



# Here Is The Goss



## Northland Grey Power Associations' Newsletter

### Zone 1

**Zone Representative** (our man on the Federation Board)

**Russell Bird 0210 426 931,**  
[zone1rep@outlook.com](mailto:zone1rep@outlook.com)

**Zone Director**, editor, web-thingee

**Bruce Crowther 027 499 2034,**  
[zone1gpnz@gmail.com](mailto:zone1gpnz@gmail.com)

### *Kaipara Grey Power Inc*

**President**

**Stewart Quirk 09 439 7801**

**Secretary**

**Ken Cashin 09 439 4452,**  
[cashinken2@gmail.com](mailto:cashinken2@gmail.com)

### *Whangarei Grey Power Inc*

**President**

**Ron Greenwood 021 531 163,**  
[ronandjean43@gmail.com](mailto:ronandjean43@gmail.com)

**Treasurer and Members**

**Fiona Guest**

[fionagst11@gmail.com](mailto:fionagst11@gmail.com)

### *Grey Power Far North Assn Inc*

**President and Membership**

**Russell Bird 0210 426 931,**  
[gpfarnorth@outlook.com](mailto:gpfarnorth@outlook.com)

**Secretary Treasurer**

**Sandra White 09 408 1488,**  
[greypowerfarnorth62@gmail.com](mailto:greypowerfarnorth62@gmail.com)

## Letter to the Editor

The Editor

Northland Grey Power Association

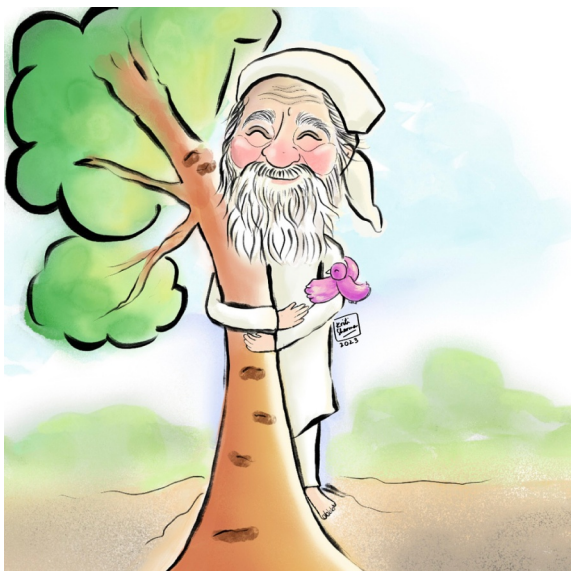
Dear Sir

I strongly object to your ridiculous diatribe. It has no place under the newsletter heading Your left wing Political views would be abhorrent to most Grey Power members.

It is little wonder membership has dropped away

Yours faithfully

BR Jepson



Well, that's me told then! Mrs Jepson has got me bang to rights.

Loss of membership is all my left wing fault. I'm a bad little tree-hugging greeny. Just as well I'm quitting Grey Power before I bring it to it's knees, eh?

