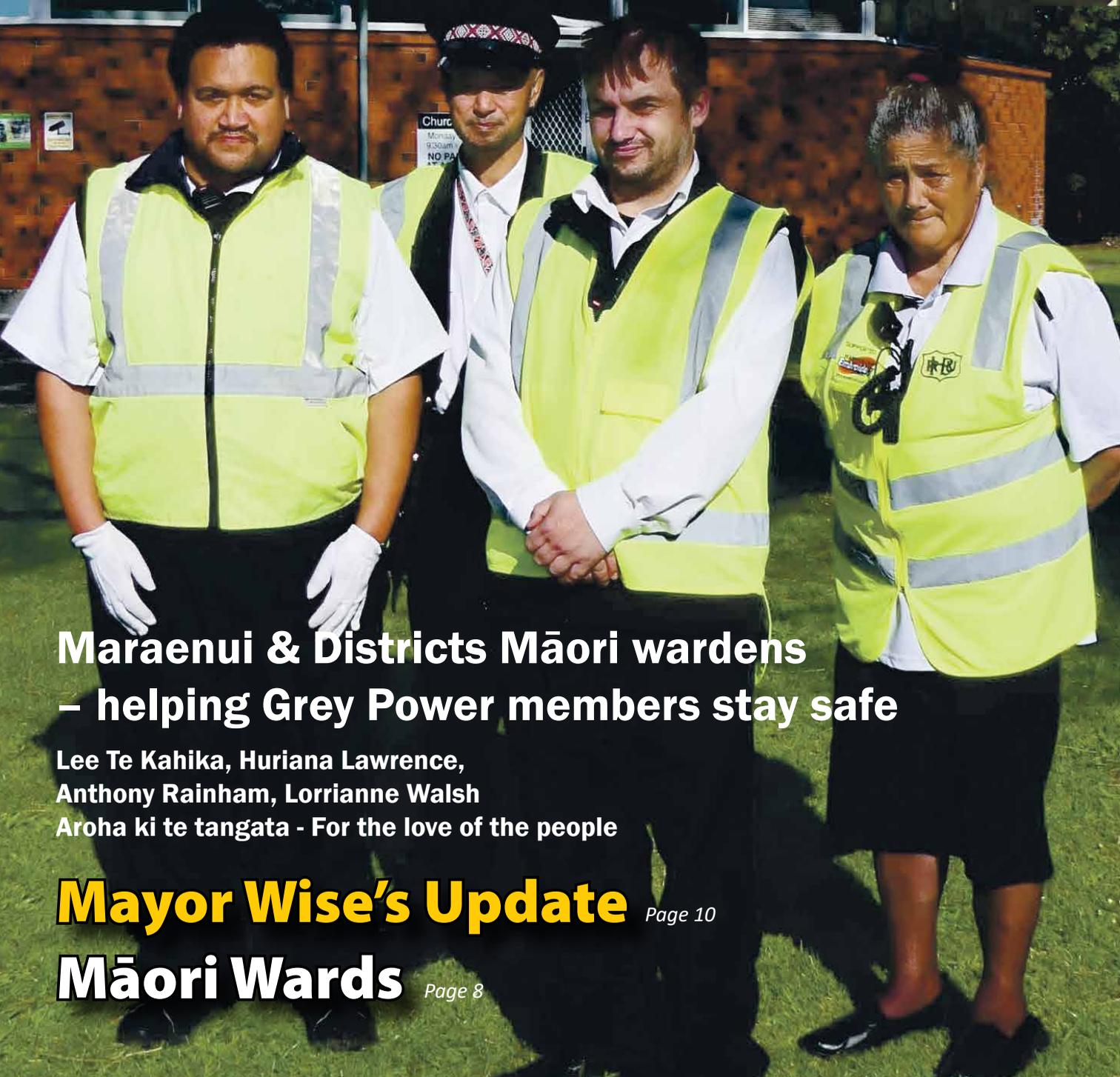


NAPIER and DISTRICTS

GREY POWER

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

SPRING ISSUE 2021



Maraenui & Districts Māori wardens – helping Grey Power members stay safe

Lee Te Kahika, Huriana Lawrence,
Anthony Rainham, Lorrienne Walsh
Aroha ki te tangata - For the love of the people

Mayor Wise's Update *Page 10*

Māori Wards *Page 8*

GREY POWER NAPIER

PO Box 4247, Marewa, Napier. 4143
Phone: 06 844 5635
www.napiergreypower.org



COMMITTEE

President - Bruce Carnegie

(06) 844 5635 | bpcarnegie@gmail.com

Deputy Chairperson - Russell Wyeth

(06) 826 2128 | russjoy@windowlive.com

Secretary - Isabel Wood

(06) 843 0524 | iawood@slingshot.co.nz

Membership Officer - Linda Mellor

(06) 844 3837 | greypowernapier@gmail.com

Treasurer - Ian Cook

ijcook@xtra.co.nz

Publicity Officer - Maxine Boag

021 024 70484 | maxine.boag@gmail.com

Committee

Anne Mitchell

lilyannemitchell@outlook.com

Jacque Hurst

Jacque.tim@xtra.co.nz

Allie Beattie

allibeati@gmail.com

Kay Nesdale

kaynesdale@gmail.com



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Thanks

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Editor's note

Kia ora

I had the privilege of representing Napier & Districts Grey Power at the Federation's Annual Conference in mid July, in Nelson.

