# rotorua GREY POWER

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WINTER ISSUE 2020

PUZZLES

STUDENT VOLUNTEER ARMY COMES TO ROTORUA PAGE 13

Remember the Planet PAGE 15

Cover photo supplied by Wieland Hartwig

#### **GREY POWER ROTORUA**

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Alison Hannah / David McPherson / Gerald Hanson 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 or email greypower.rotorua@gmail.com

**REMEMBER Grey Power Rotorua when you change** your contact details

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## **CORONA VIRUS HEALTH LINE** 24/70800 358 5453





We breathe again! You have been flooded with so much covid-19 information, and a goodly portion of misinformation, by now, your minds are abuzz regarding viruses. G5 towers, and one world government conspiracies!! This issue will refer to the subject as little as possible!

Grey Power Rotorua has been in the enviable position of providing non-essential services, and so our office has had to remain closed, with our volunteers safely at home. For me, knowing they are not risking their lives for "non-essential" purposes has been a relief. However, we have cleared the answerphone and mailbox regularly. responded to emails, and continued to participate where we could.

We've had the usual members paying us their electricity bills, and really are at a loss as to how to ensure that you ALL pay the right entity first time! What do we have to do to do away with this tiresome waste of our volunteer Treasurer's time tracing the person concerned, getting their banking details and contacting them? Yes, the repetitive 'do's are intended. It's a dododo of a task. We may well have to lobby for a complete change of name! In the meantime, we will now treat all such non-subscription payments as donations until we hear from the culprit seeking their funds. The answer on your parts is to make your banking reference clearly something other than Grey Power, eg. Pulse Energy, the name of the provider.

We have of course had to cancel forums, and outings, the AGM for the time being, and been unable to accept membership renewals in person, and look forward to putting all those services back in place as of Tuesday 19th May. A welcome trickle of new members has come in via the website. And the constitutional subcommittee has progressed the updated draft of our constitution in the face of legislative changes, and the fact that we still operate under a legal framework set up in 1908. We plan to present that draft to you for consideration and comment in time for the AGM, after scrutiny by the Federation.

Our primary mandate is to advocate and lobby local organisations and people, as well as regional and government bodies, and even the Federation of Grey Power Associations, on issues of importance to seniors. Thus, we have continued to progress our lobbying about rates, and how rates are struck; written to the Hon Winston Peters and local MP Fletcher Tabuteau protesting the opening of supermarkets but not owneroperated butchers, bakers, delicatessen and food markets during lockdown. We have yet to receive a reply.

We have also approached the Student Volunteer Army to operate here in Rotorua, and their response has been very positive - see their item elsewhere in the magazine.

During this period of "house arrest" I've found some interesting resources online, which you might like to check out. The "digital divide" has become much more apparent in recent weeks, with those not online generally experiencing greater isolation and disconnect. For those already digitally-enabled, software cost is often prohibitive. One resource available to them is the New Zealand Open Source Society, an incorporated society set up to educate, advocate and advance the use of Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) in New Zealand. NZOSS represents users, creators and contributors in New Zealand by promoting software and represents the interests of the community to Government and the education sector. It also supports community user groups.

The nationwide body of Citizens Advice Bureau has reported that by far its greatest numbers of enquiries have been about employment agreements and contracts. Many "seniors" and those approaching "seniority" still wanting to work, might find https://doinggoodpeople.nz/ useful.

As your President I participate in online forums presented by **The Wise Group**. These WBOP people create fresh possibilities and services for the wellbeing of people, organisations and communities. They're a family of charitable organisations and their work includes health and wellbeing services, housing support, employment and navigation services, education and training, workforce development and research, software development, and finally business support services. One recent publication worth checking out is the Please-Press-Pause-2020, headlined: "What are we rushing back to?

On a local level, since the last magazine we have had some changes in the Committee. Alison and Les Hannah have withdrawn from active participation, their lives just too full to continue. We thank them for their generous and valuable contributions thus far, and wish them well. Our Treasurer Judy Green has had a health event resulting in ceasing her work for us, for the foreseeable future. Judy valiantly navigated the change from the one-off inhouse accounting system to Xero, cheerfully took up all and any task that presented itself. and served regularly on the office roster keeping the doors open. Many of you will have come to know and appreciate her personally over her several years' service with the Association, and we thank her for her dedication, commitment and ready smile. Peter Walden had to take leave of absence early in the year to deal with health issues, but you will be glad to learn he is now on the mend and gaining health and strength.

