

# ROTORUA GREY POWER

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SPRING ISSUE 2020

**BEE CARD** PAGE 4

**QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES  
& MEETING NOTICE** PAGE 6

**Beer Bread Recipe** PAGE 16

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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)

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

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**GREY POWER ROTORUA**  
**OFFICE HOURS**  
**Tues, Wed, Thurs | 11 am to 2 pm**  
**Parking available at the back**

# President's Word



photo by Pania Attwood

Tena Kotou katoa ! Since I have just presented a detailed report to the AGM, I am including it here to bring you up to-date. But before that, I must implore your patience, since not one person has made themselves available to help with the Secretarial Duties, nor as Minute Secretary, so those of us on deck are hard-pressed to deliver the service you should get. Please consider being of service in these roles in your community. It really is a bit of a bad look when seniors will not step up and help other seniors!! You have a new, diversely skilled committee, and the future looks very positive with them on board. Ok get that cuppa.

**Now to the edited report to the July 2020 AGM...**  
Firstly, of course, thank you for your support of the Association’.

It has been a huge challenge for me to write this report as if we had not yet experienced the Covid19 lockdown.

No sooner had the office re-opened in February than those of us labelled “Vulnerable” were of course told to stay home 2 weeks before the rest of the country, which meant we ceased to exist as far as the wider world was concerned early in March, and had us close down our office just before the end of the financial year. This means that, essentially, I am reporting on the activity of April to November 2019

Looking back, most of our news was to be found in our 4 issues of the magazine, as well as those of the Federation that, go out to all financial members, so need not be repeated here other than to record that :

1. we held **monthly committee meetings**, other than in March,
2. delivered all 4 issues of the **magazine**,
3. and held all planned forums except of course, the one planned for March. Our **Meet the Rotorua Lakes District Council candidates’** forum attracted a large crowd to both sessions, and since we received several compliments on how well it ran, we will be adopting the same format for meeting the party candidates of the coming election. That some candidates failed to address our two questions, or in some cases, to even refer to them, proved to be to their detriment at the polls.
4. Our thanks to **RECT** for the grant of \$8,000 given us to purchase a robust portable sound system and pay for wider advertising of more forums is acknowledged here.
5. **Outings** are a steady success with regular participants.
6. Do you remember the The **Xmas luncheon**? It was declared a success by most, a few thought the food not value for money and not up to their personal standards.

The same has of course been said of hotel functions we have operated. Certainly, the fruit punch was welcome, as were the very many substantial raffle prizes, all gratefully received and donated by Association well-wishers.

7. **Advocacy** has focused on the issues of affordable housing, rating models and levels, access to employment for seniors, and the impact of accelerated climate change on Seniors.

The greatest satisfaction for me, as your President, has been the solid progress achieved in two key areas: **financial accounting, and updating the Constitution.**

1. Geoffrey Shekell first as Secretary, and then as Acting Treasurer, has given invaluable service in clearing up our accounting and membership systems, and streamlining the office. Problems such as **membership cards** not being received, and people sending us their **Grey Power Electricity payments** will never go away completely. Our **end of year accounts** for both 2019 and 2020 were skilfully carried over the line by Geoffrey without any fuss. Geoffrey reduced our magazine mail out costs, revamped the **eftpos** system, and even got us to buy a safe! Most thorny was his advocating for the **change in our financial year (which has been adopted)**, it took a while for it to make sense to the rest of us, but sense it makes, and the Federation, who operate that same year, the Accounts Reviewer and accounting software providers are all in favour of it! Geoffrey is moving on, and we thank him for his service.
2. **The Constitution (which has been adopted)** needed urgent updating in the face of pending legislative changes, and its sheer outdatedness, not to say irrelevance. One could only dream of this task being started and completed within the 1-year term of any Committee, yet this is precisely what Vivienne Martin achieved together, initially with David McPherson, Martin Christensen and Geoffrey Shekell, and then the whole committee. That the Federation gave us their blessing without asking for any substantive additions or changes, is a feather in all their caps, and testament to the very high level of skill and experience these committee members brought to the table. Vivienne too is moving on, out of Rotorua, and we thank HER for her cheerful and valuable service.

As part of improving our **service during office hours** your current committee has been looking into creating a paid position of **Office Manager**, and this possibility will be handed on to your new committee to progress. **Judy Green** is back on board and looking into designing the job description for the role. We’ll report on that next year. This Association is for, by and of you. Most importantly, it is **with** you. You are the lifeblood of the Association, and in turn, of the Federation – a lifeblood that has sent out some health warning twinges. We hear many forecasts of the expected growth in numbers of those people designated as seniors, and we have seen a steady trickle

of new members joining up. Many come with a view to accessing the electricity discount and nothing more, but a number also recognize the Association as a legitimate avenue, regardless of political affiliations, to having their say at Coalition Government level.

