



Grey Power New Zealand Federation Inc

September 2015

Bulletin

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President's Report

Well at last it has happened, we have a new look Grey Power Magazine. The front cover has a colour change, the layout is easy to follow and the content has broad based appeal. In addition Jan's Advocacy report which has a lot of solid information beneficial to our members, it's also pleasing to see comment from Tom O'Conner, Pete Matcham, Allen Davies and Trevor Daniell.

From around the country I receive good feedback on the work carried out by our Associations, and as a result I feel so privileged to be a member of one of New Zealand's largest independent voluntary organization's which advocates effectively for the welfare and well-being of the older person.

There are numerous great stories about our many hard-working Grey Power members and I would like to take this opportunity to mention a couple.

Secretary/Treasurer of Wairoa Grey Power is 85year old Les Hine who took up the reins in February last year when the Association had 225 members.

Through hours of dedication by Les, the membership this month topped 800 and he is fondly known locally as "The Grey Power Man ". Although he recently stood aside as Secretary, Les's current responsibilities are Treasurer/Membership.

His phone runs hot on a daily basis, and besides being stopped on the street by people enquiring about Grey Power Electricity or Rates Rebates, Les receives lots of referrals from satisfied members.

After 24 years of service to Central Otago Grey Power, Jackie Goyen is now taking a back seat and a well-deserved rest from the position of Secretary although she will still be the Association Treasurer. Jackie was widely known as the Grey Power flag bearer in the area, and this month Central Otago Mayor, Tony Lepper specially attended the AGM to praise the 'fantastic service' she provided to the people in the district.

Throughout the country new members and established members are volunteering many hours working in the best interests of Grey Power at large, and the Federation Board recognizes this and extends a very humble thank you to everyone.

Terry King, President

Treasurer's Report

Income and Expenditure Since the last Board meeting held in June income for the 3 months, June, July and August was \$131,647.46 while expenditure was \$122,107.37

Income for this financial year at 31 August was \$392,941.79 from a budget total of \$489,350.00

Capitation At 31 August capitation received was \$4168.59 under the budget figure. Hopefully the Budget figure will be reached by the end of September.

It is pleasing to see that nearly all Associations are sending capitation on a more regular basis as defined in the constitution.

Other Income The other budget centres for income should meet budget expectation.

The quarterly Kiwibank commission is due this month and should be paid before the Board meets.

Expenditure At 31 August the year, s expenditure totalled \$232,920.96 from a budget figure of \$469,360.00.

There are 3 cost centres slightly over budget but if expenditure continues at its present rate then we should end the year close to budget.

The Local Bodies and Housing Budget is close to being spent.

There are still 2 issues of the magazine to come at an expected cost of \$66,000.

The expenditure will be much closer to budget by the November meeting when consideration will be given to net year's expenditure.

Budget 2016 I have requested proposed budgets from all Board members, NAG and Standing Committee Chairs and Zone Directors for the 2016 financial year to be received by 20th October so that a budget for 2016 can be presented to the November Board meeting

Annual General Meeting. The Rotorua Association has generously made a Donation of \$10,000.00 to be placed in an investment account with any interest earned remaining in that account. The host Association for an AGM can have a repayable loan from this account to cover costs until registrations are paid. The costs to be met are Hotel deposits and small setting up expenses.

The Christchurch Association has been loaned \$3000.00 interest free for the Hotel deposit for the 2016 AGM...

Recommendation

That the Secretary write to the Rotorua Association expressing the Boards sincere thanks for their most generous donation. They also be advised that the money has been invested in a separate interest bearing account and will be managed as they requested.

R Reid

Advocacy Standing Committee

Key project = Progress toward the achievement of roadmap goals –

Goals as provided in the Modernisation Plan (not necessarily in order):

Goal 1: To take a leadership role in the public debate on significant issues facing all New Zealanders

Attainment progress: This goal is achieved by lobby visits and correspondence to decision-makers in Wellington, media releases, written submissions and the interaction of Zone representatives and Zone directors with their regional associations. The fact that politicians and other decision-makers open their doors to the advocacy team twice yearly and the Minister of Senior Citizens has asked to attend Board meetings points to recognition of Grey Power's leadership role.

Goal 7: To determine the method and frequency of contacts with all individuals and groups who can give effect to Grey Power's aims and goals.

Attainment progress: The bi-annual advocacy visits to Wellington is part of the on-going effort to achieve this goal.

Goal 5: To utilise the knowledge and expertise of Grey Power members to develop specific policies for presentation to politicians, their staff, government agencies and similar organisations.

Attainment progress: Associations have the opportunity to comment on Grey Power's policies and advocacy issues – this is extended by advice received from the NAGs who have the necessary expertise.

