



**Grey Power New Zealand  
Federation Inc  
November 2016  
Bulletin**

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## Presidents Report

It's great to be popular and Grey power seems more popular than ever with groups who want us to push their political barrows.

The first group was the Legalise Cannabis Party which got involved in the campaign by an association to improve access to medical cannabis until I managed to convince them we did not need their help.

Then we had the newly formed New Zealand Seniors Party. Their main objective seems to be a challenge to the laws which control the impact of offshore pensions on New Zealand national superannuation. In spite of several explanations, that Grey Power cannot join any political party, one of their members continued to try and infiltrate the Grey Power membership. Eventually their senior executive got involved and the person concerned has since resigned.

In our discussions with the Ministry of Social Development it was explained that, under S70 of the Social Welfare Act, all New Zealand benefits and national superannuation are reduced by the value of an overseas, state funded or state mandated, pension. Private funds are not included in those calculations. Where New Zealand national superannuation is paid to a couple their joint incomes from other, offshore, state funded pensions are calculated as a single unit. That means the offshore pension of one spouse will affect the New Zealand national superannuation of the other. They accepted that, in the case of a high value offshore pension collected by one spouse it could in fact completely eliminate the New Zealand superannuation of the other. A number of reviews and investigations over many years had failed to address that situation but the basic policy is in keeping with Grey Power policy.

On a more positive note the Local Government Act Amendment Bill will not now proceed in its present form as there were too many groups opposed to it. We were one of those groups and I have spent some time with Lawrence Yule (LGNZ) applying subtle pressure on Government. When the Labour, The Greens and now United Future saw where that pressure was coming from in the lead up to the general election next year, they all withdrew support.

There are negotiations now to have the Bill reported back with significant

amendments to the clauses which would have given the Local Government Commission the power to intervene in local government without consulting ratepayers, which is exactly what we asked for. Without those amendments the Bill would be voted down and there are some quite useful elements to it.

There is still some way to go getting rates more affordable and that will be the next step

Thanks to Pete Matcham for presenting our submission and to the associations who let us get on with the job without getting involved making too much noise about it.

**Tom O'Connor**  
President

## Advocacy

### Key projects:

1. November 1 – 3 2016 lobby visit to Wellington:

► Outcome – visits to those below occurred:  
Hon Annette King re Aged Care and Caring Counts reports, age-friendly cities and SuperGold card off-peak travel. S. Clare – CEO Age Concern

NZ Post and KiwiBank re banking/post facilities for smaller communities

Hon Dr J Coleman re elective surgery and medicinal cannabis

Hon. M. Barry re NZ superannuation accord, SuperGold card off-peak travel and age-friendly cities

Rt. Hon. J. Key re NZ superannuation accord and age-friendly cities

Opposition Housing spokesperson re affordable housing

Hon P. Dunne re health insurance, superannuation accord, SuperGold card Ministry of Social Development/Office for Seniors re Introduction of Diane Turner new Director of the Office for Seniors, Age friendly New Zealand, Retirement Commissioner's three yearly Review of Retirement Income Policies, Household Living-costs Price Indexes (HLPs) published by Statistics NZ, Section 70 anomalies and upcoming changes to the Enduring Power of Attorney legislation and forms

B. Coates – Green's Party Seniors spokesperson re various

► **Tasks pending-** A report detailing the results of the lobby visit will be provided to members as soon as time permits.

## **2. Correspondence received and action taken:**

All relevant correspondence received is tabled as general correspondence at Board meetings and responded to as directed by the Board.

## **3. Report of meetings attended on behalf of the Advocacy Standing Committee:**

In her joint capacity as advocacy co-chair and research standing committee, Jan Pentecost attended the NZ Association of Gerontology Conference 15-17 September

## **4. Details of submission sent:**

A submission re the older person's health strategy was completed by the Health, Aged Care National Advisory Group chairs and Advocacy Standing Committee Co-Chair.

