

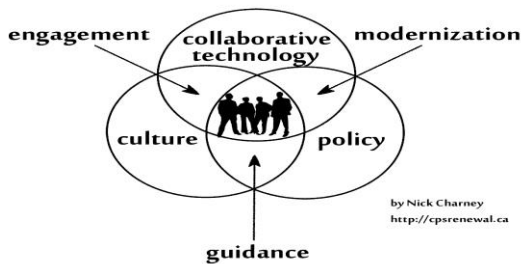
# Grey Power

THE ACTIVE ORGANISATION FOR OLDER PEOPLE



## Bulletin – August 2017

### The New Communicator



### ADMINISTRATION, STAFF, INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS, MAGAZINE

ADMINISTRATION - Office administration has been undertaken with the usual level of efficiency with no major issues. That may well change with the change in premises so some consideration by people who contact the office on a regular basis would be appreciated.

STAFF - There are no major staff or employment issues to report. There will be an annual review of wages before Christmas.

INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS - There is a number of internal communication issues with no obvious solutions so far. The main issue seems to be regular complaints, from some Associations, that they are not kept informed of Federation business and activities. On investigation, I found that a few Associations rely too much on unconfirmed board minutes rather than their zone representatives. The same applies to some zones. While it is important for Associations to be kept up to date with Federation happenings it is the principal role of zone directors to report fully to the Associations in their zones as soon after a board meeting as possible. We have returned to circulating minutes but only after they have been confirmed by email. While there will always be There are also regular complaints from a small number of people who don't read reports, don't

visit the Federation website and don't read the magazine or the bulletin. Some don't have email addresses and have unlisted telephone numbers. Keeping them informed is something of a challenge.

I have yet to discuss these issues with the new communications committee but hope to do so shortly.

MAGAZINE - The magazine has improved in terms of content and that improvement is an ongoing process. While there will always be complaints about advertising they are a commercial reality. There is an unrealistic assumption that the Federation supports advertisers. We don't.

**Tom O'Connor** (Standing Committee Chair)



### OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR/MANAGER'S REPORT

#### OFFICE PREMISES:

We have had major flooding on a few occasions this past winter making our current premises untenable so (as at the time of writing this report) we are in the process of securing new arrangements which we are working on in conjunction with the Administration Committee and Executive.

#### WEBSITE:

I am intending to see if Associations would be interested in having their own space/page built into our website, which they access by personal logon, where they can maintain and add their Association information and links to it. This

would give more control and responsibility to the individual Associations without their having the expense of individual websites.

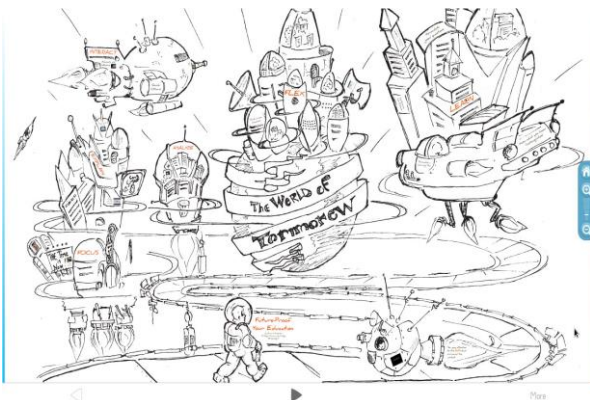


### **SOCIAL SERVICES REPORT - SURVEY**

A huge thank you to all Associations and their members for their hard work and time taken filling out and returning the social services survey. With such a great response, I am still compiling the results.

As this will be my last Social Services Report I would like to take this opportunity for thanking those members who have served on the Social Services Committee under my chairmanship. A great deal of effort and hard work has resulted in very positive results through the years, and I believe the Social Services Survey will confirm that.

**Violet McCowatt** (Office Administrator/Manager)



### **ADVOCACY, ELECTION STRATEGY, RESEARCH AND SUPERGOLD CARD:**

#### **ADVOCACY:**

The main aim of advocacy is to advance, support and protect the welfare and well-being of older persons in New Zealand.

#### **Goals for 2017/2018?**

Below is a list of issues that have been or will be part of the advocacy plan. The team has lobbied at least once on most issues.

