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BOARD BULLETIN 36

OCTOBER 2008

From the President

The meeting with the Minister of Commerce, Hon Lianne Dalziel re the collapse of the Financial Sector did not really tell us anything that we did not already know. The legislation Labour has in the house will not assist those who have lost their capital and income in the collapse of so many finance institutions.

There have been many occasions when I have been emailed and phoned re the support Winston Peters appears to have from Grey Power Federation. These enquiries have come from the media, associations and members. My reply has been that Federation is not responsible for whom associations invite to speak at their meetings and that Federation does not support any political party. I have also informed the media that Hon Ruth Dyson, Minister for Senior Citizens has spoken at 70 plus association meetings but the media has chosen to ignore that information.

The Election date is now known and again I would like to do what we have always done and that is to ask members to vote for the constituency candidate in their traditional manner and to examine carefully the policies of all parties and vote for the party whose policies are closely aligned to Grey Power.

Les Howard – President

ZONE REPORTS

Zone One

Zone one held its Zone Meeting on Thursday 25th. September
At the March Zone meeting all associations were represented.

Whangarei reported on the Senior Expo being held in Whangarei 22 – 23 October and

Zone One Report cont:-

asked members from Zone 1 to support the Expo if they were available that weekend. They held a 'Meet the Candidates' meeting on 9th. October. Membership stands at 530 and they gained 17 new members over the last three months.

Far North membership stands at 269 including 9 new members over the last month. Though some members face high rate increases they are in good heart.

Kaipara are working to increase their membership.

Kerikeri membership currently stands at 335, and they have also gained 3 new members this month. They also held a 'Meet the Candidates' meeting on 9th. October.

Unfortunately the photograph of John Key in the latest Grey Power Magazine appeared to indicate that we back the National Party. It was agreed that other photos should have been shown.

Zone Boundaries: After lengthy discussion it was moved and seconded that

“Zone 1 Director will have our approval to listen and assess discussions on rezoning and if detrimental to the Associations in Zone 1 then she has the full support of Zone 1 Associations to totally oppose it.

After discussion it was agreed; “that the Zone Director refer to the Grey Power Federation Transport Spoke Person about the dangerous state of the Northland roads; And that the Minister for Transport asking that the state of Northlands roads be dealt with immediately and that all one way bridges on main truck roads be replaced with two way bridges”.

Alternative Medicines Bill: Associations were concerned that if this bill it was passed, personal choice would be greatly diminished. .

Whangarei mentioned their concern at the state of the Whangarei Base Hospital and they felt that the overall cleanliness was third rate.

Associations were asked to write into the hospital board with any complaints.

The usual discussion took place on the rise in rates and after discussion it was agreed that sending a letter to The Mayor Wayne Brown on this issue was more practicable than a Meeting.

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Zone One Cont:-

The removal of GST on food was also discussed along with the procession to Parliament and members were urged to sign the petition if they had not already done so,

The next Zone 1 meeting is scheduled for the last week in January so that any further Zone remits can be dealt with.

Lis Renner. Director Zone One.

Zone Two

All Associations in Zone Two are in good heart and are continuing to put in a lot of effort on behalf of their members. Some Committees are struggling for volunteers which means additional responsibilities for those who are available. These are usually the long serving Committee members who are dedicated to the cause of Greypower. We are grateful for them as well as those who have served faithfully in the past but now are unable to carry on.

Thanks to Those Zone one Associations who manned the Greypower booth at the 'Seniors Day Out Expo' held at the Epsom Showground's this past weekend. I am sure they will have promoted the Greypower Organisation in a beneficial way and gained some new members and useful contacts.

Your Efforts are appreciated.

All Associations have provided a platform for aspiring Election Candidates with Winston Peters drawing the largest crowds at North Shore & Howick/Pakuranga.

Regardless of the election outcome I guess we have to acknowledge the help we have received in the past from Mr Peters and will count ourselves fortunate if he is able to render us the same kind of service in the future.