A great opportunity for networking, sharing and learning more about how other branches – large and small – operate around New Zealand.

Remits carried included lobbying government to remove age barriers for health screening and vaccinations; making Rates Rebates more accessible (see Ian Cook's article page 14); establishing a National Health Advocacy Consumer service; retaining the current superannuation age for eligibility; and a late remit urging the Board to ask Councils and the Government to prevent any privatisation of Three Waters assets.

With Covid raging in the rest of the world, an impressive pep talk from Professor Helen Petousis-Harris on vaccines gave us all more surety about their importance to us and those around us.

Overall the relaxed, friendly, positive/productive vibe was a credit to our new President Jan Pentecost, who listened and supported and allowed us to speak without the negativity which for me had spoiled many previous AGMs.

I was very proud to say I was from Napier when I got up to speak (as I did quite a few times!). We may not be the largest local Grey Power association, but I believe we are one of the most active and involved as advocating and supporting our 1200 plus members.



Nga mihi *Maxine*

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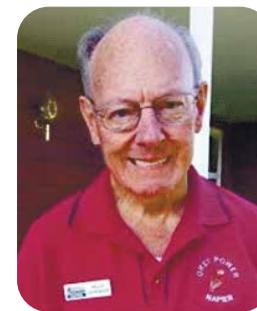


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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Kia ora, winter greetings everyone. I am not a fan of winter and the cold days, good news is, spring starts on 1 September.



Bruce Carnegie
President

Our June Public Meeting.

Our June public meeting attracted approximately 150 members and visitors who came to hear our guest speaker, local MP Hon Stuart Nash, followed by our AGM (see Meeting Reports page 6).

Annual General Meeting.

With John Wuts standing down from the committee we are very pleased to have Linda Mellor as our new membership secretary, a new challenge she is enjoying as she settles into this extremely important position. Also, big welcome to our new committee member Kay Nesdale. Kay is a very valued volunteer who enjoys being part of the Grey Power team. Another change was having Russell Wyeth appointed as Deputy President. Overall your committee is the best team with wisdom, energy and commitment.

John Wuts

The highlight of our meeting was to say thanks to John and Pam Wuts for their dedicated service to Grey Power. For the last eight years I've had the privilege of working with John, an executive officer on our Grey Power committee, holding key roles as treasurer and membership secretary. His leadership also included organising delivery of our quarterly newsletter to our 1400 members. Plus, during the early months of this year when we had a majority of our members renewing their membership, combined with the loss of cheques, to make the transactions go smoothly John developed an administration programme that records data required in making it easy to manage by keeping everything in order. John is also team leader for ensuring our monthly public meetings run smoothly with the setting up of equipment as well as being responsible for the audio sound system and overhead power point presentations if the speakers require. He is always available providing additional support whenever needed. Though John has stood down from committee he will still continue to do the volunteer services he loves doing and we are very grateful for that. We appreciate his leadership and energy towards the continued success and growth of our

Napier Grey Power.

His skill, knowledge, willingness to help others and the dedication to Grey Power through the 18 years as an active volunteer made him an excellent nominee for the Citizens Civic Award. In appreciation we also awarded John a Life Membership with a certificate. We also thank Pam (John's wife) for the many years of support to John and to Grey Power.



Pam and John Wuts with John's Life Membership

Submission to the NCC LTP

We had the opportunity to speak to our submission to the Council's Long Term Plan Hearings when I talked about the proposed 8% rates increase for 2021-2022 and the added financial hardship and stress this will have on many elderly people with limited income. I also expressed concern about the rates rebate criteria not being helpful and suggested the criteria level needs to change and asked for council to lobby central government to lower the threshold of permissible income as the current level is excluding many pensioner couples. (see Ian Cook's article, page 14).

Pensioner flats is another concern we have, we are opposed to having the flats sold or lost from public ownership. The discussion about the future of the flats is ongoing and we look forward to opportunities to make a submission if Council's future review recommends selling any or all of the rentals. Grey Power will advocate on behalf of any tenants so get in touch if that's you!

Finally, scanning and getting vaccinated are the way to go in these pandemic-troubled times!

Nga mihi *Bruce Carnegie* | President

RETIREMENT VILLAGES ASSOCIATION RVA RELEASES A BLUEPRINT TO TAKE US FORWARD

You may have seen some media coverage of the Commission for Financial Capability's (CFFC) White Paper that proposes a review of the retirement village legislation. In our view this proposal is misplaced, as the legislative framework protecting residents' interests in the village is both robust and world-leading. The beauty of the regime is that it permits a huge range of commercial terms that allow residents genuine choice about their village. Looking for somewhere that shares capital gain? There are villages that do that. Want the certainty of a fixed weekly fees? 60% of villages offer that. And so on.

However, we also recognize that there are aspects of the commercial terms, which are the focus of the CFFC's White Paper, that can create problems for residents, especially if units take longer to re-licence than expected and families have to wait longer than desirable for the repayment of the capital sum.

On 25 May 2021, at our Conference, the RVA launched a comprehensive blueprint to introduce a range of improvements in the industry. In particular, the blueprint includes providing residents with a stronger voice, strengthening the complaints process and working with the CFFC to monitor re-licensing times so best practice standards can be developed.