### **Jan Pentecost**

on behalf of the Advocacy Standing Committee

## **Lobby Report**

There were several real breakthroughs on this visit thanks to previous work, sound factual advice and some gentle but persistent negotiations with senior politicians.

The first of these were invitations from both the Green Party and the Labour Party to join with them to assist with policies which affect older people. In the past there has always been an invitation to "send in your ideas" but this time we will be involved in the formation stages of their policy development. I believe we will be one of the only non-government groups to be involved at this level. Others are consulted but I don't know of any who will be directly included in the internal discussions.

The second real victory was that the Minister of Seniors said she was "cautiously optimistic" that there will be significant changes to the SuperGold card.

Minister Barry has also promised to write to banks and the Banking Ombudsman to ask that SuperGold cards with AA ID photos be accepted as legal identity cards for banking purposes.

The Hon. Annette King has invited Roy Reid to join Labour's Aged Care discussion and focus group. She was also

interested in the WHO Age Friendly Cities international protocol and has agreed to talk with relevant Labour spokespeople about Grey Power's suggestion that New Zealand should affiliate to the movement with the Office of the Prime Minister as the led Government agency.

Health Minister Jonathan Coleman was surprised and annoyed to hear from Jo Millar that the waiting lists for elective surgery had not improved in real terms and that "phantom waiting lists" were still being used by some DHBs. He has directed his staff to look into the issue and get back to us on the matter.

In our discussions with Kiwi Bank about small communities where other banks are closing down and they only have a transaction service they will look at setting up a mobile unit. This may mean they can pick up the customers abandoned by other banks and their mobile unit will go around the small communities so people can set up new accounts.

Ministry of Social Development staff have given further explanations about the S70 issue; all state funded pensions from countries in the international accord on deductions are treated as if they are the same pension fund. This also applies to employer/employee pensions where they are compulsory or "state mandated". There are other complicated systems in place to ensure no one collects two pensions and they will provide the Board with written information on this issue. They have also undertaken to write a clear article on S70 for the magazine.

Major parties were interested but only luke-warm on the private health insurance subsidy with evidence that it could in fact increase the cost of the national health system. Peter Dunne however said it was his party's policy that health insurance subscriptions should be tax deductible; all agreed to discuss the matter further.

Everyone we spoke to agreed with our stance on medical cannabis and were keen to make more professionally produced cannabis medicines available as soon as they become fully tested.

Labour Housing spokesman Phil Twyford said they would shut all foreign buyers out of the New Zealand housing market, remove the ability of speculators to make huge profits from housing and build 10,000 new, affordable houses a year designed

specifically for low income and vulnerable people. He would be keen to be a guest speaker at the AGM next year.

**Tom O'Connor and Jan Pentecost**

Advocacy Standing Committee Co-chairs

## Treasurers Report

Bank Balances at 31 October 2016.

Total Bank Funds \$600,313.62.

The change over from ASB Bank to Kiwibank is nearing completion and will be completed at the end of this month.

Income and Expenditure 1 August to 31 October 2016

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Quarter Total	97948.66	62586.60
Year to Date	482256.56	446020.64
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016.</b>
Quarter Total	86727.49	96329.26
Year to Date	312755.08	340337.55

**Capitation** At the 31 October 2016 capitation had been received from 61878 members compared to 64615 at 31 October 2015 a shortfall of 2737 Members this year.

**Expenditure.** Expenditure is within budget but is \$27582.47 in excess of last year.

**Budget 2017** I thank all Members for their preparation of Budget requests for 2017. A draft budget will be tabled at the Board meeting for consideration and adoption.

**R Reid**

## Finance and Investment

There are continued requests from Associations about Members being unable to open accounts at Kiwibank agencies which have been downgraded to financial transactions only service. This has resulted in members having to travel to a larger centre to open accounts.

There is also a problem in areas where some banks are closing branches and members are having difficulty opening accounts with Kiwibank. From discussions held recently with Kiwibank they will send staff to an area where this is a problem to enable Members to open accounts where Kiwibank agency offers only a financial transaction service.

