

# ROTORUA GREY POWER

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AUTUMN ISSUE 2023

Photo courtesy of the  
Wieland Hartwig Collection.



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## GREY POWER ROTORUA

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### Office Hours:

11am to 2pm Tuesday to Thursday inclusive.

### Committee Members 2022/23:

<b>PRESIDENT:</b>	Keith Garratt
<b>VICE-PRESIDENT:</b>	Michelle Nahu
<b>SECRETARY:</b>	Vacant
<b>TREASURER:</b>	David McPherson
<b>OUTINGS COORDINATOR:</b>	Wieland Hartwig
<b>OFFICE ROSTER COORDINATOR:</b>	Lyn Walker
<b>MEMBERSHIP OFFICER:</b>	Felix Hohener
<b>WEB MASTER:</b>	Vacant
<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	

John Somerville / Wieland Hartwig / Miriam Ruberl

If there are issues you would like Grey Power Rotorua to take up on your behalf, let your Committee know by phone or contact us via our website [www.greypowerrotorua.org.nz](http://www.greypowerrotorua.org.nz) or email [greypower.rotorua@gmail.com](mailto:greypower.rotorua@gmail.com)

### REMEMBER Grey Power Rotorua when you change your contact details

**DISCLAIMER:** Opinions expressed in this magazine are those of the contributors. All information is given in good faith and believed to be reliable. Nevertheless, Grey Power Rotorua Inc accepts no liability for its contents.

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Please refer to our website for disclaimer.

### Did You Know?

The oldest plant scientists have brought back to life is a 32,000 year old strain of the flower *Silene stenophylla*; they recovered the seeds from a prehistoric cache left behind by an ice age squirrel.

### Did You Know?

In cultures around the world, nodding your head up and down to indicate "yes" and shaking your head side to side to indicate "no" is nearly universal, except in some South Eastern European areas such as Bulgaria and southern Albania where they indicate the opposite.

## AGM Annual General Meeting



**Yes it's that time of year when you start practising the raising of your hand function for when you enthusiastically attend your 2023 AGM**

**WHEN IS IT?** - Monday 1st May 2023

**WHERE IS IT?** - Linton Park  
Community Hall  
Kamahi Place

**WHAT TIME?** - 1:00pm / 1300 hrs

### WHAT'S GOING ON?

Annual reports, Election of Officers and a Special Forum on how to "Make your Phone your Friend"

### WHAT'S TO EAT?

Coffee/tea, cake and biscuits  
(a donation will be greatly appreciated).

At this AGM there are several very important topics that we need membership support on. So let us fill the hall with members for this annual event and go forward with a strong team for 2023 and the future.

**Be there to vote, join our 2023 team and have your say on the topics presented to you.**

- Editor.

## A word or two from our President



As I write this, stories are still emerging about the extent of damage and trauma from Cyclone Gabrielle. We can only feel for those that have been so badly affected and be thankful that Rotorua escaped comparatively lightly. We may not be so lucky another time, and Gabrielle is a wake-up call for all of us to be prepared with emergency supplies and escape plans for whatever sort of disaster might happen here.

Your committee has been thinking about how we can improve our communication with members. We are conscious that the quarterly magazine is too infrequent to be effective as a means of keeping members up to date with events such as forums and outings, or as a means of seeking members' input or reactions to issues that arise. For example, from time to time we see the need to make submissions to the Rotorua Lakes Council when they call for public input on proposals. Time-frames are often tight, and it would be good to have an efficient means of seeking members' reactions or suggestions before lodging submissions on their behalf.

Ideally, we would like to be able to send out simple monthly "What's on?" newsletters, but also have the ability to contact members promptly at any time when urgent issues arise. Email is the obvious way of doing this. Surface mail is inconvenient, expensive and often slow, and would place an unfair burden on our volunteers to process.

However, we are aware that we have several hundred members for whom we do not have an email address. If you are one of those, we urge you to do what you can to provide us one. If you do not have email yourself, perhaps there is a family member or friend that could receive our emails on your behalf. (See details on how to provide your email address elsewhere in this magazine.)

