



Grey Power New Zealand Federation Inc

November 2014

Bulletin

Associations please note: You may use any part of the contents of this bulletin as copy for your Association News Letter

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The reports contained in this Bulletin may be abridged versions of those presented at the November 2014 Board Meeting by person named as author at foot of each article. Complete versions are available on request from the Grey Power Federation Office.

Presidents Report

Like members of the Federation Board and its associated National Advisory Groups, I'm sure Association Committee members around the country are looking forward to a well-earned break during the up-coming holiday period. It's therefore appropriate I express on behalf of the Federation Board our thanks to all Associations for their assistance and support during the year.

The November Board Meeting faced a heavy working Agenda and with excellent contributions from all members the many issues and requests were dealt with in good time. Day two of the Meeting commenced at 8.00am with a 6.00pm finish and this is a punishing, but very necessary schedule, for everyone as we discuss reports and consider recommendations.

Mac Welsh and his Legal and Regulation committee submitted an amended "Gifts and Bequests" guideline which was approved by the Board and with the assistance of Miles Jackson and his Communications committee the new policy will appear on our web-site and other Grey Power publications. Essentially this policy provides a mechanism for anyone to make a bequest or leave a gift to Grey Power NZ Federation Inc. for the future benefit of our organization.

Last week I was invited to attend a function at the Ministry of Social Development and spoke to the new Minister Hon Anne Tolley and senior Ministry staff who were very supportive of Grey Power. In addition I visited the Beehive and met Hon Maggie Barry Minister for Senior Citizens and following a lengthy discussion issued an invitation for her to attend the February Federation Board Meeting for an introduction to the Board Members followed by a full and frank discussion on various Grey Power matters.

Roy Reid is doing an outstanding job as National Treasurer and his Report introduced new areas of budgeting and accountability not only for Board Members but also Chairs of the various National Advisory Groups (NAG's). Having regard to inflation and the fact capitation fees have not been increased for six years or more, Roy's belt tightening exercise is very appropriate.

The September Board Meeting approved the setting up of a Media sub-

committee and Chairman Mike Coupe, on behalf of his committee, submitted a draft Media Report which contained innovative suggestions. After consideration by the Board the Report was referred to Miles Jackson's Communication and Technology Standing Committee for further discussion at the February 2015 Board Meeting. This is a very important matter and therefore final decisions by the Board need to be made with care and foresight since the Federation is ethically and legally liable.

This is the final Bulletin for 2014 and on behalf of the Board we extend thanks to Bob Thompson for his Editorial contribution and also to the Federation Office staff of Violet, Janice and Charlotte for their assistance to the Board and Associations during the year. To Mike Blake and his team who produce the Grey Power Magazine best wishes for the festive season.

National Secretary Jan Pentecost warrants a particular mention for her behind the scenes hours of work as an unsung hero, and we say a big thank you to Jan and husband Tony.

My special thanks to all Board Members, National Advisory Groups, Zone Directors and Associations for making the Grey Power organization a force to be reckoned with.

May you all have a relaxing and enjoyable time during the Christmas and New Year holiday period.

Terry King, National President

Treasurer's Report

Income: Since my last report the income from capitation has now increased to \$261,404.55 which is still below budget by \$7675.45. The total of financial members at the 31 October was 62,485 with an additional 7,933 being shown as un-financial members.

The capitation from the unfinancials would generate another \$35,301.85 of income, but we can only expect to receive a small percentage of that in the next two months. At the end of October the shortfall in capitation for the year to reach budget is \$7,675.45.

The budget also has a budgeted income of \$100,000 from Grey Power Electricity. This figure will not be reached resulting in a big budget shortfall.

Income is also received from Kiwibank on investments and WBN as a profit share on the magazine.

Expenditure: At the end of October actual expenditure totalled \$380,573.68.

Expenditure compared to budget shows several cost centres as being overspent indicating that the budget for these cost centres will need to be increased for next year.