**Remit 36 /2016** Financial transaction Tax

The committee will make a recommendation to the February 2017 meeting.

Politically there would possibly be little support for the proposal in this remit.

**R Reid**

## Commercial Agreements National Advisory Group

Progress of the last quarter has been slow due to ill-health of the Chairman, however some progress has been made. We are currently in negotiations with a view to arranging Health Insurance for the 70-Plus age Group. We are researching this area after having receiving several requests from the Membership. Because persons in the 70-Plus category are such high-risk in making claims, I am not confident of a successful outcome. We should have further information on this project in the next Quarterly Board Report.

Negotiations with Sky Television are on-going and they are proving extremely difficult to deal with. This was to be expected as they are currently the only player in the market. A proposal will be presented to the November Board meeting for the Board's comment.

We are currently in discussion with a Nation-wide Rental car company but discussions are at the very early stage but initial talks look promising. We are hoping to make an announcement at or before February 2017 Board Meeting.

If any of the membership have reliable contacts within a large NZ-wide organisation who is a suitable supplier/provider to Grey Power members please forward details to the Commercial Agreements N.A.G. Chair.

**Mac Welch**

Chairman – Commercial Agreements

## Office Manager

**Membership Cards:** The cards will be ordered shortly. Could Associations please advise how many they want and whether they would like them delivered direct from the printers. Once Associations have finished their entries for the year they should begin placing their orders for their Green coloured labels for next year.

**Contract of Observance:** Currently we are reviewing that the Federation holds all appropriate documentation for the Grey Power Associations for compliance with our



Constitution. There are some Associations who have not yet furnished us with Contracts of Observance and they are being followed up on.

**Pill Boxes:** Thank you to the Associations that responded to my email about the Pill Boxes.

**Christmas closing:** The office will be closed from the 22 December 2016 to the 23 January 2017. Violet will be attending the office for general purposes and clearing of mail during this period.

Associations need to be aware that any memberships that come in for entry on the central database before Christmas will only be paid to 31/3/2017. If the membership is actually for next year (with 31/3/18 expiry) the capitation should be sent in after Christmas so payment is recorded and receipted in the correct Federation financial year (Jan 1 to December 31).

Capitation (with 31/3/2017 expiry) needs to be sent to the office by the last week of November at the latest so that it is received mid-December in order for entries to be effected. Also, payments for Invoices must be paid before close off.

The staff in the Federation Office would like to extend best wishes to all Board and Associations for a safe and Happy Holiday period. I would like to thank the office Staff, Janice and Charlotte, for their dedication and loyalty shown at all times which can often be trying with some of the queries we receive. A good team.

**Violet McCowatt**

### **Health National Advisory Group**

Elective Surgery still remains the topic for the Health Election Strategy. There is a lobby meeting early November so this will be a subject dealt with in the Advocacy Report.

However it is still important that any information you can provide the Health Committee with will be helpful in reinforcing our submissions.

Unfortunately there is no meeting scheduled with the Ministry of Health this trip so for those of you who have raised various issues I am attempting to get some responses via email. This may take longer than a face to face meeting but at least there will be some form of discussion.

It is disappointing to hear that there are other regions outside the Southern District Health Board who are having cancellations of meals on wheel being provided by Compass. There is going to be a tasting of the new menu on Monday 31 October at the Dunedin Hospital. I have also been advised that Compass have now gone to another provider who apparently can meet their requirements in both the menus and packaging. They are also going to give recipients of meals on wheels the opportunity to opt for frozen meals which they can reheat at their convenience. I would appreciate any feedback from any area where problems are still being encountered.

At the last board meeting in November I was able to have a short discussion with Lisa Seerup who has a very extensive knowledge of hearing problems. She has offered to work with me on drafting a remit for the next AGM to hopefully remedy some of the shortcomings in the hearing industry. I will keep you up to date with our progress.