Also, it is possible that you have the ability to receive emails without realising it. If you have a smartphone, it is almost certain that you have a Gmail or Apple Mail address associated with it, enabling you to receive and send emails with your phone. Perhaps ask a family member or friend to check this out for you. Also, SeniorNet Rotorua runs Tech Assistance Drop-in sessions each Monday morning in the Community Meeting Room at the public library. They can help you. This is a free community service, although a donation is appreciated.

It is a fact of 21st Century life that ability to access and use the Internet is just about essential. Your phone is one means of doing this. At our AGM forum on 1 May, there will be a presentation on "Make Your Phone Your Best Friend", which will include guidance on using your phone for email.

Speaking of the AGM, we desperately need new people to fill officer and committee roles. If Grey Power Rotorua is to survive and prosper, we need a strong and vibrant committee, so please consider whether you are able to step up and help.

Keith Garratt | President of Grey Power Rotorua Inc.



## AS OUR SECRETARY

**Please contact the GPR office with your details. Thank You.**

## Snippets from Wieland

I was in a loooong queue at McDonalds drive-through the other morning. The young lady behind me honked her horn because I was taking too long to place my order.

I thought to myself "Take a hike, lady!" So when I paid for my food at the next window I paid for both of our orders. The lad at the counter must have told her what I'd done as she leaned out of her window, waved and mouthed a "thank you" to me, obviously embarrassed that I repaid her rudeness with kindness.

So when I got to the next window to take my food, I showed both receipts and took her food, too. Now she has to go back to the queue and start all over again.



## In and Out of the Editor's Head.

Greetings to you all, I had thoughts of calling this the pre -Autumn issue as we can almost count summer days on fingers and not need many toes.

Our heartfelt thoughts go to any Grey Power members and their loved ones who bore the fierce brunt of "Gabrielle".

Thank you for the many positive comments I receive from you good folk who enjoy reading the mag. This is very encouraging in my role as Editor, and I do wish that I did not have to notify you of the following facts. There is a major glitch, problem and dilemma, with the future of your Grey Power magazine. Our publisher has been hit with a 250-300% printing increase. As a result of this, Kiwi Publications may have to close down. An extreme situation, as GPR does not have the means to cover the increase that Kiwi Publications will need to pass on. In order to continue with your GPR mag, after this issue, we need to have further funds with sponsorship. At the moment current advertisers

help hugely to cover the balance for the printing each magazine. At this point I would like to extend my thanks again, to all our current advertisers for their support and also to having issues of the mag available in their businesses also. Do you, our members, know of an individual and / or business that will support the continuation of your magazine through financing production and distribution costs of your wonderful, must read mag? This can be done by one or more sponsors, either by quarter or annually.

Please look very seriously at the QUESTIONNAIRE and fill it in, drop it in, mail it or email it to the office. With enough feedback it will help a great deal with any decisions that the GPR Exec will make. Remember that we have approximately 1800 members in the Rotorua area and all receive the magazine. A digital copy will not cover all members as some do not have email. Posting out will not be an option either, unfortunately. This situation over increased costs and funding for your magazine may well be the end of an era for all of us.

A future Sponsor for our Rotorua Grey Power Magazine may be in your neighbourhood, be it a shop you frequent, a friend or relative.....please spread the word. Thank you so much, sincerely from,

**Gerald Hanson** | ANZIM. BGE  
Editor of the GPR quarterly magazine  
geraldhanson.gpr@gmail.com

## The Birthplace of Scrabble Queens, New York

A uniquely lettered street sign marks the corner where the iconic word game was invented.