The RVA will also explore establishing an Ombudsman to hear and resolve complaints and invite an independent member of the public to sit on its Executive to represent residents' interests. Retired High Court Judge Hon. Dr John Priestly QC is already the independent chair of the RVA's separate Disciplinary Authority to look at complaints about egregious operator behaviour.

"The growth of our sector, the fact more than 100 Kiwis are choosing to move into a retirement village every week and the overwhelming satisfaction levels among residents clearly demonstrates that we have struck the right balance between robust regulatory oversight and effective self-governance," says RVA President Graham Wilkinson.

"However, we accept there is always room for improvement and refinement around certain practices as our sector and our offering evolves. This blueprint sets out the tangible and definitive steps we will be taking to achieve that goal."

As a first step, the RVA has invited the Hon Tracy Martin, a former Minister for Seniors, to be the Independent Member on the RVA's Executive Committee to ensure the residents' voice is heard at our Board level. We are delighted that someone with Tracey's mana and experience has agreed to take up the role.

As part of the blueprint, the RVA has agreed with the CFFC to survey all members annually to examine

emerging trends and work with members, residents and the Retirement Commissioner to design a best practice approach to re-licensing that reflects the reality of the local real estate market, yet ensures residents' estates do not wait an unreasonable period of time for a refund.

"We agree there is a role for continuously educating operators and residents about the re-licensing process and to encourage best practice including dealing with potential drawn-out re-licensing times," said Mr Wilkinson.

The blueprint also sets out plans to review Occupation Rights Agreements (ORAs) to address any perceived unfair terms or confusing clauses and ensure clarity around what the resident and operator are responsible for, in particular, repairs, maintenance and replacement of operator-owned chattels.

"We will work with our members, residents and the Retirement Commissioner to identify best practice for future ORAs which define each party's responsibilities, so that residents are not responsible for usual maintenance and replacement of operator-owned chattels, whilst protecting operators from bearing the cost of making good resident abuse or damage to chattels.

"Already some operators have moved towards this position and we anticipate the majority of operators will follow quickly."

The RVA has worked with the CFFC to develop best practice standards around the disclosure of information about residents' transfer to care and have called for these to be incorporated into the Retirement Villages Code of Practice.

"We also agree that the retirement sector can encourage best practice standards, as is illustrated by the sector actively encouraging operators to stop charging all fees when a resident moves out," says Mr Wilkinson.

"This is an example of education and market pressure. The practice was extremely rare 20 years ago, but today the majority of villages have adopted this practice and we expect more to follow, although this will always be a challenge for smaller and not-for-profit villages."

Last year, the RVA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Retirement Village Residents Association of New Zealand to work together on issues. These include guidelines on dealing with the media, ensuring complaints raised via either organisation are dealt with expeditiously and fairly, implementing a comprehensive village manager training programme, and regular meetings between both the RVA and the RVRA's Executive Committees.

editorial supplied by the Retirement Villages Association

RYMAN PIONEERS

Peace of mind

Our pioneering approach to retirement living includes our Peace of Mind Guarantees designed to give our residents greater confidence to live the way they want. They provide freedom and flexibility that lets you choose when, where, and how you want to live your life.

1 DEFERRED MANAGEMENT FEE CAPPED AT 20%

The deferred management fee (DMF) is your contribution to the continued maintenance and management of the village, including your unit and the village amenities. It's deducted when your occupancy advance is repaid, which is the amount you've paid to occupy the unit. Your DMF will be no more than 20 percent - one of the lowest in the retirement sector.

For example:			
RYMAN HEALTHCARE	\$500,000	×	20% = \$100,000
MANY OTHER PROVIDERS	\$500,000	×	25 - 30% = \$125,000 - \$150,000