Graeme Faulkner and I attended a Non-Government Organisation workshop recently. It was quite an interesting morning but the afternoon addresses were all from medical backgrounds and not quite as informative as we had hoped. We both felt there would have been more benefit if we had been able to hear from some of the people who these groups assist. There is nothing that can replace the stories that come from those who are affected by an incompetent system.

I have had the odd complaint about the cost of doctor's visits as well as the fact some people face a double fee if they exceed the 15 minutes allocated. If anyone can provide me with any information I would most grateful. I only need the town or city; what the fee was and if a double fee was charged.

**Jo Millar**

Chair Health National Advisory Group

### **2017 AGM**

All registration forms are available on the Grey Power Federation Web Site.

<https://greypower.co.nz>

AGM 2016/2017

## Superannuation and Taxation National Advisory Group

Introduction This report provides an update *on developments within the advisory group* and the external environment related to retirement income and taxation. It should be read in conjunction with the Federation's proposed, submission on the Retirement Commissioner's 2016 Report on Retirement Income Policy, presently being considered by the Advocacy Committee.

In August, I commented on the uncertainty amongst academic, financial services and personal savings commentators regarding the fiscal sustainability of New Zealand Superannuation in the event of significant population ageing. This likely phenomenon cannot be quantified on projected dependency ratio alone. Commentators generally point to a need for better data collection and attribute the uncertainty to the absence of indicative forecasting derived from longitudinal research and higher quality data collection.

### Inadequacy of Consumer Prices Index (CPI)

One example exists in the fact that Grey Power for many years, has justifiably argued that because of the CPI's macro-economic data collection methodology the so called 'inflation proofing' of New Zealand Superannuation based upon annual movements in the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) often does not accurately compensate recipients for actual increases in 'older persons' household living costs.

In its 2013 Review of the CPI, Statistics New Zealand recognised the need for prices indices which better reflected the costs encountered by different consumer groups. Commencing in 2013 through to 2015, I was delegated by then President, Roy Reid to compile various submissions identifying the Grey Power interest in the development of a new series. This resulted in Statistics New Zealand later undertaking to produce a suite of eight household living-costs price indexes (HLPIs) for four household groups by early 2016: beneficiaries, income groups (quintiles) Māori superannuitants.

I'm pleased to report that in mid-October this year, Statistics N Z released their first publication of the new household living

cost series. (HLPI's)<sup>1</sup>. Our concerns related to the adequacy of the annual compensatory adjustments to New Zealand Superannuation have been proven well founded. Of the eight population groups identified for closer examination, superannuitants have been most adversely effected.

The historical series reveals that since the June 2008, inflation of prices has affected each of the other 'at risk' groups, being Superannuitants, Maori and Beneficiaries, significantly worse than indicated by the Consumer Prices Index (CPI).

While the new Household Living Cost Prices Index suggests 'prima facie' that Superannuitants have been under compensated for their specific group's 'living costs' in recent years, an absolute conclusion cannot be drawn from the HLPI statistical series. My group now needs to do some work on the source data, involving the possible offset derived from the 'average earnings' relativity provisions in the Act. Only then will a clear picture emerge. However, this latest information will help to refute the Retirement Commissioner's recommendation in the 2013 Review of Retirement Income Policy: that on the grounds of 'over compensation' the linkage of New Zealand Superannuation with average weekly earnings (NAOTWE) should be dispensed with.

### Proposed Submission to 2016 Review of Retirement Income Policy

Further, the new HLPI series might also provide supporting argument for the needs based recommendation in my proposed submission to the 2016 Review of Retirement Income Policy, to introduce a degree of income supplementation for recipients of New Zealand Superannuation recipients who are holders of a Community Services card and were born before 1<sup>st</sup> July 1942.<sup>2</sup>

I'm anxious that the Board adopts or amends this submission so that it can be lodged before the closure of the review.

Lew  
Chair.

