

NAPIER and DISTRICTS

# GREY POWER

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



WINTER ISSUE 2022



**Ngā Pakeke o Maraenui  
at their weekly get-together**

**Council keeps their housing** *Page 4*

**Assisted dying - Wendy's wishes** *Page 10*

## AGM

Tuesday 21 June 1:30pm St Columba's Church, Taradale

SPEAKER: **MAYOR KIRSTEN WISE** followed by

AGM, afternoon tea.

All welcome, Nau Mai Haere Mai

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

**Many subs remain unpaid. Please renew as soon as able.**

**Cards with 31.3.22 are overdue now.**

**Ring Bruce at 06 844 5635 for assistance or to collect subs.**

# 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

## Editor's note

Where to start? Lots happening on all fronts as we go to press!

This week (ending 20 May) has been a biggie: our first Grey Power meeting, attended by about 100 of us, on Tuesday, with Peter Grant moving me to tears a few times with stories from his years managing prisons, private and public; (See Isabel's report, page 6).



Then Wednesday 18th May was D-Day for Napier's 377 Council flats, with Housing Review hearings. Met with protestors outside the hearings venue, we councillors then listened to 18 submitters (out of a total 291), most of them urging us to retain them. In the end we voted unanimously to just that, proposing funding from a rates-rental increase combination. (Read all about it on pages 4-5)

Health wise, covid figures are again on the rise, with us over-60's disproportionately represented in the death count. A fourth vaccination seems likely for us seniors in July, but in the meantime, the importance of boosters and flu shots cannot be emphasized enough.

I will be attending the Grey Power AGM in Wellington, representing Napier members, in July, and to speak to a housing remit we put together. Among other things! I appreciate this opportunity to network and contribute to the strength of the Federation, which seems to be on a more positive trajectory these days. I'll report back, but watch our Facebook page.

We have Grey Power committee elections at our AGM; please consider standing if you'd like to be more actively involved.

It's Local Body Elections in October and unlike Parliamentary politics, we don't have parties and policies to guide voters. It's a lot about name recognition, so being an incumbent is a huge advantage, but strong competition is the backbone of our democracy. Let's hope a good number of new contenders put their hands up. Being elected unopposed is not good for democracy so let's find new candidates, diverse candidates, to give us all a run for our money!

Enjoy your newsletter, and thanks for your joining Grey Power!

Ngā mihi

**Maxine Boag**

Publicity Officer and Napier City Councillor

## Why it's important older people get the flu jab



Over-70s member Pete Findlay gets his flu jab at Marewa Pharmacy.

As winter approaches, there's a much greater chance of catching the flu. And, with international borders now open, we'll see new and re-occurring strains of flu spreading in our communities.

The flu can be serious and make people very unwell. It affects the whole body and can last up to a week or more. In

some cases, the flu can put people in hospital – particularly if you are 65+, or 55 and over Māori or Pacific. In severe cases the flu can be fatal – around 500 people die from it every year.

As you get older your immune system isn't as good at protecting you, even if you feel fit and healthy. That's why it's important to boost your protection with a flu jab.

### Getting the flu jab

Although having the flu jab doesn't guarantee you

won't catch the flu, it will give you more protection and reduce the symptoms if you do catch it.

In 2022, all people aged 65 and over are eligible for the free flu jab. For Māori and Pacific people, the free flu vaccination is available from 55 years.

For the best protection, get the flu jab before the start of winter. You can get your free flu jab from your GP or healthcare provider. Many pharmacies also offer the free flu vaccine. The flu jab is also free for those with underlying health conditions and if pregnant.

### Getting a COVID-19 vaccination at the same time as the free flu jab

You can have a COVID-19 vaccine or booster at the same time as your free flu vaccine. There's no need to leave a gap between these vaccines. Being up-to-date with all your vaccinations gives you the best possible protection. You will need to check the vaccination site is able to administer both before you arrive.

If you've recently had COVID-19 you can have a flu jab as soon as you've recovered.



When supporting the advertisers within this magazine **PLEASE DO LET THEM KNOW.**

Their continuation enables our newsletter to be provided free of charge - they need to know where you found them and that the advertising is working for them too.

*Thanks*

Acknowledgements: This newsletter was compiled by Publicity Officer Maxine Boag with the assistance of committee members. It was printed by Kiwi Publications, folded and distributed by member volunteers and delivered by members or emailed by the Membership Secretary. Neither the Association, nor any person or persons associated with it accepts any liability whatsoever for the contents of this newsletter, nor do we necessarily endorse any product advertised, or any opinions expressed.