It’s an urgent concern therefore, that despite the growing potential pool of members, over all, leaving aside those still planning to renew their subscriptions, our **financial membership numbers for the year have dropped**, a trend being witnessed by many, but not all, other Associations. The Acting Treasurer will be going into details with you later in the programme.

1. The Covid19 episode, which for the purposes of this report has not happened
2. Another factor undoubtedly is the closure of the office
3. The digital exclusion emerging in the ways banking systems are evolving.
4. Then there are those who, despite notices to the contrary in the magazine, are waiting for the customary paper invoice to arrive. One significant way of keeping annual subscriptions unchanged and affordable is to keep postage costs, our single largest expenditure, down, and not posting out 1700 individual invoices, is one of them.
5. **The best possible explanation** would be, of course, that seniors In the Rotorua Rohe are generally well served and comfortable, with no issues keeping them awake at nights. We know for certain this is not the case, and the next committee will be urged to take a very close look at the whole issue of membership in light of the new Constitution.

We have had to manage a lot of change over the past two years, and I anticipate the coming year to be one of firming up our base, programme and processes. Many, many voluntary hours, both from committee members and non-committee members, have gone into getting the Association to where it is today, back from the brink of extinction of only a few years ago.

I forecast a busy, active year ahead, and thank all who contributed in the past year.

**Miriam Ruberl**  
President





ALL existing bus cards will need to be replaced with a Bee Card

Starting 20 July, Rotorua's CityRide cards need to be replaced with a new one: the Bee Card.



It's faster. Passengers don't have to wait in line to pay the bus driver. Concession holders like SuperGold card holders and school children don't have to show their ID.

You use the card by tagging on and tagging off at the card readers near the doors (no more telling the driver" you won't believe what happened this morning"). When you tag off, the card reader screen shows you how much that ride has cost you and what the balance on the card is now.

Money from the old CityRide card can be transferred to the Bee Card. Because of the way the CityRide card system works, the only way for the remaining balance to be transferred from your CityRide card to your new registered Bee Card is to bring both your old CityRide card and your new registered Bee Card into the Bay of Plenty Regional Council office on the corner of Fenton and Pukaki Streets Rotorua.

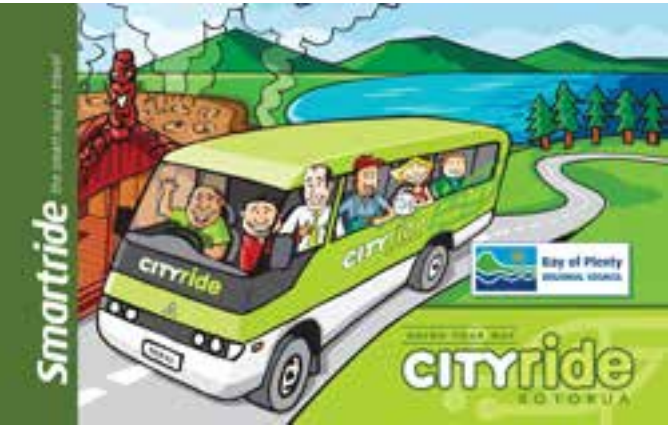
If you have a Gold Card, that must also be loaded onto the Bee Card if you want to ride for free during off-peak hours.

You can upload money onto the card online with your credit card or it can be auto-uploaded when the balance on the card gets low. You can look at your transaction history online and you can report your card as lost/stolen so that nobody can use it.

You can combine multiple cards into one account (good for couples and families).

For a limited time there is no charge for the Bee Card when you order it online (a minimum top-up of \$5 applies - except for SuperGold holders where the minimum top-up does not apply). You can pick up a Bee Card in person at the Bay of Plenty Regional Council office on the corner of Fenton and Pukaki Streets Rotorua. You can also order it online. There will be no charge during the promotional period.

For the Mamaku service there is no BeeCard facility yet. The new timetable and fares are here: <https://www.baybus.co.nz/rotorua/mamaku-village-connector/mamaku-to-rotorua/> - GoldCard holders still travel free on that service.



Proposed 1 July changes to NZ Super and Veteran's Pension delayed

Diane Turner | Director, Office for Seniors

Last year, the Coalition Government proposed changes to New Zealand Superannuation (NZ Super) and Veteran's Pension. This included closing the option to include a non-qualifying partner in payments and changing how some overseas pension deductions are made.

A decision has been made to delay introducing these changes until 9 November 2020. This will be dependent on legislation passing. The only thing changing is when these proposed changes will come into effect.

**This means:**

- You can still apply to include your non-qualifying partner in the NZ Super or Veteran's Pension payment. There are no changes to eligibility criteria right now.
- If you're already included in your partner's payment, you'll continue to receive your payments - you don't need to do anything.
- Overseas pension deductions will continue to be made in the same way they are now.

