

# ROTORUA GREY POWER

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SUMMER ISSUE 2019

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Cover photo supplied by M Ruberl

## GREY POWER ROTORUA

1333 Eruera Street, Rotorua

(Behind Age Concern premises

the Ranolf Street end of Eruera Street)

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### Office Hours:

Tuesday to Thursday - 11am - 2pm

**Summer Office Closure: 2pm Thursday 12th December - re-open on Tuesday 11th February 2020 at 11am.**

### Committee Members 2019/20:

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#### COMMITTEE:

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Les Hannah / Martin Christensen / Peter Walden

If there are issues you would like Grey Power to take up on your behalf, let your Committee know by phone or contact us via our

website [www.greypowerrotorua.org.nz](http://www.greypowerrotorua.org.nz)

or email [greypower.rotorua@gmail.com](mailto:greypower.rotorua@gmail.com)

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*President's Word*



Kia ora members!

Where to start? Perhaps the newest news is that Pulse Energy have introduced their Grey Power Broadband

deal – see their advertisement in this magazine. The promised Super Gold Card app is available now, we do not need to add to the advertising available about that, but with only one third of Gold Card holders believed to be online, we have to wonder what the losses are to those who are not.

Just as exciting is being able to report that you have a really capable, fully active Executive Committee and Office Volunteers doing a lot of work behind the scenes. These are the people making everything happen for your Association. Yes, we continue to have difficulties with the membership database, and we apologise to those of you who got upset at the subscription reminder notice and did not see the “disregard this notice if you have paid” statement at the end. People are putting a significant amount of time into fixing the can of worms this proves to be within the new accounting system, recommended by our Accounts Reviewer, and we will keep doing our best. Dare I say, we could have it handled by 2020 renewal time? If there are any experienced data entry, telephone calling and Xero experts among you who could lend a hand, we’d love to hear from you.

**Meet the Candidates.** Firstly, you did your Association proud, turning out in record numbers to not one but two “Meet the Candidates” sessions. I’ve written at length elsewhere about this and will NOT need to repeat myself here!

**Climate Change.** You will note the calendar foretells that in addition to the subject of Retirement Villages, forums for 2020 will have climate change FROM VARIOUS POINTS OF VIEW as their theme.

Why? A couple of reasons. Firstly, while the inaugural Wellbeing Day was well attended, and will hopefully be repeated in 2020, interest in forums on subjects such as macular degeneration caused barely an eyelid to bat. So clearly, you have a handle on immediate health issues, which is good!

Secondly, Regional Council declared a climate change emergency in our area this year. This was clearly not done casually. Central Government’s Zero Carbon Bill will most likely come into effect at the end of 2019. Over 15,000 schools, councils, churches, Marae etc and individuals submitted on this bill, and over 90% were in favour of it. The Bill is going to mean significant changes to the way in which we all do things. This could well come at a cost to ratepayers, and we need to pay attention, be informed, as well as get the support and resourcing from Central Government to help make the changes we will all need to make. For those interested, here’s the link: <https://www.mfe.govt.nz/have-your-say-zero-carbon> In addition, the Ministry for the Environment is currently working on the Action for Healthy Waterways and the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management reform. This will have a huge impact on how waste, storm and drinking water will be managed by councils and could again affect ratepayers/members/what our Councils can afford to do outside of making these required changes.

Again, here’s the link: <https://www.mfe.govt.nz/consultation/action-for-healthy-waterways>. Who else in the country has 23 lakes in their rohi to look after? The Waitangi Tribunal Report on Freshwater, detailed elsewhere, will certainly impact us.

**So, to our Calendar.** This is confirmed until the end of March. Thereafter, it is in draft until the Committee confirm it, or otherwise, at our next meeting. Our first confirmed 2020 forum speaker is Tania Tapsell-Yates, member of the NZ Community Board as well as Rotorua Lakes Councillor, with both a brief for climate change and a personal, passionate interest in the subject. See the 2020 calendar for details.

For those of us who thought there was still a debate here in New Zealand over climate change, the fact is that debating is now pretty much irrelevant. Central Government is working hard to address certain issues and we have some big changes coming, expensive changes, with particular impacts on seniors. Now, more than ever, we’re going to have to work together to meet new requirements. Organisations such as ours need to have discussions with their members on what this means and what members can do. One thing we know for sure: one solution does not suit all.

So...rather than asking you, our members, whether you “believe in CC” or not - we know some of you do and some of you don’t - we really need to be talking now about the new legislation coming - what do these changes mean for us? What help/support do we see our councils and communities, (particularly forestry and farming communities here) needing from Local and Central Government? What can we do, as members, and as communities to help make these changes work within our own areas? To foster this discussion, we hope to host Dr. Komathi Kolandai-Matchett, Research Fellow - Politics and International Relations, School of Social Sciences - Faculty of Arts, Auckland University, whose specialisation is environmental / science communication, in April 2020, after her presentation at U3A on April 15th.

For those new to thinking about this subject, this edition of our magazine hosts an article by Merv Lauder, member of Waihi Grey Power Association, active Zone 3 participant, and initiator of the Zone 3 Climate Change Collaborative Group, giving one point of view, the “science” position. We hope to obtain others, from other stances.

