



If Undelivered return to: 222 Orchard Park, 685 Queen St East, Levin 5510



Your Committee

President

Lynette Jones
Older Person's Network
Portfolio
022 3616633

Vice President

Stephanie Fleming
Transport Portfolio
0273335894

Treasurer

Peter Dyer
Health Portfolio
06 3676488

Membership Registrar

Lynette Jones
022 3616633

Secretary

Terry Hemmingsen
Communications Portfolio
027 4805834

Committee

Bill Tofts
Disability Portfolio
027 5097444

Anne Forsberg
Local Government Portfolio
Almoner & Member Care

Horowhenua
Grey Power
Association Inc
222 Orchard Park,
685 Queen St East
Levin 5510

Meetings News

The Electoral Candidates meeting will be held at the Levin Cosmopolitan Club, Oxford Street, Levin at 1:30 p.m on Friday 9th October.

This special edition of the Newsletter is one of information and a meet the Candidate.

They have written on how each one of them sees their vision to help the Elderly should they hold a Government seat.

Sadly, we have picked our date to hold our meeting on the same day as a Feilding event that most candidates will be attending. Some of the candidates have sent a write up for us and are included in this issue even though they cannot attend our meeting. Also Mary from Masonic Village will be talking to us about what's happening in this space.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held at the Levin Cosmopolitan Club, Oxford Street, Levin at 1:30 p.m on Friday 20th November.

December Meeting

Our Christmas function will be on 11th December at St. Mary's Church Hall located at 3 Manchester Street, Levin. This is a "bring a plate" function but we will be serving some hot food.

Age On The Go

Don't forget this event on 16th Oct. There will be some of our election candidates randomly perusing the event so you may be able to get some time with them

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Questions sent to Candidates

Each Candidate has been asked to reply to these questions:

Profile

Write about why you think the elderly should vote for you? How long have you lived in the district?

Health

Write about what you have achieved for the elderly in our community over the last 3 years and what you want to achieve in the future 3 years to improve the health for our elderly.

Rates

Write about what you plan to do to maintain rates for the elderly in our community and also help them in the next 3 years. What have you done to help our elderly over the last 3 years?

Housing

What initiative do you see as being the quickest and best to start addressing the most appropriate housing is assigned to social housing for the elderly. This includes affordability and the most appropriate housing (e.g. steps for those in wheelchairs etc) for those on Superannuation and the most needy of our elderly.

How do you see any problems that this expanding of elderly residents will be efficient as our community gets larger?

Transport

How are you going to address affordable and frequent public transport that is elderly friendly (e.g. steps are lowered for pick up and delivery of elderly and within walking distance for those who cannot always walk far from home to bus stop.

Biggest Issue

What do you see as the biggest issue you would like to solve in the next 3 years for the elderly?

Alliance Party

Unfortunately, Kevin Campbell, our Rangitikei candidate, has had to withdraw from the race due to health concerns.

I am confident that Alliance policies for this election stand out from the policies of all other parties. At the heart is the public ownership and control of our strategic infrastructure and assets and a tax system that shares the burden according to the means of each for the Common Good of all.

Thank you for your support. It has meant a lot to me, and you can be certain your support has enabled the Alliance Party to be registered once again. It can now offer a real alternative to our current market driven economic model. I am very pleased a capable and caring younger generation is in place and committed to advancing the Alliance once again.'

Kind Regards,
Sean Blair
Te Whanganui-a-Tara branch Treasurer



I have been a Horowhenua ratepayer for 45 years and lived at Waitarere Beach permanently since 2008.

I ran a financial planning practice in Levin and have been active locally in politics, Rotary, theatre, bridge and am currently chair of the Levin Budget Service (“LBS”).

My focus for this election is increasing the party vote for the Greens in Horowhenua and the Rangitikei electorate.

Bernard Long

Health

The financial health of our elderly is a personal focus of mine as demonstrated through my work in LBS: 15% of our clients are now over 65.

Free primary and dental care and allowing pharmacies to advise and prescribe for a wider range of ailments are key Greens health policies. We will also ensure all health care workers have fair wages so they are encouraged to take up and remain in health care. All paid for by a fairer tax system.