**This publication is designed and printed by Kiwi Publications Limited.**

For advertising phone Dave on 027 652 5220 or email: dave@kiwipublications.nz

**www.kiwipublications.co.nz**

Please refer to our website for disclaimer.

*Supporting you both*  
Now and into your future

**Residents often tell us that they wish they had made the move to a Ryman retirement village sooner.**

Making the move while you're independent allows you to enjoy everything that's on offer. You also have the peace of mind knowing there is assisted living, resthome, hospital and dementia care onsite. If your partner needs care before you, knowing the village care centre is only a short stroll away will help ease this transition.

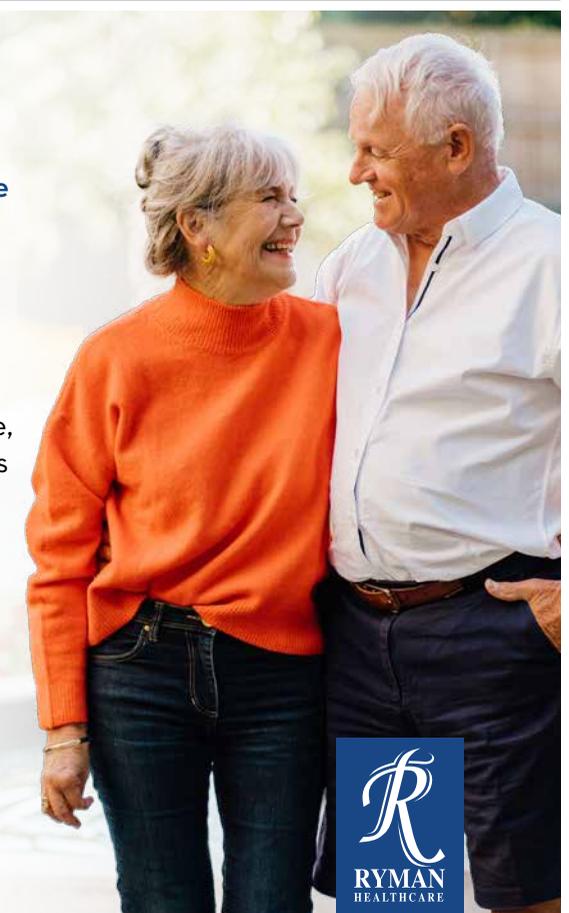
We've got you, both.

**To find out more about the Ryman Difference please contact Shona on 06 835 3018.**

**PRINCESS ALEXANDRA VILLAGE**

145 Battery Road, Ahuriri, Napier

[rymanhealthcare.co.nz](http://rymanhealthcare.co.nz)



# Napier City Council decides to keep social housing portfolio despite funding difficulties

Gianina Schwanecke, May 19 2022, NZME

Napier City councillors have unanimously agreed to retain its social housing, after more than 70% of residents said they wanted it retained.

“Number one for me has been around giving our tenants certainty,” Napier mayor Kirsten Wise said. “We now have a clear pathway to establish the best possible and sustainable way to retain ownership of our property portfolio.”

The future of the 377-unit housing portfolio, and its tenants, seemed uncertain after council found it could no longer provide housing funded solely through rents.

Council asked residents to choose between three options, which included retaining, selling some housing to develop new units, or selling or transferring all of its housing to another social housing organisation.

Eighteen of the 291 submitters addressed councillors during a several-hours-long hearing on Wednesday, where the majority called for council to retain housing in some capacity, citing the housing crisis and an obligation to protect the many elderly or disabled residents.

Following debate, council resolved to implement a sustainable cost-recovery rent setting based on an 80-20 private/public split and continue to fund deficits through loans until any rates increase has been consulted on with the public.

For some like councillor Maxine Boag it was welcome news after what had been a “long and harrowing process” that began four years ago. She hoped the decision to retain ownership would give tenants some “security and peace of mind”.

Councillor Sally Crown said council’s decision had been guided by the wellbeing of its people with a result that balanced compassion with caution.

Councillor Richard McGrath congratulated council for “putting people first”, though he acknowledged the funds would need to be found. “We’re now scrambling to how we pay for it, so it means we actually put people first.”

Deputy mayor Annette Brosnan was also concerned about a potential rates increase of 2%, especially for young struggling families already struggling with rising costs of living.

While she supported the resolution, she felt it was the “easy decision” and that council had missed an opportunity to add to its stock.

Wise disagreed saying she felt it took more courage to retain ownership of the portfolio which has a new estimated value of between \$98-\$101 million.