Income and Expenditure: For the last 2 months as would be expected expenditure exceeded income.

	Income	Expenditure
Sept 2014	45,902.49	53,975.66
Oct 2014	<u>19,936.79</u>	<u>20,312.40</u>
Total	65,839.28	74,288.06

Budget 2015: All Committee chairs were requested to present a proposed expenditure for 2015 no later than 15 October for inclusion in next year's budget which the Board should adopt at this Board meeting.

R Reid

Zone Reports

Zone 1

The next Zone meeting is on the 20th November and Federation President Terry King offered to attend the Zone meeting if we could change the date to the 21st. Unfortunately it did not suit the Associations. Whangarei then invited Terry to attend a meeting on the 21st and he accepted. Members from other Associations have been invited.

Phone coverage in the Kaipara area is a concern. Kaipara Association is now doing the ground work contacting Telecom, Council etc. It has not been resolved.

Whangarei Association has successfully negotiated a deal with Council where by security doors will now be installed on all Council flats.

The TPPA is a concern for our members

The reimbursement by the Ministry of Health for travel to hospital services is on going, requiring the distance of 80ks one way be reduced to 40ks

ACC Hearing Aids. ACC will now only pay less than half the cost of the aids. The new legislation came into force 2011.

Membership. Whangarei is doing very good, an increase of about 200 in the last few months. Kaipara, Kerikeri, Far North, and Otamatea have also had moderate increases

Gordon Bibb Zone 1 Director

Zone 2

No Report Received

Zone 3

Zone 3 had its last Zone meeting on 16th September, the November meeting being held the week before this Board meeting.

The September meeting was attended by 45 delegates from zone 3 with a very full agenda.

Rotorua raised the issue of funding of AGM's. This needs to be investigated by the Federation Board. They expressed concerns at the expectations of some associations that the hosting association be expected to seek sponsorship in their local area. This easier said than done.

Paeroa member Barry Young, a former journalist who is also a member of the Communications NAG, highlighted the care spokespersons for Grey Power need to exercise when dealing with media questions. He cited the example of the recent issue in Dunedin when it was publicised that GP has members well under 50 years old. This is not the look we wish to promote.

Phil Ferrier of Hills Nurseries introduced a product called Liquid Gold which can be purchased and on sold to provide funds for Associations. This product is not available from garden centres and is very popular. Sold at \$4.00 each, associations already selling this product report good sales which gives \$2.00 profit for every unit sold.

Matamata raised the issue of extra security by WINZ following the fatal shootings in Ashburton. This appears to be somewhat of an over-reaction. Mercury Bay advised delegates that following this incident the office in Whitianga has been closed. This appears to be more a cost cutting measure than a security issue.

The Board will be asked to contact the Minister.

Associations report increased membership in the main due to Grey Power Electricity.

Mercury Bay advised delegates of the reduction in the ACC portion of car registration due to take effect next year and recommended renewals be only for a period of months to save paying a full year at the higher rate.

Tauranga WBOP extended an invitation from the publishers of their magazine to other Associations planning a “new look” publication.

A presentation on the value of each Association having website exposure was presented by a tutor and student from Waiariki Institute of Technology. Currently they are working on building websites for the Morrinsville and Tauranga WBoP Associations. This is a very cost effective way of acquiring a site and has the added advantage of assisting students with practical work.

The Zone AGM is scheduled for November 14. The election of Zone Director will be held.

Update: Zone 3 has elected Merv Lauder of Waihi to be its Zone Director at the November 14 Zone Meeting.

Bob Thompson, Zone 3

Zone 4

The zone appears to be becoming more active and involved, on the whole.

- Associations are particularly appreciating the recent addition of gas to the offerings of Grey Power Electricity. A recent visit to South Taranaki showed a whole group of members who had not switched to GPE yet because gas was not on offer. This, presumably, will now be reversed.
- The availability of a fuel card offering discounts to both Super Gold Card holders and Grey Power members is being greeted with enthusiasm. This is something we can offer to our younger, non-Super Gold Card, members. This also addressed the issue mentioned in my last report – the need for a fuel subsidy or relief for Gold Card holders living in areas where there is no public transport.
- Some Associations’ membership is showing promising signs of increase.

