

# NORTH SHORE GREY POWER

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AUTUMN ISSUE 2023

**Desley Simpson**  
**Deputy Mayor**  
**Auckland Council**

**MEETING**

**Friday 10 March**  
**1pm, Netball Centre**

**TOPIC: Current Issues**

**This is an important meeting**  
**please try and attend.**



GREY POWER

NORTH SHORE

P.O. Box 32-635, Devonport 0744

Email: greypowerns@gmail.com

Facebook:

Grey Power North - Senior Voice

We have relocated from the Age Concern office in Milford, and our office phone may be unavailable for a short time.

Phone: (09) 486 0862

Membership:

Ron Wilson (09) 478 2490

President:

Bill Rayner (09) 445 3370

COMMITTEE 2022/23:

President: Bill Rayner

Vice President: Dave Moore

Secretary: Anne Martin

Treasurer: Ron Wilson

Editor: Bill Rayner

Membership: Ron Wilson

Committee Members:

Rob Gillbanks / Joe Grieg

Raewyn Nevin / Anne-marie Coury

Bill Atkinson / Trish Deans

Gloria Howe

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Letters to the Editor are welcome on matters relevant to seniors. They must include the writer's name, address and phone number, and should not exceed 150 words. And courtesy is our watchword.

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President’s Word

My last note opened with spring is ending with something of a cold snap and tempestuous weather. It is times like this it is a delight to live on the Shore and not in the deep south or Taihape all snowed in and roads icy.

I wasn’t to know that what was then tempestuous weather was a spring shower compared with the terrible devastation that has hit our home city last month. And as I type this Cyclone Gabriel is heading for us with another deluge.

The impact on our senior community is particularly distressing – we are all so helpless in a flooded out situation. The damage is so wide spread with all possessions polluted by the floodwaters as well as the physical damage of slips and washed away cars.

Sadly once again the emergency services and many residents worked heroically but the Council Emergency Management structure was wanting as it was in the first major COVID 19 lockdown. At that time Grey Power and Age Concern were heavily involved in getting communication linkages established using Age Concern telephone numbers as Auckland Council had no helpline linkage to groups who could help seniors in difficulty at all. We will certainly be making a significant input to the just announced top level review.

Also the election is over with Mayor Brown I’ll Fix It winning by a large margin and now facing a \$290 million Council Budget shortfall, with major costs of the storm impact to come. At times I have a sympathy for our Auckland Councillors who really have no chance to fully understand the finances of such a major enterprise with the wads of reports they have to read and understand. It just doesn’t happen and major change is very difficult.

Grey Power North Shore has a key focus on our heritage preservation and funding for that is on a hiding to nothing in the current financial climate, but the battle needs to be fought.

The annual budget and planning consulting process is under way in which we have always been heavily involved although the HaveYourSay process is not very effective.

Another sad element at the moment is the continuing struggle for senior community organisations, with both my local Bayswater Seniornet and Devonport Rebus Club closing down. With the major budget cuts to Local Board community support funding it is going to be a difficult time for many groups, particularly those involved with seniors.

But it is not all doom and gloom – we have a new Treasurer and IT expert, Ron Wilson, which will get our long planned digital newsletter and social media presence up and running. Very timely as our newsletter publishers face a massive increase in printing cost, and a move to greater digital communication just has to happen. More on that inside.

We have a major part to play in our community’s affairs and this will be a great help.

Very interesting times.

Bill Rayner | President

SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE  
for year to March 31st, 2024

Subscriptions are \$20 single and \$30 for a couple. Donations always welcome

You will not be receiving the invoice slip you received previously so please note carefully the procedure to follow.

Your membership number will be printed on the envelope your newsletter arrives in

As well as your sub payment we need to update our phone and email data base. This is very important as we do not have phone numbers or emails for many of our members. This is not only for our own communications but to be able to provide for contact in emergency situations like we are facing at the moment.

Step One

Payments should preferably be paid online direct to the Grey Power bank account

Westpac A/c 03 0181 0167968 00

and include your membership number and name

Step Two

Then email: greypowerns@gmail.com to advise payment and include:

Name

Membership Number

Phone number

Email address

Also indicate quarterly newsletter preference with: “Digital” or “Printed”

Payment can also be made over the counter at Westpac branches. Some members post their sub directly to the Grey Power mailbox.

If you do not have email, please post us a note with the information to Grey Power North Shore, P.O.Box 32-635, Devonport, Auckland 0744

If you are unable to make payment online by yourself or with help from family or carers, phone Dave Moore on 444-8185 or Anne Martin or Bill Rayner on 445 3370 to help.

MEMBERS MEETING  
Friday, March 10, 1 pm  
Netball North Harbour, 44 Northcote Road

Cr Desley Simpson,  
Deputy Mayor Auckland Council  
is our very topical guest speaker.

We greatly appreciate her coming at this very difficult time for Council.

She will be preceded by a presentation from Trish Deans on the heritage aspects of the current intensification process.

It is an important meeting so please bring your friends and neighbours

.....

We invite you and your friends to stay for our usual post match cuppa.

NEW MEMBERS

Go to the Grey Power Federation website:

www.greypower.co.nz

Fill out the online form and this will automatically be sent to us. You will then receive an email or phone call from us to give you your sub payment options.

Auckland Grey Power Meeting  
Friday, March 24 at 10 am

Mt Albert Senior Citizens Hall. 38 Wairere Ave  
Mt Albert, (in Rocket Park)

A presentation from Auckland Libraries on what they have and how they can help senior people followed by;

SCAM ALERT an Age Concern presentation advising on how senior people should be aware of different scams and how to dealwith them.

Enjoy an outing and a cuppa in the city with our Auckland colleagues

Good parking and great acoustics



# Membership News

The devastation from the storms has been appalling and many of us have been impacted by it, many various seriously. I have been fortunate living in Cheltenham Road at Torpedo Bay to have escaped but many of our members will have been seriously affected like our members living in Arvida Park Lane featured in the newsletter. At least two of our committee members suffered serious flooding and major damage. My sympathy and concern goes out to everyone, and right now I am sitting writing this as Cyclone Gabrielle approaches and it will be even worse. It is a real nightmare serious lessons need to be learned.

Grey Power North Shore with Age Concern played a major role in the similar failure of Auckland Council Emergency Management in the first COVID19 lockdown in heavy dialogue with Mayor Goff and connecting with the Government to establish a communications link via the Age Concern telephone numbers. The action also lead through Minister for Seniors Tracey Martin putting Age Concern on the central COVID management centre and initiating the MSD calls to superannuants who they didn't have emails for, and establishing a linkage from the central call centre to the many pop up community groups checking street by street for people needing assistance. Our key push was to get an Auckland Council emergency telephone number on the 1 O'clock COVID news bulletin for seniors without digital access but had a TV which most do. Didn't happen – Council couldn't cope.

The North Shore had a very effective local Emergency Management system set up after the Christchurch earthquake with local inter-connected leaders and defined refuge centres. But that was done away with and ongoing efforts to re-establish an effective system after the first COVID lockdown hasn't happened. Here were are again with major failure.

We will certainly putting a strong submission to the current Emergency Review group lead by former Police Commissioner Mike Bush on our first round experiences and solutions.

## Going Digital

That is a long prelude but relevant as we need telephone numbers and emails for all members to provide a full connection to emergency services when the need arises to identify our vulnerable people needing help as in the COVID situation when we couldn't perform.

Also for our own communications as we have been advised by our magazine publisher they have just been hit by a massive increase in printing costs and needed a top up payment for our current issue and will be unable to continue with free hard copies. They are going to go fully digital in future so we will need to maximise our digital platforms, a long overdue need in any event.

The good one is that with our new Treasurer Ron Wilson and committee member Trish Deans and helped by Ruth Jackson, all very competent computer and social media people we have the skills to set up digital Mailchimp newsletter and re-activate our Facebook

**Grey Power North – Senior Voice – it is already functioning so make sure you join as a friend. It will be used for notices etc. from now on.**

We will always have a hard copy newsletter for our members who don't have digital access.

## Sub Payment Process Link

**The subscription payment process is linked to this phone/email gathering process so read it carefully** - with 1520 members it is quite a major exercise compared with filling in a form, attaching a cheque and putting it is the post.

*So bear with us – as all ways lots happening.*

### Dental assistance changes

If you're on a low income or benefit you can now apply for up to \$1,000 a year to help with immediate and essential dental treatment.