I guess the other kind of service from Politicians that we have to be thankful for as an Organisation is the parliamentary doors that are always –

Zone Two Cont:-

open to our Lobbying Group. We hope that will be continued regardless of who may prevail in the coming elections.

Membership renewals seem to be lagging somewhat in a year when we usually expect a surge in membership numbers. This is a concern that will be kept for study at our forthcoming Zone Meeting in early November.

My thanks for all Association Newsletters; These are becoming continually more & more professional and informative. All are greatly appreciated. Please keep up the good work.

Frank Jackson - Director – Zone Two.

Zone Three

Agenda items requested for discussion and presentation to the Board by Associations, apart from the usual concerns, included a real focus on money problems brought about by the dramatic increase in the cost of living. For example the demand from Tauranga's Food Bank has doubled in the last three months! There is the problem of huge Rates increases in rural communities who lack any of the services available to urban citizens. There is a report that police do not always release the line in the event of a 111 call so the victim is unable to call a neighbour or for medical assistance. There is general disagreement with the Strategy Committee's "one issue election Policy."

A well presented Remit from Coromandel Association on the subject of medical insurance premiums has been Zone endorsed. This one is different from the usual annual Remits on this subject and is likely to be supported by delegates at the next AGM.

Zone 3 has decided to return to venue rotation between Mount Maunganui,

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Zone Three Cont:-

Matamata and Kawerau for Zone Meetings. The Host Association will be expected to make all the arrangements including providing Minute Secretarial services.

Since the last Board Meeting I have attended Association Meetings in Hamilton, Matamata, Western Bay of Plenty, Mercury Bay, and Taumarānui. A scheduled meeting at Zone 4's Mana-Tawa was aborted because of plane problems at Tauranga Airport.

It is pleasing to report that the majority of Associations in Zone 3 are in good spirits and happy with the way the Board is now going about the necessary business of Grey Power.

Ian S Anderson - Director Zone Three

Zone Four

Meetings are held two-monthly, the most recent of which was on 18 September and was again well attended by 28 delegates from 19 of the 21 associations in the Zone. It says volumes for the dedication of Associations that our meetings are always very well attended and that delegates travel long distances to attend. Most of the reports are emailed prior to the meeting and 'verbals' are given by the small number who haven't emailed theirs. Most associations have strong committees and are well led by experienced, long serving Presidents. Consequently Grey Power exerts considerable influence in local body affairs throughout the Zone. One Council seldom decides an issue without first consulting Grey Power, such is the regard in which that particular association has been held for many years.

Paid membership at **19343** represents **25.78%** of the Federation total as at 29/08/08 but of concern is the number of unfinancial members. All associations are aware of the problem and are doing their best to collect the outstandings ->

Zone Four cont:-

prior to deletions in December. As I often point out when the subject is being discussed, Grey Power actually needs to attract about 10% new members a year just to maintain numbers let alone increase them.

Several remits discussed received Zone endorsement, and have already been forwarded to the Chair, Remits Committee for attention. Others will be processed at the next meeting on 27 November.

Graham Adams -Zone 4 Director

Zone Five

The Zone next meets on 12 / 13 October as no meetings are held during the winter months. The main concerns from the Associations are the lack of Doctors and Nurses in rural areas, Cost of living, Rates increases, home caregivers, and the Constitution.

. All the Zones Associations are working to try and increase their Membership, as well as renew the existing un-financial Members. We must all remember the hours of work that the Membership Secretaries and Committee Members devote to increasing the Membership.

The Chemist Charge saga continues in the Nelson, Motueka, and Golden Bay areas. After a lengthy period of conciliation Meetings between the Nelson Marlborough DHB and the Chemists the Chemists dropped the charge of \$1.00 per prescription item and now charge a range of fees for intervention faxed prescriptions, copying and filing prescriptions, part supply of prescriptions, Phoning the Doctor, checking Community Card eligibility and writing WINZ reports with costs between \$3.00 and \$10.00 per item. The Chemists have received an increase in their new contract with the DHB.

