

FREE COPY



GREYPOWER

NAPIER ASSOCIATION INC

SPRING ISSUE 2026



Party Policies *Pages 16-18*

**Aged Care - the need
for reform** *see inside*

*Cover photo
by Derek Rossiter*

**Have you renewed your 2026-27 membership, or want to join?
See page 23 for details.**



Editor's Intro

Kia ora!

While the task of editing this newsletter gives me the “last say” as to what goes in, it also gives me the “first say” by means of introducing this spring edition and welcoming

readers to our pages.

Longer days, warmer temperatures, blossoms, new growth – and another election! As usual, Grey Power Napier is keenly following the parties and candidates to see how they address issues of importance to us, and in this edition you'll find parties' answers to key questions. We focused just on the parties' policies rather than profiling the candidates, as with MMP Parliamentary elections, the party vote is what determines the composition of each Parliament.

You will have the chance to meet electoral candidates at our October 20 candidates' meeting. And for Wairoa members, both the Napier and the Ikaroa-Rāwhiti electorates include your town too!

There are many issues which are concerning us going into this election: the cost of living, health care, superannuation, housing for seniors and aged care – all of which are discussed in this newsletter and will be topics our Napier and Ikaroa-Rāwhiti candidates will be asked about at our candidates' meeting.

While seniors traditionally are the most reliable voters, there may be some of you who have moved into a retirement village or changed your address since the last time you voted, so I can't stress enough the importance of checking you are enrolled, at your current address. If you're not, then you can't vote.

Just go to vote.nz or ring 0800 36 76 56 and check your enrolment. And while you're at it, check with your children and grandchildren to make sure the whole family is correctly enrolled!

Key dates for the election are:

- 8 October** – candidate nominations close 12 noon;
- 20 October** – Grey Power Meet the candidates;
- 25 October** – deadline for enrolment (after that is too late to vote);
- 26 October** – advance voting begins (check media for locations)
- 7 November** – Election day

One final reminder: we are an advocacy group, all of us are volunteers offering our time for supporting the older generation; we are funded entirely by your membership fee. Please make sure you're up to date and if not, the membership form is on page 23 or on our website www.napiergreypower.org

Enjoy!

Ngā mihi **Maxine Boag**

Vice President and Publicity Officer



GREY POWER NAPIER PO Box 4247, Marewa,
Napier, 4143. Phone: 06 844 5635 | www.napiergreypower.org

ADDRESSES: Please let us know if you have changed your home address, email address or phone number. Make sure you open your emails regularly so you can receive important messages. We still have emails returned to us so make sure you let us know, so you don't miss out.

If you have any thing you would like to put in the magazine maybe a joke, a recipe or something that concerns you please get hold of Maxine: maxine.boag@gmail.com / 021 024 70484.

Other people's opinions do help us so feel free to contact us.

Acknowledgements: This newsletter was compiled by Publicity Officer Maxine Boag with the assistance of committee members. It was printed by Kiwi Publications, folded and distributed by member volunteers and delivered by members or emailed by the Membership Secretary. Neither the Association, nor any person or persons associated with it accepts any liability whatsoever for the contents of this newsletter, nor do we necessarily endorse any product advertised, or any opinions expressed.

This publication is designed and printed by Kiwi Publications a division of Radler Consulting Limited.

For advertising phone Sharyn 027 224 0049 or email: sales@kiwipublications.nz www.kiwipublications.co.nz

Please refer to our website for disclaimer.



Bruce Carnegie
President

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Since our last newsletter, Napier Grey Power has continued to be active, with a number of successful meetings, events and achievements.

Our June public meeting featured Napier Mayor

Richard McGrath, who provided an informative update on Council activities and answered a wide range of questions from the audience of approx. 120 members. We sincerely thank Richard for taking the time out of his busy schedule to be our guest speaker.

June also saw us have our Annual General Meeting. I am pleased to report that our existing committee members, with the exception of our retiring secretary, were re-elected. We also welcomed two new committee members, Christine Pain, who has taken on the role of Secretary, and Jaquie Broun. We are delighted to have them join our team and look forward to working with them.

One of the highlights of the AGM was the privilege of presenting Life Memberships to two very deserving recipients, Isabel Wood (left) was recognized for her 12 years of dedicated service as our secretary, while Maxine Boag (right) received Life Membership in recognition of her remarkable 21 years of voluntary service to Napier Grey Power. Both have made an enormous contribution to our Association, and we thank them sincerely for their commitment.



The August guest speaker was Inspector Bryan Smith who provided an update on the police activity within our community – see page 21.

During the last few months, committee members have continued to represent Napier Grey Power at a variety of community meetings and events, including Age Friendly Napier, the Age Friendly Sliver screen movies, a collaborative meeting with Grey Power's Hastings and Central Hawkes Bay, and the Positive Ageing Trust. These meetings provide valuable opportunities to share ideas, strengthen relationships, and work together to improve services and support for older people throughout our region.

I also had the privilege of representing Grey Power Napier at the three-day National Federation Conference in Wellington. It was an excellent opportunity to meet representatives from associations throughout NZ, exchange ideas, and speak in support of a submission from our association, which received approx. 70% support from the delegates and will now be progressed by the Federation.

A proud moment for our Association was receiving the trophy recognizing Napier Grey Power as the number one Association in the category for organizations with more than 500 members. This award reflects the dedication of our committee, volunteers and members, and is something we can all be proud of.

Another exciting achievement has been our partnership with Greenmeadows New World, who generously provided space for a display stand featuring our local and Federation magazines. Over a three-week period, more than 2000 copies were taken by shoppers. Our sincere thanks go to Greenmeadows New World for supporting Grey Power and helping us reach more people in our community. If you are reading a copy from there, please consider joining our Association, **we are all volunteers working to advocate for your well-being!**

Our October public meeting promises to be a very important event as candidates for the Central Government election will have the opportunity to introduce themselves to our members and explain why they deserve your vote. I encourage as many members as possible to attend.

continued on page 4

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all of our volunteers, whose dedication and willingness to help make everything we do possible. Thank you also to our valued sponsors, Beth Shan Funerals, Kaweka Heath, and Princess Alexandra Retirement Village for their continued support of our Association.



Our "sounds man" John Wuts with Princess Alexandra representative Kane Salanoa.

Most importantly, thank you to you, our members. Without your loyalty, encouragement and support, Napier Grey Power would not be able to achieve what it does to continue to be such a respected voice for older people in our community.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming meetings.

