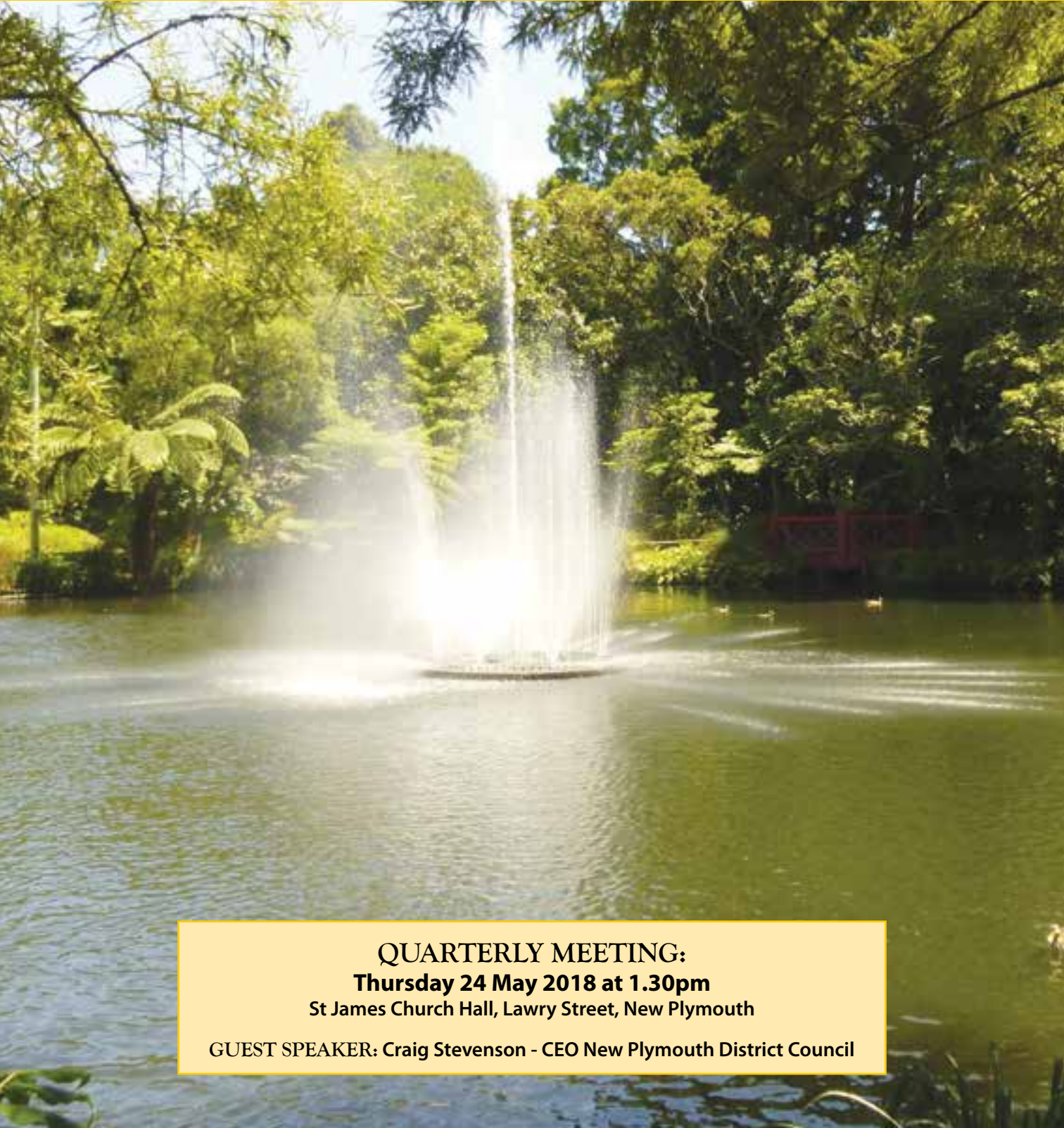


NEW PLYMOUTH
GREY POWER
50+ NEWSLETTER

www.greypowernp.org.nz

QUARTER TWO 2018



QUARTERLY MEETING:

Thursday 24 May 2018 at 1.30pm

St James Church Hall, Lawry Street, New Plymouth

GUEST SPEAKER: Craig Stevenson - CEO New Plymouth District Council

GREY POWER NEW PLYMOUTH INC.

