



GREY POWER MARLBOROUGH

Advocating for people 50 +

From the President's Desk

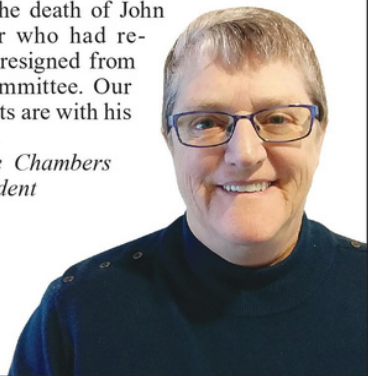
On 8 February we hosted two public meetings attended by 60 people, where John Collyns, CEO of the Retirement Village Association NZ, spoke. The afternoon session was for those who already resided in a village and the evening session was for those who were thinking of moving to a retirement village.

There were many valid questions from the floor for John. One of the questions, about rest home care rather than retirement villages, has been taken further by Grey Power Marlborough (GPM). This question centred around people moving into rest home care who did not have an income outside of their pension and the unknown costs that they may have to pay for their room.

GPM are now putting a remit to the Grey Power Federation on this matter. It reads: "That the Grey Power Federation lobby Government to ensure that rest homes must provide, especially in new buildings, a reasonable proportion of standard rooms, affordable to those receiving superannuation and limited accommodation supplements, as part of the options available for residents going into rest home care."

I also want to express our sympathy upon the death of John Leader who had recently resigned from our committee. Our thoughts are with his family.

Gayle Chambers
President



Notes from John Collyns talks

John Collyns reported that currently there are 425 villages with 38,400 villas and 50,000 residents. Sixty-five per cent of these facilities offer continuum care; another 216 villages are planned.

He spoke about new reforms put in place about who pays for chattels renewal, how weekly fixed fees are fixed permanently and when they are stopped, and about payment of investments once the property is vacated.

These reforms are on a trial basis

from July 2022 – July 2023 and are not mandatory. Depending on the trial outcome they may be put into legislation.

Residents are encouraged to complain, formally, if necessary, if they feel the operators are not meeting their obligations. If there is no positive outcome to a serious complaint, the resident should contact the Retirement Village Association, ph. 04 499 7090.

John Collyns explained the different types of villages and encouraged

everyone to look at what they may require in future care, before choosing a village. He encouraged people to use a law firm where lawyers with specialist knowledge can give expert advice on what they are signing up for.

He explained why residents do not get all their investment back once vacating a villa and generally what that ratio is, and the rare time when a resident is entitled to get their full investment back.

Scooter and Chair Riders and Cyclists

Here is information for the general public and for the 500 people using mobility scooters and power chairs around Marlborough. May we encourage you all to show tolerance and safety for them and for senior cyclists as well, who are suffering twice as many injuries according to ACC figures.

It is an offence to use a mobility scooter carelessly or without due consideration to other footpath or road users.

This means that if while using a Mobility Scooter or Power Chair you

get involved in a crash, you must stop to see if anyone is injured, help anyone who is injured and report the crash to police within 24 hours. You can be prosecuted for failing to do so.

You must operate your mobility scooter or power chair in a careful and considerate manner. The maximum fine for careless or inconsiderate use of a Mobility Scooter is \$3,000. Such use causing injury or death will incur a maximum fine of \$4,500 or up to three months in prison.

Riding at a hazardous speed on the footpath or not giving way to

pedestrians can incur a \$100 fine - up to \$1,000 in some circumstances. It is illegal for you to ride, or to let any person ride, in a way that may cause you or them injury.

If using your device on the road, show courtesy by keeping to the road edge to allow others to pass, or pull over and let vehicles pass as often as is practical. Failure to remain as far left as practical can mean being summonsed to court and fined. (For your safety, it is recommended that you avoid using the road where possible.)

Greypower AGM

Our AGM will be held at the Wesley Centre on Monday 20th March at 2.00pm.

AGENDA
Reports
Receiving the budget

Appointment of Auditor
Election of Officers
Guest speaker, the Mayor
General Business
Graeme Faulkner
Secretary

Facebook

Our office regularly posts information on Face Book. All good stuff. If you 'like' and/or 'share' our page then your Facebook friends will also get to know more about Grey Power offers. Please press those buttons and help publicise us!

Locals looking after locals

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See you at the Seniors Expo 7th March



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Office Snippets, March 2023

Subscription renewal invoices will be going out shortly. Please check your email Spam/Junk folder if you usually receive your invoice by email and have not received it in a week or so.

Posted invoices may take a week or so to arrive. Please get in touch if you have no invoice by 15 March.

