

TAURANGA & WBOP

GREY POWER

50+ MAGAZINE

Official publication of Tauranga & WBOP Grey Power | Phone 07 571 2558 | Email tgagreypower@gmail.com

MAY 2016

Priced out of our homes

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We would like to hear your opinions or concerns on subject matter for printing in our magazine. Mail to: The Editor, Tauranga WBOP Grey Power, PO Box 841, Tauranga 3140.

Website: www.greypowertauranga.org.nz

Email: tgagreypower@gmail.com

Subject line - Letters. Letters must include the writer's name, home address and phone number. Letters should not exceed 120 words inclusive. Letters may be edited for clarity and length.

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President's Word



I seem to always be writing a magazine, speaking of which, 'SUN' newspaper said they no longer wished to print our magazine, so we had to frantically find a new printing company that would help source advertisers to cover the cost of production. We're happy to say we are now on board with Savant Creative and Sanyati Print - their work certainly looks impressive! So if our magazine is a little late, it's been a mad scramble to get this underway.

The 17th April saw David Marshall and I at the National Grey Power AGM in Christchurch with one remit under our arm:

Effective and Visual Advocacy:

That the Grey Power Federation become more proactive and consultative with member Associations, as an independent advocacy organisation, to more effectively fight for justice and equity for our membership on critical issues such as housing for the elderly, timely access to surgery, transparency in retirement village costs, exposing misleading advertising to the elderly, unaffordable funeral insurance policies, Superannuation/immigration i.e. An amendment of section 70 of the social securities Act, etc

Also I said we needed to lift Grey Power to another level with the employment of a CEO. This was passed with a resounding yes! Obviously we put forward the remit, because we haven't been happy with the performance of the Board this past year! Tom O'Connor [Timaru] was voted in as the new President.

Read more on results of Maggie Barry [Minister of Senior Citizens] and Winston Peters [Leader of NZ First] presentations on page 14. Also read about the 'Work Safe' issue for volunteers on page 18.

Our own AGM and election of officers is on June 9th where I will be standing down from being your President. It's been a hard 4 years of promoting Grey Power - speaking at venues, meeting with politicians, writing for this magazine and writing many letters... also helping to get Tauranga's Grey Power back on track.

Hopefully see you all at our AGM.

Christina Humphreys [President]
Tauranga & WBOP Grey Power Association



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PRICED OUT OF OUR HOMES

Many are elated about the huge prices they are selling their homes for at the moment, especially if you are the seller!

I quote one instance where my niece sold her three bedroomed brick house in Papamoa for \$630,000 - a home that her and hubby bought for just under the \$400,000 mark some four years ago. They have bought a section to build on immediately for similar money. The adage being is to buy and sell on the same market. Having said that, many houses in Papamoa have sold for around the \$800,000 mark, for just a 3/4 bedroom brick and tile, nice but normal everyday home. Who can afford this and is the bank loaning this high money?

Tauranga boasts some of the highest street median house values, they have risen 22 percent from last year to \$575,450 average with 14 percent increase difference between CV and sale price over the past three months, according to QV (Quotable Value). With this in mind, there are now so many people who just cannot break into the house market at all, because this has just happened in Tauranga in the last three months and has steadily been building, so people wanting to buy with just a deposit are left out in the cold.

The demographic in Papamoa has largely been young families and retired couples and when the house values were around the \$400,000 this is what these two groups of people could afford. Now where do they go if they are not already in the property market in the area?

Will this push more elderly into retirement villages, those that can afford it?

The small country towns like Paeroa, Thames, Te Aroha, Kawarau etc are now experiencing resurgence with new subdivisions popping up and retirees moving in en mass. Not that their rates are a lot cheaper there, still close to \$3,000 pa, though am told \$1,800 are the rates for Kawarau. Katikati pensioners were ready to move out because rates keep climbing average rates around \$3,300, Waihi Beach rates \$5,000- \$10,000. All getting too high for pensioners! The cheapest rated places to live in NZ are the Mackenzie country where rates are \$1,104, and Whangarei or Southland!

All this is making it very difficult for the pensioner on a fixed income to know where they can they live out their years and where they can budget to make the money last, for how long do we have... 20-30 years? Supposedly the average life span is to survive to your mid 80's. The accommodation supplement

allowance has suffered neglect by government and just does not keep up with these inflated costs for pensioners to survive in their home to this age.

With these incredible house increases, rentals will now become an even shorter commodity, because landlords have sold a number of their houses for these high prices, but also because the rents don't equate to a good investment anymore. If they put rents even higher, most pensioners cannot afford to pay them. Hence we are seeing more homeless pensioners. A very sad indictment on our society!

What happens if there is a marriage break up or people haven't paid off their mortgage or are made redundant early and they have not saved enough before retiring?

We baby boomers have been used since the eighties on, with no or very minute wage increases, all in the name of keeping inflation under control. Consecutive governments have never thought of the human consequence at this end of life, when most have not been able to save enough to retire.

The single living alone pension is \$355.16 per week, (a married couple \$290.91 a week each) how on earth can anyone even pay just their rent on that amount, never mind power, food and other fixed costs?

So where does the government or United Nations want us to go to, short of putting something in the water - have we have outlived our use by date? If you read the United Nation's agenda 21, (now referred to as Agenda 2030) the plan is to build large high-rise buildings with small Units so as to cram in as many people as possible into the smallest amount of space. Note this is happening with Auckland's unitary plan NOW and coming to a city near you, it's called 'stack 'm and pack 'm - people management or Smart Growth.

www.sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/sustainabledevelopmentgoals

We have worked hard, our grandparents, parents and us built this country to what it is today! The roads, the hydro dams, railways, the schools, and the universities the libraries, in fact the entire



infrastructure, and now much of it has been sold off to investors or multinationals.

The government thinks the answer is to keep bringing in as many immigrants as possible to carry the economy along. That may well be fine, but that is what is putting huge pressure on our infrastructure and we still don't seem to have the money to upgrade any essentials like roads, sewerage, water, and housing.

Also section 70 of the Social Welfare Act needs an overhaul to stop immigrants of ten years residency being able to bring their aged parents into NZ who can then receive our pension and free health care never ever having paid into the NZ tax system.

