

Number 102

MAY 2021

Grey Power Wanganui
PO Box 4197
WANGANUI 4541



Grey Power Wanganui Inc Newsletter

Affiliated to Grey Power New Zealand (Inc)
www.greypower.co.nz

FROM THE ACTING PRESIDENT:

Due to changed personal circumstances I have decided not to seek election as President and will be stepping aside from the committee effective from the AGM next month. I have enjoyed my involvement with Grey Power extending over many years and will remain fully supportive of its national objectives.

Your committee has been very active in recent months with participation in the recent electric blanket testing by the Fire Brigade, manning a stall at Riverside Markets during March which drew much interest from the public and a few new members, as well as attending Positive Ageing forums

I would like to say a very big 'thank you' to them for their support and the work they do to benefit not only our members but also the welfare of our older community

I am confident that Grey Power Wanganui will continue to have a prominent profile under the enthusiastic new office holders who take office at the AGM.

Kind regards to everyone

Jack Ager

Acting President

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, 24 June, at Central Baptist Church,
Wicksted Street, commencing at 1.30 pm.

Please note changed venue.

Guest speaker: Deputy Mayor Jenny Duncan

Parking available at New World rear carpark –
entrance Wicksted Street.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR DONATIONS OF
TINNED FOOD FOR THE FOODBANK

Membership Secretary:
Michael Wallace – 0275311121

Treasurer:
Karina Gardiner

Committee:
Ross Fallen

David Gunn

Rod Newport JP

Helen Tilley

Helma Vermeulen

Minute Secretary
Shirley Forward

Newsletter Editor
Graham Adams

*© a voice for the over 50s
- especially those out of the workforce*

*© direct line to Parliament and
parliamentary policies*

*© newsletters to keep you
up-to-date on health, local government
& financial matters*

© taking care of your concerns and welfare

Secretary
PO Box 4197
WANGANUI 4541

No liability is accepted for the contents of this
newsletter which is prepared in good faith.

WEBSITE REFERENCE
Grey Power's own:

www.greypower.co.nz - Federation

or our very own website:

www.greypowerwanganui.co.nz

Committee Nominations 2021

<u>President</u>	Ross Fallen
<u>Vice President</u>	Rod Newport
<u>Membership Secretary</u>	Michael Wallace
<u>Treasurer</u>	Karina Gardiner
<u>Committee</u>	Helma Vermeulen, Helen Tilley, David Gunn
<u>Newsletter Editor</u>	Graham Adams
<u>Minute Secretary</u>	<u>Vacant</u>

Our current Minute Secretary, Shirley Forward, has indicated she will not be able to continue after the AGM. Consequently a replacement is required for the position for which a small honorarium is paid. If you are at all interested please call at the office to discuss on a Tuesday or Thursday by Thursday, 17 June. Additional nominations for **committee** are also sought and forms are available at the office.

SUBSCRIPTIONS – REMINDER

To date **1125** members have renewed their subscriptions through to 31st March 2022. Current membership stands at **1797** meaning that **672** are still to renew theirs. Those members are reminded that subscriptions can be paid by **cash** at our office or by **internet banking to account number: 38 9006 0435305-02** at Kiwibank. Be sure to quote your membership number in the reference block.

COVID-19 VACCINATION INFORMATION

The COVID-19 vaccine rollout in the Whanganui DHB region (Whanganui, Rangitikei and south Ruapehu) began on March 31, 2021. It has focused on vaccinators; frontline health staff; border and quarantine workers and their families; moving on to critical frontline workers such as police, fire service staff; St John ambulance, Corrections; Hospice and residential aged care staff. These people are in the Groups 1 and 2 and the focus of our efforts in April and early May.

We will move on to group 3 mid-to-late May. Group 3 includes those who are aged 65 and over; those with relevant underlying health conditions; pregnant women; the disabled. We anticipate starting Group 4 (the rest of the population) by the end of July.

Vaccinations are being controlled via a booking system, so people will have a booked appointment rather than just “walking up” to a vaccination site. A large Whanganui city centre vaccination site will be set up in June, and it is expect that the booking system will be extended so people can book their own appointment. We will also have other sites around the region e.g. Wanganui East, Castlecliff and possibly Aramoho, as well as mobile outreach clinics.

