



# GREY POWER MARLBOROUGH

Advocating for people 50 +

## From the President's Desk

Wheelie bins – love them or hate them. The wheelie bin rollout (pardon the pun) has been and gone, and we are 6 weeks into the new regime. I have taken particular interest in this initiative from Marlborough District Council (MDC) as there was some angst at the public meeting Grey Power hosted about the changes being made.

First off, some people complained about where they were going to store their bins before July 1st - I am pretty sure they were stored where they still are now. Then there was the concern about manhandling them out to the curb, and I know there are still some issues surrounding that concern. Then the worry about what bins to put out when (I have to admit I looked up the MDC website, didn't read it properly, and put out the wrong bin the first week). I now rely on my husband to tell me if I put the right one out.

I now see the shiny new bins out every week and think how much better they look than torn black rubbish bags. From my perspective - you got it right, MDC. It is much cleaner, easier on the eye and more efficient, so the bouquet goes to you from me.

I also want to share with you some of the areas Grey Power are working on nationally.

- Cognitive testing for renewal of Drivers' Licences when you reach 80 to be consistent all across New Zealand.
- Submission to NZTA on their Draft Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits Rule 2024.
- Submission to Health Select Committee on the inadequacies in in-home care.

And of course, welcome to these longer days and warmer temperatures. It just might finally be spring.

Gayle Chambers,  
President



## Office Snippets

We are still following up some unpaid subscriptions. Please do let us know if you have decided not to renew this year, and not assume that not paying achieves this. Many of our members are Grey Power Electricity customers and do need to renew to keep the power discounted rate. Please check your email SPAM/JUNK folders, as sometimes the invoices and newsletters end up in there. If you believe that you have paid, but

still have a green sticker on your card, please check your bank statements. Some payments have been made to an old bank account number and they then return to the member's bank account a day or two later. We are unaware that you have tried to pay, and the membership remains outstanding. If you have a yellow membership card and Discount Book, your membership has been renewed - thank you very much for your continued support.

Please remember to let us know any changes of address, phone numbers and/or emails by emailing office@greypowermarlborough.co.nz or telephoning 578 4950.

Grey Power Marlborough and the Marlborough District Council are putting on another of their popular seminars – this one is all to do with **Mobility Scooters**. See events below (**Life Without a Vehicle**) and featured poster for more details.

### Events:

**Tuesday 10 September**, 3pm - 6pm, Welcoming Week Community Expo at the Marlborough Events Centre (next to ASB Theatre).

**Friday 20 September**, drop-in between 1-3pm at Blenheim Library, Seniors Digital Workshop: Recording Your Digital Story.

**21 & 22 September**, 10am - 4pm, Alzheimer's Marlborough Annual Arts and Crafts Trail. Contact 021

126 2508 or MarlboroughAdmin@alzheimers.org.nz for more information.

**Tuesday 24 & Wednesday 25 September**, 3.30pm - 4.30pm, at Blenheim Totara, 22 Alfred Street, Blenheim. Seniors Digital Workshop: Using Photos, Audio and Text for Digital Storytelling, includes Canva.

**Thursday 26 September**, 10.15am,

Grey Power Marlborough and the Marlborough District Council, free seminar and open to all, members and non-members - **Life Without a Vehicle**. This will cover **Mobility Scooter** care, hazard identification, Total Mobility Scheme, safety advice, and practical advice on using a mobility scooter, with a model available to try. At the Nativity Centre, 76 Alfred Street, Blenheim.

## Use that Discount Book

If you have a business and would like to advertise next year, please get in touch with the office at office@greypowermarlborough.co.nz as we begin work on this shortly. Current advertisers will be contacted. We do encourage you to look through your Discount Book, there are some great savings to be had.

Each month we would like to acknowledge the support shown to

our members by some of the businesses: **Beaver Partnership** for local accommodation, **Blackmore Audiology**, **Blenheim Appliance Repairs**, **Blenheim Chimney Cleaning**, **Blenheim Electric House**, **Browns Chimney Services**, **Cerise Home and Giftware**, **Citizen's Advice Bureau**, **Cloudy Bay Funeral Services**, **Cycle World Blenheim**, **Estate Busters**, **Geoffrey T Sowman Funeral**

**Directors and Gleeson Electrical.**

New discount: **Specky the Handyman**, offering lawn maintenance, mowing and gardening, landscaping, weeding and home repairs. Call Peter Speck on 022 300 9237.