You don't need to apply for all the assistance at once. You can apply for more than one payment in any 52-week period, as long as the total amount is not more than \$1000. You don't have to pay this money back.

If you need more than \$1000 for essential dental treatment, Work and Income may still be able to help. You may need to pay some back, depending on your situation.

The scheme has been extended to more types of 'immediate and essential' dental treatment, for example, fillings and treatment of gum infection. You can find out more on <https://bit.ly/3wyoMNR>

# Tip For Occasional Lotto Players and Gift Cards

Are you an occasional Lotto player who buys a ticket at the supermarket when the jackpot reaches \$12 million, or gets a Lotto ticket for your birthday or Christmas?

Do you forget that you have it and don't get around to checking the numbers?

You may have won a million dollars and not even realised it.

A recent Herald article highlighted a Lotto player from Ruapehu who went two months unaware he had won \$1 million until Lotto NZ phoned him to deliver the good news.

He normally bought his ticket at his local store but had been working late and didn't have time to get to the shop so he used the My Lotto online option to get into the draw. Clearly with an online Lotto account Lotto NZ know where to find you when your numbers come up.

He did say he preferred to support his local business and usually if you have won the main prize media publicity of the store selling the ticket and associated speculation will drive you to find your ticket and check it – not so easy for smaller prizes.

The article also mentioned he hadn't decided when to tell his wife of the good news. Not smart, he could risk serious damage instead of happy shared joy.

For us oldies, an online Lotto account to buy our tickets might be a good idea.

A further thought is always to spend gift cards for birthdays or Christmas you receive quickly. It is very easy to leave them in the card or put them aside and never use them particularly if they are from a store you don't regularly visit.

The number never redeemed is quite high. Some years ago the operator of the long gone Music Man vouchers for records or CD's advised that 25% of the vouchers were never claimed and written back each year.

Many gift cards have expiry dates, usually twelve months. Never accept this as gospel and challenge the retailer involved if you have overlooked redeeming them in time, and they will invariably be re-issued or accepted.



# 2022 Rates Rebates Now Available Applications close on June 30 2023

Please note that applications for the Council Rates Rebate for the year ended June 30, 2022 are now open

The rebate scheme is administered by the Dept of Internal Affairs as is available to occupiers of residential Properties, and most retirement village residents are eligible to apply.

The scheme is "means tested" with a scale of rebates linked to income and rates paid. The base maximum rebate is \$700 reducing as income increases to being zero at \$47,000.

With an income of \$33,000 and a rates bill of \$2,250 the rebate is the maximum of \$700, an income of \$36,000 and a rates level of \$2,750, the maximum is again \$700. The rebate reduces progressively as the income goes up. At a rates level of \$4,000, the rebate starts reducing at an income \$43,000.

The rates figure includes water rates.

Bit hard to see without the chart on the rebate form but is clear that many members would be in the higher rates level and a medium income where the rebate would be several hundred dollars. It would be worth checking – the application forms are available from Council and libraries, and on the Government website: [www.govt.nz/rates-rebates](http://www.govt.nz/rates-rebates).

Curiously the rebate fund is significantly underclaimed. Grey Power had a joint campaign with Auckland Council in Len Brown's day which backfired as applications dropped as the campaign created the perception it was just for seniors not any low income ratepayers.

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**NORTH SHORE BASED**

## Membership Contact Change Gloria Howe Retiring

Gloria Howe, our Membership lady, is retiring with Ron Wilson our new Treasurer taking over the role.

Gloria has been a real stalwart and has made a major contribution to Grey Power and the seniors on the Shore and indeed all of Auckland initially by playing a major role as a representative and voice for the residents of the Auckland Council senior housing Courts in the transition to Haumaru, and more recently looking after our North Shore membership during a particularly difficult time.

We owe her a great deal and her contribution is greatly appreciated and as President I warmly thank her for the exceptional job she has done and for her cheery friendship. She will be still be involved with Grey Power in other roles.

*Bill Rayner*

## Grey Power Electricity Late Mailing Costs

For some time now some of the invoices for Grey Power Electricity delivered by mail have been arriving late, a result of the current post pandemic staffing problems facing the city. This often leads to a small gap between arrival and the late payment penalty beginning.

This is a daily impost and is included in the details on the back of the invoice, and may be overlooked when the invoice is duly paid.

Our Vice President Dave Moore has been having a dialogue, not entirely satisfactory, on the issue with GP Electricity. He is looking to have any penalty charges waived when late delivery takes place. There is a concern that if this is wide spread there may be a considerable collective cost to Grey Power customers.

Grey Power Electricity's past response has been to encourage customers to arrange direct debits for the payment of accounts which has some validity. But many of us still prefer to have the hard copy in the mail.

Would any members who have shared this issue of late delivery please contact Dave Moore on 444-8185 or email: dave@marinaberths.co.nz

## Ex Speaker Trevor Mallard In Donnybrook

A comical snippet from political commentator Richard Harman advises that New Zealand's new Ambassador to Ireland, controversial former Parliamentary Speaker Trevor Mallard, a man who has engaged in a bit of biffing over the years, is now ensconced in the Ambassadorial residence in the affluent Dublin suburb of Donnybrook.

We all know Donnybrook also relates to an occasion that is a bit of an uproar, a chaotic brawl, or a heated disagreement. The word is derived from a public fair that was held in Donnybrook, Ireland, beginning in the 1200's. By the 1800's, the Donnybrook Fair had a reputation for being a wild event that was finally ended in the mid 1800's.

His Excellency should feel right at home.

Good news for Listener readers is that his partner Jan Clifton will be resuming her highly regarded political comment column in the magazine writing from Dublin.

## Digital Senior Hubs Coming To Shore

Digital Seniors, a new community group to help seniors in the digital world, have started Hubs on the North Shore.

Digital Senior Hubs are social learning spaces for seniors run by volunteer coaches providing free one-on-one coaching and support using your own device in a positive fun and social environment.

Their digital coaches can help you get online to connect with friends and family, send photos, pay bills, do online shopping, manage emails, use your smart phone, and much more.

The Hubs are operating at:

### Takapuna Library

Saturdays 10 - 12 am.

### East Coast Bays Library

Tuesdays 10 – 12 am

### Devonport Community House

Fridays 10.30 – 12 am

For more information contact Fiona Colbert, Digital Seniors Community Manager, on 0800 373 646

or email: fiona.colbert@digitalseniors.co.nz

A great opportunity to keep up with the digital world, absolutely necessary these days.

**A letter to Carrie Hurihanganui  
CEO Auckland Airport – Help!**

## Covered Walkway Access From Terminal to Vehicle Pickup Lane/ Parking Building

Once again on Saturday December 17th I travelled to the airport to pick up my partner, an elderly lady (82), from a flight from Wellington and once again was completely unimpressed with the continuing problem of a sub-standard access for passengers from/to the vehicle drop off/pickup point to the terminal building.

As often in Auckland the weather was appalling and once again my partner got very wet pushing her trolley from the domestic terminal across the two lanes of traffic to the pickup point.

Two points arise:

It is unbelievable that there is no covered walkway from the terminal over the pedestrian crossing, and inadequate shelter in the waiting area alongside the curb of the pickup/drop off area.

I have travelled internationally a lot and cannot recall any significant airport I have been to that does not have covered access from the terminal to passenger pickup points and car parking facilities.

With the major redevelopment of the terminal with sophisticated passenger handling and hospitality facilities it seems incongruous that such a shabby entrance and exit point continues to exist when a few competent Kiwi tradies could put up a cover over the pedestrian crossing in a few weeks, together with more adequate shelter in the curbside waiting areas in a few weeks after that.

The second inter-related point is the current policy of cars picking up passengers that cannot wait for very long in the pickup curb area and drivers are unable to leave their vehicles.

I fully understand the need to keep traffic moving but the problem particularly for the senior community is that it is not possible for them to be helped where needed with their luggage or trolleys by the driver picking them up. The traffic patrolling staff are invariably polite but firm in their compliance role and I had one occasion when one of them very kindly went into the terminal to check a flight arrival for me while I stayed with the vehicle.

Two suggestions to help would be to have a special curbside space similar to the standard disabled parking

spaces in most public parking areas where a car could be left while the driver helped their passenger needing assistance in getting to or from the terminal.

The other would be to have some airport staff available to assist on request for people needing assistance in the same way that Air New Zealand provide assistance for those passengers needing help to check in and access the aircraft through the terminal.

