



Grey Power New Zealand Federation Inc

August 2012

Bulletin

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The reports contained in this Bulletin are as presented at the August 2012 Board meeting or an abridged version by the individual named as author at foot of each article.

The only change made from the original submissions is change of type face to conform to the overall Bulletin format.

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Editors Note:
I have corrected spelling or grammatical errors where noticed. Reports are presented as written. Bob Thompson, Editor/Compiler of The Grey Power Bulletin

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Presidents Report

I appreciate that for some Members the time since the last meeting has been very busy, especially for those involved in the work in preparation for the implementation of the Modernisation Plan.

Since the last Board meeting I have been able to meet with the Matamata Association Committee during the morning the day after the last Board meeting. That afternoon I attended the AGM of the Rotorua Association. Bruce Purchase Zone Director accompanied me to both these meetings. At the Matamata Meeting the local Mayor and four Councillors' also attended to respond to concerns that the Association had raised with the Council. The Rotorua meeting was an opportunity to speak on the matters that are currently being dealt with by the Board. I also presented the Life Membership to Mr Ash Peat.

In June I attended with Mr Gordon Currie the AGM of Marlborough Assn plus the Zone 5 meeting held at Takaka. At the end of last week I attended the meeting of Zone 4 in Palmerston North and on the next day I attended and spoke to a general meeting of the Horowhenua Assn in Levin.

A meeting was also held in Christchurch on the second attempt, attended by Miles Jackson and myself with former residents of Retirement Villages in the red zone who have had the villages destroyed during the Earthquakes. At that meeting the Board Petition asking the Government to provide the same Financial assistance as to that made to residential properties was presented to Hon Lianne Dalziel MP for the Christchurch East Electorate where the damaged Retirement Villages were located. The petition has been presented to Parliament and has been referred to the Finance and Expenditure select Committee. Bill Atkinson has written a submission in support of the petition.

I have attended a meeting of the Inter Rai Governance Board at Ministry of Health. The Board is still setting up the procedures to have this programme operate for Rest Home and Home Care assessment for care.

I was very disappointed to receive an email sent by a Board Member to the Executive Committee which has now invoked

the Code of Conduct. The matter will be discussed at the Board meeting.

I have been asked by the Age Care Assn to be on the Judging panel for the awards that they hold at their Annual Conference to be held at Rotorua in September.

I have had two cases from Members with regard to Rest Home Care where they do not qualify for subsidy. In one case the couple own 2 homes the second for a rental to earn some extra income and have used all their cash reserve and can no longer meet the cost of care until the property is sold and the other is the concern that they have to pay GST on the cost of care.

I have spoken with MSD on the first case as both MSD and Ministry of Health are involved. It appears that there is no appeal process for those that are refused loans to cover the cost until a property is sold. We will need to discuss this with both the Ministers Social Development and Health as MSD feels that a new policy is needed to cover the hardship that people in these circumstances are placed in.

The Executive Committee has held two telephone meetings and the Board will be requested to ratify the decisions made.

It is to be hoped that we can make good progress on the work done on the Committee structure as this is a priority.

I am looking forward to a constructive meeting.

R Reid, President

20 August 2012

Modernisation Plan

Most of the first day's Board Meeting discussion from 9.00am to 3.00pm was concerned with the Modernization Plan (MP).

At the May Board Meeting two resolutions were passed directing the National Secretary and Vice-President to provide guidelines and format for job descriptions/roles and responsibilities for Standing Committees and National Advisory Groups (NAGs). There has never been written job descriptions covering Board Committee's but it was recognized that this was an essential part of the implementation of the Modernization Plan.

The outcome of the resolutions was a confidential document titled "Is This the Way Forward?" which was tabled at the August Board Meeting. This led to a very full Board

discussion which resulted in ten minor changes, made for practical reasons, and these are reported in full in the unconfirmed Board Meeting Minutes.

Once the document now titled "The Way Forward" is updated to include the various changes, including a rewrite of accounting controls and procedures relating to MP6 Finance and Investments Standing Committee, it will be available for general distribution.