**Christmas Luncheon.** This year we are hosting the traditional Christmas / end of year luncheon at Parksyde, offering plenty of space to move around in, easy wheelchair and ambulatory access, plenty of parking, reasonable charges, and overall reduced ticket costs to you the members. Tickets will go on sale 1 November online at our website, and from the office during standard office hours. Numbers are limited to 130 maximum – so you know what to do! We now have EFTpos at the office, making ticket purchases easy for those not online. See

the separate banner item with details.

We are excited to have Grey Power Rotorua members provide our entertainment this year – the Koha Group, made up of David Mayhew – clarinet (and regular office volunteer), Alison Masters – piano, and Jean Boddis – violin. Prepare to be thrilled!!

The meal will be served in the larger hall area, raffles will be available, and a CASH ONLY fully licenced bar provided. Drinks of all ilks will be \$5. Please tell your guests to bring cash for these purposes!! Given the season, Liquid Gold will be on hand for purchase for gifts and gardens.

**Sending Love to people alone in Rest Homes.** Last year we participated in this nationwide venture, and some 60,000 cards were filled with loving messages and delivered to individuals. For our members the main involvement is the message-writing. The Sending Love group organises delivery in our area. Your Association is hosting a message writing day at Parksyde in the cafeteria, on December 2nd, from 11am onwards. Just come along with pen in hand – we have plenty of cards - and have an enjoyable social time with others as you join in this very much appreciated gesture.

**Summer Office Closure. The Association office will be closed from 2pm Thursday 12th December, and re-open on Tuesday 11th February 2020 at 11am.**

In closing, my heartfelt thanks to all who have encouraged us, thanked us, and pointed out ways we can improve our service. On behalf of both myself and our members, my sincere and huge “thank you” to members of the Executive Committee, Office Volunteers, magazine contributors and advertisers, and several others who do not hold official positions – you have ALL delivered way beyond what might reasonably be expected of you. On Tuesday 8th October we offered our advertisers, who make the magazine possible, morning tea at Parksyde.

May you and your families and friends have a truly fabulous 2020!

Nga mihi

*Miriam Ruberl* | President

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# What is Climate Change Anyway?

Merv Lauder, Waihi Grey Power Association

Having heard so much on this topic through all the media hype and given so much misinformation spreading through the community, I thought it was time for me to put some things on paper on Climate Change or Global Warming. Like other issues that the community faces from time to time including the debates on 1080 poison, fluoridation of our water supplies and more recently the measles vaccine, we all find it hard to believe half the stuff that we are served up.

My preference is for the term **Climate Change** rather than Global Warming, as the effects that are now hitting us are manifest in more than just "warming", given the dramatic weather events being felt in various parts of the globe from flooding to tornados, forest fire and volcanic activity.

It is taking people like Sir David Attenborough and the Swedish teenager Greta Thunberg to get the message across to the world. There remain of course many notable sceptics who are holding back sensible efforts to mitigate the effects that are starting to become more and more evident each day. But being a retired civil engineer, which is close enough to being a scientist, I am of course supportive of the wealth of scientific data that is being given to us.

The Intercontinental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), has been publishing their conclusions from 1990 which are worth reading at least, and I summarise them here:

- their first report in 1990 **did not quantify** the human contribution to global warming.
- their 1995 report suggested a **discernible** human influence on climate.
- the 2001 report noted that human emitted greenhouse gases are **likely** (67 to 90% chance) to be responsible for more than a half of the earth's temperature rise since 1951.
- their 2007 report raised the above as being **very likely** (90% chance), and
- the 2015 report concluded that human emitted greenhouse gases are **extremely likely** (at least a 95% chance) of being responsible for half the temperature rise since 1951.

In addition, the Union of Concerned Scientists, which was established about 50 years ago out of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) by scientists and students, has done a considerable amount of work putting rigorous, independent science to work to solve our planets most pressing problems. Joining with people across the US and the globe, they

combine technical analysis and effective advocacy to create innovative, practical solutions for a healthy, safe and sustainable future. The motto of that organisation, out of interest is "Science for a Healthy Planet and a Safer World."

The above are just two scientific organisations among the many across the world that I am (at least) prepared to believe ahead of those notable politicians who are inclined not to believe the growing evidence that should be leading us to more concerted actions in the interests of mankind.

There are those who are saying that global climate change is a cyclic thing over perhaps thousands of years. Examples are quoted of the current resurgence of wine growing in England, the last time being during the Roman occupation. That argument while credible, in my view, however, it really does not matter whether or not we believe that man's activities contribute to climate change so much as that there is a need for man to plan for the mitigation, in some way, of the worst effects on earth's inhabitants, particularly those who are least able to prepare themselves for those effects. It is happening right now!