2
FIXED BASE
WEEKLY FEE

3
CARE OPTIONS TO
SUIT YOUR NEEDS

4
FEES STOP
IMMEDIATELY

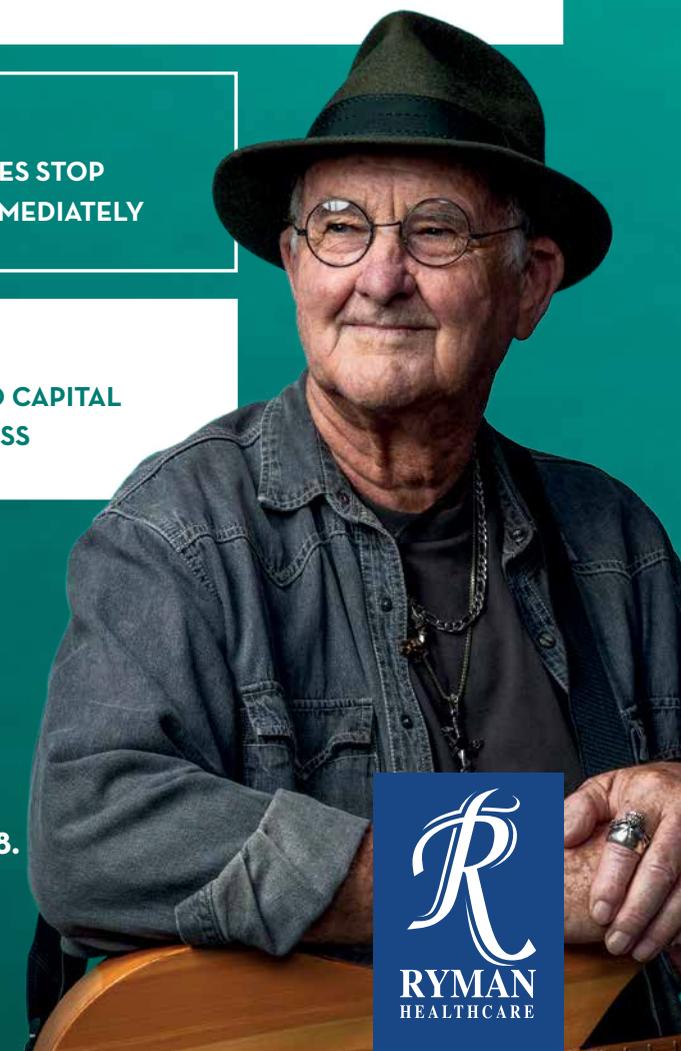
5
NO HIDDEN
COSTS

6
REPAYMENT
PROTECTION

7
NO CAPITAL
LOSS

8
CHANGING
YOUR MIND

9
90-DAY MONEY
BACK GUARANTEE



For full details on our Peace of Mind Guarantees, or our Princess Alexandra Village, call 06 835 3018.

145 Battery Road, Ahuriri, Napier

rymanhealthcare.co.nz



GREY POWER MONTHLY MEETINGS REPORT *Isabel Wood*

Our May speaker was pakeke and Grey Power member **Trevor Taurima** who assists in co-ordinating a Taiao environmental program called Poutiri Ao ō Tāne. This a joint kaupapa between his Hapū's Treaty Settlement Organisation, Maungaharuru Tangitū Trust with Te Papa Atawhai (DOC) and Hawkes Bay Regional Council.



Trevor gave a brief account of his early days of growing up in Tangoio north of Napier, attending Hato Paora College in Fielding and joining the public service in 1965.

Trevor explained that the area of the project extends from mountain range to the sea. The current targeted area is the Maungaharuru range, Tūtira lakes, native bush plots and waterways. Over the last decade the project has been heavily involved in pest eradication/management, erection of pest protection compounds, the translocation of native birds (500) to and from the area, improvement of lakes water quality and replanting native shrubs and plants.

Pests include feral cat, goat, pig and deer as well as stoat, ferret, rat, weasel, hedgehog and possums.

He further explained that the success achieved to date is about relationships and the 'buy in' of Iwi, government agencies, councils, the community and funding agencies. Included are programmes of research, education, rangatahi, and training. He stressed how important volunteers were in achieving current and future successes to the project.

"Through their generous offer of time and energy there is a greener and healthier picture surrounding the lakes," Trevor said. "There is care and protection for native birds as well as improvement to waterways for fish and young people to swim in and enjoy."

Trevor supplemented his talk with a wide and interesting variety of slides and photographs. His whole presentation inclusive of the slides was from a Cultural perspective.

Stuart Nash MP was once again a popular speaker at our June meeting. He outlined his current portfolios in Tourism, Forestry, Small Business and

Economic and Regional Development and said that the government was investing in people, jobs and preparing for the future.

Expanding on tourism, Stuart said that we have a genuine and unique opportunity to reset "Brand New Zealand" as we are seen as a good country to visit. We had shown during Covid 19 that New Zealand had handled this better than anyone else and people wanted to visit us. Visitors pay a \$35.00 International levy – excluding Australian and the Pacific Islands. This levy helps support the infrastructure of tourist towns – the carbon emission from tourists is huge. To optimise tourism, regional and national bodies need to work in partnership.

With regard to economic development, how do we get to reduce our carbon footprint by 2025 with a total reduction by 2050? As key stakeholders we need to be working at a community level. Using wood for buildings would be a global advantage, working harder but smarter and driving the level of productivity up was essential. From the global perspective we are presently in a free bubble market – some countries would experience recession and periods of hardship coming out of Covid19.

Regional investment and businesses means focusing on growing jobs which are essential to grow the economy. Businesses are focusing on digitalisation and soon a laptop may only be needed for some. Our seniors are the last generation to survive without digitalisation.

Forestry - we used to own all our forests but these were sold off in the 1980's and are now 78% overseas owned. The government is looking at taking control back and reviving the NZ Forest Service. Presently lots of logs are going offshore – mainly to China – which means less here for building houses, which impacts on all society. A substantial amount of work is going on with building up the industry and the planting of a billion trees.

During question time many and varied topics were raised by members such as a Covid passport for travellers or testing on arrival. Stuart estimated that it would take 3 – 5 years to get back to the level of tourists visiting as in the past. The gang problem in Napier was raised – this has been a problem for 30 to 40 years, not a new one and while the 1980's were particularly bad with regard to gangs, things were much better now.

Apprentice training was touched on – 50,000 new apprentices – mainly in the building arena – were

being taken on. Stuart said we had lots of challenges ahead and a very positive outlook for the future.

It was a very respectful meeting with good questions from the floor. Stuart said be starting up his fortnightly corner meetings again next year.

President Bruce Carnegie thanked Stuart for his very informative presentation and the meeting continued on with the AGM.

Isabel Wood



Councillor Keith Price with Stuart Nash turning the sod for an extension of PGA, for 9 new badly-needed indoor courts funded mostly by \$6.4 million from Government and \$4.1 million from Napier City Council.