#### **Aged Care & Retirement Villages**

- Spot Rest Home audits
- Increased funding for rural rest homes
- Training for rest home/ home caregivers
- Travel allowance for carers
- Establish an aged care commissioner position
- Utilisation of the InterRAI assessment instrument
- Elder abuse and dementia patients
- Siting of dementia units in rest homes on the ground floor
- Rest Home Subsidy re the problem of Ministry of Health's refusal to provide a carry-over loan while property is sold and no appeal for this process
- Dispute procedures similar to registered retirement villages, for villages under unit titles act (remit 2017)
- Small print on packaging & legal documents (remit 2017)

#### **Finance & Investment**

- Financial transaction tax to replace GST (remit 2016)
- Restoration for \$1000 kick-start for Kiwi Saver
- NZ Super fund to become a permanent institution to help keep NZ Super @ age 65 yrs sustainable
- Cheque deposits through bank teller - no charges

#### **Energy**

- Unaffordable power prices for vulnerable people
- Standardisation and transparency of power accounts
- Fair prices from the Electric Power Companies for the units of electricity they receive from solar power users – feedback to the grid

#### **Fifty Plus**

- Ageism - redundancy issues etc.
- Re-instatement of the tertiary education commission funding to SeniorNet (remit 2017)

#### **Health**

- Medical insurance (2014 remit)
- Increased prescription charges
- Removal of District Health Boards (DHB) subsidy re blister packs for medication

- The cost of medical fees associated with renewal of drivers' licences
- DHB, PHO contract breaches
- DHB information sharing
- Allocation of funding for DHBs
- WINZ monetary assistance for after-hours medical care
- Prostate cancer screening = publicity re PSA tests
- The cessation of breast screening at 69 years old
- Bowel cancer screening
- Diabetes and new blood glucose meters
- Inquiry into faulty hip replacement prostheses
- Cataracts - treatment for one eye only by DHBs
- Free shingles vaccine for superannuitants who are CSC holders
- Hospital discharge without follow-up and at unsuitable hours
- Pradaxa versus Warfarin re incompatibility of former
- Patient accessibility to medicines
- Elderly Suicide
- Use of Generic drugs
- Cost of dental care (remit 2016)
- ACC and the Woodhouse Report
- ACC Rule changes - hearing loss
- ACC's response to older persons' falls
- Elective surgery- national prioritisation tools – fairness and equity
- DHB funding to ensure all eligible patients receive hip & knee replacements (remit 2017)
- Travel reimbursement of the cost of travelling to hospital
- Affordable hearing aids (remit 2016)
- Opposition to Natural Health Products Bill (remit 2017)
- No GST on accounts for private patients who elect to pay for elective surgery themselves (remit 2016)

### **International Treaties**

- Concern at the possibility of loss of Pharmac's ability to access reasonably priced medicines and medical devices

### **Law, Order, Emergency Management and Transport**

- The use of rail as alternative transport
- Insurance costs post-earthquakes

- Media advertising of alcohol
- High viz jackets etc. for mobility scooter riders (remit 2017)

### **Local Bodies and Housing**

- Rates rebate for those who live in retirement villages
- GST on rates
- Under-utilisation of the rates rebate scheme
- Affordable housing
- Age-Friendly Cities

### **Social Services**

- Grandparents raising grandchildren - request for extra funding to be allocated by grants
- Social Isolation
- National wills data base
- Reduced passport costs
- Compulsory third party vehicle insurance

### **SuperGold Card**

- Photos on SuperGold card
- Bulk-funding of SuperGold card off-peak travel

### **Superannuation & Taxation**

- The inequity inherent in Kiwisaver
- Abatement of unqualified spouse payments, other income
- The sustainability of the current superannuation scheme
- Living standards of a single superannuitant
- Six monthly superannuation/ benefit reviews

### **Telecommunications**

- Communication issues in the Far North
- Free to air television channel that screens news, films, sport and current affairs debates without advertising



### **HELPFUL QUESTIONS RE THE PRIORITY OF ISSUES TO BE RAISED DURING ADVOCACY VISITS:**

- Will addressing this issue help to improve the lives of people who are poor, vulnerable or marginalised?
- Will advocacy contribute to change on this issue and is it the right tool?