So what does all this mean? It means that over the last 15 years the scientific community has become more and more confident that man is contributing to the effects that are now emerging. The melting of the polar ice caps, the retreating of large glaciers in Greenland and northern Canada and even here in New Zealand, along with the soaring levels of CO2 which are increasing the average global temperatures and its **certain** effects on low lying countries and communities across the globe are surely sufficient to persuade even the most sceptical of us, that there is a serious looming problem. That these effects will have a dramatic effect on our habitat and our future on this planet are not just the emotive words of the doomsayers, they are manifestly serious outcomes of doing nothing. There is "No Planet B" as the placards are reading!

What we can do about it, however, is more problematical. An opportunity arose during general business at the Grey Power Annual General Meeting in Wellington early in May which I attended. Having sat through endless debates and consideration of remits from various associations across the country, it dawned on me that there was no mention during the three days of the conference of **climate change at all**. In a rush of blood, which I may one day live to regret, I suggested that Grey Power should have climate change on its agenda. My simple approach was that while the rest of the nation and the world was struggling with Climate Change, Grey Power with its membership approaching 60,000 people nationwide should similarly have this issue on its forward agenda. There were some dissenters of course, and a small amount of debate, and I have to say I was somewhat surprised that **the conference agreed**, not only that it was Grey

Power business, but that it would be on the agenda in the future.

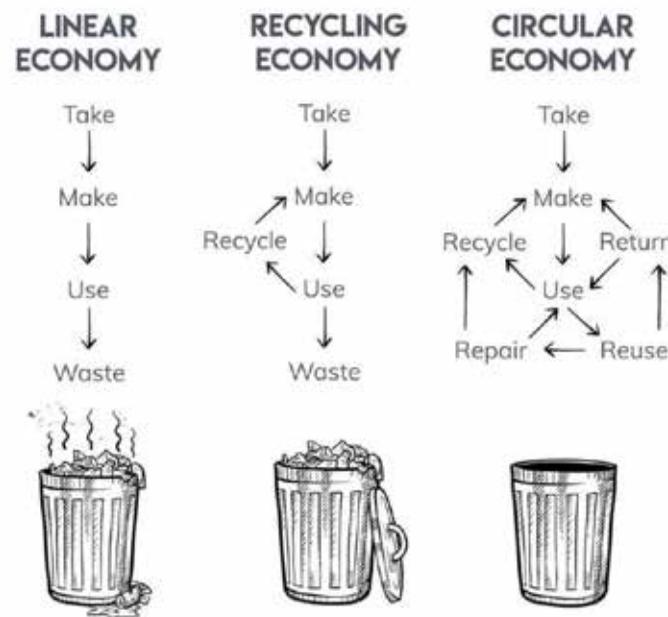
When I returned to Waihi at the end of that week, I realised that, YES, I had put my foot in it and moreover, I was inevitably saddled with having to do something about it, having convinced the forum of the importance of this issue. Arising from this, I set about establishing an Email Collaboration Group now comprising 6 people from the Waihi, Tauranga and Rotorua Grey Power associations. Three of the group are from Waihi, two are the current Presidents of the Tauranga and Rotorua associations respectively, which are two of the largest GP associations in Zone 3, and the sixth member is from Grey Power Tauranga. Email is the primary mode of communication, at least for the moment, as this will minimise the amount of effort and time committed by those people, including myself. That group now has the support of the Zone 3 forum which meets about four times a year, with a longer view to report back to the Federation Board at the next AGM in 2020.

None of this collaborative group, including myself, profess to be experts in Climate Change. However, in essence we are all committed to providing an answer to the overriding question "What can we, as individuals, do to contribute to essential solutions?"

Recent events from the young Swedish girl's impassioned plea to the US Congress, to the strike/march conducted in many NZ centres this September, are an illustration of the world's concerns that politicians and lawmakers are not doing enough nor quickly enough.

So what can our Grey Power association do to contribute? In my humble view, what we can do can be categorised in three ways:

1. those small things that we as individuals can do largely within our own home environment, such as improving our approach to energy efficiency,



## "CLIMATE CHANGE? ANIMAL EXTINCTION? WHO CARES?! WE ONLY LIVE ONCE!"



- adopting better recycling and rubbish disposal practices etc,
- 2. those things that can only be done by our local and regional authorities, such as good recycling and rubbish disposal policies and those on water quality and pollution control; and
- 3. those issues which central government has the power and obligation to manage on our behalf, such as coal mining policies and reduction of reliance on fossil fuels

There will be a number of suggestions that the Collaborative Group noted above will make in due course on how individuals can get involved. There are some areas where society has reacted well in such an effort such as single use plastic bags and retailers and customers have made some positive steps in that area. However small that effort may be, it is nevertheless a very small step in the right direction. But there is clearly a lot more that must be done, and that is the substance of our Collaborative Group's efforts.



## Making a Will – the best option for Kiwi Savers

Martin Christensen, Committee Member

It is said that with one's passing it is difficult for your executors to withdraw the money from your Kiwi Saver account.

- At your passing your executors will usually sell assets and distribute the proceeds.
- With ageing we can simplify our affairs by making it easy for our executors when we pass away.
- This may include cashing up Kiwi Saver and other investments, transferring them all by opening a new account for the executor's easy access.
- At one's passing Kiwi Savers Providers are required to administer your estate.
- Funds do not automatically pass to a surviving spouse or partner.
- If you have made a will you can specify who you would like to receive the proceeds of your estate which may include Kiwi Saver proceeds.
- If the balance of the funds exceeds \$15,000 the executors are required to apply for probate in the High Court, also applicable to any other investments.
- If in the event that the amount is less than \$15,000 the Providers are able to accept a written application.

