



# GREY POWER MARLBOROUGH

## Advocating for people 50 +

### From the President's Desk

At the end of April this year I retired from my paid job. I have been looking forward to this for some time; however, there was always those doubts in my head. Would I be bored, could I manage on the pension as my main source of income, and what would it be like being at home with my hubby all the time?

If COVID has had no other positive impact on my life, the need to work from home for several months showed me that my man and I rub along really well together.

As far as my Grey Power involvement I will be spending more hours doing the thing I love most and that is helping the seniors in our community.

I have also volunteered in different areas in Blenheim, and had that all set up before my final day of being a paid employee came into fruition. I am a keen gardener and have a vegetable plot and rose garden at the community gardens at the back of NMIT.

Last, but by no means least, I will get more time to spend with members of my family. All this change is a bit scary but I am going to relish every moment of my new freedom.

I have heard many people say "I don't know how I ever had time to go to work." I hope I am one of those people.

Gayle Chambers  
President.



### Office news

- Subscriptions for the 2022-23 year are now due. Thank you very much to all our members who have already paid their subscriptions.
- We are now up to date with processing all the online payments, which was a massive job this year. If you have not received your new membership card, it may still be in the post.
- Please remember to let us know any changes in address, telephone etc, or you may not receive your Grey Power Magazine.
- Occasionally we send out extra information via email, so make sure that we have your email address if this interests you.
- We also use Facebook to pass on information from other groups that may be relevant to some of our members.

- Just look up Grey Power Marlborough.
- Our new website is up and running: [greypowermarlborough.co.nz](http://greypowermarlborough.co.nz)
- It contains lots of information and also copies of our monthly newspaper newsletters.
- A reminder that the office is open 9am to 1pm Monday to Friday. The office will be closed 11.45am – 12.45pm on Friday 6 May.

### Kiwi Access Card

The new identity Kiwi Access Card allows you to access goods and services throughout New Zealand if you do not hold

a valid driver licence and/or passport.

It is specifically designed to ensure you have a reliable and secure evidence of identity card. Note, you don't have to be over 60 to apply.

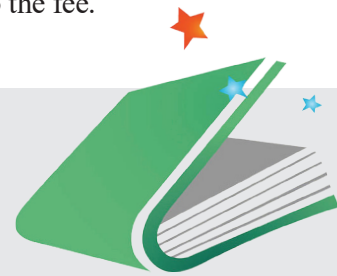
Download an application form at <https://kiwiaccess.co.nz/download-application-kiwi-access-card/> or get them from a participating NZ Post Shop or AA Centre where you can also apply for this card. You will need one form of original photo ID either Passport (NZ or overseas); NZ Photo Driver Licence; Firearms Licence; 18+ Card; Kiwi Access



Card; Certificate of identity; Refugee travel document.

Even without these you can still apply- you will need someone who can prove you are over 18 and some other form of identification, like your original birth certificate.

The Kiwi Access Card retails at \$55 including GST (as at April 2022). Link - <https://kiwiaccess.co.nz/https://kiwiaccess.co.nz/download-application-kiwi-access-card/>. Note the cost of a photo is additional to the fee.



### The Discount Book

*Our 2022 discount book lists over 70 businesses which offer discounts to our members. Please support them. Each month we will highlight some of them in this newsletter. They're a good reason to join Grey Power Marlborough.*

- Blenheim Appliance Repairs ph 03 578 3601 10% discount on services only.
- Blenheim Chimney Cleaning 2016

Ltd log burners, ranges, pellet fires servicing ph 03 577 9184 \$5 discount for GP members, \$10 for Gold Card.

- Blenheim Electric House ph 578 3564 10% GP discount on repairs.
- Blenheim Print ph 03 578 1322 proudly support Grey Power Marlborough.
- Brown's Chimney Service ph 03 578 4138 \$5 off per chimney.

- Carateam Cleaning ph 021 055 3534 cleaning and post-Estate clearances.
- Cerise Gifts ph 03 577 8867 10% discount for GP members 102 Market Street.
- Cloudy Bay Funeral Services 10% reduction on service fee. ph 578 2004 15 Boyce St.

