NEW PLYMOUTH GREY POOVER 50+ NEWSLETTER

QUARTER FOUR 2020 - SUMMER

GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 27th November 2020 at 1.30pm St James Church, Lawry Street, Moturoa, New Plymouth

GUEST SPEAKER: Lydia Rae TDHB, Community Health Integration Centre



GREY POWER NEW PLYMOUTH INC.

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Office Hours: 9am - 1pm Monday, Wednesday & Friday

COMMITTEE 2020 - 2021:

PRESIDENT: VICE PRESIDENT: TREASURER:

Wally Garrett 7550 988 Alison Brown 7588 040 Val Armstrong

SECRETARY:

MINUTE TAKER: Mary Perrott

COMMITTEE: Caroline Symmans, Agnes Lehrke, Kathy Sutton, Rob Baigent- Ritchie, Colin Kilpatrick, Loius & Isobel Carter, Jim Sutherland. TRAVEL TEAM: Wally Garrett, Val Armstrong, Pam Burkett, Agnes Lehrke.

A COMMON MISCONCEPTION:

Grey Power is not aligned with any politician or political party. We are an advocacy group and we present our views to Parliament to try to get a better deal for all Superannuitants. As such we will speak to any political group or politician who is likely to make a difference on our behalf. We also seek to keep all our members informed on what Grey Power has been doing on their behalf.

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Presidents Word

On behalf of the New Plymouth Grey Power Association I would like to offer our sincere condolences to Joanne Manukonga and family on the recent sudden passing of Chris. the Associations Immediate Past President.



Chris did a sterling job whilst President, and was well respected within Grey Power for the acumen that he brought to the role.

On a personal note I'm married to Barbara, we have two adult daughters and four grandchildren. We have lived in New Plymouth since 1977.

Following on from the AGM in August, the President, Vice President and Secretary positions were left vacant. Val Armstrong was re-elected as Treasurer at the AGM.

At the subsequent Committee meeting in September, I was appointed President with Alison Brown taking up the Vice-Presidents role. Mary Perrott has taken on the role of Minute Taker for the committee meetings.

Welcome to Kathy Sutton, Rob Baigent-Ritchie, Colin Kilpatrick and Jim Sutherland all of whom have ioined the Grey Power Committee for this upcoming year.

Grey Power, in conjunction with Positive Ageing, hosted a meet the candidates forum in early October. This was well attended with a wide variety of responses to questions from the candidates as was expected.

The Travel Group is working well and I had the pleasure of joining in on the last trip to Whangamomona and District. I can only encourage those that are interested, to book in early, and get your trip paid for to avoid missing out.

At the time this newsletter goes out, I will be attending the long deferred National AGM in Auckland. I feel that it is important to have a presence there, and to be able to vote in regards to the selection of the National President, where there are four very good candidates. There are also numerous remits that will be discussed and decided on at the AGM.

With the COVID-19 pandemic still swirling around the world, we all need to be mindful of its implications for us all, and not let complacency set in. We are not especially immune here in New Plymouth.

Wally Garrett (President)

Ironside History

(As pictured on the cover of this newsletter).

Early in 1975 a group of interested people, headed by Bruce McIntyre, formed a committee to raise funds for a specialised vehicle to transport disabled persons. Following a visit to the United States by Chris Carter and his family the group decided to call the Society after the Popular T.V. programme, Ironside, featuring Raymond Burr.

A telephone appeal was the first attempt at raising the \$35,000 to purchase the first vehicle. The hospital board felt the money raised would be better used for other services for the disabled within the Hospital.

In October 1977 the first modified Bedford van was commissioned by the Society. One driver/organiser was employed, Mr Les Kay.

In 1984 a second Bedford was purchased and modified in Stratford.

The cost of the hoist was \$2,500.00. These vehicles had to have the roofs cut off and lifted to give reasonable head room. As well as seats, windows and of course the all important hoist for the wheel chairs. At this stage fund raising was at its height with the President. Chris Carter and the driver running weekly meat raffles at Cobb & Co. This and the donations received from those who used the service were all that kept the service going. We had no Government or contractual income what so ever. In spite of this we have always managed to pay the bills and wages while never having to have an overdraft. Not bad for a service that was not needed. The finances were ably handled and managed by Mrs Beryl Lawrence up until her passing in 2010. She was a tireless worker for the Society and kept us all on our toes.