- Having no will creates a difficult process for family members, and the eventual distribution of funds could well be not what you would have intended.

You can find a guide to making a will online with a cost as little as \$40. You can also buy a model will and guidebook for about \$25 at local stationers.

## OUTINGS REPORT

Wieland Hartwig

For the September outing we had ten people coming to the public library. For two hours we were expertly guided by sometimes one, sometimes two staff members.

I think everybody was surprised about the treasures hidden away in the bowels of the building, especially upstairs. Did you know that the library collects local newsletters? There are hundreds of them, sometimes going back for decades.

Go visit the library and talk to their staff. You will be pleasantly surprised.

Next outing is on October 21. We will meet at the Arts Village at 10:00 am and be guided by Marc Spijkerbosch, Community Arts Officer, around the Sculpture Trail. If you want a snack or to stay for lunch the café is under new management.

The November outing will be on the 18th. We meet at Parksyde at 9:30 am and drive / carpool to Kuirau Park.

There will be no outings in December and January.

The first outing in 2020 will be on February 17th. We meet at 9:30 am at Parksyde. It will be a mystery meeting outside of Rotorua with driving / carpooling involved. You may want to bring lunch.





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## Companions in Homes & Life Biography service available through Rotorua Community Hospice

In 2019, Rotorua Community Hospice has launched two new programmes, Companions in Homes and Life Biographies. These services are available to current patients of Rotorua Community Hospice, and their families.

Companions in Homes are available to visit patients, sit with them, offer carers the chance for a break, provide companionship, a listening ear and complement the greater Hospice team in helping people maintain their quality of life. The programme started out as a pilot with ten volunteers and it's grown to a team of seventeen!

Life Biographers offer the opportunity for patients to tell their stories and have them written and recorded by one of our professional biographer volunteers. It's the chance to tell your story and ensure it's available for generations to come.

Rotorua Hospice provides 24 hour care and support to more than 420 patients with a life-limiting illness and their families and whanau every year, free of charge.

If you are interested in volunteering for either group, please call Sue on 07 343 6591 or email [volunteers@rotoruahospice.co.nz](mailto:volunteers@rotoruahospice.co.nz) or pop into our office at 1469 Hinemoa Street to pick up an application form. We'd love your support!

Or, if you are a current patient, ask our staff how to get your personal biography written or how a volunteer can support you as a companion in your home.



Help us to continue Helping Others



## WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

The Samaritans 24/7 helpline urgently needs empathetic listeners to join our team. We offer volunteers full training and ongoing support. Both the training and telephone duties can now be carried out from your home if required.

Please contact us at [rotorua.lifelink@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rotorua.lifelink@xtra.co.nz) for a volunteer information pack.

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Grey Power Rotorua Calendar of Events				
October 2019	Day	Time	Event	Notes
09.10.	2nd Wed	2:15 - 4:15 pm	committee meeting	Age Concern office
10.10.	Thu	10:00	Robyn Skelton	meet re <b>Parkside</b>
21.10.	third Mon	9:30 am	GP outing Arts Village	meet at Arts Village coffee shop
November 2019	Day	Time	Event	Notes
01.11.	Fri		Christmas lunch tickets	go on sale today for \$25/\$30
13.11.	2nd Wed	2:15 - 4:15 pm	committee meeting	Age Concern office
15.11.	Fri	08:30 am	Zone 3 meeting	Matamata
18.11.	third Mon	9:30 am	GP outing Kuirau Park	meet at <b>Parkside</b>
30.11.	Sat	12 pm	Christmas lunch	<b>Parkside</b> (cash bar on site)
December 2019	Day	Time	Event	Notes
02.12.	Mon	11:00 am	Christmas cards writing	<b>Parkside</b>
12.12.	Thu	2 pm	office closes	for the rest of 2019
13.12.	2nd Wed	2:15 - 4:15 pm	committee meeting	Age Concern office
January 2020	Day	Time	Event	Notes
office closed				
February 2020	Day	Time	Event	Notes
04.02.	Tues	11:00	office opens	11 am - 2 pm, Tue to Thu
12.02.	Wes	2:00 PM	committee meeting	
17.02.	third Mon	9:30 AM	mystery outing outside Rot.	meet at <b>Parkside</b>
21.02.	Fri		autumn magazine deadline	
28.02.	Fri		autumn magazine goes to print	
March 2020	Day	Time	Event	Notes
04.03.	Wed		autumn magazine arrives	
11.03.	Wed	2:00 PM	committee meeting	
16.03.	third Mon	9:30 AM	outing	meet at <b>Parkside</b>
23.03.	Mon	1:00 PM	<b>Parkside</b> forum: Climate	speaker: Tania Tapsell
April 2020	Day	Time	Event	Notes
08.04.	Wed	2:00 PM	committee meeting	
15.04.	Wed		forum: Komie on environment	<b>Parkside</b>
20.04.	third Mon	9:30 AM	outing	meet at <b>Parkside</b>
May 2020	Day	Time	Event	Notes
11.05.	Mon	1:00 PM	Forum on retirement villages	<b>Parkside</b>
13.05.	Wed	2:00 PM	committee meeting	
15.05.	Fri		winter magazine deadline	
18.05.	third Mon	9:30 AM	outing	meet at <b>Parkside</b>
22.05.	Fri		winter magazine printing	
27.05.	Wed		winter magazine arrives	
June 2020	Day	Time	Event	Notes
10.06.	Wed	2:00 PM	committee meeting	
15.06.	third Mon	9:30 AM	outing	meet at <b>Parkside</b>
29.06.	Mon	1:00 PM	AGM	<b>Parkside</b>
July 2020	Day	Time	Event	Notes
August 2020	Day	Time	Event	Notes
07.08.	Fri		spring magazine deadline	
14.08.	Fri		spring magazine printing	
19.08.	Wed		spring magazine arrives	
September 2020	Day	Time	Event	Notes
28.09.	Mon	1:00 PM	Forum: Climate	<b>Parkside</b>
October 2020	Day	Time	Event	Notes
09.10.	Fri		summer magazine deadline	
16.10.	Fri		summer magazine printing	
21.10.	Wed		summer magazine arrives	
November 2020	Day	Time	Event	Notes
02.11.	Mon		Wellbeing forum	<b>Parkside</b>
28.11.	Sat	12:30 noon	Christmas lunch	<b>Parkside</b>
27.11.	Fri	2:00 PM	office closes till February	
December 2020	Day	Time	Event	Notes
office closed				