Kindest regards **Bruce Carnegie** | President
"Stronger together"

Rising social housing need among older New Zealanders demands urgent action

Grey Power New Zealand says the growing number of older New Zealanders seeking social housing is a stark reminder that many seniors are struggling to secure safe, affordable and suitable housing. New Ministry of Social Development figures show that, for the first time in at least five years, people aged over 55 are now the largest age group on the social housing waitlist.

In June 2026, there were 6,201 applicants aged over 55 waiting for a public home – a 25 percent increase since 2021.

Grey Power National President David Marshall said the figures highlight a growing crisis that has been building for years.

"Every New Zealander deserves the security of a warm, affordable home as they age. These numbers show that too many older people are reaching retirement without that security."

"We welcome the Government's acknowledgement that the housing needs of older New Zealanders require greater attention. However, the scale of the challenge means action is needed now, not years down the track."

Mr Marshall has stated:

- Figures released by housing advocacy group Doors to Dignity indicate that the number of people aged 65 and over seeking housing assistance has increased by around 90 percent since 2020. That extraordinary increase underlines the urgency of addressing housing insecurity for some of our most vulnerable older citizens.
- Increasing the supply of accessible housing must be a priority. "It is not simply about building more homes. We need homes that allow older people to age in place safely and independently. That means accessible, well-designed housing located close to transport, health services and community support."
- While one-bedroom homes are appropriate for some people, many older New Zealanders are better served by two-bedroom homes. A second bedroom allows family members or carers to stay overnight when needed, provides space for essential support, and helps many older people remain living independently for longer rather than entering residential care prematurely.
- Addressing the housing needs of older people should be viewed as both a social and economic investment. Providing suitable housing helps older people maintain their independence, reduces pressure on the health and aged care systems, and improves quality of life.

"New Zealand has an ageing population. We need to ensure our housing policies reflect that reality so today's older New Zealanders—and future generations—can live with dignity and security."

Federation President

David Marshall



Community Catch Up*



NAPIER
CITY COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera o Ahuriri



Napier City Council has agreed to continue exploring what a single council for Hawke's Bay could look like.

Following community feedback, Council has submitted an outline proposal to the Government through the Simplifying Local Government Head Start Pathway.

This is an important step in the process, but it is not a final decision.

There is still significant work to do to understand what a single council model could mean for local communities, including affordability and maintaining a strong local voice.

Residents will have further opportunities to learn more, share feedback and have their say before any final decisions are made.

Safer Crossings, Smarter Traffic Flow at Upgraded Guppy Road Intersection



The upgrade of the Guppy Road/Meeanee Road intersection is now complete, marking a significant improvement for everyone travelling through the area.

Drivers, cyclists and pedestrians will notice several changes designed to improve safety and traffic flow, including new lane layouts, new right-turn arrows and longer pedestrian crossing times.

Motorists are reminded to pay close attention to the new road markings, particularly the setback stop lines now in place on some approaches. Vehicles must stop at the marked line to ensure road sensors detect them correctly and traffic signals operate as intended.

If this is your first trip through the upgraded intersection, take extra care, follow the new signs and allow a little time to familiarise yourself with the updated layout.



No more paper parking tickets

Paper tickets will no longer be placed on vehicles.

Instead, infringement notices will be sent by post to the registered vehicle owner.

To make sure you receive any correspondence, now is a good time to check that your postal address is up to date with NZTA.



Don't let Bird Flu take flight

There are no confirmed cases in Hawke's Bay or Napier at the time of writing, but we are staying alert to the situation.

If you are out and about over the coming weeks or months and see three or more sick or dead birds in one location, don't touch them. Report them straight away to MPI's hotline on 0800 809 966.



Save the date for the next free movie afternoon on 21 Sept at Reading Cinemas Napier.

An opportunity for older adults to connect and enjoy a fun community experience.

Bookings open Monday 7 Sept, call 06 835 7579.

Keep up to date with all things Napier at napier.govt.nz

Abbeyfield Hawkes Bay

Offering Seniors an Alternative Accommodation Option

Plans to establish an Abbeyfield House in Napier will continue despite a disappointing decision by the Government not to provide capital funding for the project.

A local charitable committee, including Lucy Miller and her husband Mark Baylis, has been working to establish the home, which would provide affordable accommodation for 14 people aged 65 and over living on NZ Superannuation.

The proposed development is expected to cost between \$3.2 million and \$3.5 million. The committee is currently negotiating with Napier City Council over leasing land at the corner of Spriggs Crescent and Tait Drive in Greenmeadows. The location is considered particularly suitable because it is close to existing pensioner housing.

Abbeyfield offers an alternative for older people who can live independently but want affordable, secure housing and the companionship that comes from living with others. Each resident has a private studio and ensuite, while electricity, water, maintenance and main meals are included in the rent. Residents normally share lunch and dinner, with meals prepared by a housekeeper.

There are currently 16 Abbeyfield houses operating around New Zealand, with further projects at various stages of development.

Miller, a retired social worker, became interested in the model through her work helping people find

accommodation. She saw first-hand the difficulties some older people experienced through insecure housing, overcrowding and isolation.

She believes the social benefits of Abbeyfield are just as important as providing somewhere affordable to live. Regular shared meals provide companionship and can help combat the loneliness experienced by many older people.

The model may also enable residents to remain independent for longer. Miller says Abbeyfield experience indicates this type of supported living can delay entry into residential aged care by several years.

The Napier committee had been encouraged to apply for Government assistance and was therefore particularly disappointed when funding was declined.

Napier MP Katie Nimon said Government housing investment was being directed according to areas of greatest identified need, pointing to new social and affordable housing recently announced for Hastings and Gisborne-Tairāwhiti.

For the Abbeyfield Hawke's Bay committee, however, the funding decision is a setback rather than the end of the project. Members intend to continue fundraising and pursuing other opportunities to make the Napier house a reality.

Source: Based on information reported by Local Democracy Reporting and published by Scoop.



The Abbeyfield Hawke's Bay committee at a luncheon Planning Meeting.

Restoring Essential Health Infrastructure in Wairoa

Wairoa is one of the few communities in New Zealand without local aged residential care after the former Glengarry facility closed following Cyclone Gabrielle. As a result, older people who need residential care are often forced to move to Napier or Gisborne, separating them from their families, friends, culture and support networks.

The true level of need is largely hidden. With no rest home, respite care or day programmes, there are no waiting lists to measure demand. Instead, local knowledge suggests at least 50 families are caring for frail older relatives at home, many living with dementia, multiple health conditions or increasing dependence. Family carers, often spouses or adult children, receive little support and many struggle to balance caregiving with work, family responsibilities and their own health.