Which brings me to the call for nominations for ALL

positions on the Committee, for the 20/21 year. The health-related attritions impacting committees made up of people generally over the age of 65 are par for the course with all voluntary organisations. This is only a problem in so much as seniors also bring a vast skill-base with them, and battle on way past the call of duty, as we have seen from our volunteers year after year; and to lose one is a serious setback. Our particular committee offers opportunities to contribute an array of leadership, clerical, communication, and social skills not afforded by all organisations, and we strongly encourage you to take a turn on this committee for the forthcoming year. It's also an opportunity to participate in our main activity, advocacy, and the research that is needed to carry that out. Editing the magazine is a fun and easy task suited to many. And of course, these days you need to be comfortable with the internet and have basic computer skills or be willing to get them quickly. If you doubt your ability to contribute meaningfully, **abandon all doubt**. It's a voluntary contribution, which carries accountability and responsibility, but without trial periods, performance reviews, fines, or pay deductions, and it's very unlikely you'll get fired!! Doing your bit is all we ask. Most of all, you spend time with great people. Details of what skills would be helpful to have can be found, along with the nomination form on our website, and in the office. If you kept reading this far, we'd like to hear from you!!

Geoffrey Shekell, our currently elected Secretary, has been appointed Acting Treasurer by the Committee until the AGM, and again many of you will already have experienced his friendly helpful service. He will be leaving the Committee at the end of this term, and leaves our office systems in much better shape for the next

Secretary. We very much appreciate his taking on this additional role of Acting Treasurer very ably. Vivienne Martin, our Minute Secretary, is moving out of Rotorua, and has brought hugely valuable experience to her role. it's been a pleasure having her on Board ! My huge heartfelt thanks go out to Wieland Hartwig, Gerald Hanson, David Macpherson and Martin Christensen, each of whom have put in a lot of time, service and also brought a wide range of experience and skills, making my role as President so much more effective.

Finally, most likely this is the last issue of our magazine of this my second, term as President of Grey Power Rotorua. As usual, it's been a mix of exciting, satisfying, and demanding, with a smidgen of downright difficult, disappointing and depressing. The indisputable highlight has been meeting so many of you in person, with the opportunity to work alongside great committee members and advocate on important matters on your behalves a close second. Thank you all for both, and I wish you all a healthy happy post-alert-levels life.

Miriam Rubert | President

## **Rotorua Multicultural Council**

#### part 2 By Margriet Theron

#### The best laid plans of mice and men

In the previous issue of the Grev Power Rotorua magazine I wrote about the origin and projects of the Rotorua Multicultural Council. Our objectives are to support new migrants while they settle in Rotorua, to encourage and help migrants to celebrate their own cultures, to help migrants to understand the special place of Maori in New Zealand society, and to increase the understanding of local residents of the

migrant community and the contributions that they make to Rotorua.

To achieve these objectives we had planned to hold Multicultural Lunches every month in the Rotorua Library with a different host country each time; to run 10-week Women's Wellbeing Programmes to help migrant women to settle in Rotorua; to offer community welcome events for Toi Ohomai international students; to organise celebrations of cultures such as Africa Dav and a Latin American

Festival; and to run the Rotorua Multicultural Hospice Support Group.

And then Covid-19 happened.

#### **Cancelling events**

By their very nature, all our events are very social. People from many different ethnic communities meet, they talk, they make new friends, they share immigration stories, and they eat traditional food from many countries. This type of event would be an absolute nightmare for public health officials if there should be an outbreak of coronavirus in Rotorua. Even before the lockdown was announced, we cancelled a commemoration of the first anniversary of the mass shootings in the mosques in Christchurch. A Croatian Multicultural Lunch at the Library was postponed.

The Iranian and Baha'i communities cancelled their New Year Celebrations which take place on the date of the spring equinox in the Northern Hemisphere. Did you know that there is a precise minute for the equinox? In our time zone the autumnal equinox was at 4.48 pm on Friday, 20 March 2020, the time when the sun was exactly above the equator on its way north.

