

Whakatane District

Grey Power Association Inc.

Welcome to our First News of 2017

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April 21, 2017 – Next General Meeting

Our next General Meeting will be held on 21st April at 1.30 pm in the Liberty Centre auditorium, 65 Wairaka Road, Whakatane, 3120. Our guest speaker for this meeting will be the Hon Anne Tolley, MP for East Coast. Due to the higher costs of hiring this venue, there will be a \$2.00 admission fee, except for those who are able to show a valid and current Whakatane Grey Power membership card; as such could all members who wish to attend please ensure their membership is current prior to the meeting.

Our meeting following this will be our AGM, this will be on May 19, which we plan to hold at the Knox Hall, Domain Road, and will commence at 1.30. We have been endeavouring to have someone from the Labour Party speak at this meeting; however, despite numerous calls and emails, they do not appear to be interested in attending; as such we are endeavouring to have a speaker from another party for this event. This will be advised in our next Newsletter, which will be prior to the AGM.

Officers and Committee:

President:	Betty Hudson	07 308 5210	027 235 0459	whatarau61@gmail.com
Secretary:	Susan Anderson		021 116 9115	susananderson46@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Brian Newton	07 307 7410	022 095 2862	brian.newton.nz@gmail.com
Membership:	Kate Ross	07 307 0374	021 147 2758	whakatane greypower@gmail.com
Committee:	Maud McKinnon Johan Groemeveld Rob Ross			

Work & Income Insensitivity

We were recently contacted by one of our association members in respect of the insensitive treatment she received when recently saw a case manager at the Whakatane offices of WINZ; as a result of this, our secretary, Susan Anderson wrote the letter below to the manager, furthermore emailing copies to our local MP, New Zealand First and Te Ururoa – co leader of the Maori Party.

Dear Sir,

Grey Power Whakatane was recently contacted by a member concerning the treatment received at the Whakatane WINZ office.

Our member, having recently lost their spouse, made an appointment to see a case manager regarding applying for the extra assistance to which they are entitled. The appointment took six weeks to eventuate, which in itself is unacceptable. When our member asked about the extra assistance, she was told, not advised, to sell their house and downsize.

This treatment, by a case manager, of someone who is suffering a traumatic loss is totally insensitive and is in direct contravention of the New Zealand Government policy concerning Aging in Place, as defined by the World Health Organisation to which New Zealand is a signatory.

The 2015 Government publication, Aging in Place, states that the Government policy is directly focused on supporting older people to live independently in their own homes, world research having proven that this leads to a reduction in healthcare costs.

Telling someone to sell the home that holds all their memories and move elsewhere is akin to another death for that person, and is culturally inappropriate in any culture and/or ethnic group. The decision to stay, sell or any other permutation, is totally up to the individual and there should be no pressure from a Government department to hurry this process.

Whakatane Grey Power would like you to ensure that your case managers are trained in dealing with such cases in an empathetic manner.

We would also ask for clarification as to which WINZ policy your case manager based their "advice" to our member on, as it would seem to be in direct contravention of Government policy as stated above. We await your response and answers to our concerns.

Yours Faithfully

Susan Anderson
Secretary

Apropos to the foregoing, and in addition to the government website published in our last Newsletter, the following website gives a comprehensive list of all, (or most), of the extra allowances and assistance that are available for those who are eligible:

www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/index.html

Discounts for Pet Care at Bayvets

Many of you we're sure will have pets, we recently discovered from one of our members that Grey Power members will be offered a 7% discount on all services and the majority of items at the above, this is of course dependent upon the member showing a current grey Power membership card, the address and contact details for Bayvets is:

Bayvets
100 Commerce Street
Whakatane
3120

Telephone: 07 307 0759

Bayvets also have operations in Edgecumbe and Kawerau.

For further information, visit their website at:

<http://bayvets.net.nz/>

Being a Seenager!!!