### Who do you call?

Bruce Quedley, Co-ordinator/Administrator  
Neighbourhood Support Rotorua



How do you determine which Police telephone number to call when you need to contact them?

This year the Police have introduced a non-emergency number for calls that are not about something happening now. The number is **105** and is in addition to the emergency number **111**.

Quoting from the Police website police.govt.nz is an outline of why they have introduced the new number:

NZ Police is modernising the way it delivers services to the public so that everyone in New Zealand can access policing services – anywhere, anytime. To do this we need to deliver the right service to the public in the right way, enabled by modern technologies. NZ Police is introducing a new, easy-to-remember number – **105** – for reporting non-emergencies. **111** remains the number to call to report an emergency to Police, Fire and Emergency, or ambulance services. The **105** non-emergency number is for reporting situations to Police that don't require immediate police attendance. So when do you call which number?

Call **111** when you require immediate response from Police, Ambulance or Fire, for something happening NOW:

- There is a fire of any sort
- You need an ambulance because someone is seriously hurt
- Someone is breaking into your house right now
- There is car accident where people might be hurt, or cars are blocking the road
- Someone has been or is being assaulted and the offender is still there
- A crime is occurring or you believe is about to occur
- You are afraid for your safety and or for those around you
- You need an emergency Police response

Call **105** when there is no immediate danger:

- Your car has been stolen and you don't know how long ago it happened
- You suspect a scam
- You suspect drug dealing
- Your shop has been broken into
- You return home and find that your house has been burgled (if you think the burglar may still be in your home, do not go inside - contact Police immediately

by

- calling **111**)
- Your bike has been stolen from the park
- Someone has graffitied your wall or damaged your fence or letter box
- You've lost your wallet or phone
- Your handbag was stolen at the library
- Someone broke your car window
- If someone has done a petrol drive off
- If you want to add information to your existing Police report

Police also have a phone number for mobiles, \*555, if you wish to report non-life threatening traffic matters such as:

- For urgent but not life-threatening traffic matters that don't need an emergency Police response
- Continuous poor driving
- Traffic congestion, breakdowns and obstructions on the highway

In your local area report crimes to the Police first and then to your Neighbourhood Support Group. Many people want to report it to the Group's Contact Person but it is necessary for you to report it first to the Police.

If you are not a member of a Neighbourhood Support Group, join one, or start one, by contacting Neighbourhood Support Rotorua on 07-349-9470 or by email to nsrotorua@gmail.com. There tends to be less crime in Neighbourhood Support Group areas.



### Do You know Some Newcomers to NZ? What you need to know ...

Do you live next door to, or work with someone new to New Zealand? It can be very difficult for migrants to get used to how we do things in New Zealand, to get the hang of our accent and language and customs or to meet people and make friends.

The Settlement Unit of Immigration New Zealand (INZ) is responsible for providing settlement information to new migrants and for the last five years has funded the Citizens Advice Bureau to deliver a face to face information and advice service to new migrants in 30 CAB sites around the country, including the Rotorua CAB.



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Types of enquiries the Bureau regularly help new migrants with are around rights at work, the health system, rights around buying a used car and what to do if things go wrong, clubs and activities they can join in with, housing and neighbourhood issues. Immigration and visas are also a hot topic.

As part of the contract the Bureau also has to run four information sessions for new migrants each year, where an invited guest will speak to new migrants on various topics. The most recent was keeping safe in your home and the NZ Police and earlier in the year sessions on tenancy rights and getting work ready for NZ were covered.