#### Introducing our new Administrator, Leidv Monsalves

Our new Administrator, Leidy Monsalves from Chile,

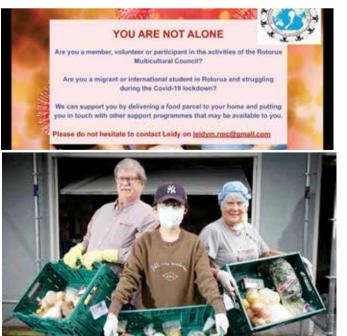
took over from Valeria Liaskovskaia from Russia in March 2020. As her first project she phoned some of our members and participants in our programmes to introduce herself and to ask how they were getting on under the Covid-19 lockdown. She soon got the message: there were people who were struggling and finding it difficult to afford food. She suggested that we organise a food parcel project.

The Hindu Temple contributed 41 food parcels, some with Indian and some with Kiwi ingredients. Brown Owl Organics contributed feijoas. Other growers gave us apples, pears and kumara.



We worked with advisers from India, China, the Philippines and South America to ensure that we would include ethnically appropriate ingredients in each bag. The groceries were bought from smaller, migrant-owned shops in Rotorua.

The food parcels were advertised on the Multicultural Rotorua Facebook page. Pete and Rika Otto from South Africa and their Chinese homestay student Samantha packed the food parcels and coordinated the deliveries with volunteer drivers.



#### Why are migrants and international students struggling?

The typical members of the Rotorua Multicultural Council are either skilled migrants in well-paying jobs or post-graduate international students. Many of the migrants work in the tourism industry, as tradespeople or as professionals in forestry, wood processing, engineering or construction. With the lockdown they could not go to work and they were on the wage subsidy of \$585 per week, or about \$500 after tax. This would barely pay their rent, leaving them in financial hardship if they have little financial resources after the expensive process of moving to New Zealand. On work visas, they are not eligible for Government welfare benefits.

International students come to Rotorua with money in the bank to survive for a year. But they also rely on income from part-time jobs to maintain a reasonable standard of living. They too were suffering financial hardship when they lost their jobs in motels, hotels, restaurants and cafés.

We applied for \$5,000 from the Ministry of Social Development and this was granted very quickly. Further funds came from Rotorua Trust, the Rotorua Club of Rotorua, Toi Ohomai and private donors. We delivered 250 ethnically appropriate food parcels during the first three weeks of the food parcel project. Under Alert Level 3 the demand for the food parcels has dropped off. We are grateful to the volunteers from many countries who helped us by delivering the food.



## **FIVE CUP LOAF**

#### Ingredients

1x cup self-raising flour 1x cup shredded coconut 1x cup raisins 1x cup brown sugar 1x cup milk

#### Method

Mix it all together in a bowl, line a loaf tin with baking paper and pour the mixture in. Bake for about 55 minutes on 150°C until nice and brown.

Samaritans listen without judgement, available 24/7, so that no-one in New Zealand ever has to feel alone when dealing with life's challenges.



# Monitor

The role of the Independent Tamariki system

on their website.

No matter who you are, or what you are going through, Samaritans are here to listen.



## **GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN**

An Introduction to the Independent Children's

Children's Monitor (the Monitor) is to oversee the Oranga



including the Oranga Tamariki (National Care Standards and Related Matters) Regulations 2018 (NCS Regulations).

The Independent Children's Monitor monitors the system of state care, not individual children, to ensure the organisations that look after our tamariki (children) and rangatahi (young people) are doing what they need to, to enable them to reach their potential and thrive.

The Monitor have published their first Report Agency Compliance with Regulations 69 and 85 of the Oranga Tamariki (National Care Standards and Related Matters) Regulations which is now available

## **Avoid Unnecessary Angst & Stress With Vehicles**

Bruce Quedley, Co-ordinator/ Administrator. Neighbourhood Support Rotorua

Many people in today's society suffer angst and stress due to the actions of others impacting on their life. One area that Neighbourhood Support Rotorua comes across daily is when someone has broken into a vehicle and either stolen possessions in it or has attempted to steal the vehicle.

Police term the breaking into vehicles and stealing items as "theft ex-car" and unfortunately it causes a great deal of concern to the owners when it happens. This results in the owner having to replace items stolen, which often include bank cards, driver's licences and similar property.

To avoid this happening there are some very basic recommendations which seem simple but unfortunately many people seem to ignore:

- When you park your vehicle do not leave any valuables in it, e.g. wallets, purses, phones etc.
- When you leave your vehicle unoccupied, even for a short time, ensure you lock it and have all windows closed.
- If you have to leave items in an unattended vehicle ensure they are well out of sight.

Even when you are at home those recommendations still apply. Follow them when you leave a vehicle unattended anytime, anywhere. If possible park your car off the road and on your property overnight and when parking in town, park it in a well-lit area.