Come on National why are you making it so hard for our NZ people to survive? 'Charity begins at home.'

C Humphreys

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Rise of the retiring 'grey nomads'

Ageing baby-boomers, dubbed "grey nomads", are retiring to caravans and motorhomes in Nelson and Tasman, rather than conventional houses or retirement homes.

Tahuna Beach Holiday Park manager Ann said half of its permanent residents were aged 65 or older. The oldest was 91. About 50 retired residents chose to live in a caravan or attached unit rather than live in a conventional property or retirement home. The trend had become noticeable in the past few years and there was a waiting list of 25 people, most of whom were also older than 65, Ann said.

"We have people who have money and they want a permanent site for a caravan and unit. They don't want to spend \$400,000 living in a modern big house."

Nelson needed more land or accommodation developed specifically for retired people, allowing them to rent or buy a small house or hassle-free section, before they were ready for a retirement home, she said.

Nelson Tasman Housing Trust co-ordinator Patrick Steer said Nelson urgently needed a housing strategy, based on housing assessment needs, to better suit the areas ageing population. The "grey nomads" phenomenon of Australia - a term describing the ageing, transient population - was already appearing in New Zealand and showed up the region's changing housing needs.

"The grey nomads travelling around in caravans or motorhomes - it's happening increasingly here in New Zealand. There are just not as many yet and Australia is a lot bigger," Steer said.

Maitai Valley Motor Camp manager Carol Wood was already noticing the "grey nomads" of New Zealand,

saying the camp had several retired regulars living in caravans and motorhomes for a few months before moving on to another location.

Steer said the Nelson and Tasman Councils were unaware of the true extent of the region's affordable housing needs and the impact the region's ageing population would have on accommodation.

Already there were 40 people aged 55 or older, 17 of whom were single women living alone, waiting to get into Nelson City Council's 142 community housing units, Steer said.

The Tasman District Council has a waiting list of 58 people aged 55 or older for pensioner units in Motueka and Richmond, where it has 111 units. A report looking at Nelson's increasing housing needs was included in the City Council's Social Wellbeing policy, currently being implemented.

Council Planning and Policy Manager, Nicky McDonald, said an extract on housing had been included, recognising the impact it had on social issues and how housing needs were changing. By 2031, it was estimated up to another 7300 houses would be needed in Nelson, the policy said. This was mainly because of the area's ageing population - all age groups are declining, except those 65 years and older - while house prices have increased 70 per cent between 2002 and 2004. Average household size is projected to drop from 2.4 in 2006 to 2.1 by 2031, with a projected increase in one-person households.

"More housing will be needed, with projections ranging from a low estimate of 1800 to a high estimate of 7300 by 2031," the policy says.

However, despite these estimates, fewer small and affordable houses were being built to accommodate shrinking households. It meant the price of existing small homes remained high and out of reach for some, the policy said.

So the Nomad craze will increase either from choice or necessity. The Grey pensioners will continue to take to living in caravans and motorhomes.

Michelle Sutton

GREY POWER coffee mornings

**THE VILLAGE CAFÉ hasn't re-opened yet!
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**10am on the first Thursday of every month
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Summerset Retirement Village
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**10.30am Thursday 16th June
10.30am Thursday 11th August
10.30am Thursday 13th October
10.30am Thursday 8th December**



**Phone Jenny 5737081 or
Maureen 021744 208 or
the Grey Power Office - 571 2558
for the Tauranga coffee mornings.**

**Baden and Lyn
Phone 549 5423 for Katikati**

**ALL WELCOME - Wear a name badge if
you have one and bring along issues for
discussion!**

Affordable Funerals

The funeral industry is experiencing a shift away from the traditional practices such as formal funeral services to say goodbye to loved ones.

Many smaller, family owned and operated firms are offering simple and affordable funeral services without compromising on quality and dignity. These firms often don't have large, ceremonious and costly premises but still offer the same services at affordable rates.

With so many more Direct Cremations taking place (no funeral service), people are opting to exit this world very simply and therefore embalming is not always necessary. It's costly and very invasive. Families can choose a simple funeral such as a direct cremation, a private family farewell or a memorial service post cremation. Memorial services are popular now as they allow families time to process and plan a farewell and they are in control of costs.

The public are now demanding increased 'eco awareness'. Traditional highly veneered caskets are now able to be hired from many firms for ceremonial services and using a cardboard casket inside, as a liner. This liner is then cremated. Cardboard caskets are made right here in the Bay showcasing innovative small businesses on our doorstep.

Families/individuals can choose simple and affordable funeral options and leave this world lightly, without burdening loved ones left behind with large funeral costs.

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GREY POWER Electricity Report

You MUST be a member of GREY POWER ASSN to qualify for the GREY POWER ELECTRICITY. You need that Grey Power Assn membership number which will only cost you \$20 or \$35 sub, a cheap investment for a lower power account.

We [Grey Power] wrote to NOVA to ask if they would replace or allow mechanical analogue meters instead of the smart meters that are being installed, which the government now has all electrical power companies on a mission to have installed throughout NZ by 2017.

Nova has another company called Legacy, which we understood was for this reason. We have written to NOVA and this is some of their reply, quote:

Nova's energy policy is generally to replace old meters with AMI [smart meters]. We prefer AMI meters because they enable us to offer pricing plans that better match our customers needs and reduce the overall cost of supplying energy, for example enabling reduced rates for nights and weekends. This means that we would only replace an old compliant meter with a mechanical analogue one if a customer specifically requested it.

In other situations, including where an AMI meter is already in place in the home, but the customer wants it removed, we can replace it with a mechanical analogue meter under our arrangement with the legacy-metering group. However it is important to note that the customer will have to pay the upfront cost of the installation. It is worth noting that, while

Nova does not currently charge separately for reading the meters, we do expect that in the future we will also have to pass on to customers the higher costs associated with manually reading mechanical meters.

I hope that this letter adequately answers your questions and that NOVA Energy can work with the Tauranga & WBOP Grey Power Assn to find a solution that suits its members.

