

NORTH SHORE GREY POWER

Email: greypowers@gmail.com

WINTER ISSUE 2023

A local hero
our Devonport
Community Constable
Glenda Peri of the
Takapuna Police
stepping up and taking
her boots off to clear
the blocked drains in
flooded King Edward
Parade recently. Way
outside her normal
duties just doing a job
that needs to be done.
A wonderful example
of the underlying
quality and character
of our Police force .
Good on ya, Glenda.

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New Shore Community Trust
PAGE 23

GREY POWER NORTH SHORE

P.O. Box 32-635, Devonport 0744

Email: greypowerns@gmail.com

Facebook:

Grey Power North Shore
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.

Membership:

Ron Wilson 478 2490

President:

Bill Rayner 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.

Disclaimer: Grey Power North Shore Inc. and any person or organisation associated with it will not accept any liability for the contents of this publication. All due care and attention to accuracy is taken to ensure details are correct. Opinions expressed are not necessarily the views or policies of the Association or the Grey Power Federation..

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President's Word

My last note opened with the comment that Cyclone Gabrielle was heading our way with the prospect of another deluge on top of the January storms. What an understatement that was and the horrific devastation that Gabrielle brought us in Auckland and across the country. It is not just the immediate physical damage and destruction but the social impact of facing up to the aftermath of the disaster and the years and massive cost to put lives and property back together. Already there are rapid shifts in thinking at both Government and Council levels on the changes that need to be made. Also the new approaches needed to deal with the current situation and the new critical issues at a time when things are difficult enough. It is early days but it is clear things have to change and new directions and priorities set.

The whole Council Annual Plan submission process has been understandably impacted by the cyclone problems but Grey Power had made its usual comprehensive inputs into the AKHaveYourSay consultation.

Senior organisations continue to close down, finding it difficult to maintain activities and attract new members, the latest being the long established North Shore Historical Society Inc. Support for senior community groups is a core Grey Power policy objective. SeniorNet Bayswater Inc on winding up donated their remaining funds to the Devonport Takapuna Local Board which sparked a renewed GP submission for the setting up of a Shore Community Trust for funding support for community groups. The concept is in the newsletter.

The good news is that Grey Power is finally catching up with the digital word. Our Facebook page has been re-activated, and as we mentioned last issue our newsletter will be undergoing changes with a digital focus, but with a continuing hard copy for members without digital access.

Also you will have received our first emailed member contact with a Grey Power Federation survey on your perceptions of what Grey Power is about and priorities for the upcoming election. This makes it all the more important for all members to pay their current subscription and update email and phone contacts at the same time.

We are expanding our committee portfolio base and establishing supporting interest and activity groups to support our community advocacy and Council contact activities. As well as a core focus on senior issues Grey Power has always had a wider dynamic involvement in community advocacy and supporting other community groups in their advocacy. Please step up and join in – it will be a very interesting time to be involved in community affairs, and the senior community needs to have a strong and innovative input into e Council affairs in particular. Be part of the action.

Our meeting this month includes our AGM – come along and add your ideas to what is planned for future.

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 AGM

Friday, May 26th, 1 pm
Netball North Harbour,
44 Northcote Rd

Tim Chairman, CEO
Citizens Advice Bureau North Shore

Tim will outline The CAB's role and the impact of the well-being of its clients and the community.

The CAB is a community organisation of great importance to the senior community under threat from Council budget cuts.

Annual General Meeting

Our future plans outlined

**An interesting double header,
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.

**Please note there could be a delay
in you receiving your 2023/24
membership cards.**

We have had some difficulties with the processing of the flood of subs paid in March and April but will be on top of it all shortly. Plus some disruption with the real flooding and aftermath.

So don't worry, your subs have been received and your cards are on the way.

Membership News

We are finally getting on top of our organisation and digital communication problems thanks to Ron Wilson our new Treasurer/Membership person who has quality IT skills, and Ruth Jackson helping getting our Facebook up and active.

The AGM will be part of our May meeting and we are seeking additional members for the core committee and will be establishing support groups off committee for involvement and support in special interest areas.

Grey Power has had a long and continuing involvement with community affairs particularly those involving Council at its various levels and collaborative involvement with other community groups. The focus has been on the Devonport Takapuna Local Board, and it is important to establish groups working in the other Local Board areas on the Shore.

It is planned to appoint a part time administrator to help with the core workload of our Association which is the fourth largest in New Zealand.

Our close working relationship with Age Concern will continue and grow, and we will be looking to re-establish the Shore Senior Forum of Shore senior groups. There is also the need for a full review of our outdated rules and constitution with the changes to the Incorporated Societies Act coming into effect next year.

We will be active and interesting so please join our committee and the other support groups to help Grey Power to continue to be an important and influential voice in our local community for seniors and to support other community organisations in their advocacy and activities.

The formal list of officers is in the AGM notice but practically we have "vacancies" for five Committee members and will appreciate all offers of assistance.

A member with legal or financial background would be helpful with the reviews coming up.

We also need an auditor/reviewer to audit the annual accounts.

Contact President Bill Rayner 445 3370 brayner@xtra.co.nz to discuss and for more information – don't be shy.

The initial support groups will be:
Newsletter/publicity - for the production of the newsletters and press releases etc
Communications – Facebook, emails etc

Membership/marketing – promotion of GP membership and membership admin support
Community Affairs – "political"/community/seniors
Community Affairs – heritage/environment

There is considerable cross over in these groups and the structure will no doubt be modified as they are established. If you have an interest in these areas please let us know. Contact Trish Deans 445 1520 deans.trish@gmail.com

We will also be re-establishing our telephone tree and will be looking for members to be part of that exercise.

Subscriptions

There has been a great response to subscription payments and if you have not yet paid up please do so. Follow the instructions set out on Page 2 carefully as it is important that we get an update on your telephone number and email address if you have one.

Delay in Posting out Membership Cards

As noted there has been a delay in posting out the membership cards but they are on the way.

Facebook page – Grey Power North Shore

Our new Facebook page is "Grey Power North Shore" and is an open one which is up and active with postings put up by Ruth Jackson. We anticipate this will generate public interest in Grey Power activities and generate membership.

Please check it out and tick Like

We are hopeful that we will not have difficulty with inappropriate posts.