Once you are home do not leave keys out and visible through windows or open doors, keep them out of sight and secure. Opportunist thieves often see the opportunity to steal keys and they then can get into your vehicle or house, stealing your vehicle and property.

In Rotorua there have been a number of recent newspaper articles regarding the theft of vehicles. Car thieves target vehicles with no anti-theft devices factory fitted, such as vehicle alarms and ignition disabling devices. However, leaving keys in any unattended vehicle is an opportunity for anyone to steal it.

The popular targeted vehicles recently have included the Mazda Demio. We have heard stories regards some young teenage car thieves saying they targeted the Mazda Demio because it was seen as a 'nana car' and less likely to be stopped by the Police.

If your vehicle is not fitted with an alarm or an ignition disabler device, think of purchasing a steering lock which can be used to add to the difficulty level of stealing a vehicle. They fit to a steering wheel and are a visible security measure. These are available from car accessory stores.

If you do the basics right and follow the three recommendations above, you make it less likely to have your vehicle broken into or stolen. Nothing is 100% foolproof but those recommendations are better than being lax with your vehicle security.

If you are not already in a Neighbourhood Support Group then find out about them by contacting Neighbourhood Support Rotorua by phone, 07-349-9470, email: nsrotorua@gmail.com or by dropping into the Rotorua Police Station in the mornings Monday - Thursday.

## **Bold Bubbles**

The strange journey and superpowers of soap According to Roman legend, thousands of years ago

women washing in the river Tiber used bubbly globs flowing down a mountain to clean their clothing. Whether they knew it or not, the bubbles were inadvertently created by the temple priests on Mount Sapo. Ashes from fires combined with animal fat and river water created a bubbly substance that lifted dirt from skin and clothing - Soap.

Humans have been using soap for at least 5,000 years, but it isn't an obvious sort of formula. Soap requires three ingredients: An alkaline (like lye), water, and fat. The fat part is easy and lots of things work well, from olive oil to tallow, which is beef fat.

But lye is a different story. Lye has to be made with

white ash from a hardwood fire. Lye makers literally had to go out to a place where hardwoods burned down to ash. They scooped up the white ashes and put them in a barrel. Then, they waited for rain, best for making lye. Buckets full of rainwater were poured into the ash barrel to soak the ash. The lye water formed at the bottom of the barrel. They then caught and stored the caustic lye water that leeched out from the bottom. Strangely, somewhere along the line someone decided to make lye and combine it with fat and more water. Today we might think of soap as gentle, but it is actually fierce to dirt, bacteria, and viruses. Soap molecules are pin-shaped crowbars. Their tails love fat but hate water. Their heads love water. So when

soap molecules find a piece of dirt or virus, the tails pierce the fatty membrane, while the heads pull away toward the water, thus prying open the dirt or virus and

## compute IT with .... **Wayne Parkinson**

#### Storage

The traditional method of storage on a computer has been using a Hard Disc Drive (HDD). This has several spinning discs inside it and each disc has read/ write heads to locate and deal with your



files. This takes time and these HDD's are starting to drop in popularity now the new kid on the block, Solid State Drives (SSD) has matured. For an SSD, think of a huge Memory Stick inside your computer in place of the "old" HDD. No spinning parts, all electronic and very speedy in all facets of using the computer. Normal start up time with an SSD is around 12 seconds!

#### Size does matter

Choosing an appropriate sized HDD was/is fairly easy, pretty much the smallest you can get is 1Tb, giving plenty of storage for your programmes and data. With an SSD you have the option of several sizes: 128Gb, 256Gb, 512Gb, 1Tb, then up to 7.6Tb. Before you can decide what size you need, you must find the total storage used in your existing computer. With the SSD you should only use up to 80% of its capacity because of the way it stores files. Whatever you do, DO NOT get an internal SSD of 128GB, it's just too darn small. So, find your existing storage used and add about 50% to it and the next size up

FIERCE SOAP MOLECULES use

their tails to pierce the

virus membrane and

pry it apart!

destroying it. Fancy science for some glop that once rolled down a hill.

Today soap smells nice and has lots of different forms from hand soap to detergent. Yet, the recipe really hasn't changed much from the recipe used by Romans or ancient Egyptians. It's still ancient science.