- Does this issue have a specific and achievable goal (whether long-term or short-term)?
  - Do we have access to the decision-makers who can influence change on this issue, either in our own right or in coalition with others?
  - Could this issue be interesting to the media and our members?
  - Is the issue on the political agenda or potentially politically topical?
  - Are there sufficient member stories and examples to engage the decision-makers and the public?
  - Is there enough general background research to support members' stories and examples?
  - Does the issue fit with Grey Power aims/priorities/policies?
  - Are we clear about our particular contribution (i.e. our 'value added') towards seeing change on the issue?
  - Could advocacy on this issue improve Grey Power's reputation?
- (Thanks to Tear Fund for ideas)

**Editor's comment: These questions could well form a basis for deciding on the suitability of remits to be submitted to the AGM!**

#### ELECTION STRATEGY

The aim is to influence political parties' 2017 election policies by utilising every opportunity to advance, support and protect the welfare of older people in New Zealand at the appropriate time preceding the central government elections.

**The following questions have been sent to the main political parties who, apart from the Maori Party, have indicated that they will have their replies to Grey Power by the end of July:**  
Superannuation

Would your party maintain national superannuation as a fully universal, non-means tested pension available to all New Zealanders at age 65?

#### Elective Surgery

How would your party provide adequate funding and ensure that national priority criteria are consistent across all DHBs for elective surgery?

#### Affordable Housing

How would your party address the major issue of affordable housing shortage for elderly and low income New Zealanders?

SUPERGOLD CARD – no action this trimester

RESEARCH – The aim of research is to utilise the expertise of members and external organisations to provide a research resource for all activities of Grey Power.

General information -

All evidence gathered for advocacy by anyone is subject to the normal research ethics which require that respondents are assured of confidentiality and are provided with reasons for collecting the information and how it will be used.

**Tom O'Connor & Jan Pentecost** (Advocacy Standing Committee Co-coordinators)



#### **FINANCE AND INVESTMENT**

The reduction of bank services to smaller towns and suburbs continues to happen.

It would appear that banks put "profit before service" to their customers.

Kiwibank has downgraded the service in some areas especially where the bank is operated by another business such as a book shop or supermarket. Most of these outlets only do banking transactions and are unable to open accounts etc. This does make banking more difficult for many Members especially those who do not use electronic banking.

Other banks have closed branches and this is upsetting for those that have used them for a long time.

**R Reid** (Finance & Investment Standing Committee chair)



# NATIONAL ADVISORY GROUPS



## AGED CARE AND RETIREMENT VILLAGES

### RETIREMENT VILLAGES

Issues brought up by Associations and in the process of being followed up:

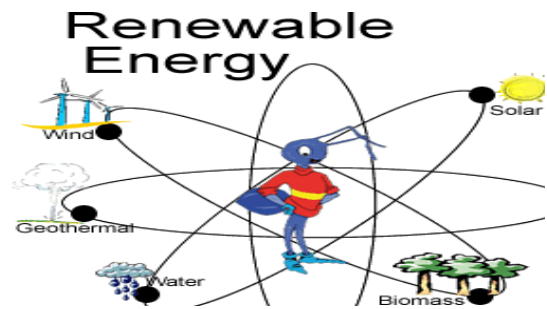
- Unregistered villages being built in small centres without regard for existing conditions such as GP availability and transport;
- The need to register all retirement villages so the residents have recourse to the same complaint procedures and other benefits.

### AGED CARE

Issues of concern:

- The situation where home carers are having their hours reduced to compensate for the increase of wages recently granted them;
- The travel rates accorded to home care workers to get to and from work are only 30c/km, less than half the IRD rate;
- The Aged Residential funding model is up for review – Roy has been appointed to the committee as a consumer representative;
- The Healthy Aging Strategy refers to home care as being restorative care. Does this mean that a person receiving home care enjoys better health and is expected to be, in time, no longer in need of care?
- The need for regular InterRAI assessments not done by phone, before any reduction in hours of care takes place;
- The effect on elderly people being forced out of their rest homes because of the Government subsidy rate being too low to allow the rest home to operate profitably;
- The cost charged to unsubsidised residents in rest homes.

**R Reid** (Aged Care and Retirement Villages National Advisory Group chair)



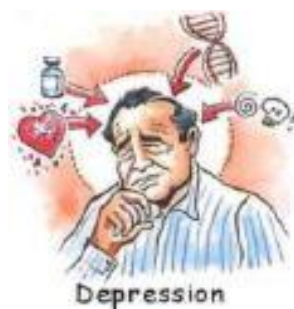
## ENERGY

A number of reports on electricity has recently appeared from various agencies:

Items of interest arising:

- The effect of an increase in the number of electric cars in the country – there could be an increase in the demand, and a consequent rise in prices, in the night peak rates;
- Asset management by distributors – this is the subject of question by the Consumer Advisory Group. The report has revealed that distributors are also involved in overseas businesses;
- The energy policy of Grey Power is to be reviewed and include solar power.