Notice of August Meeting

Mayor Wise is our guest speaker at our August meeting

When: Tuesday, 17 August 1:30 pm
Where: St Columba's Church, Taradale
Who: All welcome!

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<http://napiergreypower.org>

This newsletter is posted on the above website and on the Kiwi Publications website
www.kiwipublications.co.nz

**Have you been vaccinated?
Bookings for those 60 and older are easy
Ring 0800 28 29 26
between 8 am and 8 pm 7 days**

John C Smith

Swap bogus fear mongering with
www.knowledgewagon.nz/covid.html

The contagion control fear story (viruses and bacteria) is as nonsensical as **Jabberwocky**. Leaves me frumious (ala Lewis Carroll).

"Viruses" = Dead cell debris (endogenous never exogenous)
Bacteria = debris eaters

Find and watch online Spacebusters 2021 video **Cov- 19 Immunity in 19 minutes** and then their others in the same genre. Complementary to **Thomas Cowan** (drtomcowan.com), **Andrew Kaufman** (andrewkaufmanmd.com) and German virologist **Stefan Lanka** all referenced on my site in 2020. Don't forget Dr Bailey now co-author of *Virus Mania* (2021) 3rd edition.

This advertisement for your edification and education as the antidote to delusion.

Māori wards by Mark Cleary



Napier City Council's current consultation on Māori Wards should allay the fears of an undemocratic takeover. The supporting documents make it clear that should the Council vote in favour of Māori Wards, the only change in voting is likely to be that there may be 10 rather than 12 councillors for voters on the general roll to choose from in their wards; and two for voters on the Maori roll to elect. If the Napier Council does agree to have these wards, then in 2025 they will fall into line with Wairoa, Hastings District and the Hawke's Bay Regional Council who already have Māori Wards or will have them from 2022.

Constitutionally there are strong arguments for embedding Māori representation in our governing structures. Māori chiefs signed the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840 on the understanding that they were entering into an agreement with the Crown. They had every right to believe they were joining a partnership that entitled them to retain sovereignty (Tino Rangatiratanga), gain the protection of the leading world superpower, while continuing possession of their whenua and taonga.

Instead, whānau and hapū across the land experienced subjugation, disenfranchisement, war, and land theft. Discriminatory legislation and military action enabled huge tracts of Maori land to be confiscated, with Maori losing land and livelihood. Without doubt these devastating events would not have happened if Māori had retained their representation at the governance table and had been able to exert their promised Tino Rangatiratanga.

The socio-economic statistics both nationally and across Hawke's Bay show that our current structures have failed and continue to fail Māori. Across the board in education, health, justice, housing, employment, income and lifespan, as a group Māori are significantly disadvantaged. Clearly one of the Treaty Partners has been and continues to be

significantly short-changed.

Adopting Māori Wards is a minor but significant move, it is a simple mechanism that will more accurately reflect the intent of our founding document by guaranteeing Māori a seat – and vote – at the decision-making table.

Napier Pilot City Trust will be hosting Treaty Educator Bill Hamilton in two public meetings 10am and 6pm on 11 August at the War Memorial. RSVP or info text 027 283 9386

To Make a Submission on Māori Wards Before 16 August

Talk to a Councillor or Council staff about Māori wards and what it will mean for Napier.

16 August – submissions open – forms will be available at Customer Service & libraries; or submit online at sayitnapier.nz

10 September – submissions close

18 & 19 October – hearings

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Unless otherwise signalled, all our meetings are held at St Columba's Church, Gloucester Street Taradale, 1:30pm every third Tuesday in the month. Bring a Food Bank donation, money for raffles, and stay for our delicious afternoon tea. All welcome so bring a friend!

Our guest speakers:

August 17th
Mayor Kirsten Wise.

September 21st
Stuart Ainslie, CE Napier Airport.

October 19th
Todd Dawson, CE Napier Port.

October 1st
International Day of the Older Persons.

November 16
Dr Steph Rotarangi, CE Napier City Council

Christmas Luncheon planned for November Tuesday 30th.

Mark these dates in your diary or calendar, we'd love to see you and bring a friend!



by Stuart Nash MP

few months.

The recent outbreak in Australia has been a timely reminder that, when it comes to COVID, we're not out of the woods yet. As always, our Government's number one priority is keeping New Zealanders safe. But we know that as we continue to keep the virus at bay, we need to secure our economy, too.

Thanks to our careful economic management, we're in a better position than many other countries. Our unemployment rate is lower than that of Australia or Canada, and GDP is tracking in the right direction. These are positive indicators, but the uncertainty caused by the pandemic is still the biggest threat facing our economy.

That's why we're continuing our balanced approach, ensuring we're keeping debt down and targeting our spending. Over the next five years, we're investing \$57.3 billion in infrastructure to drive our recovery, create local jobs, and strengthen regional economies.

Here in Hawke's Bay, a number of projects are already underway. For example, work has begun on the new Hawke's Bay Regional Aquatic Centre in Hastings, which is expected to create more than 150 direct jobs. And the Tukituki Trail extension, which has employed a dozen locals, is nearing completion.