“It became quite clear that retaining our portfolio was the only option we could move forward with in order to ensure we protect our tenants and ... that we have the ability to maintain control and explore other opportunities to provide the service in a more effective way.”

Council officers were also tasked with developing a comprehensive housing strategy alongside lobbying central government for council access to income rent subsidies.

This also leaves open the option of a Hawke’s Bay council housing trust being established or contracting an external provider to manage council-owned community housing properties.



Henry Charles Village in Onekawa is one of the oldest in the Council portfolio

## Opinion: We did the right thing

After almost four years of humming and haling, on Wednesday, 18 May, Napier City Council voted unanimously, at the end of a day’s hearings, to retain ownership of its 377 social and pensioner flats.

Relief was the main reaction expressed - by the tenants, by the protestors who had waved “Don’t Sell!” placards outside council offices for over a week; by many submitters; and by the councillors who had been through a long process of reviews, workshops and reports before making this decision.

**Why did it take so long?** In 2018, NCC commissioned a Section 17 A review of its housing portfolio. This is a legislated requirement; all local authorities must review the cost-effectiveness of their assets, infrastructure, public services and performance of regulatory functions.

The findings from the Morrison-Lowe report were clear: because of future costs, council should sell or lease all or some of their housing units; and they “recommended that the status quo (ie retaining the units) is not considered further”.

Many of us elected members did not accept the blanket exclusion of the status quo, so over the following three years, proceeded with a (Covid-stalled) series of further workshops and reports which looked more closely at the options – including retaining the housing; but finding the means of financing the shortfall. Hence retention of the status quo was one of the three options sent out for consultation.

**Selling to a CHP and the IRRS** Many, but not all councils have sold their housing portfolios to a Community Housing Provider (CHP) – always at a loss, but seeing this as the best way to ensure vulnerable citizens have subsidized housing.

I didn’t support this option, as CHPs, in order to access the Income Related Rent Subsidy or IRRS (when the government tops up the heavily reduced rent CHPs charge tenants to market rates) have strict eligibility

rules which require new tenants to be taken from the Social Housing Register which lists those in highest need of housing. We currently have 801 households in Napier, living in motels or emergency housing, who are in that category.

Some of the submitters expressed concern that this could see younger tenants in the pensioner villages, with the potential to change the social fabric that currently provides a quiet, safe environment for seniors.

The permanent loss of this asset was also a concern: once it’s gone, it’s gone.

**What now?** Our housing staff have been charged with following up on council recommendations, which will include informing tenants of their rent increases. Their report recommended that 75% of the shortfall be paid for in rent increases; and 25% in a rates increase. Council’s final decision was to change to an 80%-20% split, lowering the rates contribution but further increasing the rent. Access to the Accommodation Supplement should mitigate this, but the overall size of this rent increase has yet to be revealed.

Many submitters and protestors were convinced that council had decided before consultation to sell the portfolio. This was clearly not the case. We genuinely wanted to hear what our community thought, so their input was essential.

It’s the best outcome and one requiring only future consultation on the rates increase. If we had decided to sell or lease, tenants’ insecurities would continue for years, with further consultations, and not knowing who might become their landlord or neighbours.

Thank you to all submitters, staff and my councillor colleagues for your contributions.

I’m proud how we - citizens, tenants, ratepayers, and councillors - stood up together, and have put an arm around our vulnerable seniors to provide them with housing security for now and for future years.

**Maxine Boag** | Housing Portfolio holder, Napier City Council.



## Grey Power meeting May 2022

How great it was to be able to have our Grey Power meeting in May after so many months' absence. Committee members were very pleased to welcome so many of our members back.

Bruce Carnegie, our President, welcomed guest speaker Peter Grant who gave a brief synopsis of his life as an army officer, signing up when he left school in 1956 and serving in many overseas countries. When leaving the Army in 1992 he then spent 15 years in the Prison Corrections Service. He was contracted in to run learning groups in private prisons in Australia for 3 years, dealing with, in particular, boat people arriving from Malaysia.



Peter Grant

Coming back to New Zealand in 2002 Peter became a Regional Manager for prisons, serving in New Plymouth, Manawatu, Wanganui and Hawke's Bay. He worked mainly with Māori – mentoring them

and helping them achieve their goals.

Peter felt that the public have a huge misconception about life in prison – it is NOT a holiday camp – “sure they have 3 meals a day but it is a very noisy living environment,” and can be very intimidating, particularly in regard to the influence from gangs whose leaders tend to have lots of authority. Sending offenders to a prison further away doesn't help as it then cuts off family visits, which are important. In actual fact he believes prisons are not achieving what is needed – being imprisoned can be “a mind-boggling boring existence.”