NOVA – B Bahirathan CEO

NOTE: You may need to view their terms and conditions to see if the analogue meter can be retained after 2017. It seems we can trust no one!

From Katherine Smith, Co-ordinator at Stop Smart Meters Site

The information about privacy is misleading. While smart meters themselves cannot identify the appliances that are in use in a household, the data which is collected by a smart meter can be de-aggregated to reveal what appliance is in use and when. A graphic that illustrates this facet of smart meters' function may be seen at this link:
<https://www.smartmeterpowerstruggle.wordpress.com/>

If you are interested in smart meters and privacy you may like the articles at this link:
<http://www.stopsmartmeters.org.nz/category/privacy-2/>
Or this one:
<http://www.stopsmartmeters.org.nz/latest-news/smart-meters-spy-on-you-and-create-honeypot-of-data-uk-newspaper-mail/>

C.Humphreys

Easy: 16. Medium: 89.

NUMBER GYM



CODECRACKER

KIWI QUIZ

1. The Rocky Horror Picture Show – O'Brien created it. Muldoon briefly appeared as the narrator. 2. Taranaki. 3. Fantail. 4. McCaw (2001 vs 2003). 5. Maurice Gee. 6. Lamington (he was Baron Lamington). 7. Seven. 8. The World's Fastest Indian. 9. Te Urewera (it was returned to control of the Tuhoe people). 10. Schmitzel von Krumm. 11. Merrill Lynch. 12. Alan Bolland.

CROSSWORD

Across: 1. Give up the ghost. 10. Ample. 11. Symposium. 12. Amnesia. 13. Dilemma. 14. Alibi. 16. Hot polliot. 19. Sagacious. 20. Sober. 22. Illegal. 25. Natural. 27. Terminate. 28. Milre. 29. Neck of the woods. **Down:** 2. Impending. 3. Evens. 4. Pistachio. 5. Humid. 6. Good looks. 7. Opium. 8. Timpani. 9. Panama. 15. Incognito. 17. Insincere. 18. Least. 26. Tempo.

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

The Elms

178 years young



The Elms Mission station 175th anniversary of the arrival of Reverend Alfred Nesbit Brown and his wife Charlotte to the Te Papa Mission in Tauranga was celebrated at a service on the 4th January 2013.

The Chapel service was followed by a recital of Rev. Brown's reflections on life on an early Mission Station.

There was enactment in period costumes acting out the parts of Alfred and Charlotte Brown. They strolled through the grounds commenting on the changes evident since 1838.

The Elms Historic House is the oldest European heritage site in the Bay of Plenty, and is an essential stop for all visitors to Tauranga. From this traditional English home, Maori were given the opportunity to learn about Christianity, and were educated in reading and writing, as well as agricultural and domestic skills.

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WHITE ISLAND... make a day of it!

Another jewel in the Bay of Plenty for you to all get out there and visit. It is NZ's only live marine volcano and certainly a very active one at times.

White Island sits 49km out from Whakatane - a 90 minute boat ride out from this rural town. Most of the tours leave from Whakatane, be it boat or helicopter flight. All tours are weather dependent - the PeeJay 1V 'White Island Tours' can handle most conditions, but it is better to pick a nice day for a trip.

When you disembark onto White Island you are given masks and gloves to protect you from the

sulphurous gases. The walk into the crater is like entering a lunar moon landscape.

Rock and steaming clouds and the variation of colours of yellow and orange sulphur crystals are wonderful. Then the sight of the bubbling crater - all easy to see as the volcano has blown the side wall out sometime ago. It is an amazing place to visit, a must to see here right on your doorstep.

Check out the web:

**www.bayofplentynz.com/experiences
or Google white island tours
and go and enjoy!**



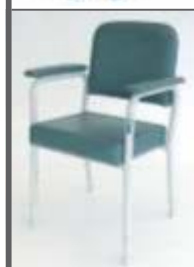
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Grab Rails for instance can be custom made and fitted for inside or outside the home.

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GOLD CARD PROGRESS 20.4.16

I have just returned from the Christchurch Grey Power AGM.

Wednesday 20th we were addressed by the Minister for Senior Citizens, Maggie Barry, and among other issues, like Elder abuse, she spoke about the Gold Card and touting how good are the changes that National is making, but we made it clear to her we were not happy about the changes! Especially regarding the bus and ferry transport issues of how in every town/city we would have to go and pay \$10 for a local smart card to be able to use these services, even when using at the off peak times. Many elderly who have lost their drivers license or have no car rely on these off peak services.

We said we didn't want a number of different cards, finally she said 'well we could make the gold card into a smart card with everything loaded onto it and a photo for ID.' So we said yes that's just what we want, just one card! Personally I am not a fan of smart cards [agenda 21], but it's the way of the world. Many older people need a photo ID card, as once they have lost their drivers license they have no ID card to use.

So Ms Barry has said she would go away and do the costing's on this new SGC card and come back to us, so lets hope she does right by us!

We also had Winston Peters speak to us and he was saying 'Tell government, hands off our SUPER GOLD CARD, they can't be trusted!'

I had already asked Simon Bridges about how our Gold Card SGC which has a black strip on the back, and why can't that be activated? I still haven't had a reply!

GOLD CARD CHANGES:- Grey Power Report 29.2.16

Associations and their members will be aware of the Government's move to change the funding mechanism for Super Gold Card (SGC) travel and to make other changes to the administration and operation of this scheme.

Several areas of this proposal have caused concern to Grey Power. These include a cap on funding for five years (CPI adjustment only); the potential for cost transfer from central Govt. to regional councils, and the potential impact of the requirement to use electronic ticketing on the universality of the scheme.

The relevant Federation Board Committees have been pursuing these issues on your behalf and will continue to do so. Actions taken and positions reached to date are as follows.

