

New Zealand
Permit No. 3285



CHRISTCHURCH

GREY POWER

50+ QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Phone (03) 942 8816

SPRING ISSUE 2018



GREY POWER CHRISTCHURCH

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Presidents Word

2018 Annual Meeting was my first annual meeting for Grey Power I have attended as President after eighteen years membership. I have served 16 years as Vice President so I expect I have been pretty lucky really.



Attendance over the years has been around fifty for annual meetings and this one had fifty three so we are about on par, which is about what we would expect. Ian has chalked up around ten as president. I will tell you now, I will not be in this chair next year.

I had the pleasant task to present Ian with very well earned Life Membership of our organization here in Christchurch. Thank you Ian and this goes double for Fay, Ian's good lady who has supported him over the years - Thank You both.

We have two new members elected this year, which we are very pleased about Gaye Bruce and Joe Ferrari. Thank you both and I look forward to getting to know you better.

Now some general personnel observations. With and average age of around eighty I would dearly like to see some younger folk fronting up for committee. Also I think we should look at changing our constitution to include the total number of years a person may serve. I feel all committees need a couple of fresh faces per year. This would bring a different thought process to the total group.

You all have had time to check out the new format of the newsletter what did you think of it? Did we do the right thing in changing from the previous set up and it makes Gordon's job a lot easier, and colour sets it off pretty well. I would like to hear your thoughts about it. Email me at: brian.louise@xtra.co.nz

Take Care,
Brian Christian (President)

Hohepa Homes

The first Hohepa home was established at Poraiti in Hawkes Bay in 1957. This was a joint initiative of Marjorie Allan MBE and Lew Harris (subsequently "Sir") a local farmer and benefactor who had a disabled daughter. Hohepa is Maori for Joseph and was named for Sir Lew's father.

Hohepa Canterbury, established 1965, was originally on the Port Hills but moved to its current 2½ hectare site in Barrington in 1964. A 40 acre farm was purchased in 1984 at Halswell.

Hohepa Homes provided for the purpose of establishing and maintaining homes and schools for curative education, and social therapy of children and young persons. Over time this has been extended to a range of lifestyle supports for adults with intellectual disability.

Grey Power members on our monthly bus trip were recently privileged to attend a stage performance given by a group of mixed age members of the home in Barrington. The coordination between their varied ages, many without props, and a keen intent to keep the artistic aspect of 'Circus' true in our minds was most appreciated. The tempo of the music reflected their individual joy and effort to perform.

Our members were thus able, at first hand, to appreciate the result of coordinated care, tuition and obvious rapport that abounds within the Barrington home. Our stay, all but too brief, included being invited to partake of refreshments after the stage performance, during which it was possible to chat with some of the care givers, I don't like using 'staff' in this context, who warmly extolled the virtues of being there as if the whole thing was a family affair and they were but the parents.

Colin Taylor

Are you living with Heart Failure or Atrial Fibrillation?

The Heart Foundation are running two cardiologist led seminars in Christchurch in September and October.

Email Emma Griffin
emmag@heartfoundation.org.nz
to find out more



Notice Board

AGE EXPO

When: 1 October 2018

Where: Papanui High School, Langdons Road

Time: 9am - 2.30pm

Lots of stalls to see what is available for the older person. Refreshments on site. Come along for a couple of hours and look around. Grey Power will be there, come and see what we have to offer. Plenty of parking available.

Social Afternoons Superannuitants' and Friends

Meetings will be held at the Cashmere Club starting at 1.30pm

19 SEPTEMBER 2018

Edmond's Sure to rise talk.

17 OCTOBER 2018

Male singing Quartet.

21 NOVEMBER 2018

City people will be entertaining. It is our end of year Xmas Breakup so come and join us.