Our old site Grey Power North – Senior Voice is for members only and has 22 members. Would those members please re-connect as Followers on the new site. We will retain the site in the meantime and re-assess its role.

Digital Newsletter

Once again you will all receive a printed copy of the newsletter - hopefully we will be able to switch to providing digital copies next issue. With the rise in postage costs this will be timely.

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!



Grey Power North Shore Inc. Annual General Meeting 2023

The Annual General Meeting of Grey Power North Shore Inc. will be held on Friday, May 26th, 2023 at the Netball North Harbour Centre, 44 Northcote Rd. Northcote, at 1.00pm

Agenda

Welcome
Apologies
Minutes of 2022 AGM
Presidents Report
Financial Report
Election of Officers
President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary
Committee – up to 10
Appointment of Auditor/Reviewer
General Business

For any matters relating to the AGM including nominations or expression of interest in committee positions please contact President Bill Rayner Email: brayner@xtra.co.nz / ph 445 3370



RETIREMENT VILLAGES and THE AUCKLAND FLOODS

A comment on the letter by Dr Judy Blakey in our Autumn Issue.

The Arvida Park Lane Village was used as an example of the plight of Senior residents in that village badly affected by this completely unexpected flooding. Many other retirement villages and their residents had similar experiences in varying degrees of severity.

In the case of Park Lane the residents flooded out were all found alternative accommodation at no cost and their usual monthly levy has been suspended pending their return.

For those residents who still remain in the village their monthly charge has been significantly reduced in compensation for the loss of and enjoyment of facilities usually available.

RETIREMENT VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION subscriptions are due on April 1st for the 2023/24 year.

Hopeful news for members of this Association. Members of the RVRA executive committee met late in March with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MHUD) to discuss and progress the RVRA strong desire to see amendments to the Retirement Villages Act 2003.

I understand the meeting went well.

Cheers and continue to enjoy living in your various retirement villages.

Joe Greig, Auckland RVRA Committee Member
Resident of Knightsbridge Village.

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NORTH SHORE BASED

Grey Power Support Needed For GP Doctor's Petition

Board Member Jo Millar, Chair of the Grey Power Health National Advisory Group has advised that the Royal NZ College of General Practitioners are very concerned at the pressure family doctors and medical centres are under.

They have started the petition calling for better funding to enable them to provide the service to all current and new patients in a timely and efficient manner. Grey Power are very aware of the situation when new patients cannot be enrolled at their local medical centre and current patients have to wait some considerable time to get an appointment for non essential services .

She asks members to support the petition in an endeavour to have the problems resolved and this would reinforce the Grey Power advocacy group at the next lobbying visit to Parliament and the Ministry of Health

The **SAVE YOUR FAMILY DOCTOR SERVICE** message from Dr Tim Molloy, a Wellsford GP, Chair of the General Practitioners Owners Assn of NZ.

"General practice services are stretched and under threat and people are waiting longer to see their family doctor as a result off workforce issues and underfunding. This has mobilised New Zealand general practise clinics to unite behind us to highlight the significant issues they are facing. These include underfunding, workforce shortages and increasing workloads. Combined these are placing the future of general practise service at risk. In lots of places around New Zealand people are hoping having to wait weeks to see their family doctor, as general practice clinics are having to reduce their hours or limit services.

The stark situation is outlined in On The Brink, a report which includes our nine point plan setting out what is required to family doctor services. We are asking for immediate action from the government to address this crisis and to work with us to develop a clear plan to ensure that New Zealanders can rely on those essential services in the future."

The Royal NZ College and Grey Power ask you to sign the petition which is online at the Royal NZ College website: www.genpro.org/save-family-doctor-service

Full information including the nine point plan is available on the website by clicking on **On The Brink** in the message text

We are all very aware of the difficulties our health system is facing – please take the time to support our general practice doctors. Our senior community is vitally dependent on them.

You Need To Know This

A black hole with a mass 20 million times that of our sun is hurtling through space at 1,000,000 kilometres an hour after being ejected from its galaxy, creating a long trail of new-born stars in its wake.

Described as a "runaway monster black hole" the object was discovered by chance using the Hubble telescope.

Astronomers have said: "There's an invisible monster on the loose barrelling through intergalactic space." When massive stars die they can collapse to form an object so dense that not even light can escape its gravity. These stellar black holes are usually 10 to 20 times the mass of our sun. Super massive black holes are much larger and thought to have formed from the merger of many smaller black holes. Astronomers believe that the newly discovered super massive black hole might have been shot out of its own Galaxy and replaced by another that took its place like a 'cosmic cuckoo,'

Letters from our old Star Trek-ie members explaining all this are welcome.

The Devonport Community House LIBRARY RUN

We'll pick you up and take you to the Devonport Library. Friendly information session, library services and tea/coffee before taking you home again.

Thursdays 1.30pm - 3pm
\$2 donation
Phone to book (09) 445 3068



Tell your elderly friends and neighbours.
Thanks!



Seniors Being Hard Done By On Interest Rates - its Official

Seniors, who rely on bank term deposits for their savings income, have been getting a poor deal in recent times, not that you have to be told that.

Bank profitability, measured by net interest margins, hit an 8 year high in the December quarter.

According to data collected by the Reserve Bank, banks net interest margins rose by 6 basis points to 2.37% in the final three months of 2022.

The margin last reached this level in December 2014. The last time it was higher was in June 2006 when it hit 2.50%.

The interest margin is basically the difference between what they lend their (our) money out at, and what they pay to depositors.

Reserve Bank Governor Adrian Orr is on our side as he has just said he wants to see banks increase term deposit rates.

When interest rates reached rock bottom in 2020 and 2021, people took their money out of term deposits and put it into more liquid current or savings accounts.

As interest rates started rising, it took savers a while to put their money back into term deposits which pay more interest than regular savings account so cost banks more. David Tripe, Massey University Banking Professor believes there is room for banks to pay savers more for cash they keep in savings accounts. Hear hear.

An important point is always ask for a little bit better than the bank standard 'blackboard' rate when you are renewing your deposit – you can often get a .1% increase on your deposit rate – every little counts at our age.

A check on line on what other banks are paying can also help your request for a little bit more.



