

TAURANGA & WBOP

GREY POWER

50+ MAGAZINE

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QUARTER TWO 2018



**Can I legally avoid
paying my rates**

PAGE 10

AGM Information

PAGE 2

**People Power Triumphs
on Priority for SH2**

PAGE 16

TAURANGA & WBOP
GREY POWER

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Presidents Word



I really hope you are not missing the hot humid heat of the summer already! While I'm writing this the rain has come and the overnight temperatures have plummeted. However, it can be a wonderful opportunity to do all those indoor activities that have not been done so far this year. My favourite is housework - NOT but try sitting down with a drawer of bits and pieces to sort through - can be quite fun. Or knitting, sewing, cooking, reading, drawing, writing, or watching a movie. For the men any of the above but it might be time to sharpen and oil tools or make something for a child - endless possibilities!

This month we are holding our own AGM on Tuesday 26th and you are all invited. We have chosen to have the Tauranga List MP, Jan Tinetti, to be the guest speaker. She is a very knowledgeable and entertaining speaker who has lived in Tauranga for the last 12 years and understands our region. Not to be missed - see details for the AGM inside this magazine. Please note the new venue.

We are also considering starting a new coffee morning in Bethlehem. If you think this is something you would attend, we would love to have your feedback. We need to have some enthusiasm for this potential event before proceeding further.

I want to say a huge thank you to Donna and Kathy for coping with the enormous task of processing the many membership renewals and a special thanks to all the volunteers who put in extra days to help with all the related paperwork.

Also, an extra thanks to Kathy, our acting treasurer, who has worked brilliantly preparing the accounts to be audited for the AGM. Taking over from Joan, which can be difficult when someone has left unexpectedly due to ill health.

Take care, keep warm during the winter and remember your act of kindness could brighten someone else's day.

Jennifer Custins
(President)



COVER PICTURE:
Grey Power Federation AGM was in Blenheim, April 2018. This is the War Memorial Clock Tower near the convention centre.

GREY POWER COFFEE MORNINGS

Everyone is welcome to come along for discussion or a chat and we have a bi-monthly speaker.

TAURANGA COFFEE MORNINGS
First Thursday of every month at 10.15am
Venue: The Raft Café, Chapel St, near Briscoes, Tauranga
Dates: 5th July, 2nd August, 6th September, 4th October, 1st November

KATIKATI COFFEE MORNINGS
Bi-monthly Thursdays at 10am
Venue: Katikati Community Centre - Beach Road, just past the schools.
Dates: 9th August, 18th October, 6th December

Any enquiries for coffee mornings:
Phone the office 571 2558 or Dan & Maureen 021 744 208 or Jenny 573 7081 for Tauranga. Phone Baden and Lyn on 549 5423 for Katikati.

ALL WELCOME
Wear name badge if you have one, and bring along issues for discussion and or a friend!



There is a proposal for us to start another coffee morning at Bob Owens in Bethlehem. This has been a very generous offer by them which includes tea & coffee, maybe gold coin fee. If you are interested in attending a Tuesday, bi monthly meeting, with speaker, could you please call or email the office, so we can gauge the level of interest.

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TAURANGA & WBOP GREY POWER ASSN AGM

Date: Tuesday 26th June 2018
Time: 1.30pm
Speaker: Jan Tinetti - Labour List MP for Tauranga

Venue: Tauranga Baptist Church Hall on the corner of 13th Ave and Cameron Rd, next to Countdown.

Parking and entrance is at the rear of the hall off 13th Avenue and it may be possible to use the Countdown car park. (Parking in front of the church is not allowed).

~Afternoon Tea and Biscuits~



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The Injustice of Spousal Deduction

By Donna

I have written earlier of my experience in trying to get what is an “individual entitlement”, my superannuation. This is a follow up to those articles.

A brief background: In 1999 I married an American and in 2001 he retired and moved to NZ. During his entire working life contributions were taken from his wages for his future pension. In the USA unless you work a certain number of years and make the contributions then you do not get a pension, you get welfare. This is quite different to NZ where the only requirement to receive NZ Superannuation is to have at least 10 years residency.

I kept working in NZ until I reached retirement age at which time I applied for my Superannuation. After making the application I was informed that my husband’s pension would affect what I would receive due to Sec 70 of the Social Security Act 1964. I had never heard of this before but Sec 70 allows MSD to deduct the value of an overseas pension of a like or similar nature to NZ Super against what a married couple receive, anything left over is what is granted to me. This amount varies depending on currency fluctuations and can be as little as \$50 a fortnight. The ordinary person in the street can be forgiven for not knowing of this law; I have met professional people, including politicians, who knew nothing about it.

This situation is extremely unfair! I was born in NZ and,



aside from 2 years, I lived and worked all my life in NZ and I was being penalised because I married someone who had a pension that he had contributed to over his working life but in another country.

Thus began the fight to be given my full Superannuation.