The Motueka Assn. referred a complaint from a Member who was charged \$16.00 for intervention on four

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Zone Five cont:-

items on the one prescription to the DHB. This resulted with the Chemist visiting the Assn. Office and accusing Grey Power of interfering with their business. A complaint from the Golden Bay Assn. has been sent to the Minister of Health about intervention charges.

It is my opinion that most of these charges are between the prescribing Doctor and the Chemist and should not be the responsibility of the patient and that we must work to ensure that these charges can no longer be made.

With the General Election coming up most of the Associations are arranging to meet the Candidates meetings, to ascertain Party Policies. The next two months are going to be busy ones for the Associations.

R Reid - Zone Five Director

Zone Six

My First Term as Zone Director has been rather hectic catching up on how things are managed in the Zone and what the Associations are doing. Christchurch has been functioning well, with Colin Taylor away, and considering the passing away of Graham Stairmand and Joe Walker in such a short time. They were a source of information and grey Power historical data.

The other Associations are moving along well with their activities with North Canterbury members are being kept well informed and they have good turn outs at meetings.

Ashburton have had, and are having, plenty of political speakers and are in the throws of a Membership Drive.

Temuka are working well and doing Okay. With -

Timaru in fine fettle and their membership is up.

Waimate have had a good array of political speakers at very well attended meetings. North Otago Assn. members have attended the last four political

Zone Six cont

meetings to hear the speakers. All of which is most gratifying.

Contact Energy's big raise in electricity charges is a real source of concern as to the affordability for those on Superannuation and other low incomes. With costs already high, many do without heating which causes much stress especially in winter.

Christchurch and North Canterbury are delighted that their long and hard fought battle for free bus and other transport has at long last come to fruition with the Government funding for Gold Card holders. They are to be congratulated.

Next Zone Meeting to be held on the 26th January 2009

David Holmes – Director Zone Six

Zone Seven

Although attendance was not large the last Zone Meeting, a good discussion was held on some very important issues. These were on:- Parole abuse – child Care – Boot Camps – Anti Smacking – discipline – “that the Law and Order committee of the Federation ask for a ‘feed back’ from Associations to formulate a Policy for presentation to the relevant Ministers”; Also “that Grey Power seek a change to the current immigration Policy requiring all future immigrants, whether individuals or families to be (a) financially Independent (b) competent in the English Language and (c) to meet rigid Health Criteria including Obesity, aids and Sexual Diseases.” Also “that Law and Order be the same for all citizens “What ere the race or creed”. that there be one code of justice for all.

A Lengthy debate on Parliamentary Pensions and Perks took place. Items on the Agenda for the next meeting are 'The Otago Dental School., Upgrading Rural Hospitals, Privacy, Hearing Loss, PHO Consumer involvement and Remits.

Dick Stark – Director Zone Seven

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PORTFOLIO REPORTS

Energy Report

It has been quite a busy time since the last Board Meeting and brief descriptions of the various activities are as follows.

A submission to the Electricity Commission was prepared and submitted on the Market Design Review Options Paper. The thrust of our submission is that there is in fact no competition at the domestic consumer level. As these consumers provide 44% of the revenue but only consumed 32% of the electricity they have a right to be given greater consideration.

A submission was made on the proposals for a revised format of the Electricity and Gas Complaints Commission. This will make better provisions for consumers to have any grievances with their supplier heard.

In September the Tenth Energy Summit conference was held in Wellington at which Peter Rutledge was a member of a panel to discuss whether consumers have a voice in electricity affairs. Other members of the panel were Mike Underhill of EECA, Ralph Mathes of Major Energy Users Group, and Rae Deacon of Rio Tinto. All four speakers stated the so called market system as it is currently operating is not at all competitive. Both Mike Underhill and PDR were also equally emphatic that the domestic sector does not have an adequate voice in the operation of the industry.

Committee member Peter Rutledge deserves special thanks for his commitment in preparing the bulk of our submissions and representing GreyPower at Wellington based Meetings and Seminars.

Terry King - Chair Energy Committee:

Health Report

As a result of the article on Macular Degeneration Drug costs in the Sunday times, I have been fully stretched replying to people wanting more information and a lot of those people now wish to join Grey Power.

