

WHANGAREI

GREY POWER

50+ NEWSLETTER

www.greypowerwhangarei.org

QUARTER THREE 2018



GREY POWER WHANGAREI INC.

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www.greypowerwhangarei.org



COMMITTEE 2018 - 2019:

PRESIDENT: George Snell

Ph: (09) 437 5550 | Email: gsnell49@gmail.com

SECRETARY: Pearl Newman

Ph: (09) 434 0686 | Email: pearl2newman@gmail.com

TREASURER: Ken Goodhue

Ph: (09) 430 3826 | Email: kenandvalerie@xtra.co.nz

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Lynette Fox

Ph: (09) 436 1822 | Email: lynfrankiefox@gmail.com

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Irene Bamber - Ph: (09) 459 1946

Jim Beniston - Ph: (09) 437 3827

Patricia Bennett - Ph: (09) 435 2950

Pam Blowers - Ph: (09) 435 3933 | Email: viola1@xtra.co.nz

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Maxine Tucker - Ph: (09) 437 6242

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COVER PICTURE: This was a purpose built building by
the Whangarei District Council in the 1990s and stands
proudly at the Whangarei Town Basin.

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OUR ADVERTISERS

Their support enables the production of this
newsletter, so please support them.

Presidents Word



Thank you for electing me as your new
President. Like all new brooms, I have made
changes. The most important one is to go back
to basics by promoting what Grey Power is all
about.

I have heard from many members of the public
that they have never heard of "Grey Power" or
what it stands for. Let me tell you that it is not
all about discounted electricity prices, although
this is beneficial to us as members.

Listed here is our Association's Aims and
Objectives. You can help by spreading the word
to your friends and neighbours.

- Advance, support and protect the welfare
and well-being of older people.
- Affirm and protect the statutory right of every
New Zealand resident to a sufficient
New Zealand Superannuation entitlement.
- Strive for the provision of quality health care
to all New Zealand residents regardless
of income and location
- Oppose all discriminatory and
disadvantageous legislation affecting rights,
security and dignity
- To be non-aligned with any political party and
to present a strong united lobby to all
Parliamentary and Statutory Bodies on
matters affecting New Zealand residents.
- Promote and establish links with kindred
organisations.
- Promote recognition of the wide-ranging
services provided by Senior Citizens of New
Zealand.
- Gain recognition as an appropriate voice for all
older New Zealanders.

My thanks to all Committee Members who have
agreed to promote these principals.

If you would like to join our Committee please
contact either myself, phone 437 5550 or Pearl,
phone 434 0686.

Take Care,

George Snell (President)

Future Committee Meetings

Monday 10th September

Monday 8th October

Monday 12th November

All Committee Meetings are held at
the Kamo Club, Meldrum Street, Kamo,
Whangarei, commencing at 9.30am.



Christmas Luncheon

This Luncheon will be held at the Kamo Club
on Thursday 6th December.
Arrangements to be advised in next newsletter.
Put this date in your diary.

Public Meeting

for all Members is to be held
Tuesday 18th September 2018
at 1.30pm at the Kamo Club,
Meldrum Street, Kamo, Whangarei

Guest Speaker

Refreshments served
after the meeting

Raffle Table

New transport service for
seniors in Whangarei

Freedom Drivers is delighted to announce a local
service in Whangarei which includes a comfortable
Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle (WAV). Gavin and
Angela Barker offer a kind and friendly service and
welcome enquiries.

"We're very excited to bring this service to
Whangarei. We are available at peak times as we are
not committed elsewhere and we also cover evening
and weekends to enable our customers to attend
those important social and family events," says
business owner Angela.

"Our service is not just local either. Rural areas are
covered and we are happy to do longer drives to
Auckland or Hamilton."

Prices are comparable to (and often less) than a
standard taxi but with lots of extras. Service is
personalised to our client's needs with a convenient
pick up and drop off at your front door.

Call Angela or Gavin today on 021 0226 1564 or
09 430 0139.

Editorial supplied by Freedom Drivers

TRANSPORT YOU CAN TRUST



Reliable and
friendly service

- Medical appointments
- Social and business trips
- Shopping
- Sightseeing and outings
- Airport transfers
- Pets to the vet
- One off or regular
- Long trips and local

Call Angela now!

For more information

09 430 0139 or
0800 956 956



www.freedomdrivers.co.nz

Kamo Club

Kamo Club do a wonderful job in sponsoring Grey Power Whangarei and in appreciation of this your Committee donated a fold-up bed and linen, along with a first aid kit, all to be used when an emergency occurs on their premises.