The private sector has shown that, under current funding arrangements, a rural aged care facility in Wairoa is not commercially viable. However, the

need for care has not disappeared—it has simply shifted to families, hospitals and neighbouring communities.

A local charity has developed a proposal to restore rest home, hospital and dementia care while also providing respite services, day programmes and recovery care. The project would create local jobs, strengthen health services and enable older people to remain in their own community. To succeed, it requires Government support through capital funding, recognition of Wairoa as a "thin market", guaranteed operational funding and assistance with workforce recruitment and virtual nursing support linked to Wairoa Hospital.

Grey Power has long argued that older New Zealanders should be able to age with dignity in their own communities wherever possible. Wairoa highlights why aged residential care must be recognised as essential health infrastructure, not simply a commercial service. The need exists now, and without Government action, older people will continue to be displaced from the communities they call home.



Butler & Hewitt
Heat Pumps and Appliance Servicing

10% DISCOUNT
on parts for
Grey Power Members
(please advise when booking)

Butler & Hewitt provide comprehensive heat pump, air conditioning, and household appliance services throughout Hawkes Bay. As Elite Dealers for Panasonic heat pumps, we also offer expert supply, installation, maintenance, and repair for all major brands and can get your domestic appliances up and running in a jiffy!

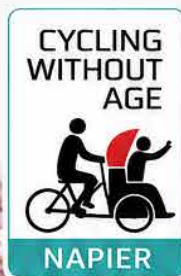
Napier 06 835 3104 | Hastings 06 870 8799
www.butlerhewitt.co.nz
admin@butlerhewitt.co.nz | 31 Niven Street, Onekawa

15% off
use promo code
GP at checkout

**Socks
too tight?**
soft topped
bamboo and
cotton socks
3 pairs \$36

diabeticsocks.co.nz

CYCLING WITHOUT AGE NAPIER



*Enjoy the
wind in
your hair* 

**We'd love to take
you for a ride!** 

At Cycling Without Age Napier,
we offer free trishaw rides to older
people in our community.

It's more than a bike ride – it's a
chance to get out, enjoy the fresh
air, and have a great chat while
we visit beautiful places around
Napier together.



A little time.
A big difference.
A ride you'll love.



**Lovely
conversation**



**Feel
connected**



**Fresh air,
good for all**

No cost. No obligation.

Just a relaxing outing with friendly faces.



We'd love to hear from you!

If you or someone you know
would enjoy a ride,
please get in touch.



027 244 2576



cwa.napiernz@gmail.com



www.cwanapier.nz

Real connections.



Real moments.



Real difference.

Six Little Stories with Lots of Meanings

1. Once, all the villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered, but only one little boy came with an umbrella. ***That is faith.***
2. When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. ***That is trust.***
3. Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but still we set the alarms to wake up. ***That is hope.***
4. We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. ***That is confidence.***
5. We see the world suffering, but still, we get married and have children. ***That is love.***
6. On an old man's shirt was written a sentence "I am not 80 years old; I am sweet sixteen with 64 years of experience." ***That is attitude.***

Have a happy day and live your life like these six stories.

Remember – good friends are the rare jewels of life, difficult to find and impossible to replace!!

COMMUNITY DAY PROGRAMMES: ENLIVEN OLDER PEOPLE

Enliven Havelock North, located at JH Mason Village on Durham Drive, reimagines community day programmes with a fresh approach in a cozy hall setting. We offer morning tea and lunch, accredited falls prevention exercise classes, and a variety of engaging activities on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

We have community day programme spaces!

To find out more about community day programmes for you or your family, ask your GP about Enliven Older People services, call a Needs Assessment Service Coordinator (NASC) directly on 06 834 1871, or have a chat with our Enliven Older People team on freephone 0800 436 548.

To donate to support local older people, call 0800 002 953 or we can come to you with a mobile EFTPOS terminal in Napier or Hastings.



CARING, ENABLING, SUPPORTING
WHILE YOU LIVE AT HOME

Ask your GP about Enliven Services or contact us to find out how we could support you or a relative to stay independent and connected.

Freephone 0800 436 548

Email enliven@psec.org.nz

Visit psec.org.nz

Enliven
✱ Presbyterian Support East Coast

Brain Injury – what is it?

By Maxine Boag and Christine Pain

Our July meeting, with over 100 attendees, heard a fascinating presentation from Nadine Geyer, Kay Clapperton and Desiree Cornelissen from the Brain Injury Association Hawke's Bay.

They described the different types of traumatic and non-traumatic brain injuries ranging from Acquired Brain Injuries including strokes, aneurisms, brain tumours, toxins such as drugs and alcohol; to Traumatic Brain Injury, from external trauma to the head or body (one of the highest risk groups being the elderly – falls); to Mild Traumatic Brain Injury, concussion.

I (Maxine) was particularly interested, as 50 years ago I was knocked off my bike on a country road and woke up three days later (after an induced coma) in the Hastings hospital. The fall had fractured my skull (no helmets in those days!), broke my collarbone and left me with a permanent minor hearing loss in one ear. (Some might unkindly suggest “plus permanent brain damage!” but I say innocent until proven guilty of permanent impairment!)

To highlight the potential impact of brain injuries, the speakers gave volunteers in the audience “concussion glasses”, imitating a mild brain injury, then asked them to do a simple word-find exercise. Reporting back they described feeling disoriented, having blurred vision and feeling panic at not being able to see properly. Other impacts can include loss of neurological function, slurred speech, changes in behaviour, sleep disturbance, headaches and blurred vision.

On a positive note, Nadine listed the seven pillars of brain injury recovery (and I would suggest, prevention), namely

- Protection from falls
- Nourishment from good food and hydration
- Rest, quality sleep and maintaining a sleep routine
- Movement to help balance, aerobic physical activity and resistance training
- Stimulation with, for example, puzzles, crosswords and card games; and learning new skills
- Socialising and connecting with peers
- Avoiding harmful substances such as alcohol, drugs and smoking

They left us with some great links to learn more: <https://www.braininjuryhb.org.nz/fact-sheets-and-brochures>.

To get in touch with them, Brain Injury Association contact information for navigation support, information and education provision is referral@braininjuryhb.co.nz ; or 06 878 6875.



Napier Must Prepare Now for an Ageing Population

Napier's population is ageing rapidly, and unless planning keeps pace, increasing numbers of older people may struggle to access the care they need.

Figures prepared for the Aged Care Association show that in 2023 there were about 12,450 people aged 65 and over in the Napier electorate. By 2053 that number is expected to reach around 19,500, with one in four residents aged over 65.