No loss of Access

As noted in the report on the October advocacy visit, this issue was discussed with the Minister, Simon Bridges, and we obtained an assurance that none of the changes will affect access. This is reflected in current documentation eg New Zealand Transport Authority (NZTA) allocation methodology principles "access of SGC holders to the scheme is not affected"¹

Funding allocation

NZTA has been tasked with developing a funding model in conjunction with regional councils, Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) and other stakeholders. We will be making a submission to NZTA as major stakeholder on your behalf. We are also in contact with LGNZ and various regional councils throughout the country to ensure our viewpoint is heard. NZTA's preferred option does give more money to the regions at the expense of the main Centres, which together with the lifting of the moratorium on new services could help address the concern about the lack of services there. However, it will be down to local associations to lobby for those services within their area.

Cost transfer

We understand from regional councils that NZTA's proposed option for funding allocation has allayed some concerns regarding cost transfer, and note that provision has now been made for increased funding above CPI if "robust data and evidence is provided to support the need"².

¹ Engagement on the development of a sustainable SuperGold funding allocation pg 5 principles

² Engagement on the development of a sustainable SuperGold funding allocation pg 4 Background

Electronic card requirement.

One of our main concerns has been that the requirement for the use of an electronic ticket could undermine the universality of the SGC travel scheme, and add considerable end user cost. To date the Ministry of Transport (MoT) has softened the original

proposal to introduce this requirement immediately, to the extent that it is now up to Regional Councils when this requirement is introduced. Our concern is that their change is more to do with the practicalities of implementation for regional councils than an attempt to address the problem of universality.

We will raise this issue specifically with the Minister, and will also continue to advocate directly with MOT on this point.

We would ask that all associations to also lobby their regional councils to ensure that mandatory electronic ticketing is delayed until obtaining one is possible for visitors before they need one eg at the airport, station etc and that there is no requirement to keep a cash balance. This is particularly relevant for Auckland associations and members.

Here's your chance members write or email: simon.bridges@national.org.nz Minister of Transport or Regional council: info@boprc.govt.nz. Make your objection known: Leave our Gold Card alone!

Also email: Maggie Barry - maggie.barry@parliament.govt.nz
Minister of Senior Citizens

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POLITICAL FORUM

Winston says hands off our gold card!

DON'T touch our SuperGold Card! That was the message that New Zealand First leader, Winston Peters, urged seniors to give the Government.

The SuperGold card, immigration and the flag referendum were the main topics when Mr Peters visited Whanganui and spoke at a meeting hosted by Grey Power.

Mr Peters said that under a new government policy, gold card holders would be required to purchase smartcards - like Auckland's HOP cards or Wellington's Snapper cards - for off-peak travel, and pay an additional \$10.

"If seniors travel to another region, they will be forced to buy a new card," he said.

"The SuperGold Card is yours - you have earned it - but please, in your own interests, fight to keep it."

New Zealand First introduced the SuperGold card in 2007, while the party's SuperGold Health Check bill went before Parliament this year but was defeated 61 votes to 60.

"The intention of the bill was to provide three free GP visits with the SuperGold Card each year," said

Mr Peters.

"New Zealand First didn't want our seniors sitting at home feeling ill and worried about going to a GP because of the cost."

We are urged to fight for the card because he said pensioners have paid taxes over years when tax rates were high.

"All Grey Power members must tell the government 'Hands off our SuperGold Card'." And he said they should also refuse to buy smartcards for public transport.

Mr Peters also talked about the impact of high immigration on health services and said "large numbers of immigrants" were visiting hospitals rather than going to GPs.

"If New Zealand taxpayers, who have paid taxes all their lives, go to hospital they have to join a queue comprising a large number of immigrants who have been in the country five minutes."

He said the strain impacted on services, because all district health boards were underfunded.

winston.peters@parliament.govt.nz

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Greypower editorial from Scott Simpson MP for Coromandel

Over the last few weeks as I've been working around the Coromandel electorate I've had several people ask me about the SuperGold Card Scheme.

I know how highly valued the transport concession scheme is and how important it is to SuperGold cardholders that its long-term viability be maintained. The cost of the scheme has been increasing rapidly due to growth in the number of cardholders, increased card use, and a rise in public transport use.

To combat these increasing costs, the Government recently agreed to make a number of policy changes to the scheme including allowing new contracted services to join the scheme, bulk funding regional councils participating in the scheme, and introducing smartcards for SuperGold cardholders once local councils are happy they have been to adopt long term ticketing technology.

I want to assure you that these proposals will not affect current services to those of you who have a SuperGold Card. In fact, it may improve access to the scheme for SuperGold cardholders. There is no intention to shift the cost of the SuperGold Card scheme to councils and ratepayers. In the short term, funding for regional councils will be approximately

equivalent to the amount provided through the fare reimbursement model.

Using this new technology will ensure better planning for future transport needs so that providers are well prepared to deal with the costs of the scheme and can continue to provide this service to seniors across the country.

The National-led Government is committed to helping our seniors live full, independent lives and ensuring you have access to public transport is a big part of this. Part of this program is an ongoing commitment to expanding the number of businesses offering SuperGold Card discounts. In regions like the Coromandel this is where SuperGold Card holders gain the best benefits. There are now 8,000 businesses across New Zealand which are signed up to this scheme – a brilliant result for our seniors since National came into Government.

I want to assure you that this Government remains committed to older New Zealanders and will continue to provide more services, with better access to those who need them most.

Scott Simpson

mpcoromandel@parliament.govt.nz

TAURANGA & WBOP

GREY POWER Annual General Meeting



All Welcome

Date: Thursday 9th June 2016
Time: 1.30 pm
Venue: Wesley Methodist Church Hall, 13th Ave.
Guest Speaker: Helen Mason CEO of the DHB Tauranga Hospital

Tauranga & WBOP Grey Power AGM and election of officers will follow.

*Tea/coffee and biscuits will be served after the meeting.
Gold coin donation would be appreciated from non members please.*

Helping Patients through our healthcare system



Do you face problems with your hospital or doctor & don't know where to turn?

The good news is that there is an independent impartial organisation whose aim it is to help resolve issues and misunderstandings between the public and healthcare providers such as doctors, hospitals, nurses etc. This organisation is the Health Consumer Service, and their services are free and available to everyone.

Health providers understandably do not want consumer complaints but when dealt with effectively, outcomes can be extremely positive for both parties.