So, if you know a migrant family, regardless of what visa they may have, the Citizens Advice Bureau is probably a great place to refer them to. The Bureau has all sorts of resources that can be used to help people settle into New Zealand, such as access to interpreters, expert advice lines, immigration forms, Justices of the Peace and all the other services that New Zealand citizens can access too.

The Rotorua Bureau is open Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 5.00pm. You can call in to the office at 1143 Eruera Street, Rotorua or call us on 07 348 3547, toll free on 0800 367 222, or send us an email – rotorua@cab.org.nz. We also have great information about settling in New Zealand on our website – www.cab.org.nz.

## Advertisers Morning Tea



## Summer

Rory O'Rourke, Manager, Age Concern

Our new website is now live and we hope it will become the place to go for information and resources. You can find our new website at [www.ageconcernrotorua.org.nz](http://www.ageconcernrotorua.org.nz). Our Facebook page is also going forward in leaps and bounds and you can be part of it by liking us.

We held a fundraiser on the 27th September which was a Trivia Quiz and Charity Auction at the Lakeview Lounge at the Arawa Park Raceway from 6:00 pm. The Theme was A Night at the Races and we managed to sell 25 tables with 8 people on each. The night was a fantastic success and we managed to meet our financial target with the help of our very generous Charity Auction businesses. The winners of the Trivia Quiz were Spectacular from Specsavers and we also had a Fashion on the Field competition for the best dressed male and female.

Our Intergenerational Project involving some of our more well-known seniors and our scribes from WHHS is going very well. Our ladies have been interviewed over three 2 hour sessions and now it is time for our gentlemen and seniors of different ethnic backgrounds.

Some of our other programmes which may be of interest are Safer Driving, Life Without a car and Mobility Scooter Safety Awareness.

On the 1st October, we celebrated the International Day of the Older Person with a High Tea at the Distinction Hotel. International Day of Older Persons is a United Nations initiative celebrated around the world. It's a time for everyone, families and organisations to acknowledge and say thank you for the huge contribution older people make to communities throughout New Zealand. Mentoring, volunteering, looking out for the neighbourhood, caring for children, sharing wisdom and experience, and of course, being in paid work and leading businesses are just some of the many ways senior New Zealanders contribute. Unfortunately, ageism is one of the most tolerated forms of social prejudice. Ageism can be experienced by people at any age and in any setting including workplaces, communities and in their own homes.

pictured left: Jane Eynon-Richards (CAB), Wieland Hartwig (GPR Vice President and Outings Coordinator), Geoffrey Shekell (GPR Secretary) Reynold McPherson, (R R and R Assoc), Todd McClay

(National MP), Sharyn Cooke (Kiwi Publications), Sue Baker (First National real estate) - camera Miriam Ruberl (GPR President) at the Advertisers Morning Tea on 8th October.



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## Retirement Village "deals too confusing"

Martin Christensen, committee member

The Government agency in charge of the Retirement Village sector has hit out at village owners and operators for the confusing contracts presented to residents. The National Manager described the contracts as difficult to understand, so complicated that some lawyers in the sector could not understand them.

Few residents in care facilities understood the definitions of permanent resident and the independent living of a village facility with different cost structures.

- The permanent side is regulated by the Retirement village.
- The care facilities are under the District Health Boards and monitored by the Health and Disabilities Commissioner.

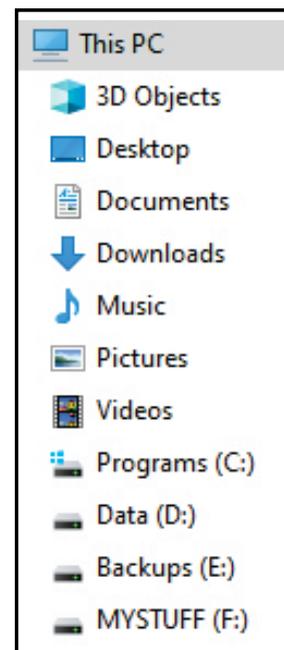
A person who buys a licence to occupy an independent living unit in a village may think that they can move into an onsite care facility should they need to, but that's not necessarily the case. Moving into care is complex, with the possibly of extra costs.

Greater clarity is required for formal charges in the Village Code of Practice. Every intending resident is well-advised to get independent legal advice on the documents they are about to sign, and it is stressed that it is important to look carefully at the terms of transfer between the village and the care facility.

## compute IT with . . . .

### Wayne Parkinson

**Backup:** I know I have been banging on about this forever, but I see too many folks lose too much data from lack of planning and executing backups. There is no real need to backup everything on your main drive, just the data. Data is; documents, music, photos, videos etc. Windows has provided convenient named folders for these files and hopefully you have been using them and not making your own folders outside of these – see included image.



Creating additional folders on the C: drive is fine, just that you now need to remember where you placed these folders so you can include them at the time you run your backup.

It's not a good idea to store folders and/or files on the Desktop. If you have need to access these frequently, place them in appropriated folders and create Shortcuts to them on the Desktop. Anything on the Desktop is considered to be a Shortcut and can safely be deleted without losing the original data. If you inadvertently delete a folder or file you stored on the Desktop, it's gone forever!