Another major change occurred when the President requested the Board now operate under the new structure of Standing Committees and National Advisory Groups (NAGs).

In the meantime President Roy is keeping Associations informed through distribution of **The Modernization Project Newsletter**.

Terry King Vice-President

Zone One

Far North Association based in Kaitaia was a concern as the incumbent President Mr Gordon Bibb resigned as he sold his property and shifted to Whangarei. Maybe Far North's loss will be Whangarei gain in the future but who knows. Gordon gave great service to the Far North Association and his presence will be sorely missed as he was an astute thinker and a very capable debater in all matters affecting the local community. I would like to say a personal thank you to Gordon as he was a fountain of knowledge to me as Zone Director and a very able assistant.

Far North has had association elections and I welcome Graham Dormer in to the President's position and I had the recent pleasure of attending a meeting in Kaitaia and was very please at the way it was run.

Kerikeri has held a mid-year dinner which I and my wife were invited to attend. It was a very nice outing with quite a good muster of the usual friendly personnel from Kerikeri Association.

Whangarei has held its AGM and was lucky enough to encourage a couple of new faces to the committee. It has held several public meetings and the aim of the committee is to have a speaker whose topic is of an advantage to the age group of our members and one that springs to mind was a Mrs Meagan Bowden, a solicitor who specialises in Power of Attorney, she spoke and outlined the

advantages and the need for all people both young and old to have this.

I was ignorant of the concept of this facet of life and never bothered to find out despite continual pressure from my Daughter but after listening to Meagan I immediately commenced proceedings to obtain this and now that it is all sorted and everything signed for [and paid for] I and my wife have both said we feel so much better in providing for our future.

The local Business community is holding an expo on 5th & 6th of October and Whangarei will have a stall. If the result is anything like the last on they can look forward to gaining some new members from it.

Kaipara based in Dargaville is proceeding along nicely and apart from a few local problems which they are handling all is going well. I paid them a visit just recently and they, Kerikeri and Kaitaia are very good groups to visit and I thank them for their invitation and welcome.

One problem they have is a one way bridge at Matakoho on SH 12 which was built in about 1935 / 40 and serves to complete the round the coast tourist route of Northland. This bridge is in a dilapidated condition as when it was built there were no log truck and trailers nor milk tankers and there trailers and there have been promises of renewal or replacement for years. I will be taking this up on their behalf with the local MP before there is a fatal accident at this sight.

Otamatea based at Maungaturoto is also progressing quietly and I will be paying them a visit in the very near future.

All Associations in Zone 1 are not very happy with the modernisation program and the lack of information pertaining to this and when you remember that Zone 1 was the only zone NOT to be visited by Mr Moffett and his entourage they have a right to be as they are as much of Grey Power as is zones 2 through to 7.

Well this enough from me and I am looking forward to next Board meeting in early December in hope of getting some positive information.

J. W. Kerr, Zone One Director

Zone Two

No report received.

Zone Three

On the 1st of October I went to Rotorua to meet with the Committee of the Rotorua Grey Power and David Cunliffe and two other members of the New Zealand Labour Party for a greet and talk and put questions to them on behalf of all our members. Rosemary McKenzie, President Rotorua Grey Power asked about the cost of living issues such as electricity costs, rates basic food prices which keep increasing, she also expressed concern about the exodus to Australia of our young people, not only professionals but trades people as well.

I then raised the subject of the New Zealand Constitution or the lack of, and how this is being driven by the Maori Party with the blessing of the National Party in return for the Maori Party's Loyalty to National.

We then discussed the Treaty claims, real and facetious. the importance of Education. We listened to David and others on their views. I then asked the question why can not the Government undertake a 6 monthly c.p.i. review of supernnauation as we all know it can be done. The Government. have done so when it suited. Why should it not become the norm. David's answer was oh yes it can be done but at what cost and he was sure this was the "NO" factor.