Consumers who live in the Midland region which covers the following areas: Taranaki, Waikato, Thames/Coromandel, Bay of Plenty, Rotorua, Whakatane and Gisborne, have had access to the Health Consumer Service for over 30 years. The service deals with complaints and concerns that consumers may have in respect to their health. This service is free and confidential.

Associates for the Western Bay of Plenty are Anne and Bev, who can facilitate in any conflict situation, where the health provider is funded through the Midland District Health Boards, and assist to achieve resolution of the conflict. The complaint does not necessarily have to breach the Code of Consumer Rights, as with the Health and Disability Services, which are contracted to the Health and Disability Commissioner. Unlike Health & Disability, the Health Consumer Service can assist with questions of access to health and disability services such as waiting lists, choice of provider, and so on.

The service's function is to provide a neutral person for communication and mediation between the consumer and the provider. The aim is for a resolution at a "grass roots" level and a resolution with which both parties feel comfortable. Associates do not get involved in adversarial confrontations but rather provide a vehicle for mediation and facilitation for positive outcomes for all.

Cases are specific and individual and problems frequently relate to communication. Associates do not take ownership of the problem but rather "walk beside the consumer" in terms of their concerns with the goal of reaching a resolution. We can write letters or make phone calls on your behalf, advise you

about complaint procedures, and we can accompany you to meetings with your healthcare provider, to support you with your complaint.

Our services include making a difference for you with Medical, Dental, Home Help, Rest homes, Community health Services, Surgical, Disability Support, Counselling & Mental health issues.

Health providers would rather have matters brought to their attention as otherwise they are not aware there is a problem. This offers the opportunity for a response and for resolving a situation, which can often improve the relationship between health provider and consumer. The outcomes of the resolutions can often provide the basis for a change in policies, practices and procedures thus benefiting the wider community.

Associates working in the Western Bay of Plenty for the Health Consumer Service are easily accessible.

**Contact can be made with either:
Anne Burnett Ph (07) 575 6906 or
Bev Dowling Ph (07) 5753398 at any time.**



Scam Alert!

Grey Power recently was made aware of a scam targeting its members. While we passed this information on to Grey Power members it made us think of the other scams that often find their way to our inboxes.

There is the email which informs you that a distant relative in some other country has left you money in their will. Or, a relative is stuck in a foreign country and needing funds sent urgently. These emails can appear very genuine and instructions will involve replying to the email. **Don't do it!!!** By replying they have started the process of hooking the victim, you, in.

Another scam is the email advising that your account is overdue, please pay now. This email will usually have an attachment which they want you to click on. **Don't do it!!!** Those attachments usually contain malware/viruses.

The tax department is often used in scams with the email stating you are due a refund. An attachment will be there for you to click on. **Don't do it!!!**

Scams are not confined to emails. You may receive a call from a Microsoft technician advising you that your computer has a problem and he/she is there to



help fix it. During the course of the conversation you will be asked to provide credit card details for the help needed to fix your computer. Again, **don't do it!!!!** Better still, don't let any conversation go this far. If you feel the caller might be genuine (most unlikely) then ask for their name and contact number. The caller will be reluctant to give this information and will hang up on you.

There is **never** an instance where a bank will call asking for your password or bank details. If you receive a call asking for this information, **don't give it!!!**

Those instigating the scams come up with new ways to attract their victims but by exercising caution you can avoid becoming that victim.

Donna La fauci

THE URINE SAMPLE

Recently I became ill and landed in hospital. One of the nurses just drove me crazy. Every time she came in, she talked to me as if I was a little child.

She would say in a patronizing tone of voice, "And how are we doing this morning?" or "Are we ready for a bath?" or "Are we hungry?"



I'd had enough of this particular nurse. One day at breakfast I took the apple juice off the tray and put it in my bedside stand. Later I was given a urine sample bottle to fill for testing. So you might guess what I did with the juice!

The nurse came in a while later, picked up the urine sample bottle, looked at it and said, "My, my, it seems we are a little cloudy today."



At this, I snatched the bottle out of her hand, popped off the top and gulped it down, saying, "Well, I'll run it through again. Maybe I can filter it better this time!"

The nurse fainted... and I just smiled.

SO DON'T MESS WITH OLD PEOPLE!

SOMETIMES I PRETEND TO BE NORMAL BUT THAT GETS BORING.

SO I GO BACK TO BEING JUST ME!



Health and safety of volunteers at work

Go to: www.worksafe.govt.nz/volunteers/

Purpose

This position sets out our approach to the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 (HSWA) for:

- Volunteer workers and other volunteers
- Volunteer associations
- **Persons Conducting a Business or Undertaking** (PCBUs) that use volunteers to carry out business functions and activities.

Why is a balanced legislative framework for volunteers important?

New Zealand's volunteer sector is important, and provides a valuable service to our country and those living here. The HSWA seeks to provide a balanced framework to keep workers and workplaces healthy and safe. Even so, a fear of legislative hurdles should not deter people from volunteering or PCBUs from accepting volunteered service.

What is the legislative framework for volunteers?

A PCBU has a primary duty of care, so far as reasonably practicable, to ensure the health and safety of workers who are working for or influenced by the PCBU. That duty of care extends to others (including volunteers) who may be at risk from the work done.

A PCBU must also ensure that nobody's health and safety is put at risk by the work done as part of the PCBU's activities, no matter if a paid worker or volunteer does the work. Some obligations and duties of PCBUs to volunteers are limited.

A volunteer association is not a PCBU and doesn't have the duties of a PCBU. A volunteer association is a group of volunteers working together, for a community purpose and on a voluntary basis. It does not employ people. If an organisation is not a volunteer association it is a PCBU with the same duties as any PCBU.



Volunteer officers cannot be prosecuted if they don't meet their duty of due diligence.

What is work safe's approach to a volunteer's health and safety?

We will be reasonable and proportionate in how we approach our regulatory work to reduce workplace harm, including what we expect of all duty holders. Our planned work will generally focus on high-risk sectors of workplace activity, whether or not volunteers are onsite.

Appendix

Volunteers – summary of duties and responsibilities under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015

This appendix summarises the duties and responsibilities for volunteers. Our website offers further guidance and definitions about:

- Volunteers and volunteering
- The duties and responsibilities of volunteers under the HSWA.

