



# GREY POWER MARLBOROUGH

Advocating for people 50 +

## From the President's Desk

### President's report from Federation AGM 2022

I have recently attended the Grey Power Federation AGM, one of the most positive AGMs I have been to. There were quite a few first-time delegates which was refreshing.

The AGM was very lucky to have speakers Dr Suzy Morrissey, Director of policy – Retirement commission, Carolyn Cooper – Aged Care Commissioner and Dr Ayesha Verrall – Minister of Seniors.

All of these speakers spoke passionately about the needs for seniors, especially in residential care and home care sectors. One of the biggest pieces of advice these speakers gave the delegates was that seniors need to complain if they feel they are not receiving the right level of care from their service providers. This advice was backed up by the Federation board as when they lobby ministers the more stories and factual complaints they can produce the more likely they are to be heard. Nothing is going to happen overnight within the senior population but the delegates were reassured that our voices are being heard and that these ministers will strive to ensure more robust care for our most vulnerable seniors in New Zealand.

Suzy Morrissey advised that there is no intention to raise the retirement age at this stage.

Speaker John Collyns from the Retirement Village Association updated delegates on the current situation in the Retirement Village arena. Interesting facts and information that came out of his talk were in 2021 - there were 345,000 residents over 75 years living in retirement units nationwide with a

predicted figure of 832,000 over 75 years by 2048.

Discussions were going to take place around the idea of having the option to rent villas for those who did not have the capital income to buy into a villa outright.

There is also going to be more training available to managerial staff, non-clinical, through the Te Ara institute. Mr Collyns has been invited by Grey Power Marlborough to speak to our members and the general public at the beginning of 2023.

### Clarification

In our last newsletter we included an article about the Marlborough Community Vehicle Trust (MCVT). A reader has contacted me a little confused about the statement the MCVT is now the only means of transport for medical reasons from Picton to Blenheim and Picton/Blenheim to Nelson.

Clarification: There are two services that transport people from Picton to Blenheim return, these are the St John Health Shuttle and the MCVT. The only service that transports people from Picton/Blenheim to Nelson return is the MCVT. I hope that clears up any confusion.

Gayle Chambers  
President



## Advice from Federation re Covid boosters

From 5 July the Novavax booster will be available without a prescription. Although Pfizer remains the preferred COVID-19 booster, this gives everyone over 18 years old a choice of which booster vaccine they receive. This decision follows Medsafe's update to the provisional approval, to include use of Nuvaxovid as a booster after the primary course of any of the COVID-19 vaccines available in New Zealand.

If you have had COVID-19, you should wait at least 3 months after your infection before you get your booster.

You can check when you are due for a

booster by visiting [mycovidrecord.nz](http://mycovidrecord.nz) or referring to your purple vaccination card, if you have one.

You can book an appointment for a Novavax booster dose through Book My Vaccine or by calling the COVID Vaccination Healthline on 0800 28 29 26 (8am to 8pm, 7 days a week).

Novavax is approved for use as a booster after a primary course for any of the COVID-19 vaccines available in New Zealand.

Your booster is available six months after the completion of the primary course which for most people is two doses.

### Local Body Elections meetings

We have arranged for three "meet the candidate" meetings at the following times and venues.

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August Blenheim

Wesley Centre at 2.00pm and 7.00pm  
Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> August Picton RSA at 2.00pm

## The Discount Book

We have two new businesses giving our members discounts:

- Blackmore Audiology extends an opening offer to Grey Power Members of 5% off their wax removal service using micro suctioning. Their contact details are: [www.blackmoreaudiology.co.nz](http://www.blackmoreaudiology.co.nz) 21 Francis Street, Blenheim ph 03 579 3092
- Auto Super Shoppe Blenheim would like to offer our members 10% off basic or full servicing. Their contact details are: [workshop@autosshblenheim.co.nz](mailto:workshop@autosshblenheim.co.nz) 57 Houldsworth Street, Blenheim ph 03 578 4630

Please remember to show your current blue-stickered membership cards to all our valued Discount Book suppliers. Vehicle service centres would appreciate viewing your cards prior to the bills being printed!

**Friendly Fridays:** Charlotte at Neighbourhood Support would like to invite you to drop in, knit, chat, play cards and have a cuppa every Friday in August, from 11am to 12 noon at the Blenheim community Centre, 25 Alfred Street, just down the hall from the Grey Power Marlborough office.