This is a particular problem for senior couples where, as in our case, the partner involved in the delivery/pickup is also elderly without immediate family available to come to the airport as well to assist. I do not believe that there would be a great number in the context of the passenger flow at the airport.

Both these situations are significant health and safety issues, not just an inconvenience, and the senior community would greatly appreciate your arranging for appropriate improvements to be made.

Indeed the improvement in weather protection for the terminal/pickup process would be a boon to all travellers highlighted by the current stormy weather we are currently faced with.

Incidentally, like you I worked with Air New Zealand for some years, including being based at Mangere as Works Accountant at the engineering base in the late 1960's when the airport first opened and the Air NZ jet fleet was three DC8's. Needless to say 50 years on things are much different.

Kind regards, *Bill Rayner*

President – Grey Power North Shore



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*Many thanks*



# Minister Dr Aleysha Verrall Meeting

It was with great pleasure that Grey Power hosted Minister Dr Aleysha Verrall at our November meeting, as her two previous planned visits were cancelled by COVID.

She is Minister for Seniors Associate Health Minister, and Minister For Research, Science and Innovation, a distinguished infectious diseases physician completing her PhD from Otago University in collaboration with Indonesian and Dutch universities her research focusing on tuberculosis infection among Indonesian people. She also became Minister for COV-19 Response, very much the right person in place at the right time. Before entering Parliament in 2020 she was a senior lecturer at the Otago medical school.

Our meeting focus was an palliative care and support for Hospice, and Jan Nicols, CEO Harbour Hospice gave a presentation on the completion of the new Harbour Hospice facility in Takapuna. Harbour Hospice provides free specialist care to more than 360 people each day, Demand for the palliative care across our region is expected to increase by 50% in the next 14 years and 90% in the next 40 years.

Minister Verrall spoke on the background to the Government’s general health policies and responding to COVID 19 before advising that she had a personal special interest in the work involving people suffering from dementia and people in aged care. People shouldn’t need to worry as they get older about the need for care, and a key part of the health reforms have ensured that Palliative care is a key priority. It has been integrated into the new health planning and will

## Seniors Minister Verrall Promoted New Minister is Ginny Anderson

In the very recent Cabinet reshuffle, our recent speaker Hon. Dr Ayesha Verrall has been promoted to full Minister of Health, and loses her Minister for Seniors role. She also retains the portfolio of Research, Science and Innovation which also link to her professional medical and academic experience. Her Cabinet ranking rises from 17 to 8.

It is a well earned promotion but a loss to the senior community as the Minister had a real affinity with seniors and their concerns and issues, and a strong advocate in the political process for us all. We wish her well in her new role, one of the Government’s heaviest and look forward for her coming back to speak to us as Minister of Health.

Her replacement is Ginny Anderson, the MP for Hutt South, who also holds the portfolios of Digital Economy and Communications, and Small Business, and is Associate Minister of Immigration, and Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations, a busy lady. Curiously she is almost a local as she spent her early years living on Great barrier Island, and her great uncle was the noted union leader Bill Anderson which would have lead to some interesting dinner table conversations. We congratulate her also and wish her well in the new role of Seniors Minister, and look forward to hearing from her at Northcote.

ensure the equitable provision of palliative care across the country.

She expressed her gratitude for the incredible work, compassion and dedication of hospice staff during the pandemic, and advised of an additional \$3.1 million in the Budget of additional funding for hospices, part of the Government commitment of delivering high quality services closer to home.

An engaging and warm meeting enjoyed by everyone.

Both Minister Verrall and Jan Nicols were presented with some quality Devonport Chocolate products, and Grey Power gave a donation to the Harbour Hospice building fund.

By sheer co-incidence Dr Verrall was a pandemic expert when one was needed and became Minister. Curiously she has a Maldives Islands in the Indian Ocean association and the Maldives are the lowest lying country in the world with a height above sea level of 1.4 metres - she might wind up as Minister For Climate Change.



Shanan Halbert, MP for Northcote, Bill Rayner, President Grey Power, Minister Hon. Dr. Ayesha Verrall, and Jan Nichols, CEO Hospice North Harbour at the Grey Power November members meeting.

# More Senior Housing In Northcote

[A snippet from our Northcote MP, Shanan Halbert]

Haumaru, the Auckland Council senior housing organisation, will be building 52 one-bedroom affordable rental homes in Northcote. The five story apartment will be located in Greenslade Terrace, and will replace 12 old units on the site. The block will be next door to Haumaru’s existing Pirianga Court and the Greenslade Reserve.

The units will be specifically designed for older people and will be close to the local supermarket and the Northcote town centre with its range of public transport services and other amenities.

Haumaru Housing Chair Dr Kay Hawk said they were delighted to grow their portfolio of new purpose built housing for older people. This development will go some way to providing much needed safe, long-term tenancies for the rising number of seniors who need affordable rentals, and all tenants will qualify for the Income Related Rent Subsidy.

Grey Power North Shore with member Gloria Howe, a Court tenant in Milford, were directly involved over eighteen months working with Council on behalf of the current Council housing tenants in the creation of the joint venture between Auckland Council and the Selwyn Foundation to form the new Haumaru Housing organisation. This process involved representing the existing tenants in the process and contributing to the design of new apartment blocks that replaced the old ground level units. A major Grey Power achievement and what we are all about.

It is core Grey Power policy that all Council senior housing sites are retained and not sold off and redevelopment focuses on building more modern units on the same site. Where an existing Court is due for redevelopment and no longer suitable for senior units it may be sold but the proceeds must be used to buy a more suitable site in the same area.

Housing for seniors in the current environment is a critical need and a core Grey Power advocacy issue with Council and the Government.

Realised I had to use the bathroom.  
Got up and walked across the house, to the pantry.  
Couldn’t remember why I was in the pantry.  
Remembered I had to use the bathroom.  
Walked across the house to the bathroom.  
Sitting on the throne I remembered why I went to the pantry ... Toilet paper.

# Letter from Judy Blakey Seniors Need Greater Priority in EM Plans

I am concerned about the situation facing some older residents, especially those in retirement villages, affected by the disastrous floods.

With little warning, residents in the Park Lane complex in Mairangi Bay found their car garage filled rapidly with water almost to ceiling level. Many in their sudden need to evacuate, left phones behind, losing their only contacts for friends and relatives. Sadly some were uninsured for contents and lost everything. Heroic rescues ensured no lives were lost. But many are now homeless, having to rent temporarily while Arvida begins the restoration of their damaged properties.



As a member of the Auckland Council Senior Advisory Panel, I was horrified when a 2018 Emergency Management Plan highlighted the need to help vulnerable children and pets in disasters, whilst completely ignoring residents with disabilities and vulnerable older people.

Tamaki Makaurau Auckland officially joined the WHO Age Friendly Cities and Communities in 2021, so one would expect there is a greater need to support our older residents during and after the February catastrophic flooding.

How visible will seniors’ needs be in the planned review of the Council’s response to the disaster? Watch this space !

Noho ora mai ra  
**Judy Blakey** MNZM PhD (her/she)  
Mairangi Bay



# Our Shore Heritage Areas Under Threat

## An update on the Government’s new housing rules

The Governments’ new housing rules aim to accelerate the supply of housing throughout NZ, these rules came into use on August 18, 2022. The rule that has the most impact for residential areas is the Medium Density Residential Standards which allows for three dwellings of up to three storeys to be developed on a single site as of right. The requirement for a resource consent for these dwellings has been removed. These developments are already being built.

The protections for Special Character Areas are also being reduced. The areas affected are Devonport, Northcote, Parnell, Grey Lynn and all of the inner-city character areas.

Grey Power has made a submission supporting the comprehensive Devonport Heritage and Character Coalition asking for these Special Character Areas and the unique character of the Devonport/Shore environment to be recognised and protected.

We are now at the stage where those residents who submitted their objections and concerns about the new rules will be heard by the Independent Hearings Commissioners, and this is likely to take most of 2023 to complete.

### What is happening now?

**Step 1 has been completed:** submissions from the public and other groups closed on Sept 29, 2022. Council received over 7,000 submissions.

**Step 2 has been completed:** submitters were given the opportunity to make further submissions to let Council know which points they wish to present at the hearings (NB if submitters did not comment they will have a further opportunity when the Council’s Hearings begin. The deadline was January 20, 2023.