Goals 6 & 8: To encourage all political parties to embrace GP policies in their election manifestos and to develop specific strategies for single issue lobby units such as energy, rates, retirement villages, housing, ACC, superannuation and health and social services

Attainment progress: The 2015 AGM decided that local body rates, elective surgery and superannuation will be the basis for Grey

Power election strategy. Therefore involvement with political parties and their manifestos is a work in progress in conjunction with the election strategy, local body, health and superannuation NAGs.

Goal 3: To publicise past and intended future successes which enhance the reputation of Grey Power as the pre-eminent advocacy organisation for All New Zealanders.

Attainment progress: Publicising past successes (where we are now) and future plans (where we want to be) is on-going. Accountability to the members and to the decision-makers regarding lobby visits occurs via a members' bi-annual report in the Grey Power magazine.

2. Future project = the next advocacy visit to Wellington which is provisionally planned for October 21st, 22nd & 23rd.

3. Recommendations

That the Board: Adopts the report.

Decides how our accountability obligations to members and decision-makers can occur.

Agrees that associations be requested for stories when the election strategy NAG has had a conversation with the relevant NAGs on clear strategies to influence political parties' election manifestos.

Jan Pentecost

Zone 1

No report received

Zone 2

It has been a difficult time for seniors over the last three months.

Council Budget/Rates The effectively dysfunctional Auckland Council passed its 10 Year Budget under duress of the threat of dire consequences by the Auditor General, including the risk of having commissioners appointed, with an overall increase of 9.9% compared with the Mayors initial promise of 2.5%, with many residents facing much higher increases.

Grey Power and pensioner unit resident submission to defer their rent increases for a year to sort at the many problems affecting the pensioner Courts was ignored, and the rents have increased to 30% of gross income.

Council Meetings I had a meeting with the Mayor Len Brown and his political advisor,

James Riddell. Key point was lack of progress with Grey Power submission points, the massive rates increase, the Seniors Advisory Panel, re-starting meetings with the Mayor, and the need for more effective rates relief for seniors. The Mayor has undertaken to re-establish meetings and to get Grey Power/Age Concern representation on the Seniors Advisory Panel. Let us hope it happens.

Housing There have been a series of meetings with Council over Housing for Older People, and the operation of the pensioner Courts. It is Council policy now to seek a social housing partner to be involved in the management and development of the Courts. Grey Power North Shore has been working closely with the residents to establish a linking network to provide the residents with an effective voice in communicating with Council.

Super Gold card Review Submissions on the proposed changes to the SuperGold Card travel bore at least some fruit with the announcement that there would be no changes to the current scheme, with a bit of a sting in the tail in that the Government announced the cost of the Super Gold card transport scheme will be capped at \$28.1 million for the next five years increased only for the CPI each year. This makes no allowance for population growth in Auckland, or the growing number of people reaching 65 which means that support cost for the scheme will be pushed onto Councils and ratepayers.

It will also be necessary for all Super Gold card travellers to have a HOP card from July 1, 2016.

Free Doctors Visit Bill A further disappointment was the failure of Parliament to agree to the New Zealand First sponsored Bill to provide three free doctor's visitors to proceed to the Select Committee stage for further assessment and debate. The Bill was defeated by a Government vote of 61 to the Opposition's 60, clearly a victim of the absolutely rigid Party politics of Parliament rather than any deficiency in the merit of the proposal.

Digitilisation Another major problem is the increasing digitalisation of everything, and the difficulty this creates for the older not very computer literate generation. It is not just the social media, etc., but the fact that Council, companies, banks, retailers and even newspapers, now have everything on line and the old hard copy standard way of

communicating is disappearing. This means many seniors are being slowly disconnected from what is going on and being shut out of everyday activities.

Diminishing Support I also attended the Age Concern North Shore 50th Anniversary AGM and it was interesting to note that their base Council funding has been cancelled and they now had to join the pool of groups competing for the discretionary funding allocation which adds serious uncertainty to their financial base.

An associated problem is the increasing weakness of various groups associated with seniors, such as the Senior Citizens Societies and others, who are battling with the ageing process and lack of membership renewal and active executive-level people to keep these organisations alive and relevant. A new issue to be addressed.

Other Activities I attended the Gareth Morgan Foundation Talk Treaty exhibition launch representing Grey Power along with Anne-Marie Coury, Anne Martin from Warkworth GP and several others. It was an incredibly eclectic mix of people with Titewhai Harawira in one corner, Don Brash in another, with Michelle Boag, Willy Jackson, John Tamihere and Georgina Beyer all part of the mix. It was a good evening and it was beneficial to have Grey Power recognised and appreciated for their presence.

Grey Power also had a presence in the TPPA protest and a growing rate level protest through Anne-Marie Coury, in particular, who was a keynote speaker at the rates protest. We were also actively involved in support for the retention of the Takapuna Holiday Park and Camping Ground which is threatened by closure and the building of an elite yachting centre.