## BOOK LAUNCH

'WINDS OF CHANGE' by DOT SCOTT  
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6pm Friday 12th August 2022

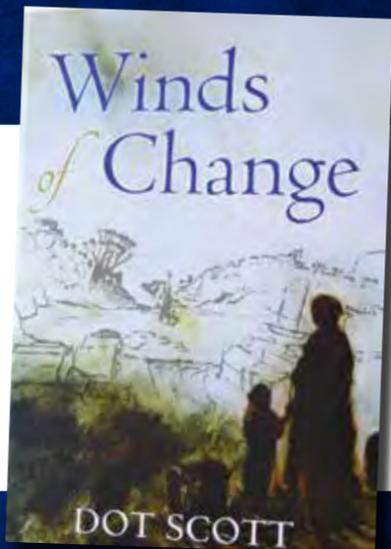
THE SECOND BOOK IN THE TRILOGY OF THE GOLD RUSH DAYS OF CHARLESTON, WEST COAST, 1860's - 1880's.

This book will be on sale for \$35  
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THE ART SOCIETY ANNUAL MEMBERS' EXHIBITION WILL BE ON DISPLAY - ALL WORKS FOR SALE

All welcome - light refreshments provided  
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## AGM report

Three committee members attended the recent Grey Power Federation AGM.

I attended as a delegate. President, Gayle Chambers, and secretary, Graeme Faulkner, attended as office holders of the Federation, their attendance funded by the Federation.

Grey Power Marlborough, still the second largest association in the country, has four members involved at the national level. Gayle is Zone 5 Director and Graeme is the chairman of the advocacy committees dealing with ACC, emergency management, and law and order.

The AGM proceeded in an orderly and efficient fashion. Fifteen remits were discussed. One seconded by Marlborough calling for an investigation and consequent action as to why fewer seniors are volunteers succeeded in being passed.

Advocacy committee reports recorded good work done and achievements made. (Read in greater detail about the work of the advocacy groups in the national quarterly newsletter that members receive. It makes for informative reading.)

Advocacy for seniors is that we do - it is a process, often a long one, based on our values, so we do our research, argue consistently and offer practical solutions, persistently seeking the greatest good for the greatest number.

Grey Power's goal is to be recognised as the voice for older New Zealanders. For this we need a strong and increasing membership, funding to do our research and work, and goals set to measure our progress. When government decision-makers decide policy affecting seniors, we want to be consulted.

Grey Power lobbied successfully for an Aged Care Commissioner - we were addressed at the AGM by the first appointee to the position. Her predominant direction to us was to complain if things are not right; by that process improvements can be made and errors corrected.

Minister for Seniors, Dr Ayesha Verrall, addressed us by video and Rachel O'Connor from the Human Rights commission spoke on progress on human rights and how to use its services to cre-



Grey Power Marlborough secretary Graeme Faulkner and publicity officer Brian McNamara at the Grey Power AGM.

ate a more civil and just society. She often returned to the 'difficult' but necessary 'conversations' that New Zealand has to have on questions of racism and other civil rights abuses.

National President, Jan Pentecost, quoted Confucius at the end of her report. "It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop."

Brian McNamara  
Publicity Officer  
Grey Power Marlborough



Mr John Collyns from the Retirement Village Association speaking to the AGM. He is coming to talk to members in Blenheim in the New Year.

### Senior Cooking Course

The next Senior Chef 8 week cooking course is being organised.

All classes are on a Thursday starting at 10am until 1pm.

Dates are: September 01, 08, 15, 22, 29 October 06, 13, 20.

The classes will be held in the Vintage Car Club rooms, Brayshaw Park.

For more information please contact Carol Boswell, ph 021 0656789.

## Office Snippets

Subscriptions for 2022-3 were due on 1 April. Thanks to all who have paid to date. Grey Power Electricity members are required to keep your membership current. We have been emailing and telephoning reminders to those members we have not heard from.

Please let us know if you have decided not to remain a member, then we will not bother you, and let us know if any of your contact details have changed recently.

Communications: Periodically we email out information that members may

be interested in. Please get in touch if we do not have your email address and you are interested in hearing from us more often. Check your email SPAM folder regularly, as sometimes emails going to many members end up going to SPAM.

Facebook: The most up to date information is often put on our Grey Power Marlborough Facebook page as it goes out instantly. Some examples are the localised flooding due to weather. Please like and share posts that you find relevant, as it helps us to know what you are interested in.

## Grey Power Achievements

We encourage people 50+ in age to join Grey Power. Here are five of the 25 achievements we are proud to have been effective in obtaining for seniors.

- Removal of the Surtax.
- Lower tariff electricity.
- Code of Practice for rest homes.
- The National Superannuation adjustment for the tax cuts in the 2008 Budget
- Winter energy payment.

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\*Up to 50cm (excludes receivers)  
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