

TE AWAMUTU GREY POWER (Inc.)



Newsletter 2010/2

May

Membership at 22/04/2010 1,487
New Members for 2010/11 55
Financial to 31/3/2011 950
Financial to 31/3/2012 48

New Year Greetings to all our Members.

President Doug and all your committee wish you and yours good health throughout 2010

Your Membership.

Your personalized wrapping page for this newsletter shows the last date that you can claim to be a member.

We always appreciate early renewals and are even happy to take advance payments for two or more years. The sub is now \$15 single and \$20 double.

\$5 of each year's sub goes to Federation to keep the process ticking.

One or two have asked about internet banking of subs. Cheque books seem to be going out of fashion. If this suits you, our account no is 389003-0766096-00

But please ensure we know who you are!!! [email is a good idea] If you change your address, please let me know. Ed.

NEW MEMBER drive.

If you bring in a new member between 1 Jan 2010 and 15 May 2010 we will enter you both in the draw for \$2,500 worth of travel vouchers sponsored by

Note for the less mobile in Otorohanga.

There is now a wheel chair available at the Information Centre for those who find difficulty getting their own chair into the boot.

Your Grey Power Meetings.

In **February** we had a very good presentation by Sue Blackett from the Te Awamutu Medical Centre

March was the time for our Mayor Alan Livingston with support from Council members & staff to bring us up to date on the 10-year plan. The immediate recent change is the economy of new management on Council that cut costs by \$1.2M and helped to keep rate increases in Te Awamutu at about 5.2%

The CBD upgrade in Te Awamutu has started and promises great improvement.

There was some vigorous debate on major projects such as the ever fading by-pass and the community centre

April was the month for an excellent presentation by Bryce Johns until recently editor of the Waikato Times and in transit to a new position with the Herald group.

Talleys of Nelson. If you are a new member and gained your membership through an existing member please let us know who it was, (an e-mail would be the most convenient these days to paul_hobbs@xtra.co.nz), and we will do the rest.

Grey Power Te Awamutu

Please give me your email address if you have one, I will be advising you just before each meeting of the event. The number is growing slowly.

We are sending newsletters out this way too. Hope to save quite a bit

of postage and shoe leather.

Editorial. Any expression of opinion in the following pages can be attributed to this desk but is not necessarily Grey Power policy.

Photo ID. If you are an elderly person who is past holding a driving licence or never had one but would like to have photo ID on your Gold Card, you could try the AA. The nearest office to us is at 295 Barton St., Hamilton

Treasurer's Notes:

If more of you switched your personal bank account from one of those overseas owned banks to **Kiwibank**, that would help. They are the major sponsor of Grey Power these days.

Programme.

Meetings. Waipa Workingmen's Club
Albert Park Drive 1.30 p.m. unless
advised otherwise in Courier.

Tues 18th May AGM
Cr Hazel Barnes
Plans for Tourism

Tues 15th Jun Midwinter Lunch
With Shane Ardern MP

Tues 20th Jul Kevin McDonald
Natural Healing

Circle the 3rd Tues in the month on your calendar as your regular Grey Power meeting but watch the Courier **for any changes!**

If you have suggestions or queries ring a member of the committee.

Have you got a story either for a meeting or our newsletters?

(Continued from page 1)

When you open your account make sure it is tagged Grey Power.

Note that the extra member in your household may not benefit the local association. It does not cost us any more as we only send one newsletter & one discount book to a household, but those extra names will help to boost the national total to that 100,000 target. If you are living with a son or daughter over 50, or your partner is not yet a member, bring them in. They will appreciate the discounts they may be able to get.

Your AGM agreed to an increase in the annual sub to Te Awamutu Grey Power to \$15 (single) and \$20 (double)

Please alter the figures shown on the centre page of your discount book.

Discounts

The retailers who give a discount to Grey Power members are valuable to us all as a group.

Unfortunately there are one or two of you who are putting the relationship in danger by abusing the privilege.

Please DO NOT expect a Grey Power discount on items in a SALE or already on SPECIAL. If you have already negotiated a discounted rate for a service, DON'T expect to get a Grey Power discount as well.

Smoke Alarms.

Have you tested your smoke alarm lately ? **Now** might be a good idea ! Try burning the toast.

If you hear a small 'cheep' like a young bird in trouble repeated every minute or so, it could be your alarm telling you that the battery is low.

Rates Rebate

Have you investigated whether you qualify for a Rates Rebate this year?