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Mark: M 0274 81 27 26
E mark.kelly@raywhite.com

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NORTHSIDE PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Meeting with Minister For Auckland Michael Wood On Auckland Heritage and Council Issues.

Bill Rayner, President, in his Chair Community Affairs, Grey Power Zone 2 (Auckland) role and Trish Deans, GP North Shore Committee and leading heritage advocate, had an unexpected meeting in March with the new Minister For Auckland Hon. Michael Wood, who is also Minister for Transport.

The meeting was originally part of a regular meeting with the Hon Phil Twyford on senior matters specifically arranged by the President of Grey Power Waitakere, and the Grey Power Zone 2 Director, Mate Marinovich, primarily to discuss the development of a Wine Industry Museum at the Corbans Estate Council park in Henderson. Mr Marinovich was also at the meeting.

The wine museum project was originated by the late Assid Corban, the wine industry patriarch, whose family home and winery is the base of the Corbans Estate complex, who established a Trust working with Council and the wine industry on the project. Unfortunately on Mr Assid Corban's death, the project lost momentum.

Local wine industry leader, and North Shore identity, Terry Dunleavy, was also involved with the project.

Grey Power Waitakere have taken a lead in supporting the Trust re-activating the museum project as a major West Auckland heritage centre and visitor attraction. In particular, through the Council submission process, requesting MOTAT as part of its responsibilities as the

national transport and technology museum to take a leading role in establishing the museum, which we support.

The Minister is well known to Aucklanders previously having been the Chair of the Auckland Council Puketapapa Local Board, and becoming the MP for Mt Roskill when Phil Goff became Auckland Mayor.

The meeting changed to a meeting with the Minister in his Mt. Roskill office on his own only a short time after the announcement of his appointment as the Minister For Auckland which gave the unexpected opportunity to discuss key Council Budget and city heritage issues with him.

These included the Council heritage and MOTAT funding, the Corbans Wine Museum, the lack of museum coverage on the post Treaty period of Auckland, the current core Budget financial issues, and the impact of intensification on the Special Character Areas and small communities such as those on the Shore. And of course, the transport problems we face.

This broader political and lobbying involvement on the issues facing our Auckland senior community, and maintaining links with Auckland MPs of all parties is an important part of our role, supporting the national lobbying activities of the national Federation in Wellington.

Come to Lunch at The Bays Club

The Bays Club is one of the Shores hidden gems overlooking the beach in Browns Bay. Originally started in the '80's as a businessmen's club it has morphed into an attractive venue for the senior community, particularly for the ladies.

Grey Power is starting a monthly luncheon gathering on the second Wednesday of each month, the first being on June 14th. It is a social gathering initially restricted to 12 members and something of an experiment that could grow into a special group of members who are regulars, especially those of us living alone.

You do not need to be a Bays Club member and will attend as a guest of one of our committee who are. The meals are good quality and reasonable with a SuperGold \$15 selection with a well-stocked bar and you pay your own way. It has a Veteran Membership for the over 60's of \$35 – the idea is that if you enjoy the Club you can join and come any time you like.

For our June 14th trial run please phone/email Bill Rayner 445 3370 or brayner@xtra.co.nz.

The first twelve callers are the winners – if we have a big response we could set up a second date as well. The second regular dates will be July 12th and August 16th.

The Club is at 6 Anzac Rd, Browns Bay, right on the beach. Check the website at www.baysclub.co.nz

North Shore Hospital Compassionate Parking

Compassion is one of Waitemata District Health Board's core values and this is reflected in the approach they take to providing parking fee relief for those who are in genuine need.

A guideline has been developed to help members of the public understand the process the DHP uses when considering applications for assistance with the cost of parking.

At all times consideration of the individual is carefully balanced against the need for the DHP to generate the funds required to provide parking facilities that meet the needs of our fast growing community in light of the fact that there is no government funding for car parking at Waitemata DHB. (Another issue of concern to Grey Power).

The significant social value of family and friends visiting their loved ones in hospital is acknowledged.

A Congress Ticket gives the visitor unlimited free parking for one week.

For one-off events, it may be suitable to request an Exit Ticket which can be used once only to exit the car park.

A \$50 Discounted Ticket is available providing unlimited entry and exit for one week at the request of a ward/unit charge nurse for family members.

The type of ticket will depend on the circumstances below relative to seniors.

Requests for parking concessions are considered by the Charge Nurse Manager (or Nurse Co-ordinator in out of hours) in the first instance.

Staff members are expected to be compassionate and to use their judgements with requests for parking concession.

The following circumstances are relevant, but not exclusive:

- The family member/carer has been asked by staff to come to the hospital and assist with patient care
- The family are attending the hospital to be with a patient who is entering end-of-life care and visiting time is prolonged and frequent
- Haematology/oncology patients and their carers attending day care treatment
- A family member of a patient who is required

to be at the hospital as the patient is having difficulty coping and/or is distressed

- The discharge of a patient has been delayed by circumstances out of their control
- A family member or patient who is experiencing genuine financial difficulty

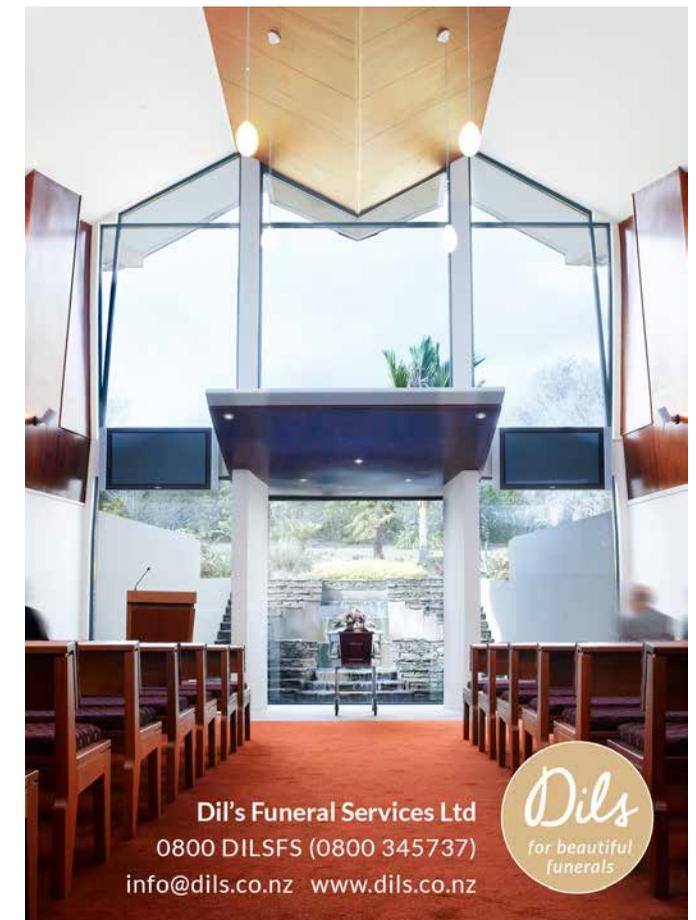
It is important to be aware of these concessions as standard parking fees are quite substantial for regular visitors.