Over the past 3 years I appealed to the Benefit Review Committee - unsuccessfully and lodged a complaint with the Human Rights Commission, also unsuccessfully. The final avenue to protest this injustice was at a Human Rights Tribunal Hearing which was held in March this year. The outcome could take up to 3 years for a decision!

This process has been devastating. Once a very independent woman I now find myself dependent on my husband to support me. Once I was an individual, now MSD have classed my husband and me as “an economic unit”! I feel guilty that my husband cannot fully enjoy the pension he worked so hard for. I have lost my independence, my self-esteem is lowered, and my physical and mental health has been affected. This Spousal Deduction can have a large impact on marriages.

I struggle with how illogical it is that under the Portability Rule, if I went and lived in the USA then I could take my full Superannuation with me and neither the NZ nor the USA Govt would make any deductions. Even more illogical is that while my husband does not receive any superannuation from NZ he too would be granted superannuation with no deductions. His superannuation would be proportional to the length of time he lived in NZ.

In early 2015 Jacinda Adern when addressing the Speaker of the House on the subject of Sec 70 used the words “a real injustice, totally unfair and a Human Rights violation”. Hansard recorded this and there is a video confirming her comment.

It is now 2018; Jacinda is in a position to rectify the injustice, the unfairness and the Human Rights violation. Spousal Deduction affects around 500 couples in NZ and it has been reported that the cost to right the unfairness, the injustice and the violation would be approximately \$2 million.

I and many others are still waiting.

District Health Board Update

By David Marshall

AGED CARE FACILITY MONITORING

The media has contained stories of appalling standards of care at some aged care facilities in New Zealand. While the number of complaints that we receive in the Bay of Plenty is low, we wanted to check with the BOP DHB management as to the procedures followed to ensure high standards are maintained in our local facilities.

There are consistent assessment standards throughout New Zealand, and all 34 facilities in the BOP are monitored in a proactive manner. Any issues not meeting standard are rated as either mild, moderate or significant breaches which are followed up to ensure compliance is met.

Certification audits happen every 1-4 years. After the audit, rest homes are certified for a set period of time (the exact length depends on how well the rest home performed at the certification audit). Once this time is up, the rest home must be re-audited and its certification renewed.

An unannounced spot audit (also called a surveillance audit) happens around the middle of a rest home’s certification period. The spot audit ensures progress has been made on outstanding areas identified in the earlier certification audit and that standards haven’t slipped.

The audit considers factors such as the way residents are cared for, how the staff interact with residents, the facility’s general environment, as well as clinical records, policies and procedures. Staff, residents and family members are also interviewed.

For family wanting to assess the certification level of a facility they are considering, information on each registered facility throughout New Zealand is available through a simple interactive map at



the www.health.govt.nz/your-health/certified-providers/aged-care website. Use the tab “Progress on Issues from the Last Audit” to view any issues the facility has been asked to improve.

If residents or their families have complaints about their residential care facility the first step is to speak to the management of the facility about your concerns. If you have no satisfaction, or if the resident is concerned about adverse consequences from making a complaint contact Support Net on-line or phone (07) 571 0093. In more serious cases go direct to the Health & Disability Commissioner (HDC) - they provide a free independent advocate service, phone 0800 555 050.

Improved Access to Cataract Surgery

Pete Chandler confirmed that since March eligibility for cataract surgery has been improved in the BOP DHB area. This means that the condition does not have to deteriorate as much, prior to being eligible for surgery. A welcome change since March this year.

New Initiatives for Frail Elderly Patients

Tauranga Hospital have implemented some exciting new initiatives to improve outcomes to those over 75 admitted with hip fractures. The results are encouraging and we will report in more depth in our next magazine.



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Together we can make Tourism great

By Kristin Dunne (Tourism BOP)

Tourism - it's the word on everyone's lips.

In case you missed it, the Coastal Bay of Plenty has hit the billion-dollar mark for tourist spending - a milestone that was originally not forecast for another 12 years. And by 2028, it is projected to reach \$1.45 billion.

While this is great news for the local economy, it brings with it 'growing pains'. Congested roads and environmental pressures are top of mind for many people.

That's where we need your help?

Destination Management is an emerging global trend towards the coordinated management of all the elements that make up a region. It's the key to controlling tourism's environmental impacts and preserving the region's unique identity - and it's the direction Tourism Bay of Plenty would like to take towards a more sustainable tourism future.

It would be a shame if our region became burdened by tourism to the point we as locals didn't continue to love where we live and couldn't all enjoy the economic benefits.

For more information on our Visitor Economy Strategy please email: admin@bayofplenty.co.nz or phone 578 8103.

Fire Alarms and Extinguishers



Here is a rule about tackling household fires: if it's bigger than a waste paper bin, leave it and get out. But if it's a small fire and you have an extinguisher on hand, you may be able to prevent a big mess. *Remember: Life is more important than property. Don't put yourself or others at risk.* Quote from Consumer Institute.