If you are on minimal income level with National Super and small other income only, you probably do.

Waipa District Council expected 3000 applicants and only 1100 or so have applied so far.

For rates due for the current rating year 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 you must apply before 30 Jun 2010 Go to Waipa District Council front desk for an application. Even if you tried last year, it would be as well to try again this year.

If your gross rates before rebate of District and Environment Waikato rates is \$2,200 you could qualify for a partial rebate with combined before tax income of \$32,000

Power Switch

Have you checked your power bills lately?

We did several years ago and made a switch. I have rechecked from time to time since and now find a different company that will give us a further saving of over \$120 pa.

All you need to do is type Power Switch into Google and have a recent account with you.

The latest in this area is Tiny Mighty Power who are offering GP members in Waipa a special deal that could be worth 10% of your June-July-August electricity payments. Take your latest power bill in and find out.

They are having a special morning tea at Waipa Working Men's Club on Wed 12th May at 9.30 am. Take your latest power bill with you.

If you have never changed your supplier since way back, you will almost certainly be very pleasantly surprised.

Grey Power NZ.

Ever since I have been involved in Grey Power, there have been media releases whenever a policy change might affect the elderly.

I have yet to see one in my Herald or Waikato Times.

29 MARCH 2010

CHECK THAT CHEQUE SAYS BANKING OMBUDSMAN

The Banking Ombudsman Deborah Battell is reminding people about the precautions they need to take when using cheques, following a spate of recent cases received by the Office involving stolen cheques.

"Despite what some people might think, cheques are still in common use – particularly in small businesses where large sums are often transacted.

"But people seem to forget – or have never known – the correct way to cross a cheque to ensure it goes to the right person and account. As a result, we continue to see cases of theft where stolen cheques have been deposited by fraudsters into their own accounts and the proceeds then withdrawn."

Ms Battell said that typically, people think that by crossing the cheque 'not negotiable', they are protected from the possibility of the cheque being paid into the

St Johns Anglican Church Volunteers Welcome

Have you a few hours to spare a month?

Meet and become involved with warm friendly people on the fourth Saturday in the month at the

Arawata Street Market Day

For more detail ring 871-5568

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

account of anyone but the person named as the payee on that cheque. "The words 'not negotiable' just mean the cheque cannot be cashed – instead the money must go into a bank account – but in the cases we've seen, this could ultimately be into the thief's own account. Crossing out the words 'or bearer' will not offer protection from such a theft."

Ms Battell said that if people are writing a cheque, they should write either 'account payee only' or 'not transferable' on the cheque to ensure the money is paid to the person named on the cheque.

"The words 'account payee only' or 'not transferable' tell your bank to withdraw the money from your bank account and deposit it into the bank account of the person named as the payee on the cheque, and only that person. In the unfortunate case of theft, your bank will not allow it to be paid to anyone but the person you named as the payee."

SOMETHING TO CONSIDER

Amongst the members of our Grey Power group we must have, collectively and individually, a host of interesting life-time memories. I am sure that many of us have lived in interesting places, done some interesting jobs, met some interesting (famous even!) people and had some interesting life experiences.

My thought is "Why don't we share these memories with the members?" I suggest that those who are willing could give a short, (5 minutes at most), talk each month as an addition to our regular programme. If you're a bit shy about public speaking, then write out your memories and one of the members will read your contribution for you.

I'm prepared to organise the initial contributions, (Call me on 871 5488) or otherwise just let President Doug or Paul know that you have a contribution to offer. I am sure that these memories will be of real interest to the membership.

Alistair Kerr

Story Time

Jesus Knows

A burglar broke into a house one night. He shone his flashlight around, looking for valuables when a voice in the dark said,

'Jesus knows you're here.'

He nearly jumped out of his skin, clicked his flashlight off, and froze.

When he heard nothing more, after a bit, he shook his head and continued. Just as he pulled the stereo out so he could disconnect the wires, clear as a bell he heard

'Jesus is watching you.'

Freaked out, he shone his light around frantically, looking for the source of the voice.

Finally, in the corner of the room, his flashlight beam came to rest on a parrot.

'Did you say that?' he hissed at the parrot.

'Yep', the parrot confessed, then squawked, 'I'm just trying to warn you that he is watching you.'

The burglar relaxed. 'Warn me, huh? Who in the world are you?'

'Moses,' replied the bird.

'Moses?' the burglar laughed.