Are you a Seenager. (Senior Teenager)

Do you have everything that you wanted as a teenager, only 60 years later.

You don't have to go the school or work.

You get an allowance every month

You have my own pad.

You don't have a curfew.

You have a driver's license and my own car.

The people you hang around with are not scared of getting pregnant, and they do not use drugs.

And, we don't have acne.

Life is great.

A Holiday With A Difference

At the end of February this year, two of us went to Australia for a month, and flew with three different airlines.

The first flight was with JetStar, from Auckland to Melbourne. After sitting on the runway for over an hour while all the baggage was unloaded, then reloaded (due to a discrepancy we were told), we finally departed. The seats had good deep one cm of padding at best, (much like folding chairs) and could recline all of 5°, there were no contoured seats, just straight backs.

It was easy to tell those who had travelled JetStar before, they were the ones with thick, fleecy jackets (In the middle of summer) who used them to make the seats slightly more comfortable. We; however, were reduced to resting our foreheads on our folded arms supported by the tray in front.

Various types of food and drink were available, if you wanted to pay the exorbitant prices; which from our observations not many did!

Our advice would be to fly JetStar only if there is no other flight available, if you do, then ensure you take a thick, fleece jacket, and snacks to eat surreptitiously when the flight attendants aren't around.

Another benefit we had with flying JetStar was for both of us to contract a really nasty chest infection on the flight, which manifested a couple of days later; however, an upshot of this was that we discovered that there is a reciprocal agreement with New Zealand whereby citizens and permanent residents of either country have full access to emergency treatment in the other, all free of charge.

The doctors need to use a special form for prescriptions or you will be charged the full price for medications, and they are considerably more expensive than in New Zealand.

Having had to use the emergency centres at two hospitals on two occasions, one in Western Australia and the other in Queensland, I can personally attest that the service and facilities provided at both were second to none, the former being exceptional.

Grey Power Federation AGM

The AGM for Grey Power Federation is being held this year on May 15 thru 16 at Palmeston North, which is considerably more convenient than that last year at Christchurch.

Brian Newton and Susan Anderson will be attending this event and will provide a report on the various aspects of the meeting for inclusion in a future newsletter.

The Isms' of Society

I am becoming more and more annoyed by the way in which people of 60+ are described as 'elderly' in newspaper reports. You will all seen it; Elderly driver of 68 is hit by oncoming car on the wrong side of the road. This is not a quote, merely an example of the widespread ageism prevalent in the media. Most of the time the 'elderly' victim of whatever is not at fault, but by calling them 'elderly' there is a subtle bias towards assuming they must have somehow been to blame.

It is this type of reporting that subconsciously reinforces the belief that anyone with grey hair and many years of staying alive is somewhat lacking in the ability to use "the little grey cells" as Poirot so eloquently puts it, if not totally non compis mentis.

Why don't reporters write about young 22-year-old loses control of car, or middle aged year old victim of a hit and run?

Whilst I am on the topic of ageism, one advertisement near the top of my detest list, is the ad' for a resident of a home where the daughter says her mother is always smiling and happy when she visits her. Of course she is, her daughter is probably her only visitor and judging by the body language as she introduces a staff member as her friend, she probably doesn't have many friends amongst the residents either. So a lonely lady is reduced to claiming friendship with a staff member of the residential care home.

Before I get jumped on for the comments above, I know they are all actors – the older lady being a far better actress than the younger one, I have worked as a care giver in a residential home so I do have experience of what goes on.

The absolute top of my ad' detest list is the Skittles-pox, I assume that is aimed at younger teens, judging by the apparent age of the actors. This ad' shows a boy covered in Skittles claiming have Skittles-pox. The girl friend picks one off of his face and eats it, and then develops Skittle-pox herself.

How many of you would pick something off of another person's face and eat it? It's that subconscious message again, it's on TV so it must be OK. Personally I find it disgusting and will never buy Skittles. No I not contacted the manufacturers, I prefer the passive approach, just don't buy the products.