**Step 3: Pre-Hearing Conference will begin in March.** The Independent Hearings Panel will listen to the ‘Experts’ that have been engaged by various groups such as architects and planners. This Conference period is not open to the public, but the written statements of the experts will be made available to the public. (NB Lawyers are not able to attend).

**Step 4: Hearing process for general submitters,** the dates have not been set but it is likely the hearings will start in May. These hearings are open to the public,

submitters will receive a letter advising of dates, 10 minutes has been allowed for each submitter and the venue will be the Auckland Town Hall.

### Closing stages:

The Independent Hearing Panel will make recommendation by early 2024. If Auckland Council does not accept these recommendations the Minister for the Environment will make the final decision. The process does not allow for appeals to the Environment Court.

**Trish Deans: Deputy Chair of Devonport Heritage and Committee Member of Auckland’s Civic Trust**

## Targeted Community Development Levy – Needs To Happen

Another Big Idea - the current Budget situation with Council threatens a major cut in the funding of community facilities and organisation, reduction in grants for community groups, and Local Board community support funding.

The Government imposed intensification legislation measures imposing large housing density increases and associated height restriction removals over the current Auckland Council Unitary Plan. This has created a major unexpected windfall tax free capital value growth in land values.

For the owners and developers of the larger sites in town and transport centres this value jump is massive. Already major developments have had design changes adding many more units to take advantage of this relaxation of limits.

This is hugely unfair and part of these gains should go back to the community to contribute to the community facilities all these additional new people will need, as well as avoid the cut backs to current community support.

The Council in its current Budget should introduce a Targeted Community Development Levy on the capital value increase from the Unitary Plan valuation of land sites and the current value under the new intensification legislation.

The levies should be allocated to supporting community facilities in the area in which the development is situated.

Very simple – an addition to the infrastructure development levy structure already in place.

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# Great Big Ideas Proposals For Council \$295 million Budget Shortfall

One of the few advantages of older age is that you know where the skeletons are buried and have a memory of community affairs from earlier times.

Mayor Brown’s initial Budget to Council is aimed at covering a \$295 million funding shortfall, mainly for major infrastructure cost deficits and cost over runs His major proposal to cover this is to sell the Council shares in Auckland Airport. Grey Power and seniors generally are not happy about selling of Council assets as they have paid for them through a lifetime of rate contributions.

Grey Power always makes a substantial submission to the Council’s annual budget process.

This year two potential practicable solutions are:

## 1. Transfer the Vector shares held by Entrust, the legacy of the old Auckland Electric Power Board to Auckland Council

Entrust holds 71% of Vector’s shareholding, 751 million shares valued at June 30, 2022 at \$3.1 billion.

**The September 2021 dividend received by Entrust was \$126.4 million, almost half of Mayor Brown’s problem solved.**

Governments in the 1990’s privatised the electricity industry and the Auckland Energy Consumer Trust was formed in 1993 to take over the assets of the old Auckland Electric Power Board and operated as Mercury Energy Ltd

Further reforms of the industry split retail electricity and distributions networks which resulted in the sale of the retailing side of Mercury to Mighty River Power who retained Mercury Energy as a trading brand. The electricity distribution business , Mercury Energy Ltd., changed its name to Vector Ltd.

Auckland Energy Consumer Trust changed its name to Entrust, and its profits are distributed partly to the “beneficiaries’ who are the electricity customers in the old Auckland Electric Power Board, 346,000 of them in 2021, the dividend being \$303 each.

Issues with this covered elsewhere.

**The key issue is that the Trust established in 1993 runs for 80 years expiring in 2073 when the shares revert to Auckland Council, as the legacy local authority. The Trust Deed also**

**provides for early termination by the Trustees.**

***Solution: Arrange an early transfer of the Vector shares to Auckland Council. - Q.E.D***

## 2. Universities Don’t Pay Council Rates – they should.

Many of our older university graduate members will hold their degrees from the University of New Zealand established in 1874 and ending in 1961 when it was dissolved and Auckland University was established as an independent institution..

Auckland University, perched up in Princes St, was very small with approx. 4,000 students , and a limited range of faculties. The University had a strong vocational training focus. It was very much part of the city and downtown community. With law and commerce being major facilities it had a close association with the commercial and professional world.

The university was exempted from paying Council rates, accepted as a city contribution to the young people who would move into the local community workforce and society.

Not so today – the tertiary education sector is a huge industry with a very strong competitive commercial bias focusing on fee paying students, particularly those from overseas. Auckland University (43,000 students) and AUT (28,000), are centred in downtown Auckland, the highest valued real estate in the country.

These numbers put a huge pressure on the city’s infrastructure and community facilities, and are largely transient. Massey, Unitech, and MIT also have major campuses in the city.

University fees and services are subject to GST – the Government should in all equity contribute to the community facilities and infrastructure costs imposed by the universities on the city from this tax revenue.

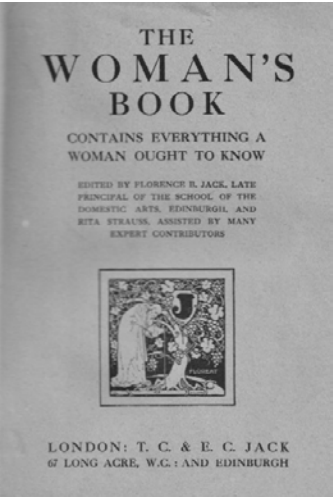
**Universities are now major commercial organisations – the rates exemption is out of date in these changed times. They should pay rates and contribute to the Council budget.**

**Common sense and practicable – Major dent in Council Budget shortfall in two easy steps.**

# The Woman’s Place In The Home 1911

Ladies – struggling with your digitally driven Dyson electronic carpet cleaner? Unkind comments on your i-Phone Facebook? Online banking not responding again? Grandchildren grumpy at mince on toast for breakfast? Hairdresser closed with COVID? Liquor store ram raided again?

Don’t worry – help is at hand. Keep calm and think of Grandma. Just stiffen up and absorb this guidance from 110 years ago.



The Woman’s Book – Contains Everything A Woman Ought To Know – Household Management: Cookery: Children: Home: Doctor: Business: Society: Careers: Citizenship: A remarkable tome published in 1911 by Florence R. Jack, Principal of the School of The Domestic Arts, Edinburgh, assisted among others by Miss Fedden, Head Teacher , Dressmaking and Millinery, National Training School of Cookery, London, Mrs Bernard Mole, Principal, St Mary’s Nursery College, Hampstead, Miss N Edwards, President of The Ladies Poultry Club, and Principal of Cosley Poultry Farm, Gloucestershire.

The preface reprinted below explains it all.

“We have done our best to provide a Reference Book dealing with all subjects of special interest to women. A glimpse at the Contents will show how varied a list it is. (A sample includes: Mistress and Servants, Guide to Laundry Work, Household Linen, Etiquette and Social Code, Health and The Toilet, Home Dressmaking, Plain Sewing and Mending, Poultry Keeping, The Child !)

And now that our work is finished and we look back on the book as a whole, thoughts about women’s work in general force themselves upon us. Our work would have been mechanically done if they did not.

We noted the variety of the work undertaken by women. It is matter for congratulation that so many new spheres of usefulness have opened for women within recent years.

But we look forward to the time when capacity for work will be the only test of competence to undertake it. To have the work well done – that is the end to be aimed at, whether it be done by men or by women.

It is often urged that the limited outlook and training of women in the past have left them insufficiently developed in mental capacity and judgement for certain responsible spheres of work. But it seems that, if the test of the educative work is the number of faculties it calls into play, women’s work, even in the past – the work of the domestic woman – called forth faculties of the highest order.

It has taken months of hard work to write an intelligible book on woman’s work.

A considerable part of the book is devoted to the ordering of a household, and this portion has not been the easiest to write. In writing it we have discovered afresh that the qualities that are demanded of a field-marshal, and a few not un-important qualities in addition, are the necessary qualifications of a model wife and mother.

Instinct in selecting subordinates, tact in managing them, organising of daily work, financially in handling the household budget, the taste that imparts charm to a house – these are not common facilities.

But the training of a child makes the highest demand upon a woman. Patience, wisdom, self-motivation are called for every hour of the day.

Morally as well as intellectually the domestic woman’s life is rich in opportunity.

While, however, we cannot appreciate too highly the value of work done by the domestic woman, it is absurd to regard that as women’s only sphere.