It is also the time of year to ask everyone to test their smoke alarms. They won't necessarily be at arm's reach but ask a relative or friend to do it for you. It is such a small and simple way to keep you safe. There are also new and improved alarms available to detect smoke or fire.

Make a rule in your house to never leave anything cooking on the stove and then go off to attend to something else. It's a bit like not running a red light in the car - a couple of minutes waiting could prolong your life by a lot!

Consumer does advice that it could be useful to purchase a 'fire blanket' to smother a fat or oil fire in the kitchen in case of an accident. They are approx. \$20 to buy.

Keep safe and warm this winter.



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Hi there,

Last Easter I was sitting, leafing through our quarterly Grey Power Magazine. Amongst the many interesting articles on offer, one statistic really jumped out at me. The fact that 54% of over 65's were contemplating selling their homes to help shore up their financial future.

This quite sobering statistic made me think the time might be right to offer mine and my wife Michelle's service to our members, and explain why we might be worthy of your consideration.

Michelle and I operate from the brand new Harcourts Central Office on the corner of Third Avenue and Devonport Road, where we are currently rated in the Top 100 Harcourts agents nationwide (2016-2017).

While this is nice to know, what we really pride ourselves on is our reputation for "going the extra mile" for our clients, especially the elderly who most need it.

We offer an all encompassing free advice service which can include advice on purchasing a home for sale, to recommending professional cleaners, gardeners, staging etc. (we have even lent some of our own furniture!).

Our Harcourts Auction Campaign is totally free, even including a LIM Report, and is valued at a genuine \$2,500. Remember you needn't spend a cent!

A few other little thoughts hopefully deserving consideration...

Home owners over 65 receive the Harcourts Gold Card 10% discount off all commissions.

Harcourts has been awarded "New Zealand's

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Michelle & Tony Hutchby

most trusted real estate brand" for the past five years, a vitally important benefit.

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Anyone listing with us receives a free scholarship to gift to any child (grandchild perhaps?) from you.

To sum it all up...

Harcourts is the most trusted real estate brand and Michelle and I can be totally trusted to work hard for you, and we would be proud to.

If you or your friends would like a free, no obligation appraisal of your home's likely value, please feel free to call anytime, it would be our privilege to work for you.

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This Is Not Just About One Bad Apple



For several years now, the New Zealand media have drawn attention to the scandalously low amount of tax paid in this country by some of the biggest transnational corporations (TNCs) in the world, particularly the digital economy giants such as Apple, Google, Facebook and Amazon.

For instance, in 2016, it was reported that Facebook had paid \$43,000 in tax the previous budget year - about the same as "a mid-range doctor or lawyer", as the media pointed out.

Tax dodging by transnationals is not confined to New Zealand.

Globally the most spectacular offender is Apple.

In 2016 it was slapped with a 13 billion euros tax bill by the European Commission for what it called "illegal State aid" in Ireland, which gifted Apple a European tax rate of 0.0005%.

But this problem is much bigger than just one bad Apple.

Tax dodging on a truly epic scale is common across all transnational corporations, including this country.

The previous National government was loath to do anything about it.

In its final few months in power, it did introduce some tweaks around the edges but shied away from a diverted profits tax, which has been implemented in both Australia and Britain to penalise transnationals caught manipulating the tax system.

And what the NZ media called a "shadowy lobby group" - the US-based Digital Economy Group which is believed to include companies such as Google, Apple and Amazon - successfully persuaded that National government to back down even further from its proposed measures to tighten provisions against transnational tax dodging.

National put all its faith in the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the rich countries' club to which New Zealand belongs, and the OECD's International Action Plan on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).

Labour has continued with that approach, introducing the Taxation (Neutralising Base Erosion and Profit Shifting) Bill in December 2017.

That is fine, as far as it goes, but the obvious flaw in depending on an international-led solution to this problem is what to do if that international initiative grinds to a halt.

This is exactly what happened in March 2018 when the OECD announced that BEPS has been deferred until 2020.

Basically, it has been put in the too hard basket.

This promptly led to some major countries deciding to take unilateral action. India has already imposed a 6% "equalisation tax" on digital advertising sold by Google and Facebook.

The European Commission (EC) announced it will impose a 3% tax on the revenues of transnationals such as Google, Facebook, Amazon, Twitter, Uber and Airbnb.

Both the Indian and European Commission measures break from the previous practice of taxing Trade Negotiating Committees only on their profits generated in the host country - these new measures will tax those Trade Negotiating Committees revenues, potentially increasing their tax bills by billions of dollars each.

The underlying principle of these new measures is recognition of the contribution that users make to the profits of "weightless" digital businesses.

The European Commission announced that this 3% tax is an interim step, pending a longer-term measure.

So, what is this country doing about it?

The New Zealand government said that it was awaiting advice from officials on whether it should also introduce similar "interim measures".