### **Pixel Count**

The images on your screen are made up of tiny dots, just like on your TV, and this is referred to as Pixel Count. The greater the number of pixels across and down your screen, the crisper the image will be. The common size screen on a laptop is 15.6 inches measured, like your TV, on the diagonal. Screen resolutions for this size are 1366 x 768 or 1920 x 1080. The second pixel count is full High Definition and the difference is guite noticeable. Often with many things that are deemed to be "better", so is the associated cost and this may bring in a budget compromise.

So, putting all this together, where to from here? Traditional Desktop Computers are certainly declining in numbers, but the "Sweet Spot", in terms of bang for your buck, here is appropriate for home use of laptops and desktop computers.

For a desktop I would choose; an Intel i5 CPU 8th or 9th generation, 8Gb of RAM, an appropriately sized SSD, a monitor of at least 19" and full HD.

budget.

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



SSD is the one for you that should perform well for vou now and into the future.

#### The Sweet Spot

For a laptop I would choose; an Intel i5 CPU 8th or 9th generation, 8Gb of RAM, an appropriately sized SSD. 15.6 inch screen and ensure it had a full HD.

Whatever you decide, it must be able to easily complete your tasks and fit your



Editorial supplied by Abingdon Computing Essentials

## **CITIZENS ADVICE** BUREAU ROTORUA



## - NOT SURE? ASK US!

We are currently living in unprecedented times who would ever have thought that we would be in a country-wide lockdown for in excess of six weeks now. This has meant our whole way of life has changed and businesses, not-for-profit organisations and everyday households have had to act quickly to adapt and survive in Covid-19 times.

The Citizens Advice Bureau is one organisation that has been forced to change the way it provides information, advice and advocacy to the thousands of people who use the services every year.

We stopped our face-to-face service on 20 March operating out of the Bureau for a couple of days just answering telephone and email enguiries and then

when the Level 4 lockdown began we re-located the phone and computer to my lounge with several of the Volunteers agreeing to research and provide information from their lounges.



So anyone who rings our local Bureau number is now diverted to the CAB 0800 number. Your call could be answered by me here in Rotorua, or it could be answered by a Manager from one of 40 other Bureaux who are also providing the service. Details of your enquiry are then taken for the waiting volunteers to research - and then you are either rung or emailed back with options and answers to your enquiries. Alternatively you can email the Rotorua Bureau at rotorua@cab.org.nz and we will respond.

For the first few weeks of lockdown we dealt with a huge number of issues around employment, being made redundant, how the wage subsidy is applied, worker's rights when working from home. We also fielded several calls around tenancy rights - especially around being given notice to move, what a rent freeze means and cases of discrimination against people working in essential services and sharing a home with other flatmates.

Alert Level 3 has brought with it a variety of new questions as people start to navigate the increased opportunities for returning to work, schooling and

recreation - as well as access to takeaways. We have also noticed a movement towards people seeking advice and information on subjects we dealt with on a daily basis prior to the virus outbreak like consumer rights, neighbourhood issues including fences, trees and noise and issues around relationships and care of children.

It will be wonderful to get back into the Bureau whenever that might be - and catch up with the Bureau volunteers. They have adapted very well to their new role which at times has not been easy one Volunteer gave me this reflection - "It is a little surreal not having face to face contact and being able to check ideas with colleagues who are also on duty with you. It sharpens up my investigating skills and computer skills and I'm very grateful for having access to CAB's up-to-date database. Calls are coming in from all over New Zealand. Covid-19 does not stop people having issues, in fact it can often heighten them as they have time to think. At times like this CAB is an essential service and I am proud to serve it."

While this pandemic has created a crisis on a global scale, people have also worked collectively to support each other through this challenging time. Community spirit is alive and well and CAB Volunteers and staff are a testament to that. If this lockdown continues and you, or someone you are connecting with needs information, advice or support, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us by freephone 0800 367 222 or emailing rotorua@cab.org.nz We are still here to help.

> Remember, our advice is free. Not getting it could cost you though!

#### *Letter to the editor:*

#### Dear Sir.

It was great to read of the "Go Local" campaign in the Rotorua Daily Post last month and to read that our mayor 'absolutely' supports it. Will it mean that our Council will put its money where its mouth is?

It is not long ago that the Council stopped supporting local booksellers for stocking our library and switched its custom to an Auckland company with Australian ownership. Hopefully it will now lead by example and change back to local suppliers for this important local service which will also greatly help to restart local enterprise. However, my fear is that we will just hear weak excuses for not doing so, rather than see positive action.