**Folders to Backup:** If you navigate on your C: drive to Users, then to the username you are using, in the right window pane you will see all your main folders. On the external hard drive create a target folder with today's date backwards in an eight digit form, so today would be 20191008, or 8th October 2019. By using this format you can have several backups stored sequentially on the external drive. Select all folders from Contacts to Videos and copy them to a target folder on your external hard drive.

**SyncBack:** SyncBack is real nifty little program to help with your backups. Setting it up the first time requires a bit of understanding of your drives and folders. You are able to define which folders and/or subfolders you want to backup (see above) and then define the target drive/folder. After playing with it I found that by defining the target drive (external drive) but omitting the target folder, you can pop in the target folder name as described in the text above at the time you use it. This method will allow for several copies of your data, all easily identified by date, on your external drive.

There are three versions of the SyncBack program from a company called 2BrightSparks. One is free and the other two require payment. For home use the free version is fine. SyncBack makes use of the Windows Copy and Paste function, so no proprietary file formats are used. This means you can now easily get back a file, a folder or all your data.

**Windows 7:** Are you still running Windows 7? Just a wee reminder, support from Microsoft for Windows 7 will cease in January next year. Can I suggest that you get this sorted before Christmas this year?

If you need help with this, or would just like to chat about your options, give me a call at 345-6098.

*Editorial supplied by Abingdon Computing Essentials*

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**Wayne Parkinson**

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## Lobbying Report

*Gerald Hanson Grey Power Rotorua Committee 2019/20*

I was Chairman at the Grey Power Rotorua initiated 2pm meeting of Meet the Candidates and Candidates on the 19 September, and it was pleasing to see an attendance of 200+ in the audience plus candidates.

Although the majority of wanna-be councillors waffled on for too long about themselves, others incorporated our 2 questions into their 3 minutes of glory. Apart from a bit of a ruckus from the back at one stage, Grey Power was congratulated on the meeting.

I was approached by folks that will now join our group because they felt our theme, and what we stand for, is right for them.

The political lobbying focussing on rating models is getting under way, with Martin Christensen and myself meeting with National's Todd McClay, mid-September. Although McClay was not given our email explaining our reasons for the meeting until we met him, he was enthusiastic and seemed to understand our concerns. He stated that his party had plans on some of our concerns already, and felt that they could well use more of our recommendations in their stand for Govt in 2020.

Several Committee members and Grey Power Rotorua member Mark Gould met with both the Labour Party MPs on 3 October – Tamati Coffey, Waiariki, and Angie Warren-Clark, List MP. Our main issue for discussion was Rates : how rates are struck, rates rebates, income thresholds, and the plethora of attendant issues including affordable housing. We came away with confidence that we had been heard, expect to get feedback on where both the Government and the Labour Party stand regarding rates, and got encouragement to host a public forum on the issues, inviting the several Ministers involved to attend. Meeting with NZ First on 7th October went well, with full support for our concerns and an undertaking given to participate in our Rates forum.

As yet, I have not heard back from either Social Credit or the NZ Maori Party.

There's still plenty of time to hear from them!



Above : Tamati Coffey, Angie Warren-Clark, and left to right Mark Gould, David McPherson, Wieland Hartwig, Martin Christensen, GPR Rates Lobby Leader Gerald Hanson, and Miriam Ruberl, President (behind the camera)

## Waitangi Tribunal freshwater report released

The Waitangi Tribunal has released its report on stage 2 of the National Freshwater and Geothermal Resources inquiry on 29 August 2019.

The report recommends two specific amendments to the Resource Management Act 1991 and a number of paths and mechanisms for co-governance and co-management. The Tribunal says severally, or in combinations, these will enable iwi and hapū to arrive at the most appropriate arrangement for their particular rohe and for each of their water bodies.

The claim was filed by the New Zealand Māori Council in February 2012 and has been heard in stages. The stage 1 report was completed in December 2012. This was followed by a period in which the Crown developed its freshwater reforms. The stage 2 hearings were held from November 2016 to November 2018.

The Tribunal says it was encouraged to see some level of agreement between the Crown and Māori over the period of the reforms.

"This included a broad agreement that Māori rights and interests in fresh water need to be addressed, that Māori values have not been reflected in freshwater decision-making, that Māori participation in freshwater management and decision-making needs to be enhanced, that the problem of under-resourcing for participation needs to be tackled, and that Māori rights in fresh water have an economic dimension."

While the Crown has made undertakings in many fora and public documents, there still remains a significant

gap between what the Crown has been prepared to do in its reforms and the positions taken by the claimants and interested parties in the inquiry as to their rights and interests, the Tribunal says.

"In our view, the present law in respect of fresh water is not consistent with Treaty principles. Many Tribunal panels have already found the Resource Management Act 1991 to be in breach of the Treaty ... but very few of the recommendations made in the previous Tribunal reports have been implemented."