Staying safe and rebuilding better in Hawke's Bay

Spring is just around the corner, and I've enjoyed getting out and about in Hawke's Bay during Parliament's recess after a full-on

Meanwhile, we're continuing our rollout of the Pfizer vaccine around the country, with more than half a million people now fully vaccinated. This is the biggest immunisation programme in New Zealand's history, and it's gaining momentum. The first 500,000 doses took three months to administer; the next 500,000 only took a month. Over the course of the year, 10 million doses will arrive in the country.

If you believe you are in group 3 and have not received an invitation from the DHB or your Health Provider you can phone 0800 28 29 26 to book your appointments.

A reminder that the vaccine is free – and everyone will be offered the opportunity to get it by the end of this year.

I'm proud that, alongside rebuilding our economy and keeping Kiwis safe, we're also continuing to work to ensure older New Zealanders are living better lives.

The Winter Energy Payment will have been helping some of you to more comfortably weather the colder months. Budget 2021 committed funding to establish an aged care commissioner and is delivering \$200 million more for PHARMAC, as well as extra funding for ambulance and cancer screening services. We're also working to implement He Oranga Kaumātua Better Later Life, a strategy to ensure older people are highly valued and recognised as an integral part of families and communities.

Stuart Nash MP for Napier

Minister for Economic and Regional Development, Minister of Forestry,
Minister for Small Business, Minister of Tourism

155A Tennyson Street, Napier
(06) 835 6093

stuart.nashmp@parliament.govt.nz

Office hours are:
9.00am to 4.00pm Monday to Friday

Authorised by Stuart Nash MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington



Kirsten Wise Mayor Napier City Council



2021 has been a busy year to date with Council working on a number of our key strategic planning documents as well as all manner of other initiatives and projects.

Earlier in the year we released our draft **Long Term Plan (LTP)**, which sets out all of our planned activities, major projects, our expected income and costs, and what our rates will need to be for the next 10 years. We received 710 submissions, which provided much food for thought during our deliberations.

Through our consultation, our community reaffirmed that **water is our number one priority** including the delivery of clean and clear drinking water for all. Over the next four years we plan to spend \$36 million in capital costs to upgrade our water infrastructure. This means we will achieve the Government's new drinking water standards within five years. Some of the work we are planning to do will also help to set us up to go chlorine-free in the future - if that is what our community wants and elected members decide. In total we will be spending \$404m on the three waters – so drinking, stormwater and wastewater over the 10 years of the Long Term Plan.

During our LTP consultation we also asked people what they thought about investing \$12.5 million into the development of **Ahuriri Regional Park**. We will be working in partnership with the Hawke's Bay Regional Council and mana whenua to create a significant regional park around Ahuriri Estuary that will improve water quality and indigenous biodiversity. It will also potentially create new areas for recreation. The estuary has degraded over many decades and we are committed to investing to fix this for present and future generations.

Another important consultation topic in the LTP was **community safety**. It is important to me that people feel safe in their neighbourhoods, and I know this is important to our community too. Every year we invest \$350,000 into community safety initiatives. This includes supporting community agencies such as the Community Patrols and Neighbourhood Support to help keep Napier safe.

We also want to try out something new, so are

looking at introducing an **Ambassador Programme**. Ambassadors will work closely with Police and others to mitigate negative behaviour. They will also work with individuals to link them with services that may be able to help them. Our community expressed good support for us to investigate this programme further for Napier.

Additionally, last year we set aside \$500,000 to modernise Napier's **CCTV network**. We see these two activities working together to help promote safety in our public places.

These are just a few of the priorities we are working on in our LTP. There are also a number of other significant projects which weren't specifically consulted on in our LTP and may be of interest to you.

Firstly the **restoration of the War Memorial elements** has moved to detailed design phase after the concept design was well received by community and council earlier this year. After receiving advice from heritage architects the design is very reminiscent of the original architect Guy Natusch's design and we are on target for construction to commence before the end of this year.

The **Aquatic Centre redevelopment** is currently on hold while we relook at the contamination issues at the Onekawa site and Council is due to receive the report of this within the next month or so. Because the redevelopment has been pushed out several years we have funding set aside for repair and renewals to keep the current facility operational.



The **Civic Precinct Project which includes the library and Council Civic building** is progressing with the masterplan for the Station Street site being developed with a number of key stakeholders. We will be taking this out for community consultation next month and then move into detailed design with the library build being the first priority.

The plan for a significant upgrade to the **National Aquarium of New Zealand** was highly dependent on receiving substantial external funding which unfortunately has not eventuated. We will therefore be working with the aquarium team over the next year to investigate options for its future. When we have reviewed the options we will consult with the community about the facility's future, this is likely to be next year.

At the time of writing this update the other significant consultation due to commence in August is the potential establishment of **Māori Wards** in Napier. Throughout the month of July we undertook community wide engagement to share information on Māori Wards and how they work to provide our community with the opportunity to make an informed decision on this matter. Consultation will run through till mid September and we are looking forward to hearing from our community.

Kirsten Wise

Mayor Wise will be our guest speaker at this month's public meeting – *Nau Mai Haere Mai!* All welcome!

AN EARLY HEADS-UP:

The power cheque will NOT be in the mail.

Due to most banks no longer accepting cheques, this year's annual dividend payment of \$230 from the Hawke's Bay Power Consumers' Trust will only be available by direct credit. Registration for direct credit will commence on 18 October with payment being made in late November.