OUR THANKS TO:

AMERICAN INCOME LIFE
Insurance Company
PROTECTING WORKING FAMILIES IN NEW ZEALAND
To receive your **FREE** Grey Power \$2000 Accidental Death and Dismemberment Policy contact AIL on Ph 0800 894 121 email: mario@ailnz.co.nz or enrol online at ailnz.co.nz/request

LJ Hooker
Real Estate Agents
Whangarei



Visit the Kamo Club website and keep up to date with what's happening at the club - latest entertainment, events, sports and activities.
www.kamoclub.co.nz
Ph: (09) 435 1765

Auditor Required

Grey Power Whangarei is seeking an Auditor to take over from Mr Noel Reed who, unfortunately, has had to relinquish these duties. A big Thank You goes to Noel for the sterling service he gave in this role.

Do we have anyone within our membership who would be able to take over these duties, or perhaps someone may know of someone who can help out. If so, George, our President, would love to hear from you.

Residents of Retirement Villages

The Minister of Local Government, Hon Nanaia Mahuta, has announced that as from 1st July 2018 eligible retirement village residents will be able to apply to their local Council for a rates rebate. This legislation ensures that retirement village residents who do not own their unit, but pay fees to live there, are recognised as rate payers.

Eligible residents are required to fill out an application form and provide a declaration certificate completed by their village operator. This information is then presented to their local Council.

Contact your local Council if you have any queries regarding the criteria for eligibility.

**HOME SUPPORT NORTH**
Charitable Trust
a non-profit community organisation
Quality Home Support Services in your area

- ✓ FREE assistance/support at home where eligible
- ✓ Service Plans tailored to YOUR needs
- ✓ Trained Support Workers
- ✓ Ongoing, local Support from Nurse Co-ordinators
- ✓ Proudly 100% Northland owned and operated

Whangarei Office: 09 430 2090
www.homesupport.co.nz
Helping Northlanders since 1994

Inter Islander

THIS ORGANISATION OFFERS DISCOUNTED RATES FOR GREY POWER MEMBERS.

These discounted rates are not available at peak travelling times which are from 19th December 2018 to 31st January 2019.

They can be contacted by phoning 0800 802 802.

Grey Power Membership Card must be shown at check-in or full retail fare will be charged.



Donations your Committee made on your behalf

As previously reported, with the \$1,200.00 donations received from members when renewing their membership, donations of \$400.00 each were made on your behalf to:

St John Ambulance
Northland Rescue Helicopter
and Kamo Volunteer Fire Brigade

These associations were extremely thankful and appreciative for these donations and asked that we convey this appreciation to all members.

Being elderly is when you know all the answers but no-one bothers to ask the questions

Residential Care Subsidy

On 1st July this year changes to the Residential Care Subsidy Rates came into effect. If you need long-term residential care in a Rest Home or Hospital you may now qualify for a subsidy.

The asset thresholds have increased to:

- \$227,125.00 for a single person
- \$227,125 for a couple where both partners are in residential care
- \$227,125 for a couple where one partner is in residential care, including the value of their house and car
- \$124,379 for a couple where one partner is in residential care, not including the combined value of their house and car. (The house is only exempted when it is the main place where your partner, who is not in care, or a dependent child, lives).

The income-from-assets exemptions have increased to:

- \$992 a year for a single person
- \$1,983 a year for a couple when both are assessed as needing care
- \$2,975 a year for a couple where one partner has been assessed as needing care

The annual allowable gifting amount in the five years prior to your Work and Income means assessment is now \$6,500 a year and the maximum amount a person can gift in recognition of care is now \$32,500.

Assets and income are assessed by Work and Income. All other eligibility is assessed by the Ministry of Health.

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Membership Renewal

There are still over 100 members who have not renewed their Membership Subscription for the current financial year. Those of you will have an extra reminder with this newsletter. If you do not have this reminder you are a fully paid up financial member.



Please note that if your subscription is not paid by 30th September 2018 we will be required to delete you from our date base. Also please note that if you are receiving Grey Power electricity you must be a current financial member or you will lose the discounted electricity with Pulse Energy.

International Day of the Older Person

The International Day of the Older Person is celebrated throughout the world on 1st October each year. This day is for honouring the time and efforts of the elderly and the value they bring to the community.



Payment of your Grey Power Electricity Account

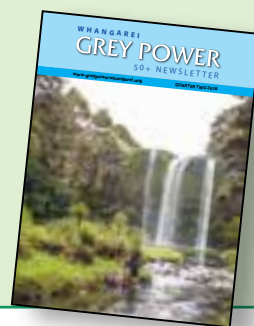
We are Grey Power Association Whangarei NOT Grey Power Electricity. These are two completely different organisations.