Bruce Purchase, Zone 3 Director

Zone Four

The progress made with the modernisation process, and in particular the agreement that it be run as a project is the big positive over the last few months. There is still a long way to go however, and the most important changes if Grey Power is to evolve into the kind of effective and professional organisation that we need are in people's attitudes, not organisational structure. David Moffet consistently emphasised the importance of communications, and it is this area that provides the bulk of the issues that we need to address.

Effective communication is two way, and while it is always easy to criticise the 'other side' be that Board or Associations, we will never improve as an organisation unless we are willing to admit and address our own failings. As an organisation we have far too many members, at all levels, obsessed with the constitution. The proper place for which is at

the back of a bottom drawer, gathering dust. In my experience organisations that continually refer to them are merely demonstrating their disunity and ineffectiveness. My particular concern is the all too prevalent trait of diving into the constitution to find reasons why things should not be done. We all need to concentrate instead on what needs to be done and finding the best way of doing it.

If the changes being undertaken by the modernisation project team are to have any lasting effect, then we all need to embrace the ethos set out in 'The Way Forward' of a collaborative organisational model with diffuse influence and power, based on dialogue and mutual inter-dependence.

Pete Matcham Zone 4 Director

Zone Five

We had a very successful meeting in Greymouth Association hosting with five Associations sending delegates.

As I have resigned as President of Nelson Grey Power there was no delegates present from Nelson, and Motueka had an apology. Buller was well represented on day two.

We have a system of meeting on Sunday afternoon and taking the Association reports and the Zone Directors report after afternoon tea. We gather for dinner as a group as well.

We then start the Monday with a welcome from the host Association, and in Greymouth's case, Mayor Tony Kockshoorn welcomed us.

Then onto Zone matters which are in the Minutes that will be forwarded when available. The meeting was ended with a luncheon. Allowing us all time to return home in the afternoon.

As a matter of interest the trip from Nelson to Greymouth and return is over 550kms.

President Roy Reid and his wife Merle attend as delegates from Takaka, and Roy was able to update all on matters of concern. Nelson Grey Power has a new president and committee, we wish them well for the future.

Gordon Currie, Zone 5 Director

Zone Six

The last Zone meeting was held in Timaru on the 11th of June. This was well attended with

delegates and observers from all associations. Many of the delegates were fresh from the Grey Power AGM in Invercargill, and commented favourably both on the accommodation and the running of the AGM, credit particularly being given to Mr Geoff Piercy President Southland Grey Power, and Zone 7 Director Mr Les Glassey and his associations the way they hosted it. At past Zone 6 meetings, there has always been discussion of holding these AGMs at college institution, mainly for costs etc, this did not eventuate at this meeting. It was generally felt you could not get better value for money than the Hotel Ascot.

Matters discussed in General business:

After-hours Drs Fees: Concern was expressed about high fees being charged throughout the region.

Power cuts: Concern was expressed by the Christchurch association about E-Cans refusal to allow log burners to be reinstated in earthquake damaged homes in Christchurch.

Remits to AGM. Timaru asked that remits to the Federation AGM be more tightly edited for content and repetitiveness. Life member and former National AGM President Mr L Howard QSM explained how the constitutional process constrained changes being made to remits, by the remits committee; he offered to help associations frame remits in the future.

Emails: Following on from the discussion at the AGM, to overcome associations stating at future AGMs of not getting information from Federation office, Zone 6 Associations were asked by the Zone Director that they supply three e-mail addresses' in the event of some association, Presidents, or Secretary, (where information is usually sent) being away on holiday, or sick. Ashburton asked that Federation use the Bcc facility when sending emails, to exclude long lists of e-mail addresses on their messages which tend to be wasteful of printing paper. (This does not seem to be a problem now)

Restructuring of Federation board: Temuka pointed out some inevitable and possible consequences of the proposed restructuring of the Grey Power Board. Firstly, the associations will lose voting power, being able to elect just one Zone director and two officers at each AGM. Secondly, the proposed clauses in a new Federation constitution that will limit the terms of elected officers would have to be reflected in association constitutions. This may adversely affect associations who have limited membership and limited numbers of volunteers for office. Thirdly, the proposed quorum of 40 associations for Special General Meetings may allow the Zone in which the meeting is being held to monopolize decisions at the expense of the rest of the country.