Programmes are needed to deal with many of the issues prisoners face – education, mental health, gang activities. One of the successful initiatives tried was having low-risk inmates go out to work; learning new skills and the discipline of work ethics. Peter believed this helps prepare prisoners for the time they leave and have to reintegrate into

family and community life. Prisoners are always well supervised on work contracts and some of the money they earn (like in orchard work) helps pay for officer's supervision, with the rest going into the prisoners bank account where they can use it to pay child support, or fines: getting rid of debt helps with rehabilitation.

Sadly 70 to 80% of prison inmates have mental health issues so prisons have become de facto health institutions, which staff are not trained for. Peter advocates that more mental health facilities should be available to support these people instead of sending them to prison – a way is needed to deal with this. Many homeless people also resort to criminal activities to gain time in prison over the winter months!

60% of prisoners were Māori and Peter was saddened by the fact that 60% of men serving in Vietnam were Māori and were considered to be the best soldiers in the world. Many influential Māori leaders are trying to get a programme started to help Māori youth who didn't understand their own culture. He spoke of an 82 year old kuia who ran programmes immersing Māori in their own culture and encouraging staff to learn their whakapapa and this had worked. Many were in prison because of education failure. Peter cited an example where a school principal attended the prison to help these youths, who subsequently felt it was the best education they had ever had. Many were now high achievers so the opportunity to learn in prison was beneficial.

Peter believed that private prisons should exist not only for making a profit. Australia achieved better results in their private prisons where prison managers had to meet their targets and worked hard to do this. They undertook complete health surveys of prisoners. Corrections here need to plan and prepare to address health issues.

For youth offenders the two worst things that happened, in Peter's opinion, were the regulations forbidding corporal punishment in schools and the anti-smacking laws. Youth offender numbers had soared from that time – they had no understanding of the cause and effect of their actions due to lack of discipline. This was helping to send our youth to prison.

Peter was thanked by Bruce for a very enlightening and interesting presentation.

*Isabel Wood*

## May meeting after-match cuppa



by Stuart Nash  
MP

### More support for over-65s

I want to make sure you know about the extra support the Government has introduced to support older people in our community with the cost of living. As the weather starts to get colder

here in Napier, I wanted to send a quick reminder that the Winter Energy Payment had started again on 1 May. This will be paid until 1 October. You don't need to apply for it, you'll get it automatically, paid with your superannuation. Couples get \$31.82 a week and single people, \$20.46 a week.

We can't control global events, but we can control how we support New Zealanders. To combat these rising costs, the Government has put in place extra measures to help ease the pressure on Kiwis. This includes the suite of income support changes

the Government introduced on 1 April, such as a significant boost to Superannuation payments, halving public transport, and a 25c per litre reduction at the petrol pump, putting more money in the pockets of people.

We're taking a range of actions that together, will make things easier for Kiwis, and will build on the measures we've already put in place.

Omicron is still in the community and with new variants emerging, wearing a face mask and getting boosted are still important. If you are self-isolating and need help with things like food, medicine or paying the bills, support is available. The best way to request this is to phone the COVID-19 Welfare line on 0800 512 337, but the staff in my office is also on hand to help.

**If there's anything I can help you with, or if you'd like to raise an issue that's affecting our community, please do get in touch.**

# 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](mailto:stuart.nashmp@parliament.govt.nz)

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

Authorised by Stuart Nash MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT to the AGM 2022

With what's happening in other parts of the world as well as Covid still with us we should be very glad that we live in this small country of ours at the bottom of the world, with the majority of us having been vaccinated plus the flu jab giving us some freedom and protection against winter illnesses.

The Covid virus has restricted us in different ways but has not stopped us from doing all that is important to us. The following is a brief summary of the year's activities.

### General meetings 2021

Unfortunately, within this financial year due to being in the red light setting our last meeting was in **August** when our guest speaker was Mayor Kirsten Wise, who always attracts a good attendance with about 140 people. Mayor Kirsten gave us an update on progress with many of the long-term objectives as well as answering questions from the floor. A key point was the concern about the future of the pensioner flats.

In **May**, our guest speaker was one of our members Trevor Taurima, area co-ordinator for Poutiri Ao ō Tāne - the mountain that rumbled and roared, Maungaharuru, near Lake Tutira. Trevor shared with us the amazing amount of work being done by many agencies in an environmental project to protect native birds and improve the waterways from a cultural perspective.

In **June** we held our 2021 AGM with guest speaker MP Stuart Nash who brought us up to date with what's happening with in his portfolios, Forestry, Tourism, Small businesses. It was a very informative meeting with questions from the floor.