Rohloff

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<sup>1</sup> Statistics New Zealand (2016). *Household living-costs price indexes: Background*. Available from [www.stats.govt.nz](http://www.stats.govt.nz).

<sup>2</sup> The 'Older Persons' excluded from the KiwiSaver Scheme.

## Election Strategy

**Key project = 2017 general election strategy:** Desired outcome: To influence political party's 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 local and central government elections.

Discussion of the election strategy issues of superannuation, local body rates and elective surgery with decision-makers: occurred during the recent lobby visit.

The actions to initiate this included provision of background information for the lobby team which was accessed through academic articles, media items, personal stories and statistics etc. along with relevant, simple questions, based on the above information for politicians to answer around the problems/issues decided for this election strategy.

Tasks pending

To obtain the political parties policies re the election strategy issues – it is a little difficult to access these yet because most parties are still preparing policy

To peruse the relevant Grey Power policies to compare with what the political parties are offering and to check points of divergence.

To examine the previous election promises to compare what was delivered and what was not and decide how to use the information.

To provide information regarding progress on the election strategy to Grey Power members, all types of news media and kindred organisations.

To decide whether this particular election campaign is an opportunity to work with kindred organisations and if so which entity offers the most likely fit.

To determine whether there are events we could/should attend to push our campaign

**Jan Pentecost**

(Chair on behalf of group members)

## Aged Care

I attended the Age Care Association Conference in Auckland in early October.

The average age of a rest home resident is now 85 years with an average stay

of six months. This reflects on government policy to have people remain at home for as long as possible.

The Age Care Assn. stated that they are committed to having wage relativity and pay equity. They are pleased to be able to use more of the newly developed technologies but also see a need for higher levels of individualised care to be given to residents.

The Meeting was addressed by the Minister of Health, Dr J Coleman who stated

1. The Terra Nova case decision was still months away from settlement.
2. 40% of DHB funding is spent on people over age 65. More older people are continuing to live at home.
3. Health of older people strategy should be with cabinet by Christmas this year.
4. Moving towards a 4 year audit process for Rest homes.
5. Dementia cases will reach 78,000 in the next 8 years, an increase of 55%.
6. 17,000 will be in need of palliative care in the next year.

Metira Turei. Green Party Co leader

1. Critical that carers are paid a decent equitable wage
2. Government needs to plan more for the future care of older persons.
3. Government needs to step up on equal pay rates.
4. Supports the need for an age care commissioner.
5. Need to prevent social isolation of the elderly.

Andrew Little

1. Saw a need for increased funding for age care.
2. Was critical of unfair allocation of care by the District Health Boards.
3. Government is underfunding health care especially care for the elderly.
4. Wants InterRAI to be an independent entity.
5. Doctors need better hours of work.
6. Need for palliative care to be part of the health system and must be properly funded.

Rt Hon. W Peters

1. Age care is vulnerable because of the way it is funded by government.
2. A big staffing problem due to pay rates in the care sector.
3. More trained staff required for palliative and dementia care.



4. Will ensure that government funding will be increased on increased costs to the sector as currently the funding per person is now below the rate paid in 2008.

### **Retirement Villages.**

The commission for Financial Capability is holding a stakeholders forum on 16 November to discuss changes to the Code of Practice and the proposed changes to complaints procedure.

### **Hon R Dyson Private Members Bill.**

Hon Ruth Dyson has drafted a bill which if passed will enable residents of a Retirement Village to receive a Rates Rebate in recognition of the fact that they pay for rates as part of the village fees.

The bill has passed the 1<sup>st</sup> reading to enable submissions to be received by 12 January 2017.

As the Federation has advocated for a rates rebate for retirement village residents for a considerable time the Board and Associations should support the bill with a supportive submission to the Local Government and Environment select committee.