All associations are reporting the cost of living is impacting on their membership. With the

increased cost of power, food, insurances, and particularly rates, many older people are finding it hard to make ends meet. There has been a greater number across all associations of outstanding subs. While associations are attempting to collect these they are finding some double memberships are dropping down to single.

Miles R. Jackson. Zone 6 Director

Zone Seven

No Report received

Portfolio Reports

Local Bodies Report

There has been much activity on the Local Body front with the Grey Power Federation putting forward a submission to the Local Government Review Committee of the Local Government Act 2002 Amendment Bill 2012.

I received many e-mails of support and verbal thanks at our Zone 5 Meeting. There were a couple of e-mails of the less congratulatory type which, while disappointing, does bring forward the points that we encourage each individual association to forward their own submissions to any hearings, even put forward a submission in their own name. Also if any Association has any points they wish to be included in the Submission, then please forward them to the Federation Office, but please do not be critical of the action after the event.

Bruce Twidle of Mana Tawa Association put in their version of a change to the rating system and had the opportunity to speak at the Hearing with Killian Lacy doing the presentation, well done Bruce and Killian.

Gordon Currie, Chair

Housing

There is a housing issue in Nelson of the regional developers who have allegedly refused to sell land to social housing providers who are looking to build homes to accommodate disabled patrons.

I have been in touch with the CEO and the Nelson Marlborough District Health Board to inquire if Grey Power can assist in any way with their case that has been bought before the Human Right's Commission, more about this later.

The ongoing problem of housing in Christchurch is of great concern to me, but until I am invited to involve Grey Power in the various issues that are occurring in Christchurch, then I don't have a mandate to become involved with out being presented with the facts etc of the wider issues.

The Housing portfolio is a hard one to get into and without input from other Associations it is a bit of a lost cause. So please send information of any housing issues, of interest, to Grey Power to the Federation office for forwarding to me. Thank you.

Gordon Currie, Chair

Retirement Villages

It is gratifying that there has been a positive response to our plea made in the Grey Power Magazine for Retirement Village residents who are Grey Power members to join in our role, and so to assist others who require information or have problems relating to Retirement Villages. A large proportion of our efforts have gone into doing just that and these volunteers will assist us greatly. I therefore thank all who came forward to volunteer.

Christchurch Red Zone. *We are still waiting for a response from Government to the petition filed with the House of Representatives two months ago. The petition is seeking assistance for the ex-residents of Red Zone RV's. Hopefully, no news is good news?*

RVA Conference:- *The Chair of this portfolio was invited to speak to the Retirement Villages Association – the RV operator/owners organization, - Annual Conference at Te Papa Museum, Wellington, on 26 & 27 June 2012 on “Burning Issues regarding RV's from a resident's perspective, and what the operators/industry could do better?”*

This was satisfactorily accepted by the attendees, “who were still speaking to me after the presentation!” The Chair also took part in a panel discussion on “A village's value proposition - does the industry offer value for money?” This appeared to be a worthwhile exercise and the chair returned home with a feeling that it had been accepted in the spirit in which it was given.

Village Gone into Liquidation:- *In order to ensure that the portfolio members do not “rest on their laurels” whilst waiting for*

the Select Committee results, a smaller Retirement Village has now gone into liquidation.

2. Although the RV Act states that no one can “dispose of the RV other than as a going concern” this has been sold but not as a Village? As the residents have been in the situation of not knowing what is to happen for over a year, they have now accepted the offer by the potential purchaser to accept a repayment of their full capital sum originally paid to purchase their Occupation Right Agreement. They may continue to remain in residence for a limited period of time by renting their unit.

Life is never boring for us!!

Bill Atkinson, Chair

Superannuation

The initial objective of the National Advisory Group (Superannuation) is to gain the support of delegates to the 2013 Annual General Meeting for a defined programme of lobbying government to obtain acknowledgement of the worsening impoverishment of older New Zealanders and gain needed supplementary retirement income for low-income, retired person households.

