



# GREY POWER MARLBOROUGH

Advocating for people 50 +

## President's report

I once again find myself reading about proposed home care cuts and it makes my blood boil.

I was a home care worker when Florence Nightingale and Presbyterian support were the major home care providers stationed in Blenheim, and while there were issues, they were never like they are at the present time.

When the contracts were up for tender, Access Health and Nurse Maude won the contracts and accepted bulk funding.

In my opinion, this is when the system started to break down, not because of the agencies, but the restrictions put on them due to bulk funding. Also, the agencies were based in Nelson with a much larger catchment area to care for.

The strategy of home care was to allow people to stay in their own homes as long as possible with enough care to enable them to live comfortably and safely. As I see it, this will no longer be the case if cuts are enforced. We need the government of the day to step up and fulfil its obligations to our seniors, not see how they can diminish an already basic service to those in need.

Grey Power New Zealand is lobbying Government to continue to provide a robust home care service and not to keep looking at ways to cut costs.

COVID-19 is now being blamed for



**Gayle Chambers President, Grey Power Marlborough.**

lack of staff. In the beginning, when restrictions were put in place, I could understand that, but now, again in my opinion, it is just a good fallback position.

My hope is that the government will realise that those receiving care cannot have their care time slashed any further. Meanwhile Grey Power will keep on fighting the fight for our seniors in home care.

*Gayle Chambers  
President, Grey Power Marlborough Inc.*

## Further news

The first meeting for Zone 5 comprising Marlborough, Tasman, Nelson and the West Coast in 2022 is to be held on 6 February in Murchison. The following are excerpts from Marlborough's report to that meeting.

"Our membership at December 2021 was 4,754. National membership is 50,080 so Marlborough maintains its steady 9.5%." (One per cent of NZ's population provides nearly 10% of its Grey Power membership here in Marlborough).

"Zone 5 numbers in 2021 were 12,794 members, being 25.5% of the total. Zone 5 has increased slightly as a percentage of national numbers.

"Marlborough Grey Power continues to meet with its MP and Mayor and next meetings are scheduled later in February."

Reports will be found in the March newsletter.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find more news that we proudly report to our neighbour associations.

Three of our members are involved with Federation Board subcommittees in Law and Emergency Management, ACC and the Remits and Constitution Committee. Our president, Gayle Chambers, is currently Zone Director, chairing the Zone 5 meetings.

Our committee meets with the Mayor and MP as mentioned above, and our representatives meet at least twice a year with the Nelson/Marlborough District Health Board. We have representation also on MDC committees and are involved with input into various committees in the province.

Our business is advocacy, speaking on behalf of Marlborough senior residents, fifty years and older. We publish an annual booklet of discounts offered to our members, and we promote membership of Grey Power Electricity offering very good prices for energy. Our membership is entitled to claim discounts offered to Grey Power members anywhere in the country.

## Our Advocacy re ACC and personal injury

The ACC National Advisory Group is preparing a submission to the Minister for ACC requesting that the section of the Act relating to personal injury, that is clause 26 (4, a), be removed because it informs that 'personal injury - does not include personal injury caused wholly or substantially by the ageing process.'

Grey Power is concerned that this could well be a breach of human rights as they relate to ageing. ACC carries very limited

statistics on these injuries. We believe many are never notified since doctors know the claim may very well not be accepted so therefore do not send one in.

If this has happened to you, or you have been refused ACC cover with regards to this section, could you please let us know via the office ph 578 4950.

*Graeme Faulkner,  
Chair ACC National Advisory Group*

## Scams

There is a possible scam under the guise of The Warehouse involving a clearance sale of TVs and vacuum cleaners. Apparently false, best to check the sender's address or contact the local Warehouse to verify.

Beware and be wary. There are many

scams being worked on the internet- some very obvious from overseas, and some much more sophisticated purporting to be NZ companies like NZPost, Couriers, various banks.