Thus far, the Government has said nothing about what, if any, advice it has received and what it intends to do about it.

The Campaign Against Foreign Control NZ (CAFCANZ) says it's time to get tough with these transnational tax dodgers.

If that requires "interim measures" or unilateral action, so be it.

Sourced from: Campaign Against Foreign Control of Aotearoa - www.cafc.org.nz



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Can I Legally Avoid Paying My Rates?

A Personal Perspective by David Marshall

As rates increase above the rate of inflation in many areas, some of our members on fixed incomes are considering whether or not they can afford to remain in their own homes. To many an affordable alternative home is far from their social support network of friends and family. What are the solutions?

- 1. Downsizing** can be practical for some as a move from a large older house to a newer compact home in the same area may be affordable. It would also be less expensive to heat and maintain. However for many this is still not a financially viable option.
- 2. Rates Rebate Scheme** - this is a central government initiative that means that those with a household income of less than \$42,000 in the prior year may be eligible for a rebate of up to \$620. The problem is that the size of the rebate has increased at a significantly slower pace than the annual increase in rates. In addition eligible household income thresholds have only increased marginally. While an excellent initiative for lower income households this is only a partial solution for many.
- 3. Postponing Rates** is feasible in the WBOP District Council, but not at Tauranga City Council currently, although lobbying for such a scheme may prove successful. The WBOP District Council scheme is available to all aged 65 or over who own their own home. The WBOP District Council Rates Postponement Scheme offers the following:
 - a. The choice of postponing your payments for a fixed or indefinite period.
 - b. Postpone all or a portion of your rates each year.
 - c. Repay in full, or partially, at any time without penalty.
 - d. Scheme covers both local and Regional Council rates.
 - e. Any remaining balance will be recovered from your estate.

The costs involved are as follows:

- a. \$300 one-off-fee to Relationship Services who will meet with you to ensure you receive independent advice on the scheme and can make a fully-informed decision.

- b. Annual Charges of:
 - a. \$50 administration fee
 - b. 1.25% levy for management and reserve fund.
- c. Interest at the Council's current borrowing rate. (Current rate available from Council).

All of the above costs can be postponed, so you do not need to pay any costs while in the scheme. See the Council website or call 571 8008 for more information.

- 4. Reverse Mortgages** are available through some financial institutions. These allow you to borrow against the equity in your home to provide cash for your retirement without having to sell your home. Those over 60 may apply for a reverse mortgage and you can only borrow up to a set percentage of your home's value. A life-time occupancy guarantee is usually available. Interest rates are generally around 2% higher than standard mortgages. Currently the only banks in New Zealand offering reverse mortgages are Heartland Bank and SBS. You must obtain independent legal advice before entering into a reverse mortgage.

On a nice day a walk not too far from home

Mauao is a historic reserve owned by Maori and managed by Tauranga City Council. The base track is 3.4km and takes about 45 minutes to walk. There are also several tracks to the summit.

On a sunny fine winters day just put on your jacket and walking shoes and take a walk and look at the amazing views. I find walking around the Mount really invigorating and then there are plenty of coffee shops to choose from at the destination to reward you for your effort!



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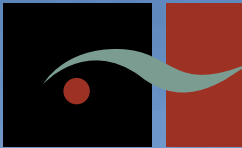
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Gardening Corner

Christina Humphreys writes your gardening articles and a volunteer for Grey Power has a large country garden to care for and is very passionate about Gardening.



WINTER GARDEN

Hopefully you all have those brassicas (cauliflower, broccoli, brussel sprouts) and broad beans all growing along nicely. We optimistically have another row of potatoes growing; if you have a garden in a frost free, sheltered spot you can do it! Or try growing them in a barrel or in a couple or 3 old tyres start with the two then keep building up and putting more compost in there, then put another tyre on top as they grow. This can be placed in a sheltered spot and the tyres attract the heat (A lot of the big tyre places have a big stack of tyres around the back waiting for you). Some of these things work very well; we've been growing our kumara in the tyres this year. Still growing, we planted them a bit late; kumara have a long growing period. Always remember lots of compost!

Don't forget to plant lettuce (these grow very well in a winter garden) silver beet, carrots and beetroot, should keep you healthy wealthy and wise (brain food).

Not silly to have the herb Comfrey planted in a corner (out of the way because it does multiply readily) of the garden. It's great to make liquid fertiliser with, crush or break up several leaves in a drum or large container, if you have one with a tap on the bottom all the better. If you do have the tap container, place a bit of netting or something the water can strain through, so the plant doesn't block the opening.

Put the Comfrey in and fill the container with water. In a week or so it should be good to go, pour some into a watering can, just great to pour over seedlings or pot plants.