I am presently awaiting a comprehensive statement from the Federation's 'Modernisation Implementation Committee, of the reporting lines, critical deadlines and physical resources which will underpin the work of my advisory sub-group, including confirmation of the identity of any members who have the appropriate expertise to participate as 'contributors' to the superannuation advisory role.

In the meantime I'm working independent of my advisory sub-group on a Superannuation Discussion Document as a lead in to scoping the on-going work related to Superannuation.

What needs to be understood is that the 'Modernisation Plan' in terms of the work of its advisory group structures is presently operating as a 'pilot scheme' parallel with the formal (traditional) method of conducting the Federation's affairs. I am being progressively introduced to the dialogue our organisation enjoys with government and departmental officials, realising of course, that until such time as the new structure is comprehensibly 'bedded in' primary responsibility rests with

the elected board members in their delegated responsibilities for their various portfolios.

Lew Rohloff, Chair

Health

When writing the health report the problem is where to start. There are so many issues and each is as important as the other. So in no particular order here is my report.

There have been a number of concerns expressed as to care and lack of cleanliness in rest homes. I have established that whilst the first responsibility is the local DHB the Ministry of Health have no guidelines as to how rest homes should be monitored. They have audit requirements but these do not seem to cover the day to day problems which are occurring.

After hours doctor's availability especially in rural areas will continue to be followed up. This service is even more vital in light of St John monitoring whether they send an ambulance or not to 111 calls.

Reports have been received of the adverse effects of the new drug which Pharmac has introduced to replace Warfarin. I recently attended a workshop sponsored by the Ministry of Health during which we were shown how Warfarin improved patients in a short time without any side effects. These results were in America, Great Britain and Singapore. This will be raised during our meeting with Pharmac. I find it very strange that we must identify every item in any foodstuffs we purchase but on our medication it sometimes only gives where it was distributed not even where it was made. Another question for Pharmac.

This is the tip of the iceberg but other matters to be followed up are:

Funding only one cataract;

Dental care;

Interai/ new Internet processes;

Prostate cancer tests;

Breast screening for over 69 year olds.

Update on bowel cancer screening tests

This is by no means the end of the list.

Jo Millar, Chair

ACC

As Chairman of the ACC portfolio committee I was disgusted at the contents of an

email forwarded from our President who received it from Charles Chauvel who is the Justice spoke person for the Labour party advising on how ACC was proving Billions of dollars for the construction of a private run prison at Wiri just south of Auckland.

I was always under the impression that ACC was set up to rehabilitate persons injured by accidents and not finance private companies. It was just 2 or 3 years ago the previous ACC Minister the Hon Nick Smith wrote a news item that the ACC was going bankrupt.

What an amazing turn around in finance this has been and one the Government should implement for their flagging finances. All this is going on while ACC are flying specialist surgical personal all around the country to get reports on long term beneficiaries to have them removed from the ACC list. The item shown on TV 3 on Sunday 23rd was a real eye opener and one which the reporter interviewer certainly had the persons being interviewed over a barrel to the point that they had to be rescued by a third person from the intense questioning.

Jack Kerr, Chair

50+ Portfolio

At the 2012 Grey Power Annual General Meeting the modernisation plan was adopted; this has meant the structure of the Board will change.

Under the new structure the 50+ portfolio becomes part of the Health and Social Services national advisory group but it was agreed at the last Board meeting that 50+ would keep its identity and that Jan Pentecost would have special responsibility for this. Shirley Gilmer will also be part of the 50+ team.

The main issue that occupies 50+ at this time is ageism in the work force. The President of Grey Power Waihi Association has provided us with a NZ Herald item about the huge difficulty faced by those older people made redundant and has suggested that Grey Power ask its associations to "actively gather 'local news items', experiences of Grey Power members and even those in the community who are not (yet) members as ammunition for this situation."

Please send us these experiences from your region so we have plenty of first- hand

information to take to Wellington on our advocacy trips.