In other recommendations, the Tribunal recommends:

- That the Crown continue its approach of co-design of policy options with a national Māori body or bodies and that this should be made a regular feature of government where Māori interests are concerned.
- That the Crown urgently takes such action or actions as are necessary to ensure that under-resourcing no longer prevents iwi and hapū from participating effectively in RMA processes, including freshwater management and freshwater decision-making.
- That water policy be decided by or in conjunction with the national co-governance body, with details to be arranged between the Treaty partners.
- That the Crown recognise Māori proprietary rights and economic interests through what the New Zealand Māori Council has called "proprietary redress".
- That the Crown should monitor the Treaty performance of local authorities.
- That the Crown provide urgent assistance, including funding and expertise, for water infrastructure and the provision of clean, safe drinking water to marae and papakāinga.



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After nine years of neglect, it is great to see a new era of the SuperGold Card.

With more than 750,000 card holders, New Zealand First is proud to deliver an upgrade which will help unlock the full benefits for our country's seniors. Since its launch in August 2007, this flagship New Zealand First initiative has helped hundreds of thousands of New Zealand seniors, especially those living on a fixed income, stretch their dollar further. The launch of a new website and app will give easier access to benefits – particularly those in the regions. Additionally, 500 new SuperGold Card partners have been brought on board, including Qantas, Countdown, Spark and The Warehouse, who will offer nationwide discounts to cardholders.

This Coalition Government is also pleased to have announced an electricity reform that will see a raft of changes to the electricity pricing market. This is a major win for consumers, to reassure electricity prices will be fair and reasonable while ensuring a plan is place for new technologies.

*Editorial supplied by Fletcher Tabuteau*

## WHO'S FOR OUR SENIORS?

*Miriam Ruberl, President*

This issue of our magazine would be incomplete without a word or two about the two public meetings hosted by Grey Power Rotorua for Rotorua residents to “meet the candidates” who have been nominated in the local body elections 2019 for Rotorua Lakes Council – chaired by Committee members Gerald Hanson and Geoffrey Shekell. Candidates were invited to attend BOTH sessions, which many did, and speak to the following very open questions:

1. What is your philosophy and motivation for standing for Council?
2. What issues relating to seniors will you pursue?

A conservative count of 200+ people attended the 2pm session, and well over 80 the 7pm session. They were reminded that the Federation of Grey Power Associations is not aligned with any political party, and so every opinion is welcome and worthy of consideration. It was a very telling opportunity to forecast how candidates might perform as councillors / mayors, if their approach to our meetings was anything to go by. You may have read the very detailed report on the newspaper of what they spoke about, so will not repeat it here!

In the 3 minutes allocated per speaker, many were stopped short by multiple buzzers, many failed to answer either question. Some candidates even told the audience that they had set the questions aside to pursue their own agenda. Some failed to rsvp despite two reminders and sought to be squeezed in at the end of the time to have their say. Many referred to “keeping rates down”, but not so much as to how.

Only scattered references were made to issues close to many members' hearts: housing, safety, and public transport, although Mark Gould did deliver an impassioned plea for more and better footpaths. If, like myself and other Committee members, you read all and every 'CV' of the candidates who were in the 60+ pages A4 colour glossy from Council (it is still at the library at the time of writing), you will have noted that several candidates failed to mention anything that qualified them to participate in running the city; many mentions of youth, children, mokopuna, next generation. Fair enough, we all say. Few acknowledged our agreements with Te Arawa, climate change. Two mentioned seniors. Disquieting, to say the least.

But I digress. Back to the candidates' presentations. The big divide emerged between those candidates who focussed on criticism, at times vitriolic, of the past as their main platform for standing, and those who looked forward to building the future in a variety of ways. Some proposed solutions, others did not. With no questions from the floor, lively debate ensued between candidates and the public over cuppas, and at the evening session people were so deep in conversation we had to be shoo'd out of the building!

Encouraging is the significant number of informed, diversely qualified under 40-year old's standing for election. Musing on my way home, I imagined a modern-day Council made up of a mixture of some current senior councillors with hard-won experience, sound institutional memories, expertise, and above all, good will; some younger current councillors now maturing in their roles, and some first-time young people beginning their training for a life of service to their community. The lynchpin would be mayoral leadership able to facilitate this mix of world views working harmoniously and respectfully for the long-term benefit of our community. Much needs to be done. By the time you get this, the last issue for 2019 of this Magazine, you will have voted – or not. Either way, may the 3 coming years treat you and yours well!

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Venue : Parkside, Tarewa Place off (Pukeatua St)  
Time : 1pm  
Afternoon tea available  
Gold coin donation appreciated



Public meetings hosted by Grey Power Rotorua for Rotorua residents to “meet the candidates” who have been nominated in the local body elections 2019 for Rotorua Lakes Council



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*editorial supplied by The Law Shop*

## Hon Todd McClay MP for Rotorua

Stop by my office, make an appointment, or call for a chat

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Three of our new Committee members who dressed up and went to the Age Concern's Day at the Races Fundraiser.

Pictured right: Les Hannah  
(Committee Member)



Pictured above: Ali Hannah  
(Committee Member)

Pictured right:  
Vivienne Martin  
(Minute Secretary)



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