

# TAURANGA & WBOP GREY POWER

## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER for JULY 2018

Hello and welcome to the first of our new quarterly newsletters.

I have previously said that it would be good to be more in touch with you, our members, with more up to date local and national news and fill the gap between your quarterly magazines.

Up until now the cost of postage has prohibited us from achieving this goal but I am now very pleased to announce that two of our members, Tony & Michelle Hutchby from Harcourt's (read their article in our last magazine), have kindly come forward with financial assistance to help fund a proportion of the postage each quarter. This will now enable us to communicate with you more often and hopefully encourage more interaction with you, our members.

This is an extremely generous offer from Michelle & Tony and I do recommend that you give them serious consideration if you are thinking of putting your house on the market or need to buy a property now or in the future.

I have absolutely no doubt they will look after you with integrity and enthusiasm. We hesitate to recommend businesses to our members but in this case I am happy to encourage you to make use of their services.



**Tony & Michelle Hutchby**

Marketing Consultants

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**Advantage Realty Ltd (Licensed: REAA 2008)**

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### LOCAL AGM

On the 26<sup>th</sup> June we held our AGM at the Tauranga Baptist Church Hall. This was a change of venue but on one of the coldest days it offered a warm, carpeted room for the 45 – 50 people who braved the elements. Jan Tinetti was our guest speaker and she is the Labour List MP for Tauranga. She spoke at length about why she had made the step into politics from being the Head Mistress of Merivale School. She is passionate about the care and wellbeing of the underprivileged, be it children or the older sector of our region and I believe she will do what she can to implement that resolve.

Another change was the introduction of a raffle and tickets were sold at the door and the winner was announced at the end of the meeting. This was a great success and we are going to be having a raffle at our coffee mornings so bring some spare change and we hope this will be a well-received initiative.

As you are aware our treasurer retired earlier this year but we have been very fortunate to have Kathy Dawson offer to take up that position. She and husband, Tony, were elected on to the committee and the previous members were all re-elected. (See names inside the front cover of your magazine).

A reminder here about our 'Coffee Mornings' in Tauranga and Katikati. It's a great way to meet and engage with other members and listen to interesting speakers on alternate months. See your quarterly magazine for dates and times.

### THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR SENIORS

The Ministry for Social Development (MSD) has 4 ministers and Tracey Martin is the Minister for Seniors.

The Office for Seniors provides information to seniors and to the government about the issues and concerns of older people. Diane Turner is the Director of the Office for Seniors and is working to ensure seniors are valued and acknowledged within society. "We are all ageing. It matters to all of us that NZ is a place where we have the opportunity to age positively and well". (See details for new strategy further down in the newsletter)

Super Seniors is run by the Office for Seniors and has Sir Peter Snell as the patron who embodies the ideals of positive ageing. In their latest newsletter they discuss the need to refresh the strategy for our ageing population, one that will help us achieve better outcomes for all older NZ's. Grey Power has appointed a board member, Kilian de Lacy to be part of the independent advisory group.

For those who have an internet connection go to: [www.superseniors.msd.govt.nz](http://www.superseniors.msd.govt.nz) and sign up for their very informative newsletter. For those members who do not have a computer we encourage you to ask a friend or relative to read it for you and/or print out any relevant information. We do have brochures at the office.

### INTERNET BANKING

**Please be vigilant when paying your power account to Grey Power Electricity. In your payees list put Electricity in place of Grey Power so the payment no longer comes to us. You may end up with a late payment and then jeopardise your discount.**

### **FOR SALE**

Mobile phone: 2 Degrees Alcatel. It was bought for our office at Warehouse Stationary a few months ago for \$79. Due to a member donating a used smart phone, we have decided to on sell the Alcatel which was hardly used. It is a basic, easy to used model with larger buttons. Offers close to \$50 please.

Filing cabinets x 2 - \$30 each. Even if you don't have many papers to file away, just take out the files they are great to use in the garage for safe, dry, semi fire proof storage. Please phone the office for more details.

### **DONATIONS NEEDED**

The front office has always had a selection of books and jigsaw puzzles for people to borrow or buy. The ones we have are out of date and are off to an op shop so we are looking for some donated replacements. The small amount we make from this goes toward our printing and stationery costs.