Time to prune the last of the roses and make sure pots have had their dishes removed so they don't get water logged over the winter. Shift some of those pots or hanging baskets into glass house or sheltered veranda, just protect a little from the chilly winter! Cover frost tender plants or put them under cover, frost cloth is relatively cheap to buy from Mitre 10 or Bunnings and in small quantities. Once again compost high around perennials this helps protect them to come away in spring. Nothing like planting some pansies, violas, polyanthas and candelabra primula. They will flower profusely July-Aug, put on a real show on mass as a border. Cyclamen are flowering away now out in my garden too, hardier than you think! Add that colour to brighten our winter day.

Thought I would give you a pickling recipe to try, can be used for cucumbers or courgettes, possibly to



pickles other things in too. Don't be frightened to halve the mixture to suit:

'Bread & Butter Pickles'

- 8 large cucumbers
- 3 large onions
- 4 large green peppers

Wash and slice these up reasonably small and place in a porcelain type bowl.

Sprinkle with 1 cup of salt then pour 9 cups of water over, or enough to cover the vegetables. Leave this to stand for 3 hours.

- 1.8 litres cider vinegar
- 1.5kg sugar
- 1 tablespoon turmeric
- 1 teaspoon mustard seed
- 1 teaspoon celery seed
- 1 teaspoon fennel seed
- 1 dessert spoon crushed garlic
- 1 tablespoon black pepper

Place all this in a large sauce pan (only put 1 litre of cider vinegar in first, sometimes you don't need it all). Place that and the sugar in first and heat to dissolve sugar first. Then add the rest of the ingredients. Heat until boiling.

Then drain the water off the cucumber, onions and green peppers in a colander or similar. Let drain for a while to get rid of all the water.

Then place all these in with the boiling ingredients. Just bring to the boil, but don't continue to boil. You don't need those veges to be real soft.

Then place into clean hot jars and seal. It always looks and tastes beautiful. Chill before serving. A great extra (especially in winter) for any plate of food.



Tauranga RSA

The Oak Tree Restaurant went through an extensive refurbishment last year, we are now celebrating one year since the change. As a celebration we have introduced a special price for people that dine early in the week.

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Editorial supplied by Tauranga RSA



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POLITICAL FORUM

Jan Tinetti
Tauranga
Labour List MP



COME AND LISTEN TO JAN'S
ADDRESS AT OUR TAURANGA &
WBOP GREY POWER ASSN AGM,
TUES 26TH JUNE AT 1.30PM

Jan loves living in Tauranga, having lived in the city with her family for over a decade. She passionately believes that everyone should have an equal opportunity to succeed in life. Everyone in Tauranga should have the chance to benefit from our region's growing economy. This isn't happening; yet.

Jan is the former principal of Merivale School, Tauranga's sole decile 1 school. Throughout her career in education, she has fiercely advocated at a national level for equal educational opportunities. After seeing families struggling in her local community, she has campaigned for them to access "the basics".

Jan believes that all New Zealanders, regardless of their background, deserve the opportunity to be the best they can be. As a Labour Member of Parliament Jan is looking to continue the fight for; warm, dry and affordable homes for all who need them, a world class free education system for all, dignity at work, and access to excellent quality health services for everyone.

She is proud to be a Labour List MP based in Tauranga and has worked with Ms Martin, the Minister for

Seniors, and has a very sympathetic understanding of the needs and concerns of senior citizens and will work hard to achieve the aspiration for all New Zealanders to have access to the Kiwi Dream.

Concerns over Binding Citizens Referenda

By Dr Muriel Newman

The turnout in the 2011 election was 74 percent, the lowest for more than a century. Almost a million registered electors didn't bother to vote. According to Statistics NZ, the most common reasons given for not voting were that they "didn't get around to it, forgot, or weren't interested". Around 7 percent didn't vote because they felt their vote "wouldn't make a difference".

While age, income, and migrant status also affected voting behaviour, with turnout lower for those who are younger, on a lower income, or are new arrivals - it is disillusioned voters who are being highlighted as a key reason that citizens' initiated referenda should be binding.

Binding citizens' referenda have long been regarded as a policy option in New Zealand that, it is said, will lead to greater public involvement in the law-making process. Advocates believe binding referenda will re-engage those who are disillusioned with the political process, sparking their interest and leading them to vote.

The concept of binding citizens' referenda has been promoted by several parties contesting elections over the years, but this time around, it has been identified as a bottom line issue for one of the minor parties

seeking Parliamentary representation and a say in government.

There is no doubt that the concept of citizens' democracy is a powerful one. Abraham Lincoln's inspirational vision of democracy as "government of the people, by the people, for the people", evokes aspirations of a better and fairer society. It is, after all, the concept attributed with building Switzerland into a successful and prosperous nation.

But the question that advocates should be asking right now is whether the policy of binding referenda is feasible within New Zealand's constitutional framework?

Every country that enables citizens to influence the law-making process through binding referenda has established those democratic rights through enshrining them in a written constitution. Since a written constitution is in fact a legal document safeguarded by the judiciary, this "higher" law protects citizen law-making from being ignored or overruled by the legislature.