Bwucie

DATE/TIME	ASSOCIATION	EVENT	VENUE
Tue 5 Mar 24, 1000 Hrs	Whangarei	Committee Meeting	Cottage Hall, Kamo Bowling Club, Three Mile Bush Road
Wed 6 Mar 24, 1100 Hrs	Far North	Public Meeting	Kaitāia RSA
Fri 8 Mar 24, 0930 Hrs	Kaipara	Executive Meeting	Wesley Methodist Church, cnr Awakino & Normanby Roads, Dargaville
Fri 15 Mar 24, 1300 Hrs	Kaipara	Public Meeting (more info to follow from Assn)	Wesley Methodist Church, cnr Awakino & Normanby Roads, Dargaville
Fri 22 Mar 24 1300 Hrs	Whangarei	Public Meeting – Speaker Rachel Windle ASAP Trust	Kamo Club, Meldrum St, Kamo.
Tue 2 April 24, 1000 Hrs	Whangarei	Committee Meeting	Cottage Hall, Kamo Bowling Club, Three Mile Bush Road
Wed 3 Apr 24 1100 Hrs	Far North	Public Meeting	Kaitāia RSA
Fri 12 Apr 24 0930 Hrs	Kaipara	Executive Meeting	Wesley Methodist Church, cnr Awakino & Normanby Roads, Dargaville
Fri 19 Apr24 1300 Hrs	Kaipara	Public Meeting (more info to follow from Assn)	Wesley Methodist Church, cnr Awakino & Normanby Roads, Dargaville
Wed 01 May 24, 1100Hrs	Far North	Public Meeting	Kaitāia RSA
Tue 7 May 24, 1000 Hrs	Whangarei	Committee Meeting	Cottage Hall, Kamo Bowling Club, Three Mile Bush Road
Fri 10 May 24, 0930 Hrs.	Kaipara	Executive Meeting	Wesley Methodist Church, cnr Awakino & Normanby Roads, Dargaville
Fri 17 May 24, 1300 Hrs	Kaipara	Public Meeting (more info to follow from Assn)	Wesley Methodist Church, cnr Awakino & Normanby Roads, Dargaville
Wed 5 Jun 24	Far North	Annual General Meeting	Kaitāia RSA
Tue 18 Jun to Thu 20 Jun 24	Grey Power Federation NZ Inc	Annual General Meeting	Brentwood Hotel, 16 Kemp Street Kilbirnie Wellington
Fri 19 Jul 24 1300 Hrs	Whangarei	Annual General Meeting	Kamo Club, Meldrum St, Te Kamo

There was a horrible river dragon that lurked in the waters under the old London Bridge and destroyed passing boats, eating the crews and passengers.

Finally, a group of brave knights lured it up onto the banks and, with great loss of life, managed to slay the horrible beast.

After the conquest, Sir Newt suggested that they grind up the foul beast and use it for food in the local orphanage to cut down on the wasteful cost of gruel.

Thus Dicken's opening line... "It was the best of Thames, it was the worst of Thames."

## ABOUT CAPITATION

All your membership subscriptions are due on 01 April 2024.

Each of your Associations has a different fee which may confuddle you - as it does me.

This comes to pass because each of your Associations is an autonomous Incorporated Society, and sets its own fees.

When you pay your membership to your Association, only a proportion of it sticks in their bank account. They have to pay (at the moment) \$7.50 to the Grey Power Federation New Zealand Inc for you to be affiliated to the Federation. The balance, which varies according to the Association, goes to administer your own Incorporated Society.

Several years ago this capitation fee was increased from \$5.00 to \$7.50, because the Federation was going bung without the massive contribution that KiwiBank used to make to Grey Power. When KiwiBank was sold, their new Board said, "No more of that!"

A significant number of Associations did NOT increase their own membership fees at that time because they feared an exit of members if fees increased. So there is part of the reason for differences in costs.

At last year's Grey Power Federation Annual General Meeting they asked for a further increase in Capitation, because they are still going slowly down the gurgler. Their members (that is the Grey Power Associations - thee and me are members of our Association, the Associations comprise the Federation) threw the increase in Capitation out so fast it made a sonic boom as it left the premises.

Which was incredibly dumb, stupid and thick-headed. In the absence of a commercial sponsor as generous as KiwiBank was the Federation needs the money to continue. To reject an increase in Capitation with no discussion was rash.

So, here's the rub. Commercial sponsors give you money if there is something in it for them, they don't do it out of the goodness of their corporate hearts: corporations have balance sheets, not hearts. And the thing they seem to want is a membership list they can target marketing at, and they are not

going to increase their sales much only marketing to seventy members. And I can pretty much imagine the Associations' likely reaction if the Grey Power Federation were to ask them, pretty please, if they could release their membership contacts to a commercial sponsor for marketing purposes.

Another sonic boom.

So, if these seventy autonomous members of the Federation will not provide extra funding via capitation, what's at stake? What are the prime big-ticket items likely to be?

Grey Power Magazine? Highly likely to be cut from four per year, if not torpedoed completely. Postage is now one of the biggest recurring costs the Federation has. You can personally help avoid this likelihood if you choose to read the digital version of the Magazine as per our Northland Weblog:

"To all those members who may not have received the Grey Power magazine by email before, 'welcome'.

Many tech-savvy readers have now opted to receive the digital version. "We are not trying to force members to have to use technology when they may not be comfortable with it - we simply want readers to have options," says publisher Alan Neben.

"Our job is to make sure Grey Power communication to members is clear, effective and simple to access."