Yours faithfully | D A McPherson

## The Road to Recovery

COVID-19 has meant a great sacrifice on the part of all New Zealanders. A loss of liberty during lockdown has meant that hundreds of thousands of people have missed their loved ones, kids have been away from school (which they love but mum much less I'm picking) and local people have earned less or had their daily business lives interrupted. Rotorua has felt this disruption strongly. International visitors have stopped coming and domestic holidavmakers have cancelled visits. Our tourism. hospitality and accommodation sector have all been decimated.

Many businesses have incurred huge debt through no fault of their own over the past 8 weeks. As they start to open again, some with heavy restrictions, the economic and social impact of Covid-19 will be felt for many, many years to come.

The Budget as expected, involved big spending. It has ensured huge debt for current and future generations to pay back. It was therefore important that the government delivered support where it's most needed and will help the most. The big priority must be jobs. Saving jobs first and then creating jobs. Instead the government's budget lacked a cohesive plan to save jobs.

The Budget did provide some necessary support, an extension of the wage subsidy for a further eight weeks will help some, but it did not provide the detail or direction on how it would support jobs beyond that.

The government are also borrowing \$140 billion extra over the next 4 years which is \$80,000 of new debt to be paid back by every household in the country. Paid back through your taxes!

The tourism sector and all other small and medium sized businesses need help. They need direct support rather than more debt. Every business saved means jobs are saved. And every job saved means a local family can provide for themselves.

It is for this reason that National proposed an \$8 billion package to provide grants to small business and to incentivise investment across the economy, if we can save businesses we can save jobs. That is the key to securing the livelihoods of people across New Zealand and in Rotorua. This remains the priority.

It will be important through the coming time for people in Rotorua to support each other. Buying local, checking in on neighbours and working as a community will be an important part of Rotorua's recovery.

It is also important to think about the effect that isolation has had on so many. It's also a time to thank all those who have helped.

The doctors and nurses and other essential workers have done so much for so many. They deserve recognition. The Salvation Army, Churches, Love Soup and many others have continued to feed those in need. The Rotorua Sikh community and the Multicultural Society have provided food parcels to those who cannot go out for themselves as well as the numerous members of the community who have made it easier for the most vulnerable. It has been

Hon. Todd McClay MP Member of Parliament for Rotorua Spokesman for Trade, Economic Development and Tourism Authorised by T. McClay, Parliament Buildings, Wellington,





humbling to see so much of our community come together and support one another.

If you need any help or assistance with anything electorate or Covid-19 related please make contact with my office. We are open and we are here to help.





10% discount off your commision for a successful list and sell with Rotorua First Nationa Offer not available with any other discounts or promotion

> Don't Delay, Call Sue Today!

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## Pesky spring blooms

- Across
- 1. Genetic stuff
- 4. Auspices
- 9. Sprinted
- 10. Serpent
- 11. Sea eagle
- 13. Kind of
- charge card
- 14. Military school
- 16. Perform
- 17. "Fancy that!"
- 18. Kipling poem
- 20. Hamlet's cousin
- 22. Bank holding
- 24. Window part
- 25. Poem of lament
- 27. juice (milk)
- 28. Bit of statuary
- 29. Trinity componen

#### Down

- 1. Be reluctant
- 2. DEA agent
- 3. The "I" of "The King and I"
- 4. Symbol for arsenic
- 5. Glossy paints
- 6. Like some meat
- 7. White House nickname
- 8. Census datum

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12. Decorative

- borders
- 15. Sushi offering
- 18. Arctic abode
- 19. Criminal
- 20. Turn
- 21. Goals
- 22. Tennis call
- 23. U.N. workers' grp.
- 26. Rocky's greeting

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## **IMPRESSIONISTS**

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## THE JUNE OUTING

We meet June 15 (third Monday of the month) at 9:30am at Parksyde, leaving by car pool at 10am. If Parksyde is closed we meet in the car park area. We go to Hannahs Bay or Tree Trust if the weather is nice (bring a snack) or Arts Village coffee shop if it rains.

## All outings are resumed until further notice and are open to members of the public.

Contact us on (07) 346 1739, email to greypower.rotorua@gmail.com our Calendar of Events is on the web at greypowerrotorua.org.nz Wieland, coordinator for meetings and outings, is on 985 4146.



BONNARD CAILLEBOTTE

CEZANNE

GAUGUIN

MORISOT PISSARRO

**ROBINSON** SARGENT **SEURAT** SISLEY **TWACHTMAN** WEIR WHISTLER



"I just read on the internet that I shouldn't believe everything I read on the internet."