Many have not the opportunity of such a life – many have not the aptitude for it.

We have therefore endeavoured to take the widest possible view of Woman’s sphere. Everything she can do well, that she is entitled to have the opportunity of doing. We hope that the information given in the volume about the various kinds of work now open to women and the various agencies at work to qualify women for the work they can do will be found useful.

And we hope too, that the manner in which we have presented the domestic information may lead to a higher standard of attainment in woman’s greatest industry – the home.”

.....

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 as a paragon of ‘womanhood’ in the social values of 1911.

Not quite Chloe Swarbrick’s cup of tea – Bah humbug. The creatures even play rugby these days! What is the world coming to!.



## Disability Allowance - medical alarm service changes

The Ministry of Social Development (MSD) has introduced 'anywhere' medical alarm services included in the Disability Allowance. Previously, only 'in-home' medical alarm costs were included.

If you currently get or need a medical alarm, you may have the option to get a medical alarm that works outside of the home as well as in-home.

You can find out more on the Work and Income website <https://bit.ly/3DqhKhD>.

## Reverse Mortgages – check the small print

If you're thinking about taking out a reverse mortgage, be sure you know the conditions of a break fee. Financial Services Complaints Limited (FSCL) quotes the story of an elderly man who was charged a break fee \$88,000 when he repaid his reverse mortgage 10 days early to move into a rest home.

In 2008 the man and his wife borrowed \$109,350 against their home, with an interest rate of 11.19%. They understood the loan would remain in place until they both died or sold the house.

The woman died in 2017 and towards the start of 2022, he decided for health reasons to sell the house and move to a rest home. When the house was sold, the settlement amount \$500,000 to repay the original loan and interest – and the lender demanded a break fee of \$88,000 on top.

The lender said the man had repaid the loan "voluntarily". It was only if both borrowers died or moved into long-term care in a hospital situation that the break fee would not apply. On mediation, the lender agreed to refund the break fee to his estate.

In a case note, FSCL said: "If he had simply downsized his home and continued to live independently the lender might have been entitled to charge the fixed rate break fee."

Bank, insurer, lender, broker or adviser done you wrong? Complain to one of the four official financial services complaints services. You can find information at <https://fscl.org.nz/>

## CCC – an iconic NZ sports brand

It is interesting when you watch international sport, particularly Rugby, how many teams are wearing jerseys with the CCC logo. Most people would not know that logo is three stylized Kiwis.



CCC is the initials of the Canterbury Clothing Company, with the Canterbury brand of sports gear.

The company was started in 1904 by John Lane, Pringle Walker, and Alfred Rudkin - in a small town in Canterbury to make tough woolen work garments. They were all English, but rooted in the rugged Canterbury landscape and adopted the three Kiwis as their logo.

They made military uniforms for both the New Zealand and Australian armies in World War I. Later the brand was approached to provide Rugby kit for the All Blacks, resulting in them doing so for several decades.

Their sponsorship continued for some decades, but now the All Blacks have the German Adidas brand on their jerseys along with Altrad, a French construction group, while a number of their opponents, including Ireland and England, have the CCC Three Kiwis. As do the NZ Cricket teams.

Bit of a shame really but that's modern professional sport where big money counts.

A recent Press comment noted that South Africa is paying English football club Tottenham Hotspur \$80 million to be their sleeve sponsor for the next three years as an advertisement for South African tourism!

### The real of purpose of extra fabric with clothing

When you buy new clothes, sometimes there's a tiny bag with some fabric inside. Most of us think that it is because if the pants or shirt rips apart then one can use the extra fabric. However, it is not true. The extra fabric is for you to test out washing the material to see if the material shrinks or the colours bleed.

## Personal and economical transport with extra help – wheelchair transport available

Call Freedom Drivers for medical, business and personal appointments or assistance with shopping. How about a drive with a stop for morning or afternoon tea for yourself and a couple of friends?

"We bring our friendly service to your door and we will provide extra help at either end of the journey as needed. For medical appointments we make sure you get to the right place and will wait if necessary or pick you up after the appointment. Travelling with Freedom is like travelling with friends or family. You build a relationship with a driver you get to know and trust."

Service is personal and our prices are comparable to (and often less) than a standard taxi. We take Total Mobility cards (TM), are ACC Registered Vendors and wheelchair accessible vehicles are available on request.

**Call 0800 956 956 now**  
**for more information or a quote**

## Transport you can Trust



Kind, friendly transport with extra help if needed

- Local or long distances
- Business travel
- Shopping
- General outings and sightseeing
- Extra help and assistance - nothing too much trouble
- Medical appointments
- Airport transfers
- Shopping
- Economical
- Total Mobility Cards accepted
- Fully licensed and police checked

**\*\*Wheelchair accessible Vehicle available**  
**\*\* Hibiscus Coast also covered**

**North Shore Bays | Laura | 021 355 126**  
**Albany | Andrew | 021 0299 2627**  
**Devonport | Simon | 021 923 940**  
**Takapuna | Paul | 027 216 7701**  
**Howick | Daniel | 021 9299 11**  
**Hibiscus Coast | Bill | 021 041 9486**

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companion driving service  
[www.freedomdrivers.co.nz](http://www.freedomdrivers.co.nz)

**0800 956 956**



**Truth – Dec 23rd, 1942 - She must have read The Womans Book 1911**



# Take Care With Grey Power Electricity Payments.

We have a problem with members paying Grey Power Electricity online into the Grey Power North Shore account by mistake. This means that you are an overdue debtor with GP Electricity and an issue in organising a refund for you.

**A solution is to separate GP membership from GP Electricity in your online banking Payee list e.g. GP Membership and Electricity GP.**

Grey Power Electricity (GPE) is an operating division of Pulse Energy, and GPE has a partnership agreement with Grey Power New Zealand, but there is no owner relationship between the two.

**All power enquiries should be made directly with Grey Power Electricity phone 0800 473 976.**

## Health and Safety Regulations - Have They Gone Mad?

**NEW ZEALAND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES DANGEROUS GOODS DECLARATION** **DGLQ**

**Shipper:** Mighty Ape Ltd  
24/28 Highgate Parkway  
Silverdale  
Auckland 0932  
New Zealand

**Consignee:** Anne Martin  
2 Cheltenham Road  
Devonport  
Auckland 0624  
New Zealand

**Consignment:** 38093213099220510AKI.001FQ

**Ticket ID:** T14470211

**WARNING**  
Failure to comply in all respects with the applicable Dangerous Goods Regulations may be in breach of the applicable law, subject to legal penalties.

UN No	Proper Shipping Name	HazChem	Hazardous Class	Packaging Group
UN 2904	Hydrogen Peroxide, Aqueous Solutions	2R	5.1	III
UN 2904	Hydrogen Peroxide, Aqueous Solutions	2R	5.1	III

**Carrier Information**  
Carrier: Courier Post  
From: Mighty Ape Ltd, Silverdale  
To: Courier Post Depot

**Package Information**  
Type of packaging: 1x Fibreglass Box  
Gross weight: 0.360kg

**Emergency Information**  
In an Emergency dial 111 - Police or Fire  
Immediate action:  
• Alert people away from road to warn road users  
• Isolate Hazard Area  
• Send message to inform Police or Fire Brigade, inform them of substance on board  
• Keep downwind, avoid breathing fumes or smoke. Avoid contact with skin or eyes  
• Shut off engine and electrical equipment, No Smoking, No Naked lights

**Emergency information**  
In case of an emergency please contact:  
**Mighty Ape Limited**  
+64 9 475 9305

**Declaration**  
I hereby declare that the contents of this consignment are fully and accurately described above by the proper shipping name, and are classified, packaged, marked and labelled/placarded, and are in all respects in proper condition for transport according to applicable international and national government regulations. I declare that all of the applicable air transport requirements have been met.

**Person signing as signatory**  
Julian Sammy  
Logistics Manager

Page 1 of 1

The Dangerous Goods Declaration warning was attached to a bottle of hair conditioner bought on line and delivered in a small cardboard not by the NZ Army or Armourguard but by courier– didn’t even wear HighViz emergency gear or breathing apparatus, insist we stood back or put out orange cones.

The notice advises in the case of Emergency dial 111 – Police or Fire -then:

*Immediate Actions:*

Keep people away. Mark road to warn road users.

Send message to inform Police and Fire Brigade. Inform them of item on board.