21/117 Powderham Street, New Plymouth 4310

Phone: (06) 757 5885

Email: greypowernp@gmail.com

www.greypowernp.org.nz

Office Hours: 9am - 1pm Monday, Wednesday & Friday

COMMITTEE 2017 - 2018:

PRESIDENT: Chris Manukonga 758 0449

VICE PRESIDENT: Roger Catlin 751 1064

SECRETARY: Suzanne May-Gurnick

TREASURER: Chris Hinton

COMMITTEE: Keith Allum, Alison Brown, Louis Carter, John Gardiner, Chris Gimblett, Siva Natarajan, Tom Waite

TECHNOLOGICAL: Bruce Carter

OFFICE MANAGER: Agnes Lehrke 769 9630

TRAVEL CLUB: Ian and Jill McKillop 757 5403

A COMMON MISCONCEPTION:

Grey Power is not aligned with any politician or political party. We are an advocacy group and we present our views to Parliament to try to get a better deal for all Superannuitants. As such we will speak to any political group or politician who is likely to make a difference on our behalf. We also seek to keep all our members informed on what Grey Power has been doing on their behalf.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is given on good faith and has been derived from sources believed to be reliable and accurate. Neither Grey Power New Plymouth Inc. nor any person involved in the presentation of this publication accept any liability whatsoever for its contents including advertisements, editorials, opinions, or for any consequences or from its use.

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Presidents Word



Hello and welcome members of Grey Power New Plymouth Association. You are cordially invited to attend our Annual General Meeting to participate in the election of officers and in doing so you may wish to consider standing for a role on committee. I would like to start by saying its been a steep learning-curve in my first year as President, but its been a very rewarding year. We have put in place some new policies and we are developing an annual plan, to maintain our viability as an association. We had high one-off spends when setting up the office and for printing a bulk order of discount books. We had very interesting and valuable presentations made by the CEO of the DHB, the President for Retirement Village Living, Advocate from Human Rights Commission, Naki Broadband, the Councils Summertime coordinator, Hearing NZ and Driving Miss Daisy, and we are seeking other interesting and relevant speakers, beginning with the CEO of the NPDC, Craig Stevenson who has been invited to speak at our 2018 AGM. Craig will have some other Council officers in support, and this, is a presentation you should not miss. I recently attended the National Federation AGM, and there is a lot of work to do in the next year or two. The Federation's Board have been given a project by the associations, that is, to carry out a comprehensive review of the constitution, by-laws, policies and practices and include the vision and mission statements, and each association will have to play its part in how this project progresses and achieves a successful outcome. What a year; I would like to thank the entire office team for their great work and commitment, because their time and skills is volunteered and we are extremely fortunate to have them on board. I know that a lot of work is being done by the office staff to retain members, which has made a significant difference to reach a membership of 2153. I also want to thank our committee who have been very vocal at meetings when arguing for progress, and now I believe we are prepared and ready to advance and be a cohesive voice for our members and people aged 50+. One of the other Associations completed a survey to find out the reasons people joined Grey Power and they found out that some people join "to see how they can help" while others joined to see "what's in it for me". Finally a huge amount of gratitude goes to every member, for your support of our discounters, who come on board to be helpful and also to support Grey Power New Plymouth.

Chris Manukonga (President)

QuinLaw - Barristers & Solicitors

GIFTING

Giftng has always been a bit of a minefield. The first big issue was and is if you are going to be applying for a Rest Home subsidy in the future. WINZ has, of course the right to know what gifting has occurred when you are asking for a government subsidy to cover your Rest Home care costs.

Just when we thought we had the latest word on gifting in terms of IRD and WINZ for estate planning, but wait there is more. There is no longer gift duty, so the IRD does not feature at all as a consideration.

The IRD tax on gifting (was anything over \$27,000.00 per annum) has been removed but that sum has stayed around as appropriate gifting in some circumstances.

