

# Matamata Grey Power

September 2009

Issue date September 2009

## Grey Power Zone 3 Meeting

The quarterly Grey Power Zone Meeting is to be held in Matamata again on Friday the 18th September at the Matamata Club.

A limited number of observers are permitted, but please note that observers have no speaking or voting rights.

If you would like to see Grey Power in action then phone 888 6254 to arrange a reservation.

Only those who have pre-registered as observers will be admitted on the day. The meeting starts at 10:00 am.

High on the agenda is Grey Power membership, and how this can be increased. Nationally we have over 80,000 members who are spread across associations with a few hundred members to associations with 12,000 plus.

For the record Matamata has just over 550 members and growing. We still hope to reach 600.

**Bayleys Real Estate  
Matamata  
are Sponsors of this  
Newsletter**

## Council Responds to Our Submissions

Earlier in July your Committee met with our MPDC Ward Councillors to discuss issues concerning Grey Power and the wider community.

A number of issues were raised among which were two which we felt needed Council action.

Our major issue was abuse of disabled parking zones within the town shopping area.

For those who need to use these designated parking areas it is most frustrating to have vehicles illegally parked by able bodied drivers, who generally don't care.

Our suggestion that better marking of the dedicated parking areas is being considered. The council is also consulting with a representative from the groups most affected.

We also made recommendations that the Council give consideration to additional Give Way signage on roads entering Burwood Road and

Rawhiti Avenue. This was prompted by members expressing concerns at the number of near misses experienced.

Unfortunately the bureaucrats see no need for this signage. To quote their response "*Staffs assessment of the intersections concerned is that it does not justify formal control.*"

Our response is, if the residents want Give Way signs because they see a need then the signs should be put in place.

Among other issues raised was the state of the Car park at the rear of the shops on Arawa Street behind the library. The pot holes are to be filled and the area resurfaced.

The Council also committed to clean up of Jim Gardner Reserve and the Lay-by opposite Rawhiti Ave.

There has been no commitment to the construct the Eastern Bypass and is not on the Councils agenda.

---

## Next Luncheon Monday September 21

Our next luncheon is on Monday September 21 at 12.30 pm to be held at the Matamata Club.

Booking is essential so make sure you reserve your seat.

We will be entertained by the Matamata Senior Ladies Choir, to which some of our members belong.

We will also have an update on what Grey Power sees as issues of major concern.

The media has been full of issues that will have major impact on superannuants if they go ahead.

Our National Federation has lobbied long and hard on the core issues as they affect us on fixed incomes.

Your views are important so its time to let us know your concerns.

If you don't tell us we can't act to make changes.

## ***On things past and present by SM***

### **Things that go bump in the night!**

Dear friends, this is a true story, involving myself and my dear wife.

It was a cold winters night, and we were sound asleep, snuggled up in our bed. That is to say, we were sound asleep until the moment it happened! Sometime after midnight there were two loud explosions, followed by the sound of breaking glass. It sounded as if a double barrelled shot gun had been fired at one of our windows near the front of the house.

Directly next door to our bedroom are two rental units, with tenants who were inclined to have noisy parties that went into the early hours of the morning. I immediately feared a tragedy had taken place next door. So without hesitation I picked up the phone and dialled 111. At the same time my wife, who is braver than me, rushed up the passage to seek a better view point.

My 111 call put me in direct touch with Auckland Police Headquarters who attempt to deal with such calls.

I gave my somewhat garbled version of what I thought had happened. I was still giving him the location

of the crime when wifey interrupted me.

“There’s been an explosion in our pantry,” As she had walked along the passage she had become aware that our pantry door with its automatic light was wide open. Two plastic flagons of pure apple juice had fermented causing them to explode.

With my face glowing with embarrassment in the dark I sheepishly explained to the policeman what had happened. He was completely understanding and expressed the thought, “Thank goodness it is nothing more sinister.”

It was time to survey the damage. Two plastic flagons of pure apple juice had been standing on the floor of the pantry along with another half filled flagon and two empty thermos flasks. The thermos flasks had been blown to smithereens and the half fill flagon was twice its normal size and ready to explode any minute. I gingerly placed that one in the sink and carefully removed the top, easing off the pressure.

The damage was considerable. There were shards of glass throughout the kitchen, dinning room and passage, swimming in sweet stick fluid of fermented apple juice. The ceilings, walls and carpets had all suffered the same fate.

Every article in the pantry was saturated in the sticky mess. Not only the shelves but the undersides of them as well.

The explosion had blown a panel off the back of the pantry. It was weeks before we traced and removed every bit of sugary gunk from where it had settled.

Later on reflection we realised that the person who had given us the delicious apple juice had told us in a difficult to understand foreign accent. “Be sure to loosen off the bottle tops, when you get home.

### **Environment Waikato Response**

We have finally had a response to our written submissions on Environment Waikato’s continued double dipping, and method of rating on the Waihou Piako River Scheme.

Nothing has changed, we are still paying to subsidise those with the most to gain, on the Hauraki Plains. To get around the, “Make Matamata residents pay twice,” policy they have now incorporated the two levies into one. To add insult to this iniquity we are now rated on capital value. This is, despite representations from others who share our similar views.