'What kind of people would name a bird Moses?'

'The kind of people that would name a Rottweiler Jesus.'

It's not that I think you are an old geezer but I thought you might know one or

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Your Committee.

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021-493-627

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Editor

Paul Hobbs email: paul_hobbs@xtra.co.nz

Your Experiences.

Send in snippets for your newsletter.

Magills

Fresh Meat and Deli

Sponsors of our Raffle Prizes

(Continued from page 3)

two you would like to send this to !!!

I'm passing this on as I did not want to be the only old geezer receiving it.

Actually, it's not a bad thing to be called, as you will see....

'Old Geezers' are easy to spot: At sporting events, during the playing of the National Anthem, old Geezers remove their caps and stand at attention and sing without embarrassment. They know the words and believe in them.

Old Geezers remember the Depression, World War II, the bombing of Darwin, the Kokoda Trail, Spitfires, Normandy and Hitler. They remember the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, the Korean War, The Cold War, the jet age and the moon landing, the 50 plus Peacekeeping Missions from 1945 to 2005

If you bump into an Old Geezer on the footpath he will apologize. If you pass an Old Geezer on the street, he will nod or tip his cap to a lady. Old Geezers trust strangers and are courtly to women. Old Geezers hold the door for the next person and always, when walking, make certain the lady is on the inside for protection. Old Geezers get embarrassed if someone curses in front of women and children and they don't like any filth on TV or in movies.

Old Geezers have moral courage. They seldom brag unless it's about their grandchildren.

It's the Old Geezers who know our great country is protected, not by politicians, but by the young men and women in the military serving their country.

This country needs Old Geezers with their decent values. We need

them now more than ever.

Thank Goodness for Old Geezers! Pass this on to all the Old Geezers you know.

[Thanks Linda]

Latest report from Age Concern
1. Listening to Grey Power more effective than lecturing'

Ross Robertson, Labour Party senior citizen spokesperson thanked Grey Power for providing information:

"In a series of written Parliamentary Questions I have asked about Mr Carter's first 12 months as Senior Citizens Minister, he has not in that time sought advice or information on the impact of home help cuts, the Safe with Age programme, changes to ACC for older people or the scrapping of the falls prevention programme for the elderly and he only became aware of his Government's decision to scrap a safe driving programme for older people at a public meeting."

"The Minister's recent behaviour and his lack of effort in advocating for or even for taking an interest in his portfolio, sends a clear message that National Government is ignoring the needs of senior citizens." Ross said

2. Rest Home changes upset Grey Power. From TV One news: ... New figures show 16% of people who had a needs assessment last September went into residential care. Five years ago, nearly 25% of people who had assessments got into care. ... restrictions on access to rest homes are designed to encourage more senior citizens to live in the community. But he says home help seems to have gone amiss and many older people are being denied support when they or their family really need it

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A new name for those odd jobs:

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3. News from around NZ

ODT 17th April Most elderly who have appealed against losing their housework help are losing their battle with southern health boards Herald 21st April. Church agencies fear witch hunt about enquiry into aged care

Friendly Foot Care

Tracy de Thierry ph: 871-9872

More feet I would like to meet!

A registered enrolled nurse.

Toenails, fingernails, corns, cracked heels,
massage and advice

Te Awamutu Museum

Permanent Exhibitions

- *True Colours* (Finn brothers)
- *Tangata Whenua* gallery
- NZ Wars — Waikato Campaign
- *Displays* about local history

Opening hours

Mon—Fri 10am—4pm
 Sat 10am—1pm
 Sun 1 pm—4pm

Temporary Exhibition

until June—The Games People Play

New Exhibition coming soon—

From Morse to Messaging—Post and telegraph history in Waipa

Visit www.tamuseum.org.nz for more information.

Nathalie Metz, Museum Assistant

Margaret Nicholls of Kihikihi
 Coordinates the collection of used stamps from anywhere and everywhere to support missionary work.

How about saving your envelopes and sending them to her.

They can be dropped in at:
 249 Mutu St., Te Awamutu
 or 92 Lyon St., Kihikihi

(Continued from page 4)

The Press 17th April: GP in Christchurch is concerned that patients with reduced home support would need to enter rest home care earlier.

Taranaki Daily News 16th April Pensioner flats must stay says pensioner Ron to a proposal to sell off some South Taranaki DC pensioner flats

Southland Times 20th April War vet "left to die in filth" says coroner. His caregiver failed to give him the attention he deserved.