Issues:

- The main concern among several Associations remains the difficulty in getting members to stand for committee or office.
- The intention by the government to turn over as much social housing as possible to private providers.
- The difficulty in obtaining suitable housing for retirees who own their own home but cannot afford to buy into a retirement village or purchase smaller premises at a reasonable cost.
- The provision of age-friendly facilities in our towns and cities.

Killian De Lacey Zone 4

Zone 5

No Report received.

Zone 6

Zone 6 Associations met in Ashburton on October 8 2014 for a very positive one day meeting.

The Breast Cancer Foundation of NZ have launched a petition which is going to be presented to Parliament early in 2015. Zone 6 decided to support the petition which seeks to raise the qualifying age for free mammograms from 69 up to age 74. It was moved and carried, “That the Board again advocate for raising the age for free mammograms in line with the petition launched by the Breast Cancer Foundation of NZ”.

Some of the Canterbury Associations feel disadvantaged because it is almost impossible for them to get local candidates elected onto the Canterbury DHB. The following resolution for the Advocacy NAG was prepared; “That a system of rural ward representation be introduced for the Canterbury DHB”

Numbers of new members have been given a boost this year since the introduction of Grey Power Electricity. Associations are all taking steps to follow up unfinancial members for renewal subscriptions.

As Zone Director’s are no longer on the Federation Board would it be possible for us to get a copy of the Board meeting dates for the year or be sent a reminder as to when the Zone reports are required?

Denise Fitzgerald

Zone 7

No report received

Committee Reports

Health Report

There is very little to report of any conclusive decisions that have been achieved since the last report.

There are a number of issues still ongoing but they are matters which will have to be discussed and hopefully resolved at the next meeting with the relevant Government Ministries and departments. Whilst the ultimate decision about any changes to procedures or legislation rests with the Minister the policy makers are the ones we need to convince. I have been working with ACC and two members from the Ministry of Health on the prevention of falls amongst the elderly. There is a survey in the latest Grey Power Magazine and I would be most grateful for any replies and information you can supply. These results will be discussed at a meeting of the group on 16 December. The information will also be given to the Research Committee who have taken over the task of researching Elective Surgery in an endeavor to make it more accessible within an acceptable time.

I attended a workshop in Auckland on 24 and 25 November with Consumer Advisory Group representatives from around the country. This was probably the best workshop I have attended and the information and discussions were on a number of topics and very wide ranging. There will be a full report being sent out shortly and I will cover all subjects discussed in the next Bulletin.

The Health committee met on the Monday prior to the Board meeting and each committee member undertook to look into the various issues raised. These will be collated and a decision made as to the priority as to how we will action them. The top three will become part of our health advocacy agenda.

Jo Millar Chair

Health National Advisory Group

Advocacy

Key Activities and their progress –

a) October advocacy visit to Wellington - the executive committee accepted the

recommendation (the Board was informed) that the second 2014 advocacy visit to Wellington be cancelled for the following reasons:

1. the disarray within the Labour party.
2. New Cabinet ministers have only been announced and so will be very unfamiliar with their portfolios.
3. The Federation's financial position is fairly tight at present – therefore it is unlikely that a visit at this time would provide good value for money.

2. Advocacy Issue register – time has been set aside to review all the issues that the advocacy chair has received this year and a recommendation will be made regarding on-going action on individual issues at the next Board meeting. A survey of the success or other-wise of the advocacy issues taken to decision-makers will also be carried out. In other words an orderly stock-take of where we are at advocacy-wise is intended.

3) Grey Power Federation Advocacy Toolkit - with agreement from the Board and appropriate others it is proposed that a toolkit be provided to relevant personnel at Federation level which will basically build on Doug Bailey's (Grey Power's lobby advisor) presentation to the 2013 Grey Power Federation AGM. If the Board agrees to this project – it will be undertaken by the advocacy chair with input from the advocacy standing committee and NAG chairs.