I the next issue, I will address sexism, which together with ageism is alive and well in our media.

Susan Anderson - Secretary

Childhood Sweethearts

An elderly couple who were childhood sweethearts had married and settled down in their old neighborhood.

To celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary, they walked down to their old high school.

There, they held hands as they found the desk they shared and where he'd carved "I love you, Sally".

On their way back home, a bag of money fell out of an armored car practically at their feet.

She quickly picked it up, but they didn't know what to do with it, so they took it home. There, she counted the money - it was \$50,000!

The husband said: "We've got to give it back". She said, "Finders keepers" and put the money back in the bag and hid it up in their attic.

The next day, two police officers who were going from door-to-door in the neighborhood making enquiries and looking for the money showed up at their home.

One knocked on the door and said: "Pardon me, but did either of you find any money that fell out of an armored car yesterday?" She said: "No."

The husband said: "She's lying. She hid it up in the attic."

She said: "Don't believe him, he's getting senile," but the two policemen sat the man down and began to question him.

The senior and taller one said: "So sir, tell us the story from the beginning."

The old man said: "Well, when Sally and I were walking home from school yesterday ..."

At this, he looked at the other officer and said:

"We're outta here!"

Air Conditioning Systems

With the winter months just around the corner, perhaps now is the time to check and if necessary, remove and clean the filters on the indoor unit; also check around the outside unit and ensure the airflow around this is clear and unrestricted, and again if necessary, clear and clean the air inlet. As is well accepted, air conditioning units, also known as heat pumps, provide one of, if not the most efficient media for heating, typically 3.0 – 4.5 KW of heat emitted into the space for every KW of electrical power consumed; however, to maintain these efficiencies it is essential that all airflows be free and all filters be regularly cleaned.

Whilst on the subject of air conditioning systems, we recently received a call from one of our members, her air conditioning system was not her main reason for calling; however, during the conversation she alluded to a call she had with her son in which she was complaining about her finding it difficult to cope with the humidity. Her son advised her to use her air conditioning system in either the cooling or dehumidification setting, she normally only used the system to provide heating in winter. She was unable work out how, so called the technician who installed the system who set it up for her. The outcome was that she left it on in the set mode for a month, she was far more comfortable and found her breathing easier, and the real bonus: her power bill was only nominally \$10.00 more than it would have normally been, so if you have an air conditioning system, remember, they are excellent dehumidifiers, and are extremely economic to operate.

Learning Has No Age Limit

Many of our members will know how I have pushed for becoming IT savvy; did anyone read the recent article published in the Beacon? It referred to lady called Lyn, who at 93 years of age is determined to keep her driving licence so as she can continue to drive to Senior Net computer classes in Whakatane.

She says she tells all her friends to take computer classes if they don't wish to get left behind. Lyn uses Skype and has set up her Facebook account so as, as she so eloquently puts it, she doesn't have to see what everyone has had for breakfast.

Senior Net operates from a learning centre located behind the tennis club in Goulstone Road, and provides courses covering virtually all aspects of using computers, tablets and smartphones, the latter two in either Android or Apple formats. They also operate short course on a 1 to 1 basis, where the session is spent with a specialist tutor solely on a 1 to 1 basis.

For information on the courses available, contact Senior Net Whakatane on:

07 308 0564

Nominations for Officers & Committee Members

As our May meeting will be our AGM, if you would like to join our committee, we would welcome any nominations, all nominations for the positions as listed below are to be submitted on the form below:

in either instance, all nominations must be received by no later than Friday May 12; nominations from the floor at the actual meeting will not be eligible, nomination forms can either be mailed to our PO Box or emailed to us at:

whakatanegreypower@gmail.com

Please note that nominations can only be from and for financial members in this current financial year.