Our speaker in **July** was John Collins, Executive Director for Retirement Villages Association, who spoke about different types of villages as well as the benefits of choosing to live in one. There was a lot of interest as some of our members were looking at downsizing and moving into a retirement village.

At the end of all meetings, we enjoy catching up with others during the afternoon tea and thanks to Allie Beattie and all the volunteers who help with



Bruce Carnegie  
President

this as well as setting up tables, chairs and many other duties to make our meetings a success for your enjoyment, their help is invaluable and very much appreciated.

Sadly due to Covid we had to cancel our Christmas Luncheon at Pukemokimoki Marae, for the first time in many years.

Similarly we had to cancel our Volunteers Luncheon which we normally start the year off with in early February to show our appreciation to the 60 volunteers who throughout the year do so much keeping you informed and our association alive in Napier.

Though we couldn't have a luncheon I take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all our volunteers who give of their time, energy and expertise in many ways including distribution of the newsletters, phoning keeping in touch with members who don't have access to the internet, catering, organizing events as well as attending other meetings. Plus not to forget our dedicated committee who all do so much, working on your behalf.

### Other Activities

**October 1st is "International Day of the Older Persons"** and last year we joined Age Concern in assisting Napier City Council to celebrate this. The theme was "Digital Equity for all ages" and we decided to promote digital skill classes as part of a radio campaign with The Breeze and the Hits radio stations. The promotion was to encourage listeners to post in a photo with an older person in their life. There were 200 entries and over 10,000 views on Facebook. Overall, it was a very successful day.

**Zone meetings.** Four times during the year we normally met with other associations from the Lower North Island at Palmerston North but due to Covid we have been participating via Zoom meetings. We value being able to communicate with others to discuss issues, concerns and matters we have in common as Grey Power associations.

Also, we've been very involved in Napier City Council's



### "Positive Ageing Strategy Advisory Group".

(see picture at bottom of page 8)

The Strategy has the vision of "Living Well, Ageing Well" with seven priorities for action; namely getting around, community spirit, health and wellbeing, being informed and involved, things to do, housing and being safe. We meet each month and discuss what could be done to make Napier a better, healthier place to live for the older persons.

We also attended meetings with **the Positive Ageing Trust, NCC Safer Napier** and the **HB DHB Management**.

It was great to have Grey Power represented at three ANZAC Day memorial services and to present wreaths at Clive Cenotaph, Taradale Memorial Clock and Napier Memorial Square; always an honour to be at these services as no way should we ever forget what happened in the past and the sacrifices made by many.

**Submissions and advocacy** – we spoke to our submission for the 2021-31 NCC Long Term Plan and most recently we made a submission to NCC's Housing Hearings, and are very happy with the Council's decision to keep the rental units.

One of the highlights of last year for us was to see our **John Wuts** awarded by the Napier City Council and presented by our mayor the "**Citizens' Civic Award**" in recognition of his volunteer services to Grey Power and in the community. Well-deserved John.

A big thanks to our **sponsors** who advertise in our newsletters, Discount Books, plus a silent donor and **Beth Shan Funeral Directors** who donate generously towards the afternoon teas. Special thanks to **Shona Bayliss from Princess Alexandra Retirement Village** who donate the delicious savouries. Shona also in her spare time delivers our newsletters with in the Pirimai area, and a big thanks to the **Māori Wardens** who greet you when parking at our meetings with a friendly smile ensuring you park safely and correctly, we appreciate the importance of all that they do.

Finally, I thank you all for your continued membership and support. Best wishes to the new committee and looking forward to an exciting year ahead.

Kia Kaha (stay strong); Stay safe

**Bruce Carnegie**  
President | (06) 844 5635

## Losing a spouse, having the children move away, or facing a loss of income are often reasons why older people experience loneliness and social isolation.

There's no doubt that older people are vulnerable to loneliness and social isolation – research, amongst others, show that very clearly.

Their vulnerabilities arise from the loss of a spouse, loss of mobility, loss of income, the children have moved away, or perhaps they're all by themselves in a big house and everyone else in the street's out at work.

This is important, not just because loneliness is painful, but because having inadequate social relationships has been shown to be as bad for health as smoking. British research suggests that lonely people are more vulnerable to chronic diseases, eat less well and give up on themselves, are more likely to be smokers, overweight or underweight though poor diets, drink heavily and are less likely to engage in physical activity.

Breaking the cycle of loneliness takes conscious effort. Break the cycle by making a plan – talk to your local barista or call someone rather than sending a text. Volunteering and hobbies are almost certain ways to make new friends. Pets offer a good antidote – it's important to think beyond oneself.