The fastest growth will be among those aged over 85 – the group most likely to require residential, hospital-level and dementia care. Their numbers are projected to increase from about 1,750 today to almost 4,800 over the next 30 years.

Most older people wish to remain in their own homes for as long as possible. However, many eventually require specialised care because of frailty, dementia, falls or complex medical conditions.

Napier currently has 15 aged residential care facilities providing about 813 beds. These facilities are an essential part of our health system, caring not only for permanent residents but also supporting rehabilitation, respite and recovery after hospital treatment.

As demand grows, Napier will need more residential care places, particularly for people requiring hospital-level and dementia care. More respite services will also be needed to support family carers, many of whom are older themselves.

Without forward planning, the city could face longer waits for residential care, increased pressure on hospitals and greater strain on families.

Meeting future demand will require investment in modern facilities, expanded dementia services, a skilled workforce and funding that reflects residents' increasingly complex needs.

Aged residential care should be recognised as essential health infrastructure. The decisions made over the next decade will determine whether older Napier residents

can continue to receive quality care close to their families and communities. For Grey Power members, this is about dignity, independence and ensuring everyone can age with the care they deserve.



Aged Care Association Tracey Martin – a strong advocate for aged care facilities and services.

From the Mayor

Council is a busy place right now with lots going on in the day-to-day operations of the city as well as across the region. What links all the work is a need to make sure Napier is well connected and well set up for the future.

In early August we sent our Simplifying Local Government proposal to central government's reform. It's important to know that, at this stage, the proposal is very high level. We've prepared it in collaboration with Hastings District Council and Central Hawke's Bay District Council, and together we're proposing our three councils amalgamate to form a single Hawke's Bay Council. We've also left room for Wairoa to join us further down the track if they choose to. Wairoa has currently chosen not to enter the government's process, but the door remains open.

We expect to hear back from government by October. From there, we'll carry out extensive community engagement to make sure we hear from as broad a range of voices as possible. We will want to know what our community wants to see in any new model of local government for Hawke's Bay. Do you want more local voice at the table, or a leaner, more efficient structure? Those are exactly the kinds of trade-offs we'll be asking people to share their views on.

Also in early 2027, we'll be consulting on our next Long Term Plan, the high-level strategic plan for Napier from 2027 to 2037. It lays out our work programme and priorities including what we're going to do, how much we plan to spend and how we're going to pay for it. It's a significant document, and it's vital that community views are reflected in it. Keep an eye out for opportunities to give us your feedback through Say It Napier (sayitnapier.nz).

Another big change in the pipeline is our move to a new water entity. From July 2027, water services across Hawke's Bay will be provided by a new organisation called Water HB, taking over responsibility for drinking water, wastewater and stormwater.

Although there are big strategic changes happening at Napier City Council and in local government more broadly, we are still very much focused on doing the basics really well. We have some large infrastructure projects on the go in the water, transportation and building assets areas. Some of these are renewals

and some are upgrades to existing infrastructure. Looking after what we already have is important and as much as we are investing in new infrastructure we're also ensuring we make full use of what we have already.

As always, we appreciate your patience and understanding as we work to improve the city and its neighbourhoods. We're always open for a conversation or a question, whether that's through our website or by giving our customer services team a call. Thanks for staying involved in shaping Napier now and for future generations.



**No matter who you are,
or what you are going through,
Samaritans are here to listen.**



Samaritans listen without judgement, available 24/7, so that no one in New Zealand ever has to feel alone when dealing with life's challenges.

samaritans **0800 72 66 66**
Aotearoa New Zealand **samaritans.org.nz**

Renewing your driver's licence – a fairer process

by Maxine Boag and Grey Power Federation



Senior drivers are required by law to get a GP to assess their cognitive fitness from age 75, then every second year from 80 years in order to renew their drivers' licence.

For me, this meant having a nurse ask me questions about supermarket items, remembering a made-up name and address, giving them animal names, moving the hands on a clock to show ten to two, whilst thinking "what has this got to do with my driving ability?" Apparently it was to test whether or not I have dementia!

So after two years of advocating for a fairer test with NZTA, politicians and the medical profession, Grey Power New Zealand has announced that **routine cognitive testing will no longer be a standard part of assessing healthy older people's fitness to drive.**

Federation President David Marshall said that "For too long, many older drivers have been subjected to routine cognitive tests despite little evidence that these accurately measure a person's ability to drive safely."

The new guidance follows an independent review by the University of Auckland, which found there is insufficient evidence to support routine cognitive screening for physically and mentally healthy older drivers.

Instead, doctors are encouraged to take a more holistic approach, considering a person's overall health, medical history, vision and physical abilities. They may still use the test if there is "clear clinical evidence" for cognitive assessments. Where necessary, an on-road driving assessment can be used to determine whether someone remains safe behind the wheel.

Mr Marshall said this was a fairer, evidence-based approach that recognised the importance of driving to older people's independence, wellbeing and social connection.

The guidance has been developed jointly by NZTA, the Ministry of Health, the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners and the Office for Seniors.

The Federation hopes the new guidance will result in greater consistency across New Zealand. However, members who continue to be required to undergo routine cognitive testing without a clear clinical reason are encouraged to advise Grey Power.

Grey Power supports a licensing system that puts public safety first while ensuring assessments are based on sound clinical evidence and individual circumstances, rather than age alone.

Housing Costs Still Squeezing Low-Income Households



Working households earning less than the equivalent of the full-time minimum wage per adult are facing the greatest housing pressure, according to a new report by the Child Poverty Action Group.

Researcher Greg Waite said that although official figures show rents have recently levelled off or fallen in some areas, this hides the reality for many families after years of steep rent increases.

Among more than 20,000 households receiving benefits and renting privately, only 12% had enough income to meet both rent and the cost of a basic standard of living. Just 59% of single people and 41% of single parents could afford basic living costs after paying rent.

Waite said more than 70,000 households in private rentals were working but earned less than the full-time minimum wage per adult. Most did not receive a benefit, and around two-thirds could not afford their rent. Many were in casual work or unable to secure enough hours.

Affordable housing has also become scarcer. In 2015, 38% of rental housing was affordable for people relying on benefits; by 2024 this had fallen to 23%. The decline was particularly severe in rural regions such as Manawatū-Whanganui and the Bay of Plenty.

Waite said housing remained the biggest cost facing families. Between 2023 and 2026, rents increased more than any other household expense, rising by about \$50 a week for a working couple with two children in the main centres. Food costs rose by \$34 a week and transport by \$22.