2. Correspondence sent to decision-makers re Grey Power advocacy issues – these have been provided in the Board meeting correspondence list.

3. Meetings attended on behalf of the Advocacy Standing Committee – none

The question arises here about how much involvement the advocacy chair/standing committee should have with meetings/seminars/forums etc.

The advantages are that these meetings provide good over-all advocacy net-working opportunities and an over-view of which issues individual NAGs are pursuing as they gather their advice for the Board; this advice enables well-informed Board decisions. The disadvantage is the cost of an extra person at such meetings.

4. Details of submissions sent by the Advocacy Standing Committee – none since the last report

5. Date for the next advocacy visit – not confirmed as yet.

6. Recommendations requiring the Board's action:

a) Agreement or other-wise on a Federation Board advocacy toolkit

b) Agreement or other-wise on advocacy standing committee presence at appropriate meetings/forums/seminars etc.

Jan Pentecost – chair Advocacy Standing Committee.

Legal and Regulation

Constitutional Remit - Remit 1 from last year's AGM. Having reviewed the legal opinion from Bell Gully and discussed same with several members including Terry King and Roy Reid, it is my opinion that we proceed no further with this Remit.

Action required: That the Board vote accordingly.

The balance of the Constitutional Remits passed at last AGM have been accepted by the Incorporated Societies and are now form part of our Constitution.

Action required: That this is noted and updated copies of the constitution should now be used.

It is my opinion that Bell Gully have been used to excess with regards to Constitutional Remits and in fact in discussion with Bell Gully several of the opinions I expressed re the two remits that were forwarded for typing error changes, that were superseded by the passing of two other Remits (with regards appointment of Zone Directors & Board Representatives) should have been binned and not proceeded with.

Action required: Brief discussion with the Board on this issue.

Mac Welch Chair Legal & Regulations

Administration

The office is quite busy with phones ringing with prospective members calling in to enquire how to join Grey Power, while there is many phone calls for members wishing to join Grey Power Electricity.

New member Charlotte is now full time and enjoying her job with Grey Power, my thanks to Violet and Janice for their effort in helping her through the learning process.

Could I please take this opportunity to ask all Chairs of Standing Committees and NAG chairs to liaise with the Federation Office when you will be unavailable to be contacted for a period of time, this also applies to the Federation members. This is purely a courtesy as it does cause office staff some considerable stress in trying to contact those who are not available at certain times.

Gordon Currie, Vice President

Retirement Villages

Enquiries: The past month has shown a sharp drop in the number of enquiries on retirement villages whilst an increase in the number of enquiries on rest homes.

Retirement Villages Energy Secondary Retail Retailers: I have not been notified of any progress on this project, and will report whenever there is anything to report.

The Christchurch Residential Red Zone Displaced Residents Situation: I have been advised that there will not now be any discussion in parliament regarding the recommendations of the Select Committee. This is probably because the Select Committee did not make any recommendations on the wording of Grey Power's petition. The only "recommendations" made were either on matters already in force or on matters that would require Government action to institute.

There are potential moves to raise this matter again with politicians.

The editorial in the NZ Listener issue dated 8 -14 November is worth reading on this subject. If anyone wishes to, please let me know and I will email it to you.

Bill Atkinson

Research Committee

Activities undertaken. Work completed in this period has been curtailed through the unavailability of the Chair due to health constraints.

- The Research committee code of practice has been placed on the web site.
- The preliminary work for the survey of General Practitioners experience of elective surgery waiting lists is complete and will be deployed shortly.
- Responses to the memo requesting notification of the method of contact for

their members have been collated, and will be made available to the Board for future reference. As expected, the majority of those that responded required any contact to be made via the association.