The vulnerabilities above often trigger a move to a village. It's a great opportunity to make new friends in a community of like-minded people. Villages often have a vast array of new activities, events and entertainment designed to pique residents' interests and encourage involvement.

From time to time we survey our residents to see how we're going in meeting their needs and expectations. The last survey asked 1,300 randomly-chosen residents about their life in the village.

66% reported a greater sense of security and confidence, one third said they enjoy better physical health, and a satisfactory 67% said their social life had improved. So we can tick all those boxes!



Editorial supplied by Retirement Villages Association

# Wendy's Wishes

By Ian Cook



If you don't agree with Assisted Dying or End of Life Choice, please scroll on without reading. This article is for those that do agree.

I wrote this piece in the hope that Wendy's experience might help others understand some of the unexpected obstacles that can be put in your way, and as a warning that if you would like to have the

option of assisted dying available should you eventually wish it, it would be advisable to initiate the process before it's too late.

For the last five years, I was my wife Wendy's principal caregiver, as she suffered from COPD. She was on oxygen for about two years for at least 16 hours per day and suffered many serious infections but always came back from the brink.

Wendy always knew that her end would most likely not be pretty and was an avid supporter of the End-of-Life Choice campaign, in the hope that legislation would give her some control over her final journey.

On 11 December Wendy was diagnosed as terminal with only weeks to live with aggressive fast-moving lung cancer that had progressed to her liver. It was her wish to have Christmas with family and I did everything that I could to make it the way she wanted it.

Unfortunately, Covid saw to it that more than half our family was stuck overseas with no compassionate pathway to return, but that's another issue. She was very brave, but said she did not want to suffer when her time came. Wendy had a nice happy Christmas, and even saw the New Year in.

In early January she went into rapid decline and I struggled with nursing her, despite having help from our daughter, Access Caregivers, and later from Cranford Hospice. It was Wendy's wish to remain at home and I resolved to keep it that way, although I realised that it was possible that it might be taken out of my hands.

Eventually Wendy's condition was at a stage where she had suffered enough and she asked for Assisted Dying. I contacted her GP who visited the same day and then referred her to the MOH. Six days later a doctor sent by the MOH put her through the first interview and was of the opinion that she qualified.

But when the necessary tick box paperwork was in front of us, we found that she was not eligible because she had an Australian passport, despite having lived full time in NZ for 54 years. **Assisted dying is only available to NZ citizens.**

If she had qualified, she would have been interviewed by a second doctor and then the recommendation would have been forwarded to the MOH for approval. Then the two medications required would have to be sent from Auckland and Christchurch. The very earliest that assisted dying could have taken place was another nine days away had she qualified, and that would not be a given.

The doctor had to go back to her and painfully advise her that she did not qualify after all.

Wendy's final weeks were quite ugly and my last memories were not what I would wish upon anyone. At one point she begged me to help her die.

Wendy passed away at home early on the morning of 31 January.

This post is a heads up for those who are approaching the end stage and wish to have Assisted Dying as an option when the end of the road is nearing. It is advisable to have the wheels in motion well before, even if you don't anticipate a rapid deterioration, so you have an option should you wish it.

# An update from Napier City Council



## Rates rebate

**If you are on a low or fixed income and you have not yet applied for this rating year, you may be eligible for a rates rebate of up to \$665.**

This includes students along with retirees living in their own home or in a retirement village.

If you have paid your rates in full already, you can still apply for a rebate.

Property rebate applications close for the current financial year on 30 June 2022.

Apply at [napier.govt.nz](http://napier.govt.nz) keyword search **#ratesrebate**



**Reminder: Applications close 30 June 2022**

## Did you know Napier has 723 hectares of parks, reserves and sportsgrounds?



Everything from destination attractions down to pocket-sized parks, with special features from gardens to playgrounds, sports fields to shady spots to relax in.

Parks, reserves and playgrounds are special public spaces. We want to know how you use them, and how you think we should manage and protect them for future generations. We need your help to guide how we look after them in the future.

We are creating a new City Wide Reserve Management Plan to help us work with the community to establish the balance between use and protection for these spaces. Your input will help us draft a plan that ensures parks, reserves and sportsgrounds are managed consistently, and their natural, recreational, historical and cultural values are protected. We will bring that draft plan back to you for further consultation before it is finalised.

Visit [sayitnapier.nz](http://sayitnapier.nz) to give us your feedback before 27 June.