There's more information about the proposed changes on the Work and Income website. Closer to 9 November 2020, the Ministry of Social Development will write to people affected and let them know what it means for them. There'll also be updated information on the Work and Income website, [www.workandincome.govt.nz](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz).

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Born and educated in Rotorua Sharron now lives in Pukekohe.

After a successful career as a Draftswoman and Interior Decorator Sharron had a "pre mid-life" career change in 1990 when she established Exclusive Tours Limited.

New Zealand tours that Sharron plans and guides revolve around learning and discovery experiences. Sharron is always on the lookout for new places to visit, impromptu stops, interesting people to meet, activities that get travellers outside their comfort zones etc. She proudly says that the possibilities are endless in New Zealand! As someone once said of her itineraries - "It is not what is included in the itineraries that make the difference - it's the things that are not included in the itineraries that make the tours so different and exciting."

Here are some examples of the great experiences that Sharron has included in past tours:

Putting on fishing waders and at low tide walking out on Tatapouri Reef (just north of Gisborne) to hand feed sting rays!

Afternoon tea at Mahitahi Bed and Breakfast at Bruce Bay and learning about the fascinating history of Bruce Bay.

Guided tour of Blacks Point (near Reefton) stamping battery and museum.

Visiting New Zealand's only "stumpery"! Located in Invercargill.

Sharron is a member of ProGuides New Zealand. [www.proguides.co.nz](http://www.proguides.co.nz)

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EXCLUSIVE TOURS LIMITED

Guided 9-day North Island food, beverages, gardens & sightseeing tour. A journey of learning and discovery from Rotorua to Rotorua. Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020

*This tour may be subject to unforeseen changes that may arise due to issues relating to Covid 19 etc.*

**If you are keen to participate in this tour and would like to receive more information then please email Sharron at [sbhickman@xtra.co.nz](mailto:sbhickman@xtra.co.nz) or call her on 027 4732934. Thank you.**

2 night stays in each of these locations Gisborne, Napier, Wellington and Wanganui. Some of highlights of the guided tour are: A foodie treat in Whakatane; visit Cheddar Valley Pottery; free time at Opotiki Museum; The Far East Coffee Roastery; learn about growing bananas in New Zealand; Gisborne Farmers Market; Art Deco experience; Hawke's Bay food and beverage tour; wine tasting; free time in Greytown; Wellington sightseeing tour including Mount Victoria, Lady Norwood Rose Gardens, tour and tastings at the Wellington Chocolate Factory, peanut butter tasting at Fix and Fogg; visit RJ's licorice factory shop; guided tour of De Molen Mill in Foxton; 2 hour cruise on the Whanganui River; "elevenses" at Chateau Tongariro Hotel; Lava Glass - glass blowing demonstration and entry to Glass Sculpture Garden.



De Molen windmill at Foxton. Waimarie - New Zealand's only coal fired paddle steamer.



# QUESTIONS FOR REPLY BY 2020 ELECTION CANDIDATES PUBLIC MEETINGS AUGUST 10TH SESSIONS AT 2PM AND 7PM AT LINTON PARK 16 Kamahi Place, Pukehangi HOSTED BY GREY POWER ROTORUA

## QUESTION 1: National Superannuation

- Is your Party of the view that the current age of entitlement for National Superannuation cannot be sustained?
- What are your thoughts on the sustainability of the present age?
- Would your Party collaborate in developing a sustainable cross-party model?

## QUESTION 2: Access

- Does your Party support the need for improved \ disability/access law and, if so, will this include mandated requirements to upgrade existing infrastructure, and greater focus on the level of specialised hospital treatment & equipment?
- Does your Party support the removal of inequitable discrepancies in healthcare for people acquiring impairments through health-related conditions, in contrast to those acquiring impairments through accidents and covered by ACC, and if not within the

establishment of a Commissioner for Seniors' office, how will you achieve it?

## QUESTION 3: Local Government Act 2002 and Rates Rebate Scheme If elected to office:

- Does your party intend to amend the consultation provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 and subsequent amendments to allow a return to fuller consultation on matters that affect residents, particularly the elderly?
- Will you vigorously pursue the Rates Rebate issue for us and ensure that it is updated as proposed and continues to keep pace?
- If not, why not?

## QUESTION 4 : Commissioner for Seniors If currently a Coalition Government partner

- How does your Party account for the failure to honour the pre-election undertaking to establish an Aged Care Commissioner, and

### All Candidates:

- Based on the contextual information provided, will your Party, if elected, honour and advance that promise by establishing the office of a Commissioner for Seniors, and if not, why not?

## QUESTION 5: Economic recovery

- What is your personal understanding of the term “economic recovery”, and how will you pursue it within your Party?
- What is your Party’s vision and implementation plan for the “economic recovery” of Aotearoa / New Zealand generally, and that of seniors in particular?