"Housing is the largest cost facing families," Waite said. "You can't not pay the rent, so people end up going without food and other essentials."



Buying into Onekawa Lifestyle Village makes sense and saves dollars.

VILLAS FOR SALE

\$420,000

*Almost 50% sold,
just 19 left!*



If you're living alone in the family home with no money to do anything, or you're looking to downsize to somewhere new, Onekawa Lifestyle Village is for you. We talked to Napier District Masonic Trust Chief Operating Officer, Arthur Keane to find out more.

Question: Arthur, what are the benefits of buying an Onekawa Village villa?

Arthur: The key benefit at Onekawa Village is the entry price. It is extremely affordable for the Napier market, and it provides people with the opportunity to capitalise out of a property and still have some money left in the bank. Plus, you'll be in a brand-new house with rates, building insurance, gardens, lawns and maintenance all taken care of for a modest monthly fee.

Q. What else do residents get for their money?

A. Safety and security are a high priority. This is a gated community, and the villas are perfect for lock up and leave. You're also getting a stunning, quality-build property that's stylishly designed and well insulated, with up-to-date fixtures and fittings. People have been telling us the design is second-to-none!

Another big advantage is that if you become unwell and need care for the future, the Trust offers you priority entry into our care facilities. You'll be part of the Masonic Family now, and in the future.

Q. What's being done to encourage a community feel?

A. Well, for a start, we've built a magnificent village hall right in the centre of the village. It will have a fully equipped kitchen with a dining area, a fire, a lounge area with tv, and let's not forget the BBQ. We're also planning to have shared vegetable and herb gardens.

Q. There are 19 one-bedroom villas left and they're selling fast. When is the move-in date?

A. The move-in date is scheduled for December 1st, so I would say if you were interested in a well-priced, stylishly appointed and highly spec'd home, don't wait to get in touch. There is nobody else in Hawke's Bay offering accommodation of this quality, at this price, for our elderly.

**Call 0800 ONEKAWA
(0800 663 5292)
to secure your villa.**



Napier District
Masonic Trust

New Downsizing Pilot Could Benefit Older Homeowners

Many older people would like to move into a smaller, warmer, more accessible home but remain in the community they know. For many, however, there is one major obstacle – finance.

Grey Power NZ Federation is supporting an innovative pilot project that aims to remove that barrier. Research by the Federation found that many banks are reluctant to provide bridging finance to retirees living mainly on NZ Superannuation, even when they own their homes mortgage-free. As a result, many people remain in large family homes that are increasingly difficult and expensive to maintain.

The pilot, to be launched in Katikati, will help eligible homeowners who want to downsize and have a section suitable for subdivision. If the project is viable, a new accessible two-bedroom home would be built on the property. The homeowner would move into the new house, the original home would then be sold, and any remaining proceeds returned to the owner.

The idea has wider benefits too. It allows older people to remain close to friends, family and familiar services, while freeing up larger homes for younger families.

Grey Power National President David Marshall says the project could provide a practical solution for many seniors who have previously had no realistic way to downsize while staying in their own community.

If the Katikati pilot proves successful, the model could be expanded to other parts of New Zealand. It is certainly an idea worth watching in Napier, where many older homeowners face exactly the same challenges.

Age-Friendly Ahuriri Napier

Napier is part of the internationally-accredited Age Friendly cities network and our President and Vice-President and committee member Carol sit on the council-funded Age-Friendly Ahuriri Napier Committee, alongside other relevant organisations and groups. Their aim is to advocate for local and central government initiatives to increase “age-friendliness” in our city and region.



Left: At the end of a recent Age-Friendly committee meeting we thanked and honoured retired co-chair Peter Grant, seen here with co-chair Lexia Puna. Peter's contribution has been outstanding and a huge influence in getting the group started and established.

Research Project

We're excited to let you know about a research project that the Napier City Council's Age-Friendly Ahuriri Napier Group is undertaking in partnership with the Auckland University of Technology (AUT) Active Ageing Research Centre this coming September.

The project will explore the experiences and challenges faced by kaumātua / older adults (65+) living in Napier. The findings will be published and will help inform future recommendations to improve our city's accessibility, connections, services, and overall age-friendliness. Would love to have your input! Details on the poster.

Silver Screen – another council funded initiative, we will have a free screening for 65 plus seniors of “Rams” starring the late Sam Neill at Readings cinema on 21 September, Booking opens on 7th September.



International Day of the Older Person (1 October) has been celebrated in many ways over the last few years. Keep an eye out for news of planned activities!

Have your say about making Napier more age-friendly

You are invited to take part in a focus group interview on your experiences of age-friendliness in Napier. Your views will help inform recommendations to make Napier a more inclusive, accessible, and supportive city for older adults.

You will receive a \$20 supermarket voucher in acknowledgement of your contribution

- Are you 65 years or over
- Live in the Napier City Council area
- Able attend one focus group session lasting up to 90 minutes



Age-friendly Ahuriri Napier is working with Auckland University of Technology (AUT) Active Ageing Research Centre to undertake this research

If you would like to participate, please contact the lead researcher:
Dr Sara Napier by email: sara.napier@aut.ac.nz
Alternatively phone or leave a message on mobile: 022 069 7937
Venue, date and time to be advised

Approved by the Auckland University of Technology Ethics Committee on type the date final ethics approval was granted, AUTEK Reference number 26/49

Questions for parties: As usual, Napier Grey Power will be holding a candidates' meeting before the voting starts in the Parliamentary Election.

To help inform you on where they stand on issues we consider important, we have circulated a questionnaire, asking all of them the same questions and publishing their answers here.

Napier Electorate Candidates *(known at time of publication)*



Johnno Ormond
ACT



Roy Boonen
Green



Alex Hedley
Labour



Katie Nimmon
National



Te Kira Lawrence
NZ First

Questions for parties and responses from National, Labour, Greens, Act and NZ First

Editor's Note: Opportunity Party is not at this stage running a candidate in Napier, but we offered space for them to publish their party policies like the others. Unfortunately the response we received far exceeded the given word count, so we asked for it to be reduced but heard nothing back.

NZ Superannuation: Will your party retain NZ Superannuation as a universal entitlement at age 65? If not, what changes do you propose?

ACT: At the moment ACT has no policies to change this. Some public discussion from the leader has raised as discussion points, that life expectancy has extended out beyond what it was when the policy was set. If the discussion becomes of public interest, perhaps this could mean increasing the age by two months per year until it reaches 67. In essence, very gradual, conservative changes.