Environment Waikato has the entrenched attitude that what the ratepayer thinks is of no consequence. We have used a commonsense approach to this issue and all we get in reply is five pages of double speak which in effect says “we don’t care, the Government Legislation says we can do what we like so we will just ignore you.”

We as an organisation will take this further with our elected representatives. I know we have said why bother, but surely it is an issue that eventually the elected members of the Regional Council will finally realise that the situation needs to be resolved. We are not going to go away, just to make their lot easier.

## **September Luncheon**

**Monday 21 September**

12.30

**Matamata Club, Rawhiti Lounge**

\$15.00

Phone 888 6254

Reservations by Friday 18th

## Federation Battles On

Grey Power Federation has continued to lobby on our behalf to our political leaders, while a number of issues are ongoing some are now starting to get media attention and therefore attention from the Ministers.

**Cost of Power:** This has now become a major issue not only for superannuants, but all sectors of the population. With power prices 70% higher than they were seven years ago it is now seen as a major issue for those on low fixed incomes. While it is understood that power generation costs may be higher in years of drought, none of the generators are prepared to lower prices when there is sufficient water in the hydro generation lakes.

The cost of power is becoming a real and serious concern and while the Minister, Mr Brownlee is making noises nothing is being done by the Generators. It can't be rocket science to work out that cost of generation is less this year than the two previous years.

Grey Power Federation has lobbied hard on this issue and is waiting for a Ministerial response. The media is now reporting our concerns. It is hoped that those in power actually generate (no pun intended) some meaningful results that make home heating affordable, for all New Zealanders.

**Local Body Rates:** Once again much talk but no action, Mr Hyde as Minister for local government has, as yet, to make councils more accountable and ensure that they return to the core functions.

To much of our rates are spent on none essential services, justification exercises dreamt up by civil servants. Our Federation is ensuring Mr Hyde's promise made at the last Grey Power Federation Conference will

---

### On the Lighter Side:

*Widow's Future:* A woman visits a fortune teller who tells her, "Prepare yourself to be a widow. Your husband will die a violent death this year." Visibly shaken, the woman takes a deep breath, steadies her voice and asks, "Will I be acquitted?"

*High Speed Chase:* After an intense high speed chase the policeman manages to pull over the speedster. "You know," says the cop, "I was only going to pull you over to tell you your tail light is out. Why did you take off like that?"

"Last week," said the man, "My wife ran off with a traffic cop. I thought you were trying to bring her back."

be kept, as in our case Local Bodies are spending more on none core services bought about by Central Government legislation.

**Superannuation:** The age of entitlement has been raised as an issue by the Retirement Commissioner. While this will not effect those currently receiving national super, it will impact on those contemplating retirement within the next ten years. Have we not been through this before?

The retirement Commissioner has also stressed the need to save for retirement, we cannot disagree. However, those of us who have now lost our nest eggs because we believed we had done the right thing by doing just that are not being taken seriously.

Even the much touted Kiwi Saver does not have a guarantee. Our President Mr Les Howard has pointed out it is all very well for those in high places to criticise but they are not doing anything to penalise those few that ripped off the many.

---

## Report on 2009 AGM

Our 2009 Annual General Meeting was well attended with 85 members present. Reports were presented and passed. There being no issues raised from the floor.

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following members were nominated from the floor. There being no other nominations all following members were elected unopposed.

President: Bob Thompson

Secretary: Ron Moles

Treasurer: Margaret Calder

Committee: Doris Stone, Maurice Downs, Colin Brockelsby, Dianne Rangi, Dallas Barrett, Mac Chubb, John Anderson, Hylton Griggor

Accounts Reviewer: John Christophers

### SUBSRIPTIONS

It was moved and carried that Grey Power annual subscription remain at \$10.00 single and \$16.00 a couple.

### SUPPORT FOR HEALTH SHUTTLE

Also moved and unanimously carried was Grey Power Matamata's intent to make another substantial donation from funds available.

This news letter is sponsored by  
Bayleys Real Estate Matamata

Grey Power

**September  
Luncheon**

*Matamata Club*

*Monday 21 September*

*12.30 pm*

*Reservations*

*888 6254*

**Grey Power Matamata  
Contact Details**

**President:**

Bob Thompson  
1 Nikau Pl  
P 888 6254  
E bobndi@clear.net.nz

**Secretary**

Ron Moles  
8 Karamu Cres  
P 888 7082  
F 888 7082  
E joanandron@slingshot.co.nz

## New Members Always Welcome

Matamata Grey Power is always welcoming new members. New membership is the life blood of our organisation.

Without new members we will lose our effectiveness of being a national lobby group that has strong advocacy for senior citizens with out any political bias.

If you know of someone who is not a member encourage them to join. Anyone over fifty is eligible.

To become a member is easy. Just complete the Membership Application opposite and send it to us with your subscription.

By becoming a member of Matamata Grey Power you automatically become a member of Grey Power New Zealand.

Local members receive a trade discount book which is widely supported by most businesses in Matamata.

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name/s .....

Address .....

.....

Phone ..... Post Code .....

Subscription

Single: \$10.00

Double: \$ 16.00

Send to 4 Tahawai Crescent, Matamata, 3400

**Please do not post cash**