New search functions simplify choosing a retirement village

If you're looking to make the move to a retirement village, the Eldernet Group has made the process easier by adding new search functions to its website. The free online service showcases every retirement village in New Zealand, hosting the country's largest selection of available properties in every region.

Each property is listed with 'starting-from' prices, allowing users to filter within their specific price range.

The Eldernet website is retirementvillages.co.nz



North Shore Aero Club RSA Day Senior Aviators On Aerial Outing



North Shore Aero Club have an innovative ANZAC Day tradition of recognising the service our Air Force veterans and other RSA members involved in aviation.

The Club hosts them at their Dairy Flat airfield base with an initial cuppa and a display of vintage aircraft, and then the young(er) pilots fly them in club aircraft across to the Whenuapai RNZAF Base for a tour of the Base and lunch at the Whenuapai Aviation Sports Club. And then the flight home.

A wonderful gesture by the Club to our senior community, the irony being that a number of the guests would have flown or worked on the aircraft in the vintage aircraft display.

And the reverse with the veterans marvelling at the

GPS and other electronic marvels that have replaced the old paper maps, basic flight instruments, and physical strength needed to manhandle the planes through rough weather.

The North Shore Club started 60 years ago in a grass field at Dairy Flat and is now the largest aero club in New Zealand, with a major professional flight school operation, as well as the traditional old style aero club. What was once farmland is now the centre of a growing rural suburb.

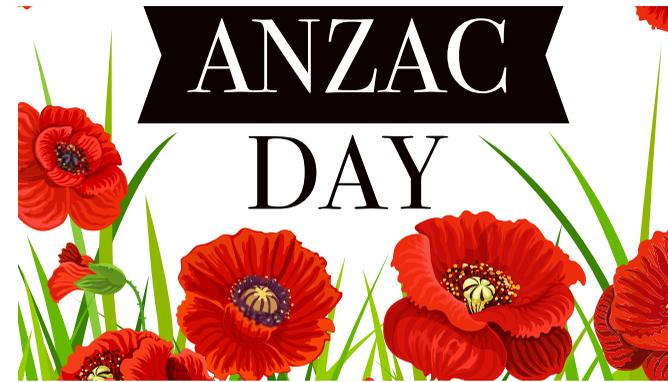
In the curious connection the North Shore has member Jack Norton who was the Club flight instructor in the '60's teaching member Bill Rayner and no doubt others to fly in little Piper Cubs off a muddy paddock.

COMPUTER AND CELL PHONE HINTS :

To make an email larger to read or to print it out in a larger size just hold down "Control" and press + and the document will become larger. Control with - (minus) will reduce the size. I have also found on my cellphone that if I press the up arrow twice that the Capitals will continue until I change to the lower case format.

A daily Inspiration:

If we ever have a golden age, it will be because golden hearts are beating in it. [From Wings of Silver.]



The history of the Poppy

For the North Shore ANZAC Day has a special significance with our major community connection through the direct presence of our military; the Navy with the Devonport Base, the Army through Ft Cautley - Narrow Neck camp, the Air Force next door at Whenuapai, and the Coastal Artillery units along the harbour coastline.

The O'Neil's Point Cemetery has a significant number of graves of World War I soldiers from the Narrow Neck camp some of who died in the 1918 flu epidemic.

The familiar red poppy has been a symbol of remembrance in New Zealand for 101 years.

In one of those funny little quirks of history, New Zealand Poppy Day sets us apart from the rest of the world. While New Zealanders wear poppies to remember the fallen on Anzac Day, April 25th, you will see poppy sellers on the streets in England, Canada, and Australia in November to mark Armistice Day, known as Remembrance Day.

The reason for this is simple. The poppies were made



initially by widows and orphans in France, and the ship bringing them to New Zealand arrived too late for arrangements to be made to sell them for Armistice Day in November 1921.

The New Zealand RSA decided to hold them over until ANZAC Day the following year, 1922, a decision that set us apart from the rest of the world and gave us our own unique Poppy Day.

The first Poppy Day in New Zealand, April 24th, 1922, was a brilliant success with many centres selling out of their supply of poppies.

The New Zealand RSA imported silk poppies from France until 1927 and then from the Royal British Legion. Today the poppies are all manufactured by volunteers in Christchurch, an almost year long job to make the close to 1,000,000 poppies required to support the Poppy Appeal today.

The poppy we now wear has been through a number of design changes since the first silk ones originally made in France, to the flat felt, and then the paper, poppy designed by British Commander in Chief Earl Haig that is sold today.

The Poppy is worn around the world in remembrance, but the red colour has no relevance to blood. The poppy symbolises the wild flowers that were the first signs of life to grow in the turned soil of French and Belgian cemeteries. The poppies with their red, paper thin petals were the only things to take root in the lime rich soil contaminated by the battlefield debris.

Poppy Day has been the RSA's major annual fundraiser for 101 years to provide welfare services for the war veterans of all ages. It is held on the closest Friday to ANZAC Day, this year on Friday 21st of April.



A busy night at Stone Henge as workers move all the stones back one hour...

Auckland's Intensification Debate Update Hearings Delayed Except for Heritage Issues

In March, Auckland Council asked David Parker, Attorney General and Minister for the Environment, for a one-year extension from the Government to delay the Independent Panel Hearings process to determine new housing intensification rules across the city.