*Brian McNamara, Publicity Officer*

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**Citizens Advice Bureau**

At the CAB we are here for you with information and support.

Due to the Covid-19 traffic light setting change, Citizens Advice Bureau Marlborough is not currently seeing clients face-to-face at the office.

However, we're still here by phone and email. All services are free and confidential.

Marlborough Community Centre  
25 Alfred Street, Blenheim  
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# GREY POWER MARLBOROUGH

## Advocating for people 50 +

# Notice of meeting Identity Theft

On March 10 we feature two talks at the Wesley Centre, one in the afternoon and the other in the evening. John Collins, the executive director of the Retirement Villages Association (RVA) is the guest speaker. Full details will be published in our March newsletter, or you can visit our website.

The RVA represents the interests of the owners, developers and managers

of retirement villages throughout New Zealand and represents approximately 80% of the retirement village industry. It deals with a wide range of government agencies, other organisations (both in NZ and overseas) and the media.

One of its activities is to promote the benefits of retirement village living to potential residents and the public.

Jeff Montgomery, Registrar-General, Births, Deaths and Marriages and General Manager, Services and Access from the Department of Internal Affairs has recently sent out a message about identity theft.

Every year, 130,000 Kiwis fall victim to identity theft - with passport details the most commonly stolen information.

He warns us against using unofficial websites to renew our NZ passport, or when ordering birth, death and marriage certificates online.

He says we can trust our official govt.nz website to access online services, confident they are protecting our information.

New Zealand passports are among the most powerful in the world, making them a target. New security measures added to passports make it a lot harder to counterfeit or use them fraudulently. However, the identity information on passports could be used online by someone to impersonate us for, say, opening online accounts or making purchases.

It's important we protect the identity of ourselves and our loved ones. As technology and the digital world become increasingly more accessible, we're also faced with more risks.

Use our official govt.nz online services since third-party sites can pose as official sites or mimic government services, so be diligent. These sites put us at risk of being scammed, as they can harvest our information for more sinister reasons. Sites might try to pull us in by appearing to offer a money-saving deal - but there is a standard fee for these documents and our official govt.nz site offers online services at no extra cost.

If you are ever unsure the website you are on is official, just give Internal Affairs a ring - they're always happy to help. It's also important to protect your identity offline - when travelling, make sure your passport is in a safe place. When



Every year, 130,000 Kiwis fall victim to identity theft.

In New Zealand, the Registrar-General recommends keeping it at home, in a secure spot.

Whether renewing your passport, or ordering birth, death or marriage certificates, be diligent, make sure to use official govt.nz passports, citizenship and identity website.

## Office news

The office manager advises that it will be business as usual at the office under the Red traffic light rules.

We are still collecting plastic bags

and carrier bags for Foodbank Marlborough. Drop your spare bags into our office at room 19, 25 Alfred Street. Office hours are 9am to 1pm.

## Newsletter delivery

Picton/Waikawa members are advised that The Sun, delivered on the first Wednesday of the month, is now the vehicle for the delivery of our newsletter, along with our website and email delivery. Finding deliverers for the Sun in Picton and Waikawa has been found difficult. The Sun is using this opportunity to ask for persons in Picton/Waikawa

area interested in earning some pocket money delivering The Sun. Contact Simon Byrne phone 5777 868.

In the meantime The Sun is dropped off in bulk at the Seaview Rest Home, the Marine Cove retirement complex, the Picton supermarket and Library for collection by Picton/Waikawa residents at these venues.

## Notice of our 2022 AGM

Our AGM is scheduled for Monday March 21 at 2 pm at RSA rooms in the Clubs of Marlborough. Please contact us via the office about standing for any office or position on the executive committee of Grey Power Marlborough. Forms are available for nominations.

There are vacancies through resignation from the committee this year. They will need to be filled at the AGM along with electing and re-electing all the other office holders through the normal process of elections at the AGM.

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