Bill Rayner, Zone Director

Zone 3

Zone 3 had its second meeting in 2015 in Matamata on Friday 5 June. The meeting was attended by 58 delegates representing 20 associations across the Zone.

There was lively debate and comments in particular on the Federation AGM in Rotorua in April with many of the attending delegates critical about the agenda and way the meeting was conducted.

At the same time there was unanimous congratulations conveyed to the host Association, Rotorua, for the venue and accommodation arrangements. A job well done!

Various motions from the Zone meeting have been forwarded to the Federation.

Merv Lauder, Zone Director

Zone 4

Zone meetings continue to be well attended on the whole. It was rather disappointing at our August meeting to have been unable to secure the presence of the Minister for Senior Citizens, Hon Maggie Barry, even though we had been trying to do so ever since the day she was elected and had been promised she would be with us in August.

Membership in the Associations generally has shown a pleasing increase, with the crown going to Wairoa, due to the efforts of Les Hine, which now has the better part of 10% of its total population as members.

Difficulty is experienced in most areas in motivating members to join the committee or take up office. Many of our committee members and office holders have been there for years and it is time for them to have a break. It would appear that we need a single issue, like the originating surcharge, to fire up our members to take to the streets, as it were. Local body rates are certainly the only issue on which Mana-Tawa members might be willing to stir from their couches. The exception in the zone is Dannevirke, which seems to have no trouble in that department.

The Associations whose representatives were able to attend the Federation AGM in Rotorua are most grateful to that Association for the refund of \$190 which was received. The fact that the AGM ran a surplus is a great example of team effort and we appreciate their generosity in sharing the funds with us.

Kilian de Lacy, Director

Zone 5

No report received

Zone 6

Zone 6 associations have met three times this year hosted by Grey Power Temuka in February, Grey Power Christchurch in July and Grey Power North Canterbury in September. Concern was expressed by the majority of associations at the July meeting about the high percentage of advertisements and advertorials in the Grey Power Magazine's June issue. However, the September issue of the magazine has been a winner with an updated modern cover, glossy paper throughout and interesting articles. The response from members and associations has been most positive.

Christchurch Grey Power President Ian Brownie and his team are well underway with arrangements for the Grey Power Federation 2016 AGM in Christchurch. The Commodore Hotel venue is so convenient being only a few minutes drive from the airport.

The success of Grey Power Electricity seems to be increasing the numbers of new members for all associations in Canterbury as word spreads of the competitive power prices. Marketing Manager for Pulse Energy spoke briefly at our July Zone meeting about the percentage uptake of new GPE customers in the different regions. There is still a bit of confusion surrounding the "price protection" factor as it differs depending on the location in NZ.

No matter how many times sales representatives try to persuade our associations that the Meals on Wheels service and quality of foods will be enhanced by having them prepared by a company in Auckland and distributed to the various DHB areas throughout NZ no one is convinced. A spokesperson from Compass Group spoke at our July Zone meeting in Christchurch. When it was pointed out that volunteers were already saying they would not be prepared to do this voluntary work for a private company with shareholders she replied that this had already been an issue in some areas. Having to pay

staff to deliver the meals will obviously result in increasing costs of meals to clients. It is generally felt that the loss to local suppliers of food and the security of delivery from North to South Islands in the event of a natural disaster was a negative.

Voting procedures at Grey Power Federation Annual General and Special meetings was an agenda item at our last two Zone meetings this year with the need for two votes for each association being called into question. This has resulted in a Zone endorsed remit being forwarded for consideration at the Federation 2016 AGM.

Denise Fitzgerald Zone 6 Director

Zone 7

My thanks to Geoff Piercy who has been interim Zone Director for the past twelve months, and during that time has been of great assistance.

Last month I resumed Zone responsibilities and our next Meeting is set down for Friday 18 September well after the cut-off date for a full report.

After 24 years of service to Central Otago Grey Power, Jackie Goyen the “backbone” of the Association is now taking more of a back seat. Although the May AGM failed due to a lack of a quorum, it was very pleasing to have about 40 people attend the rescheduled AGM last month. Central Otago Mayor Tony Lepper attended briefly and praised the ‘fantastic service’ Jackie undertook for the people in the area. National President Terry King was a guest speaker and also Chaired the Meeting. Christian Derrington addressed the gathering on Grey Power Electricity. After a ballot Eileen Rawlings of Alexandra was elected President.

The sacking of the Southern District Health Board remains a contentious issue with some upset former Board members writing letters to the Editor. Health Minister Jonathan Coleman reassured Otago-Southland residents they would continue to have access to hospital and health services despite the massive financial shakeup taking place under Commissioner Kathy Grant. The concern in this area was the Minister’s comment there was a need to ensure services were not being

duplicated across the board area and it could be that particular services could be operated from “centres of excellence”. Does this mean cuts in the future?

Les Glassey Zone 7 Director

Administration

We have had a few difficulties with the flow of communications in and out of the Grey Power office. After discussions with several people I think we have things back on track.