### **R Reid**

### **Zone 2**

It has been an interesting three months for the Auckland associations with a busy and full involvement across the city in the local body election campaigns. Most associations had Meet The Candidates meetings at various levels. The complexity of the city and the election process with the Mayoral campaign having 14 candidates, and six serious contenders, 11 Council wards to elect 20 Councillors, 21 Local Boards, some with Divisions, 3 DHB's, and three Licensing Trusts made it impossible for our seven associations to cover it all. Most focused on the Mayoral race and did a very good job in giving both their members and the public the opportunity to meet the key people.

Our own Auckland Association President, Anne Marie Coury, was successful in being elected to the Puketapapa Local Board, in central Auckland, an area where seniors have special problems in coping with the high cost and unavailability of housing and community facilities. She has been very involved through Grey Power with the Auckland Council Seniors Advisory Panel, and the Auckland District Council for Social

Services in the interests of our city's seniors, and now has a seat at the table which can only be beneficial for Grey Power.

The Council with new Mayor Phil Goff has basically the same political colour and direction as the previous Council but facing major issues. We all hope there will be an improvement in the overall processes and decision making in the City. Grey Power has already had preliminary contact with the Mayor and senior Councillors, many of whom we know well after six years of intensive involvement with Council, and are hopeful of getting at least some of our key policy points accepted by Council.

We will be re-establishing regular Association contacts with local Councillors and Local Boards on a more organised basis than in the past, and also having regular "courtesy call" meetings with our many MP's. The MP contact had fallen away in recent years because of the pressure of work engaging with the new Super City Council and its processes. It is intended that both the Zone Director and the Zone Representative will be an important part of this exercise. The first meeting has been held with Hon. Paula Bennett, MP for Upper Harbour, who also spoke at the North Shore quarterly meeting.

Senior housing, both that owned by the Council, now being transferred to a joint venture company controlled by the Selwyn Foundation, and the broader issue of the lack of suitable and affordable accommodation for seniors, and many other sectors of the community, will continue to be a major problem in which Grey Power is directly involved.

Our overall review of the structure and organisation of Grey Power across the Auckland region is proceeding slowly, but as Zone Director and President of North Shore I have obtained a small working office from Council in a restored Barracks Building on the heritage Fort Takapuna Reserve in Devonport. This is just being put together, with an email data base being established initially with North Shore members, with the intent of expanding across the three broader North Shore/Upper harbour associations. An email newsletter to supplement the hard copy ones of the associations is being drafted as well. This project is something of a pilot, and linked with the re-establishment of a collective grouping

of senior organisations on the Shore, the Shore Senior Forum,

I hope that this will help strengthen the overall position of the senior community, and give a stronger voice to ensure that we are not swamped in the pressures of the population growth, rapid development, housing intensification, escalating rates, and cultural and ethnicity changes that face the Auckland community.

A new and interesting development was Grey Power North Shore making a submission on a resource consent application by Ryman Healthcare at a very sensitive harbour side site at Ngataranga Bay in Devonport on the North Shore. Grey Power supports a retirement village on the site but has asked for a review of its size and scale, and a redesign more suitable for the site and surrounding environment.

Apart from the specific concerns that Grey Power North Shore had on the development, we felt that as the virtually the only pan-Auckland community group remaining, Grey Power had a responsibility to reflect the broader community concerns along with those specifically related to seniors. It is now virtually impossible in Auckland for individuals or small community groups to cope with the complexity, scale and expense of making any sort of impact with the quasi-legal and bureaucratic Council process.

Grey Power has the status and connection with the Council, politicians, and the media to be recognised and to assist in getting the other community voices heard and taken seriously as well.

This could be an increasing role for the Zone and Auckland associations, and why our contact with Council at all levels is so important.

We are all looking forward to the summer holiday break with some relief, a little rest and recreation before girding up for the New year battles.

**Bill Rayner**, Director Zone 2

### Zone 3

Zone 3 held its third meeting of the year in August in Matamata and is gearing up for the final meeting in November in which officer elections will take place before 2017.

Our new Zone Representative, Christina Humphreys is getting the feel of the

position after having attended her first Board meeting.