This extension has been granted. Auckland's Mayor, Wayne Brown, commented, "The last month does change things and it would be a foolish group to oppose" Council's request. The message from the Mayor has been understood.

Auckland Council wants to fully investigate, report back and make recommendations on the impact of the overwhelming flood issues that confront Auckland and its residents.

In summary, the work Council seeks to undertake will 'investigate the regional and localised impacts of flooding, and the implications for land use planning, regulatory issues, including relating to stormwater management and flood-prone areas, on a catchment-by-catchment basis, and land stability'.

Auckland Mayor Wayne Brown had predicted if ministers did not grant an extension, they might find the public wouldn't grant them an extension of their time in office after the October election.

Having an agreement between the Government and Council to take the time to tackle the underlying flooding issues and defer the Governments plans to intensify should have been a no-brainer, rather than a matter of seeking permission from the Minister.

However, the Hearings Panel will continue with the proceedings which intend to introduce changes to Auckland's Special Character Areas and Auckland's Register of Historic Buildings and Sites.

Very few North Shore residents will be aware that Council has recommended that a number of North Shore historic buildings and significant sites are proposed to be downgraded from a Category A to Category B.

This outcome may seem inconsequential, but the effects of the changes can be detrimental. An example of Councils recommendations is to remove the Category A status from the WW1 Memorial Drive on Lake Road in Devonport and the WW1 Memorial Gates at the entrance of Takapuna Primary.

These are two important historic military sites that are evidence of New Zealand's participation WW1 and are evidence of the impact on those left behind. The Takapuna Gates are also identified as Sanders Way, after a former pupil, William Sanders, who was the only New Zealander to be awarded the Victoria Cross for Naval Service.

These two sites are remarkable examples of the many military sites that stretch across the North Shore from Kennedy Point to Maungauika, North Head.

These two sites along with Windsor Reserve, Torpedo Bay, O'Neill's Point Cemetery, the Cyril Bassett lookout and the 118 bunkers should be recognised as having a collective national value. As a group of military sites, they should be identified as an invaluable part of New Zealand's history and retain their Category A status on the Council's Historic Register.

Both the Devonport RSA and Devonport Heritage are putting this case to the Hearings Panel.

The challenge to preserve heritage areas and heritage buildings and important sites is continuing in Auckland whereas Christchurch Council is determined to keep its buildings and sites.

These proceedings take a toll on the resident and volunteer groups who oppose the loss of Auckland's heritage legacy as they need to employ lawyers and experts to represent them in these legally binding proceedings.

Auckland's lead group, the Auckland Heritage Coalition, is asking to be included in the delayed process and for a fairer process that doesn't drain their capacity to participate.

Trish Deans



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Many thanks

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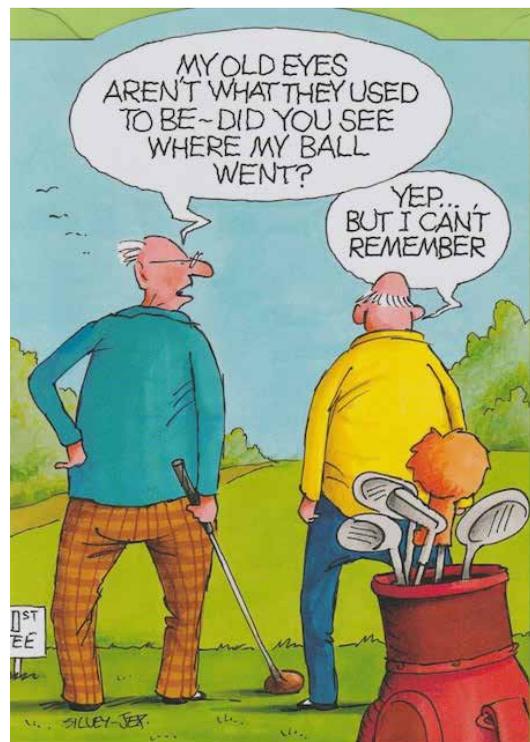
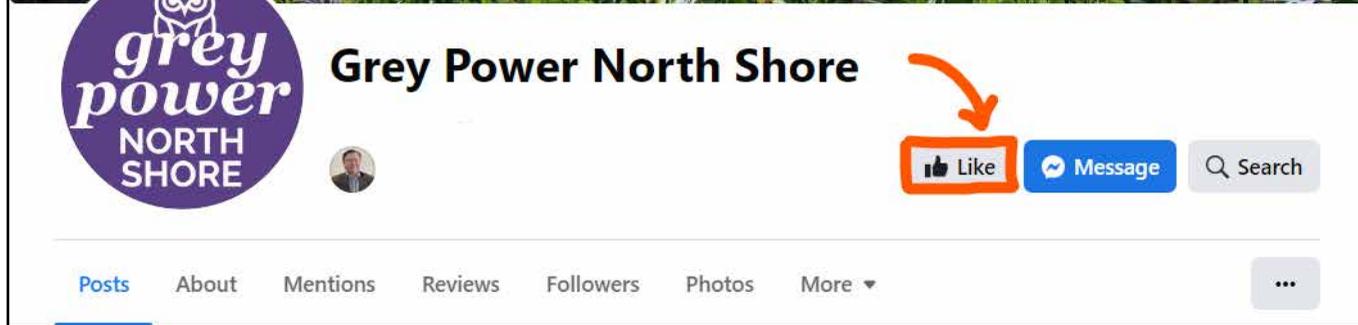
We've got a great new Facebook page!

We're excited to announce the new Grey Power North Shore Facebook page!

The Facebook page will be a great way to keep you *instantly* up to date with the latest news – and will complement our quarterly magazine, and regular email newsletters.

Here's where you can find the page: <https://www.facebook.com/greypowernorthshore>

To "like" the page, and make sure you get the latest posts in your Facebook feed, simply go to the page and hit "like" on the right hand side (as shown in the photo below).



I have a pencil that used to be owned by William Shakespeare. But he chewed it a lot. Now I can't tell if it's 2B or not 2B

Laughter is the best medicine. But, if you're laughing without any reason, you need medicine.

Auckland Northern Bays, Remuera, Eastern Bays and CBD.

Assisted transport is a service available throughout Auckland, for people that need a little extra reassurance for themselves and their families. We help people continue to live their best life, without the stress or worry of driving.