National will have a superannuation policy closer to the election. We don't support changing the entitlements of those currently receiving super. However, the cost of superannuation in the next year alone will increase by \$1.8 billion.

Green Party will retain New Zealand Superannuation as a universal entitlement from age 65.

Labour will not change Superannuation.

NZ First secured keeping Super at 65 in the 2023 Coalition Agreement and will continue to protect it. It is an entitlement recognising seniors' contribution to New Zealand.

What will your party do to improve timely, affordable access to GPs, specialists, elective surgery and emergency care for older kiwis?

NZ First supports a stronger health system with improved access to GPs, specialists, elective surgery and timely care for older New Zealanders.

ACT will close the medicines gap with Australia, lifting medicines to Australia's share of the health budget by 2033. Let pharmacists treat more everyday conditions and manage stable prescriptions. Keep buying elective surgery from private hospitals on ten-year contracts.

National is making it easier to see a GP by growing the frontline workforce and increasing access to care. More doctors are being trained, overseas-trained doctors are being brought into GP practices, and additional funding has been provided

At the meeting on 20th October, we will be hosting the individual candidates, as well as further exploring these and other issues of importance to our members.

There is a lot of misinformation around about party policies – we recommend you go to each party’s website and check for yourself!

Ikaroa-Rāwhiti Candidates *(known at time of publication)*



Louise Burnside
Women’s Rights



Heather Te Au-Skipworth
Green Party



Cushla Tangaere-Manuel
Labour Party



Haley Maxwell -
Te Pati Māori

for GP clinics. We will release our full health policy before the election.

Green Party: We will work towards a publicly delivered, free primary healthcare system, improving access to GPs, specialists, elective surgery and emergency care. We will focus on prevention, early screening, timely treatment and removing cost barriers, including free dental care and essential medicines

Labour will provide three free GP visits each year and invest to increase appointments by 4.5 million annually. This will help people address health issues earlier and reduce pressure on hospital emergency departments.

What specific measures would your party introduce to help pensioners cope with rising costs such as food, power, rent, transport and insurance?

Labour will introduce Solarsaver, helping low and middle income households generate their own solar power. A \$3,000 kickstart payment, combined with a low-interest loan attached to the property, will make solar more affordable. The loan does not have to be repaid if the property is sold, and repayments will be set below the power-bill savings, reducing monthly costs.

NZ First supports practical cost-of-living measures,

including SuperGold Card improvements and expanded rates rebate support. Casey Costello’s Better Later Life Action Plan focuses on financial security and independence.

ACT: Lower prices, not handouts. Real competition in groceries and electricity, including a one-stop consent law for new supermarket chains. Less council red tape, which pushes up every price, and spending restraint so taxes stay down.

National has brought inflation down from 7.3%, we’re capping council rates, and we’re building up our energy security to bring down power bills for Kiwis.

Green Party Our energy policy will help reduce power bills through support for household solar panels, KiwiPower and an expanded Warmer Kiwi Homes programme. We will deliver thousands more public homes for low-income households and will announce further measures on food costs before the election.

What improvements would your party make to residential aged care, home support services and pay and conditions for caregivers?

Green Party will restore pay equity processes, improve wages and conditions for caregivers,
(Continued on page 18)

Questions for Parties *(Continued from page 17)*

strengthen residential aged care and home-support services, and support a well-trained workforce so older people can age in place with dignity.

Labour will require retirement village operators to repay residents' money within three months of leaving a village. A comprehensive seniors policy will be announced before the election.

NZ First supports sustainable aged care funding, quality services, and valuing caregivers who support older New Zealanders.

ACT: No policy position

National has provided funding for 391,000 additional bed nights in the residential aged care sector and invested \$24 million over four years to improve access to aged care and longer care outside of hospitals.

How will your party ensure that older people have access to safe, affordable and appropriate housing, whether they own or rent?

National: Rent affordability has improved 7% since coming to government. House prices have stabilised and our planning reforms will make it faster and cheaper to build more houses for seniors.

Green Party will strengthen renters' rights with a rental warrant of fitness, rent controls and an end to no-cause evictions, while increasing accessible public housing, supporting papakāinga developments and prioritising seniors on social housing waitlists.

Labour has a strong record of investing in social housing and remains committed to it. Labour's housing policy will be announced before the election.

NZ First supports warm, secure and affordable housing options so seniors can remain independent and age well in their communities.

ACT: Build more. Replace the RMA with a property rights system, pay councils to consent homes, open the building products market. For retirement villages, a plain English standard contract, capital back within 12 months, interest if late.

Responses from the Opportunity Party far exceeded the word count (175 total) and were sent back in good time for reduction but did not come back

before our newsletter deadline.

Separate questions for Ikaroa-Rāwhiti candidates for Greens, Labour and TPM on Māori issues.

(Note: only the Green Party sent us answers)

A majority of homeless whānau in our electorate are Māori. How would your party end homelessness?

Green Party: We would build more public homes and papakāinga, limit annual rent increases, expand Housing First, transitional and supported housing, and guarantee same-day accommodation for anyone without shelter.

Māori live on average seven years less than non-Māori. The current coalition government has a mantra that all kiwis are "equal", so have removed any health services distinguishing Māori from others. How would your party address this inequity?

Green Party: We would focus on areas where Māori are consistently underserved in the health system, including prevention, early intervention and accessibility. By-Māori-for-Māori services and mobile rural clinics, including dental, diagnostic and mental health services, would be adequately funded.

What has your party done for Māori in this last term?

Green Party: Māori continue to face significant inequities across nearly every measurable social and economic indicator. Exercising Tino Rangatiratanga should not be subject to changing political priorities. We would devolve power and resources to tangata whenua, recognising Māori as decision-makers for their whānau, hapū and iwi.

Assuming you will be part of a coalition in government or opposition, what does your party aspire to achieve for Māori in the next term of office?

Green Party: Our priority would be rebuilding the Māori-Crown relationship, which has been significantly harmed by the current coalition government. Genuine Treaty partnership means resourcing Māori-led aspirations rather than defining those aspirations for Māori.

Ministerial Advisory Group's Report on Aged Care

Grey Power New Zealand welcomes the Ministerial Advisory Group's report on aged care as an opportunity to build a system giving older New Zealanders the care, dignity and security they deserve.

President David Marshall said the report correctly recognises the need for fundamental reform as the population ages.

"We support its vision of an integrated system, better support for ageing in place and carers, and a stronger, sustainable workforce," Mr Marshall said.

"People should receive the care they need without navigating a fragmented system. Care must be based on individual needs, not agency boundaries and funding streams."