However, New Zealand does not have a written constitution. Ours is a nation built on the common law and the sovereignty of Parliament. This means that as a representative democracy, we elect Parliamentarians to be our voice in government and we entrust them with the nation's ultimate law-making power. Since under our system every Parliament is sovereign, even if a law was to be enacted to make referenda binding, a future Parliament would have the power to over-rule it.

This means that to introduce binding citizens' initiated referenda, giving citizens the right to propose law changes or to veto new legislation once a threshold of support is obtained through a public petition, our fundamental constitutional arrangements would need to be changed.

Changing our constitutional arrangements to give citizens supreme power over Parliament is very similar in concept to the proposal the Maori Party brought to the table when they became National's coalition partner in government in 2008 and 2011. They wanted to introduce the Treaty of Waitangi into a new constitution, with supreme power over Parliament.

In our system of democracy, it is not possible however, for one or two parties in Parliament to implement major constitutional change on their own. Introducing a new written constitution for New Zealand is a change of such magnitude, that it would need the cooperation of all the parties in Parliament, as well as the public.

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People Power Triumphs on Priority for SH2

By David Marshall

In February the Regional Council Transport Committee released the Draft Regional Transport Plan with their proposed priorities. The publication was met with outrage from the community due to the low priority given to essential SH2 improvements from Waihi to Tauranga. Delays by NZTA on confirming timelines and priorities were already frustrating the community, as NZTA waited to see the new Government's transport priorities. It appeared that everyone was sitting on their hands for 6-9 months while accidents and deaths on SH2 continued at an alarming pace.

No SH2 improvements were amongst the top five priorities in the initial proposal. Individuals, organisations, action groups (such as Andrew Hollis' Facebook campaign "Fix the Bloody Road"), and WBOP District Council made close to 2000 submissions on the proposed plan. Many individuals came and shared their horror stories and concerns about the safety priorities for SH2, and the urgent need for a bypass for Katikati.

Clearly the Regional Council Transport Committee has recognised that their proposed priorities were not aligned with community views and have significantly changed their priority list that will be presented for approval at their June 15th meeting. We appreciate this significant change in priorities and trust this will receive unanimous support from the full Regional Council. A unified, community supported, submission sent to Wellington for NZTA decisions on national transport spending will hopefully receive the funding and priority it deserves after years of neglect.

The revised top priorities* and their earlier ratings are shown in the chart below:

25 May Priority	Projects*	Draft Plan Priority
1	SH2 Te Puna to Omokoroa	11
2	SH2 & Omokoroa intersection	(11)
3	SH2 Waihi-Omokoroa safety	6
4	SH29 Tauriko West network	1
5	Katikati Urban (Bypass)	15

* As reported in BOP Times 26 May 2018. * Tauranga Northern Link was assigned construction funding by the previous government so is not included on the priority list.

Zone 3 Rep Report

By Christina Humpreys

GREY POWER FEDERATION BOARD

Grey Power elected a new president, Mac Welch, at our AGM in Blenheim on the 16-18th April. Mac is also the Chair of Commercial Opportunities for Grey Power and was very involved in the setting up of Grey Power Electricity for Grey Power members. This has been an immense success and more initiatives are going to be added to this soon e.g. broadband, a fuel card and more.

I am now leading the Board Standing Committee for: Fifty Plus and Membership plus International Treaties and am part of the Retirement Income and Taxation Advisory Group.

Our last board meeting was in Auckland 22-24th May. These meetings are exhausting, going from 8.30am to 5.30pm. Hopefully we achieve quite a bit, so will note a few points for you all to read what has recently been achieved and what we are working on;

Re-assessment of Homecare - People assessed as able to receive home care to be re-assessed at six monthly intervals by an approved Inter Rai assessor before any reduction of care hours can occur. Also, anyone undergoing an Inter Rai assessment should always have a support person present (often this not happening, and people are not getting the help they should). This is currently a lobby issue.

Grey Power also helped achieve the 'Spot Check' that can be readily activated by you for a care facility if you are aware that something untoward is happening or care is not up to standard. The public can place a complaint and a 'Spot Check' can quite quickly be activated.



Left is Mac Welch (The new Grey Power President 2018) Right is Tom O'Connor (outgoing President).

Lobby issues (underway now): Pharmaceutical medication subsidy for pensioners. Free macular degeneration and cataract treatment for pensioners. Bowel cancer screening to be extended by 30.6.19 for those over 50yrs. Respite care extension for those living alone at home. Grey Power to investigate 'house and contents only' insurance deal for those who don't need car insurance anymore. Over eighties licence renewal - cost and the use of occupational therapist business which can cost over \$800.

Recent submissions to government (Grey Power has been very busy here recently); Grey Power had made a submission opposing the Natural Health Products Bill, but it is currently in its 3rd hearing, which once it is at that stage is very hard to stop. Grey Power has decided to make it a lobby issue again as we have a new government that may be more sympathetic.