Surface mail, Violet (as office manager) opens all surface mail, addressed to the Federation office, scans it and forwards it to Jan (Executive Board Secretary) who then decides where it goes to. Violet sends copies to the addressee. Items addressed to the federation office but marked confidential are forwarded to the addressee unopened.

Emails, Emails to the Federation office requiring action by office holders of the Federation are forwarded on to Jan for further distribution.

I also have some concerns with the security of our internal discussions either by email or any other means.

In recent weeks I have received a number of messages from people outside Grey Power who have access to our internal email messages or have been forwarded messages of mine to members.

There are several groups who share our concerns about on rates, taxation and finance but who do not have our profile or credibility with politicians. Some have been trying to use Grey Power to push their own agendas. I know we have some of our members who belong to other groups, which they are allowed to do, but they are not allowed to share Grey Power internal communications. Some members of these outside groups have also joined Grey Power for the same purpose. We have our own internal policy development which I am not prepared to debate or defend with outside groups and I am concerned that some of these people are now included in most of our collective email addresses.

I have very strong views on the ethics of sharing internal communications in this manner and divided loyalties which can put our credibility in danger of being hijacked. If and when we join forces with other like-

minded groups we should do so formally but, during the course of the debate leading up to a policy decision our internal communications must be treated with a little more care and discretion.

Staff, The development and extension of the Grey Power website and the expansion of Grey Power activities on many fronts creates extra work for our staff. They have coped admirably, particularly with the flow of correspondence. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated team and all I ask is that all members make sure the things you ask them to do for you are essential.

Standing Committees, From time to time I hear comments that Grey Power is not doing enough and not making enough noise in public about key issues. Sometimes the most valuable work, particularly by standing committees, can go unseen and unnoticed for some time before it is appropriate to take action or make public comment. By all means feel free to contact me or standing committee chairs about their work and be prepared to help out if asked.

Tom O'Connor, Vice President
Administration Committee chair
Staff Committee chair

Office Administration

Correspondence Routing reminder (Section 6 page 1 Association Guide Version 1)

1 Correspondence on matters relating to Membership, Accounts and Legal Issues should be directed to the Federation Office.

2 Associations who wish to write to individual Portfolio Holders must send a copy to their Zone Director and Zone Representative.

3 Associations requiring matters to be tabled at a Board Meeting should direct them to the Federation Secretary, with a copy to their Zone Director and Zone Representative. The Secretary will refer to the Chair who will determine if it is a Board matter and act appropriately with a reply to the Zone Director and Zone Representative.

4 Associations requiring matters to be dealt with by the Federation, the President or an Individual Member of the Board should direct them to the Federation Secretary, with a copy to their Zone Director and Zone Representative.

5 As a permanent record, copies of all correspondence to any Officer or Board

Member should be sent to the Federation Office so that Central Files may be kept.

6 All Correspondence required to be directed or circulated to Associations (including copies of Press Releases) must be sent to the Federation Office for them to distribute to all Associations with a copy to Zone Directors and Zone Representatives.

NB. This includes all photocopying, especially large numbers of copies. Where possible, hard copy should be posted rather than faxed, for reproduction. Please let the Office know whether the copy is for filing only or for distribution.

7 Any Association problems should be directed through the Zone Director.

June Magazine: I have suggested that the board review sending the June issue of the Magazine to un-financial members. Last June, 13298 were sent to un-financials. This action might result in members paying up sooner and would save thousands in postage.

Minutes: Board and AGM minutes were sent to all on the 2nd July 2015. AGM Minutes and Treasurer's report all went to Life Members.

Membership Cards: Now is the time for Associations to start considering their membership cards and label orders for 2016.

Written requests: I am advised that some Zones are not happy with having to put orders and contact details in writing to the Federation Office. The reason is to ensure that we have written permissions and so there is a correct auditing paper trail for verifying. The Auditor is very happy with the way these things are handled.

Internet Banking: There was also a query from a Zone suggesting that we make internet banking available to the Associations for payment of capitation. Please note that we have had Internet Banking for nearly 3 years now. This method of payment was discussed and approved at board meeting and implemented immediately. It is imperative that the Board analyse their systems for relaying relevant board information to the Zones.

Administration Chair – Vice President I furnished an email to Tom from a firm offering a Zilicense sleeve (to store and provide an individual's information to First Responders in an emergency). This was put to us as a potential fundraising product and Tom has asked me to raise the issue of commercial

ventures as a topic to the board. The staff would like to extend a thanks to our new Chair for his assistance.

Violet McCowatt, Office Administration

Social Services

Blind Foundation Sandy and I attended a meeting with the Blind Foundation which covered general discussion and will be outlined in Sandy's report.

MSD The answers to the questions I put to the MSD while at the Advocacy meeting have been distributed to all Associations.