Information can be sent to

Jan Pentecost or Shirley Gilmer
113 Stringers Road 2/44 Thomas Street
Rangiora 7477 Temuka 7920
jan.pentecost@gmail.com or
dsgilmer@xtra.co.nz

Law and Order

We should put our weight behind Charles Chauvels drive to get the Government to tidy up on law and order.

April the Woeful Private Prison performance how Serco failed to meet half of its performance targets and Minister Anne Tolley had the cheek to defend them when from Mt. Eden they had wrongful releases and an escape from custody.

21st May the Govt. are saying we have 23 too many Judges when there is still a major backlog of court cases waiting to be processed.

21st May corrections announcements score zero for ambition and Anne Tolley and Pita Sharples demonstrate an outstanding lack of ambition to tackle re offending.

12 June Family Court fee a disincentive that mocks consultation- with new fees introduced to the Family Court System the fee which includes \$200.00 for custody disputes and \$700.00 to lodge a relationship property applications incurring a hearing fee of \$1812.00 per day

28th June Yet again National's wasteful spending on private prisons with a locked in figure of \$900 million over a thirty year contract ie \$30 million per year.

Judges should be made accountable for their mistakes like the Cristie's Marceau case this alone should be enough for the Bail Act to be changed. And there should be no more "Concurrent" sentencing. All sentences should be added up and served as they add up to.

The "concurrent" should be removed from all Judges and Lawyers books on sentencing, and this alone may stop the criminals from just carrying on as if they do not care, but if the grand total of sentencing starts to reach out over twenty years just may be ring alarm bells for the criminals to slow

down and think about what they are doing and who they are hurting.

"BRING BACK THE OLD SLOGAN DO THE CRIME DO THE TIME"

Bruce Purchase Chair

Communication and Technology

One of the tasks that were set for the Communication and Technology committee was to set up a national e-mail tree, as a way of communicating with members directly.

While some associations already have this facility, it was felt it was important to also have it from a national point of view. Recently a national grocery chain offered a 5% discount on groceries to Grey Power/ Gold Card holders; unfortunately this offer was only for a very short period, i.e. seven days, hence many of our members were unable to access this opportunity to take advantage of the discount. The normal procedure is to advise associations (this will still happen) who in turn advise members, if the e-mail tree had been in place we would have been able to send this information through the e-mail as soon as the Federation office receives it.

In our September issue of the Grey Power magazine, we invited members to advise our Federation office of their e-mail address, and I am pleased to say many have responded positively.

While talking the Grey Power magazine, I advise the printer has been having distribution problems with both the April and September issue; this has been brought to the publishers notice who in turn have asked for a better effort from the publisher for the November issue. We are sure we will work through this problem, but if you have members who you know have not received their magazine please advise the Federation office. Important that the members address matches the association data base, as well as the Federation data base. From time to time we hear of some members not receiving their copy, and when it is traced back, the Federation office has not been advised.

M.R. Jackson. Chair.

Office Administration

AIL special benefit –A reminder to all Associations to give new members the yellow AIL card. It is not essential that they send it in to AIL (as all financial members on the Grey

Power central database are entitled to this benefit throughout the term of the membership), but advise the member to put the card with their papers in case of any unfortunate event that requires someone to know this entitlement to make a claim.

Duty Free Discount – DFS are offering Grey Power overseas travellers online discount for duty free purchases, (other than Wellington) and we are advised by members that have used it, that there are good savings to be made. A commission is paid to Grey Power Federation for such purchases so I urge all Associations to remind their membership of this service.

Grey Power magazine – We are continuing to have problems with the labelling of the magazines. As at today's date, we have had over 150 magazines returned without labels at all and further, have been advised of some members' magazines having 2nd labels on the back for other persons. Please let the office know if any of your members have not received their magazine. These returns are on top of the ones that we normally receive for deceased or moved members (which have all been checked against the database details and either a) forwarded on to any new address that may have been given in the interim, or b) returned to the Associations for them to ascertain the whereabouts of the member). Please do not forget to advise the new address or delete the member if you cannot locate them.