Submission to the Social Services and Committee on the Child Poverty Reduction Bill.

Submission on the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement TPP (CPTPP) so that the elderly will not be disadvantaged by the NZ government signing this.

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Submission on the Misuse of Drugs (medicinal cannabis) Amendment Bill. Need to be cautious, but there is evidence that medical cannabis for sedative and a pain inhibitor is useful.

Submission on Telecommunications Amendment Bill (new regulatory framework).

Submission on the Taxation Review - wanting views on how NZ can acquire more tax!

Submission on the NZTA Draft Investment Assessment for the 2018-2021 National Land Transport Programme.

Work related poisoning - We need your response please?

It has been brought to our attention that some of our members are suffering from chronic illnesses because of work related injuries. Of particular concern are those that have suffered poisoning due to the requirement to handle chemicals throughout their careers, I am interested to hear from anyone who has suffered from lead poisoning, asbestosis, and the like and have not received suitable treatment or financial assistance from ACC.

Should you fit into any of these categories please send details to Graeme Faulkner on the following email: hamberleys@kinect.co.nz or phone our office for postal details.

Grey Power is doing its best to tackle the lack of interest by ACC for people who have had accidents. Too many times we are told the injury is from degeneration and they can't help due to our age. We consider that ACC has just become a large investment company, \$36 billion to be precise and are forgetting



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their core business of caring for people and getting them back to work or active again.

We told you Brian's story a short while ago; he suffers from lead poisoning from working at Marsden Point. He is one person who was abandoned by ACC, he has just gone to America for treatment/XRF scanning, something that ACC should be paying for, but are not.

www.givealittle.co.nz/cause/brian-arndt-marsden-point-oil-refinery-worker

Grey Power needs to know more of these stories for us to use to advocate on this major issue. Email stories to Christina: chrisray4756@gmail.com or phone our office.

I hope you will take time to read this article, it's to give you an idea of the advocacy work that Grey Power does, and this is only part of it and remembering that we are all volunteers giving our time freely. Therefore, we need your support as members or if you feel you have time to give physical help, or sponsor (postage is an area where we need sponsorship help)], we would certainly be grateful. Remember Grey Power is the 'watch dog' for your superannuation.

New Winter Energy Payment

The Government is introducing a new winter energy payment to help older people and people on a benefit stay warm and healthy through winter. You don't need to apply to receive the payment. It will be paid automatically to everyone getting NZ Super, Veteran's Pension, Jobseeker Support, Sole Parent Support, Supported Living Payment or a Youth Service Payment. People can choose to opt out of getting it.

In 2018, the Winter Energy Payment will begin from 1 July to 30 September and from 2019 for five months from 1 May to 30 September.

The rate for single people (with no dependent children) will be \$20.46 a week, and couples or people with dependent children will get \$31.82. The Winter Energy Payment won't affect other payments such as Disability Allowance, Accommodation Supplement, Temporary Additional Support or Childcare Assistance.

If people are overseas for longer than four weeks, their Winter Energy Payment will stop while they're out of the country. People who are getting Residential Care Subsidy or Residential Support Subsidy won't be eligible for the Winter Energy Payment.



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possible, making sure your loved one is treated with the utmost respect and care for their final journey.

We bring a fresh approach to the Funeral Industry treating each individual with not only the compassion, but the guidance to have their wishes adhered to. If there is uncertainty in what is required or wanted then that's our place to guide you through.

We also have the option to Pre-Plan and Pre-Pay Funerals which is becoming more common, taking away that stress left for your family to deal with. Making sure your final journey is exactly as you'd like it. If this is something you'd like to know more about feel free to call the 0800 numbers to have a chat.



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Notice Board

YOUR COMMITTEE

Placed this remit forward to the Grey Power AGM in Blenheim 16.4.18: Remit Wording: 'That Grey Power Federation Lobby Government to abolish Sec 70 of the Social Security Act 1964 as it applies to spousal and dependent deduction'. NZ First's policy statement promised this during the election. Section 70 affects certain NZ's from receiving all or some of their New Zealand Superannuation or the Veteran's pension entitlement.

The AGM passed the remit which now gives Grey Power the opportunity to advocate this important topic. Read the article enclosed on this subject.

INTERISLAND FERRY

You can use your Grey Power membership card for really good discounts on the ferry. Phone the office for details.

GREY POWER ELECTRICITY

You must be a current Grey Power member to benefit from the great discounts to be had. More benefits are coming up soon...Broadband, a Fuel Discount card and others. Freephone 0800 473 976. www.greypowerelectricity.co.nz

TAURANGA & WBOP ASSN AGM 26TH JUNE

We do invite you to come to the AGM this month on Tuesday 26th June at 1.30pm. We have an excellent guest speaker, Jan Tanetti the Tauranga Labour List MP. She will speak on the needs and welfare for Super Annuitants and over 50's and there should be time for Q & A.