There is also the sum of \$6,000.00 which WINZ will permit as gifting per annum. That is gifting in the five years prior to seeking a Rest Home subsidy. For those who will not be seeking a Rest Home subsidy gifting is not relevant.

Here at QuinLaw we have many elderly clients and their families. We enjoy working with them and helping them understand and organise their property and assist them to obtain best outcomes for their property and personal affairs.

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Editorial supplied by QuinLaw

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Renewals of Subscriptions

Thank you to all who have fulfilled their renewals. You have assisted us well with your applications, etc. We keenly await the rest...about 800 members who need to catch up, which I'm sure you are about to see to.



We now have Eftpos, Direct Crediting (with surname and membership number) and Cheques/Cash.

Applications are necessary as the changes to names, addresses, phone numbers and titles continue. It helps us to keep up to date. DO also keep us informed when unfortunately, there are deaths.

Agnes Lehrke (Office Manager)

Annual Increase in New Zealand Super

N.Z. Super and Veteran's Pension payments are adjusted each year to reflect increases in the cost of living and the average wage.

From 1 April 2018, weekly rates have increased by: \$9.96 gross or \$8.21 after 'M' tax for a married couple (each.)

\$12.94 gross or \$10.67 after 'M' tax for a single person living alone.

\$11.95 gross or \$9.85 after 'M' tax for a single person sharing accommodation.

The first full payment at the new rate will be on 17th April. For a full summary of the new rates go to www.workandincome.govt.nz and search for benefit rates 2018.

Taranaki's hearing, caring specialists

With over 20 years of experience working in the Taranaki region, we know and value our customers and community. Central Audiology has been a leading hearing specialist throughout Taranaki with clinics in New Plymouth, Stratford and Hawera. We're the only 100% Taranaki owned and operated independent audiology practice in the region with the largest supply of hearing products available. This means we are able to tailor a hearing solution to suit you.

Our staff and experts are passionate about healthy hearing, providing our customers with the most recent technology based on the latest research. The team is dedicated to providing excellent customer service, ensuring that all of our clients are given the utmost care and respect. Most of all, we're

dedicated to helping you achieve healthy hearing, so you can enjoy everything life has to offer.

In New Zealand, we are fortunate to have access to a wide range of funding avenues to assist with the purchase of hearing solutions. We can work with you to determine the best method of funding. Whether you want a simple product to help you be more present in conversations with family and friends, or the latest gadget to connect to your smart phone, we have all bases covered. With longer appointment times, we really take the time to listen.

Call 0800 751 000 to book in with one of our experienced Audiologists to see how we can help you hear better!

Editorial supplied by Central Audiology Taranaki

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Enliven creates elder-centred communities that recognise the individual and support people in a way that's right for them.

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www.enlivencentral.org.nz

Volunteers Required

We would like to hear from any members prepared to offer a few hours a month. Please ring the office (06) 757 5885 or email: greypowernp@gmail.com

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Housing for the Elderly

New Plymouth District Council's Housing for the Elderly service provides affordable housing and associated well-being services to eligible elderly.

NPDC owns 140 units in New Plymouth, Bell Block, Waitara and Inglewood. Of these, 103 are one-bedroom units (including 14 larger units for couples), and 37 bedsits.

Rents range from \$96 per week for the cheapest bedsit to \$172 per week for the most expensive one-bedroom unit. Bond is two weeks' rent.

People aged 65 or over, or nearing 65, who have no significant assets can apply. A credit check is carried out and references are required.

Units are allocated according to a range of considerations, including the applicant's health needs and circumstances at the time as well as the length of time they have spent on the waiting list.

The Housing Officer visits tenants every 6 to 8 weeks to check on their well-being and to follow up on maintenance issues. NPDC sends a quarterly newsletter to tenants and organises a garden competition in December each year.

More information can be found on the New Plymouth District Council website www.newplymouthnz.com

Alternatively you can call Housing Officer Kaye Thorpe on (06) 759 6060.

Could you be saving money on your power bill?

As the weather gets colder it's a good time to check if you're getting the best deal on your power.