**B. Sommerfeld** (Energy National Advisory Group Co-Chair)



## FIFTY PLUS AND MEMBERSHIP MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Committee recommends that a national membership drive be undertaken with the view to increasing membership to 100,000 within 5 years thus meeting the target in the Strategic Plan. It will be the Associations that recruit the new members but the Federation must assist. The plan would involve all from the President down and be funded by the Federation from an approved

budget. It is anticipated that the capitation from the increased membership would reimburse the costs incurred.

### LIFE MEMBERSHIP

The Committee agreed to prepare a policy on awarding life memberships.

**Eldernet** have requested Grey Power to consider listing on their Web page for the purpose of attracting new members. Eldernet have a very extensive service for its members by listing services and products available. The services are listed in the following categories Trades/Home Maintenance etc. Equipment and Products, Community Groups, Travel, Tours and Recreation, Transport, Funeral Services, Dental, Hearing, Vision, Downsizing & Relocation and Professional Services.

There are other groups and associations that also offer services and products that would benefit Grey Power Association members, including Seniornet. Such groups' membership could also benefit by knowing what Grey Power offers if their members join Grey Power.

**Trevor Donald** (Fifty Plus and Membership National Advisory Group Co-Chairman)

### 50 PLUS

Goals and action intended for the 2017/2018 reporting year are to:

- Advocate for Treasury to include non-monetary based services and work in the reporting of the country's economic performance;
- Advocate for the reinstatement of all the monetary assistance previously provided to 55 plus year old people to enable them to continue any education that they wish or need to pursue;
- Advocate for the provision of training for Work and Income case managers to address the specific needs of older work seekers;
- Work on other relevant 50 plus issues which may arise throughout the year;
- Add where relevant in the 50 plus policy that those who are unable, for age-related causes, to work until retirement age must receive a legal,

non-means tested, entitlement equal to national superannuation.

**J. Pentecost** (50+ National Advisory Group Co-Chair)



### **HEALTH AND ACC**

Issues exercising the NAG at the moment:

- The changes in how home help is being allocated to those who need it to stay in their own homes;
- Doctors' fees;
- Oral health in the elderly.

**Jo Millar** (Chair Health & ACC)

### REPORT ON ORAL HEALTH WORKSHOP

The following is a summary of a report prepared by Jan Pentecost:

The oral health of older New Zealanders – if you're not nervous about it yet you should be:

- Ageing population means more old people with some of their own teeth - more old teeth = more health risk
- Lack of information in NZ re older persons' oral health- especially vulnerable older people – some statistics provided in the 2012 Older people's oral health survey
- There will be an increase in older people living in rest homes, especially those suffering from dementia which can be problematic for good oral health care
- High cost of oral health care is a significant barrier to good oral health.

Frailty and the cost of effective health care

- The Seattle Care Pathway provides actions to maintain oral health at different levels of dependency i.e. older people who not dependent on anyone for oral health care through to frail people with high dependency. This latter group can present major challenges for the delivery of oral health care.
- This pathway includes the issue of poor oral health as an indicator of neglect and therefore elder abuse

Oral health and possibilities and challenges of caring for older peoples' oral health

- Comprehensive oral health questions not very strong in InteRai assessment
- Oral health care not of great interest to politicians
- Oral health care in rest homes variable - high staff turnover problematic - no requirement for oral health care although the MoH provides guidelines

Question asked: what is the cost/benefit to health system of poor oral health care?

**Personal comment on how effective the meeting was and its value to Grey Power:**

- A better understanding of the problems associated with poor oral health
- Knowledge of research publications and contacts to further 2016 AGM remit re cost of oral health
- The ability to discuss the work Grey Power has already done on oral health including our current research
- The understanding that the issue of oral health involves Grey Power's advocacy and research plus Aged Care and Health National Advisory Groups.