Volunteer associations

An organisation working for a community purpose that has no employees is a volunteer association. It is not a PCBU and has no duty, responsibility or liability under the HSWA, though may still have responsibilities for public safety under other legislation for which WorkSafe is not the regulator. Other organisations that use volunteers are PCBUs with health and safety responsibilities and duties to workers and other persons at the workplace.

Volunteer workers and other volunteers

All workers (including 'volunteer workers') and other people at a workplace (including 'other volunteers') have duties under the HSWA. These duties include taking reasonable care to make sure their actions do not adversely affect their own or any other person's

health and safety. They must also follow the PCBU's reasonable instructions on health and safety matters.

Volunteer officers

All officers of a PCBU, including volunteer officers, have a due diligence duty to make sure that the PCBU complies with their obligations under the HSWA.

A volunteer officer cannot be prosecuted for a failure of due diligence. However, a PCBU remains responsible for complying with the HSWA even if an officer failed their due diligence duty relating to health and safety.



Don't Forget to Apply for your Rates Rebate

Applications for a rebate of up to \$610 on your rates for 2015/16 close on 30 June 2016.

If you lived in your own home on 1 July 2015 and you (or you and your partner) earned \$42,000 or less from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015, then you may be eligible for a refund. For those earning \$30,000 and paying rates of \$3000, the refund would be \$610, or if paying \$2000 then a rebate of \$531.67.

Forms available at your local council office, or can be downloaded on-line. Don't miss your entitled rebate.

Proposed Regional Council Rates Increase Far Exceeds Inflation

Regional Council rates tend to be significantly less than our City or District Council rates. However, at a time when inflation is 0.1%, and many of us are on fixed incomes, any significant increase is unwelcome.

The draft Annual Plan booklet (Thriving together – The Journey Continues) advises that the total proposed rates revenue increase would be 5.5%, well above inflation. We are informed that the reasons for this high increase were mainly: increased work in the Rotorua Lakes to improve water quality, and Kopeopeo Canal remediation. Neither of these projects is in Tauranga or the Western Bay areas of the Bay of Plenty Regional Council, so one would not expect them to affect our rates.



Surprise, surprise Tauranga will see an **8.7%** increase from \$208 to \$226, while the WBOP have a planned **10.2%** increase from \$205 to \$226. Competitive commercial businesses would not remain in business if they increased their customer charges this much in a 0.1% inflation environment!

In challenging the apparent discrepancies in the figures within the booklet, some of the reasons supplied by Regional Council staff were as follows:-

- *"The 5.5% is a 'real' rate increase with growth and inflation excluded. The inflation element is paid by ratepayers but spread over a wider ratepayer base (the "growth" factor)."*
- *"While the total rate increase is remaining the same, there are some minor variations whereas targeted rates can be specific to certain districts. As such the districts with a higher ratio of general rates to targeted rates will have larger than the stated 5.5% increases."*

So, what is driving these excessive increases? While a forensic examination of the financial statements has not been conducted by the author, it is perhaps not a surprise that total employees increased by over 11% to 336; salaries & wages by 12%, and the number of employees paid \$100,000+ by over 21% to 56 employees from 2013/14 to 2014/15.

Even though the Regional Council is not running a submissions and hearings process in 2016/17 it will still consider public feedback on changes and minor differences at a council workshop in May 2016. Feedback must be received no later than 5pm Friday 6 May 2016. Please email or post your feedback to: annualplan@boprc.govt.nz ; or to: Annual Plan 2016/17 feedback, Organisational Planning Team, PO BOX 364, Whakatane 3158
David Marshall, Chairman, Western Ward Residents & Ratepayers Association.

SH2 NORTH OF TAURANGA

- what's the problem?

State Highway 2 north of Tauranga is a busy freight and commuter route, as well as an important tourist link for the northern Bay of Plenty and Coromandel Peninsula.

Currently approximately 18,500 vehicles travel across the Wairoa River Bridge each day. Nine percent, or 1,700 of those, are heavy commercial vehicles. The population of areas served by the highway is growing. Considerable horticulture-related growth (eg avocado and kiwifruit) is expected in the northern Bay of Plenty over the next 30 years. A lot of produce will be transported via State Highway 2 to the Port of Tauranga for export.

By 2031, traffic numbers are predicted to increase to over 30,000 vehicles per day, worsening safety and congestion issues, as well as increasing costs for freight

Operators

The *Tauranga Northern Link* is proposed as a 6.8km inland route from the tolled section of Takitimu Drive (Route K) through to Loop Road just west of Te Puna.

Once constructed, the Tauranga Northern Link will separate local and state highway traffic. It will reduce travel time, improve trip reliability, freight movements and safety, as well as relieve congestion. It will improve access and support public transport, cycling and walking on the current state highway route through Bethlehem and Te Puna.

Traffic flows on the existing highway, across the Wairoa River Bridge, are predicted to reduce to current volumes and the traffic flow on the Tauranga Northern Link to be about 20,000 to 25,000 vehicles per day.

Secondary investigation

This secondary investigation aims to review the existing designation to ensure the project will accommodate future traffic flows generated by changing land use.

The investigations will include reviewing traffic flows generated by anticipated growth.

What happens next?

The outcome of the investigation is a Scheme Assessment Report. Once the report is approved by the NZTA and Western Bay of Plenty District Council and Tauranga City Council confirm any alterations to the designation, the NZTA can then apply for funding for the detailed design of the alignment and structures. The next project phase (design) also includes purchasing any necessary property and lodging resource consents.

We know the excuse is always a shortage of funding, but this can't come soon enough - the congestion is horrific!