## Notice from Grey Power Rotorua

We would like to advise our members and members of the public about

### IMPORTANT upcoming meetings.

#### Forums, Meet the Candidates, Referenda

**3 Aug** (1st Mon) Forum: John Collyns, Retirement Villages NZ chairman; 1pm. Linton Park; cuppa and chat afterwards.

**10 Aug**, Monday. Pre-national-election public forum **Meet the Candidates** (same as for local elections last year) with invites to all seven parties standing. We will ask the same questions (pertaining mainly

to seniors) from all participants. **2pm and 7pm. Linton Park**, 16 Kamahi Place, Pukehangi. Cuppa and chat afterwards.

**7 Sep** (1st Mon) **Forum on the upcoming election referenda** with speakers for and against Legalisation and Control of Cannabis Bill and End of Life Choice Act. 1pm Linton Park. Cuppa and chat afterwards.

**Oct & Sept** are similar: forums on the first Monday

**Linton Park Community Centre is at 16 Kamahi Place, Pukehangi**

## compute IT with . . . . Wayne Parkinson

### Versions of Windows 10



I think it would be fair to say none of us would buy a brand new car with upwards of 32 known faults in it, yet most of us have a computer and are running Windows as our operating system. So how does Microsoft overcome this issue of known faults? They send out Updates to patch the faults and also to add in new features that may or may not be useful to us.

It is quite important to keep your operating system, whatever system you use, up to date. Every six months or so Microsoft issue a big update and frequently issue smaller updates that automatically download and install themselves on your computer. You may have noticed at times your mouse is not responding and seems to jump and jerk all over the screen when you are trying to use it. This may mean that there is a Windows Update going on and there is little computing power left for you to use the mouse.

The current version of Windows 10 is 2004. That is not the year 2004, it is 20 as in 2020 and the 04 is April. Prior to this version the versions ran 03 and 09, as in March and September. I guess given the Covid-19 issue, we can cut Microsoft a bit of slack in getting the latest version out a month “late”. You may have 1903 or 1909 now.

### Checking your Version of Windows 10

To check the version of Windows 10 you have now, click on the Windows icon in the bottom left corner of your screen. This will pop up the Windows menu, including the shortcut icons immediately above the Windows icon. The second icon up looks like a gear and is Settings, click on this. In the Settings screen select System, top left option. In the System screen

select About in the left menu list. You may need to scroll down to find About. Scroll down in the right portion of the screen to find your version, hopefully 2004.

### Updating your Version of Windows 10

To update your version of Windows 10, follow the above sequence to the Settings screen and select Update and Security. Near the top of this screen is a button “Check for Updates”, click on this. If your computer is ready for the 2004 version, a bit further down the screen there will be a link to start the update. The Update will start when you click on this and it can take several hours, so don’t use the computer while this is happening.

### Flu Tracking

This site is well worth visiting and taking part in. It is a collaboration between New Zealand and Australia in an attempt to track and maybe predict where and when the common flu will pop up. They have now added in an option for Covid-19. <https://info.flutracking.net/>

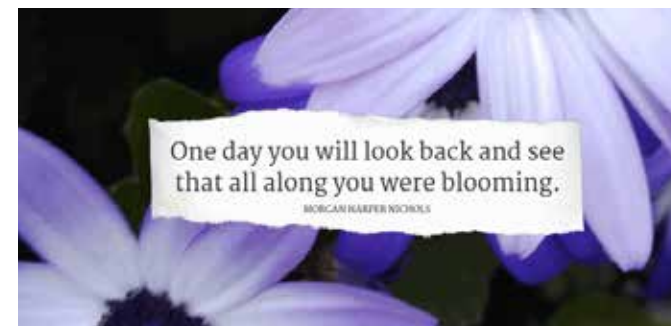


If you need help with this, or would just like to chat about your options, give me a call at 345-6098

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# Securing Your Credit/ EFTPOS Cards

Bruce Quedley  
Neighbourhood Support Rotorua



With the move by banks away from the use of cheques there is a need to remind ourselves of the security precautions with our credit cards and EFTPOS Bank cards.

Fraudulent use of cards does happen when either cards are stolen or private information is used to make on-line internet purchases.

Often pay-wave types of cards are targeted in theft from motor vehicles or during burglaries. These cards can be credit or bank cards and are identified by the symbol:



The colour of the symbol may change depending on the bank involved.

If you are not familiar with pay-wave type cards they are used to make contactless payments at a retailer just by passing the card close to a reading device. Most new cards have this facility on them and banks have seen fit to allow up to a set purchase value before the transaction is questioned, requiring further identification.

Before lockdown most banks had a transaction limit of \$80 and during lockdown this was raised to \$200. This means any transaction below the set value proceeds without any question. Unfortunately criminals know this and do steal cards to use this facility to make purchases below the set level on such things as food, petrol, alcohol and cigarettes. They then go on a spending spree until banks notice unusual spending, compared to the normal usage, and contact the card holder to query if the transactions are legitimate.