This service gives people their freedom & independence back.

One local provider is Freedom Companion Driving (Northern Bays) owned and operated by Julie & Laura, who cover the Northern Bays, as well as Remuera, Epsom & Eastern Bays. The Freedom Driving operation is well known in Auckland and we have been running these franchises for just over a year.

In addition to Julai and Laura

in Albany we have Andrew 021 0299 2627.

in Devonport we have Simon 021 92 3940.

in Takapuna we have Paul 027 216 7701.

in Howick we have Daniel 021 929 911, and

on Hibiscus Coast we have Bill 021 041 9486.

Simon and Andrew have Wheelchair accessible vehicles.

On the North Shore we have 6 cars, and a Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle capable of transporting both manual and larger power wheelchairs. We have an amazing team of support staff & drivers, with 12 drivers who are like family to our clients & provide trustworthy and caring service that is about much more than just transport.

Our service is designed to provide personalised transport and can offer door to door service and we always go 'the extra mile'. Our clients tell us that its like riding with friends or family, as we have a small team of drivers that people get to know and trust.

We drive people to medical appointments, shopping or going out for a social occasion. We assist with child custody transfer and help with getting children to and from school or activities. We don't just restrict trips to humans either, and can even assist taking pets to vet or grooming appointments.

We even take people for outings with assisted companionship, going on walks with pets or assisted trips to the supermarket. We go the extra mile, even helping unpack the shopping if required.

Part of our Freedom role is as a support person, when requested, we can stay with the person to support and navigate appointments and pass on information as required to the family.

We have clients that have regular bookings, and also those that book as needed, bookings can be made 6 months in advance or on the day. This is great for the client as we can also be available on short notice or for emergencies.

Many of our clients use the Total Mobility card, which is currently subsidised and offers a 75% discount on trips (to a maximum discount of \$60 per trip). We are also ACC Registered Vendors. All our drivers have P licence endorsement, NZ Police checked, and trained in comprehensive first aid.

All our cars can take cash & eftpos payments, or we can invoice the family or client directly as required.

We work harder, to make life easier.

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

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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

freedom.companion driving service
www.freedomdrivers.co.nz

0800 956 956

Retirement village residents sign open letter in support of villages

Representatives of New Zealand's retirement village residents have signed an open letter in metropolitan newspapers fighting back against criticism of the sector.

The open letter in Saturday's Dominion Post and The Press (15th April) and Herald on Sunday (16th April) responds to negative commentary and mis-information about retirement village living.



Sixty representatives of retirement village Residents Committees across the country have signed the letter while hundreds of residents have also backed the letter in emails to the Retirement Villages Association (RVA). Collectively, the committee chairs and residents represent more than 10,000 village residents.

"The retirement villages sector and our residents have been concerned for some time about the inaccurate and sometimes demeaning comments about retirement village living," says John Collins, executive director of the RVA, which facilitated and placed the letter.

"That's fuelled a massive response from retirement village residents who jumped at the opportunity to support this open letter.

"The residents I talk to are angry and frustrated at the suggestion they have been somehow hoodwinked into moving into a village.

"Our residents may be older but they are certainly not stupid. Independent research shows overwhelming satisfaction rates among residents and 100 Kiwis are moving to a village every week.

"Many residents are puzzled at the picture some commentators paint about retirement village living, which is at odds with the experiences of most village residents.

"The residents I talk to are really happy with their decision to move into a village. They did their homework, they talked with family and friends, engaged a solicitor to review the contract as is required under the law and visited a range of villages – they made an informed decision so let's give our residents some credit.

"Our research shows most people move into a village for the lifestyle. They don't want to worry about ongoing maintenance or insurance, they want a greater sense of security, companionship, a community and the convenience of on-site healthcare services.

"However, we have always accepted the need for improvements to the sector's consumer protections regime where they are feasible and make sense.

"We have already announced significant changes to the way we operate including addressing unfair clauses in Occupation Rights Agreements and best practice disclosure guidelines regarding residents' transfer to care."

"The majority of operators have already stopped charging fees after termination and many other villages are following."

"The RVA's Blueprint for Improvement has a target of all villages to institute some best practices and later this year these currently voluntary provisions will be voted on by RVA members to become mandatory."

"We are also working constructively with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development through a review of the Retirement Villages Act."

For more information, please contact:
John Collins, RVA Executive Director,
021 952 945 | john@retirementvillages.org.nz

Editorial supplied by Retirement Villages Assn

March Meeting With Deputy Mayor Desley Simpson

Our March members meeting hosted Deputy Mayor Desley Simpson as guest speaker and was very successful.

It was a difficult time for a public meeting with the Council financial issues and in the immediate aftermath of the serious flooding damage.

Desley, as she asks to be addressed, is a highly regarded senior Council member, Deputy Mayor and Chair of the Finance for Mayor Phil Goff, and now Deputy Mayor with Mayor Wayne Brown.

She is a quality politician in the best sense, respected by both her Council colleagues and by the political Press, and she does add a graciousness to the Council public face as a counter to Mayor Brown's bluntness.

Desley has had a long involvement in Council affairs initially being Chair of the Hobson Community Board of Auckland Council in the pre-Super City days, followed by six years as Chair of the Orakei Local Board, before being elected to Council in the Orakei Ward in 2016.

Her family background goes back to the founding roots of Auckland city with her great uncle Henry Brett arriving in 1862 and bought into what became the Auckland Star we all remember so well.

Her speech focussed initially on the impact of the serious weather events we had just faced, and the community response and strength in adversity and the Council issues of being overwhelmed initially by the sheer volume and severity of the flooding and slip damage.

She touched on the Council budget deficit currently going

through the submission process and supported the sale of at least some of the Council's airport shareholding. Everyone was urged to put in a submission through the Council HaveYourSay process to help the Council in the ultimate decision making.

There was a free flowing and extensive dialogue in response to members questions from the floor which she handled very well.

Among her talents she is a very accomplished pianist and musician and a strong supporter of the community arts and heritage sector. She has worked closely with our Grey Power community projects involving saving the Auckland Primary Schools Music Festival (she is in fact one of their choir conductors) and with our MOTAT submissions.