Keep upwind. Avoid breathing fumes or smoke. Avoid contact with skin and eyes.

Shut off engine and electrical equipment. No smoking.

No Naked lights.

High risk stuff! But sloshing it all over your head is perfectly all right.

Our protectors are not worried about 30 large and aggressive men, and women now, bashing into each other at great speed in rugby games and hurling cricket balls at 130 kph at each other. Also tolerated are skate boarders doing double twists and back flips on hard concrete and skiers doing the same stuff off high ramps on steep hills.

Still if we are faced with an exploding cosmetics bottle we are well prepared and know what to do.

## A Dud Month For Our Top Ender Members

Our Weekend Herald news is not so hot for our Top End members with Tesla dropping their top range electric car prices by 20% in the US and the Model 3, the cheapest, I should say the least expensive by 3%. In NZ Model 3’s dropped \$4,000 to\$70,000 and the top range performance model by \$3,000 to \$100,900 plus ORC no doubt. At that price you wonder why they bother.

Not so good if you have just bought one for the wife for Christmas – soon we will all be driving them. Even get towbars fitted for the Saturday morning run to Mitre 10. Also a new twist to indoor/outdoor living at the little batch at Omaha where you step into the sea from the lounge with the sandy beach all disappearing off to Great Barrier as the easterly storms pound in. Do Teslas give you a shock if you get stuck in flooding on the roads? We will sound find out.

At the other end of the scale with the way the price of eggs is predicted to go, boiled eggs and omelettes will feature at Top Enders exclusive dinner parties as gourmet delights.

## Princess Anne and Heritage Hamburgers

New PM Chris Hipkins has announced the visit of Princess Anne in March for the 100th anniversary celebrations of the NZ Army Royal Corps of Signals, of which she is Colonel in Chief, at Linton Military Camp in Palmerston North.

It is a sign of the times that the Press article explained that the Princess was the only daughter of Queen Elizabeth who died in Sept 2022, and the sister of her son and successor King Charles III, whose coronation will take place in May. Us oldies knew this stuff by rote.

Brings back a memory from the olden days when I met the Princess at a fund raising dinner in Auckland for Save The Children of which she is the Patron. Not only because she was a very friendly and engaging lady but the event must have been one of the most effective fundraising events ever.

The fee was \$100 when a dollar was worth something but the “meal” turned out to be a small bowl of noodle soup and smaller bowl of rice.

“That’s what the children in the refugee camps in Vietnam get each day if they are lucky.” was the very poignant message

The answer was a visit on the way home by a sizeable group to the iconic White Lady hamburger caravan, in Shortland St, a still surviving relic of those olden days



Open 24 hours at weekends, 7pm to 4am and still run by the Washer family. Long may it be so.

A fond if fuzzy memory to many of our older members – the tomato source drips on the tie were a bit of a problem.

Heritage is important to Grey Power, it is the story of our lives. It needs to be preserved, warts and all. Little stories as well as big.

*Bill Rayner*

## Cost of Living Up For Superannuants By 7.4%

It is official – Stats NZ advises that the cost of living for the average household for the past year to Dec 31st was 8.2% and 7.2% for superannuants. Not that you had to be told.

The inflation figures are compiled from a series of household living-cost indexes and sector results are:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| • all households were 9.2%              | • Beneficiary was 6.9%                 |
| • Maori was 8.1%                        | • Superannuant was 7.4%                |
| • highest spending households were 9.4% | • lowest spending households were 7.1% |

Higher prices for housing, food, and transport were the main contributors to the increases. Interest payments for all households rose 4.7%, for highest spending households, 7.4%, and for lowest spending households was 2.0%. The lowest spending group would include many of the senior community.

A major impact for the lower spending households was the 11% overall food price increases. Grocery food prices increased by 10% and fruit and vegetable prices by 21%.

All pretty grim – roll on the annual April 1st Super increase – at least for our Top Enders Tesla prices have dropped 5%.



# Auckland Zoo Now 100

The Auckland Zoo was opened in December 1922, a centenary of note.

It is too late for the free entry and special prizes for all of us over 100 in December but well worth a visit even at our age.

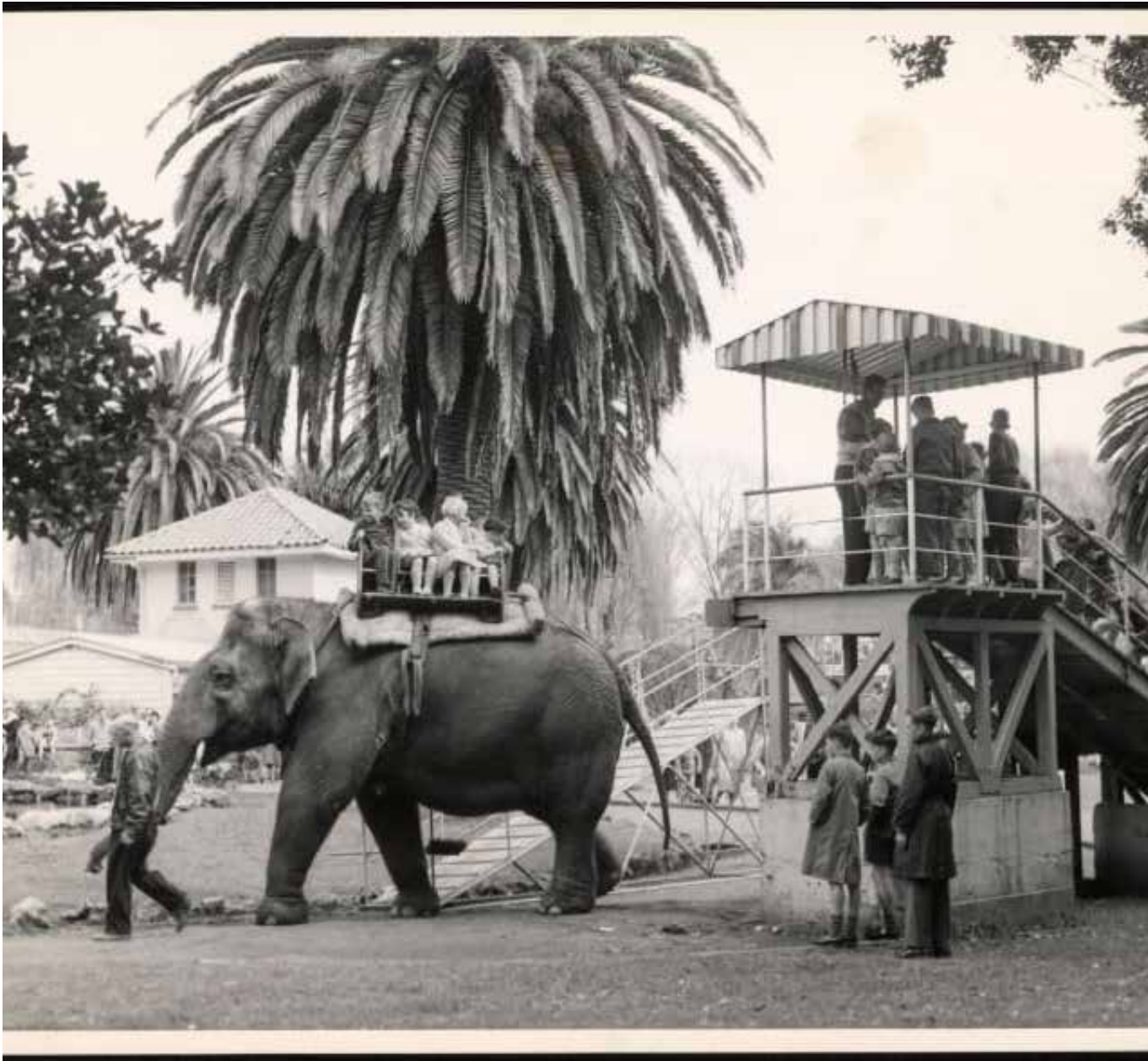
Loved by all Auckland children as a special place it is hard to remember in this day and age of screens over-hyped, digitalised entertainment and media, and theme parks, that for the 1940's and 1950's the highlights of children's outings was a visit to the Zoo, and Auckland Museum. And all dressed in best clothes and shoes.

The Zoo was a tram ride from the city, along Richmond

Road, and Grey Lynn to the Old Mill Rd entrance with a long walk for small legs down to the animals and interesting bits. A struggle coming back after a tiring day.

