

Whakatāne District Grey Power Association Inc.



NEWSLETTER

August 2021

From the President

Victor Luca

This will be the third Newsletter of 2021 and I take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to our members and especially new-comers. The months since the previous newsletter were somewhat tumultuous for our local association. The special AGM held on the 16th of February 2021 saw the appointment of an interim president and committee and this was followed up by the AGM at which a new committee took up the baton. I acknowledge the efforts of the previous and recent interim committee.

I am proud to be able to say that we now have a new, capable and enthusiastic committee. We hope that we can be instrumental in consolidating Grey Power's achievements to date and in forging some new directions in areas that are of vital importance to society in general and our community in particular.

Whilst Grey Power is an association that puts the middle-aged and seniors front and centre, most of us are also parents and grandparents. We have to be mindful that whatever we manage to achieve will impact those that follow us.

I would say that we have a duty of care not just to our members but the entire community including the young that are going to be faced with tremendous challenges going forward. The generations that follow us will face a world that is increasingly complex and hostile, one in which everything seems to be accelerating at pace. Climate change, health services, housing, international conflicts, the nature of money and banking and dramatic changes in the

nature of work will be among those challenges. I would like to think that we are able to smooth the path for those that follow. This will require us to remain in-touch and engaged like at no other time.

Introducing the New Committee



Dr/Prof Victor Luca (President): I am a product of Whakatāne having been born, raised and schooled here. After receiving a B.Sc., BSc.(hons) and PhD from Victoria University of Wellington in the eighties, I spent two years as a research associate at the University of Houston in Texas and six years as a researcher at top Australian Universities. From 1997 to 2009 I was a researcher and research leader at the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organization and then spent a decade at the Argentine Atomic Energy Commission where I was a research leader and university lecturer. I moved back to my home town at the beginning of 2019 and stood for Mayor and Councillor in September of 2019. I joined Grey Power because I was impressed by what the association has achieved. I am hopeful that I can help to make positive contributions going forward.

Dr Siva Panadam: Scientist (PhD Chemistry), Director of Phoenix Consultants (27 years & counting) – Worked with Pulp & Paper industry, Chemical, Dairy, Gas industry, Health, & Education. Completed Kai Oranga Level 3 & 4; Fluent in English (Native), Tamil & Malay. I was a volunteer with the Kingsley Scout Group (10 years - Group Leader, Treasurer, Venturer Leader) & the Whakatāne Budget Advisory Service (8 years – Chairperson, Treasurer/Secretary, Budget Advisor, Community Educator). I have been a Whakatāne Grey Power member for four years and have been vice-president, secretary, membership secretary, newsletter editor. I have been a Crop Swap & TimeBank member. I enjoy growing a food forest, enjoy travelling, gardening, cooking, dancing, and having potluck dinners with family & friends.

Gaye Murphy: I am a justice of the peace and a marriage and funeral celebrant. I have been a district councillor for three terms. I have worked as a laboratory technician in Norway, England and New Zealand. I have owned an apple and kiwifruit orchard and an independent book shop. I was a member of Rotary and a charter member of the Whakatāne Quota club and secretary of the Art Society. I am currently a trustee of the Molly Morpeth Canaday Trust and also a trustee of Manawahe Kokako Trust. I have travelled extensively in the Middle East, America and Europe. I like the bush, gardening, cooking, embroidery and reading. I really love wild birds ... and really hate cats.

Ann Kebbell: I was a photographic colourist in days before colour photographs. I was a registered maternity nurse and spent two years as a doctor's nurse. Later my husband and I owned Aluminium Industries for 12 years. I formed the Alzheimer's Support Group in Whakatāne in 1987. I was a local artist and an honourable member of the art society and also a Grey Power electricity advocate.

Maud McKinnon: I began life in Ruatoria and attended Manutahi Native School. That was 80 years ago and the education I received there and at Gisborne High School has set me up for life. About 8 years ago, with prompting from Raewyn Kingsley-Smith, I joined Grey Power and later became a committee member. You might recognise me, since I am often the tea lady and the kitchen hand. I'm not computer savvy but if you need help my phone number is (07) 3080358. I'll be there to listen.