### **ENVIRONMENT**

There is a lot being said about the need for us to take part in trying to clean up our environment by greatly reducing the use of single use plastic. I fear we have helped to proliferate the use of plastic because we were born into an era where everything was more labour intensive and plastic was the answer to saving us time. Now, however, that time saver is having a terrible effect on our planet. The quantity of plastic that has drifted into our oceans is now so huge that the toxins released as the plastic breaks down in the water becomes food for the fish that we later eat. NZ needs to step up and put more money into productive recycling plants where vast quantities of plastic can at least be reused. We are going to be lobbying the Government to have a much more proactive approach to recycling and to dramatically reduce the production of single use plastic, particularly in unnecessary packaging. Please remember to take your reusable bags to the supermarkets and say no to plastic. Write to your councillors and politicians about this.

### **HISTORY**

I have started researching the history of Grey Power but most particularly our own association which started in 1986. It's really unfortunate that there are quite big gaps in our records at the office so I wonder if you, or someone you know, was involved with our organisation in the late 1980's and 1990's and would like to offer any snippets of information or paperwork so I can add it to what we have? I'm hoping to have an article and photos in the next magazine. If you have anything you would be willing to share please contact me by email [tgagreypower@gmail.com](mailto:tgagreypower@gmail.com) or phone the office 571 2558 and make it attention 'Jennifer'.

### **TRANSPORT**

We are receiving more complaints/concerns about the difficulty of moving round the city if you don't have a car. One member who travels by bus to the Pyes Pa Cemetery says there is no shelter at the bus stop. This creates three glaring restrictions – no protection from the rain, no protection from the sun and no seating. The majority of people catching a bus to a cemetery would be in the older age group and therefore the people most in need of shelter and seating. Another example was a member who had to catch 4 – yes 4 – buses to travel from Maungatapu to our office in 17<sup>th</sup> Ave!! Letters will be going to the Council and the bus companies. They are all pushing for us to use public transport but it is quite obvious that the service is not efficient nor user friendly.

### **SCAMS – Free help!!**

We were contacted by BNZ who are offering a way of helping people avoid the ever increasing number of ways that we are being scammed through our computers. It is called "Helping Seniors Stay Safe On Line". They have organised a day divided into 2 hour slots for members to attend an easy, practical and educational session which aims to help participants to confidently navigate or avoid scams. It also includes a section on how to use internet banking services safely and confidently. This will be held on the **8th August** at the BNZ building on the corner of Cameron Rd and 13<sup>th</sup> Ave, (Citz Club side). If you are interested in attending could you please call the office and we will sort out a time that suits.

### **NZ Govt Office for Seniors: A new strategy to prepare for an ageing population.**

A strategy discussion document was released in late June 2018. Submissions close 24 August 2018 and can be emailed to: [ageing\\_population@msd.govt.nz](mailto:ageing_population@msd.govt.nz).

This new/revised strategy will shape the Government's policies which are needed to help older New Zealanders live well and will complement the existing strategies—Healthy Ageing Strategy (2016) - Disability Strategy (2016) and the Carer's Strategy (2008) – these can be viewed on Ministry Social Development website.

Some key questions to be answered are:

- \* What helps older people stay connected?
- \* How can seniors be helped to access new technologies?
- \* How can older people be supported to remain in work, including what?
- \* Could employers do to help seniors stay employed or gain employment?
- \* What could help people plan for their older years?
- \* How to reduce older people's risk of abuse?
- \* How can older people be supported to continue to make their own decisions?
- \* How can we ensure older people have a "place to call home"?
- \* How can we enable older people to be secure & healthy in their homes?

I do encourage you to think about these issues and submit your thoughts and ideas about at least some of the questions above. See [www.superseniors.msd.govt.nz/ageing](http://www.superseniors.msd.govt.nz/ageing)

## **SOCIAL**

Social interaction is of utmost importance as we age whether it is with friends or family. For the past few years it has been a bit bleak on the social front for older people but I'm very heartened to see more clubs, events and activities geared toward our age group. I read in the Bay Times about a list of Friendship Groups offering company and the man introducing them, Mr Swindell, is quoted as saying, "We want to encourage people to get off their backsides"! Not quite how I would say it but the sentiment is the same! For those of you who are still able to get out and about, please do make the effort while you can to join a group – any group of people so that you can interact, share and enjoy each other's company. Try to become friends with some who are younger as it's a good way to keep current. For those who are more house-bound try calling Age Concern or St John's for their telephone companion services. Think about the pleasure it may give a volunteer to have a new point of contact in their life or a new friend. We are trying to address this issue in a tiny way by sending out this newsletter and I do hope you've enjoyed it or at least found something useful to read.

Keep warm and dry.

**Jennifer and your committee.**