EIGHTY YEARS AFTER IT WAS first invented, the classic American board game Scrabble remains popular as ever (despite some competition from various digital copycats). The location of the beloved word game's humble origin, in a church basement in Queens, is today commemorated with a creative street sign that includes the Scrabble value for each letter of 35th Avenue. The Jackson Heights Community Development Corp was responsible for the sign. Scrabble's story began in 1938, when architect Alfred Mosher Butts sought out to invent a new game that combined his love of anagrams and crossword puzzles, while utilizing gameplay that required both skill and chance. Butts then tested out his new game, which he called "Lexiko" at the time, in the social room at the Community United Methodist Church. After experimenting with this early version of the game, he made updates to the rules and gameplay. Initially, the revised version of the game was called "Cris-Crosswords." When the

game became commercially sold it was given the name "Scrabble," and to this day that's the game played by millions of people. In front of that Queens community church, right on the corner, there is a street sign commemorating Scrabble's local origins, with letters designed to look like tiles of the game. The novel design choice has attracted many admirers to that corner, some of whom have tried to steal the sign and at least one of whom succeeded. Most mysterious was the response from the New York City Department of Transportation when asked if they planned on replacing the special sign. The city had no clue who had put it up in the first place. There was no record of the original historical marker. Perhaps a devoted Scrabble fan installed the sign on their own? Despite the original sign's unofficial status, the community's love for it convinced the city to provide a new one retaining the Scrabble numerical values, which remain there to this day.



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OR ELECTRICITY. DO NOT USE GREY POWER  
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EXPLANATION: Our Rotorua office is continually inundated with deposits to the Grey Power Rotorua Inc bank account when these payments should go to Pulse Energy (Grey Power Electricity). Their monthly statement clearly shows the Pulse account number that you should be using. As Grey Power Electricity is a service via Grey Power Federation NZ and not part of Grey Power Rotorua Inc we cannot accept this bill payment to process. If you have done this in the past, please complete the above solutions to any future issues. In the meantime to receive a refund from us due to incorrect account information you will need Membership Number, Payee Name, Bank Account Number for Refund, Bank Account Number that you paid to, Date that you Paid and the Amount Paid. Without this information our office cannot help you sort out your error.

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**M 021 197 3612 | E carolyn.waugh@lynmorerise.co.nz**



## Drop-inTech Assistance

9 am to 12 pm Mondays

Community Meeting Room, Rotorua Public Library

This is a community service by SeniorNet Rotorua.

If you have problems with your phone, tablet or laptop, visit them for friendly and sympathetic one-to-one help.

The service is free, although a small donation is appreciated.

As we have 2 members of SeniorNet on our Exec. This is a reminder to you, our membership, that this service is available.

## Flexible lawyers that fit around your lifestyle

There will be times in your life that you'll need the expertise of a lawyer. You may need to organise an Enduring Power of Attorney, update your Will, or help with finalising an estate. Perhaps you are looking for a lawyer who can clearly explain the ins and outs of an Occupation Licence agreement if you are considering retirement village living.

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## SECURITY CONSCIOUS

It was a pleasant day outside the Friends store room. The world looked decent and honest. I should have known better. I had to be elsewhere and left my large and conspicuous shoulder bag on top of a box of books and went to the shop section of our operation.

And my wallet and cell phone went elsewhere.

The day before I had watched a U Tube item on how the young people in Sweden are now relearning the attributes of Cold War thinking. Two young men who had escaped the clutches of ISIS gave some advice. Don't panic and have a plan. Those amongst them who did, survived. Others did not.

I tried to calm my response to the stupid mistake I had made. First - a trip home to confirm I had indeed put my phone and wallet in my black bag. My multiple channel brain is known to let me down. Then to the police station hoping for a general mobilisation of all personnel. The gentleman behind the counter was a balm of methodical quietness and it was good to have him there.

Next - try to get to the ASB bank in time. It was a close thing. The screen was already drawn between the tellers and the any time money machine, but they took my police print out and set about pushing buttons. Ten minutes later and all my ASB cards had been frozen. Called in on Vodafone at 4.45pm. My sim card was frozen. I was given a new sim card for whatever phone I should choose to buy and could continue to use my same phone number.

Meanwhile; back in the jungle. I had left the store open and unattended at around 1.30pm to greet a delegation from Hamilton library. My credit card was used for a 'wave' transaction at Pak N Save at 1.47pm and then twice more at 1.50pm and 1.51pm. Then across the road to a clothing store at 2.16pm. They tried BP Connect, Lynmore at 2.59pm but that transaction never appeared on my Visa statement.