I have also furnished Associations with the book 'Services for Seniors' and I would like to thank all of the Associations for their input.

The MSD have provided the Community Investment Strategy Book which I have sent out to the Social Services Committee for their comment. My initial feeling is that the book relates more to Law and Order and I therefore sent a copy on to them. A copy is filed in the office.

Superseniors Website

<http://superseniors.msd.govt.nz>

On the request of the national president Terry King, both Sandy Feringa and I attended the launch of the above website by Prime Minister John Key and Minister for Senior Citizens Maggie Barry. It's a place where seniors can access information they may find useful including superannuation entitlements, finances, health and SuperGold discounts, getting out and about, cooking, and to planning where to live. It also has an events section: Any people that may want to contribute articles should get in touch at osc@msd.govt.nz.

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/officeforseniorcitizens

Twitter account:

www.twitter.com/SuperSeniorsNZ

Health Report

Firstly I would like to thank Jan Pentecost our Secretary for her patience, understanding and willingness and attendance at a special meeting to resolve our advocacy issue. Despite frequent requests Jan was unable to get an appointment with the Ministry of Health

during our last Advocacy meeting. As a result of a letter we sent to the Ministry of Health they arranged for us to attend a special meeting in Wellington at their expense to discuss the issues we wish to raise. Jan had already had to delay the Advocacy Report and I was extremely pleased she was able to attend with me and gather what was required to finish her report.

I urge you to read the Advocacy Report and this does contain the information to date and gives you an opportunity to send in any further data you feel could assist us in further advocacy discussions.

The request for assistance in promoting NZ First's Bill for assistance with health insurance is being discussed at the Board meeting. Whilst realising that there is considerable pressure for relief in the cost of premiums once a person reaches 65 we must keep Grey Power policy foremost. That is that health should be affordable to all. It is important whilst looking to the needs of the future generations which have been brought using health insurance there are still a number of people who never had and never will have insurance and their health needs are equally as important.

From time to time I receive a request for personal assistance which I am quite happy to give. However it is important to know that there are a number of delaying tactics used especially by some District Health Boards and it can take some time to get a response. I ask for your patience as I will let you know immediately I get a reply.

It was very pleasing to hear from committee member Kilian de Lacy about the assistance being given to the District Health Board in promoting the Health Passport. The most encouraging aspect of this report was that there is good interaction between Grey Power and their District Health Board.

Whilst referring to the Health Passport I would strongly encourage you to promote this at your meetings. It contains very valuable information and should be carried by all.

Thank you all for your expressions of interest in the meetings being arranged on the Health of Older Persons strategy proposed changes. These meetings should all be set up by the time you receive this report.

Another issue which from time to time arises is the cost of travel to hospitals especially in the rural areas and the problems

around re-imburement. At the meeting Jan and I had with the Ministry of Health it was explained that their travel costs are worked out on satellite photos showing the shortest route. It appears that there is no follow up as to whether this is suitable to travel on and whether it is the preferred route used by emergency vehicles. I am going to see if there is any way we can get someone from the Ministry to work with emergency services and do a check on these routes. If you have any examples you can provide this would be much appreciated.

Jo Millar, Chair Health National Advisory Group

ACC Report

There are some interesting challenges coming from ACC at present. There is a concerted effort by the Managerial Staff to look to improving the perception of ACC by the General Public. I think it will take some time but the start of the campaign looks very positive. There is now a requirement for the client to be the focus not the policies. I am hoping this new outlook may prove positive in resolving some of the outstanding problems I am working on at present.

May I extend my sincere thanks to all Grey Power members who so promptly come back to me with responses to the surveys which I put out from time to time. I sit on the Older Persons Advisory Group for ACC which is made up only of consumer representatives and it is from these meetings that the surveys are produced. The timeframe is quite short so I ask you to bear with me if I need speedy replies.

I have asked for Ageism to be put on the agenda for discussion at one of the meetings. It is apparent to me that this is used in many cases to close ACC claims. I have given examples I have come across but if anyone knows of any situations they think may be of assistance I would appreciate hearing about them. I do not need any information other than the circumstance of the injury and the resulting outcome.

I must express my disappointment at the reluctance of board members to support a request from a group called ManageACC. The group are looking at how to go about changing legislation which currently enforces those over 65 from receiving ACC payments after 2

years. Grey Power was asked if they would support “in principle” their proposal. My understanding of “in principle” is being in favour of what you know so far. What we know so far is that our people are being disadvantaged under the present system.

What is of more concern to me is that we may have lost our opportunity to have some input into ManageACC’s proposal.

The next meeting of the advisory group is in October so I hope to bring more information on the changes ACC are making in their work.

Jo Millar Chair – ACC Subcommittee

Superannuation & Taxation

Since the last issue of this bulletin the retirement income discussion paper ‘Retirement Income from a Grey Power perspective’ has been redrafted in the form of a reference guide for agencies external to Grey Power.