An example of this is a card stolen from a vehicle overnight is used to make a number of purchases. The banking system flags the unusual use and contacts the card holder, who may not be aware their card has been stolen as they haven't gone out to their vehicle to find it broken into. Never leave your card in an unattended vehicle even for a short time.

Also over lockdown the number of on line purchases increased as people couldn't get out. The purchases were normally made using credit cards. Here are some suggested ways from Neighbourhood Support NZ's fact sheet "Credit & EFTPOS Card Fraud" to

protect your credit cards from fraudulent use:

- Guard your Personal Identification Numbers (PIN) closely. Never give it out to anyone and avoid any easily guessed codes such as your date of birth or sequential numbers i.e. 1234.
- Keep your credit or EFTPOS card safe. If it is stolen or goes missing, inform your bank or credit card company right away and have it cancelled immediately.
- Never keep your PIN and card in the same place. Memorise it and ideally use different PINs for different cards / accounts.
- Do not let your card out of sight - even in a restaurant. If you need to you can always go up to the till directly to pay or have staff bring a portable EFTPOS machine to you.
- Destroy expired cards and sign new cards immediately.
- Match credit card and bank statements with your receipts. Follow up on any discrepancies.
- Keep a record of the card number, expiry and any numbers to call if your card is lost / stolen.
- Tell your bank or credit card company if you change your address so replacement cards are sent to the correct place.
- Know who you're dealing with when shopping online. If you're unsure do a background check to make sure others haven't reported the website as a scam. If the deal sounds too good to be true, it probably is!
- Only make telephone transactions when you have instigated the call and are familiar with the company or individual. If in doubt get them to send you an email with more information you can verify, never feel pressured to provide sensitive information or pay right away.

**Whatever you do ensure that you treat your Credit & EFTPOS cards the same way you treat money, keep them secure and know where they are.**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

TheMindsJournal

**Listening to 5 to 10 songs a day can improve memory, strengthen immune system and reduce depression risk by 80%.**

## Todd McClay Member of Parliament for Rotorua The economy, infrastructure and jobs.

New Zealand is in the midst of the biggest economic challenge in 160 years. With the ongoing economic impact of government decisions and COVID-19 we will see huge budget deficits, huge job losses, and the highest level of debt ever experienced by our tiny country. Debt that could well be crippling!

At the same time our hard working police men and women are stretched to the limits, delays for hip and knee operations are blowing out, gang numbers are up and the government wants to legalise recreational cannabis. What we need is a clear plan to get our economy growing again and create jobs, to have the health system deliver for you and to make sure you are safe and secure in your homes and neighbourhoods.

Your family, your children and grandchildren, need a team with real world experience that can deliver results. National has that in Judith Collins and Gerry Brownlee. National will ensure taxpayer money is spent carefully and in ways that are linked to clear results. Responsible management of New Zealand's finances is essential to growing our economy and creating jobs. Debt cannot be allowed to spiral out of control and become a burden upon future generations.

Labour have said they will borrow an additional \$140b over the next 4 years bringing New Zealand's debt to around \$250b. However what they haven't said is what their plan is and how the money will be spent. We know that Kiwibuild was a failure, their 300+ working groups at a cost of hundreds of millions of dollars was a waste of money and First Year Free study for students didn't actually mean more young people studied.

National and Judith Collins have a plan to keep debt down, rebuild the economy and create jobs, and build a country you can be proud of.

We have a strong track record of managing economic crisis including the Global Financial Crisis and the Canterbury and Kaikoura earthquakes. Under our Government, the economy was thriving, unemployment was low and businesses had the confidence to invest and grow.

I want to ensure that the people of Rotorua have every opportunity to achieve their goals and create the lives they want for themselves and their families. We deserve better roads, we need more houses, and we need projects that will create jobs in forestry and farming and tourism.

For our community to thrive again, we need a stronger economy and more jobs.

The next three years will be spent rebuilding New

Zealand's economy. National is the safe pair of hands that will deliver what New Zealander's need.

Over the two months I'll be making the case that a National Government will deliver more for Rotorua than we have seen or will see under Labour.

If you need help or assistance or would like to meet and talk about local or national issues please call my office on 07 348 5871 or email [rotorua.mp@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:rotorua.mp@parliament.govt.nz).