On the Agenda to Pharmac to be discussed are the above costs and treatment, Thyroid issues and Panadol subsidies.

I have Spoken to Dennis Paget (consumer Committee on Pharmac) about these issues but have not heard back.

Dr Moodie was out of the Country and our advocacy team was unable to see him on the last visit.

Communication is taking place with the Otago Dental School over the future of Dentistry, Dental Therapists and Dental Technicians. Communication also started for those people with Dental conditions who are on medication. In Communication also with Health Minister David Cunliffe over Nurse Practitioners, National Travel Subsidies, Health boards and Rural Health.

Dick Stark – Chair – Health Portfolio

Kiwibank Deposit Scheme

Funds in members' accounts which have been identified as "Grey Power" are steadily increasing as the flight to quality continues and at last report had topped \$30million. Consequently the commission the Federation receives each quarter is also on an upwards trend. For the August 08 quarter the amount was \$5400 and for the 2008 year to date the total commission received is \$12627. For the full year it is likely to be approx \$18000 which goes a long way to compensating for the fall-off in membership nationally.

A big "thank you" to those members who responded with information on disappointing experiences on Kiwibank locations following receipt of their recent Grey Power magazine; - >

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Kiwibank Deposit Scheme Cont:-

Mainly in the Auckland area. Prompt action has been taken by Kiwibank to remind its 360 offices of the simple procedures in place for Grey Power members to have their accounts - existing or new - identified for inclusion in the scheme.

Associations are asked to put reminders in their newsletters so that the momentum can be maintained. Whilst the total funds are growing nicely the number of members' accounts in the scheme is very low and really needs to increase quickly for the scheme to produce a much higher level of commission which is now running at an **annual** rate of over \$20,000.

Graham Adams - Scheme Convenor.

Strategy Report. Bulletin

I would like to put on record the tremendous input and thank the members who gave much time and effort contributing to the Strategy Policy for the coming Elections.

The committee has debated many issues including 'A NZ constitution'; GST off essential Food Items'; Binding Referenda" etc., but has put them aside for an in-depth study on –

1. The anomalies that it is thought are part of the present system of specifying Superannuation levels.

2. Creating a NZ Poverty Line.

It is felt that if the present assumptions are proven it should help to ease the financial burden of many Superannuitants.

This is all very time consuming and will need auditing by professionals so until the final outcome is available it is all work and no announcement.

We have released a small media release with our intention, which has been followed up by Radio NZ. Interest but any further comment will not be made until the stats we are using are verified.

At present we are working with the Universities of Otago; Massey and the Bankers Association.

Dick Stark – Convenor

50+ Committee Report

The cost of living continues to increase with food costs increasing by 7.6% for the year ending 31 July. With these big increases to the cost of living those on low incomes or benefits as their only source of income are facing a struggle to live to a standard that they had been accustomed to. No increases have been made to Benefits on to take effect on 1 October to reflect on the Tax cuts that become effective on that date, so the beneficiaries will continue to face further hardship and continue to live further into poverty

The increase in Rates and Rents in many areas also adds to the hardship.

We can only hope that the level of benefits will become an issue during the Election Campaign.

The Committee has looked at the 50+ policy statement and recommends to the Board that the Executive Summary Detailed 50+ Policy document of two pages be deleted from the Aims, Objectives and Policies Book as it is mostly out of date and far too long. The slowdown in the Employment figures will no doubt show that those over 50 years old will again face difficulty in retaining their positions and also find it more difficult to find suitable employment should they be seeking new positions in a much tighter labour market.

R Reid - Chair - 50 Plus Committee

Housing Portfolio

At the first board Meeting this year I spoke about hoping to do a research project via the members to find out how older people manage to stay in their own homes and keep up with repairs and maintenance.

Housing Portfolio cont:-

Since then the Centre for Research Evaluation and Social Assessment (CRESA) has begun work for 'Ageing in Place' on a program almost exactly the same— but on a more professional basis than we could possibly achieve on a limited budget.

Through Grey Power I have been assigned to the National Reference Group (NRG) and will find out how the research is going.