The chair represented the GPF Research committee at two events:

1. An address by Dr Kalache on age friendly cities, organised by the Chair Local Bodies and Housing (LBH) NAG. An article has been submitted to the Quarterly magazine for publication.
2. A symposium on local body governance organised by the Institute for Governance and Policy Studies (IGPS) at Victoria University. The Symposium was attended by representatives from NGOs, Local, and Central Government. The Chair LBH NAG also attended.

The Chair met with Dr Judith Davey (senior associate IGPS) to discuss opportunities for collaboration on research. Dr Davey agreed that cooperation was desirable, and also indicated that she could assist the Research Committee through her extensive library of papers on ageing and society. She also suggested possible links with the NZ Association of Gerontology (NZAG), and this will be followed up shortly.

Statistics NZ confirmed that the two items that the Research committee proposed as supplementary topics for the General Social Survey 2016, *Civic and Cultural Participation*, and *Housing and Physical Environment* have both been selected for implementation. NZ Stats also confirm that our request for disaggregated data in 5 year age bands to age 100 can be made available on request depending on the variable of interest.

Members of the committee attended the symposium on decumulation of assets at the Auckland University Retirement Policy and Research Centre. Good contacts were made and the overall awareness of GPF as a stakeholder enhanced.

Elective Surgery

The Board has directed that this research should take precedence over other research topics. Accordingly, the members of the committee will work with the Health NAG chair to refine and develop the research purpose of the proposed investigation into the impact of delays to elective surgery. A questionnaire will be developed with a view to undertaking a survey in the first or second

quarter of 2015. In the mean time a literature review will be conducted and contacts made with others researching this area. Progress will be reported at the 2015 AGM.

P. Matcham Chair, Research Committee.

Superannuation & Taxation

I anticipate a number of follow-up activities to the recommendations of the 2013 Review of Retirement Income Policy will emerge into the public arena during the next three to four months

1 Work commissioned by Commission for Financial Literacy and Retirement Income (CFLRI) delegated to Treasury, best described verbatim from the final report :
“Treasury be directed to develop a model by December 2014 that will show the likely impacts on living standards of older New Zealanders of a new method of indexation of NZS, based on the average of percentage change of consumer prices and earnings but no less than price inflation in any year” and further, that “The model will need to take into account projected growth in KiwiSaver balances and transfer of a proportion of any fiscal savings being applied to measuring and maintaining the real living standards of less-well-off New Zealanders.”

2 In the NGO sector the Financial Services Council FSC in conjunction with the Auckland University’s Retirement Policy Research Group (RPRG) will conduct a widely promoted workshop on 21 November on ‘ways to facilitate ‘decumulation’ of retirement savings to ensure a well managed lifestyle in retirement.’

My understanding of the likely programme (agenda not yet available) suggests that the word ‘decumulation’ is intended to ‘describe realisation of non-cash assets’ and the development of an annuities market.

My concern is that each of these subjects is likely to attract a good deal of media attention and the impending convergence of these contentious issues give us little time to firmly establish an adequate high-level GPNZF media profile in support of Grey Power policy.

Lew Rohloff Chair

Office Manager

I have received feedback from the Liquid Gold firm that they have distributed over \$3000 to the Associations within zone 3 who have been utilising their offer. It's to be hoped that other Associations will take this fundraising opportunity (and that of the RSA calendars) as a means of getting to assistance with costs of the AGM.

Pulse are sending out cards to remind people that are not confirmed that they must join Grey Power and furnish their number.

The Federation office will close for Christmas on the 19th December and reopening on the 19th January.

Social Services Report

Update: re enquiry from the last board meeting:

“Why do widows, under the age of 65, not receive the ‘Living Alone’ allowance?” While their husband is alive they are able to get the ‘piggy back pension, irrespective of their age for as long as they are together. But when the husband dies, not only do they have the grief of losing their partner, they are put on a job seekers benefit immediately.