Assuming that by the time you read this bulletin the GPNZF Board will have approved external distribution, it will be released initially to MP’s and the research units of the various political party, academic and industry agencies. Coincident with this public release the advisory group will email the ‘external edition’ to all Associations for reference purposes.

It is hoped that the many external agencies participating in the retirement incomes debate will reflect on our ‘experience based’ observations of the essential provisions of state funded retirement income and the economic and family-focussed pre-conditions which encourage each individual’s progression through life-span toward satisfying ‘active’ retirement and ultimate dependency.

While increased Grey Power representation in future work group activity related to retirement income policy is the outcome we seek to establish there is a parallel need to raise public awareness of the importance of ‘future proofing’ New Zealand Superannuation (NZS) as the nation’s basic, first tier scheme; so as to ensure it’s continuing availability to oncoming generations.

KiwiSaver and other ‘savings’ based schemes meet a continuing need for additional private provision for independent, supplementary income in retirement but such schemes fall demonstrably short of the well-

being principles inherent in New Zealand Superannuation. This assertion is supported by expert opinion but, in an unsettled political environment, ongoing security of NZS is dependent on public awareness of its comprehensive advantages.

Lew Rohloff, Chair.

50+ Sub-Committee

Recent Key Events On-going contact with the Living Wage Campaign, in Auckland has seen Grey Power invited to present at a public meeting attracting over 200 concerned folk, focusing on raising the pay of workers at Selwyn Foundation facilities. Professor Judy MacGregor and Dr Jackie Blue Human Rights Commissioner were fellow collaborators in this event.

Support for the Equal Pay Coalition has led to further meetings, and MP visits in Auckland, all part of improving pay for 50 Plus females.

Gaining more understanding of how overlapping NAGs and policies can work through 50 Plus NAG Chair attending the local Bodies NAG meeting.

Given that there is an increasing awareness of the demographic shift in our population, and newspapers are starting to run features on positive ageing, it is easier to gain media attention for the 50 Plus policies. The Toolkit will feature examples of positive media we have achieved.

On Nine to Noon, 25th August, Kathryn Ryan interviewed me on difficulties facing 50 Plus folk gaining mortgages after marriage break-ups.

Here is the link:

www.radionz.co.nz/audio/player/201767872

Summary of up-dates to 50 Plus Policy Policy Mission;

To advance, support and enhance the well-being of 50-65 year olds, recognising the long term future of Grey Power will come from members joining from this age group.

Issues, problems and solutions the policy addresses include. Those currently 50 –65 years of age are facing a potential life span another twenty to thirty years, and need opportunities to plan for second time around careers, and opportunities to enable them to continue to contribute fully to society. Ageism in the workplace, planned redundancies, limited retraining options.

Low wage rates, lack of equal pay for women. The impact of marriage break-ups and domestic violence for those in their 50s especially the difficulties in obtaining mortgage money to buy property.

The inappropriate Govt policies around 60 plus job search; removal of training and study allowances, low recognition of the contributions of volunteers. The impact of the digital divide on access to knowledge and personal data and the lack of privacy in libraries when accessing such data.

Recommendations to the Board

Payment for membership of the Living Wage be approved.

Funding to continue the NAG work on the toolkit be maintained.

Endorse the 50 Plus policy for up-load to the Federation web site.

Anne-Marie Coury 50 Plus NAG Chair

Legal and Regulations

Alterations to Federation Constitution The changes to the Federation Constitution approved at the 2015 Federation AGM were forwarded to the Companies Office on 31 July for registration. Approval was subsequently given by the Registrar of Incorporated Societies early August.

An updated Constitution is being sent to all Associations after clarification from the Board as to who is responsible for incorporating the alterations.

Privacy Waiver on Membership Forms A memo will be sent to all Associations reminding them of the importance of having a privacy waiver on membership application and renewal forms, as recommended by the Office of the Privacy Commissioner.

Remits for 2016 Federation AGM A memo was sent to all Associations on 5 August requesting Remits for the 2016 Federation AGM to be received by 17 November 2015 if possible in order for any of them requiring minor corrections to be forwarded to, and returned by, the nominating/seconding Associations prior to the Christmas holiday break when most Associations close down. This would ensure the Remits receipt before the official closing dates of 8 February (Associations) and 18 February (Zone-endorsed) 2016.

A further reminder will be sent to Associations reminding them of the official Remit closing dates and asking for Remits to be forwarded to Federation office as soon as possible.

Sandy Feringa, Chair

Communications & Technology

The Communications & Technology committee has had a busy time with a number of projects on going:

Challenge Fuels. Challenge offered some months ago, to do some design work on a new member's card for us, however due to staff changes in their marketing dept, this has stalled however they are still keen to get back to it in the future.

Fuel discount: This is good news, from the start the commencement on 1st of April the scheme has been well received May sales showed good growth over April there was a 24% increase in litres in May as opposed to April.