Grey Power supports stronger home-based care, respite for family carers, expanded rehabilitation services, better information sharing and an independent Aged Care Pricing Authority.

Older people must not become the funding solution

Grey Power is concerned about recommendations that would significantly increase older people's financial contributions.

The report proposes lowering the residential-care asset threshold to \$100,000, stepped contributions for people with higher assets and greater income-based contributions. It also proposes limiting the value of the family home that can be excluded from asset testing when one partner enters residential care.

"Grey Power cannot support reforms that address funding pressures by progressively asking older people to pay more for essential care," Mr Marshall said.

"For many, the family home is their main asset and the foundation of their retirement security—not a bottomless source of income."

People could contribute towards personal preferences or additional services, but essential health and care services must remain accessible regardless of ability to pay.

Sustainable funding is essential

Grey Power welcomes calls for substantial increases

in funding for home-based and residential care.

"Quality care requires providers and workers to be properly funded. Investment in aged care benefits older people, their families and the wider health system," Mr Marshall said.

Grey Power also supports investigating a future social-insurance scheme, provided it is carefully designed and publicly consulted on.

Older people must have a voice

Older people and their families must play a meaningful role in implementing reforms.

"The test is simple: can an older New Zealander get care when needed without being forced into financial insecurity? That is how Grey Power will judge the Government's response."

The report can be found at: <https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/2026-08/MAGroup-Report-Aged-Care-NZ.pdf>

**THEY SAY 40 IS THE NEW 30 AND
50 IS THE NEW 40, BUT ALL I KNOW
IS THE OLDER I GET, THE MORE
9PM IS THE NEW MIDNIGHT.**



EASY CLEAN BLINDS
+ more



**Clean, repair & restore
Venetians, Verticals, Wooden,
Roman, Rollers & New Blinds.**

P: 06 876 7111 M: 027 532 0776
easycleanblinds.co.nz

**Serving Hawke's Bay for over 20 years with all blind
cleaning, repairs, restoration & new blind requirements.**



GREY POWER

NAPIER & DISTRICTS ASSOC

Upcoming Meetings

SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER 2026

15/09

Monthly Meeting

1:30 pm
St Columba's Church



Guest Speaker
Denal Meihana
Senior advisor
Fire and
Emergency NZ

20/10

Candidates' Meeting

1:30 pm
St Columba's Church

Meet candidates
for
Napier and
Ikaroa-Rāwhiti
Electorates

17/11

Christmas Luncheon
Taradale Club
Bookings tba

**PLEASE DO NOT PAY
YOUR GREY POWER
ELECTRICITY BILL INTO
OUR ACCOUNT!**

If you pay us on line,
please help us identify
you! We need a
membership number or
a full name

while easing demand on hospitals and GP services.

The report highlights concerns about obesity, smoking and alcohol-related harm. It notes that New Zealand has one of the highest obesity rates in the OECD and says children are exposed to extensive advertising for unhealthy food and drinks. It also points to ongoing health inequities, with Māori, Pacific peoples and lower-income communities experiencing higher smoking rates and poorer health outcomes.

The Coalition estimates alcohol contributes to around 900 deaths and 1,250 cancers each year, as well as significant social harm, including family violence, injuries and mental health issues.

Health Coalition Aotearoa says prevention is one of the most cost-effective ways to improve health outcomes, particularly as New Zealand's population ages. It is calling on all political parties to give greater priority to policies that reduce preventable disease and improve the health and wellbeing of future generations.

Health Coalition Calls for Stronger Prevention Policies

Health Coalition Aotearoa is urging political parties contesting this year's election to place greater emphasis on preventing illness by reducing the harm caused by tobacco, alcohol and unhealthy food. The Coalition says these three products account for around 350,000 healthy life-years lost each year through preventable disease. Its newly released Prevention Brief 2026 outlines policies it believes would improve public health and reduce pressure on New Zealand's health system.

Co-chair Professor Boyd Swinburn says prevention has taken a back seat in recent years and argues that stronger action could save thousands of lives

Meet the Candidates



ACT Party
Johnno Ormond



Green Party
Roy Boonen



Labour Party
Alex Hedley



National Party
Katie Nimon



NZ First Party
Te Kira Lawrence



Women's Rights Party
Louise Burnside



Green Party
Heather Te Au Skipworth
Ikaroa-Rāwhiti electorate

Note: these are the only local candidates who responded to our invitations as we went to publication in late August. Others may be added. Because of time constraints and fairness, there will be no questions from the floor.

Tuesday
20 October
1.30pm

St Columba's Church
Gloucester Street
Taradale

Policing Today: Insights from Eastern District

Grey Power members recently enjoyed an informative presentation from Acting Inspector Bryan Smith of Eastern District Police. Inspector Smith provided an overview of the Eastern District, explaining its size, the communities it serves, and the wide range of roles within New Zealand Police.

He highlighted the many specialist teams that work alongside frontline officers, demonstrating the diverse skills required to keep our communities safe.

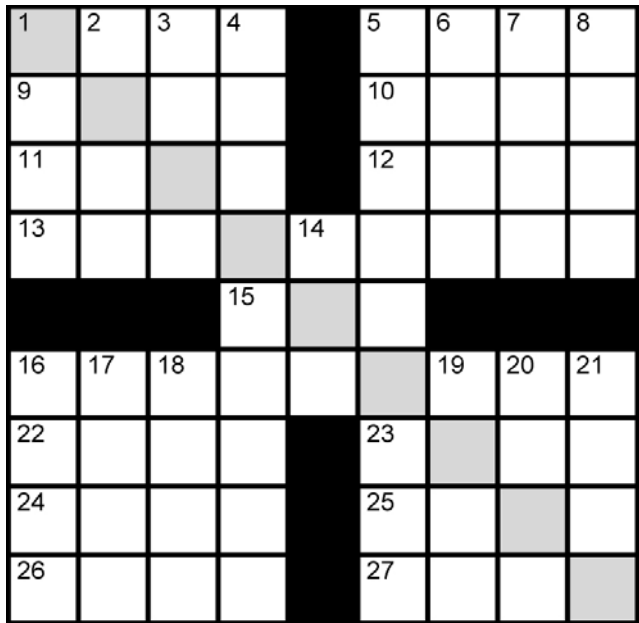
The presentation sparked plenty of interest, with members asking questions on a variety of topics.

Inspector Smith spoke about scams and offered practical advice on how people can protect themselves from fraudsters. He also answered questions about local police stations, how they operate, and the services they provide to the public.

One particularly popular topic was police dogs. Inspector Smith explained the important role these highly trained dogs play and what they do in their time off!