**Report by Jan Pentecost**

**BILATERAL INVESTMENT TREATIES (BITS): IN WHOSE INTEREST?**



**INTERNATIONAL TRADE TREATIES**

New Zealand is a trading nation and our standard of living relies on exports and it is essential that our government negotiates the best possible terms for the exporter who in turn provides employment for our country. The government in these negotiations should not overlook the wellbeing of their citizens. Previous reports to the board have informed the board the perils of the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP)

In view of the remaining possibility of a trade treaty similar to the TPPA being negotiated, several questions are being asked:

1. Will the NZ public be fully informed of the

clauses in the agreement, that the Hon Todd Mc Clay has failed to address to us on?

2. The laws on copyright and how it may affect NZ companies and also individuals?
3. Pharmac's ability to purchase certain medicines and that they may become unaffordable to Pharmac?
4. The loss of NZ sovereignty should not be overlooked and what steps is the government going to take to ensure that by signing the TPP this is not overlooked?

Most of our questions have been vaguely answered and question D has been brushed over.

**Bern Sommerfeld** (Co-Chair International Trade Treaties)



**LAW AND ORDER, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND TRANSPORT**

- Details in a Justice Department Summit report on Family Violence and subsequent release of Policy has been discussed locally with the Violence Intervention Programme but It will be ongoing.
- Since receiving a letter from the Minister of Police about staffing levels there have been some minor changes but this may well change after the election.
- Despite a number of attempts to make contact with the Minister for ACC to discuss compensation I have been unable to do so. This matter is on hold and we will try again after the election.

A new member of the committee is Bill Obers from Invercargill who will look after the Emergency Management Role. Three are some issues that we need to follow up as far as our older members are concerned and we will be writing a submission in the near future.

Pete Matcham with the transport role has followed up the remit from the last AGM regarding the wearing of reflectorised jackets whilst driving mobile carts.

**G. Faulkner** (Law and Order, Emergency Management and Transport National Advisory Group chair)

## **ZONE REPORTS**

### **ZONE 1**

There has been little activity within the Northland Associations since the March Zone meeting where I was elected as Zone director.

Trevor Donald from Kaipara Association has taken over the Role of Zone Representative and will join the Federation Board as Chair of the Membership and 50 +, and has some very enthusiastic ideas for increasing membership.

Most Zone 1 Associations have successfully held Annual General Meetings and basically retained existing Committees.

The Whangarei Association is continually growing in numbers and now has over 800 members.

Kaipara is still the most active Association In Zone 1, attracting new members with well attended meetings and good local advertising and is negotiating for a retirement village to be established in Dargaville.

**Don Nightingale**

Zone 1 Director

### **ZONE 2**

- Federation Life Member John Ballantyne died suddenly recently. His long term contribution to the Federation and to the Auckland Grey Power is deeply appreciated.
- Responsibility for the zone has been split between myself, retaining overall responsibility and attending to the northern Associations, and Mate Marinovich, Chair of Waitakere and Deputy Zone Director, keeping in touch with the southern Associations.
- Issues with Auckland Council:
  - The review of the fundamental Auckland Plan;
  - The endemic breakdown of effective community contact between the Council and Auckland residents. Some positive discussions have been held on issues affecting seniors but the size and complexity of the job makes communication difficult.

- The adoption by the Council of the Age Friendly Cities programme and principles.
- The transfer to a new organisation of the city's volcanic cones, resulting in severe restriction in vehicular access to them, which effectively shuts out many seniors who cannot walk up the steep slopes.
- The transfer of the 1400 senior housing units in the city to a joint venture company. Issues with regard to resident contact and care have not yet been resolved.
- Negotiations with Ryman Health over development issues in Devonport were helpful in improving the situation.
- All Associations are having 'political' speakers in the run-up to the general election.

**Bill Rayner**, Zone 2 Director

### **ZONE 3**

Zone 3 held its third meeting of 2017 this month in Matamata. Some of our Associations have difficulty in attending because of distance. It is hoped to be able to make better inclusion of these Associations possible.

There is widespread discontent among zone associations with the content of the national Grey Power magazine, in particular the amount of advertising and the quality of the lead page and editorial. Members in the zone have expressed serious disappointment with recent editions of the magazine, noting that it does not adequately represent the organisation.

Zone members who attended the recent AGM in Palmerston North expressed serious concerns over both the running of that meeting and the appropriateness of the venue facilities. The Zone is compiling a list of the key issues as feedback to the Board for reference for future AGMs. There was also a very strong view that there is a need for amendment to that part of the Constitution relating to the election of Life Members. The current process implied by the Constitution has been cumbersome and embarrassing for life membership nominees for the last three AGMs.