Challenge has recently had their AGM and Grey Power opportunities were mentioned at the conference.

Some Grey Power outlets are leaving their new members brochure with Challenge outlets, which is helping to gain new members for those associations.

Manuals: Over the few months attention has been given to updating and reviewing for improvement in several areas, the Governance manual and the By-Laws were two areas that got special attention, where our President Terry King, Treasurer Roy Reid, our Secretary Jan Pentecost, and the writer spent a full day working on these documents (*thanks to Jan, who has spent a lot of time carrying out the alterations the sub-committee arrived at*). Board approval is expected to confirm the changes. It is also intended to make parts of the Governance manual, the By-Laws and other manuals available from electronic storage, these will be password protected.

Magazine. After a lot of comment some positive, but most negative, our magazine publisher Mr Mike Blake (Waikato Business publications) has done a major make-over of our September issue, more articles, and I believe flows very well. One of the regular comments we are getting is, our members want more Grey Power news i.e: mainly the core

areas of health, local bodies, law & order, etc, I would request our National advisory group chairs, try and have something for each issue, maybe on a rotational basis

Web-site. Again the web-site has generated a lot of interest, again both negative and positive, I welcome that, I believe when you are not getting feedback, no one is looking at it, in saying that we are getting a lot of hits daily on our web-site .I am absolutely amazed at how many experts on web-sites we have in our associations.

We are endeavouring to keep the web-site current, media releases, etc, we would welcome any news from associations, even newsletters (*we reserve the right to publish*) and we have put a special link to the AGM, (yes we have taken down the 2014 AGM agenda)and will put up each newsletter the Christchurch organising committee put out.

If any associations require information put on the web-site please advise the writer, by e-mail.

I would like to thank Charlotte in our office for her on the spot maintenance of the web-site)

TPPA. Grey Power associations have been active in opposition too the TPPA, (the Grey Power flag was featured both in TV and print media during the National protests on the 15th of August. While as this report is being composed no decision has been reached at the government level, we are still continuing to promote our opposition to it where possible. A policy has been struck outlining Grey Powers opposition to the TPPA, based largely on the likely impact both on the availability of medicines around Pharmac., plus other elements such as secrecy, and sovereignty, etc.

Finally from time to time political parties send us information relating to some of their activities, mostly seeking support if a bill is drawn from the ballot. They usually like us to distribute it to associations, please beware, as we are apolitical if you receive this information it is to be treated as **information only**, we are not promoting one party over another.

However we must remember we advocate with all parties, and if we don't pass on as requested information we can hardly expect them to give us a favourable response if we asking them to take up any of requests. Food for thought.

Miles R. Jackson, Chair of Communication & Technology.

Aged Care – Sub Committee

As I have been part of the judging panel for the Agecare Association competitions run in conjunction with their annual conference I have had the opportunity to visit a rest home at Kumeu and Taradale as part of the food award. We also were shown through both Rest home and Hospital wings of both facilities.

Kumeu village rest home is privately owned and had been in operation for 4 months with 80 residents, with the possibility of a retirement village in the future. The home visited at Taradale is owned by the Oceania Healthcare group and is part of a retirement village managed by a former prison manager.

These visits were unannounced and residents appeared to be well cared for.

Both had good staff training programmes with staff being paid to training levels achieved.

There is now good evidence that being involved with the initial report done by Sue Kedgley and Hon Winnie Laban followed by Dr Judy McGregor's "Caring Counts"

Report have helped lift the standard of care and training of rest home staff.

Home care is the Governments preference for the provision of age care but the District Health Boards are still reducing hours allocated to those already receiving care. We need the Associations to collect evidence of cuts being made to the hours of care allocated without re assessments done prior to the reduction of hours. Again many of the cuts are advised by telephone.

I am working on a policy to return the government policy on the subsidy level of assets to be increased by \$25,000 per year until it reaches the ceiling. I hope to circulate a policy to Board members before the Board meeting.

R Reid

Retirement Villages

No Report Received

Local Bodies and Housing

The main events this period were

- 1) A meeting of the NAG was held on the 20th and 21st of August in Palmerston North
- 2) Attendance of the Director of the Office for Senior Citizens at this meeting
- 3) A meeting with the Department of Internal Affairs to see how the uptake of the rates Rebate Scheme could be improved
- 4) An offer by LGNZ to meet to discuss its 10 point plan to increase local body funding options.

NAG Meeting, Jan Pentecost and Pete Matcham attended this first meeting of the NAG. Their expertise and experience in the advocacy role proved most helpful and was welcome.

At the meeting achievements were listed, action plans were prepared, and some adjustments to the policy statements have been suggested for Board approval.

A significant change is the understanding that change to the rating system will be a long drawn out process and that in the interim the NAG will also concentrate on improving the standard of submissions made by associations to their councils as a way to reduce increases in rates. To this end it is proposed to produce a tool box and seek an opportunity to address the AGM.