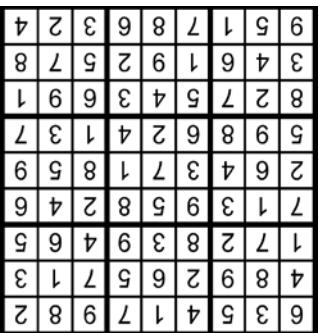
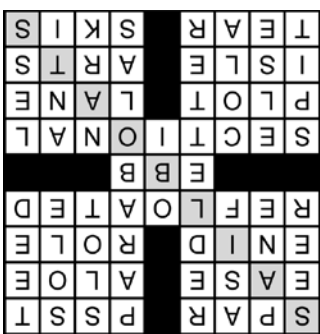
Harbour Sights



- Across
- 1. Box
 - 5. 'Hey ... over here!'
 - 9. '___ on Down the Road'
10. Cosmetic additive
11. Author Bagnold
12. Film part
13. Made buoyant again
15. Flow's partner

- 16. Type of sofa
- 22. Connive
- 23. Narrow street
- 24. Capri, for one
- 25. Song and dance, e.g.
- 26. Drop from the eye
- 27. Slaloms

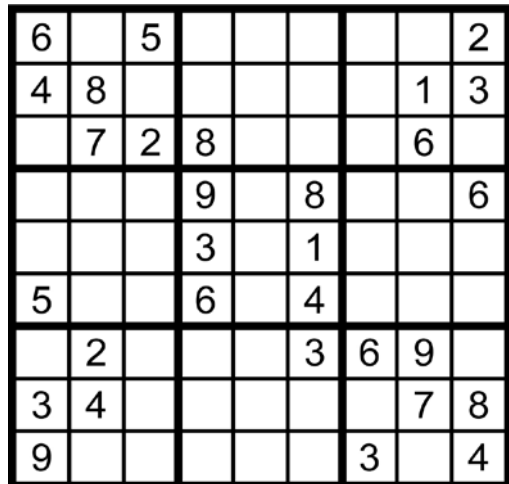
- Down
- 1. Clairvoyant
 - 2. Piece of glass
 - 3. '___ I care!'
 - 4. Memorable, special
 - 5. Conic sections (Geom.)
 - 6. Coin opening
 - 7. Exclusive
 - 8. Angry, with 'off'
 - 14. ___-Wan Kenobi
 - 16. Fast-moving card game
 - 17. '... or ___!'
 - 18. Fizzy drink
 - 19. Informer
 - 20. Against
 - 21. More or ___



The crossword headline is a clue to the answer in the shaded diagonal

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|---------|
| AMAZON | FIGS | PERU |
| BATS | FROGS | PIRANHA |
| BIRDS | FUNGI | QUETZAL |
| BOAS | HULI | ROOTS |
| BOG | IGUANA | SERVAL |
| BRAZIL | JUNGLE | SLOTH |
| BUG | LOGGING | TIGER |
| CAIMAN | MACAW | TURTLE |
| CANOPY | OCELOT | VINES |
| CHOCOLATE | ORANGUTAN | WORMS |
| CUCKOO | ORCHIDS | XENOPS |
| DRAGONFLY | PARROTS | |

SUDOKU



Rainforest



How to solve sudoku puzzles: No math is required to solve a sudoku. You only need logic and patience. Simply make sure that each 3x3 square region has only one instance of the numbers 1-9. Similarly, each number can only appear once in a column or row in the larger grid.

Gentle Reminder to Renew Your Membership

(if you have not already done so!)

For the period 1st April 2026 to 31st March 2027.

If you have already made the payment, please disregard this message,
but we have around 100 members who have not yet renewed.

Your continued membership requires your attention now!

If you are not sure, contact Linda Ph: 06 844 3837

The fee is \$25-00 single and \$40-00 double.

Payment options are:

- You can pay at our general meetings (3rd Tuesday each month) *or*
- Online, our bank no is 38-9009-0434068-00 Grey Power Napier & Districts *or*
- Drop into Linda's letterbox 10 Trigg Crescent, Taradale *or*
- Bruce's letter box 13 Blenheim Street, Taradale *or*
- Bruce can pick up. To arrange Ph: 06 844 5635

We thank you for your loyalty and support. We would not be able to continuously provide our members with valuable benefits and actively be involved within the community without your membership which makes what we do possible and is very much appreciated.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

Membership Subs are now due for the 2026/27 year

Cost is \$25 single and \$40 couple. Membership year is 1 April 2026 - 31 March 2027

ANYONE CAN JOIN - YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE OVER 65!

To pay your membership, you can:

1. Pay your sub online to **bank account number: 38-9009-0434068-00**
Grey Power Napier & Districts; put your Surname, Initial and Grey Power membership number if renewing. If you are a new member, please email greypowernapier@gmail.com or phone Bruce 06 844 5635 to let us know you have joined. **OR**
2. Complete this form and mail it to us at Grey Power Napier & Districts, PO Box 4247, Marewa 4143 or phone Bruce and he will pick it up. Or scan and email. **OR**
3. Join online on our website www.greypowernapier.org

Your name/s

Address

Phone email

You are paying \$25 for 1 member (tick if applies) or \$40 for a couple

Amount paid: Payment Type:

Can we email your newsletter? M'ship no

www.napiergreypower.org

Find us on Facebook @greypowernapier



Grey Power Napier Committee 2026-2027



Front: Carol Brunton, Allie Beattie, Ian Cook **Middle:** Jacqui Broun, Maxine Boag
Back: Christine Pain, Gayle Peters, Linda Mellor, Kay Nesdale, Bruce Carnegie

Committee 2026-27

President	– Bruce Carnegie	bpcarnie@gmail.com	06 844 5635
Vice-President	– Maxine Boag	maxine.boag@gmail.com	021 024 70484
Secretary	– Christine Pain	nu2@napier@gmail.com	06 845 4472
Treasurer	– Ian Cook	ijcook@xtra.co.nz	021 297 0225
Membership	– Linda Mellor	greypowernapier@gmail.com	06 844 3837
	– Allison Beattie	allibeat@gmail.com	06 843 4242
	– Jacqui Broun	cabba.bear@gmail.com	06 844 3503
	– Carol Brunton	bruntoncarol19@gmail.com	022 425 3113
	– Kay Nesdale	kaynesdale@gmail.com	021 261 9400
	– Gayle Peters	gayleforcebabe@yahoo.com.au	022 600 4765

Sender: Napier & Districts Grey Power
 PO Box 4247
Marewa 4143