A week later the good people at ASB refunded my loss.

We sat down that first night and made a list of who, and in what order, I should contact next morning. In a systematic way I went around the town cutting off any other avenues where my cards might be used - Farmlands, Kiwibank, AA. By the afternoon I had bought a new phone.

Two points to note - there was no pin number recorded anywhere in my wallet. That was good. But I did not have a password facilitated on my phone. That was bad. I certainly do now.

Not recorded above: I made return visits the very next morning to the Police Station and the ASB bank. I must commend both sets of staff on their quiet methodical help.

There was, in summing up, little financial loss but the emotional damage was something else. My memory function (I am aged 80) was affected but now improving. The grass, the wind in the tress and the open sky above Kuirau Park will no longer lull me into complacency.

**ASB have a 'Senior Line' - 0800 272 119 which is a priority line.**

*Many thanks to Onno Van Raalte and Rotorua Friends of the Library for permission to use this article in our magazine.*



## KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Follow us or sign up to our weekly e-panui to get news about Council projects and services.

**RotoruaLakesCouncil**  
[rotorualakescouncil.nz/epanui](http://rotorualakescouncil.nz/epanui)

Head to RotoruaNui for all events happening near you.

**RotoruaNui**  
[rotoruanui.nz](http://rotoruanui.nz)



ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL

# When Stephen Hawking Threw a Cocktail Party for Time Travellers No one showed up.

BY ANNE EW BANK

STEPHEN HAWKING, WHO DIED at the age of 76, was a giant of theoretical physics, cosmology, and pop culture. Though affected by a degenerative disease that had doctors predicting an early death, Hawking instead lived to research the creation of the universe and its possible end, in the form of black holes. Also a popular writer, he published bestsellers including A Brief History of Time. Those who met him testified to his charisma and sense of humor.

So it was a little unusual that when he threw a party in 2009, not a single guest attended.

A film of the event depicts a dismal cocktail party. Three trays of canapes sit uneaten, and flutes filled with Krug champagne go untouched. Balloons decorate the walls, and a giant banner displays the words “Welcome, Time Travellers.”

As it happened, Hawking’s party was actually an experiment on the possibility of time travel. (Invitations were sent only after the party was over.) Along with many physicists, Hawking had mused about whether going forward and back in time was possible. And what time traveler could resist sipping champagne with Stephen Hawking himself?

By publishing the party invitation in his mini-series Into the Universe With Stephen Hawking, Hawking hoped to lure futuristic time travellers. You are cordially invited to a reception for Time Travellers, the invitation read, along with the date, time and coordinates for the event. The theory, Hawking explained, was that only someone from the future would be able to attend.

Unfortunately, no one showed up.

“What a shame,” Hawking said. “I was hoping a future Ms. Universe was going to step through the door.” But Hawking himself later discussed the dangers of time travel. In an Ars Technica interview in 2012, he said that Einstein’s theory of relativity laid the groundwork for the possibility of time travel. But warping space and time could “trigger a bolt of radiation that would destroy the spaceship and maybe the space-time itself.” That might be enough to keep potential parties away.

And that’s too bad, because Hawking, even as a full-time wheelchair user, loved parties and dancing. As for why he threw a time-traveller party, he explained: “I like simple experiments ... and champagne.” By transmitting the invitation, Hawking thought it might catch the eye of a future time traveller—the brain-breaking paradox being that, if it eventually does, then wouldn’t we have seen one or two at the party?



**They sing because they can.**



A busy night at Stone Henge as workers move all the stones back one hour...



I have a pencil that used to be owned by William Shakespeare. But he chewed it a lot. Now I can't tell if it's 2B or not 2B

**IF YOU LAUGH A LOT WHEN YOU GET OLDER YOUR WRINKLES WILL BE IN THE RIGHT PLACES.**

**Todd McClay**  
Member of Parliament for Rotorua

## National will deliver local water well – Three Waters is gone!

Labour’s Three Waters reform is a multibillion-dollar mega project that despite overwhelming opposition from the public, local councils, and the office of the Auditor General, they continue to plough ahead with their highly centralised co-governed entity.