We will keep you well informed of the process as the dates draw closer.

Diana Kirton

Chair, Hawke's Bay Power Consumers' Trust.



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Volunteering – an opportunity to make a difference

We all know the benefits of volunteering – it’s a win-win for the volunteer and the community they serve. Around 2.5 million of our team of 5 million actively support organisations and other people through volunteering, social action and mahi aroha. When you count the voluntary contribution gifted to or through organisations, we give 159 million hours per year to voluntary work. Volunteer work in this context contributes \$4 billion to our economy.

Volunteering Hawkes Bay has volunteering work to suit anyone! They currently have over 250 roles available in 30 categories, which you can view at www.volunteeringhb.org.nz. If you don’t have access to a computer or phone to view our website, please give Leanne a call so they can make a time to help you find something to suit- Phone 022 503 9271.



Current Volunteering Roles available:

- **Red Cross** – Curtain bank, meals on wheels, knitting club and charity shop work
- **Department of Corrections** also has a knitting group
- **Cranford Hospice** has story telling roles

- There are many **charity shop** roles and many driving roles but the most demand at the moment are for board or committee members, secretaries, book keepers and treasurers
- **Victim Support and the Fire and Emergency Recovery Team** are looking for people to support victims of crime and fire - long term commitment with full training
- **Big Brothers Big Sisters** (18 and over) seek volunteers with a commitment of 1 hour per week minimum for a year (full training given)
- **Supergrans** has just started in Hawke’s Bay through the Heretaunga Women’s Centre to mentor single mums.
- **Hawkes Bay Rugby Club** are in need of ushers, junior coordinators, coaches, managers for their 113 clubs from Wairoa to Dannevirke
- **HB Knowledge Bank** – audio editors and researching some of their work (you can work from home)
- **Citizens Advice Bureau** Napier and Hastings; and Peoples Advocacy
- **Samaritans** is a great role if you would like to work from home and have great listening skills
- **Environment Centre, Aquarium and Forest and Bird** all have interesting roles

Ring Leanne Ph 022 503 9271 and talk to her about your interests – registering is free!



Winners (and judges) at this year’s Annual HB Volunteering Awards, including Napier’s Citizens Advice Bureau, Sacred Heart student Sophie Richardson, Faraday Centre Donald Tucker (absent).

What will Māori wards mean for Napier?

Napier is building its knowledge of what Māori wards mean for its community ahead of a Council decision in a couple of months on whether to establish them.



Māori wards work in a similar way to Māori seats in the General Election. Creating Māori wards as part of the Napier City Council make up would see two seats specifically in place to represent Māori voice and interests based on the electoral formula.

Those on the Māori voting roll will be able to elect a representative in those wards. Any ward system means ward councillors work for the City as a whole, while also representing the interests of their ward.

Mayor Kirsten Wise wants to make sure everyone in Napier has plenty of time and opportunity to find out for themselves what Māori wards are and how they work ahead of the Council decision.

The primary aim of Māori wards is to ensure Māori are well represented in local government decision making.

There are currently four wards in Napier: Ahuriri, Onekawa-Tamatea, Nelson Park and Taradale. People are only able to vote for candidates in their ward and for the Mayor.

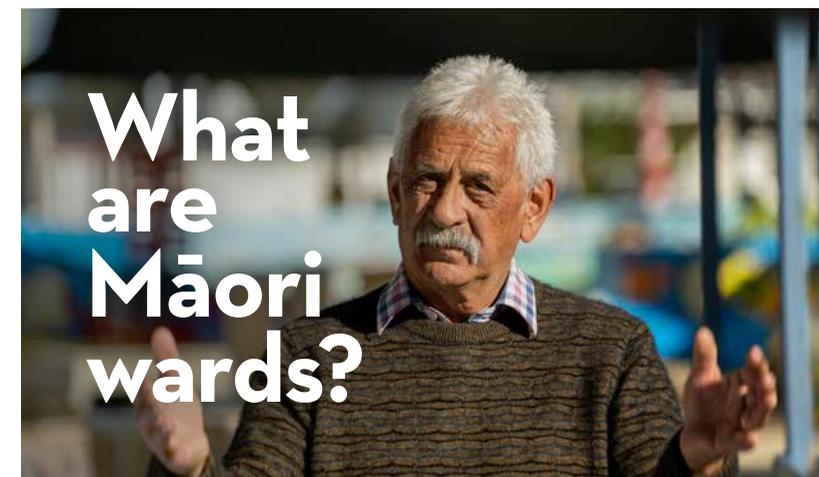
If Māori wards are established in Napier, those on the Māori electoral role will be able to vote for candidates in the Māori wards. Whether those wards are geographical or categorised in another way would be worked out as part of a full review of representation ahead of the 2025 local government elections. This review looks at the whole council make-up again including whether there are wards, the

number of councillors and how Māori wards could be included.

Much like central government elections, voters on the Māori role will only be able to vote for candidates running in Māori wards, while those on the general role will only be able to vote for general role candidates.

Mayor Kirsten Wise knows it’s crucial to make sure the community has all the information it needs to give informed feedback about how it’s represented at local government level.

“Although the decision sits with us, we work on behalf of our community so before we make a call we want our residents to share their views with us” Mayor Wise says.



Māori wards aim to make sure that Māori are represented in local government decision making.

Visit sayitnapier.nz to learn more.