One Sunday morning, Satan appeared before a small town congregation. Everyone started screaming and running for the front church door, trampling each other in a frantic effort to get away.

Soon, everyone was gone, except for an elderly gentleman who sat calmly.

Satan walked up to the man and said, "Don't you know who I am?"

The man replied, "Yep, sure do."

Satan asked, "Aren't you going to run?"

"Nope, sure ain't," said the man

Perturbed, Satan asked, "Why aren't you afraid of me?"

The man calmly replied, "Been married to your sister for over 48 years."

[Thanks Anne]



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Julie Atkins

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Now with Ray White for buying or selling in the Real Estate market in Te Awamutu.

Discounts available to holders of the Gold Card



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A copy of our disclosure statement is available on request and free of charge.



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Funeral Celebrant – Margaret Hall

Nothing is more sure in life than death

It may not be a pleasant thought and it is often something we do not like to discuss.

A death in the family is usually a stressful and confusing time for all.

We can often help to alleviate this stress by talking with our loved ones, informing them of what type or style of funeral service or farewell that we would like.

Pre-choosing readings and music or hymns etc, can be an advantage

I have been a celebrant since 1999

I am flexible and cater with respect for Christians and non-believers alike.

I have resources and ideas to help create a personal ceremony

As a member of the Celebrants Association of NZ

I am bound by a code of ethics

You may like to contact me for further information

Address 488 Pakura St., Te Awamutu

Phone: 871 6372

Mobile: 021 1108700



Who can afford to go to the dentists?

MP for Wigram and Progressive Party leader

Jim Anderton

April 2010

The truth is, not many of us.

I've been talking to dentists and dental nurses all over New Zealand. They have confirmed that only about 50% of the population is enrolled at a dental surgery. That means 50% are not enrolled, and don't go to the dentist. They can't afford it.

They can't afford it.

I've seen dentists in despair, telling me of patients who need thousands of dollars worth of treatment, but can only afford to do the bare minimum.

Some of these people end up queuing at our hospitals on any day of the week from 6am to get their teeth extracted. It's the cheapest option. This is totally unacceptable in a first world country such as ours.

The good news is that the New Zealand Dental Association is also concerned. They have agreed to get their staff to look at some of the research I have collected over the last few years, and analyse the options available to us.

I went into the last election with a commitment

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to do what I could to see that all New Zealanders have access to an affordable, high quality dental healthcare system. There are several ways we could do this.

I would like to see an affordable dental system become part of the general medical health system in New Zealand. This would provide a public-private partnership which would make sure everyone had their teeth cared for by qualified dental professionals at an affordable cost.

Or we could look at an ACC type model where a small levy pays for an insurance type scheme, and everyone get's access to affordable dental care.

The status quo cannot continue. The members of Grey Power know that better than anyone, and I look forward to your support.

Paddy phones an ambulance because his mate's been hit by a car.

"Get an ambulance here quick, he's bleeding from his nose and ears and I think both his legs are broken."

"What is your location sir?" "Outside number 28 Eucalyptus Street." "How do you spell that sir?"

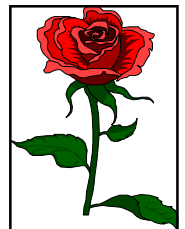
Silence, and after a minute "Are you there sir?" Silence, and a minute later

"Sir, can you hear me?"

This goes on for another few minutes until...

"Sir, please answer me.

Can you still hear me?" "Yes, sorry bout dat. I just dragged him round to number 3 Oak Street"



TE AWAMUTU
ROSE TOWN of NEW ZEALAND

You are on our email list and your personal renewal date is on your membership card.

Between 1st Jan 2010 and 15th May 2010 any new member you introduce will entitle the new member and yourself to entry into a draw for \$2,500 worth of travel vouchers from Talleys of Nelson

If you are renewing attach your cheque to the top of this form and use the form below for the new member.

When both entries are paid up for the year ending 31st Mar 2011, we will send entries in to the competition on your behalf.

If you are already financial to 31st Mar 2011 and wish to bring in a new member, you can still enter the competition.

We thank you for taking email delivery.

Renewal or New Entry for Te Awamutu Grey Power or other nearer Association at
Name(s) Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms, other First Surname
Address: Phone:
email

Put an X in box if you object to Federation using your name, with select firms only, to seek sponsorship

Enclosed \$15 (single) or \$20 (double) for year(s) plus donation total \$

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