We hope you find it useful. In addition to the convenience, it also offers savings in print and mailing costs for the Federation - and that ultimately helps keep the cost of subs low.

The 'Grey Power Magazine' is available in two flavours. The full web version may well have more detail about some features than space has allowed in the print version, and it lives here:

<https://greypowermag.co.nz/>"

Other possible casualties could be the website, the National Office, travel and accomodation, maybe having to hold AGMs in some grotty Council Hall in South East Gumbotville and eating at the Golden Arches.

Please tell your AGM delegates to listen to the reasoning before they reject a Capitation increase this year!

# *It Is That Time...*

**N**ow is the hour: to pay your membership subscription. All memberships are due on the first of April. Any payments received from now will keep your membership current until 31 March 2025.

Please be aware that if your membership is not paid by 30 June 24 you will not continue to receive the benefits of belonging to Grey Power. So:

- 🐦 Eligibility for Partner offers such as AIL Accident Insurance, discount offers for Cook Strait (both fleets), Grey Power Electricity, Broadband and Phone could be affected.
- 🐦 No more issues of the "Grey Power Magazine" or "Here is the Goss". (Admittedly, some of those who vote for the two big centrist parties or those further to the right would probably enjoy missing this editor's "left wing diatribes", so they may see no more Goss as a good thing.)
- 🐦 No more updates from the Federation President or Board, and no more contribution via your capitation to Grey Power's "Advice to His Majesty's Government" or other lobbying.

**S**o, this edition took a bit of faffing around, because... Three Associations, three sets of instructions, three separate pages. But, if you have made it this far and you are reading on a screen, make my life easier, go to:

🐦 **Here for Far North**

<https://greypowernorthland.wordpress.com/far-north-renew-membership/>

🐦 **Here for Kaipara**

<https://greypowernorthland.wordpress.com/kaipara-renew-membership/>

🐦 **Here for Whangarei**

<https://greypowernorthland.wordpress.com/far-north-renew-membership/>

Cheers,

The web-thingee.

## Why would you want an earworm from these hairy fellas?



Why would you want to be inflicted with an earworm from the BeeGees, apart from the fact that "Stayin' Alive" is much less annoying than "The Girl From Ipanema" droning away in your bonce-box all day? Why not them? Toe-tapping rhythm, tight harmonies in their castrati vocals, the white suits, the HAIR! What's not to like?

In 1977 "Stayin' Alive" made the BeeGees bigger than Marmite on Vogel's Toast, they even pushed "YMCA" out of the light of the disco glitter ball, but the main reason you should remember "Staying' Alive" is more mundane.

If your husband, spouse, significant other has put a fork in the toaster to get his stuck Vogel Toast out of the doings, then given a shout and fallen on the floor and has sparks coming off his fingertips, then after you have isolated him from the electricity by turning him (and the toaster) off at the wall, commence CPR.

So after your shock (well, your significant other's shock) you commence chest compressions - "At what cadence?", I hear you ask?

**Ah, ha, ha, ha, stayin' alive, stayin' alive**

That's your cadence right there - 100 to 120 beats per minute.

But if you really, really can't handle the BeeGees sound you can go to this link:

<https://www.firstresponse-ed.com/blog/the-great-cpr-song-list/>

and there you will find an entire Spotify playlist of songs at that cadence, so you can save Vogel Toast-Man to the sound of Gloria Gaynor, Cyndi Lauper or ABBA to name just three options.

You're welcome...

Drum Roll, Please. Ladeez an' Jellybabies,

### The Diatribe

My role as Zone 1 Director expires on 31 March, and I am out the door then. There are little bits and pieces I will help with (if asked) on a volunteer basis, but I will no longer be a Grey Power Member.

You may believe it or not, but Jean and I will have some regrets about that: since Mid North was closed down we have been members of Kaipara, and we both really like the way they operate, but not enough to pay to renew our membership. Our time with Grey Power is done.

The Zone Director role will remain vacant, there being nobody willing to fulfil the position. This leaves your Zone Representative, Russell Bird, in the awful position of try to perform both roles.

And he is already a busy boy. Some of the Grey Power Federation Board members are square pegs in round holes and not very productive. Those of their number who do the mahi therefore carry a very heavy, unpaid, voluntary, workload with not very much praise. In fact Board members have to weather a shitstorm of abuse from ignorant Grey Power members, keyboard warriors that would not get off their own big plum duffs to help, but excel at trying to pull others down. (Pardon my French, but the word I used to describe their messages conveys the nature of the abuse SO well.)