The project is to **Empower Older People to Repair and Maintain Safe and Comfortable Homes.**

We will research house condition, repair and maintenance issues facing older people in five different communities across NZ. (Auckland: Sandringham, Waiheke Island and the Chinese community. Also Kawerau and Marlborough).

The research asks:-

Do; poor house performance and the burden of repairs and maintenance make older people want to leave their homes?

What do older people need to keep their homes safe and comfortable?

How can repair and maintenance services and assistance best be delivered to support older people?

The questionnaire is very thorough taking approximately 1½ hours and there is also a comprehensive study done by experts to assess the house condition, both inside and out.

The whole project will be reassessed over a 5 year period so I hope to keep you up to date from time to time.

The committee and myself wish you all a Very Merry Xmas and a Great New Year to follow.

Judy Lamont – Chair
Housing Portfolio

Superannuation & Taxation

For many years we have been told that it would not be possible to make mid year Superannuation adjustments because the required information would not be available. We have also been told that even if the information was available the size of the adjustment would be insignificant. (Translation: a political embarrassment.) Imagine our surprise when the Lobby Team visited the MSD early in August and were shown a forecast of what Superannuation would probably be on 1 April 2009!

This year there will be a mid-term adjustment thanks to the 1 October Income Tax adjustment, but that would have been even sweeter if it could have included a CPI adjustment to take into account the huge increase in the cost of living since 1 January.

A number of Grey Power Associations are independently studying various aspects of Superannuation, i.e. the effect of Taxation, the calculation and impact of the CPI, the calculation and impact of the Average Wage, etc. There is considerable duplication of effort and many hours spent searching for information which is readily accessible.. It would be interesting to have a structured workshop of Association representatives of each of these groups to put their ideas out to debate, get an agreed direction and a proposal to put to the Board. The problem is funding for such an exercise.

I have a concern that if Associations continue to pick at various aspects of the Superannuation Act and keep pressuring publicly some politician will eventually say there is a mood for change and get a review of the Superannuation Act. The outcome may not be to our liking. Far better to take the "Working for Families" approach and target those Superannuitants who are truly in need, and there are many of them.

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Superannuation Cont:-

We are working on that.

Another surprise came our way during this recent Lobbying mission. Our effort to press for an independent body to handle Superannuation was not rubbished by anyone (politician or public service) and our objection to Superannuation being used as a political bargaining tool was given a sympathetic hearing. This has been picked up by the Media, particularly the newspapers, so watch for some interesting reading leading up to the election!

We have had some very good media attention recently with Les Howard and me being approached by newspapers and radio, resulting in some worthwhile publicity for Grey Power.

**Ian S Anderson - Chair,-
Superannuation & Taxation**

Grey Power Magazine Report

The September Edition of the Grey Power Magazine has been well received, and congratulations are due to Robin Charteris in producing this publication, in his capacity of newly appointed Editor.

Like the former Editor, Robin has total editorial independence and this fact is written into his employment contract as approved by the full Board on a unanimous basis.

The GreyPower Magazine is required to have 40% advertising and 60% Editorial and therefore editorial space is determined by the amount of advertising received. Because editorial space was at a premium the Election 2008 articles were decided on the basis of parliamentary seats gained on election night 2005.

Coordination of advertising space is prepared in Auckland, and editorial content is put together by Robin in

Grey Power Magazine Report Cont:-
Dunedin. The two functions are quite separate.

As a professional journalist Robin stands by the decision he made, on the basis of space availability. The Magazine Committee and the Board totally support Robin in the presentation of this edition, in an election year.

**Terry King - Chair
GreyPower Magazine Committee**

Law Order and Justice

How much value does a criminal attach to a victims life?

In the Media reports on Sept 12 it was reported that **SEVEN MURDERS** had been reported in South Auckland in the last 15 weeks. There have also been several more murders committed in the rest of the country during the same time.

We must be deeply concerned to learn that a Police Officer was murdered while on duty in South Auckland on September 11. Our Police Officers need to be better protected when they are working in dangerous situations and dealing with violent criminals.