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Editorial supplied by Freedom Companion Drivers

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## **Grand-Dad Clock**

by Gerald Hanson, GRH Heirlooms

Built from January to April 2020, I have been interested in cabinetry/ woodwork for many years as a hobby to relax from work and the enjoyment of creating something unique.

I love working with English Oak and, on this occasion, I picked up an oak head and tail board from an auction. free.

Then came the online search for ideas. Soon enough I found images of Grandfather Clocks and I decided "that's the challenge that I need". After printing off various pictures with measurements, I designed my own Grand-Dad Clock. Then came the trickier part of drawing up the cutting chart. That took guite a while and a bit of swearing until I got it right.

I built the clock in 3 stages. The base, the top and lastly the cabinet, which was the most difficult. The measurements had to be exact and I did have to make a few re-cuts. Fortunately, I had spare oak in

the loft left over from a previous project.

After cutting out each section I sanded down to the bare clean timber using the oak dust and pva glue to fill in screw and nail holes. I used an oak stain which gave an aged antique effect and then assembled using concealed screws and dowel. Once each stage was assembled, I put on 2

coats of clear varnish, then the hardware.

You will see from the photo that this is not a common grandfather clock as there are no pendulums. That cabinet is to

display one of our collections. Hence the name

#### **Grand-Dad Clock.** One of a kind.







## THE STUDENT VOLUNTEER **ARMY comes to Rotorua**

Sophie Smith, SVA communications team

A decade after the Student Volunteer Army was created during the Christchurch Earthquakes, they have launched another disaster response, this time supporting people most impacted by COVID19.

In partnership with New World, SVA have been providing a contactless grocery delivery service to help those who need support. The shopping is delivered by smiling volunteers, within 48 hours (often less) of ordering. And, to ensure that the service is accessible to those who are less keen on technology, they also have a phone line staffed by volunteers, to help with orders and answer questions.

While the delivery remains contactless in level 3, the SVA are seeing that both volunteers and customers are benefitting from the (appropriately distanced) social connection. After hearing it was a customer's 80th birthday, one volunteer took the time to make a beautiful handmade card and sought out her favourite chocolate as a birthday gift.

People using the Grocery Delivery Service are also those who normally provide help and assistance, as opposed to asking for or receiving it. Bev said: "I just wanted to express my gratitude for the groceries that have just been dropped off to me. Normally I am able to do these things myself and find it hard to ask for help, as I am usually the one providing it.

"I think you are doing a fantastic job and the woman who dropped off my order could not have been nicer. When I am able to get back to work and get paid I will be making a donation to help support your work. You are an essential lifeline and New Zealand's future is brighter because of you."

If you, or someone you love, would benefit from a safe and friendly grocery service please visit the SVA website (shop.sva.org.nz) or call 0800 005 902. If you'd like to support SVA please consider making a donation (sva.org.nz/donate).





Pictured abpve: Mrs Vera Barakat

Pictured below: Rupert Stobo

The chief picker is essentially a volunteer that is able to give an hour or so a day in time to distribute out grocery orders to local volunteers that can help to fulfil them, and be the main liaison with the local New World. They may also need to be on site at the shop sometimes, so it would ideally be an individual not in a vulnerable group that can help.

shop.sva.org.nz or call 0800 005 902



What unprecedented times we are in.

It has been a privilege to serve on the Epidemic Response Committee during lockdown.

This high level of transparent inquiry during a world crisis is unparalleled in a modern democracy. We've heard a range of views from the community and voluntary sectors, Police, experts in health and science, businesses, economists, bankers, educationists, and schools, all who have been so sorely affected by this pandemic.

It is about providing accountability to the New Zealand taxpayer for the Government's immediate and ongoing response to this pandemic.

The Government's vital response package has supported our most vulnerable and is intended to make it easier for as many businesses as possible to keep going and retain staff so that when we return to the new normal, people will have work to go back to and therefore money to spend to keep the economy stimulated.

The Budget has been announced and there are welcoming investments that will particularly benefit older people. Namely the prevention and early intervention of family violence and more specifically \$25 million over the next four years to support victims of elder abuse.

Earlier this month it was also announced a doubling of the Government's winter energy payment which will come as relief for pensioners. The boost comes as the colder temperatures coincide with increased financial pressures for many amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

More than one million New Zealanders on lower incomes will be eligible to receive the emergency payment, which will last 22 weeks from May 1 through to October 1.