The COVID-19 vaccine rollout is being implemented by a governance body made up of Whanganui District Health Board (WDHB), Whanganui Regional Health Network (WRHN), Hauora ā Iwi, the National Hauora Coalition and Māori health services. The aim is to give two doses of the Pfizer vaccine (with a 3-week gap between first dose and second dose) to more than 54,000 people in the Whanganui region before the end of the year. (This information supplied by WDHB).

Grey Power Wanganui Inc. submission to Whanganui District Council Long Term Draft Plan 2021-2031 (abridged by Editor due to length)

Grey Power Wanganui is the 5th largest of 76 Grey Power Associations in New Zealand and has approximately 1,800 members locally and growing. We believe that gives our organisation a voice of note in community matters and council deliberations and decisions which impact upon our members.

Any added council expenditure by way of rates increase always impacts on our retired seniors with noted anxiety and financial stress. However, we also note in our discussions how some expenditure is essential and other projects may create lasting benefits for our children and children's children. Some sacrifices for the greater good is needed at times, whilst other projects we would question the options and seek some added accommodation.

Whanganui Velodrome Project

We thank Mayor Hamish and current councillors for ensuring this matter is resolved in one way or other with the three options provided for public input. We also recognise with grave concern that the track is now closed and subject to further unprotected erosion until essential Government majority funding may be secured and a start date of 2023/2024.

As an Association, we cannot officially commit support to any option at this level of cost, but we would task council to investigate a compromise between option 2 and 3 and which covers ameliorating council concerns raised on page 16 of the Draft Long Term Plan 2021-2031.

Youth Places and Spaces.

We do favour the idea of shared spaces and outdoor opportunities and getting our youth to safe places and active mentally, socially and physically. We would however prefer a priority focus on the mental well-being and support services in such a place, within that first year scoping of initiative. The relationship between improved physical health and mental well-being is well established.

The current Youth Minister in government has launched a series of funded initiatives and we would ask that this be accessed and where possible integrated into the planning, Community funding organisations, Lotto applications etc. could be added to the scoping in Year one. Our youth are our future.

Davis Library Extension

We support this expenditure. We note a funding grant of \$920,000 has been made leaving \$1.9m for council to pay. With costs at \$6 per ratepayer over 4 years, this is considered an appropriate investment in the building and for the many users and age groups who access the service. In due time, it will also be a natural companion to the Sargeant Gallery.

cont'd...

Development and implementation of a coastal plan.

We support this staged program of work. Whether we are followers of climate change or not it will add to coastal enjoyment whilst supporting longer term solutions especially around dune protection and restoration. The work is needed and we see this as a long overdue action based wider commitment.

Rates 2021-2031.

The averaged 3.2% rate increase over ten years that accommodates the matters in the LTP is much lower than many councils at present but still a burden that falls hardest on low income and seniors. Whilst we appreciate the availability of the rates rebate scheme we consider that the criteria re eligibility should be widened and that Council frame a remit to LGNZ.

Community Housing: On-going projects.

We support council's Housing strategy which lobbies and facilitates and seeks partnership opportunities locally and nationally.

We continue to support retention of the Pensioner Housing portfolio. We commend council for quickly seeking to make all units legislation compliant by due date and the modest rent reviews agreed to a few short years ago. Those increases largely offset the added maintenance of aging stock and new compliance legislation.

What we would ask is that we be formally included in any discussions in sub-committees with observer or speaking rights status that may impact on retention of the 275 units and, the possible sale in years to come to a social provider.

The draft LTP states council is working on freeing up council controlled land. We note this is also a central government directive. The aging population sector is increasing at faster rate and we would also ask that Whanganui & Partners look at what land council owns in the town central area, close to shops and support services and that could be developed by various private retirement companies for those who may be able to down size in this manner be they independent retirement centres, lifestyle villages, gated communities etc. We see our retiring and retired members becoming a new and significant socially disadvantaged group with fewer options, and trust that this council includes this in their considerations.

Jack Ager

President of Wanganui Grey Power Inc.