From time to time members have been paying their electricity account into Grey Power Association account and not the account of Grey Power Electricity.

You need to pay your electricity account directly to Grey Power Electricity. **PLEASE DO NOT PAY IT TO US** as this only causes a big inconvenience for all concerned. Make sure you check the account you are paying your electricity into before pushing that button.

Your New Look Newsletter

Thank you to all who gave feedback on our new style newsletter. It was all positive and very much appreciated.



Work Related Poisoning

It has been brought to our attention that some of our members are suffering from chronic illnesses as a result of work related injuries. Of particular concern are those that have suffered poisoning due to the handling of chemicals. These illnesses include things like lead poisoning, asbestosis and the like and suitable treatment or financial assistance has not been received from ACC.

Should you fit into any of these categories please advise to the following email:
greypowermarl2@xtra.co.nz
Or send a letter outlining your situation to:
Mr Graeme Faulkner, 11 Rudd Crescent, Blenheim 7201

Guest Speakers

If anyone has any suggestions for future Guest Speakers at our Public Meetings please contact our President George Snell, phone (09) 4375 550 or email him at gsnell49@gmail.com he would love to hear from you.

Campaigning at Whangarei Library

Your Committee has been campaigning at the Whangarei Library one day per month to inform people of our organisation and to try and interest new members. This has been reasonably successful and is something we plan to continue doing.

The next library campaign is to be held on Thursday 20th September 2018 from 10.00am to 1.00pm.

If you are a current Grey Power Member and see us there we would love you to come and say hello.



Welcome to New Committee Member

Some of you may remember Jim Beniston who has previously served on the Committee as President, amongst other duties. Jim resigned from the Committee for personal reasons but is now able to come back and join us.



Go to www.facebook.com/GreyPowerWhangarei to follow us on Facebook.

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Purchase of a Laptop

Your Committee is looking at buying a laptop to allow all Grey Power information to be held in one place instead of various Committee Members having varying and different information on their own computers.

This will also enable any information, surveys and the like to be sent to all members with an email address, as sometimes there is information that requires a prompt response that could be communicated, but because it does not fit within the timeframe of our quarterly newsletter members miss out on it.

Unfortunately this does not reach those members without an email address so if you receive any of these emails and are aware of any members without an email address you might like to pass any such information on to them.

It is hoped to set up a data base for this in the not-too-distant future.

If you do not wish to have your email address used for this purpose please let Pearl, our Secretary know phone (09) 4340 686 or email: pearl2newman@gmail.com

Medicinal Cannabis

The following is a statement issued by Mac Welsh, National President, Grey Power N.Z. Federation Inc.

Recent stories in the news media appear to be at odds with Grey Power N.Z. Federation Inc.

Grey Power N.Z. Federation Inc supports the supply of medicinal cannabis on doctor's prescription via the Pharmac system. Grey Power does not support personal cultivation, recreational use, or any other form of supply other than through the Government controlled Pharmac system.

Grey Power Federation Magazine

The Blind Foundation will be making this magazine available to all sight impaired readers from the September 2018 edition.

If you wish to take advantage of this service please contact Gail Vipond on (09) 355 6965, extension 6965.

Anglican Care Centre Courses

How to Speak Up When You Have Concerns

When: First Tuesday of every month starting Tuesday 4th September 2018.

Where: Anglican Care Centre, Corner Mill Road and Deveron Street, Regent, Whangarei

Time: 12noon to 1.00pm

Light Lunch provided ~ Donation appreciated

To register phone 0800 4376 397 or email: office2@whgcare.org.nz

Money Mates

6 free workshops of managing money and planning for your future.

When: Commencing Wednesday 5th September 2018

Where: Anglican Care Centre, Corner Mill Road and Deveron Street, Regent, Whangarei

Time: 9.30am to 11.30am

Meat pack given on completion of the course.

To register phone 0800 4376 397 or email: office2@whgcare.org.nz

The Ageing Population

Around 750,000 New Zealanders have had their 65th birthday.

In 1998 this figure was around 450,000.

By 2038 it is anticipated that this figure will be around 1.3 million.

Home-based Support Services

Many of the elderly people we talk to are capable of staying in their own homes - all they need is a bit of extra help. We offer local, trustworthy and caring home-based care in Northland.

We are available to assist with your own personal needs or the needs of those you love, 24 hours, 7 days a week.

100% locally owned and operated.



Please contact us:

Phone: 09 436 0182 or 021 111 2980 (Yvonne)

Email: support@aidehbss.co.nz

www.aidehbss.co.nz