Rates

We reject the proposed rates cap and will enable a range of new funding and financing tools, such as a bed levy, congestion charging and GST from rates.

Housing

Our elderly population in Horowhenua is set to grow along with the population generally. We will:-

- **build tens of thousands of new public homes, significantly increasing accessible public housing stock,**
- **make rents more affordable by limiting annual rent increases to no more than 2% and link rents in a new tenancy to what the previous tenants paid,**
- **require councils to collaborate with communities, including mana whenua, to provide sustainable, walkable, mixed use urban areas,**
- **enable enough new affordable homes within existing urban areas to meet the needs of the next generation.**

Transport

We will:-

- invest in nationwide rapid rail for passengers and freight to connect regions and major cities and fund affordable, reliable, interregional rural bus services, and on-demand public transport,
- enable the provision of transport services publicly instead of for profit,
- and encourage development of an accessible public transport hub in Levin connecting bus and train services.

Biggest Issue

Affordability of food. Everyone needs to eat. The supermarket duopoly is taking around \$1million a day in excess profits. The Green Party will bring down grocery prices by creating KiwiMart, a supermarket chain, owned by and for NZers.

Bernard Long 18 Sept 2026

Labour Party



I have lived in the Manawātū my entire adult life after joining the Army and attending Massey University. I own a lifestyle block near Linton, where I have raised my 5 children.

My career has been one of service with over 20 years at Oranga Tamariki and most recently as a General Manager for a mental health and addiction provider. I am passionate about people and want the best for everyone who calls this electorate home.

Karl Severinsen

Health

I was responsible for a number of mental health facilities. One of these was a dedicated older adults' residence. Many people with mental health are aging and this comes with additional physical health needs. I spent many hours alongside members of my team advocating for the rights of older people to have access to the support they needed and deserved from the health system. Our older population need great advocacy and support to navigate the complex health system and ensure they get the services they require. This is of great importance moving forward.

Rates

This government has attacked local government and put pressure on them to amalgamate in an unfair timeframe for this to be done. This is unacceptable. I want to start from a place of building a strong positive relationship between local and central government, then we can work in partnership. We have many challenges in how we fund the infrastructure we need into the future. This requires a hard but honest conversation about how we fund local government. It's clear to me that rates alone are not the answer.

Housing

In terms of housing it's simple we need Kainga Ora to start building houses again. They own lots of land and could be building houses, but this government has not let them. We can require them to build houses that meet the needs of older people. We also need to support private investors and community agencies to do the same.

Transport

In relation to public transport, I really like the small on demand electric buses introduced to Timaru recently and I believe something similar could easily be achieved in Horowhenua. This would be of great benefit to older people.

Biggest Issue

I think the rising cost of living that is making life extremely difficult for people on low fixed incomes and is the biggest problem facing many elderly. To many older people I have spoken to are simply existing and that is not good enough. We must address the cost of living.

Ngā mihi

Karl Severinsen - Labour candidate for Rangitikei

National Party



Suze Redmayne

Hi, I'm Suze Redmayne, the National Party Candidate and MP for the Rangitikei electorate, which now includes all of Horowhenua. Rangitikei has been home for 30 years – it's where Rich and I raised our three children, on a sheep and beef farm in Turakina.

National is focused on growing the economy and easing cost of living pressures so you can relax and make the most of this time in your life. We value the contribution seniors have made to this country.

I was privileged to speak at your AGM in July, and I remain committed to listening to your concerns and championing the issues that matter to you

My goal is simple: to ensure seniors feel heard, valued and supported, and can live with dignity, independence and access to the services they need. I will be your biggest supporter and your strongest voice.

Over the past three years, I have advocated directly for retired constituents across Rangitikei, helping them navigate government services and ensuring their concerns are heard.

Health

National is improving access to healthcare by delivering more elective surgeries like cataracts, hip and knee replacements to shorten wait times; we've funded 33 extra cancer treatments and 23 additional medicines; free prescriptions for SuperGold Card holders, and we've extended regular prescriptions to 12 months to save you time and money.