Editorial supplied by Fletcher Tabuteau

## **Grey Power Rotorua Inc.**

1333 ERUERA STREET P.O.BOX 414 ROTORUA 3040 PHONE 346 1739 greypower.rotorua@gmail.com www.greypowerrotorua.org.nz Office hours Tuesdays – Thursdays 11.00 am <sup>–</sup> 2.00 pm

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## **REMEMBER THE PLANET**

These times have switched our focus away from the dire state of our planet, and forced us to cancel the planned Environment and Climate Change forum with Councillors Tania Tapsell and Fisher Wang, which we hope to be able to reschedule in due course. Few seem to know that Western Bay of Plenty District Council have been signatories, since August 2017, of the Local Government Leaders' Climate Change Declaration.

The Declaration, which is managed by Local Government New Zealand, has been signed by a large number of District and Regional councils nationwide and aims to:

- Acknowledge the importance and urgent need to address climate change for the benefit of current and future generations;
- 2. Give our support to the New Zealand Government for developing and implementing, in collaboration with councils, communities and

## **GREY POWER ROTORUA COVID-19 CASUALITIES**

#### **DEATHS**:

April and May outing March, April, May and June forums

### ON LIFE SUPPORT:

The AGM

July Forum, **DEFERRED UNTIL GATHERING REGULATIONS PERMIT** and will be duly advertised and notified to you all

#### **RECOVERED**:

Usual Office Hours resume Tuesday 19th May Ability to renew subscriptions in person Renewed subscription cards being posted out

businesses, an ambitious transition plan toward a low carbon and resilient New Zealand;

- 3. Encourage Government to be more ambitious with climate change mitigation measures;
- 4. Outline key commitments our councils will take in responding to the opportunities and risks posed by climate change; and
- 5. Recommend important guiding principles for responding to climate change.

The document also signals what commitments Councils will make. These are to:

- 1. Develop and implement ambitious action plans that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support resilience within our own councils and for our local communities. These plans will:
- 2. Promote walking, cycling, public transport and other low carbon transport options;
- 3. Work to improve the resource efficiency and health of homes, businesses and
- YOU RODE & WALKED ON STREETS THAT FELT SAFE DECREDIONN LIFE

## For those who have forgotten details for subscription payments.

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Subscription to Grey Power Rotorua is \$25 singles, \$35 families, per year.
We do have online internet banking and prefer you to pay that way. Our account details are: Bank: Kiwibank Our Account Name: Grey Power Rotorua Inc A/C Number: 38 9020 03555889 01

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Cheques (payable to Grey Power Rotorua Inc), or cash, can be handed to the duty volunteer Tuesdays – Thursday 11am -2pm at the office at 1333 Eruera St. Or cheque or cash can be mailed to: PO Box 414, Rotorua

Remember that your membership payment lasts for one year.

#### Please pay promptly.

infrastructure in our district; and4. Support the use of renewable energy and uptake of electric vehicles.

5. Work with our communities to understand, prepare for and respond to the physical impacts of climate change.

 Work with central government to deliver on national emission reduction targets and support resilience in our communities. For more information visit www.lgnz.co.nz



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editorial supplied by The Law Shop

## The Bagpiper

Time is like a river. You cannot touch the water twice, because the flow that has passed will never pass again. Enjoy every moment of life.

As a bagpiper, I play many gigs. Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man. He had no family or friends, so the service was to be at a pauper's cemetery in the Nova Scotia back country. As I was not familiar with the backwoods, I got lost and, being a typical man, I didn't stop for directions. I finally arrived an hour late and saw the funeral guy had evidently gone and the hearse was nowhere in sight. There were only the diggers and crew left and they were eating lunch. I felt badly and apologised to the men for being late.

I went to the side of the grave and looked down and the vault lid was already in place. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play. The workers put down their lunches and began to gather around. I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. I played like I've never played before, for this homeless man.

And as I played "Amazing Grace", the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, we all wept

together. When I finished, I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car. Though my head was hung low, my heart was full. As I opened the door to my car, I heard one of the workers say, "I never seen anything like that before, and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years."



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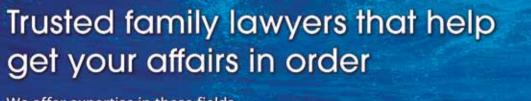
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Apparently, I'm still lost ... it's a man thing.

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