This ill devised project will confiscate assets from local councils away from the very communities that paid for them. Under Labour’s plan decision making for Rotorua water will be made from a hugely expensive centralised office in Hamilton.

Chris Luxon has said enough is enough – and that a National government will scrap Labour’s undemocratic and unworkable Three Waters model and replace it with a sustainable system that ensures drinking water, stormwater and wastewater remain in local control.

Instead, National will set and enforce strict water quality standards and require council to invest in the ongoing maintenance and replacement of our vital water infrastructure, while keeping control of the assets that communities have paid for.

National will:

- Repeal Three Waters and scrap the four co-governed mega-entities
- Restore council ownership and control
- Set strict rules for water quality and investment in infrastructure
- Ensure water services are financially sustainable

Council will be required to demonstrate a clear plan to deliver ongoing investment in water infrastructure.

### New search functions simplify choosing a retirement village.

If you’re looking to make the move to a retirement village, the Eldernet Group has made the process easier by adding new search functions to its website.

The free online service showcases every retirement village in New Zealand, hosting the country’s largest selection of available properties in every region. Each property is listed with ‘starting-from’ prices, allowing users to filter within their specific price range.

The Eldernet website is [retirementvillages.co.nz](http://retirementvillages.co.nz)

Those plans will need to be approved by the Minister of Local Government.

Whilst strict standards for water quality will be set by the Water Quality Regulator, we will establish a Water Infrastructure Regulator within the Commerce Commission to set and enforce standards for long-term water infrastructure investment.

Resilient, well maintained, future-proofed modern infrastructure will also mean our communities can better cope with mounting pressures due to climate change and accommodate housing growth that is currently being prevented by a lack of infrastructure like wastewater and stormwater services.

Under National, water stays in local communities and investment in water infrastructure is secured so that Kiwis can be sure their water is safe and affordable.

Hon Todd McClay | Member of Parliament for Rotorua

Authorised by T. McClay, Parliament Buildings, Wellington.

## Hon Todd McClay MP for Rotorua

**I hold constituent clinics every week, and I am here to help.**

1301 Amohau St, Rotorua  
rotorua.mp@parliament.govt.nz  
toddmcclaympforrotorua  
07 348 5871



Authorised by Todd McClay, Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.



### The purpose of the hole in the pot handle

You thought the hole in a pot handle serves the purpose of hanging it somewhere.

Professional cooks know what it was initially meant to do. The hole is there to hold a utensil easily. So, try it the next time you cook something.



## Grey Power Rotorua Calendar 2023

**Date Day Time Where/What**

### March

6 Mon 13:00 Linton Park / **Forum with Tania Tapsell**

20 Mon 9:30 Parksyde / **Outing to Jo-Anne La Grouw's place**

### April

3 Mon 13:00 Linton Park / **Forum: e-bikes, -trikes and more**

17 Mon 9:30 Parksyde / **Outing**

### May

1 Mon 13:00 Linton Park / **GPR AGM & Forum: Make your phone your best friend**

15 Mon 9:30 Parksyde / **Outing**

### June

5 Mon King's Birthday - **(no Forum)**

21 Wed 10:00 Bridge Club / **Outing with U3A (Red Cross), Koha please.**

**NOTE: change of date and place**

### July

3 Mon 13:00 Linton Park / **GPR Forum**

17 Mon 9:30 Parksyde / **Outing**

## Tamati Coffey | Labour List MP

### Focusing on the big issues in 2023

As we get stuck into another busy year, I'm focused on supporting the Waiariki electorate. But first I want to acknowledge those around the country who have had such a difficult time after the two cyclones – Hale and Gabrielle! Our hearts go out to everyone who is struggling without food and power and especially those who have lost family members.