So I don't envy Russell at all. Before he took on the Zone Representative position I had been head-hunted by the Board to do what he is now confronted with. I initially said yes and sent in my CV as requested, but disqualified myself before I ever got to sit at the big table. My Bullshit-o-meter has its critical meltdown setting much lower than Russell's, and I could see that I would be like Elvis - leaving the room - and probably within the first session of the first meeting.

Whangarei Association has long been operating without a Secretary: they have the most members in Northland, and they have nobody prepared to be secretary. And it is stuff like that has driven me to despair.

Au 'voir,

*Bruce*

Once upon a time, in a land not so very far away (South Auckland, as a matter of fact) a couple lived on a smallholding in a rural town.  
One morning the husband (we'll call him Merv, mainly because that was his name) went out and put his tucker bag in his immaculately maintained D Series Ford truck and sparked it up ready for another long day rolling out metal behind the tar truck when he noticed one of his woolly lawn-mowing sheep had died at a part of the paddock as far from the offal hole as it could possibly be.  
So Merv left his truck warming up, grabbed a chain and hopped on his Massey Ferguson 35 (like his truck, beautifully maintained and painted) and started to tow the expired sheep to the hole.  
As he drove past the house, his wife, Valerie, flung one of the windows open and shouted at him, "Merv! What are you doing to that sheep?"  
And Merv, ever the craic-master, shouted back, "This one didn't get up this morning, so I'm just trying to tow start her."  
Like Queen Victoria, Valerie was not amused...



Truth is stranger than fiction edition

## MEMORANDUM

From: Sandy Feringa, Chair – Disability & Access Alliance Sub-Committee

Date: 3 February 2024

**Subject: Accessibility for New Zealanders Bill – online petition & March to Parliament**

Hi,

Since its inception Grey Power Federation has been an active supporter of Access Alliance and Access Matters Aotearoa and we actively support their efforts to have effective accessibility legislation so that every New Zealander is able to participate fully in their daily lives, regardless of age and whether or not they have a disability. On a daily basis a quarter of New Zealand's population struggles with basic activities due to access barriers. Barriers need to be removed, even in the workplace

The Accessibility for New Zealanders Bill was passed in 2022. However, because of defects in the legislation the Access Matters' campaign to amend it received over 15,000 signatures on its previous petition.

As a result of that and everyone else's efforts the Accessibility for New Zealanders Bill was put on hold until after the 2023 election so it could be reviewed and rewritten.

The Bill is currently on pause indefinitely. The new Government needs to know that a redraft is urgent and important to their constituents and that the nation wants strong and effective accessibility legislation for all its citizens.

A petition is a great way to get improved accessibility legislation in front of a cross-party Parliamentary Committee, and to gain the attention of all our politicians.

A new petition is available online asking for the withdrawal of the current Accessibility for New Zealanders Bill, and for a new Bill to be drafted that includes minimum standards, a regulator and an enforcement mechanism. We ask you to sign the online petition and also encourage your family and friends to sign it too.

The link for the online petition is:

<https://www.change.org/p/petition-for-drafting-a-new-accessibility-for-new-zealanders-bill>

In conjunction with the online petition Access Matters has planned a March to Parliament which will take place on Thursday, 7 March 2024 from 12.30pm – 3.30pm. Their website states the following key objectives of the March are:

Advocate for the removal of barriers affecting our communities

Advocate for a rewrite of the Accessibility for New Zealanders Bill with enforceable standards, a regulator, a barrier notification system and a robust dispute resolution process.

It is anticipated there will be up to 4 separate starting points in Wellington with different distances from each to Parliament, all suitable for people with mobility devices such as mobility scooters and wheelchairs, as well as those who use walking aids such as walkers (Zimmer frames) and walking sticks. Further details will be available once traffic management and other Council requirements have been arranged.

Participation is encouraged from Grey Power members, their families and friends to support Access Matters Aotearoa to take part in the March to Parliament and raise awareness to achieve their objectives.

Regards,

Sandy

**SANDY FERINGA**

Chair Disability & Access Alliance Sub-Committee