I have put this to the MSD who have responded: (condensed): the living alone payment is a rate of payment for people on NZ Superannuation and Veteran's Pension and is not a payment in its own rights and is not available for anyone on social security benefits. The living alone rate reflects that older people living alone face higher costs and, for most, that their circumstances are unlikely to change.

The job seekers benefit includes the Widow's benefit and provides an income safety-net for someone without adequate income with the expectation that the person's circumstances will change and the benefit will cease. Accommodation Supplement is available to a widow on the benefit if their housing costs exceed 25% of income (30% for homeowners) so a widow may be eligible for AS when her rent exceeds \$52-00 per week. On the other hand, anyone on NZS/VP receiving the living alone rate, the Accommodation Supplement may only be available when rent costs exceed \$92-00 per week so while a widow receives a lower basic income under the job seeker support than

someone living alone on NZS/VP, they have additional assistance for high costs.

The provision of a non-qualified partner on the NZS/VP reflected a time when many partners (mainly women) had limited participation in the labour market and was to alleviate hardship that be faced when the income earner goes from wages to NZS/VP.

I am advised by the MSD that they will post this question and a reply on their Ask a Question tool on their website.

V McCowatt

Communications & Technology

Manuals: Up date and revision and of some of our existing manuals hope to be completed before May AGM

Governance Manual update and revision

Constitution update and formatting

Bylaws revision and update

Association Guide updates (if required)

Zone Guide (new project)

NAG Guide (completed)

AGM Procedures (new project)

Code of Conduct

It is intended to check all manuals for consistency, make sure that consistency of documents is maintained i.e. Code of Conduct is the same wording on all manuals.

Web-site: We remind associations that the web-site is for your use, and we are aware that with a good web-site, the information must be current, and up to date. If you have changes in Association personal, such as changes to the contact, whether it be president, secretary, or membership sec, please contact the office and it will be changed on the web-site.

Also if you would like your association meeting dates placed on the web-site, again please advise the Federation office.

A few years ago, we use to put associations newsletters on the website, however we had an unfortunate situation where a association used their magazine to criticize the board, which deemed we had to discontinue that exercise, it is my view that we should perhaps revisit this situation, and resume putting your association newsletter up on the website, I would be grateful if associations who would like to use the web-site to publish their magazine, to contact me.

Grey Power Magazine: We are aware there were some delivery problems with the

addresses of the September issue of the magazine, where some members magazine, had two labels attached etc, these matters, have been raised with the printer who assures us this should not happen in the future.

The magazine is another area where members address's, must be up to date. Please keep the office informed of change of address of any of your members.

M. R. Jackson, Chair, Communication & Technology.

Age Care Sub-Committee

Since the last Board meeting I have had the opportunity to visit several Rest Homes and attend the Age Care Association Conference held in Wellington.

I visited a new rest home "Eden Village" in Auckland. This complex also has a block of retirement apartments on the same site.

In this rest home the residents purchase the suite consisting of a bedroom bathroom kitchenette and small lounge area. The residents pay \$270,000 for a licence to occupy and two thirds is paid back when the resident leaves. All rest home services are provided at a weekly charge. The complex also has a licensed restaurant, hair dresser and other small shops set up to look like a shopping mall. There is also a reasonable sized chapel where funerals can be held with all catering etc being available. If this is the future for rest homes then there will be many who will not be able to afford to be residents.

I have attended meetings of the inteRai Board and also DHB Shared Services committee to consider the triggers that will determine entry to residential care. There are still a number of DHB,s that also use a number of different criteria to qualify a person to receive residential care or home care. InteRai assessments are compulsory for residential care from 2015. Training of registered nurses to do the residential assessments is well advanced and accepted in its use.

Home care assessments and provision of care varies a lot between the DHB areas. There is a need for a standard base set for all of the country based on the allocation of home care as assessed. We must continue to monitor that care hours are not reduced without a full re assessment being done.

There is also a need for assessment for palliative care.

The case in the courts for equal pay has been won by the care worker but could be again appealed by the Government. This was one of the recommendations of the caring counts report and would go a long way towards having a more stable workforce in the care sector.