In the early 1980s, Willy Still gave a section of land in Borrell Ave to the Society to build a permanent garage for the now two vehicles. \$11.000 was raised, by the Committee, and a Skyline garage was built on the site. This has since been modified and now houses 4 vehicles, the office and a kitchen, lounge for the drivers and office person. We actually now rent an adjacent building for our larger additional vehicle. The owner of the complex Graham Blackstock, actually had to modify the building to house the VW as it was higher and longer than our other vehicles, which meant raising the shed and extending the length the fit it in.

We are now the only registered Total Mobility organisation with wheelchair access, in North Taranaki (apart from some of the City buses) and as such most of our private transport is subsidised by the Regional Council. They also assist with the fit out of the new hoists to the tune of a maximum of \$20,000 and an annual survey of the hoists which is carried out by a local firm, Meco.

Written by Max Reesby. (Abridged for news Letter)

Fund Raising For Grey Power New Plymouth:

Would you like to be part of a team of fund raisers for Grey power. ??? There are a few keen to get going and a few more to add to their enthusiasm would make the mix so much better. Working as a team is energising and fun. So give it a go. Various means of fundraising keep it fresh and going.

We had a trial run with Sausage Sizzles. It was great & good results financially. So come and join in.

Why not ring the office for further information and what is entailed.

Up until a few years ago the Society had no direct outside funding and had to rely on fundraising and donations. We currently have 4 Toyota Vans and one VW Krafter, one of which is used as a back up when other vans are in for service or off the road for any reason. All of our vehicles are automatic to provide a smoother ride for the passengers and to avoid the wear and tear on the gearbox .

You would think after 39 years of operation with the same phone number that everything would work like clockwork, don't you believe it. In the 2012-13 Telecom publication you could not find our office number listed. I spent most of a day trying to find out why and who was responsible. After a lot of passing the buck I did get and apology of sorts and offered \$100 dollars compensation. Big help.

We provide a door to door service for the TRANSPORT DISADVANTAGED not just wheelchair patrons and the elderly, although they are our base transportees. The service is available between 9.30am and 2.30pm for the general public and weekends for special occasions. All transport must be pre booked .

Thank you Agnes. 757 5885.

Memorial Notices



Christopher Manukonga

Aue.aue.aue. **Grey Power President from** May 2017-August 2020.

Chris passed away suddenly early September 2020 leaving a much loved wife and whanau

stunned by the suddenness of this sad passing.

We, the Association members of Grey Power want to acknowledge Chris as a gentleman who lead his New Plymouth Association in a quiet and unassuming manner and was proud to do so. Thank you Joanne for supporting Chris in his presidency role. We offer our sympathy and support in your time of grief and loss - me te pouri tino nui.



Roger Catlin

President of Grey Power 2015-2017

Roger also died earlier this year after suffering a lengthy and debilitating illness.

This illness crippled Roger and

destroyed most of his abilities to communicate. The very area Roger excelled in. Sadly we haven't been able to experience any type of gathering to express our grieving because of Covid and other circumstances, but we do miss this brilliant man with his ready wit and delightful humour.

Arohanui Roger - until we meet again.

Senior Net SeniorNet New Plymouth

It is with regret that we give formal notice that SeniorNet New Plymouth is closing down.

For those Grey Power members and other people in our community looking for help with their laptops, phones and tablets we recommend that you contact your local library - their services are free. Alternatively if you are already familiar with using a computer we recommend the gcflearnfree website for its great collection of learning programmes.

Go to edu.gcfglobal.org/en/ click on the word topics in the top right hand corner of the page and it will take you to a good list of subjects.

Specialised Smoke Alarms for People with Hearing Impairment

With winter upon us and heaters and fires blazing, it's an appropriate time to share some information about specialised smoke alarms for people with a hearing impairment.



All conventional smoke alarms in NZ emit a high-pitched sound which can be difficult for people with age or noise related hearing loss to hear. especially when their hearing aids are removed at

night for sleeping. Specialised smoke alarms look like conventional alarms however they transmit, via radio

waves, to a receiver by the person's bed. The receiver can vary in function however it always consists of a bright strobe light with an attached shaker which is placed under the pillow giving people early notification of smoke/fire in their home.