Authorised by T.McClay Parliament Buildings, Wellington

**Hon Todd McClay**  
MP for Rotorua

**I hold constituent clinics every week, and I am here to help.**

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Grey Power Rotorua 2020 Calendar of Events				
(some events still need to be finalised)				
July	Day	Time	Event	Notes
20.07.	3rd Mon	9:30 AM	outing to Te Amorangi museum	meet at Parksyde
August	Day	Time	Event	Notes
03.08.	1st Mon	1:00 PM	Forum: John Collyns, Retirement Villages Association	Linton Park
10.08.	2nd Mon	2:00 PM	<b>pre-election public forum <i>Meet the Candidates</i></b>	<b>Linton Park</b>
		7:00 PM	<b>pre-election public forum <i>Meet the Candidates</i></b>	<b>Linton Park</b>
17.08.	3rd Mon	9:30 AM	outing... t.b.a.	meet at Parksyde
September	Day	Time	Event	Notes
07.09.	1st Mon	1:00 PM	Forum on upcoming election referenda	Linton Park
21.09.	3rd Mon	9:30 AM	outing... t.b.a.	meet at Parksyde
October	Day	Time	Event	Notes
05.10.	1st Mon	1:00 PM	Forum on ... t.b.a.	Linton Park
19.10.	3rd Mon	9:30 AM	outing... t.b.a.	meet at Parksyde
November	Day	Time	Event	Notes
02.11.	1st Mon	1:00 PM	Forum on ... t.b.a.	Linton Park
16.11.	3rd Mon	9:30 AM	outing... t.b.a.	meet at Parksyde
December	Day	Time	Event	Notes
05.12.	Sat	1:00 PM	Christmas lunch	

# GREY POWER ROTORUA PUBLIC MEETINGS 10 August and 7 September

**10 August : Meet the Candidates  
standing for election, answering pre-  
notified questions**

**7 September : Invited speakers for  
and against the legislation of the  
referendums**

We go to the polls on Saturday 19 September 2020. In addition to voting for our preferred party and candidate, we can vote on two Referendum issues: The Cannabis Legalisation and Control Bill, and the End of Life Choice Act 2019.

So, on **August 10** come and hear what the party candidates have to offer seniors if they are elected.

Consider the pro and con positions on the two very hotly debated pieces of proposed legislation that will be the subjects of referendums on election day. The government will conduct a public education campaign on these. At this stage, it has put out easy-to-read information at [www.referendums.govt.nz](http://www.referendums.govt.nz). For those who don't use a computer, the

promise is to eventually make this information available via a number of "access options" – e.g. in printed form.

The cannabis legislation is in draft form only at this stage. Even if the majority votes Yes at the referendum, the government of the day will still have to progress the Bill through parliament, where further amendments are likely to be made.

By contrast, the End of Life Choice Act 2019 is now a completed piece of legislation and cannot be changed. The EOLC referendum result is binding, even if the Government were to change after the elections. A majority Yes vote will mean assisted dying will become available to eligible patients 12 months after the referendum. A majority No vote will put it into the archives. "Majority" is defined as anything over 50 percent of votes. More information about assisted dying can be found at [www.EOLC.org.nz](http://www.EOLC.org.nz). A summary of the legislation is available at [www.referendums.govt.nz/endoflifechoice](http://www.referendums.govt.nz/endoflifechoice).

Separate notices with details of these events can be found in the magazine on page 6.



## Zone 3 Meeting 10 July 2020.

This was my first meeting in the Chair, and after the initial shock I felt that it ran quite well.

We had at least 75% attendance from other Zone 3 Associations. A surprise visit was from our Federation President, Mac Welch, who spoke to us about the Federation, the upcoming GP elections, the delayed AGM and put us on the right track with some of the issues that we were discussing. The main one being that we needed an Independent Commissioner for Seniors and not a Government run Ministry. Mac advised that Federation had been plugging at this for many years now and the more of us that keep addressing it to Political Parties and Government we may find open, receptive and understanding ears that are in a position for action. (The above is probably not exactly what he said but it's close).

Our Zone Representative reported on the Federation Board meeting but most items are confidential to Zone Reps only.

Our sub-group formed in March to look into a remit to Federation about GP's active role in helping against climate change which was put forward for Zone endorsement. The vote was lost. We were told by Mac Welch that the Board would only consider a few Zone endorsed remits at this year's AGM and no individual GP Association remits. This is due to the late date for the AGM, whether it's a 2 or 3- day event, and if indeed it happens this year., Covid19 could be well into 2021 yet.

Hamilton put forward a submission to the Federation that they need to approve a \$100,000.00 budget for advertising Grey Power in NZ's major newspapers. This will bring our issues to the fore, letting the over 55-year olds know that we are battling for them and increase national membership. This was voted for unanimously.

Speaking about membership, most Associations advised in their reports that they have had an increase in numbers since Lock-down in March. Very positive vibes from that.

We have a meeting in September and our Zone 3 Election in November.

*Gerald Hanson*

Committee Grey Power Rotorua / Zone 3 Director



Minister Hon Tracey Martin with Grey Power Rotorua members.