The payment for travel for Home care workers is nearing completion and should help overcome the lack of being paid for travel between the care workers clients.

Progress on the Caring Counts recommendations is slow but it would appear that some progress is being made.

It is important that we continue to work towards establishing the position of an Age Care Commissioner. With new Ministers of Health and Social Development the case will have to be put to them. We also need to ask the Minister of Health to ring fence funding for age care so that the District Health Boards have to spend that money on age care and does not become spent as the Hospital Boards see fit.

As the number of people in the over 65 age group continues to grow the bigger the demand for age care will be and we must be aware that there are a lot of officials in Government Departments and District Health Boards who believe that the elderly are well off financially and can afford to pay for age care services. Some could but many cannot.

R Reid Chair

Energy

No Report received

50+ Sub-Committee

It seems we have a chicken and egg situation where our 50 Plus policies are "invisible" because Grey Power media releases hardly ever mention 50 Plus folk or their issues.

So most people out there in the public think GP is for 65 plus and most members are indeed well over 75, so that apparently confirms we have little interest in those in the 50 – 65 age.

NAG members recognise there are opportunities to market to those 50-65 years of age, expanding Grey Power's numbers and

bringing more technologically savvy folk into the organisation. While many think you have to have a Gold Card to qualify for GP Electricity, a specific marketing programme to attract those 50 plus would help reduce this barrier.

Developing 50 Plus policies that are meaningful to those in the 50 plus age range, requires collaborative links to be built with other NAG chairs, where policies may overlap and require input as well as consideration from our 50 Plus NAG team.

Recommendations

1. That the Board support the development of a toolkit to enable those in Associations that wish to run activities to attract 50 Plus folk have strategies and planning templates to assist them.
2. Opportunities for 50 Plus folk to meet up at conference over dinner to and participate in walking and cycling activities pre and post conference based on interest and capacity.
3. That 50 Plus policy and marketing issues be discussed in at least two articles each year in the GP magazine.

Anne-Marie Coury NAG Chair

Local Bodies and Housing

Age Friendly Cities: Letters have been sent to Local and Regional councils to adopt Age Friendly City policies. I have received six responses which I am passing on to the Zone Representatives, Zone Directors and associations concerned. All associations are asked to become familiar with these policies and include them, where appropriate, in representations to their councils.

A successful seminar with Alex Kalache was attended by senior MSD officials, Age Concern and LGNZ. However I was disappointed that DHB and MOH officials did not attend after indicating that they would.

Maxine Boag secretary of Napier as a representative of Napier Grey Power and City Councillor along with fellow GP committee member June Graham and other Grey Power Pete Matcham, Kilian de Lacy and Bruce Twidle attended. Pete has prepared an article for the LSQ. Alex also met with Anne-Marie Courie and a small group in Auckland on his way out of the country.

If Age Friendly City policies are implemented they will benefit all ages.

Alternative rating Systems: We are continuing to look for alternative systems. We are aware that Victoria in Australia has a system for capping rates. I have emailed COTA (Council for the Aged Australia) for information.

The rates review panel set up by Auckland city has simply produced a system to suck more money out of its citizens. Perhaps a user pays system (ie road tolls) may be the most beneficial. Auckland associations are active in local body affairs and will, I am sure, make appropriate submissions.

The recent report by the Auditor General presents grim reading for future generations.

Housing Issues: It appears that the Minister responsible for HNZA Bill English is softening up the country in preparation for the selling off of HNZA housing stock.

I have received a couple of calls from Auckland members expressing concern about the proposed changes. Twenty percent of HNZA homes are occupied by over 65's according to ministerial briefing papers. Three ministers are now involved in housing.

Christchurch City Council has set up a trust (51% owned by Social Housing Organizations) which will charge current rents subsidized by the Government.

I have not made any media releases because the position is too fluid and ill-defined to make a comment.