Your committee wants our Police Officers to be given the weapons they need to defend themselves; and be given the authority to get the job done. What use is a weapon locked in a box? The criminal is not going to wait while the Officer phones his political supervisor for permission to open the box.

Our Police Officers need a Commissioner who will support them against politically correct politicians who seem more concerned about the rights of criminals than about the rights of law abiding citizens and the Police Officers trying to protect those citizens.

Our Police and our law abiding citizens need to be supported by a Judiciary free of political interference that will impose the tough sentences demanded by the majority of New Zealanders. We are sick of seeing villains treated as victims.

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Law Order and Justice Cont:-

We are sick of seeing our Police Officers treated as guilty criminals and having to defend themselves if they use a weapon of any sort against criminals.

We do not want a police state. We do want a return to a respect for the Law and to be safe in our streets and homes. It is now time for action not words. Our society expects Zero Tolerance to anyone involved in the manufacture supply or use of any drugs.

Now is the time for all New Zealand Citizens to demand that we can live in a safety, free from the violence that is occurring right across the country.

Roy Reid – Chair

Law Order and Justice

Rules and Remits

All of the successful Remits from the 2008 AGM in Christchurch have now been serviced with varying results. These have now been collated and will be distributed to all Associations shortly. My thanks to all Portfolio Chairpersons who have assisted in this task.

It has to be acknowledged that lobbying efforts are far from easy and often end in frustration for our Lobbying representatives when Remits do not seem to get serious study by our respective politicians. On a more positive note we do make progress, if sometimes very slowly, and that is surely incentive enough to continue our lobbying efforts.

We have held only one short meeting of the Rules & Remits Committee to consider possible changes to the Constitution in order to avoid the problems encountered and consequent ill-feeling created at the 2008 AGM. Some of the proposals put forward found favour at the meeting while others require more serious consideration.

My personal thanks anyway to those members of the Committee for the work that has been done.

Rules & Remits cont:-

It is hoped to have a firmed-up set of proposals for presentation to the next Board meeting that will seek their approval for some urgent remedial action to be taken.

The understanding of all concerned will be required in this thankless but nevertheless serious exercise. Hopefully it will all end up in a Constitution that is more easily understandable & democratic.

Frank Jackson -Chairman **Rules & Remits Committee.**

Retirement Villages Report

The Minister of Building & Construction issued a Retirement Village (RV) Code of Practice that came into force in Sept. 2006, which contained a clause that if an occupation right agreement provides that the resident must pay any cost of refurbishing the unit after vacating. "That the residential unit is to be refurbished to no more than the condition of the unit when the resident entered it, less 'fair wear and tear'."

Most agreements, prior to the date that the invalidated Code came into effect, stated only that refurbishment was to be on the condition of the unit when the resident entered it.

After being in force for 15 months, the Code was invalidated by Judge France in the High Court last December, effectively because of insufficient consultation time. The plaintiffs were the Association of RV 'Operator/Owners the Retirement Villages Assoc.

Judge France also gave a judgement that "the Act authorises the Code to alter existing arrangements" That is effectively saying that 'Fair wear and tear' may also be taken into account for all RV residents.

The Prime Minister has now announced a new Code of Practice to replace the invalidated one. This states that "fair wear and tear" is included in the new Code,

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Retirement Villages Cont:-

but ONLY for those who became residents after 25th Sept.2006; this despite the judgement of Judge France. Grey Power consider this to be discrimination and goes totally against the views of Judge France that 'fair wear and tear' should apply to ALL RV residents, as is the case of Rental Tenants.

Thinking there at last some small benefits for the residents, this gain has been snatched away from them

Yet another penalty after joint efforts of Age concern and Grey Power to allow residents partake in the rates rebate scheme. This has been rejected, despite the fact residents pay for the rates through their weekly/ monthly corporate fees.

No doubt RV residents will take this into account, especially during November??

Bill Atkinson – Chair – Retirement Villages

Local Bodies Report

On the 1st of August the Committee met with the Hon Nanaia Mahuta (Minister of Local government) at her Electoral Office in Hamilton. Discussion took place on two remits that had been passed at the Grey Power 2008 AGM.