This has been made easy with a quick two-minute check you can do.

A visit to www.whatsmynumber.org.nz will tell you if you could save money on your power bill by switching electricity providers.

It's a free, independent website that compares the electricity choices available in your area and lets you know what your potential savings are, should you choose to switch.

If you don't have access to the internet, your local Citizens Advice Bureau can help you run the check or you could ask your family to help. And if you decide to change, the new electricity company will do all the work for you.

Even if you're happy with your current company it's worth giving them a call to see if they can offer you a better deal.

Top tip to lower your bill

Well-installed insulation is always the top priority for a warmer, healthier home. Get your insulation checked to make sure it is up to scratch – it may have been moved or need topping up. Visit www.energywise.govt.nz for more information.

Editorial supplied by Electricity Authority

Grey Power Travel Club Report

Jill and Ian McKillop write your travel reports and have been heading the Travel Club for 3 years. They organise 4 day trips and one longer trip each year.



Our first day-trip for the year was to Stratford and surrounds, on 1 March. This was a repeat of one of last year's trips, because for that one we had 45 on the waiting list.

Our 5 day trip on the 19 - 23 March went well also. We first visited the Waiouru Army Museum, Tangiwhai Memorial, and Smash Palace staying at the Chateau for a luxury dinner, bed and breakfast. Day Two the Turangi Trout Hatchery, viewed the Aratiatia Rapids at Taupo and had a cruise to the base of the Huka Falls. From there the next day we went to Taupo Museum, the Motor Sport Park and on to the Wai-O-Tapu Geothermal



Park in Rotorua. Dinner that night in the Skyline Restaurant.

We then next ventured to the Redwood Forest, Blue and Green Lakes, Lake Tarawera, rode the Tarukenga rail carts, preceding an evening Hangi and cultural show at the Mitai Maori Village.

On our final day we went to the Agrodome Sheep show, then Tree Church Gardens at Ohaupo.

We had an excellent group of 36 who all 'gelled' well together and nobody held the bus up at any time.

A request to all club members - Please note we are all Grey Power members firstly. Travel Club is an additional option for those who wish to avail themselves of the activities and fellowship. Therefore we need to make every effort to attend our local general meetings of Grey Power. Meetings are advertised in the quarterly newsletters. Speakers give presentations for our interest and value to members. Please do try and attend. Thank you.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Grey Power New Plymouth Assn Inc | 21/117 Powderham Street, New Plymouth 4310
www.greypowernp.org.nz | Email: greypowernp@gmail.com | Ph: (06) 757 5885

*** Membership year is from 1 April to 31 March**

Membership: New Member Renewal Membership Number: _____

Type: Single (\$15) Dual (\$25)

MEMBER DETAILS:

First: _____

Second: _____

Postal Address: _____

Post Code: _____ Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

PAYMENT DETAILS:

Subscription \$ _____ Donation \$ _____ Total \$ _____

Do you wish to register with our travel group? Yes No

Do you wish to resign from the travel group? Yes No

Are you a member of Grey Power Electricity? Yes No

NOTES: Please return a completed form with every application.

Payments may be made by eftpos, cash, cheque at our offices, or internet banking into our bank account.

Online Account: 153948 0007390 00. Please ensure your name and membership number appears in the reference section of the form.

A stamped addressed envelope with postal applications would be appreciated.

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ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY

AGM Committee Nomination Form 2018

Full Name of Nominee	Position on Committee	Signature of Nominee
	Proposer	Secunder

All positions on the Committee will be voted on. **The above form is not a voting form** but your nominations for Grey Power Committee. Actual voting takes place during the AGM.

You may nominate as many as you wish. So fill out the form and send it in to the office by hand delivery, email or post before Monday the 21st of May.

Your nominee must be aware of your nomination and sign the form to show their willingness to stand. Your support is greatly appreciated.

All nominations will be available on display, for viewing at the AGM.

Remember this is your opportunity to have a say on who you want on the Committee.

If you know someone who is a good TEAM player and may be interested in an active roll, then please nominate them. Thank you.



YOUR QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM GREY POWER NEW PLYMOUTH