2023 kicked off with significant changes. We've welcomed Chris Hipkins into the role of Prime Minister and Labour Leader, and we've thanked Jacinda Ardern for her five years of leadership.

Chris has said that our Government's number one priority is the cost of living and ensuring hard-working New Zealanders can live and thrive. Along with Chris, the whole team of Labour MPs is absolutely committed to tackling the cost of living. And of course, we know that the cyclone will have a big impact!

We know things are really tough for a lot of Kiwis. However, our great economic management means we have record low unemployment, Government debt levels are low, and our inflation rate remains below the OECD average. So, we're in a relatively good place to be able to commit funding to the disaster.

We have heard loud and clear that many New Zealanders are struggling. We know people are worried about paying their grocery bills and paying their mortgages. We know there's a lot of work to do and in 2023, we'll keep focused on the core issues and working hard to strengthen the important public services like health and education. The challenges facing our country won't go away overnight, but the Labour team is ready to kick on.!

# Tāmāti Coffey

Labour List MP based in the Waiariki

I hold constituent meetings every week, and I'm here to help. Just email or call my team for assistance.

[tamati.coffeymp@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:tamati.coffeymp@parliament.govt.nz)

0800 Tāmāti (826284)

 /tamaticoffey

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Authorised by Tamati Coffey MP,  
Parliament Buildings, Wellington.

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## IMPORTANT QUESTIONNAIRE FOR MEMBERS

1. Why are you a member of Grey Power?

.....

.....

2. What can you offer us as a volunteer?

.....

.....

3. Do you enjoy the monthly outings?

YES  NO

4. Do you enjoy and attend the forums?

YES  NO

5. Do you enjoy reading our Rotorua quarterly Magazine?

YES  NO

6. Would you agree to an annual subscription increase to keep our magazine active? (Refer Editor's Report).

YES  NO

7. Do you have any further positive comments to assist your Grey Power Rotorua membership?

.....

.....

Please give this questionnaire very serious thought to help us give you what you want from us. So, cut out, print off or tear out your completed questionnaire. Then Post, Email or drop it into the office.

The information below is optional but will go further to helping both you and your team at Grey Power Rotorua Inc.

Name or Membership Number: .....

Phone: .....

Email: .....

## “Why Keep It Secret?”

Available from Grey Power Rotorua

We're now on our 6th reprint. The foreword says: “Nothing is surer than death and taxes”. “Why Keep It Secret?” does not replace a Will and is not a legally binding document. WKIS guides us through documenting our important information, so that those responsible for carrying out our wishes are clearly advised.

### Order Form for Booklet “Why Keep It Secret?”

Payment must accompany order

#### SEND TO:

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### I finally did it!