**Silver Sneakers**  
**Seniors Strength Training**  
Supervised by 2 personal trainers Improves your Strength | Balance Endurance and Fitness  
Tuesdays 10.30am  
06 843 7478 | [info@baycitygym.co.nz](mailto:info@baycitygym.co.nz)  
129 Latham Street, Napier

**ONEKAWA**  
CURTAINS & BLINDS  
We are pleased to offer gold card members a 10% discount on new curtain or blind orders, valued at over \$400.  
17 Lipton Place (just off Austin Street)  
Onekawa, Napier | (06) 843 9862  
[www.onekawacurtains.co.nz](http://www.onekawacurtains.co.nz)

## REPORT ON DHB MEETING 27 APRIL 2022

Once again, representatives from Napier Grey Power, Hastings Grey Power, CHB Grey Power and Napier Age Concern (06 842 1346) met with HBDHB staff to discuss issues concerning older people. The DHB's Planning, Funding and Performance Manager chaired the meeting.

The Covid outbreak was discussed, with concerns raised about masks not being worn indoors, especially with the possibility of the flu causing more hospitalisations.

Age Concern Napier told us about their Community Connections scheme, which has now been extended to give general welfare support as this was identified as needing the most attention. The contract is up to June 2023, with one full time staff member, funded by MSD, who is dealing with increased referrals, phone calls or visits filling a huge gap in care and health management. Age Concern can help with doctor's visit, using the discretionary fund to help support improvement to people's lives.

Napier Grey Power raised issues concerning complaints from members over a lack of hospital care especially for those being discharged especially late at night. We were told that lack of ongoing personal and home management care is mainly because this work force being sadly depleted by Covid. It was agreed that better care needs be taken by staff in making sure those at home are capable of sustaining the care needed. It was suggested that written complaints can be made; forms are available online or are available from the hospital.

We were told that it will take time for home support organisations to build up their work force again; meanwhile if family members are able to help this would alleviate some of the difficulties.

Planned Care remained steady, but with some cases dropped because of Covid. The overdue surgical list has increased significantly.

Our next meeting will be held end of July and it is hoped that discussion will take place on the new Health NZ system and what it will mean for older persons.



Isabel Wood

## Grey Power participates in Anzac Day



Alan Twort lays a Grey Power wreath at the Clive Cenotaph



John and Pam Wuts at the Taradale Memorial Clock



Maxine Boag and Pete Findlay, Memorial Square

## 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 2022 to 31 March 2023**.

### 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.**

follow us **facebook**

follow us on Facebook  
@greypowernapier or website  
<http://napiergreypower.org>

This newsletter is posted on the  
above website and on the  
Kiwi Publications website  
[www.kiwipublications.co.nz](http://www.kiwipublications.co.nz)

If you are unsure whether your smoke alarm is clean or working, or if you can't replace the batteries without assistance, ring your local fire brigade. They will provide this service for you ....

**It could save lives!**



Bruce has a small brown business envelope with a \$15 sub in it, with no name but "Grey Power". Ring Linda if it's you. 06 844 3837.

## INVOICE for GREY POWER MEMBERSHIP 2022-2023

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

### Either:

1. Pay your sub online to **bank account number: 38-9009-0434068-00 (Kiwibank)** Grey Power Napier & Districts; put your Surname, Initial and Grey Power membership number if renewing. If you are a new member, please email [mellorlinda84@gmail.com](mailto:mellorlinda84@gmail.com) or phone 06 844 3837 to let us know you have joined. **OR**
2. Complete this form and drop it off to 10 Trigg Crescent, Taradale or 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**

# Historic restroom hope for Napier's Art Deco Trust home

2 May, 2022 Hawkes Bay Today | By Doug Laing

Plans to restore Napier's historic Memorial Women's Rest rooms as a home for the Art Deco Trust take a big step this week with a move for the nod from the Napier City Council.

The plan comes in a proposal put by the trust seeking a 25-year lease with the right of renewal and offering to take care of the restoration needed for it to be used again - out of action for nine years since a poor seismic assessment result in 2013.

The proposal will be considered by the full council Future Napier Committee on Thursday, with a recommendation from manager property Bryan Faulknor that the council agree in principle and enter into a joint Memorandum of Understanding as the preferred option over the council itself leading the restoration of the Heritage 1 protected building.

Trust chairwoman and former Napier mayor Barbara Arnott says the trust has access to a range of expertise to get the transformation of the building back to a working facility under way later this year, with hopes it could become the trust headquarters next year.

It would again create a connection with the work of influential Napier architect Louis Hay (1881-1948) who designed the building after a 1924 decision to erect a cenotaph and the restroom in the square as a World War I memorial, and a key element in civic centrepieces the Memorial and Clive squares.