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Megan Woods

Minister of Energy and Resources



Keeping warm in the cold winter months is absolutely vital to everybody's wellbeing and makes all the difference to your health. As Minister of Energy and Resources it has been an absolute pleasure to see two new measures put in place recently to help combat the winter chills for some of our most vulnerable New Zealanders. The first of these is the Winter Energy payment, which will help those over 65 or receiving a benefit with the cost of their electricity bills.

However, it's not just through the Winter Energy payment that we are seeking to ensure that New Zealanders are able to keep warm without resorting to wearing multiple layers or huddling by a heater. We've also introduced the Warmer Kiwi Homes programme, which will be facilitated through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority. This first year of the programme which I launched on 1 July in Christchurch will focus on insulation grants, and grants for heating will become available from July 2019. We've lifted the level of funding per grant from 25% by the previous government to two thirds of the cost, and we expect that around 52,000 families will benefit.

This will allow low-income homeowners to warm up with grants covering 67% of the cost of ceiling and underfloor insulation. These grants are specifically targeted towards those we know need them most, such as those who live in low decile areas, with health conditions or community services cards.

The combination of these two measures reflect the kind of Government that Prime Minister Jacinda

Ardern has said we will be - compassionate, inclusive and ambitious. All New Zealanders deserve to be warm over winter, and to not be forgotten or neglected. Thousands of New Zealanders will now have warmer homes and lower electricity bills as part of the Government measures, reducing the cost of living for those most in need.

Nicky Wagner

National Party List MP views



UPDATE ON THE CITY

Two projects I'm particularly happy to see taking shape are the Convention Centre and neighbouring Victoria Square. Victoria Square is now open while the Convention Centre will be completed in 2020. Below are some of the areas and issues I have been working on.

East Lake

The draft plans for how the Red Zone will look have been put out for consultation by Regenerate Christchurch. I hope you all visited the Red Zone exhibition in Cashel Mall and had your say.

Christchurch Cathedral

In September 2017 the Canterbury Anglican Diocese voted to restore the Cathedral after many years of stalemate since the earthquakes. This was helped by a bipartisan offer of government funding to help the restoration process.

Arts, Culture & Heritage

As the National Party spokesperson for Arts, Culture & Heritage, I've been meeting with the different agencies involved and have found myself focusing on two key questions. This is where I want to hear from you. How can we connect the artistic and cultural sectors with tourism, commerce and trade, leveraging their innovation and new thinking? How do we help our network of museums - small and large - with access to support, skills, and knowledge that helps them specialise in their unique local stories and themes while ensuring all aspects of local history are recorded, maintained, and accessible? These two questions are driving my thinking and I would love to hear your thoughts and ideas on these, so please get in touch!



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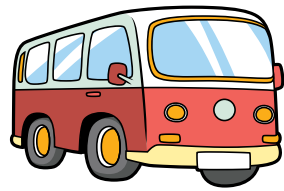
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Tui's Outings - Grey Power Bus Trips



Despite the colder weather our bus is still full each month. This is good for members are not sitting home moaning about the weather and any small thing that goes wrong becoming a major issue.

Our Clarks luxury coach in May arrived to take us to the Blue Moon Brewery in Amberley where those who wished to, could partake in tasting the numerous beers brewed and from an interesting commentary, learnt about the making of the various different brews made on the premises.

We then departed for a drive to Rangiora RSA where an excellent hot meal awaited our arrival, before departing once again for home.

The month of June and we boarded Clarks Coach where Bob our popular driver, took us for a drive to see what progress has been made, (or going to be made) in the earthquake areas of the Central City.

We then made our way to "Hoofbeats Restaurant" at the Riccarton Raceway Hotel, for an absolutely scrumptious Mid-Year Xmas Meal, complete with crackers where our bus companions entered the true festive mood of donning their paper hats and exchanging the poor jokes from the crackers.

After leaving Hoofbeats we went to the Hohepa homes where we were entertained, but Colin Taylor is writing about this visit. We then departed for home and said farewell for another month.