Lastly, we would like to extend our condolences to the family of **Lee Chan, Quartz Carpet Care**. We know that many of our members also appreciated him and his fantastic service.

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**Life without a vehicle...**

Seminar brought to you by Grey Power Marlborough and Marlborough District Council

**Thursday 26 September Nativity Centre 10.15am**

Free and suitable for everyone, this Seminar will cover all the tips and tricks for getting the most out of your mobility scooter and operating it safely.

**ALL WELCOME**

Bring a friend or family member. Light refreshments will be provided.





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## Ombudsman's Office - what do they do?

We have all heard about the Ombudsman's Office, but many of us do not know exactly what they do. Two members of the Grey Power committee took the opportunity to find out about this role when we attended a recent road show.

The Ombudsman is an officer of Parliament. That person and those within that Office are independent, impartial, and strive to adhere to their mantra of Tuia Kia Ōrite - Fairness to All. Peter Boshier has held the role of

Ombudsman since 2015, but due to government age restrictions he will retire from this role in the near future.

The Ombudsman's office employs 250 staff with 78% of them being lawyer-trained. They are not advocates but work in an advisory capacity. An example might be that you believe a relative is being mistreated in a residential care facility, but the management will not look into the mistreatment.

**Their mandate includes:**

Guidance and advice.

Investigation of complaints (against government agencies and councils and about the right to information requests).

Receipt of protected disclosures (whistle blowing), monitoring and inspection of places of detention and monitoring performance under Disabilities Convention.

**Who can the Ombudsman look into?**

- Government Departments and Ministries.

- Ministers (about decisions on requests for official information).
- State-owned enterprises and crown entities.
- Universities, polytechnics.
- School boards.
- Public funded care, aged care facilities.
- Custody providers for children/tamariki).

**How can the Ombudsman help you?**

- If you believe you have been treated unfairly by government agencies, councils or school boards.
- Have not been able to resolve your concern with these bodies.
- Are having difficulty getting

information that you have requested from them.

**What can't the Ombudsman help you with?**

- Private individuals or companies.
- Private training establishments.
- Police and Lawyers.
- Members of Parliament.
- Decisions made by a full council or tribunal.
- Government Ministers (unless it relates to a request for official information review or appeal).
- If you have the right to appeal a decision to a court or tribunal.

**Contact by phone:**  
0800 802 602

## Life without a vehicle...

This is a seminar brought to you by Grey Power Marlborough and the Marlborough District Council Thursday 26 September at the Nativity Centre, 10.15am

These seminars are free and suitable for anyone.

The topics being covered are listed below.

There will be time for general questions, but specific questions for a person will not be able to be answered in this public forum.

Please bring a friend or family member, light refreshments will also be provided.

**10.15am Mobility Scooter Care**

Debbie Gull from Access Mobility Blenheim will talk about:

- Maintenance DO's and DON'Ts
- Getting started

**10.40am Hazard Identification & Total Mobility scheme**

Charlotte Campbell-Lamerton from NZTA will talk about:

- What is the Total Mobility scheme & criteria

- Hazard identification - who and how to advise if there is a safety issue for scooter users.

**11.05 Safety advice**

Community Police Officer Russ Smith and Mike McCann will talk about:

- What are the rules
- How to keep yourself safe

Gain more insight into the guidelines and rules when operating a mobility scooter.

As well as advice on how to keep yourself safe when getting around.

**11.30 Practical session**

Russ Smith and Mike McCann will take you through a special session where you can get practical advice on using your scooter.

For those interested in trying out a mobility scooter, there will be a model available.

For more information contact the Grey Power office on ph 5784950 or email jodie.griffiths@marlborough.govt.nz

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**DROP-IN DAY**

**SeniorNet Marlborough Sounds** will be holding its Drop-in session to sort any technology problems you may be having.

Bring your device along, or come with a question to ask, and we'll sort them out.

**16th September from 1pm**  
**LINKWATER HALL**

We are proposing to have these sessions on the 3rd Monday of each month.

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