Zone members continue to express concern over the lack of useful information available to members on the Grey Power website.

To questions from a number of Associations, members were advised that, quite separately from national awards, individual associations may make Life Membership awards



within their Associations, provided that was in accordance with their Constitution.

**Merv Lauder**

Zone 3 Director

## **ZONE 4**

### **Horowhenua**

#### **Membership:**

As at the 30 June 2017 938 Members [927 31st May]

**Stall in the Mall:** Members of our Committee manned a pop-up stall in the Levin Mall on Tuesday 11th July to recruit members and raise the profile of Horowhenua Grey Power.

**Bus to Waikanae:** After many attempts to have this service instituted, a bus is now available to take people to Waikanae on Tuesdays and Thursdays on a 2-year trial. So far the service has been well patronised. We are putting brochures on the bus for distribution to passengers.

**AGM & Elections:** HGP held its Annual General Meeting on Friday 16th June. Terry Hemmingsen was elected President; Rosemary Penney, Vice-President. Lynne McKenzie was confirmed as Secretary; Dave Hardman as Membership Registrar; Margaret Taplin, Treasurer. Lew Rohloff was recognised as being the Past President.

**Home Care / Personal Care:** We are getting reports that older people in the community are being assessed, without the help of a support person or advocate, following the increase in wage payments to the care-givers. Once again, hours for home care and/or personal care are being cut, putting our vulnerable older people who still live in their own homes at serious risk.

**The Question of Maori Members:** A question was put to me recently by a Maori Party Candidate for the General Election. How many Maori members do we have and what are we doing for Maori, as Maori?

At a local level I could (sort of) answer the question; at a national level ???

**Terry Hemmingsen, President**

### **Wainuiomata**

We are in good financial standing at the moment and continue to attract new members .

Last year we hosted Woburn Masonic Trust who outlined what a retirement complex could look like, should they find it viable to build in Wainuiomata, on the ground the council released

for that purpose – we still wait to hear the outcome on that.

In short, Wainuiomata are in good heart.

**Jane Chamberlain** – President Wainuiomata

### **Napier and Districts' Association**

Our membership is currently standing at 1259.

Our main source of new members is our full-page monthly ad. in the Napier Mail, which has a wide circulation in Napier.

Napier Grey Power is fronting a local petition, asking the Napier City Council to reinstate the Eternal Flame and Memorial Plaques, and renaming the building back to the Napier War Memorial Hall. As this has generated a lot of heat, we are hoping an on-line petition can be created also.

The Association is in good heart, and involved in a number of local issues.

**Laurie Jenkin** (President)

### **Dannevirke**

Dannevirke Grey Power, membership 145. The leadership team is united and working well together to bring about interesting and entertaining meetings for all who attend.

We have many of our members doing for and caring for people in the community and giving of themselves to other groups of Dannevirke people.

One of our members, Arthur “Stalky” Law, has been recognised by the Freemasons Charity for “A Tradition of Learning” and was presented with a Gold Badge and an engraved citation - 'Presented 20th May 2017 in Recognition of input to many groups such as the New Zealand Foundation of the Blind'.

Many reports of concerns affecting our local elderly people are shared by members of our Grey Power Group in different organisations.

**Graeme Lock** President

### **Hastings & Districts**

Our A.G.M in April saw Marie retire as President and Ron Wilkins elected as President and existing committee re-elected minus a secretary.

Our renewals are well ahead of last year figures (1141) 1276 to date. We also have gained a lot of new members from the President

addressing several organisations on Grey Power Electricity.

Our monthly meetings are increasing in numbers which can only be because of the guest speakers and advertising.

We are well on the way with our General Election campaign with meetings arranged involving our local candidates as well as national personnel from various parties.

**Ron Wilkins** President

### **Wairoa & Districts**

We held our A.G.M. at the end of May – a good, active committee achieving well. We were delighted to learn of President Les Hine’s election to Life Membership of the national body, an endorsement of their recommendation for well-earned recognition.

Our membership continues to grow – now over 1200 which is a huge number when taking into account the total population of our small town and district. Again, we realise that the incentives of Grey Power Electricity and other benefits are usually the reason for folk to join our organisation, rather than the desire to work together with other like-minded citizens to achieve improvements in all facets of life for all, especially the elderly.