If you, or someone you know has a hearing loss it could be worthwhile checking if they can hear their conventional smoke alarm especially during the night. If not please contact Life Unlimited Hearing Therapy for a free assessment. Our hearing therapists are qualified assessors for this specialised equipment. There is some funding available where specific criteria are met. Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) are also involved in the assessment and installation of these smoke alarms.

Ph 0800 008 011 or email hearing@lifeunlimited.net.nz for further information.

Investing in 2020: Every cloud has a silver lining

It's easy to feel overwhelmed by negative headlines and doomsayer predictions, but history teaches us good times usually follow bad. And bad times have often been the catalyst for a step change in research. discovery. and innovation.

Past pessimists have predicted the world running out of food and energy ('peak oil') due to the uncontrolled growth in the global population. In both cases, advances in science and the application of new technology provided solutions so that today we have access to more food and sources of energy that we can consume.

It's probably no coincidence that the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic was followed by significant advances in healthcare, sanitation, and hygiene during the 1920s, culminating in the discovery of penicillin in 1928. Today billions of dollars are being poured into possible solutions with a level of global cooperation in the sharing

of resources and information rarely seen before. A side benefit of all this research could be new treatments for existing diseases as well as viruses in general. The coordinated global response to the

pandemic will also affect other areas in our lives. Remote working and living, and technology to offset the impact of social distancing will continue to evolve. Today we have robots working on production lines, stacking shelves in warehouses, and loading trucks for distribution. And drones are now starting to deliver packages, allowing the trucks to remain on main roads rather than having to detour into more suburban areas.

Today's technology revolution, utilising ultra-fast connectivity combined with Artificial Intelligence (AI), will not just replace the physical challenges of our life, but will also allow machines to think for us.

The risk for investors is chasing the 'next best thing'. Headlines often seduce us with the latest tech breakthroughs or progress



DILLON O'SULLIVAN

MICHAEL FISHER

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NEIL TERNOUTH

LYNDSAY MUSSEN

FORSYTH BARR

Digital Exclusion

On the 1st of September Ewan McDonald of the N.Z. Herald wrote an article on Digital Exclusion. The well written article says "Too many seniors are still uncertain of the internet which can even affect their health".

During the Covid 19 lockdown this proved to be so true as the level of communication available to those seeking to contact these seniors and isolated people was very difficult.

Other than the phone, there seemed no other means of communication. Visits although another form of contact, proved out of reach for those good Samaritans doing their best to contact and reassure the isolated and needy.

All depended on the indivuals to make contact somehow with others, which many did.

We are in a day and age now when cheques are disappearing and most banking activities seem to be by joining the digital world. Where does this leave those unable to do this? There is perhaps your relatives even or close friends, to assist with or use of the telephone banking.

There are banks who will accept phone business. Banks who still will take over the counter transactions. But these banks are few. Recently I discussed this concern, with our TSB Bank to discover that Seniors can use phone Banking and can also use the option of visiting the bank to use the individual banking area to discuss business and transactions in person on a one to one basis. TSB do not have a determined date or time to be ceasing cheques.

For those who wish to join the digital system there are places to attend for training. Computer Access Centre Trust, 44 Liardet St N.P. 759 2149 (Free Tutoring). Your local library also has a free service. Or if you are already familiar with using a computer you can try the gcflearnfree website for a great collection of learning programmes. Go to edu.gcfglobal.org/en/ click on the word topics in the top right hand corner of the page and it will take you to a good list of subjects.

I do hope that you feel able to contact Grey Power with any issues you may need assistance with and we can provide advice and effort to resolve these with you, our members. We are your Advocates, that 's what Grey Power stands for.

Life Unlimited Hearing Therapy Services provide Free National Adult Aural Rehabilitation Services for NZ citizens and permanent residents aged 16 years and over.



Services are provided under a

Ministry of Health contract. The Hearing Therapists are members of HTANZ, are NZOA trained and are accredited assessors for Enable/accessable and ACC.

