

TAURANGA & WBOP GREY POWER QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER MAY 2021

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Hello and welcome to our autumn/winter newsletter. A special welcome to all our new members – it's great to have you on board. We've had a good start to the year with our first magazine going out and membership renewals coming in.

You will see in the news below that we are holding our AGM next month on 17th June with the Minister for Seniors as our guest speaker. This is a fantastic opportunity to hear what the minister has to say about the aspirations she has for the future wellbeing for our age group. We look forward to seeing as many members as possible at the meeting so as to be able to take advantage of this.

Grey Power's national AGM is being held in July when we, as associations, are able to present remits to the board which are in turn approved by delegates. During the following 12 months the board is then tasked with lobbying government or appropriate agencies to follow through with what has been asked for. Our own association is submitting a remit; **That Grey Power Federation lobby Government to establish an independent National Health Consumer Advocacy Service to provide a confidential free service for New Zealanders concerned about the healthcare service they have received.** This is an important service which has been very effective but is losing funding and there are so few impartial advocates to help those in need.

AGM for Tga & WBOP 2021:

Our AGM date is set for **Thursday 17th June at 10am**. This will be at the Senior Citizens Club, 14 Norris St – on the road behind Pac N Save. At 10.15 we are having the Rt Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall, the Minister for Seniors, speak to us about her vision for the next 18 months and a variety of issues that we feel are important to members. Please plan to be there for this interesting meeting with the Minister. 😊

Membership Renewal:

A reminder that **membership subscriptions are due!** Our year is from 1 April to 31 March. Single **\$20 & double \$35**. Check your card and if it still has a pale blue label with a 2021 expiry date, then it is time to renew. Our last opportunity to process any cheques will be 15th June otherwise go online or come into the office with cash. Go to our website – www.greypowertauranga.govt.nz and click on PAY NOW. Online, members who are **renewing do not have to fill in a form** – just use your membership number when you make your internet payment. If the office is not open you can safely pop an envelope, containing a cheque or cash, through the mail slot in our door. So as to be able to pay your subs next year an easy way is to ask your bank to set up an A/P (Automatic Payment). For those who have already renewed, I can't thank you enough for the very generous donations that you have added to your renewals this year! 😊 This will be a tremendous help when we post out the next Magazine in June. As we are not a charity it does mean that donations cannot be claimed on your tax return which is one of the reasons that we no longer issue receipts, your new card is proof of payment.

Computer courses – Free:

Kanorau Digital is offering free computer courses at their offices in 17th Ave, opposite the Village. They will teach all the usual things but this would be an excellent time to have some help with online banking. For more details do call the office or phone them on 0800 526672.

In Katikati there is the opportunity to have free sessions for Grey Power members at the Digital Hub. Usually, the courses have 2-hour workshops covering 4 topics, but the staff are willing to create sessions that meet the needs of members. So, if you are interested in topics such as hobbies online, finding the right digital device, communicating with family, introduction to your device, introduction to the internet, online shopping or banking, managing my photos, staying safe online or social networking then please contact David & Jill Marshall with your topics so we can organise sessions in a more relaxed format for our members. Phone 07 549 4147, or email at dandj@bethany-bop.com

Local Government:

The Tauranga City Council is in the process of selling off their elder housing units this year. On the Tauranga side, to the State (Kainga Ora) and the two sites at the Mount will be sold on the open market so as to realise a large amount of capital. This means there will no longer be social housing available for those tenants to stay in their community which is causing some considerable concern for them but they are promised housing in Tauranga. The tenants in the other 7 units are assured of future accommodation but there could be some disruption while the units are either refurbished or rebuilt.

Rate payers are very divided as to whether the council should continue to provide elder housing or not and these discussions have been ongoing since about 2018. Local govt does not qualify for any funding from Central govt to do the overdue upgrades to the units. The units are not rate payer funded but have subsisted on the rent which has not allowed for much needed upgrades since they were built in the 60's. On the plus side, more elder housing is needed in Tauranga and this presents an opportunity to redevelop and increase the number of units.

Go to <https://www.tauranga.govt.nz/our-future/projects/> for more information or call the office. TCC is keen that Grey Power comments on their plans The proposed sale of Pitau Road village and Hinau Street village, as outlined in the Long Term Plan (LTP) – have your say!

<https://www.tauranga.govt.nz/council/council-documents/long-term-plans/long-term-plan-2021-31/long-term-plan-other-consultation-topics>

Abbeyfield golf tournament:

Abbeyfield is a community initiative to provide affordable housing for older people. Each person would have their own private studio apartment with ensuite but share a common lounge and dining area. In the WBOP the developers have an option on a piece of land at a great price but they need to fund raise for it. They have organised a fundraising golf tournament at Fairview Golf Course Katikati on 28th May 2021 at 10am. Entry is \$35. Please contact Melva Howard 021 424 821 or Natasja de Graaf, 027 348 7748 by 21st

Online Banking: 38-9019-0720156-00 Ref: Abbeyfield/Name

Golf Carts available at \$40. Please book direct through Fairview Golf Shop- 07 5493412 or email: info@fairviewgolf.co.nz

Covid vaccine:

Most people will have received the flyer in their letter box by now but the authorities once again failed to include a phone number! The number to call for an appointment is **0800 829 000** and the place to go is in 1st Ave, half way along on the Farmers building side. We have queried the single location for people who do not drive and live further out of town and will let you know of any updates which are expected in the next 2 -3 weeks.