June Goodhew: I live at Coastlands and love my family. I have always enjoyed those who are under pressure, i.e. no employment, or are disadvantaged and not enjoying the life they deserve. Presently working for Christians Against Poverty Debt Centre, enjoyed 27 years as a Budget Advisor (mentor), and 13 years at the Salvation Army – Tutor/Management for Employment Plus. I believe I have something to give Grey Power Committee and know it has opportunities to make changes to the lives of our members.

Raewyn Kingsley-Smith: Once upon a time, the tallest structures in the cities were the Church Steeples. Then Banks climbed higher only to be overtaken by insurance buildings and these days it is The Sky Tower (Casinos). The biggest thieves of all. This is the Mad World that I rail against. In my short lifetime, I have seen these rapid changes – the youngsters only know today's world – casinos, money, money, money. Grey Power has a wealth of experience and wisdom and I believe a responsibility to future generations to be the 'Guardians of Integrity and Good Sense' (not to let these values be side-lined by the dollar and materialism). I believe that we will need to speak up! We have the 'votes' and should 'care' about how many 'babies' are being tossed out with the bathwater. That's me.

Mrs Judy Fleming: My first job was at the BNZ and I have worked in admin ever since. I have been self-employed all my married life 47 years. I have been involved in share-milking and a kiwifruit orchard for 18 years, Allandale Superette in Whakatāne for 11 years and then Cash in Transit Security business for 10 years. Treasurer for SeniorNet Whakatāne & Whakatāne Country Music Club. The main reason that I put my hand up for Grey Power was that I didn't want to see the Whakatāne Branch close?

General Meeting

The next general meeting will be at 10:00 am on Wednesday the 25th of August and will be held at the Knox Presbyterian Church hall on Domain Road. Our speaker will be Nigel Clarke of Whakatāne District Council. Below you will find a title and abstract for his talk and a brief biography.

What Happens with Your Household Waste?

Nigel Clarke, Manager Solid Waste, Whakatāne District Council



Biography: Nigel Clarke has been Manager of Solid Waste at Whakatāne District Council for over 7 years where he is responsible for everything from strategy to ensuring your kerbside bins get emptied. He is involved in a number of regional and national waste groups and projects. He previously worked in the waste industry monitoring Environmental and Health and Safety performance on numerous sites across New Zealand and Australia. Prior to that he managed the Pollution Response function at Auckland Council. He has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Earth Science, a Masters Degree in Environmental Science, a wife, two boys, a dog, a cat and kitten. Most of his spare time is spent managing the Whakatāne Kingsley Scout Group.

Abstract: How we manage our waste locally and nationally is changing rapidly. The international recycling markets we previously relied upon have collapsed, along with a lack of onshore infrastructure, this makes it even harder for us to recycle the increasing amount of waste we produce in our buy-use-throw away society. Now, more than ever, we need to rethink what we are producing, buying and discarding, so that we can aim for circular economy models to deal with all our waste. Central Government is currently considering and implementing a suite of changes to how we deal with our waste on a national scale. These will effect how council and we as residents deal with our waste, but we need our community to play the part as council cannot do it alone.

Grey Power National Federation AGM

The Grey Power National Federation AGM was held in Nelson between the 13th and 15th of July. Siva Panadam (Vice President) and Gaye Murphy (Secretary) attended. We look forward to hearing from them how the meeting went.

The Federation is currently focusing on:

Health

- Implications of Health system review – Heather Simpson report.
- Consequences of likely reductions in number of DHBs.
- Inadequate funding of long-term disabilities.

Retirement - Aged care

- Effect on unsubsidised residents of funding increases for subsidised residents.
- Equality needed nation-wide in provision of home care.

ACC

- Age-related degeneration.

Housing

- Affordability
- Repeal of ACT which prevents local authority offering rent subsidies.

The Grey Power Advocacy team has also lobbied decision makers as follows:

- The Reserve Bank (RBNZ) – the future of cash, bank charges, the demise of cheques, RBNZ Governance and bank registration.
- Human Rights Commissioner (HRC) – race relations and diversity as they relate to Grey Power, the digital divide and Caring Courts
- Office of Seniors – Covid-19 vaccine roll-out for older people, progress on the Welfare Expert Advisory Group
- New Zealand Post – NZ Post bill paying facility, bulk mailing charges, lack of postal assistance at some post shops and that the Community Post facility is no longer offered.