Item one was the FPP and STV Voting outcomes of Local Body Elections Oct 2007. In view of the great confusion by many in the last elections many points were put forward. As to how the 2010 Elections should be run either on FPP or STV not both. If Local govt. decide to run on STV the MSD should be approached to make voters aware of the different requirements for STV voting. It was decided by the lobby that a letter be sent to Sue Piper Chair of LGC with copies to Minister Mahuta and Grey Power Local Body Comm. for input to Board Report. Letter to state the

Local Bodies Report Cont:- preference for either one or the other voting systems not both.

Water supplies were also discussed, especially the issue that legislation must be passed to ensure public ownership of all water supplies.

A letter is to be sent to Minister Mahuta with the Committee's views on the passing of the Legislation as above.

A big issue is the wish for the Local Body commission and Central Government Commission who set the salaries for elected members, be paralleled by an Independent Commission to set NZ Superannuation on a twice yearly basis.

The Minister has some sympathy with the Independent Commission idea.. A letter will be sent to Minister Mahuta, with copies to other respective Ministers.

Retirement Village issues were discussed and Minister Mahuta agreed to arrange for the appropriate contacts to contact Bill Atkinson- Chair of this Portfolio. Bill Atkinson's number was given to Minister Mahuta's Office.

The 'Shand' Report was discussed concerning Rates Issues .

Other issues of concern in Local Body matters were raised also.

The Minister asked for three of Grey Power's issues. The following were given.

1. Overarching is to get a lift for single NZS from 33% to 35%
2. an independent Commission to set NZS on a twice yearly basis.
3. Poverty in areas of Food, Fuel, Health DC Rates.

Bob Buchanan – Chair Local Body. Committee

(Editor - this report has been abridged and as it contains quite an amount of detailed associated information.; If these detailed contents are required , Association Secretaries, please contact the Federation office for a copy of the complete Report.)

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Administration, Publicity and Social Services

Super Gold Card:

For Association information, the help-line number is **0800 254 565**. I have arranged for the MSD to forward us a list of questions and answers that they are compiling regards the new reduced travel costs that are to be introduced, and I will send them to all Associations as soon as they come to hand.

Grey Power Website:

Following a memo to Associations advising them of the need to press the 'refresh button' to update their access to the website, feedback has been very good with many taking advantage of it by advertising their meetings on the site. If any Associations have nay information or photos for the site, they should advise Sharon at Fed Office. In the past month , we have had nearly 5,000 hits on the site.

Banking:

Banking up to the end of August is down to this time last year. The numbers of financial members reflect this:-

Comparison: August 07 - 77,725 financial; while August 08 is 75.036 financial.

Mail Outs:

All associations will have by now received their august mail outs, which included amongst other things, a full member report for each Assn together with a National Directory for each Assoc. to check their details and advise any changes.

My thanks to the Lobby Group I attended Parliament with. Our meetings went very well and are fully reported on in the Lobby Report included in the mail out.

Companies' Office:

Associations are reminded that they are obliged to furnish their annual accounts to the Companies' Office each year.

Admin.Publicity and Soc.Services Cont:-

Failure to do so has resulted in some Associations being 'struck off' for non-compliance and they now have to re-apply. Also, if Associations effect changes to their registered details at the Companies' Office, they should furnish Federation Office with the appropriate approved documents when received back from the Companies Office.

Publicity:

If any Zones have matters they would like to issue press releases on, please let me know.

Social Services:

All issues that come under Social Services are being followed up continuously with interviews with Ministries and the Ministers. At present we await some report back. Pamphlets are being sent on the different issues quite regularly.

Violet McCowatt

Editor Notes: I have edited a number of reports; while at the same time have endeavoured t keep as much information flowing to Associations. As there has been some time since the last bulletin, in editing I have kept the major points of information on issues and of interest so that the ideas from Zones and Associations can be passed around. I

I hope you find this bulletin of interest, and pick up ideas as to what other Associations are doing.

Regards to all,
Pamela Purdon. Ed.