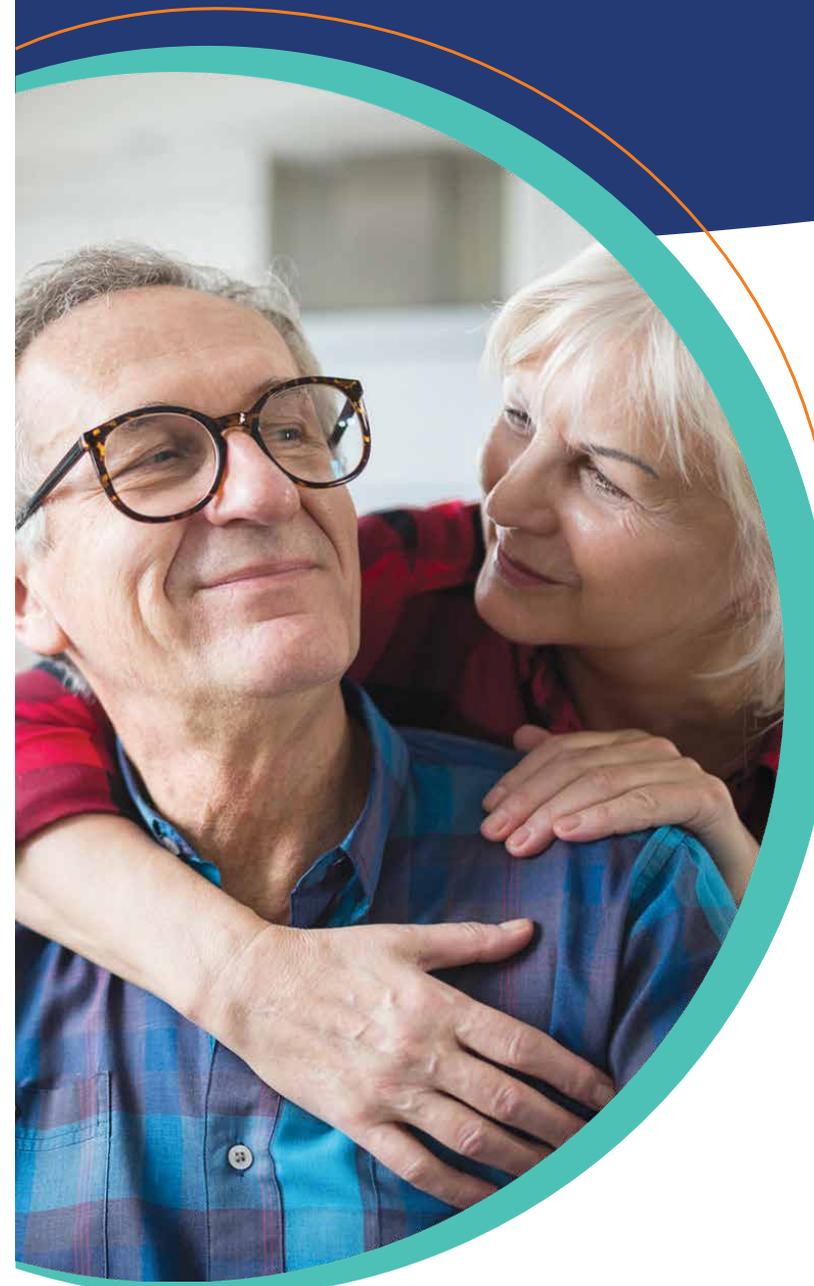
Bought a new pair of shoes with memory foam insoles.  
No more forgetting why I walked into the kitchen.

# ARE YOU 60 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER?

## Help us find a way to prevent bloodstream infections.



**Embrace**  
STUDY



People aged 60 years or older, with a history of urinary tract infection, are at an increased risk of developing a bloodstream infection caused by an *E. coli* bacteria. A clinical research study is now enrolling.

To learn more and see if you are eligible for this clinical research study, please contact us:

PCRN Clinical Trials Rotorua

Phone: 07 347 7870

Email: [info\\_rotorua@pcrn.co.nz](mailto:info_rotorua@pcrn.co.nz)

1289 Haupapa Street, Rotorua

[EmbraceVaccineStudy.com](http://EmbraceVaccineStudy.com)

The image depicted contains models and is being used for illustrative purposes only.

Janssen Research & Development, LLC  
VAC52416BAC3001- NZE09  
Version 1.0, 10MAY2021



## SMART HOMES



As New Zealand moves away from fossil fuels to climate-friendly renewable electrical energy, demand for electricity is going to increase. For households that purchase an electric vehicle (EV), this can become the single biggest electrical appliance.

So as EV numbers grow, we will need to think about when and how we use electricity. If we all continue to plug in without considering the overall load on the grid, the current supply may not easily be able to keep up with demand.

The good news is, we can reduce the need for expensive new electricity generation infrastructure by being smarter about how and when we use electricity. We need 'Smart Homes' to achieve this.

A smart home isn't the house itself, but a clever system that will link residential appliances together into a network and enable communication with the national electricity grid. A Home Energy Management System (HEMS) enables centralised control of the network of smart appliances in the home and can be added to a house at any time. For this to work, the appliances either have 'smart' technology built into them, or one can make regular appliances smart by plugging them in to a 'smart' plug.