## Increased assistance for people with rent arrears from 6 July

In November last year MSD contacted people to let them know about a new option to help people keep their homes when overdue rent has put their tenancy at risk, the Rent Arrears Assistance Housing Support Product.

The impact of COVID-19 on the current economic climate means households in rented accommodation in particular are more vulnerable to losing their homes, with greater likelihood of getting into difficulty with rent arrears.

The Government has allocated funding as part their response to COVID-19 to enable some temporary changes to be made to the existing Rent Arrears Assistance payment. This is to make it easier for more people to access it and to increase the amount people can get.

These temporary changes help more people to keep their homes if they get behind on their rent. The changes are available between 6 July to 31 December 2020 after which the previous RAA policy will apply.

If people need help before 6 July, they can still go to MSD for support for rent arrears assistance under the current payment process.

### The changes include:

- Increasing the maximum amount payable from \$2,000 to \$4,000
- Making the RAA payment a first option to provide support for rent arrears, for both qualifying beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries – previously it was only an option after all other recoverable payment options had been considered
- Eligibility for the payment remains the same, and it's still a one-off, income-tested payment which needs to be paid back.

MSD wants people to call if overdue rent has put their tenancy at risk and they have no other way to pay it.

You can contact MSD on 0800 559 009.



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*Editorial supplied by Freedom Companion Drivers*

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## “Why Keep It Secret?”

**Available from Grey Power Rotorua**

We’re now on our 6th reprint. The foreword says: “Nothing is surer than death and taxes”. “Why Keep It Secret?” does not replace a Will and is not a legally binding document. WKIS guides us through documenting our important information, so that those responsible for carrying out our wishes are clearly advised.

### ■ Order Form for Booklet “Why Keep It Secret?”

**Payment must accompany order**

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UNIT PRICE: \$5.00 per copy or  
\$4.50 each for 10 copies or more  
(includes Postage & Packing)

TOTAL: \$ .....

## Helping Rotorua Community Hospice to serve multicultural clients

*Dr Margriet Theron  
President, Rotorua Multicultural Council*

### Rotorua’s population has changed

There is a growing number of migrants in Rotorua. Our population has grown from 70,000 to 75,000 in recent years. Some of these additional residents are highly skilled migrants who have immigrated to New Zealand to fill the skill shortages. In Rotorua we also have around a thousand international students at Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology every year. Many of them love living in Rotorua and find themselves jobs here once they have graduated.

Between 2006 and 2018 the percentage of Pacific people in Rotorua increased from 4.5% to 5.4% while Asian people increased from 4.4% to 9.5%.

### What does this mean for Hospice?

Fifteen years ago, the clients of the Rotorua Community Hospice were typically Maori or English-speaking Westerners, and they were mostly Christian. Now the clients can be Indian, Middle Eastern, Filipino, or South American; and Hindu, Muslim, or Buddhist.

At a time when a family member is receiving palliative care and dealing with a life limiting illness, it is important that the nurses, health care workers and volunteers of the Rotorua Community Hospice who go into Rotorua homes can deal with their clients from many different ethnicities in a sensitive and knowledgeable way.

### How can the Rotorua Multicultural Council help?

The Chief Executive Officer of Rotorua Community Hospice, Jonathon Hagger, invited the President of the Rotorua Multicultural Council, Margriet Theron, to a meeting last year to talk about ways in which the ethnic and religious understanding of the Hospice workers could be raised.

The solution was to set up the Rotorua Multicultural Hospice Support Group with ten members from ten countries, speaking more than ten different languages and with an understanding of the beliefs, customs and traditions about death and dying from their home country.

This group had its first educational meeting in July 2020, attended by about 40 people from Hospice, the Rotorua Hospital, Plunket, and the Rotorua

Multicultural Council. The topic was observances and practices of Hindu cultures at the time before, during and after death. The speakers were the Punjari (Priest) of the Hindu Temple in Fenton Street, pharmacist Surbhi Patel, and Dr Chandra Bala, retired gynaecologist from the Rotorua Hospital.

The audience included Maori and Pakeha New Zealanders and migrants from Australia, Canada, Chile, Fiji, India, Japan, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Uganda, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and Zimbabwe.

Some of the practices discussed were: not cooking in the family home of the deceased for about ten days; not eating meat, fish, eggs, onion or garlic during this time; not allowing autopsies or embalming; the importance of the Ganges River; and the casket and cremation.

At the next meeting, the beliefs and traditions of the Islamic community will be discussed. Please LIKE the Facebook page of Multicultural Rotorua if you would like to receive notification of this meeting and wish to attend.





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Authorised by Fletcher Tabuteau, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

I hope you are all well and life is starting to get back to normal after lockdown. While still at Level 1, no matter how well we do with eliminating the virus, we have to continue to be careful around health risks and the economic impacts are going to be around for a very long time.