ANZAC Commemoration 2016

**On 25 April each year we commemorate
the landings of the Anzacs on the
Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey, now over
100 years ago.**

In Flanders Fields

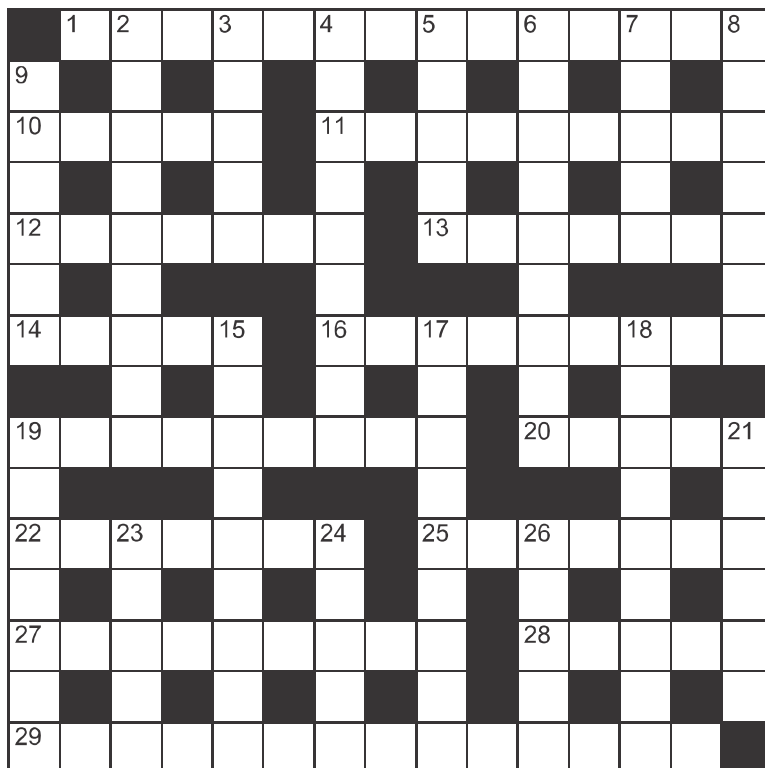
In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

John McCrae

QUICK CROSSWORD



Across

1. Abandon hope, stop trying (4,2,3,5)
11. More than enough (5)
11. Conference or convention (9)
12. Temporary loss of memory (7)
13. Predicament (7)
14. Legal defence (5)
16. The common people (L) (3,6)
19. Wise (9)
20. Serious (5)
22. Unlawful (7)
25. Innate (7)
27. Finish (9)
28. Bishop's headgear (5)
29. Locality (colloq) (4,2,3,5)

Down

2. Imminent (9)
3. All square (5)
4. Edible green nut (9)
5. Clammy (5)
6. Attractiveness (4,5)
7. Drug made from poppies (5)
8. Kettledrum (7)
9. Central American country (6)
15. Under an assumed identity (L) (9)
17. Fulsome (9)
18. Freed (9)
19. Besotted (7)
21. Respite (6)
23. Song text (5)
24. Smallest amount (5)
26. Pace (music) (5)

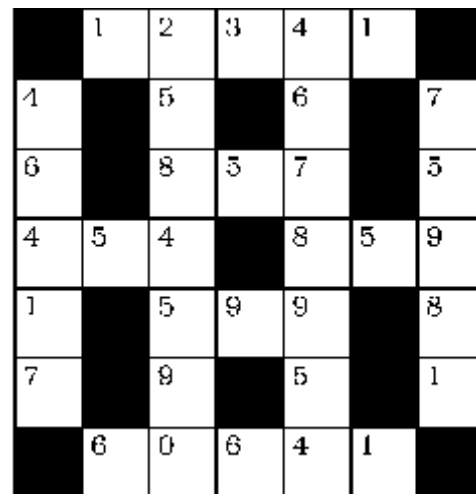
KIWI QUIZ

How much do you know about New Zealand?

1. What's the showbiz link between Richard O'Brien and Robert Muldoon?
2. In which province would you find State Highway 45, the Surf Highway?
3. Which bird, with a distinctive flying style and an interest in humans, is known as piwakawaka in Maori?
4. Who made their All Black debut first, Richie McCaw or Mills Muliaina?
5. *In My Father's Den* and *Under the Mountain* were written by which novelist?
6. Which sponge cake, popular in New Zealand for more than 100 years, is named after British aristocrat Charles Wallace Alexander Napier Cochrane-Baillie?
7. How many Maori electorates have there been at each election since 2002?
8. *Boy* became New Zealand's highest-earning film in 2010. Which movie previously held top place?
9. Which North Island national park stopped being a national park in 2014?
10. What is the name of the low-slung member of Hairy Maclary's canine gang?
11. Which investment bank did John Key work for before becoming an MP?
12. Who was governor of the Reserve Bank from 2002-2012?

Simon Shuker's

MINI CODECRACKER



Enter the letter or letters given, then solve the puzzle.

4=P 9=N

Puzzle solutions on page 9

NUMBER GYM

How good are you at mental arithmetic? Follow the commands from left to right on each of these puzzles and come up with the answer in less than 30 seconds.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: EASY

ANSWER

8	+6	x2	+14	÷7	x9	-10	÷4	+5	
---	----	----	-----	----	----	-----	----	----	--

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: MEDIUM

ANSWER

15	x5	-11	√	x3	+12	5/6	x4	-31	
----	----	-----	---	----	-----	-----	----	-----	--



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NOTICE BOARD - May 2016

PETITIONS & SURVEY

At the Office we are always running petitions for people to come in and sign/support. We do have quite a few at the moment, which are:

1. Make the English Language in NZ official.
2. Increase free Breast Screening time frame, qualifying age from 69 to 74 years
3. Do you support the Iwi Leaders Agenda to have Central and local government pass the control of freshwater to local Iwi? Yes or No
4. That government & Regional councils cease immediately any proposed changes to our pensioners Super Gold Card [This is on hold at the moment - read the Gold card article]!

MAGAZINE ENTITLEMENT

Members of Tauranga & Western BOP Grey Power are advised that the May issue of our magazine [and other entitlements] will only be sent to those members who are recorded as being financial members on our database at 30th May 2016.

JP SERVICE OFFERED BY:

Mr Jim Pringle JP kindly offers a service for those who require a JP to witness papers etc. phone 07 578 3808. Ring for an appointment.

GREY POWER ELECTRICITY

To maintain your Grey Power Electricity account you must remain a financial member of our Grey Power Assn otherwise you will revert to Pulse Energy and be charged at a higher rate.