Remits passed:

National Health Advocacy Consumer Service -remit seconded by Whakatane was passed

That Grey Power Federation lobby Government to establish an independent National Health Consumer Advocacy Service to provide a confidential free service for New Zealanders concerned about the healthcare service they have received.

Three Waters legislation

Concern about the Three Waters legislation was presented as a late item. The concern was that a future government could privatise the water systems [as has happened to the electricity industry] with disastrous results. That delegates approach their relevant Mayors to explain the Grey Power Position.

This conference was an eye opener as we discovered the various issues that the Board is working through as well as those faced by other Associations. The camaraderie of the other Associations as they help one other to achieve our goal to enhance and protect the sustainable well-being of NZ residents. We also came away with 103 ideas on how to recruit members.

By Siva Panadam & Gaye Murphy

Membership Update

As at the time of this newsletter we have 217 financial members and 88 non-financial members. Non-financial members are those that have not as yet paid their \$15 membership fee for the financial year April 2021-March 2022. You may pay via Internet Banking or at the KiwiBank counter with your details. Thank you to everyone who have paid their subscriptions so promptly.

Anyone having problems paying their fee, please do let us know and we will see what can be done.

We'd like to welcome our new members - David Wakefield, Raewyn Kingsley-Smith, Sheila Russell, Lynette Jones, Ann Kebell, Wendy Burgess, Sheryl Wharewera, Pauline Smaller, Joanna Wilkinson, Ian Bigham, Luigi Luca, Ruth Ockwell, Iris & Gavin Paterson, Martin & Christine Johnson, Catrina Jones, Debra & Tony Lovett, Carey & Margret Quin, Helen Martin, Joan Smith, Richard & MarieGriffith, Trevor Head, Lorna Scholtens, Christine & Brian Waddell.

WARNING: The old Whakatāne Grey Power website at www.greypowerwhakatane.co.nz is no longer operational. A new site will be built as soon as possible.

Matters to Ponder

Tell us your thoughts on:

- **Public Health System.** Victor Luca & Sandy Milne, continue to advocate for an efficient and accessible Public Health System? If you feel that you can contribute to the fight to maintain a public system or have good or bad experiences you want to share, please let Victor know.
- **The Banking system.** We are all probably aware that banks intend to phase out cheques and that bank branches, especially small ones, will continue to close. Please do let us know how this will affect your life?
- Are you having side-effects from your medication? Is there an alternative?
- We need a new website and have decided to build it ourselves so that we can maintain and modify it at will. It is expected that we will have something up and running by the next general meeting.
- The state of our local infrastructure.

Disclaimer:

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors. All information is given in good faith and is believed to be accurate and reliable at the time of the issue. However, Whakatāne District Grey Power Association Inc. does not accept any liability for its contents.

Other links

Eastern Bay Crop Swap

Celebrating our local community of gardeners. Don't let your surplus fruits & veges go to waste! Share them with other like minded persons.

Every 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month

Starts: 12 noon Ends:1:00 pm

Where: 1 Bracken Street, Whakatane

Eastbay TimeBank

We have what we need if we use what we have! - Edgar S Cahn

Pou Whakaaro

40 Te Tahi Street, Whakatane

Contact: Reception: 07 3088170

Email: admin@pouwhakaaro.co.nz

Whakatane District Grey Power Association Inc.

PO Box 830,
Whakatane 3158

Executive

President:

Dr Victor Luca 027 749 88 88

e-mail: victorluca@gmail.com

Vice President:

Siva Panadam 027 280 71 22

e-mail: siva_panadam@hotmail.com

Secretary:

Gaye Murphy 027 441 86 66

e-mail: gayenmurphy@xtra.co.nz

Treasurer:

June Goodhew 027 231 36 83

Email: j.goodhew@xtra.co.nz

Committee Members:

Maud McKinnon 07 308 0358

Raewyn Kingsley-Smith 07 312 9742

Ann Kebbell 027 370 36 73

Judy Flemming 027 476 33 21

Newsletter Editor:

Victor Luca 027 749 88 88

Please give serious consideration to joining our committee. We are a friendly group and meet monthly.