

Kaipara Grey Power

K.Cashin
RD 7
DARGAVILLE 0377

Phil Goff with Mayor Neil Tiller
And members, prior to
meeting



Next Meeting Friday 16th April in
Dargaville Methodist Church Complex
Commencing at 1pm

AGM

**Followed by a presentation of a report on
possible changes in local body structures**

This is a Public Meeting. Everyone welcome
Please read note over the page

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Greetings,

I hope you are all remembering to get your flu vaccine.

Snippets from Federation Portfolio Holders as reported to the Federation AGM in Christchurch this month

Huge improvement in the two way flow of information and WINZ now have a link on our website and through Grey Power efforts Work and Income have made things simpler for over 300,000 superannuitants, veterans, invalids and disability allowances, by discarding annual review forms in favour of an annual "circumstance" letter which requires no further action unless information is incorrect. Grey Power assisted office of the Auditor General with the carrying out of an audit on the operations of the Work and Income contact centre. Contributions by Grey Power to the ongoing enduring power of attorney. Regular meeting with Telecom's executive officer and the Banking ombudsman.

Have A.C.C. \$11.4 Billion invested? ACC Minister Nick Smith did not reply to David Parker, Labour Party spokesperson, question on this matter. One cannot wonder if the ACC being prepared for privatisation? Why is the money not being used?

Health: The Board Committee have been strong in its responses to the Rest Home problems, Home Care issues, Hearing Aid Issues, Respite Care, Dental Care. I have been able to help some members with problems. Unfortunately Health incentives are being legislated on the advice of intellectuals, academics and bureaucrats not prepared to balance their aims with the experience that is so readily available for them.

Law and order: The remit passed in 2008, at last, has had some Government action on the cost of the legal aid system. Cell phone use while driving is now illegal after lobbying by Grey Power for three years. Reintroduction of life sentence with no parole was not accepted by Minister of Justice.

Local Bodies and Election strategies: Amalgamation currently has more questions than answers, what will happen to council (your) assets when the hosts of Chief Communications Officers are set up with private directors taking control? How much will it cost to set up? All associations should be involved in meeting their local body candidates – prepare key questions and ask what they intend to do for their rate payers.

50+ Committee: Hon Paula Bennett, Minister of Social Development, indicated there would be a review of benefits. Discussions have continued on the abatement rates on benefits and unqualified spouse superannuation.

We hope to be able to have "meet the candidates" for local body elections later in the year.

If anyone has suggestions for speakers at meetings, I would love to hear from you, with so many clubs targeting the same speakers it is sometimes difficult to "not overlap." All of your executive are available for re-election at next Friday's meeting.... Look forward to seeing you there.

June President

Local government reform: at our meeting on Friday 16 April we will have a speaker from Whangarei District Council (probably CEO Mark Simpson but yet to be confirmed). He will give a short presentation on the proposals for local government reform in Northland, covering the background to the McKinlay Douglas review, the findings of the report and what it means for ratepayers, particularly those in Kaipara. KDC have rejected the findings of the McKinlay Douglas report to pursue amalgamation with the north of Rodney District - Whangarei Council considers this unlikely to happen any time soon and is making sure that Kaipara ratepayers have the opportunity to find out about the proposals and to have a say by making a submission. **We will be endeavouring to have this subject and other views discussed at another meeting too. Ken, Secretary**