EMAIL & WEB SITE

Our email is: tgagreypower@gmail.com

Our web site is www.greypowertauranga.org.nz

You can apply for membership and renewal online then pay online as well.

NOTE: Do we have a member who has Web site skills- we could do with some help please?

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS

Reminder, subscription renewals for 2016/17 financial years were due on 1.4.16. Preferred payment is by direct credit, either online through your bank or counter payment to account: Tauranga & Western BOP Grey Power Association Inc. Kiwibank 38 9001 0051732 00 Please remember to post/drop in or email from the website, your renewal form – payment without a form or a form without payment, cannot be processed! Cash payments may be made in person at the Office – not by post please.

At our Committee Meeting, it was agreed that we look at eventually phasing out payment by cheque. This decision has come about because during the current financial year dishonoured cheques have proved

something of a problem.

Our procedure is now amended slightly, so if paying by *cheque*, the bank must clear the cheque, before the membership is *actioned*. This can take up to five days and cause problems for any members wanting to register with Grey Power Electricity. We still accept cheques for now, please be aware that there will be a delay!

Joan Willcock [Treasurer]

FUND RAISING FOR GREY POWER

Fund raising initiative for Grey Power Liquid Gold Fertilizer makes up 10 litres for those pot plants or small Gardens. \$4 per sachet

SCAMS

The police station advised the following web site: www.theorb.org.nz available to view and enter any scam you have experienced!

AGED CARE – SUB COMMITTEE

I still have concerns that District Health Boards Needs Assessment and Coordination Centre (NASC) are still reducing hours of approved home care to save costs of providing care. Time allocated for personal care is restricting the time allowed for giving showers, especially when the client needs help to undress and be dressed again.

We ask Members to provide evidence of cases where reductions have been made and is causing increased hardship to those people assessed as needing care to be able to remain living in their own homes. Details to be forwarded to the federation office.

R Reid [Grey Power Federation]

Email: rmh.reid@xtra.co.nz

HEALTH INSURANCE

Grey Power Federation has come up through a broker with a health insurance option. We have chosen not to fully promote this option yet as there are a few queries concerning the cover, one that it only applies till you are 70 years - what happens after that? Vesta Cover Ltd is the company www.vestacover.co.nz. We will keep you posted!

ID on SUPER GOLD CARD

If you require a photo on your Gold Card to use as ID, you can take it to the AA office and they can do that for you, just like Driver Licenses.

COFFEE MORNINGS

These are proving very popular! The Tauranga gathering is at The Raft - there were approx. 40 people who attended. Convenors Maureen [021 744 208] and Jenny.

NOTICE BOARD

Katikati at Summerset Village - there was approx. 50 people. Contact convenor for Katikati Coffee mornings is Baden Jury 07 549 5423

MOVING ON? FEELING OVERWHELMED?

Fork in the Road provides a service to the residents of the great Bay of Plenty to relocate, de-clutter, downsize or prepare a property for sale. We can help whether you are faced with the challenge of downsizing, the transition to rest home loving, deceased estate dispersal or need help clearing a home for sale or rent.

Phone for a free consultation. Tauranga Grey Power Member
Marg Engeland - 0800 228 824
www.forkintheroad.co.nz

ROOM TO RENT

(large bedroom) \$200 per week
2 single beds, tallboy, table and chairs.
Own private entrance, toilet and handbasin adjacent to room - 5 mins walk to shopping plaza at Papamoa and 2mins to beach. Phone Graham on 027 604 8578 or email: projects@xtra.co.nz

MAKE YOU SMILE:

#Q: What is the difference between snowmen and snowwomen?

A: Snowballs.

#Q: Why did the tomato turn red?

A: Because he saw the salad dressing!

#: Money isn't everything, but it ranks right up there with Oxygen!

DISCOUNT BOOK ADDITIONS

CIRCUIT COMPUTERS

Phone number NOW 570 2440 or 021 059 5151

GREGS PHARMACY now PHARMACY ON CAMERON

850 Cameron Road, Phone 578 5707

COUNCIL PLANS FOR RUBBISH COLLECTION

Tauranga and Western Bay Councils are currently reviewing their Waste Minimisation plans. As part of this review they are looking at various proposals ranging from leaving things as they are (all private sector and user-pays) to changing to a rates-funded rubbish and recycling collection. These proposals will be open for public discussion from some time in June and both Councils will vote on them in July.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM TAURANGA & WESTERN BAY OF PLENTY GREY POWER ASSN INC.

NEW MEMBER ☐ RENEWAL ☐ CHANGE OF ADDRESS ☐ MEMBERSHIP NUMBER _____

NAME (S) MR / MRS / MISS / MS _____

ADDRESS _____

POST CODE _____ PHONE NO _____ MOBILE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SINGLE \$ 20.00 ☐ DOUBLE \$35.00 ☐ DONATION \$ _____

Any donation to help with the cost of postage, envelopes, paper etc would be very much appreciated.

A receipt will be given for donations if requested YES ☐ NO ☐

AGE GROUP INDICATION: 50 - 65 66 - 75 76 - 95 + [circle one]

CASH OR CHEQUE OR PAY ONLINE. PLEASE NOTE: NO EFTPOS AVAILABLE. Office hours 10 am- 1 pm

ONLINE BANKING: Kiwibank 38 9001 0051732 00 [Use membership number as reference] PLEASE NOTE WE DO NOT HAVE EFTPOS

PRIVACY ACT REQUIREMENTS: All information will remain confidential and will not be supplied to any other party. Please note promotional material maybe inserted in mailouts for the interest of members.

For Office Use Only

DATE RECEIVED..... TOTAL ENCLOSED...\$.....CASH / CHEQUE/ ONLINE

DISCOUNT BOOK RECEIVED..... RECEIPT #..... CARD SENT / GIVEN

ALTSHEET AK..... ALT SHEET TGA..... DATA BASE

PLEASE FORWARD TO TAURANGA & W.B.O.P GREY POWER,

P O BOX 841, TAURANGA 3140 or visit us at: Historic Village, 17th Ave. EMAIL: tgagrey@power@gmail.com Phone 07 571 2558

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