Fire Wood – A gentleman in the Wellington region has kindly offered Grey Power Federation a \$1 donation on every order of firewood that he delivers to Grey Power members, with further payments on a loyalty basis. I have furnished him with the Zone 4 Director's contact information so that he can get this scheme up and running. He was also keen to advertise in that Zone's Association's newsletters.

Email attachments – The office have been having problems with email attachments. Many Associations and board recipients are unable to open normal types of attachment. We have some who require .pdf files as, surprisingly; they cannot open .doc - formerly the standard attachment that could be opened by all. Many can't open .docx files and some cannot open .pdf. Unfortunately, many are not in positions to get suitable software to enable them access to these files. In order to

streamline the process, I believe that we need to either get some commonality or minimum requirement for the board and Association contact emails. There is currently not one identified file that all can open and we are reformatting everything up to four different ways to accommodate everybody, which is extremely time consuming and not a suitable or efficient means of getting information out successfully.

We are continuing to try out alternative filename extensions and report positive success with .rtf files (Rich Text Format). We wish to trial this as a suitable format for the board to submit to the office for sending out.

In the meantime, we suggest the most efficient method is (where ever possible) to put the information in the body of the email:

firstly – time: because all information immediately presents itself to all,

secondly – compatibility issues: eliminates the problems of not being able to open certain types of attachments and

thirdly compliance with requests: we are advised it is the preferred method for our media contacts. (Note: the new "board memo template" has margins set outside the normal suitable for insertion into the body of an email. This means that the inside margin is not visible and while tabulation allows it to be correct when we send it, evidently this is not always the case for the recipients and some do not know how to tabulate it themselves).

For larger documents, such as minutes etc, they can still be put into the body of the email and accompanied with the relevant attachment (in Rich Text Format at this stage). It should be noted that most files including minutes are sent in hardcopy as a follow up to electronically.

Join Us Cards – We are sending a small supply of these cards for the Associations to put their stamp on the back and use as handouts when collecting signatures or when holding stalls etc.

Kiwibank – Association committees are reminded to encourage their members to enquire with Kiwibank about the special investment rates for Grey Power members joining through our affiliation.

Social Services-CMDHB EAN Advisory Group meetings – I have been attending these meetings and will advise the relevant information as it is released.

I am perturbed that the modernisation plan is being prioritised while our house is not in order. I feel that the problems we have experienced with Associations holding back membership and capitation, and threatening not to pay extra fees (if imposed) and I ask “What is the use of this entire modernisation plan if there are no members to finance it?”

Also, in Mr Adam’s email to Associations, he stated that it was not sponsorship that paid for the smaller Associations to attend AGM. He is wrong and I will bring copies of supporting correspondence to the board meeting to prove this. Some larger Associations accumulate funds, yet think that smaller Associations (with only small areas so they have to work twice as hard to get members) should not get a helping hand. Perhaps these large Associations could look to support our smaller Associations rather than making donations to Age Concern and similar agencies.

Violet McCowatt, Chair

more signatures than is required to counter the invalidity factor.

When people are signing please make sure they are completing the signing in full, i.e.;

Signature & DOB Full Name Residential address. *This will help to keep the signature valid.*

In conclusion thank you for your effort to date, but we need to push on and give an extra push to get us over the line.

Miles Jackson

Membership

No report received

Supplementary Reports

Keep Our Assets Petition

Last Thursday I attended a “Keepourassets” wider group meeting in Wellington, notes from the meeting as follows.

The tally of signatures gathered is standing at around 270,000, unfortunately signature gathering has slowed, (this is quite normal in petitions, the first 3 months is usually when all the action takes place), and hence, we are calling on all groups to give an extra push to gather another 70,000 signatures over the next 6 weeks.

From the Grey Power perspective, I believe now better weather and spring is here, we have the capacity to get out and get a lot more signatures. I suggest you look at events coming up in your area, such as A&P shows; school fairs, etc, and try and get involved. Rest homes, & retirement villages, as is bowling clubs are potential signature gathering areas.

As mentioned in my last advice (20th August,) I mentioned the invalid signature was running around 12%, which mean we must get