The lockdown was necessary. New Zealand is in a far better position than any country I can think of. But everyone I talk to has been affected in some way or another by the shutdown and now we have to pull together to ensure that the economy rebounds and that we can save our businesses and people's jobs.

You may know this personally, but it's worth saying that our senior population plays a huge role in this. Apart from our over-65s representing 750,000 taxpayers and consumers, lots of our seniors are the people who work. At the end of last year, a quarter of over-65s were employed either full or part-time, or self-employed. This Coalition Government is going to make sure that as many people as possible know that, as we work our way out of this epidemic.

The 2020 'Rebuilding Together' Budget was released by the Government earlier this year. The Budget is focused on helping the country recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and includes a \$50 billion fund dedicated to providing support, growing jobs and strengthening the economy.

COVID-19 has demonstrated how important our postal service is, with many businesses still providing essential goods throughout lockdown through contactless delivery, but postal services across the country are facing significant financial strain. Funding of \$130 million has been allocated in the 2020 Budget to allow New Zealand Post to maintain service levels. An equity injection of \$150 million will also be provided from the Government's COVID Response and Recovery Fund. Lots of people and businesses across the country still rely on a timely and comprehensive postal service and this investment will maintain those services.

The Budget also included an increase in funding for the Government's insulation and heating programme. Grant levels for low-income homeowners under the Warmer Kiwi Homes initiative have increased from 67% to 90% for insulation and/or an efficient heater (heater grants capped at \$3,000, including GST).

For more information on the grant visit [www.warmerkiwihomes.govt.nz](http://www.warmerkiwihomes.govt.nz) or phone 0800 749 782

*Editorial supplied by Fletcher Tabuteau*

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Did previous civilizations deal with whiners like this?

"Man, we've gotta open the gates."  
 "We've been through this, Phil. The Mongols are still outside."  
 "But I've gotta harvest my turnips"  
 "MONGOLS"  
 "Ugh. But we've been in here for WEEKS."  
 "That's how sieges work, Phil."  
 "But the Mongols have barely killed anyone in days."  
 "That's because of the walls, Phil."  
 "Are you sure? Maybe the Mongols aren't that dangerous."  
 "..."  
 "I'm just saying, how bad could it be? They can't kill ALL of us."  
 "That is literally the thing they do."  
 "But my turnips..."

**Outings**


**17 Aug** (3rd Mon) outing to PlentyFlora just SW of Rotorua; meet 09:30am Parksyde; we car-pool.  
  
**21. Sep** (3rd Mon) outing to ?? (t.b.a.); meet 09:30am Parksyde; we car-pool.  
  
**Oct & Sept** are similar: outings on the third Monday  
  
**5. Dec**, Saturday at 1pm, our very popular yearly Christmas Lunch. – Venue and menu are still in the works, so watch this space.

**To join Grey Power Rotorua come to the office at 1333 Eruera St 11:00am to 2:00pm - Tuesdays - Thursdays (behind Spotlight, we have parking) or contact us on 346 1739 or email to greypower.rotorua@gmail.com or visit our web site at http://greypowerrotorua.org.nz**

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Remember that your membership payment lasts for one year.  
**Please pay promptly.**

# OUTINGS

Due to Covid19 and associated issues there weren't many people to join in. But some were obviously keen to get active and get out again. We met, as usual, on the 3rd Monday of the month, at Parksyde, at 9:30am, and car-pooled with our small lot in one car to Hannahs Bay. The weather was glorious – as it was mostly so during the lock-down and shortly after. Not like what we have now as I write this.

Damian had only just started to walk again. A nasty run-in accident with her knee incapacitated her for several months. Damian took a short breather during the walk and then soldiered on valiantly once around the block. It was something she and Peter had never done before and they enjoyed the new experience.

This is a popular walk and I was a bit hesitant to suggest it. It proved to be such

a success with Damian and Peter – I might bring it up again in the future.

Best wishes to you all. May I suggest Plenty Flora, just SW of Rotorua for the August 17 outing.

*Wieland*





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*editorial supplied by The Law Shop*



### Any leftover beer, folks ? Then try this !! Simple Beer Bread Recipe.

During Lockdown I heard of a friend who had made a loaf of bread using beer in the recipe. So I decided to give it a try. Depending on the flavour that



you want you can use any type of beer to make it. Either way it turns out delicious.

You need 1 x 330ml bottle of beer, 3 cups of self raising flour and 1½ tablespoons of castor Sugar. You can use up to 3 tablespoons but I found that it becomes too sweet.

Preheat oven to 180 Degrees and line a 230mm x 120mm loaf pan with baking paper. Mix all ingredients in a bowl until it's a stiff well mixed dough. Transfer to the loaf pan and bake for 50 minutes.

Let it cool in the pan for 10 minutes or so. Then get into it. Tastes great while warm and new and really good as toast over the next few days too.

Cheers The GRH Bakery

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