The current officers and committee will all be standing for re-election, these are:

Betty Hudson	Chairperson
Susan Anderson	Secretary & Newsletters Editor
Brian Newton	Treasurer, Website Management & Newsletters
Kate Ross	Membership Secretary / Membership Maintenance
Rob Ross	Media Liaison & Facebook Page Management
Maud McKinnon	Committee Member
Johan Groemeveld	Committee Member

Nominations For Officers & Committee Members

Officers:	Nomination	Seconded
President
Secretary
Treasurer
Membership Secretary
Media Liaison
Committee Member
Committee Member
Committee Member
Committee Member

Jesus, Moses and an Old Man Play Golf

Moses, Jesus, and an old man were enjoying a friendly round of golf together.

Moses stepped up the tee and hit the ball. It went sailing over the fairway and landed in the water trap. Moses then parted the water and chipped the ball onto the green.

Jesus stepped up to the tee and hit the ball. His too went sailing over the fairway and landed in the water trap. Jesus just walked onto the water and chipped the ball onto the green.

The old man stepped up the tee and hit the ball. It went sailing over the fairway and headed for the water trap. But just before it fell into the water, a fish grabbed the ball in its mouth.

As the fish was falling back to the water, an eagle swooped own and grabbed the fish in its claws. The eagle flew over the green where a lightning bolt shot from the sky and barely missed it.

Startled, the eagle dropped the fish, when the fish hit the ground, the ball popped out of its mouth and rolled for a hole in one.

Jesus then turned to the old man and said:

"Dad, if you don't stop fooling around, we won't bring you next time"

Election Year

Should any member have a question they like our local candidates to address when they are the guest speaker at our meeting, please send these to us prior so that the speaker (s) can address them during their presentations.

Whilst there will be the opportunity for questions from the floor, any that require research should be given beforehand so as we can pass them on, one thing we believe we all want to hear, are their visions for the future, their views on improving public transport in the area.

This Newsletter is also posted on our website under the "Newsletters" Menu

Disclaimer:

Opinions expressed in this news issue are those of the contributors. All information is given in good faith and is believed to be accurate and reliable at the time of issue; however, Whakatane District Grey Power Association Inc. does not accept any liability for its contents.



Prepared & Edited by Susan Anderson & Brian Newton

Membership Subscription Form

Mr / Mrs / Ms * (Please Circle One)

Given Name: _____ Family Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Landline 'Phone: _____

Membership No: (If Renewal) _____ Cell / Mobile: _____

Annual Membership \$15.00 Single
\$25.00 Double

Renewal / New ** (Please Circle One)
Valid to March 31, 2017

Any donation to help with the cost of paper, postage and stationery would be greatly appreciated.

Subscription \$..... Birth date - **(If under 50 Only)**

Donation \$.....

To: Whakatane Grey Power
P.O. Box 830
Whakatane 3158

Total Remitted \$.....

If you post to our P.O. Box, it will assist us immensely if you could please include a stamped addressed envelope to cover the cost for mailing your Membership Card (s) and if paying by cash (Please note that we do not advise sending cash through the mail), your receipt. New members and membership renewals can also be undertaken via our website, simply click on the "Join Us" button and select from the sub menu accordingly.

Internet Banking

Payment can be made direct to our bank account via Internet Banking, our preferred method of payment; details of our account together with the required details are as listed below; if you are a new member and paying via this method, and not using our website, please also send us an email to whakataneGREYPOWER@gmail.com advising your details as listed above, including identifying how the amount paid is made up; i.e. if you are including a donation, please state the two amounts.

Bank: Kiwibank

Account Name: Whakatane District Grey Power Association Inc.

Account Number: 38 9003 0986339 02

Details to Appear on Our Statement:

Particulars	Code ***	Reference
Initials & Given Name	Renew / New	Membership Number ****

*** (Please Circle One)

**** (New Members Leave This Field Blank)

***** Do you wish to receive material from Grey Power Federation? YES / NO ***** (Please Circle One)