At the August meeting, the Zone adopted a new process for nominating and electing Zone officers. Rather than nominating people from the floor of the meeting, the objective is to call for nominations at least six weeks before the November meeting to allow all associations to have a clear opportunity to decide on their preferred candidates.

At the last zone meeting, delegates discussed at length the difficulty that some associations have in travelling to zone meetings. Gisborne has not attended a meeting for some years and in addition both Opotiki and Taupo rarely attend due to the large travel distance involved. The Zone Director and Representative are investigating the possibility of jointly visiting those areas in the future at the discretion of the associations.

The recent release of the Zone Guide is timely and has been well received by associations in the zone. The zone also looks forward to more Grey Power documents being available to associations on a revamped website. That effort is well overdue for action.

Tauranga/Western Bay of Plenty have been very active with the both the water ownership issue with its local MPs and local bodies and also the presentation of a petition to the Hon Winston Peters on the steps of Parliament on the Government threat to reduce travel funding attached to the Super Gold Card.

There continues to be disquiet among Zone 3 Associations over the current arrangements with Grey Power Electricity (GPE) for taking on new members who wish to join GPE without first joining Grey Power. This issue will undoubtedly be well debated at coming zone meetings to determine how to solve the issue of the growing list of unfinancial GP members who are enjoying GPE supply, which is clearly unfair to financial members of Grey Power.

**Merv Lauder** Zone 3 Director

### Zone 4

Zone 4 appears to be ticking along nicely, generally speaking, with steady increases in membership across the spectrum.

I have had occasion to visit two Associations recently and I find this most informative and interesting. When required, I

hope I have been able to assist with local difficulties which arise from time to time, no matter how strong an Association might be.

As usual, I have some concern over the lack of communication from some Associations. I am not sure whether I am expected to be endowed with extra-sensory perception, but I can only assume that all is well when I hear nothing to the contrary.

The age-old problem of succession is rearing its head here and there in the zone. This is nothing new, of course, and is a problem even for the Federation itself. It could be helpful to Associations if someone could provide a few ideas as to how to encourage members to step up to the committees and executives, especially where there has been a dynamic and highly-profiled person pushing the Grey Power message in a certain area.

Some members, often of long standing, have been concerned recently by receiving from Pulse Energy a card asking for their Grey Power membership numbers. This has really worried our older members who are afraid their power will be cut off or they will be switched to Pulse Energy from Grey Power Electricity.

Preparations for the 2017 AGM in Palmerston North are well in hand.

**Kilian de Lacy** – Director

### Zone 5

The last zone meeting was held on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August 10am at Beechwoods Cafe which is an agreed equidistance for all Associations, together with a travel equalisation system set to compensate those travelling further kilometres than others. With all 7 Associations represented

There were 15 attendees together with Gayle Chambers (zone secretary), Graeme Faulkner (Zone Representative) and myself (Zone Director)

Most associations stated they were involved with the upcoming local body elections by organising “Meet the Candidate” meetings in some format or another.

A discussion was held on the benefits of all associations to have internet banking in their repertoire of membership renewal options especially with the demise of banking services

A member spoke of restricted Drivers licensing being available as an option rather than straight out banning older drivers from

any further driving as this leaves those who do lose their license becoming so dependent on others for groceries, doctors visits and general communication with others outside of their immediate environment etc

In general most associations spoke of increased memberships with the prime incentive being beside Greypower Electricity and Challenge Fuel, the discounts that various Associations have negotiated locally as encouragement to join up!

But in saying that most Associations agreed they have to be pro-active and continue to seek new membership all ways possible

There was a suggestion to cutback our quarterly meetings to possibly two or three per year but overwhelmingly it was agreed to continue as is.