MOTAT - 60th Anniversary Next Year

All Aucklanders under 90 will remember MOTAT, the Museum of Transport and Technology at Western Springs with great affection, with a wonderful and lively collection of trams, fire engines, vintage cars, aircraft, steam engines, etc all huffing and puffing, etc, all in a very quirky site around the old Auckland water supply pump house at Western Springs.

Established initially by the Old Time Transport Preservation League formed in 1958 by heritage transport enthusiasts to preserve the Auckland trams following the last Auckland tram in 1956. They had a museum in Matakoho which was proving difficult with most volunteer supporters living in Auckland, and approached the Royal Aeronautical Society who were endeavouring to set up a technology museum at the disused Western Springs pumping station at that time a rough overgrown neglected site.

In 1963 Auckland City Waterworks relinquished the site for the museum and MOTAT was on its way, becoming the centre for many heritage groups and clubs, with major support from Auckland Council Mayor Sir Dove Meyer Robinson, the Council, the Auckland community and business leaders. It officially opened in October 1964.



Key drivers in the aviation sector were the ex-WWII air force veterans, particularly the Bomber Command and the Fleet Air Arm who fundraised and built the first aviation hall, with Air New Zealand strong supporters.

MOTAT was built and developed over the next fifty years by enthusiastic and skilled volunteer groups into the world class technical museum it is today. Hundreds of people with a technical bent and love of heritage have been involved over the years, some for a major part of their lives.

For several decades every family with kids went to MOTAT as a matter of course until the opening up of weekend retailing, expansion of other attractions, and the onset of screens provided other diversions

With 60th anniversary festivities coming up it is time to renew your acquaintance with an old friend - for old MOTAT volunteers also with old mates.

Quite a number of our members have a MOTAT association – two things to do.

- 1. Email Bill Rayner to develop a “keep in touch” list for the 60th anniversary at brayner@xtra.co.nz – Bill has had a long involvement with the aviation section at MOTAT.**
- 2. Join the MOTAT Society for official updates on MOTAT activities and the anniversary. The general member subscription is \$35 – join on line or enquire via the MOTAT Society website.**

Your support will be appreciated – as seniors MOTAT tells the story of our lives, and passes it on to our children and grandchildren.



Mayor Brown and Council a message

Don't touch the SuperGold Card travel in the Budget review - your senior community needs and values it – our senior wahine toa are more elegant these days but just as feisty. Check with Rodney Hide and Stephen Joyce.

Citizens Advice Bureau We Need Them

The CAB is a critical organisation for the senior community and is under threat from Council cuts.



Our guest speaker at the AGM Tim Charman, Manager of CAB North Shore will outline the impact the CAB has had with its role in the community and on the well being of their clients.

Not only does the CAB provide advice and guidance on legal matters, tenancy, consumer rights and family and personal issues etc as well as providing justice of the peace services, but has taken the lead in putting the issue of digital exclusion to the Government.

Their major petition to Parliament, Leave no-one behind- Campaign to address digital exclusion, presented in July 2021 lead to a full debate in the House, and the Government including in the fourth National Action Plan of the Open Government Partnership agreement a commitment to make public services available to people in the ways they need – not just on-line, but also face to face and on the phone.

After 45 years in the IT industry Tim became a qualified Disputes Resolution Practitioner and took these skills to CAB, initially as a volunteer and then as Manager of CAB North Shore covering seven CAB offices. He now has the qualifications and expertise to show NFP organisations how to understand their own social impact.

A lesson for Grey Power perhaps?

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

Get on Yer e-Bike!

Chloe Swarbrick, the Greens and Auckland Council want us all on e-bikes. A number of us are already as car parking options disappear.

Grey Power New Plymouth have provided some tips and guidelines on how to go about it.

The rules on e-bikes in New Zealand are not the same as the USA, Australia, the UK or Europe, so what a distributor of bikes from elsewhere tells you could be wrong.

So, what are the facts?

- there is no speed limit other than the road limit.
- power is limited to 300W
- most places you can ride are considered roads
- electric kick scooters are not bikes.
- you can read all about it on the NZTA website <https://bit.ly/2NaOOBj> !

You must have a helmet when riding a bike, and the bike must have good brakes. You must also have the correct lights and reflectors for the conditions you are riding in.

Helmets must be designed for bikes and fit properly. Motorbike, horse riding, or climbing helmets are not suitable.

You must use lights between sunset and sunrise, and any other time you can't clearly see a person or vehicle about the length of a football field. Your lights should be bright enough to be seen from 200 metres at night.



All bikes must have red or yellow reflectors facing backwards, and pedal reflectors when riding when lights are needed. You should wear reflective material so hand signals can be seen.

The bad news – 60 to 74 year-olds have most e-bike injury claims

The number of e-bike related ACC claims have risen five-fold in five years and last year cost more than \$4 million.

The latest year with available data, 2021, shows 60 to 64 year olds had the highest crash rate nationwide, with 161 claims. This was closely followed by 65 to 69 year olds with 151 and 70 to 74 with 143 claims.

ACC statistics also show spinal and back injuries are more common for e-bike riders than any other type of bike. ACC injury prevention leader James Whitaker said that riders new to e-bikes should take a course.

“E-bikes can go pretty quickly so start slowly then ease into it. They’re very different to traditional bikes. Practice in a quiet spot without traffic until your feeling more confident.”

*Shades of the old Kiwi bloke mantra,
“When all else fails, read the instructions”!*



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Parklane Flooding

As a resident of Parklane Village in Forrest Hill, I strongly object to the incorrect comments made by Judy Blakey in the previous issue of the newsletter.

Residents of Parklane are not “now homeless”, “having to rent temporarily” after the disastrous flooding on 27th February. As soon as he was contacted about the rising water, Arvida CEO Jeremy Nicholl was on-site wading through water up to chest high and carrying people on his back to dry villas.

He organised six ground staff and two nurses from other villages to help and by 10.30pm all evacuees where with family or other residents.

There has been financial compensation for all the 60 residents who will not return to an apartment or villa for at least six months. Management has arranged accommodation in other company villages or offered rental assistance to those same people.

Jeremy Nicholl held on-site meetings for residents and families within three days of the flooding to reassure them that Arvida was there for them, and has continued to prove it.