Occasionally invoices are undelivered, usually because you have changed your address, email or

postal, and we do not have the current details. We do try to telephone, but more and more members are closing their landlines down. If you joined several years ago, we may not have your mobile number to be able to keep in touch.

Please let the office know if your details have changed, email office@greypowermarlborough.co.nz or phone 03 578 4950.

Our Grey Power Marlborough

newsletter is published on the first Wednesday of the month in the Blenheim Sun. Copies are available from a stand in the foyer by Citizens Advice Bureau, in supermarkets and libraries, if not delivered to your home. Electronic copies of the newspaper are available on blenheimsun.co.nz

From this issue we intend also to email directly to members.

Planned events

Tuesday 7 March, 10am – 1pm Seniors Expo at the Marlborough Events Centre, Alfred Street.

A NZ Retirement Villages Residents Association regional forum Thursday 16 March at 2 pm at the Redwood Tavern in Cleghorn Street. National president Brian Peat will discuss the review of the 2003 Act, the 2008 Code of Practice and retirement villages matters. You and your questions all welcome. Gold coin donation.

18 March, 2pm -3.30pm. Members afternoon tea at Alzheimers Marlborough, 8 Wither Road. Since we are restricted to 50 people, please RSVP to the office, ph 578 4950, first in first served. We can arrange transport, if necessary, when you RSVP.

Outreach: Come along and chat with members of your local Grey Power Committee. Find out about our organisation, or if already a member, talk to us about any thoughts or issues you may have. Subscriptions may be paid, CASH only.

These meetings will be at:

Seddon Tuesday 21 March 1.30pm – 2.30pm in the Yealands Awatere Memorial Hall supper room.

Picton Thursday 23 March 1.30pm - 2.30pm, Picton Library, downstairs activity area.

Wairau Valley Tuesday 28 March 1.30pm – 2.30pm, Wairau Valley Peace Memorial Hall, 17 Morse Street.

Havelock Thursday 30 March 1.30pm – 2.30pm, Havelock Town Hall, Main Street, Havelock

Become a Bowler

The Witherlea Indoor Bowling Club, with members mostly of “Grey Power age”, is a small friendly club that on Monday evenings at Redwoodtown Community Hall at 7pm welcomes newcomers for a few nights to see if they enjoy bowls before paying a subscription of \$30 for

the season. No equipment is needed, just a “give it a go” attitude and soft soled shoes with preferably little or no tread. All ages and capabilities are welcome.

For more information ring president Chris Dillon on 027-272-2739, or Heather Mortimer on 578-9350.

Museum Visit

The Marlborough Museum invites Grey Power members to a tour of the Museum and morning tea on the 8th March 2023 from 10.30 am – 12 noon at Brayshaw Park. The intention is for us to provide some transport to the venue. Contact our office between 9-1pm for details about this, ph 578 4950. Steve Austin, our host and executive director, is pictured below.



GP Electricity

We remind members that 30 days’ notice of intention is needed to leave GP Electricity otherwise a \$150 fee applies. To be a member of Grey Power Electricity you must be our member as

well. Grey Power Marlborough membership costs \$29 single and \$43 couple. The savings possible with GP Electricity might well pay for your Grey Power membership several times. Check it out!

Join and Save

You save money by joining GP. Using our discount book will save you more than your membership fee, along with GP Electricity giving even more savings as shown above.

Imagine the savings for example on a pair of spectacles at a possible 10%

discount, or carpet cleaning, gym fees, or house listings. On Monday I paid a bill for two new tyres. The Grey Power discount from that will fully pay for my \$29 2023 membership.

Brian McNamara
Publicity officer

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CENSUS HELP
Need some help getting started with you online census form?

SeniorNet will be running help sessions on Census Day, 7th March.

Havelock Town Hall 10am - 2pm
Linkwater Settlers Hall 10am - 2pm
Picton Library 10am - 2pm

Just bring along your letter from the Census Team that will have your household's 12-digit code, and we'll get you started.

If you don't have the code or need a new one for any other reason, we'll help you get in touch with Census Team.

seniornet
Confidently connecting with technology

MARLBOROUGH PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

An established support group meeting in Blenheim for men and their families living with a prostate cancer diagnosis and treatment. Spouses, partners and family members welcome.

October Meeting:
Date: Tuesday 7th March 2023, at 7.15pm
Venue: Cancer Society Blenheim House, 76A Maxwell Road, Blenheim

0800 477 678
INFORMATION LINE

For more information please contact:
Support Group Coordinator Murray Eyles
M: 027 608 5667
E: marlborough@prostate.org.nz
W: www.prostate.org.nz/support-meetings

Prostate Cancer Foundation NZ
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