They are able to assist with:

- Hearing Evaluation including Pure Tone Audiometry screening and needs assessment with onward referral when appropriate.
- Cochlear implant initial needs assessment, information on, and rehab pre and post fitting.
- Tinnitus Management advice and practical help.
- Meniere's information and help.
- Hearing Aid Management helping clients to manage and use their hearing aid(s) more effectively.
- Assistive Devices demonstration and information e.g. telephones, TV, radio listening devices, specialised fire alarms, etc.
- Discussion on funding options available to clients.
- Improving communication skills in family, work, recreation and social situations.
- Workshops for people with a hearing impairment and or their communication partners. We also provide information to groups and organisations about hearing impairment and preventing hearing loss.

HTS local clinic: Taranaki Disabilities Info Centre 28 Young St. New Plymouth | Phone:0800 008 011 Email: melitap@lifeunlimited.net.nz Other areas visited by this clinic Monthly- Waitara. Hawera



back on our feet

\$20m package helping residents and local businesses



Some 11 building owners in New Plymouth, Waitara and Inglewood are on their way to seeing their properties get a makeover thanks to the Main Street Fund, helping to bring in shoppers and tenants. Property owner John Shewry says: "Many businesses have had a hard year this year, so it's great to see NPDC helping to renew and reinvigorate our main streets."

We've dropped or slashed a huge range of fees and charges to provide much-needed help for local businesses hit by the Covid-19 downturn. We've cut the cost of doing business for cafes, restaurants and hairdressers as well as those planning to build a new home. Big Jim's Garden Café owner Shani Benton says: "It's provided a big boost and thanks to the Council for their help."



We've been helping to keep tradies in work making residents' homes warmer and greener thanks to the \$7.5m expanded Home Energy Scheme. The number of approved applications for low-cost loans trebled from July to September to 93 compared to 30 for the same time in 2019. Taranaki Solar director Tony Pope says: "NPDC has done a great thing in supporting local businesses."

enquiries @npdc.govt.nz

& 06<u>-759 6060</u>

Additional \$450k funding for the district's community groups has been a lifeline to many organisations making a huge contribution to elderly or vulnerable people. This has included \$8,500 for the Hearing Dogs for Deaf People. The charity's general manager, Clare McLaughlin, says: "The money has helped Hearing Dogs to continue to exist and provide life-changing dogs for deaf people."

Agnes

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How to solve sudoku puzzles

No math is required to solve a sudoku. You only need logic and patience.

Simply make sure that each 3x3 square region has only one instance of the numbers 1-9. Similarly, each number can only appear once in a column

or row in the larger grid.

(The difficulty on this puzzle is easy)

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6	٢	8	2	4	Z	9	3	G
9	3	2	6	G	8	Z	٢	4
4	G	Z	9	L	3	2	8	6

QuinLaw - Barristers & Solicitors PROPERTY SHARING

With house prices rising and the shortage of available housing it is becoming more common that individuals are coming together to buy a house. That is individuals who are not necessarily in a relationship. We know that some people are looking at their assets and deciding to share them, not necessarily just having flatmates but actually sharing in the capital value of their property. This may involve siblings or different generations in a family, for example, we have instances where a grandchild has the ability to pay a mortgage and the grandparent has the capital and they enter an agreement to purchase a property which neither could afford on their own. That property can be owned in different shares or in any kind of share arrangement that suits the parties.

Ideally, of course there would be a written agreement. There are all kinds of different conditions we can put in so for example, if the grandparent is providing all the capital then the parties might agree that the grandparent's contribution should be capitalized at a rate of interest by agreement (e.g. identical to the grandparents' bank's one year fixed lending rate).

The agreement should also then cover who is paying and for what. Who pays for electricity, gas and telephone, insurance, rates, and general maintenance?

The parties to the agreement have to turn their minds to what happens if there was a major repair.

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Editorial supplied by QuinLaw

such as a roof or a wall, and how that is to be paid. Improvements to the property can also be addressed in the agreement.

Of course, one of the vital parts of this agreement is how does one party sell their share. Do they sell to the other party or is the property put on the open market? We can put in processes and address these issues. We also put in dispute resolution clauses and how any improvement/increase in capital is to be shared.

Over the years we have dealt with many different and various combinations of family/friends/ex-partners. They have had all kinds of conditions, shares of property and requirements.

Each agreement is completely individual to the parties because their interests, assets etc differ.