July has passed very quickly and with the mornings being colder we leave later in the morning, and today we are having a drive down to check out where the new facilities are at QE2 at Brighton before we go to the Garden Restaurant for our meal. The members like being able to make multiple choices of food and being able to eat as much as they desire. Our Coach will then take us to The Handmade Studio. This is run by staff and supported by a dedicated group of volunteers. The aims are to assist those working to gain skills and independence and self-esteem. They make numerous items. Soft toys, sheepskin covered coat hangers, handmade occasion cards and some become proficient weavers of woollen materials made into garments. One really appreciates that these folk are being productive in the workforce despite any disability they may have. We give thanks that the Trust raises funds to provide premises, support staff equipment and materials that this work is available for those less fortunate than ourselves. Home again before the cold night air sets in.

In August we will be visiting Kaiapoi, another of our earthquake towns where we will be given a hot meal at the Kaiapoi Working Men's Club and then boarding our Coach to drive to the Tuahiwi Primary School where the children will entertain us. Everyone always enjoys the children and we will tell you about that in the next magazine issue.



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Up to 92% insulation subsidy for homeowners

Are you ready for the spring months ahead? Don't forget about the importance of insulation - it will keep your home warm in winter and cool in summer. And now is the best time to get it sorted! The government announced a new four year insulation and heating programme in July targeted at homeowners, with qualifying household's receiving up to 92% subsidy on the costs of ceiling and underfloor insulation.

If affordability is an issue for homeowners, CEA may be able to organise other financial assistance including interest free payment plans over a number of months. Criteria applies.

From July 1st 2018 homeowners will be eligible for subsidies if they meet the following criteria:

- The home must be owner-occupied - i.e. it can't be a rental property AND
- The home must be built before 2008.

In addition:

- The homeowner must have a Community Services Card or a Super Gold combo card OR
- The homeowner has been referred by the Ministry of Health (currently North Island only) OR
- The home is located in an area identified as lower-income; contact CEA to find out if your address qualifies.

Please note: The new subsidy does not include landlords.

Insulation and adequate heating are essential elements in achieving a healthy home environment, and ultimately healthier you which could mean less time spent in the doctor's office.

Have a laugh



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

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

Q. Why was the little strawberry crying?

A. His mum was in a jam.

Q. Why are frogs so happy?

A. They eat whatever bugs them.

Merivale Denture Clinic

We are pleased to announce the Merivale Denture Clinic will be led by our new clinician, Thomas Gu. Tom has studied and worked at the Otago University's Faculty of Dentistry in Dunedin for over 10 years. He has led various departments in removable prosthetics including partial dentures, full dentures, implant supported prosthetics, and orthodontic appliances. In addition, he has worked at a private clinic in Christchurch, for 4 years. As a result, Thomas has an extensive and wide array of experience from complex and highly specialised hospital cases, to the conventional dentures and prosthetics.

With the combination of specialised expertise and his down to earth and friendly demeanour, Tom and his team are looking forward to provide you with the finest quality dentures that are comfortable, functional, and aesthetically pleasing, to give you your natural smile back.

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Editorial supplied by Merivale Denture Clinic

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Good news for residents of retirement villages

Minister of Local Government, Hon Nanaia Mahuta, has announced that from 1 July 2018, eligible retirement village residents will be able to apply to their local council for a rates rebate.

“The Rates Rebate (Retirement Village Residents) Amendment Act 2018, ensures that retirement village residents who do not own their unit, but pay fees to live there, are recognised as rate payers, and are therefore entitled to apply for a rebate,” says Minister Mahuta.

Eligible residents are required to fill out an application form, and provide a declaration certificate completed by their village operator. Both of these documents, along with eligibility criteria, will be available on the Department of Internal Affairs website from 1 July 2018.

“If you have any queries about your eligibility or that of a family member, I encourage you to get in touch with your local council or retirement village operator,” says Nanaia Mahuta.

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