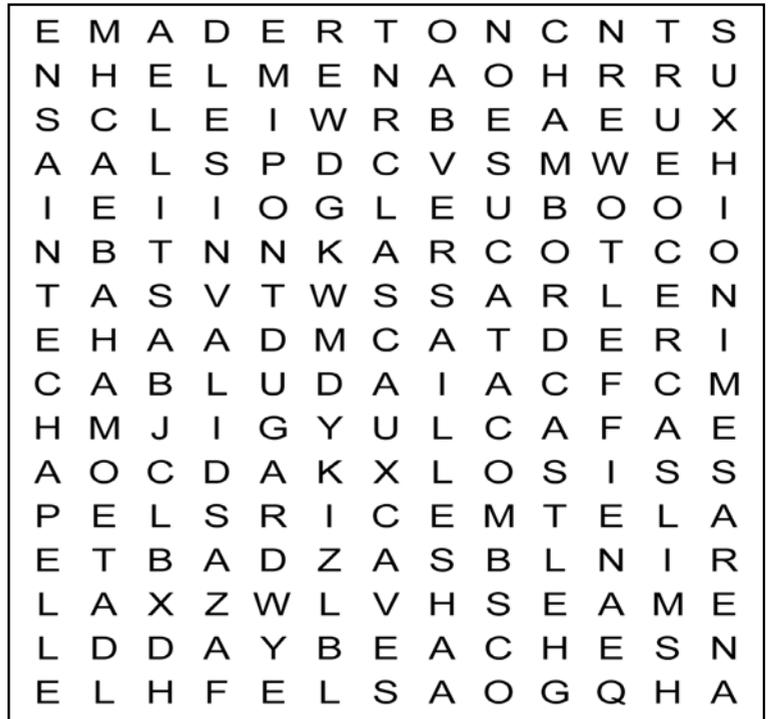
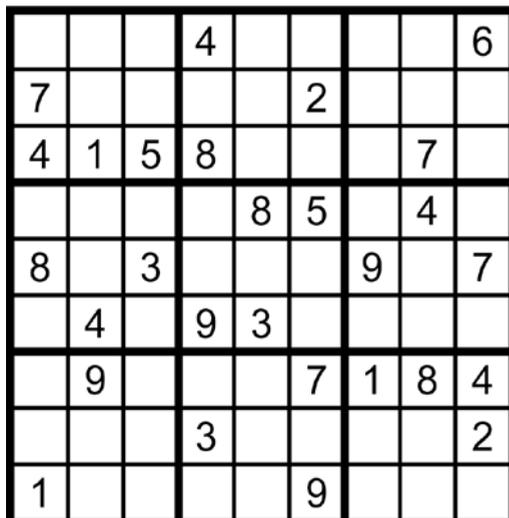
- 1. Breakfast fare
- 2. Secular
- 3. Sound of relief
- 4. Facilitate
- 5. Part of an
archipelago
- 6. Soothsayer
- 7. "Spy vs. Spy"
magazine
- 9. Likely
- 13. "___ we there yet?"
- 14. Atomic particle
- 15. Sea eagle
- 16. Coffee holder
- 17. Church section
- 18. Eye drop
- 19. About
- 20. U.S. document
publisher
- 22. "I agree"



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

- BASTILLE
- CATACOMBS
- CHAMBORD CASTLE
- DDAY BEACHES
- EIFFEL TOWER
- LASCAUX CAVES
- LES INVALIDS
- LOUVRE
- NIMES ARENA
- NOTRE DAME
- OMAHA BEACH
- PONT DU GARD
- SACRE COEUR
- SAINT MALO
- SAINTE CHAPELLE
- VERSAILLES

SUDOKU



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.

French Sites

Why Join Grey Power Napier?

To stay connected, informed and represented, while enjoying real savings.



GREYPOWER
NAPIER ASSOCIATION INC

A Strong Voice – Advocating for:

- ✓ Superannuation & pension protection
- ✓ Affordable power, housing & transport
- ✓ Better healthcare & aged care
- ✓ Respect & inclusion of older people

Real Benefits

- Grey Power Electricity – lower rates on power, gas & broadband
- Discounts on fuel, insurance, eyewear, health services & more

Stay Informed

- Quarterly magazine + 3 local newsletters
- Regular updates on key issues

Connect and Belong

- Monthly meetings with guest speakers & afternoon tea;
- Friendly, welcoming atmosphere
- Strong local links with council & health leaders

Be Part of the Change

- Contribute to our advocacy
- Support others
- Volunteer or join our committee

Membership: \$25 single / \$40 couple per year

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday (Feb–Nov), 1.30pm, St Columba’s Church, Taradale

Info: www.napiergreypower.org | www.greypower.co.nz

Contacts: Bruce 06 844 5635 | Linda 06 844 3837

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

Membership Subs are now due for the 2025/26 year

**Cost is \$25 single and \$40 couple. Membership year is 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026
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

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

Find us on Facebook @greypowernapier



Grey Power Napier Committee 2025-2026



*From left: Isabel Wood, Shona Bayliss, Bruce Carnegie (back), Carol Brunton (front),
Linda Mellor (middle row), Kay Nesdale (back), Allie Beattie (front), Ian Cook
Missing: Maxine Boag (photo credit), Gayle Peters*



Come to our meetings!

We'd love to see you – we have interesting speakers and delicious afternoon teas!

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