Birds a bit boring, the monkeys a highlight, the hippo and polar bear pools coming next, the lions looking bored and listless, all in their enclosures and cages and the peak of the day a lurching ride on the elephant, initially Jumbo, and for most of us, Jamuna.

Times have changed for the better – expansive enclosures with a natural focus, wonderful presentation - no Chimpanzee Tea Parties or elephant rides – but as always a delightful place for children of all ages, indeed more so. Good for another hundred years.



## Our Age Friendly City Conversation

A symposium was held at AUT in November 2022 to present the latest research reports from Council, Auckland Transport and independent researchers in the housing infrastructure areas on the Age Friendly City programme.

With the impact of COVID19 many of these research results had not been released in a discussion forum before. This was a gathering of over a hundred Including researchers, community leaders, representatives from the senior organisations across the city, Council staff, policy and research staff from Auckland Transport and members of the Seniors Advisory Panel 2013-2017 who had advised the Council on why Auckland should become an age -friendly city.

Grey Power was represented by Bill Rayner and Anne-Marie Coury. We both have traversed the journey our city has made towards “going age friendly”, having been heavily involved with negotiations under Mayor Len Brown and leading up to the Councillor’s vote to become an “age-friendly city” in 2016.

So confident were many of us that we didn’t feel the need to campaign on the day of the vote. Several supportive Councillors were away, and the casting vote of the meeting Chair George Wood sank the proposed initiative.

In the doldrums for months, eventually during the next term of Council, 2017 - 2019, with Janet Clews as Chair of the new Seniors Advisory Panel, and Dr Judy Blakey’s research, the Panel led the charge, working with dedicated Council staff.

Janet in her opening address at the symposium paid tribute to the committed action taken by many seniors, as well as the Panel and Council staff, to finally achieve a unanimous vote to support Auckland becoming an “Age Friendly” city. This, in 2018, was the beginning of a new journey; to consider which areas of need to focus on, what data to begin collecting to benchmark what was happening for seniors in the city.

Following the six areas of the Age Friendly City model, it was decided to focus on three, after extensive consultation with over 3,000 seniors across Auckland and research by RIMU, the Council’s in house policy and research unit. A summary of this research will be in the next newsletter.

Now we have experienced a major emergency management event the conversations about communications will need to be revisited. How Council can reach out to our seniors, living alone, disabled, or with limited English, especially those in high rise buildings or with limited access is the key question. Telling people it is up to them to reach out is not an adequate response, especially if they are without power.

A data base of vulnerable seniors that is regularly updated is urgently needed.

Anne-Marie Coury

## Things To Do

### Board Games for Seniors

Interested in joining groups playing board games for fun and friendship?

### Tea and Games at The Devonport Community House.

Tuesdays and Thursdays 10.30am – 12.00pm

You are invited to join them for a cuppa and to play board Games of varying sorts. Bring your friends and meet new ones. No bookings required – just come along.

Gold coin donation.

Phone 09 445 3068

**Sunnynook Community Centre – Free Games Afternoons.** Mondays 1.00pm to 3.00pm (school terms only)

Casual board games (Scrabble, Rummikub, Backgammon, Chess) Or bring your own favourite game, or alternatively bring your unfinished objects/projects (knitting, scrapbooking, card making, cross-stitch, etc.) No need to book – just come along.

Tea and coffee provided.

Phone: 09 410 4902

### Takapuna Scrabble Club

– Exclusively Scrabble  
Tuesdays and Fridays 9.30am – 12.00pm at the Takapuna Senior Citizens Hall, 5 The Strand, Takapuna (next to Library)

Enjoy a game of scrabble in convivial company – Contact Malcolm Beazley.

Phone: 09 445 8034

### East Coast Bays Bridge Club – Bridge All levels

The club has a wide range of bridge activity with sessions that cater for players of all levels in a friendly environment in spacious airy clubrooms in Murrays Bay.

New members most welcome

Phone: (09) 479 4689

Email: info@ecbridgeclub.co.nz



# “Museum of Auckland” Missing Where are our heritage stories?

The appreciation and preservation of our city’s heritage in its various forms is an important feature of our Grey Power North Shore advocacy. Devonport in particular, and the Shore in general, was Auckland’s earliest suburb established in Sept 1840 with a naval store on the now Windsor Reserve, and the erection of the signal mast on Mt Victoria as part of Capt. Hobson’s first Auckland city settlement.

The history of Auckland since that time is the story of our lives and community over several generations – we are part of it, as were our parents, and grandparents, three generations who is essence built the modern city we have today.

It is a curious situation where our two major museums do not present in their exhibitions any stories of economic, industrial, commercial, infrastructural development, or social histories of Auckland.

Nothing – it is something of a blank picture. A benign neglect that does need to be addressed hence the need for a “Museum of Auckland.”

This is not necessarily a new specific museum which is an option. Right now it is a concept where Auckland Museum and MOTAT recognise the need, and take a lead in presenting and preserving the history of Auckland’s early colonial period and development over 170 years to the city we have today.

This should be done on a collaborative collective basis with those two major museums leading with a connection to the smaller heritage museums and organisations to establish a co-ordinated presentation of our city’s history.

This is particularly important now as New Zealand history is required to be taught in our schools with a strong focus on the local history of the school’s area

It is also very important that the many new residents of Auckland, many from differing cultures, have an understanding of the history and community heritage of their new home.

Most important of all is the history and stories of the British/European immigrant families, the pakeha community, now known as New Zealand Europeans in the ethnic mix our statisticians love, is not overlooked in the current cultural and demographic changes taking place in our city.

As part of our formal submissions to Council over many

years, submissions have also been made to Auckland War Memorial Museum and to MOTAT. They both have their funding provided by Auckland Council, but are in the unusual situation of being established with their own Acts of Parliament with the ability to levy their own independent rate.

This is a legacy of the establishment of the Auckland War Memorial Museum built in 1929 as a memorial to the servicemen killed in World War I. The establishment Act provided for all the local bodies of the Auckland Province to be rated to pay for the Museum.

This continues to this day, and the MOTAT Act 2000 put the Museum of Technology and Transport on a similar basis, to spread the cost across the seven Auckland local bodies of the pre SuperCity amalgamation.

The legislation provides in essence for the museums to strike their own levy on ratepayers which the Auckland Council now as the sole remaining local authority is required to pay. There is of course discussion and negotiation, but the Council has no right of refusal. If they disagree with the level of rate put forward the final decision passes to an independent arbitrator.

Our submissions will call for part of this semi-automatic funding of the two Museums, particularly MOTAT whose primary role is to preserve our technical and transport heritage, to be shared, as part of the “Museums of Auckland” collaborative concept with the smaller heritage museums and groups in the city.

The dialogue will continue into the Auckland Council Budget consultation process as well.

Brief details of the two initial submissions are elsewhere in the newsletter.

It is a very important issue for us at this time.



# Media Usage By Generation 2021

An interesting snapshot for us old TVOne 6pm News addicts showing three generations of media usage in 2021 put out by NZ On Air.

	Linear TV	Online Video	SVOD	Music Streaming	Radio	Online Gaming
15 -39	-	82 %	72 %	68 %	-	40 %
40 – 59	61 %	58 %	48 %	-	48 %	-
60+	83 %	26 %	-	-	65 %	23 %

SVOD is Subscription Video On Demand – had to Google it to know.

Interesting to note that the youngsters do not watch normal TV or listen to the Radio whereas for our generation it is still the major sources of our news and entertainment.

Someone Who Should Know mentioned that a major drive behind the Government proposal to merge TVNZ and Radio NZ was the fact that TV and radio audiences are growing old and dying off.

Also curious to see that seniors are into Online Gaming – must be a hangover of the old Dungeons and Dragons wave of 40 years ago, and possibly a considerable amount of leisure time. Many of the games have an older generation appeal. One of our members is playing a very sophisticated World War II replay, and has the Germans wining.

Our house is still working on Scrabble and jigsaw puzzles.



# Our Newsletter Digital Option

All members will be receiving a mailed copy of this newsletter. Our email tree is not yet quite complete and functioning.

Kiwi Publications publish a number of newsletters for Grey Power and Age Concern and all these are on their website, including Grey Power North Shore.

You can access these on their website at:

**kiwipublications.co.nz**

**Click on: Publications on the Home page** – this brings up the Publication page.

**Click on: Publications in the menu bar at the top of the page**

- this brings up all the editions on the site, and select Grey Power North Shore.