NZ Post Shops that take bill payments:

With the closure of so many of our post shops and bank branches some people have found it very hard to find a way to pay their bills. This is a list of the Post Shops, which nearly all share spaces with another business, that will accept payments. Paper Plus – Grey St-Tga, Paper Plus Bethlehem, Unichem Brookfield Pharmacy, Cherrywood Variety Store, Unichem Greerton Pharmacy, Mt Post-The Mount, Papamoa Plaza Post Shop, Paper Plus Katikati-Jensen's Stationary, Uli Holdings – Te Puke

Insurance – contents:

Many of us might think burglary and theft is the same, but they are in fact different and may be covered differently by insurance policies.

Basically, burglary is when 'forced entry' has occurred. This is when a burglar breaks into your house, car or private space without permission. If you have items stolen from you when walking along the street, this is also considered 'burglary' as your items were taken from you by force.

Theft is when someone steals something – usually in an opportunistic way. For example, a guest you invited to your house steals something like your phone or laptop. Or you were gardening around the backyard with your front door unlocked, someone slipped in and took items from your house. In all these scenarios there would be no sign of 'forced entry' so the event is defined as theft and not burglary.

Might be worth double checking your insurance policies.

Thames Museum:

Carolyn McKenzie, on behalf of Thames Museum, would like to invite us to consider the museum as a destination to visit. Thames is a comfortable day out from Tauranga. It showcases the social history of the area, from earliest times through to the mid-1900s. We are home to the unique Ted Egan Gallery *Building Thames*: a collection of 39 recycled kauri models of the fine buildings that were a feature of the townscape at the height of the goldmining days.

Our museum is run entirely by volunteers. If you decide to visit, we will arrange for some of them to be on hand as guides – there is no extra charge for this. While in town, as well as visiting the Museum you can enjoy a meal, either at one of the many cafes or at the historic Junction Hotel's restaurant, the Grahamstown Bar and Diner; visit one of the other heritage sites or take a walk around the town.

They are open Frid – Wed 10am – 3pm. If you would like to know more about Thames Museum, please visit thameshistoricalmuseum.weebly.com and facebook.com/thamesmuseumnz or phone on 0278686072 or 07 8688509

Legal identity:

Some form of legal identity is needed to open a bank account or make important changes to existing accounts and there are other instances where it is need. This poses a problem for people who no longer have a driver's licence or a current passport. It is also a lot safer and more efficient if you can carry a card sized ID in your wallet rather than trotting round with your valuable passport.

The new Kiwi Access Card has been designed to give anyone in NZ the freedom to access goods and services and is a valid form of photographic, legal identity recognised by banks and other professional businesses. The card has been specifically designed with New Zealand's over 60s and retired communities in mind, to ensure you have a reliable and secure evidence of identity. You can apply for this at a participating NZ Post Shop or AA Centre. It is \$55 incl GST plus the cost of \$20-\$26 for a passport photo.

Another form of Legal ID is a Gun Licence. For some other situations you can apply for a 'legal declaration' written by your doctor or a Retirement Village manager, who has known you for 3 or more years. Until to the Gold Card is upgraded to give it the acceptable accreditation to be a form of legal identity, we will have to make do with the options just mentioned.

Continence:

This is always a tricky subject to talk about but it can sometimes become an issue. In our quarterly magazine we are fortunate to have Lille Healthcare, advertise their disposable products which are brilliant. However, sometimes there is a need for 24-hour protection for the 'just in case' situations. Continence NZ supplies machine washable, padded underpants for men and women. A friend's mother has been using these for a year and swears by them. To buy a pack of 5 for \$25 plus \$7 postage go to www.continencenz.org.nz or phone 0800 650 659

Handy tip: 😊

If you have any goods delivered from a supermarket, they come on paper carrier bags. Once you have made use of the bag, tear off the string handles and use them to tie up plants. They were great for my tomatoes and beans this summer.

Coffee Mornings:

Tauranga – The meeting is now at the Senior Citizens Club, 14 Norris St, (behind Pac N Save). First Thursday of the month at 10am and on alternate months we have a speaker and the other, it's 'tea and chat' when members can raise any questions or bring ideas to our attention. A \$2 donation towards the hall hire would be great.

Papamoa – Members meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month at Pacifica Nursery Café, Tara Rd at 10am. No speakers as yet but the coffee and company are excellent.

Katikati – Members meet at the Katikati Community Centre in Beach Rd on the 3rd Thursday of each month. Having the meetings monthly is a new initiative which we hope will be embraced by members. Starting this month, 20th May, we will have a new host, Chris Pickett, after Baden and Lyn decided to step down after doing an excellent job. Although Chris is relatively new to Grey Power, he has a lot of experience with hosting groups and is keen to meet you all and continue the coffee morning culture/tradition. A \$2 donation towards the hall hire/morning tea would be great.

Gift idea:

If you are not keen to go out shopping just yet and wondering what to give a friend or relative for their next birthday?? Problem solved!! Gift a year's membership to our Grey Power Association and they will receive 6 publications a year, can attend up to 10 coffee mornings with speakers plus it entitles them to cheaper electricity and broadband. They also become part of a nationwide lobby group which is proactive in looking after our wellbeing and strives to protect your Superannuation!

That's all for this issue! We will be working on our next magazine now which will be delivered to you around the 20th of June.

Take care of yourselves,

Jennifer and your Committee