We also do similar but not identical agreements if a family member is building a small home on their relatives' property. These agreements are also always unique. Sometimes the older person or the disabled person has money to put in, sometimes they do not, sometimes they only have a little. Here we need to address what is going to happen if the relative needs to move on or if they fall out, or die. We go through every possibility with you to come up with something that will be robust enough to work with whatever your changing circumstances become. It is like looking into a crystal ball to see what problems there could be and as lawyers in these situations, we are pleased for our client that they have got a new solution to a particular

Estate Planning Wills and Trusts Enduring Powers of

housing need and they also need to have some reality checking, which we will do. We also have to discuss with you each negative possibility and how you and the other parties wish to arrange your affairs to deal with those situations that may arise.

Always interesting, situation every is different and we enjoy working with you to meet your unique needs.

Changes to N.Z. Super and Veteran's Pension

From November the 9th 2020, the Government is making changes to N.Z. Super and Veteran's pension. The changes aim to simplify Superannuation in New Zealand and is a move towards treating people more as individuals. This means people's payments would depend more on their own situation, instead of their partner's.

Closing the option to include a non-qualifying

partner. Currently, some people getting NZ Super or Veteran's pension can include their partner who doesn't qualify because of their circumstances. Any income either person earns can affect their payment. From 9th November 2020, people won't be able to include a non qualifying partner in their payments. Instead, their partner would be able to apply for other kinds of assistance. If they need financial support, please encourage them to contact MSD on

0800 552 002

If your partner is already included in your payment NZ Super or Veteran's Pension, on November the 9th they'll continue on as before unless circumstances change.

Overseas Pension Deductions.

Currently overseas Pensions can affect your Super or pension payments. From 9th November 2020, this will no longer apply. This will help recognise you as an individual with your own entitlement to Superannuation.

For other changes, affected people will receive a letter from MSD to explain changes.

Diane Turner | Director, Office for Seniors.

TIPS TO HELP WITH ANXIETY ATTACKS

Look around you.

Find five things you can see Four things you can touch Three things you can hear Two things you can smell and One thing you can taste

This is called grounding. It can help you feel like you have not lost all control of your surroundings. So follow the exercise, find your surroundings stay calm at all times.

Historical Tour of New Plymouth :

Did you know that in 1860, New Plymouth was a fenced City. Did you know that there were 7 forts around the city?

Did you know that some streams and swampland was set aside by our city Fathers and not designated conservation wetland but for another beneficial purpose?

Do you know where the first settlers set foot on dry land in the place called New Plymouth?

If you would like to know the answers, or even if you already know them, join us for an enjoyable tour around our beautiful city.

Gain all the rest of the info and enjoy a tea & lunch with great company on the tour.

11th March 2021. The tour will be lead by historian Mrs Jill Mc Killop. To Enable booking contact 021 02298 721 Agnes or Val 027 289 1810

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Mokau Travel the 5th November

We will travel to Mokau. On route visit the Tongaparutu sea side village. The three Sisters & Elephant Rock. Learn the history of the area. Time to Appreciate the landscape. Dine at White Bait Inn. On to the Museum with it's interesting history. Learn about the latest ventures of Mokau.

Return to the Uruti Valley. The Last of the Samurai Setting up the valley. On to the famous Green Shed farm with it's crafts, herbs and animals. An attractive Tourist venue. Return home late afternoon. A wonderful day out . All for \$50.00. Let's join in!!!!

.....

Travel for 2021:

Historic Tour of New Plymouth: 11th March 2021.
Palmerston North & surroundings: ? June 2021.
Te Popo Gardens & Pioneer Village:
? September 2021
Otorohanga & Waitomo Caves: November 2021.

All Payments for trips to be made three weeks prior to trip date please.

REMEMBER YOU ARE NOT BOOKED UNTIL PAYMENTS ARE MADE, Thank you.

Payments cannot be made with eftpos but with Cheque, right cash, or by Direct Credit to Bank Account... 153948 000 7390 01 Reference with Surname & trip. (e.g. Peters, Mokau)

We look forward to having you join us on some of these ventures.



Well, what a wonderful day out for the Grey Power Trip to Whangamomona on the 2nd of September. A full bus load and wonderful narrative about the history of the area from our very competent bus driver Callum of Weir Bros.