On the national front, we are pleased that the difficulties with the flagging of Kiwi Bank accounts have now been resolved and we will be urging our members to play their part in earning commissions for Grey Power.

**Shirley Callaghan** Secretary

### **Wanganui**

Wanganui Grey Power held an enjoyable AGM on the 8th June. Sharron Callaghan was elected in as president, the first woman president since 2003, as well as a new committee with plenty of passion and energy. Votes of thanks were made to past President Don Burney and ex-secretary of 20 years Cynthia Adams. Since the AGM the committee has had a meeting with Julie Patterson CEO of the Wanganui District Health Board where we learnt a lot on the workings of the hospital system. She answered questions that we had prepared for her on what was affecting the health and well-being of the elderly in Wanganui.

Grey Power would like to see a committee member on the board of the Disability and Community Advisory Board of the Wanganui

DHB, representing the elderly of Wanganui, currently 26% of the population.

We are pushing for the local Council to adopt Age Friendly Cities criteria, as well as lobbying for the retention of the local buses in Wanganui and looking into the local issue of the Castlecliff Medical Centre where there is a problem with relocating and retaining the services.

**Sharron Callaghan** President

### **Wellington South East**

We held the AGM on Wednesday. We did get a quorum and a new committee was elected so Wellington South East will continue. I was re-elected president, Gandabhai Vallabh will continue as treasurer and Jeanene Barnard takes over as membership secretary.

**David Williams** President

### **Kapiti**

Current activities:

- Part of a Council supported steering group arranging a partition seeking an ED hospital in Kapiti.
- Participating in a group preparing a submission for the next Council Long Term Plan to increase Social Housing in Kapiti.
- Member of the Age Friendly Steering Group in Kapiti.
- We have established a programme of meetings for the general elections

**Trevor Daniell**

### **Manawatu**

A new committee has been elected at the AGM a few changes but nothing major. It is really encouraging to hear that we have two new volunteers for the office, but we are still looking for more.

We are still receiving good numbers of renewals of Subs.

At our August meeting, we will be having a political debate, all candidates having been invited. We should have either six or seven candidates speaking.

**Lew Findlay** President.

### **ZONE 5**

The 7 Zone 5 Associations have all had their AGMs resulting in a change of Presidents in the listed Associations;

- • Christine Tuffnel Nelson
- • Monty Tawhai Motueka
- • Jo Awatere-Jones Greymouth

The main concerns of the zones:

- The degeneration of our health service being administered to older people, including discharge from hospital at totally the wrong time of day, and strong intimation that their age is a barrier to receiving services.
- Services currently offered from fewer WINZ offices are more cumbersome, and create a general dislike of communication.
- Issues for our members with Government departments now promoting all business online (eg IRD). There appears to be penalties for those who cannot or do not have the access to internet and computers.

Renewals of membership over all has tended to be slow in some Associations.

**Kevin Gardener**, Zone Director

## ZONE 6

Associations are all enjoying meeting at our centrally located venue in Ashburton.

Grey Power Waimate is back in fine form, after languishing for some time. President Bern Sommerfeld has a fully functioning keen committee back up and running.

Grey Power Temuka also has a new President Ken Love and Secretary Vicki Howie.

Finally, congratulations to National President Tom O'Connor on the publication of his book "*The Ferret*" about Waimate war hero Eric Batchelor. Well done, Tom.

**Denise Fitzgerald**, Zone 6 Director

## ZONE 7

A major concern: our new hospital at Kew was not built big enough and selected surgeries are being put aside to cater for the 'winter ills' and that there is a shortage of trained staff.

### **Federation AGM Review**

Summary of concerns re Federation AGM 2017:

1. The overall quality of Remits was poor.
2. The shape of the Meeting room - people at the back of the room couldn't see the top table and were frustrated at not being noticed when they wanted to speak.
3. The last minute cancellation of the New Members Induction Course caused some dismay.

4. The hoax re Mayor Tim Shadbolt's alleged death was badly timed.

5. The ex-Vice-President's walkout after the election results were announced was not a good look.

6. Chairpersons of the National Advisory Groups should report verbally to the AGM and be available for questions.

7. More respect needs to be shown for the chair and also speakers, by delegates not talking among themselves when they should be listening.

**Les Glassey**, Zone 7 Director.