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MARLBOROUGH**

monthly  
newsletter.

**Wednesday Sun**

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# GREY POWER MARLBOROUGH

*Advocating for people 50 +*

## Winter Warmth:

Staying warm is so important. Living in a warm, dry, mould-free home is a basic need.

The EECA Warmer Kiwi Homes programme is designed to help fulfil this need. Read about it here. <https://www.eeca.govt.nz/co-funding/insulation-and-heater-grants/warmer-kiwi-homes-programme/>

Briefly, grants can cover 80% of the total cost of ceiling and underfloor insulation. Likewise, 80% of the cost

of an approved heater - a heat pump or an efficient wood/pellet burner for the main living area. Heater grants are capped at \$3000 including GST.

There is a checklist for a heater grant. Factors include that you own and live in a home built before 2008; that you as the owner have a community services card or live in an area identified as low income; that you have ceiling and underfloor insulation installed to EECA standards; that your home doesn't

already have operational in any living area of the house, a heat pump, wood or pellet burner, flued gas heater or central heating system. If your home has one of these heater types, it is not eligible for a heating grant.

Here is a tool to see if you are eligible - <https://tools.eeca.govt.nz/warmer-kiwi-homes-tool/>

If you have any questions about Warmer Kiwi Homes and grants, call 0800 749 782



## Flu Jabs Time

You can get your free flu jab and COVID-19 vaccine or booster at the same time. Being up-to-date with all your vaccinations gives you the best possible protection.

In 2022, all people 65+, or 55 and over and Māori or Pacific, are eligible for the free flu jab. The flu jab is also free if you're pregnant or have a long-term medical condition like diabetes or a heart condition.

Get your free flu vaccine at your family doctor, or at some pharmacies. For the best protection get your flu jab as soon as it's available. To find a place near you to get your flu jab or to get more

information visit [health.govt.nz/](https://health.govt.nz/) flu or call Healthline on 0800 611 116

Pandemic measures like mask wearing and hand hygiene mean we've had very little influenza circulating in New Zealand for the past two years, so our community immunity is lower than usual. And, with international borders opening, we'll see more and new strains of the flu spreading in our communities.

The flu can be serious and make people very sick. In severe cases it can mean a hospital stay - particularly if you're 65+, or 55 and over

and Māori or Pacific, are a young child, are pregnant, or have an ongoing medical condition, such as heart disease or diabetes. For these, it's free.

It can sometimes be fatal - around 500 people die from the flu every year.

A flu jab every year is the best way to protect yourself and your whānau. It won't guarantee you won't catch the flu, but it will give you more protection if you do. You can't catch the flu from the vaccine - the vaccine used in New Zealand doesn't contain any live flu virus.

## Winter Energy Payment

This starts on Sunday 1 May and is paid through until 1 October 2022.

It's an extra payment to help with the cost of heating your home over the winter months.

You don't need to apply - if you're on a main benefit or getting NZ Super or Veteran's Pension, you'll get the Winter Energy Payment automatically along with your other regular payments.

This year, the payment rates are \$20.46 a week for singles, and \$31.82 a week for couples, or people with dependent children.

If you're getting a single rate and caring for any children under the age of 18, please get in touch with WINZ who may be able to pay you at a higher rate.

## Superannuation payments

On 1 April 2022 main benefit rates increased by between \$20 and \$42 per adult. The Minimum Wage increased to \$21.20 per hour. New Zealand Superannuation rates increased by \$52 per fortnight for single superannuitants living alone, and by \$80 per fortnight for a couple.

Stay warm. Stay well. The winter energy payments along with Superannuation are designed to help that happen.

*Brian McNamara,  
Publicity Officer,  
Grey Power Marlborough*

## AGM Abbeyfield

The AGM for Abbeyfield Marlborough will be held at 2.00pm in the Community Rooms on Thursday 19th May.

Election of officers  
Approval of accounts  
*Graeme Faulkner, Chairman*

## NOW OPEN

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\*Conditions apply, Valid until 30th June 2022.



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*A Portrait in Parts*

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