**Click on: the issue you would like to view in the Archive section on the right hand side.**

It is very interesting to see what other Associations are doing as well as Age Concern.

# Senior Focus Planetfm 104.6

**A radio show reflecting the diversity of our senior community, preparing seniors for a changing future**  
**Sundays 5.25 pm – or on-line 24/7**

**at**  
**www.planetaudio.org.nz/programmes/seniorfocus**

On air since 2015 Senior Focus has provided information, advocacy, and practical strategies for senior wellbeing across Auckland, broadcasting from Sky Tower. The weekly radio show is hosted by Anne-Marie Coury, with input from guests and other broadcasters.

We welcome ideas, input and guests, so please contact us on greypowerns@gmail.com or text or call Anne-Marie on 027 301 6202



# Losing Open Spaces In Local Parks

Are enthusiastic Council planners impacting on our open spaces and activity areas in local parks? This clearly seems to be the case and Council has to take great care as we face rapid intensification that our parks and open spaces remain exactly that, open spaces that relate to the community activities around them. Critical with the Lake Pupuke environment which faces a ring of high rise buildings in the future.

Spaciousness itself is a natural feature to be enjoyed and with many of our parks located next to the sea and Lake Pupuke it is important that outlook and view shafts are preserved. This is particularly important for the senior community as they are more and more restricted by age who can go and sit, or even just park their car, in an area and just absorb the view and the open outlook.

Member Michelle Morrison, and Co-ordinator of Friends of Henderson Park at Lake Pupuke has taken issue with Council on the planting of large trees in local parks and a particular issue with the planting of a large Puriri tree in Henderson Park that will ultimately obscure the panoramic view of the lake and the viewing of water sport activities from the shore.

This issue is the essence of the Age Friendly City concept, where the impact on seniors needs to be recognised in any city planning or activity. But also similarly with the young people.

Open spaces also allow the free flowing recreational and sport activity. Michelle has been involved with the Awataha Young Mariners, similar to Sea Scouts, with sailing activities on the lake, and is concerned about the obscuring of viewing locations for the water sports on the lake.

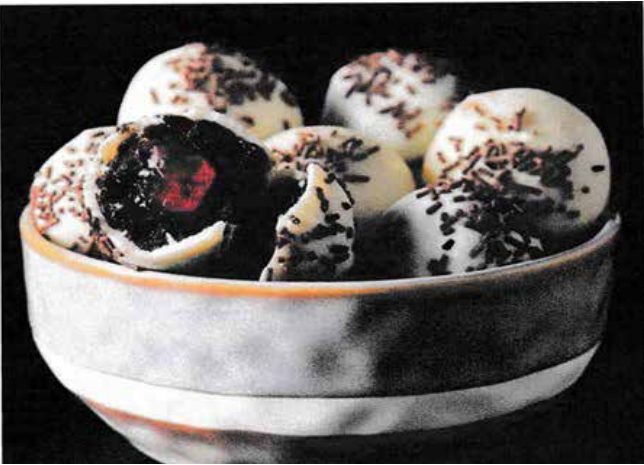
Henderson Park already well provided for with established native trees and areas of planting. It is not a question of either/or it is the need for a sensitive appreciation by Council of the critical need to value and preserve the open space and view shafts and develop a related tree planting policy in tune with this.

An item to put onto the agenda of the upcoming Local Board HaveYourSay annual planning consultation process.

Grey Power as a policy is a strong supporter of the need to preserve our open spaces and public land for community use.

Dessert | 15 mins Serves 16

## Black Forest Chocolate Truffles



This dessert recipe is super simple and also simply delicious! Using a classic chocolate mudcake as the base, these Black Forest Chocolate Truffles are sure to be a favourite with friends, family and whānau.

### Ingredients

Chocolate mud cake (approx. 320g) - 1/2  
Cream cheese, soft - 2 Tbsp  
Glacé cherries - 200g  
White chocolate melts - 200g  
Chocolate sprinkles, to decorate - 2Tbsp

### Method

- Step 1:** Line a baking tray with baking paper.
- Step 2:** Crumble the cake into a bowl. Add cream cheese and stir well to combine until the mix holds together, adding more if necessary.
- Step 3:** Roll into walnut-sized balls. Press a cherry into the centre of each and re-roll to cover. Place onto the prepared tray and freeze for 30 minutes.
- Step 4:** Melt the chocolate melts in a small bowl. Dip each ball into the chocolate to coat, allowing excess to drip off. Decorate with sprinkles and place back onto the tray to set.

### Tabs On Cling Wrap and Foil

Taking aluminium foil or cling film out of the box can be a total pain. Well, you don't have to feel that way ever again as there are little tabs on every box that you can push. The tabs help grip the roll and it stays in place as you pull.



# The importance of getting legal advice before moving into a retirement village

[Editorial supplied by Retirement Villages Association]



Anyone planning to enter into an occupation rights agreement (ORA) for a retirement village must receive independent legal advice before signing - and Christchurch-based legal specialist Kate Warren recommends doing so early in the process.

“It’s something you are required to do under the Retirement Villages Act so you might as well make the most of that and get good advice early on,” says Kate, a senior associate, property and personal law, with legal firm Tavendale and Partners.

“I cannot emphasise strongly enough the importance of fully understanding the terms of an ORA.

“Thinking about selling your family home and moving may be stressful and receiving legal advice can help people to feel more in control and confident in their decision. I love doing ORAs, getting to work with members of our elderly community and ensuring they have the information they need to make the best decisions for their future.”

Kate says the terms in an ORA can vary quite significantly between villages, so it is critical to go through all the terms and conditions and consider what each will mean.

“The village sends the ORA to us and we go through it and send the client a summary of the key points. They can then reflect on that and people will often write notes all over it. Then they come in and we go through all the key terms with them and discuss any questions or concerns they have.

“People generally go away to reflect on that and if they decide to go ahead, they come back and we witness them signing the ORA. They then have a cooling off period of 15 days to cancel without any repercussions.

“Some villages also give a 90 day period from moving in, to exit if you decide it is not for you, but that is village-dependant. It is so important to understand the terms of the individual ORA because if you don’t and want to exit after the cooling-off period that can have significant financial implications.”

Kate says the first questions people ask are often about the financial aspects of the ORA.

“People are understandably very cost conscious. They have worked very hard for what they have. We go through all the costs of the individual ORA with them, the initial entry payment, the weekly costs, the deferred management fees and transfer and marketing costs.

Kate says the deferred management fees vary between villages but it’s usually 20 to 30 per cent of the occupancy advance/entry payment that you pay when you move into your unit.

“Some villages have fixed fees but others don’t so people need to be aware about what the policy is in the village they are considering and may need to factor potential for change into their budgeting.

“You also need to be mindful of the continuum of care. For instance if a couple move into a village but one later needs more care. If that isn’t available at that village, they might have to move to a facility in a different village that may not be easy for their partner to visit, especially if they don’t drive. If you then have to move to be near your partner, that can have a financial effect through paying the deferred management fees.

“We make sure people are very well-informed. For instance, what level of care is provided in the village, is there a rest home, hospital or psycho geriatric care, and if they need to transfer to a care facility, will they have priority access to an available bed?

“For some people, knowing they can have visitors to stay or if they can take their pets with them to the village is important.

We also ensure people know they can’t make alterations or additions to their village home and cannot rent it out to anyone else, the ORA is personal to the resident.”

Undertaking a lot of ORA work means Kate frequently works with elderly people who are facing major life changes.

“We see a whole range of people and situations. Some people have lost a partner, some have been quite isolated. Some are excited about the social aspects of moving into a community but some people may be reluctant.

“It is beneficial for people to have the support of family and often people will factor proximity to their children into a decision - but it is important for us to make sure it is what that person wants and needs and to ensure the village they choose offers the level of care they will need going forward.

“Often people first come to us because they are considering selling the family home and then come to us for the ORA. It works very well to be handling both because, for instance, if the family home is in a trust most villages do not allow for the purchase of the occupation right through a family trust. So, we can work through what needs to be done around that and also align the settlement dates.

“Moving home is never easy but getting sound advice from a lawyer does help reduce the stress and provides people with trust that they will be looked after properly.”



# *Your Home. Your Haven.*



## INDEPENDENT LIVING IN A BOUTIQUE VILLAGE WITH RESIDENTIAL HOSPITAL ON-SITE

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