A drive through several very narrow tunnels all dug by hand with pick and shovel which had gasps from one of the members who had visions of being stuck in there. Morning tea at the Strathmore gardens, a lovely prepared lunch at the Whangamomona Hotel accompanied by a talk on the history and area by the owner, a stroll along the charming old road that still has the character of the years gone by and then onto the Mt Damper Falls, where a 10 minute walk to reach them was a challenge for some.

However the effort was well worth while and from one of the lookouts the waterfall looked very spectacular. It was then homeward bound over Mt Messenger another tunnel and back to New Plymouth after a very satisfactory day out.





BUS BETTER WITH



YOUR NEW BUS CARD



Order your BEE CARD online or pick one up from the Customer Services Points:

- Puke Ariki i-Site
- Bus Centre, Ariki Street
- Bell Block Library
- Waitara Library Tranzit, Sunley Street
- If you cannot register your card due to not having an email address or internet, there is a form available so that the Council can create the bee card account for you, just pop into one of the outlets lists above.

QUESTIONS:

Email the Transport Team at: transport@trc.govt.nz Message on Facebook: taranakipublictransport Call Taranaki Regional Council between 8am-4pm weekdays on 0800 BEE TRC (0800 233 872).

Find out more at Beecard.co.nz

If any members would like to travel around the Pukekura Park in the evening to view the lights, please let us know so we can book the buggie.





The buggie takes eight passengers and costs \$5.

A great way to view the lights from the security of a buggie ride.

Please ring the office or 021 0229 8721.

Lab Service on the Move

Big changes are in the air for Taranaki's Laboratory services, with a change in Location and ownership.

After seven months of operation Taranaki Patholgy Services has been sold by Australian owned Healthscope to the NZ Super Fund and the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan Board. which will each take a 50% per cent stake. It was announced in July 2019 that Taranaki DHB had selected Healthscope for its community Laboratory and pathology. This set up Taranaki Pathology Services to take over from Med Lab. This service has been operating since February and opened a new facility in Paraite Road in Bell Block.

This central Pathology Service will be changed to a new site on Gill Street by January 2021.





'It's just too hot to wear clothes today,' Jack says as he stepped out of the shower. 'Honey, what do you think the neighbours would think if I mowed the lawn like this?'

'Probably that I married you for your money,' she replied.



For more information please visit: www.enlivencentral.org.nz

Retired and still rocking?

In the 1950s, guidance counselors recommended that students throw away their rock albums, which Frank Sinatra condemned as ugly and vicious. But did they do it?

Some research suggests that seniors are still rocking to the bands of their youth.

Seniors have lived through explosive musical changes. Influenced by the crooners of the 1940s and 1950s, to the early bluesy rock of Elvis Presley and into the rock band era of the 1960s and 1970s.

One of the main reasons these huge musical movements exist is technology. Radio brought music to the masses. Vinyl records allowed us to choose. Cassette tapes and CDs were portable. And, finally, internet-based music allows consumers to transport, choose, and mix it up.

Some studies say musical tastes change with age. A 2013 University of Cambridge study of data from 250,000 people over 10 years shows that musical tastes shift in line with life challenges.

Adolescents like intense, aggressive, loud, distorted and rebellious music as they struggle to find an identity and overcome frustrations.

Young adults prefer romantic, positive and danceable music as they search for love. In this stage, music is part of the search for intimacy, according to Science Daily.

By middle age and later, people search for relaxing, emotive, and more sophisticated (or complex) music.

On the other hand, smaller studies by online music companies found that people reached their peak music experiences around age 24 and stopped experimenting with music around age 30.

That means seniors may still be rocking out to the bands and voices of their youth.

According to a 2001 study by National Institutes of Health, listening to your favorite songs can give your brain a big dose of pleasure.



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Don't rush in to open an attachment. Take time to think about it. Common sense is important. Windows 10 has built in protection with Windows Defender.

You can also install a third-party programme free or paid for, but you must have only one of these programmes. Look for advice at Anti Virus Protection and Advice.



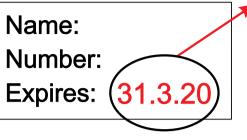
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Subs due date was extended to May 31st 2020 because of Lockdown. Our friendly reminder is that these subs are well overdue now. Please contact the office if there is a problem and we will help collect them for you if necessary. Thank you

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Editorial supplied by Central Audiology Taranaki

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