Rates Rebates cutoff

excludes many - Ian J Cook.

Even with the annual increase of Rates Rebate to a maximum of \$665, many couples on NZ Superannuation would not qualify for a rebate in its present form.

I use our situation as an example:

The current rate of NZ Superannuation for a couple is just under \$40,000 per annum.

Our modest home attracts a total rate of \$2798.46, so if our income were NZ Super alone, we would be on the cusp of eligibility.

However, a small amount of bank interest, even with the current meagre bank interest rates, can tip us over the upper income threshold. But not only that, MSD allowances are included in the income tally, such as Disability Allowances, (i.e. an allowance for a St John Alarm @ \$29/ fortnight, \$754.00 per annum), and Winter Energy payments approximately \$700.00, (tax free but in the calculation)!

Using the Rates Rebate calculator on the government website, an income of \$598.00 over and above NZ Superannuation would be the point of zero rebate. Interestingly, if I owned a more expensive property

with higher rates, I would be more likely to qualify.

Editor's Note: Napier City Council and the Grey Power Federation have agreed to write to central government to seek a lower threshold that does not exclude pensioners who have a very small income.

RATES REBATES

Napier City Council would like to remind our members that you can now apply for a rebate for rates due to be paid from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.

If you get your application in now, you will benefit by receiving the payment early to cover this year.

The rates rebate is a once a year payment from the government to assist home owners with payment of their annual rates. The rebate is based on your income, not the value of your assets.

Many people who may qualify for a rates rebate don't apply. Napier City Council staff are happy to check if you qualify, please give them a call on 06 834 4197.

INVOICE for GREY POWER MEMBERSHIP 2021-2022

If you are a NEW member; or an EXISTING member (and the sticker on your Grey Power membership card is not YELLOW) your membership fees are due

Either:

1. Pay your sub online to **bank account number: 38-9009-0434068-00** Grey Power Napier & Districts; put your Surname, Initial and Grey Power membership number if renewing. If you are a new member, please email Linda at greypowernapier@gmail.com to let us know you have joined. **OR**
2. Complete this form and phone Bruce at 844 5635 to arrange a pickup.

Your name/s

Address

Phone email M'ship no

You are paying \$15 for 1 member (tick if applies) or \$27 for a couple

Amount paid: Payment Type:

Can we email your newsletter?

Thank you

WHY JOIN GREY POWER?

For only \$15 per year (single) or \$27 for a couple, you can become a member of the Grey Power Federation as well as Napier & Districts Grey Power for the year **1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.**

Membership benefits:

- Free local Discount Book
- Four local and four national newsletters per year
- Free Accident Insurance Cover - \$2000 paid by AIL in event of death by accident or loss of a limb
- Reduced Health insurance
- Cheaper gas & electricity through Grey Power Electricity's low user rates for members

Your membership is vital to our effectiveness in seeking discounts and advocating on matters you care about. By the way, you don't have to be over 60 to become a Grey Power member - anyone can join and get the benefits!

Call President Bruce 844 5635 for more information.

Quarterly Newsletters:

Next issue

Tuesday 9 November, 1 March 2022, 7 June.

Contact Maxine Boag with any items of interest.

Previous newsletters can be seen on www.kiwipublications.nz

Monthly Meetings

3rd Tuesday each month, 1:30 pm
Convenor: Bruce Carnegie

It's the little things that Judy appreciates the most – like getting out and throwing a ball with her grandchildren.

Two years ago, before joining a weekly Strength and Balance class, Judy was in pain daily.

"I got stiffer and stiffer before having both knees replaced."

Now 68, she remembers looking ahead: "I knew if I didn't do something, give me five years and I'd have so much pain that I wouldn't be getting much pleasure out of retirement."

"Successful surgery meant I could improve my strength, mobility and fitness."

For people over 65 like Judy, the increased risk of falling is very real. ACC statistics show that every year one in three people in that age group will fall, often resulting in injury or hospitalisation.

Enliven is proud to be the lead agency in Hawke's Bay and Tairāwhiti for the Live Stronger for Longer initiative, tasked with ensuring every person in the region aged 65+ who is at risk of falling has access to a Community Group Strength and Balance class.

There are now over 70 accredited classes in Hawke's Bay from Takapau to Wairoa, and 13 across Gisborne and Tairāwhiti. And it's never too late to start.

"The classes are still challenging," says Judy. "But there's a healthy balance between challenge and encouragement. Now I can have friends round or go out to something social and not worry about how long I'll have to stand."

If you'd like to join a Community Group Strength & Balance class near you, please get in touch:
(06) 281 2534 | 0800 436 548
enliven@psec.org.nz | livestronger.org.nz



380

Last year more than **380** local people took up the challenge to move more and reduce their risk of falling.

63

There are **63** ACC-accredited Community Strength and Balance Classes in Hawke's Bay. Find your class:

livestronger.org.nz Or call Enliven: **06 281 2534**

Grey Power Napier committee 2021-2022



Front from left: Allie Beattie, Isabel Wood, Ian Cook, Maxine Boag, Anne Mitchell
Back: Bruce Carnegie, Linda Mellor, Kay Nesdale, Jacquie Hurst, Russell Wyeth

Grey Power Napier would like to thank our generous sponsors and supporters, including:
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much

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PO Box 4247
Marewa 4143