Please note change of venue due to building safety concerns at the usual hall.

Venue: Tauranga Baptist Church Hall on the corner of 13th Ave and Cameron Rd, next to Countdown. Parking and entrance is at the rear of the hall off 13th Ave and it may be possible to use the Countdown car park. (Parking in front of the church is not allowed.)

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

A reminder, please make sure you are clicking in the right name when you pay online. We have had a lot of people paying their electricity bill to us in error. It does create a lot of extra work for the volunteers to reverse this. In your payees list you could change the Grey Power Electricity to Electricity GP then the two would be a little separated. If you need assistance to make this change, please call the office for some help.

RATES REBATE SCHEME

Please remember to get your application in before the end of June. If your household income over the last 12 months has been less than \$42k you may be eligible for a rebate of up to \$620. If you don't have a form phone Tauranga City Council - Ph: 577 7000 or WBOP Ph: 571 8008. It is worth doing even if it is a small amount - every dollar counts!

KIWI BANK

Grey Power has a very good relationship with Kiwi Bank and there is a system in place that if members who have accounts there, notify the bank, they will 'flag' your account and a financial contribution is made to Grey Power Federation. This type of income helps to keep the level of capitation steady, no sub increases for now, always a plus.

NEW COFFEE MORNING

There is a proposal for us to start another coffee morning at Bob Owens in Bethlehem. This has been a very generous offer by them which includes tea and coffee, maybe gold coin fee. If you are interested in attending a Tuesday, bi monthly meeting, with speaker, could you please call or email the office, so we can gauge the level of interest. Wonderful facility.

NATIONAL AGM 16-18 APRIL IN BLENHEIM

Jennifer, David and Christina went for the 3 days. It was one of the best AGM's we have attended and hopefully much was achieved.

DISCOUNT BOOK

Discount Book has been discontinued and instead we are suggesting people use www.neighbourly.co.nz for trades and services or phone the office for advice.

Jake Corner

Q. What did the traffic light say to the car?

A. Don't look! I'm about to change.



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A reciprocal agreement between the Queensland and New Zealand governments gives Queensland Seniors Card, Seniors Card +go and Seniors Business Discount Card holders access to discounts and special offers on goods and services from businesses participating in the New Zealand SuperGold Card program. Access to government concessions is not included.

Search the SuperGold online discount directory or look for the "SuperGold Cards Welcome" stickers when travelling in New Zealand, and ask the salesperson if they also accept the Queensland Seniors Card, Seniors

+go or Seniors Business Discount Card. If a business does not offer discounts for Australian seniors, this will be noted on their website under 'exclusions'.

Visiting Queensland from interstate and overseas

If you hold a New Zealand SuperGold Card or a Seniors Card issued by another Australian state or territory and are travelling to Queensland, you can search the online discount directory to find businesses offering discounts to visiting interstate and overseas cardholders.

Joke Corner

Q. Optimists & pessimists contribute to our society

A. The optimist invents the plane, the pessimist invents the parachute.

Q. What do you call bears with no ears?

A. B.

Q. As a scarecrow, people say I'm outstanding in my field.

A. But hay, it's in my jeans.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

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Wanted: 3,000 volunteers to help arm kiwis with better broadband information

The Commerce Commission is seeking 3,000 households to be part of a nationwide programme to monitor and improve New Zealand's broadband performance.

"Kiwis love being connected to the internet and together we spend more than \$1.2 billion a year on home broadband bundles. Despite this, we know that many consumers find broadband baffling. Products and pricing can be complex and in-home performance can be hard for consumers to measure," Telecommunications Commissioner Dr Stephen Gale said.

The aim of the monitoring programme is to provide consumers with independent information on broadband performance across different providers, plans, and technologies, to help them choose the best broadband for their household. Shining a light on actual broadband performance will also encourage telco providers to compete on performance and not just price.

"To make sure we get an accurate picture of how New Zealand's broadband is performing, we need volunteers from all parts of the country, of all ages, and on all types of broadband technologies, plans and providers to take part," Dr Gale said.

Volunteers will be provided with a Whitebox (similar to a modem) to plug in at home. The Whitebox

will perform automated tests on a home's internet performance at various times of the day. It will not record any personal information or browsing history and does not interfere with your internet service. A small amount of your broadband data will be used to conduct testing. However, this is expected to have little to no impact on testing volunteers.



Dr Gale said 'SamKnows' has been selected to run the programme following an open tender process. The programme is costing \$2.8 million over 3 years.

"SamKnows' was a standout applicant. It is a world leader in internet service performance, currently assessing broadband performance for about half of the world's internet population," Dr Gale said.

Monitoring results and reports will be available on a dedicated website from October 2018 at www.measuringbroadbandnewzealand.com

More information on the programme and details about how to become a volunteer can be found at [**www.comcom.govt.nz/broadbandvolunteer**](http://www.comcom.govt.nz/broadbandvolunteer)

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