I have asked Zone Directors to ask associations to supply copies of submissions that they have made to local authorities and to nominate a contact for the NAG. The response has been poor. These submissions will be used to identify areas of common concern for the tool box which hopefully help associations prepare submissions and questions for candidates standing in the local body elections next year.

Another change is the development of a separate policy for Age Friendly Communities. The Director of the Office for Senior Citizens has apparently taken this project to heart and is in the process of appointing a staff member to progress this policy. There will be significant cooperation to spread this policy far and wide. We are gathering information with the help of the Office for Senior Citizens with the objective of targeting those councils where we believe Age Friendly policies are appropriate.

It was comforting to see that DIA was looking at ways to improve the uptake of the rates rebate. Some issues discussed were the requirement to claim year on year and the

possibility of IRD processing most claims automatically. If agreed this won't happen overnight as, the government has to agree, and legislation may need to be changes and computers programmed.

The Housing NAG is proving to be the most difficult to progress but we now have an action list to help us and the data we hope to get may determine the way forward.

SuperGold Card Jan, Pete, and I met with LGNZ on the 30th to discuss support for LGNZ's approach to government which we support, and the need for Grey Power to make submissions. The budget provided for a fixed sum for the card, for 5 years (with CPI adjustments) and bulk funding of regional authorities. I believe that this will result in rationing of travel or ratepayer support. I have requested Zone Directors to approach regional authorities to ensure that they are consulted on local funding models should the representations be unsuccessful.

Trevor Daniell Chair

Law & Order

The last three months have seen a reasonable amount of work for this committee.

We were asked to write to the Minister of Justice regarding the banning of psychoactive substances but the reply was not great with the government holding neutral space until they see what progresses.

A letter was prepared and sent to the news media regarding what we thought should be in the Domestic Violence Bill and I was interviewed for national radio on this.

Consequent to this, along with many others, I am preparing a submission for Grey Power to go to the Minister of Justice on the proposed new Domestic Violence Bill. The basis of our submission will be that there is a need to identify offenders early in their life and spend time and resources at that time.

Increase in penalties were of no major significance unless the Judiciary we to make maximum use of what was available

I consider that this committee should become involved in emergency management particularly as it effects older people. I have published an article in the Federation magazine with more still to come.. I also attended a recent meeting at Massey University in Wellington and spoke with

members of the Emergency Management Joint Venture team there.

There are some very real gaps in this area.

Graeme Faulkner, Chair

Research Standing Committee

Progress on Road Map objectives

1. *Establish close working relationships with other individuals and organisations for further research into areas of interest and concern to Grey Power Federation.*

Attended seminars hosted by Institute of Governance and Policy Studies on Randomised control trials in public policy and a long term longitudinal study of older New Zealanders conducted jointly by staff from Massey, Otago and Victoria universities.

In addition attended two seminars hosted by The Electricity Authority and the Network Association on regulation of the electricity industry.

Continued to build on existing relationships with senior policy personnel and academics including those at IGPS, Otago Medical School, LGNZ and OSC.

2. *Develop Member/Association satisfaction surveys and members exit surveys*
As this at most an annual event, no action this period.
3. *Establish an electronic repository for all Grey Power Federation research papers*
Discussions with the Chair, Communications and Technology Committee and Bob Thompson have progressed this and it is hoped to implement this in conjunction with a wider on-line GPF document repository.

Other activities undertaken. A background paper on the impact of rates on superannuitants to support discussion by the LB&H NAG was developed. Following from the Board agreement that the chairs of the Research and Advocacy committees should be ex officio members of all NAGs, we attended and assisted with a meeting of the LB&H NAG to review progress and policy. This was found to be as beneficial to both sides as anticipated, with both gaining a better understanding of the research needed to support this policy portfolio, whilst the committee members were able to provide the

NAG with relevant contacts for background information. Two research tasks were identified as a result of discussions and are detailed for approval and action in proposed work below.

A sign up process for an on-line poll has been developed and tested. Articles introducing this and the initial survey on the impact of home heating costs on members have been written for the Quarterly Magazine. Draft questionnaire on home heating completed and circulated within the committee for comment.

Prepared submission on items to be collected in the 2018 census.

Proposed work In addition to the work currently under way, it is felt that it would be beneficial to obtain data on the impact of rates affordability amongst members to support discussions on funding options with LGNZ and to underpin future policy positions.

Two surveys are being considered. First a survey to establish basic data on the financial impact of local body funding on superannuitants, how this relates to the funding mechanisms used, and the degree to which asset decumulation must be considered in any policy position. Secondly it is well established in international research and supported by local anecdote, that local body rates are resented far more than national taxes. It is proposed to undertake a survey to determine if this applies to members, and if so, why.

P. Matcham Chair, Research Committee.

Note to Associations

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