Among Hay's many designs in Napier was the old Central Fire Station, which opened in 1924 and was the Art Deco Trust's first home. Incorporated in 1987

it became a full-time operation in 1992 and occupied the old fire station building for the next 20 years before moving to its current site on the corner of Tennyson and Herschell streets.

The restroom sustained extensive damage to exterior walls in the 1931 Hawke's Bay earthquake, after which it became surrounded by the temporary CBD known as "Tin Town".

In 1934 the building was fully restored, retaining the original layout, roof and the base of the brick walls, and is now regarded as having special historical significance as a highly unusual utilitarian memorial designed to benefit women, especially mothers with children.

Its association as a "sibling" memorial to the purely monumental Cenotaph demonstrates the complex post-war debate about appropriate ways to honour the dead, says a Heritage New Zealand citation.

Including a meeting room, it became widely used by community groups and in 1993 was substantially renovated by the City Council to mark the centenary of women's suffrage in New Zealand – 100 years since New Zealand became the first self-governing country in the world to allow women to vote in parliamentary elections.

Its name was changed to the "Memorial Square Community Rooms" to acknowledge the broad use of the facilities but after a council decision in 2013 to refit the single-storey building to better suit the community hub need, a seismic assessment made it unsuitable for public use without appropriate restrengthening and it was closed.

Its continued survival stems from a National Council of Women HB Branch submission to the 2018-2028 Long-Term Plan of the city council, which acknowledged the historical significance and recommended working with parties on options, initially in conjunction with options for the Napier Public Library, its building having itself been closed after a seismic assessment in 2017.

Last year the council resolved to allocate \$100,000 of rates funding in year 2 of the LTP for a feasibility study and associated resourcing, and a capital budget of \$1.5 million in years 2-3, with \$750,000 funded through loans and the remainder external and community funding as a gateway to retaining the rooms.

The trust plans to establish its own project team and hopes the use of the rooms will bring life to the square and improve security in the area, the buildings having for several years been surrounded by high fences to deter vandalism and rough-sleeping in its recesses.

Arnott says the National Council of Woman HB and the Historic Places Trust had submitted to the council on the future of the building, and for the trust, while aware of concerns that it would be moving away from the seat of cruise visitors' arrival in Napier, it is a move motivated by the viability issues of Covid. Spectacularly, it was the loss of that cruise trade and expectations it could be another three years before it returns to pre-Covid levels.

"We've got to be inventive and resourceful to still attract that type of clientele," she says.

"The city council has supported the trust since the beginning, and it would be good if the trust can now become more sustainable, past the centenary of the earthquake, in 2031, and beyond."

### Editor's Note:

At the NCC Future Napier Committee on 2 May, the following resolution was carried:

### The Future Napier Committee:

- a. Resolve to agree in principle to partner with the Art Deco Trust to restore, strengthen, refurbish and lease to the Trust the Memorial Square Community Rooms (Women's Rest).
- b. Resolve to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding, which will set out the terms and requirements of how the parties will work collaboratively and in good faith towards the above initiative and negotiate lease terms acceptable to both parties.
- c. Resolve that a draft Memorandum of Understanding be brought back to Council for final approval on 2 June 2022.

## Quarterly Newsletters

**Next issue:** Tuesday 9 August 2022. Contact Maxine Boag with any items of interest.

**Previous newsletters** can be seen on [www.kiwipublications.co.nz](http://www.kiwipublications.co.nz) and <http://napiergreypower.org>

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



## See you at Enliven!

The Enliven Day Programme offers fun and friendship in a garden setting on Pakowhai Road, Taradale, and at JH Mason Village in Havelock North.

Our schedule includes exercise, sessions for people living with dementia, and even a woodwork group. Make meeting up with friends at Enliven part of your life. Enquire today.

Phone: 06 281 2534  
enliven@psec.org.nz



# 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

## Agenda for Grey Power AGM

Tuesday, 21 June 2022, St Columba's Church,  
136 Gloucester Street, Taradale, 1:30 pm

**Guest Speaker: Mayor Kirsten Wise**, followed by

Opening of AGM / Apologies / Approval of minutes of last year's AGM

Reports: President's, Financial, Membership, Publicity

Appointment of scrutineers

Election of committee: President, Deputy President, Secretary,

Treasurer, Membership Officer, Publicity; Committee (no more than six)

Any other business / Closure / Afternoon tea



Sender: Napier & Districts Grey Power

PO Box 4247

**Marewa 4143**