Some of the other discussions covered various subjects including the need for Remits to be presented at the next zone meeting Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> Oct ,also Social housing , the isolation of those in their own homes including Government or Council housing, and the condition of rental accommodation ,social services being slowly eroded, reverse mortgages ,pre-paid funeral plans, medical marijuana, Gold Card usage, the Federation publication contents,

**Kevin Gardener** Zone Director

### Zone 6

**Local Body Elections:** Grey Power North Canterbury report that three of their members were successful in Local body elections, two at Community board level and one to the Canterbury District Health Board. Timaru Grey Power’s Peter Binns was re elected to the South Canterbury District Health (with top polling)

National President, Tom O’Connor was re elected to the Waimate District Council.

Council candidate meetings were held by Christchurch and Timaru Grey Power Associations. Temuka Grey Power hosted a meeting for the South Canterbury District Health Board candidates, which turned out to be the only meeting held for this group. These meetings were all well attended and really appreciated by members providing a chance to put a face to a name and ask questions.

**Zone Meetings:** Zone 6 will in future be meeting at Ashburton which is in the middle of

our zone and means that no association will have to travel more than 1½ to 1¾ hours one way which will be most appreciated particularly in the winter months.

**Dealing with Body Corporates:** North Canterbury have had an interesting situation in Rangiora where a parking and pedestrian area is owned by a body corporate. The condition of the pedestrian area came to Grey Power's attention because of the poor state of the footpaths causing problems for elderly people accessing clinics and other businesses on foot or by wheelchairs and mobility scooters. Because it was private property the Council could do nothing about it, but a successful outcome is being achieved by Grey Power obtaining a Health and Safety report and presenting that to Council who are now able to take action with the owners of the property.

**Zone Representative:** Having been without a representative on the Federation Board for several months we were able to elect Bernard Sommerfeld (likes to be known as Bern) at our October zone meeting. Bern is a retired civil engineer and is a member of Grey Power Temuka.

**Grey Power Electricity:** Over the past month associations have reported being contacted by un financial members who want to know what they have to do to rejoin as they have received a card from Grey Power Electricity saying that they will be transferred to another plan if they are not financial. This has caused a lot of extra work for membership secretaries. Thank goodness the May AGM voted against the Board remit wanting to allow GPE to sign up new members over the phone.

**Denise Fitzgerald** Zone 6 Director

### Zone 7

Firstly, I would like to say that I did write a report for the last Board meeting but somewhere along the way it did not make the Bulletin with no explanation given as to why not. We had a very good attendance of 27 members at our Zone 7 meeting in Sept. and it was very heartening to hear the positive feedback afterwards from some of the members. I like to have all those present

feeling free to participate with only delegates voting if required.

Not all the issues raised were able to be given a solution and we did have a very full agenda.

Matters discussed included the following -

Concern that because of the rate increases being imposed by councils some of our members can no longer afford to live in their family homes.

The closing of banks in rural areas - we are not all computer 'savvy' but it is being imposed upon us to be so and there are risks involved with taking money from a cash machine.

The amalgamation of councils was seen not to be a good thing.

High line charges on our electricity accounts.

What is in the spray supermarkets use to keep vegetables fresh?

Bowel cancer – studies have shown our area has the highest incidence, why is the research being done elsewhere?

To be wary of computer scammers. Banks do not send emails or make phone calls. Hospital funding should not be population based and the never-ending waiting lists.

Lack of people not being prepared to step up and take a turn on committees. It was good to hear the Queenstown Assoc. has taken a new lease of life thanks to the efforts of Pres. Lesley Jones.

Our Zone representative, Jo, explained her role on the Board and spoke on some of the current health issues. Hospital meals under Compass still not good in our area and the DHB is not very open to the public. Jo was also hopeful of getting a copy of the Vulnerable Children report which members expressed an interest in.

The highlight of the day was when I had the honour of presenting the Life Membership certificate and card to Terry King. Terry was well enough to attend and thanked Zone 7 for their support over the years. The Zone 7 Assoc. also feel proud to have Terry as one of 'their own'

**Les Glassey**

Zone 7 Director. (edited)

### Zone 1

No report received