Housing Policy: Anne-Marie Courie has offered to draft a policy once her workload associated with Auckland's LTPs diminishes. Her work in this field means we will establish a framework for the policy. Once this is completed it will be circulated for comment.

Trevor Daniell, Chair

Remits for AGM

The Legal and Regulations Standing Committee wish to advise all Associations and Zones that under clauses 6.8(C)(i) and (ii) of the Federation Constitution:

1. Association remits not Zone endorsed for consideration by the 2015 AGM must be received by the Federation Office no later than 4pm on the 11th February 2015

2. Zone endorsed remits for consideration by the 25th February 2015
3. Constitutional remits for consideration by the 31st December 2014.

All remits MUST fully comply with the the instructions as set out in Bylaw 6 of the Bylaws manual and submit each remit individually and separately on the correct Remit Submission Form 6B attached to the by-laws.

PLEASE NOTE: It is advised that all remits be forwarded prior to **31st December 2014** to allow the Legal and Regulations Committee time to scrutinise and, if necessary, return them to the proposer for modification or correction so that they still meet the cutoff date. Any change of wording to a remit is the responsibility of the proposer and seconder. If a remit is received with unacceptable wording and there is sufficient time, the committee will contact the proposer (for Assn remit) or Zone Director (for Zone remit) with guidance as to any suggested changes in the wording without altering the meaning of the remit.

The remit must then be returned to arrive by or before the respective close off date. Late remits, whether modified or not, will **NOT** be accepted after the close off date.

Mac Welch

AGM Update

Thanks to Associations who returned indicative registrations to Grey Power Rotorua. Our records show 48 Associations responded – 64%. The process was helpful to planning.

Formal AGM Registration open - closes Sunday, 1 March 2015

In the next Federation mail out, Associations will receive the registration form, a covering memo and a flyer printed specifically for Grey Power by the Holiday Inn [the AGM venue].

Pdf files of both documents available on request from Grey Power Rotorua greypower.rotorua@gmail.com or can be downloaded from our Rotorua website www.greypowerrotorua.org.nz

Help us by getting your confirmed registrations in at your earliest convenience. The Holiday Inn requires us to provide the confirmed number of rooms required by 11 February 2015.

Communicate with us regarding any questions or confusions – our contact details are included in the AGM memo that comes with the registration form.

Sponsorship & Fundraising: A kind reminder to play your part in encouraging Grey Power members and friends not directly involved in fundraising for Associations to Givealittle to our fundraising drive amongst the Grey Power membership.

Donations are beginning to come in from all over New Zealand. Options for Givealittle are: Credit card <http://www.givealittle.co.nz//org/greypower> Internet banking to the AGM bank account 06-0996-0708550-14 Ref. AGM 2015

Cheque payable to Grey Power Rotorua, P O Box 414, Rotorua 3040 Specify AGM 2015

Rotorua members can call into our office Tuesday-Thursdays 10.00 am – 2.00 pm and make a donation there.

[Note we're still working on our Givealittle webpages – we'd love some ideas or any 2014 AGM photos of delegates at work to put on the front page!] It means a lot if many Givealittle

AGM News updates & info

Prompted by our Zone 3 director, Merv Lauder, we're turning our minds to how to provide regular updates about our progress with organising the Federation's AGM. Share your fundraising successes with us as we build momentum for the 2015 Grey Power Federation AGM in Rotorua! We'll get them out and about!

Associations' fundraising

Congratulations **Grey Power South Waikato** for getting on with the job. Their Christmas raffle proceeds delivered over \$1,300 towards their AGM fundraising – and they had enough donated goods to raffle another Christmas gift basket at their Christmas lunch.

Grey Power Rotorua is selling Liquid Gold [as many Associations are] so we can pay the registrations for our 10-person committee to attend the 2015 AGM. [We'll all be working of course.]

Jennifer Francis Rotorua

Note to Associations

If your require a copy of any article in this Bulletin in MS Word format. Send email to Bob at bobndi@clear.net.nz