Rates

National has expanded rates relief for SuperGold Card holders by lifting the income threshold and increasing the maximum rebate to \$830 from 1 July 2026. The Government has also introduced legislation for a 2–4 per cent rates-cap range, to be considered in council long-term planning from 2027 and take full effect from 2029. These measures provide greater certainty for homeowners and ease pressure on seniors living on fixed incomes.

Housing

A safe, affordable and accessible home is essential to maintaining independence and wellbeing. National's resource-management reforms are intended to make it easier to build more homes and increase supply, helping to moderate housing costs. We're also strengthening retirement village protections through clearer information, greater transparency, faster repayment of residents' capital and a simpler independent disputes process.

As Horowhenua grows, I will continue to advocate for suitable housing options that meet the needs of older residents, including accessible homes close to health services, shops and transport.

Transport

National is maintaining free off-peak public transport for SuperGold Card holders.

The Horowhenua Community Health Shuttle and St John Health Shuttle provide a valuable service by helping people travel to medical appointments.

I will continue to advocate for reliable, affordable and accessible local transport that helps older people remain independent and connected.

Biggest Issue

Access to healthcare remains a significant issue in Horowhenua. The Government has expanded the role of nurse practitioners, increased training and introduced recruitment initiatives for GPs and nurse practitioners - but our community still needs more health professionals. I will advocate strongly for a larger local workforce so people can receive the care they need, when they need it.

I have met with the team at Aged Care Horowhenua and attended the Elder Abuse Awareness Talk in June. Preventing elder abuse and making sure older people know where to turn for help are important issues for our community. I will champion greater awareness, stronger prevention efforts and better access to support services.

NZ First



- As part of the Government, New Zealand First is delivering practical support for older New Zealanders.
- New Zealand First has a proud record of supporting seniors.
- NZ First created the SuperGold Card, now used by more than 900,000 seniors.
- We have protected the age of eligibility for NZ Superannuation at 65.
- I served 24 years in the Police, including 10 years across the Rangitikei and Manawatū.
- I served two terms as a Manawatū District Councillor and am currently a Hastings District Councillor.
- I intend to return to live in the Rangitikei electorate and I am currently residing in Feilding 5 days and Hastings 2 days a week
- I am seeking your support to represent the Rangitikei in Parliament.

Steve Gibson

Rangitikei
02041063961

Health

- NZ First is working to improve access to doctors, specialists and quality aged care.
- Older New Zealanders deserve timely, respectful and compassionate care.
- NZ First has secured more funding for aged residential care and frontline health services.
- Stable patients can receive prescriptions for up to 12 months.
- The Government is improving hospital-to-aged-care transfers and home care.
- NZ First will continue fighting for better senior health services.

Rates

- Rising rates are a major concern for seniors on fixed incomes.
- NZ First supported increasing the Rates Rebate Scheme.
- The maximum rebate rose from \$790 to \$830, while the income threshold increased to \$46,400.
- These changes will help tens of thousands of additional SuperGold cardholders.
- Councils must prioritise essential services and stop wasting ratepayers' money.
- Older people should not be forced out of homes they worked a lifetime to own.

Housing

- Older people need warm, safe and affordable homes that support independence.
- Senior housing should include accessible, single-level options near essential services.
- Councils and community providers should work together.
- As a Manawatū District Councillor, I supported forming the Manawatū Housing Trust.

- Nearly 20 years later, those homes are warmer, better quality and expanding.
- NZ First will continue supporting practical housing solutions that provide security, dignity and choice.

Transport

- The SuperGold Card provides free off-peak public transport.
- Public transport must remain accessible and affordable, with suitable buses, safe stops and practical routes.
- We should support people who want to continue driving safely as they age.
- Seniors should remain mobile and connected for as long as safely possible.

Biggest Issue

- The biggest issue facing many older New Zealanders is the cost of living.
- Power, groceries, insurance and rates are placing pressure on fixed incomes.
- NZ First will break up the supermarkets and power gentailers to achieve this.
- NZ First's SuperGold Card and expanded rates relief provide valuable support.
- Older New Zealanders deserve dignity, security and confidence.