Grey Power Wanganui Inc. Submission to Horizons Draft Long Term Plan 2021-2031

Grey Power is an advocacy organisation promoting the welfare and well-being of all those citizens in the 50 plus age group. Grey Power Wanganui association has 1800 members

We recognize that much of the plan refers to covid-19 recovery, job creation, government requirements, environmental and climate change around water quality, coastal erosion and flood mitigation etc. Whilst for many these matters are not part of our daily conscious thinking there are two matters of more common areas of concern that we feel we can speak to with some confidence.

Rates and removal of discount for early payment.

Council proposes to drop the discount for early payment of rates and states that is not consistent with your current guidelines and policies? This however was not explained in any real transparent manner for our education and understanding.

Horizon's states, "Our average rates increases are some of the largest we have ever proposed and something Council hasn't considered lightly" Further; Horizons is proposing an average rate increase of 8.0 per cent for Year 1 of the LTP, 7.3 per cent for Year 2, and 6.9 per cent for Year 3. This is a 22.2% rise in just three years and is indeed a massive increase over a short period of time.

This is in fact, a sharp double financial blow for our members. We are facing a 22.2% averaged increase over the first three years and at the same time you stop early payment discount as being inconsistent with current guidelines? This simply comes across as heartless. Whether early payment is inconsistent with policy or not, this should continue for at least the first three years of the plan.

Bus connectivity and timetables

Transport is a concern, with needed improvements to timetables, particularly between Castlecliff and Aramoho. Individual stops do not have the time table for that particular stop. It simply is not easy to follow especially in the Castlecliff to City route. A more user friendly timetable would be appreciated that is simpler, similar and user-friendly along the lines of the Hutt Valley to Wellington rail time tables. Perhaps with arrival times for each stop or every other stop.

From an economical perspective, we see large buses that are often under-filled, running on fossil fuels as a concern. We look forward to considerations for smaller more cost effective buses within Whanganui and within the wider region that will run on perhaps hydrogen fuel, and associated savings in the longer term.

.We look forward to your deliberations and especially in regard to 3 large rate rises in a row, the cancellation of early rates payment and our support and input for improving bus services in Whanganui.

Thank you

Jack Ager

Acting President

Grey Power Wanganui Inc



"I'm working hard to ensure this region is a great and affordable place to work, live and play."

If you have any questions or concerns, contact me:
Cr David Cotton
david@tasmantrust.co.nz • 0274 425 920



GREY POWER WANGANUI INC.

2020

Statement of Receipts & Payments **for the Year Ended 31st March 2021.**

Receipts

26862	Subscriptions	27863
10025	Subscriptions in Advance	5810
901	Donations	268
552	Interest	292
8	Raffles (Profit after expenses)	0
820	Adverts	895
0	Sundry Income	0
39168	<u>Total Receipts</u>	35128

Payments

8210	Capitation Fees	8085
2680	2020 Capitation Fees in Advance	0
2763	Advertising- Newspapers	1432
1023	- Shopping Guide	0
1811	Membership Costs	1528
1765	Office Establishment Costs	0
643	Secretary's Expenses & Honorarium	125
58	President's Expenses	367
317	Treasurer's Expenses & Honorarium	250
0	Membership Secry Hon	300
4348	Newsletter - Printing	5035
7410	Postage (all)	11168
150	Meeting Expenses (Hall Hire, Catering etc).	242
0	Federation AGM	2359
1400	Christmas Function	1540
89	Travel -Zone	120
790	Brochures	434
370	Bank Fees	24
250	Donations	627
469	Name Badges	0
790	Website	757
35336	<u>Total Payments</u>	34393

3832	<u>Result (Surplus) for the Year</u>	735
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34420	<u>Balance of Funds Held 1/4/2020</u>	38252
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3832	Surplus for Year carried forward	735
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38252	<u>Balance of Funds held 31/3/2021</u>	38987
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Represented By :

9174	Kiwibank Cheque Account	9401
24078	Kiwibank 90 day Call Account	21586
5000	Kiwibank Term Deposits	8000
38252	<u>Total Funds held as at 31st March 2021.</u>	38987



National President Jan and V/P Jack cutting the "Welcome to Wanganui" cake.



During March at the Riverside Markets.



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