I applaud Judy Blakey’s concern for the Seniors of North Shore, but she was mistaken to illustrate her concern with incorrect statements about Parklane Village.

Sincerely
Nancy Nielson | Parklane Resident

*Thanks Nancy – very distressing times for everyone.
Great to learn of a positive response.*

Did You Know?

The oldest plant scientists have brought back to life is a 32,000 year old strain of the flower *Silene stenophylla*; they recovered the seeds from a prehistoric cache left behind by an ice age squirrel.

Did You Know?

In cultures around the world, nodding your head up and down to indicate “yes” and shaking your head side to side to indicate “no” is nearly universal, except in some South Eastern European areas such as Bulgaria and southern Albania where they indicate the opposite.



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](http://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

Australia Have a Govt. Home Equity Scheme - NZ Should Follow Suit As A Super Top-up

National Superannuation provides a basic income which in the current inflationary times is hardly adequate and many seniors struggle to make ends meet. Those faced with renting accommodation are in real difficulty. Recently very low return on bank term deposits have significantly reduced the spending power of many of us.

Grey Power in Auckland have regular meetings with Auckland Ministers and MPs for discussion on local issues and to share ideas.

One idea put forward was to have a \$10,000 a year Government “reverse mortgage” type loan scheme for superannuants to top up the National Superannuation, secured against their home. This extra funding would provide a degree of comfort, at a modest interest rate.

Reverse mortgages are available from some banks for seniors owning their own homes but are not suitable for everyone. Current interest rates for Heartland are 9.45%.

It turns out that the Australian Government has a very similar scheme for their retirees, the Home Equity Access Scheme, formerly known as the Pension Loan Scheme provided by their Department of Human Resources.

This allows them to borrow up to 150% of the maximum Age Pension paid fortnightly with a maximum per year of \$36,122 for a single person and \$54,452 for couples. The maximum loan is 20% of their house value at age 65 rising by an additional 1% a year as they grow older. The current interest rate is 9.5%

Australia does have quite a different pension system and higher income levels, but with the astronomical value of our houses, and the financial stresses facing many seniors, a similar scheme provided by the Ministry of Social Development should be put in place.

The releasing of some of their property value, at a modest interest rate, to provide a more comfortable primary living standard would be of great benefit and a sense of security in these difficult times for many of our senior community.

At a meeting with the Hon Carmel Sepuloni, Minister for Social Development, she was made aware of the Australian scheme and was very interested. Details have been passed on to her office. We will continue to work with her to hopefully reach a successful conclusion.

Harbour Crossing Old Style

Once again we are into the “smoke and mirrors” of the harbour second crossing “visions” with five glossy presentations of options for getting from the city to the Shore all mega millions on the table with no idea of what the final costs will be.

Most of us won't be around to see it but with the bridge opening in 1959, 60 odd years ago, a lot of us will remember the old vehicular ferry Eaglehawk and her colleagues doing the job.

The last of the vehicular ferries, Korea, is “preserved” under the car parking area at Westhaven, and many of you will remember the old ferry graveyard in St Mary's Bay. With the demise of the Kestrel through Council inertia, the last remaining ferry is the Toroa under restoration beside the motorway in Henderson, a 40 year epic that needs some urgent community and Council input.



A few weeks of the consultants fees being paid out on these grand plans would have the Toroa happily steaming around the harbour as a major tourist and community attraction. Another item on the Grey Power submission to the Council Annual Plan.

Local Board Asked To Establish New Shore Community Trust

Grey Power has asked the Devonport Takapuna Local Board to take the initiative in establishing a new Shore Community Trust.

The spark for the idea was that SeniorNet (Bayswater) has joined the growing list of senior organisations on the Shore that have closed down unable to maintain membership and support in our current community environment.

In doing so they donated their remaining funds of \$4,760 to the Local Board to support other not-for profit community organisations. The Board have added the donation to the Boards contestable grants budget for 2022/23 of \$146,595 for allocation to community groups.

This does not recognise the generous and unusual nature of the gift which will be lost in the size and process of the grants allocation system.

The Local Board is asked to establish a Shore Community Trust outside the formal Council structure to receive income and donations for the support of community organisations and activities in the Local Board area.

Grey Power has earlier promoted the concept of such a Trust where the proceeds from Council non-service activities would provide an income source for local community activities.

Devonport and Takapuna because of their age and location have more than their fair share of commercial and community events for which Council receive fees as well as filming and other commercial activities such as the licensing of e-scooters and the payment of cafes etc for tables on the footpath.

Parking revenue is also another revenue area that could be shared by local and central Council authorities.

A share of rents from community buildings taken over by Panuku and leased commercially could/should also be a contributor, as could a share of community owned assets sold off by Panuku to commercial developers.

It would also be a vehicle for donations and contributions from benefactors, and in particular the major commercial groups like Ngati Whatua, Kainga

Ora, and the retirement villages. Also the major developers who are building major residential and commercial complexes that will create a large demand for community social and recreational facilities in our area.

This would be a major counter-balance for the loss in community funding faced by current Council cuback proposals.

In the presentation to the AKHaveYourSay meeting Grey Power advised it was looking to the Local Board for a dynamic initiative element in their work programme rather than just the more static processing role of old. This would be a good project to start with as a pilot for a wider spread to other Local Boards.

Musical Outings Coming Up

The Shore has two interesting musical outings geared to the senior community, Morning Melodies put on by Auckland Alive (from your rates!), and the remarkable Operatunity travelling troupe who perform at the Windsor Park Baptist Church.

Well worth attending - great toe tapping shows.

Morning Melodies

Bruce Mason Centre 11.00am
Tickets \$7 Season Pass \$54

June 12 Robin Kelly: The Golden Age of Harmony

July 10 You Call The Tune with Lisa Lorrell & James Harrison

Aug 14 Jackie Clarke

Sept 11 The Madelaines

Book at Bruce Mason Centre or through Ticketmaster

Operatunity

Windsor Park Baptist Church 11.00am
Tickets \$37 Season Pass cheaper

May 31 Strike Up The band

June 28 From Broadway to Westend

Aug 23 Last Night Of The Proms

Oct 4 Viva Las Vegas

Book on: 0508 266 237
bookings@operatunity.co.nz

Full information on website.

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