The HEMS will be connected to a 'flexibility supplier' to manage the supply of electricity based on the needs of the household. The service is expected to be available within a year or so. There are steps that can be taken now to get started with this process. Go to the NZ Government website [www.genless.govt.nz](http://www.genless.govt.nz) as a starting point.

**Saves money** – Bills can be significantly lowered by running appliances more efficiently and shifting the energy use to periods of least cost electricity. The cost for the infrastructure is reduced which leads to lower bills.

**Renewable energy first** – Shifting demand to off-peak periods prioritises the use of renewable energy sources, hence less generation from fossil fuels. This in turn reduces the impact on the environment.

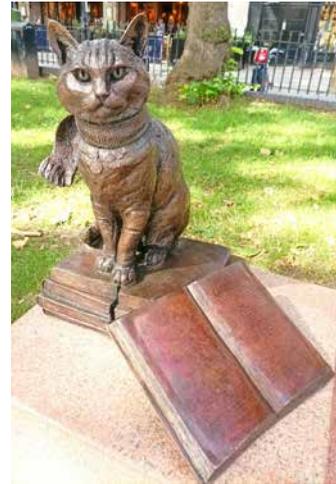
Source: [GenLess.govt.nz](http://GenLess.govt.nz)

## Street Cat Bob Memorial Statue

London, England

This life-size monument honours the legacy of a famous literary feline.

MOST OF THE 1,100 MONUMENTS scattered around London are dedicated to individuals who carried out heroic deeds in the service of the Crown. Others applaud the achievements of persons in the fields of arts or sciences. However, there is one unorthodox statue dedicated to a furry, famous Londoner who once walked on four legs.



In the south-east corner of a park in the borough of Islington, lies a life-size bronze of a cat named Bob, who rests perched on a stack of books. This feline was immortalized in a series of novels written by his adopted owner, James Bowen. These two individuals were able to look after one another, and in turn, their lives became the stuff of legend.

**BEAM ME UP  
SCOTTY.  
THERE'S NO  
INTELLIGENT  
LIFE DOWN  
HERE**



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# End of the shine in the UK for shoe polish brand that made Kiwi world famous

Lincoln Tan2 Jan, 2023 02:12 PM

It's a shoe polish brand that made the word Kiwi world famous - even though the business was never New Zealand-owned.

Started in a two-roomed factory in Melbourne, it was originally an Australian product even though it sounded very New Zealand.

The brand Kiwi was named by its founder William Ramsay in honour of his New Zealand-born wife Annie's birthplace, according to Te Ara Encyclopedia.

With their distinctive name and Kiwi bird symbol, the shoe polish became staples in cities across the world, and at its peak sold 250 million tins annually in 183 countries with 24 countries around the globe.

But its popularity is no match to the Covid-19 pandemic, and its current owner SC Johnson has decided it was no longer worth it to keep selling its polish in the UK as the shine has come off the British tradition of polishing their shoes. A Kiwi spokesman said it has seen a drop in Britons polishing their shoes which coincided with a rise in casual shoes that don't require formal polishing. It would still sell the products in countries where formal shoe care "remains relevant".

David James, 62, whose family shoe repair and cleaning firm began in Central London 100 years ago told the Daily Mail "Kiwi leaving is a sign of the times. "In part, this is because people wear suits and smart shoes much less. Covid accelerated that with more working from home, but a trend was in place before then," he was quoted as saying. "Also trainers are being worn more and more, even to work. While shoes are dying, trainers are alive. We now renovate sneakers, repair and paint them."

Kiwi shoe polish was introduced to Europe two years after it started in 1906. It was widely used by imperial forces during the wars, Te Ara said. The business was bought by Sara Lee Corporation in 1984 and then sold to SC Johnson in 2011. According to reports, the current owners now want to focus on its range of other products.

Here in New Zealand, Kiwi shoe polish continues to be available at major supermarkets and The Warehouse.

<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/end-of-the-shine-in-the-uk-for-shoe-polish-brand-that-made-kiwi-world-famous/QAEVHEJT7FDC7P5XI2ERXGQEMI/>

# Dusting the David

## How do you clean a 17-foot-tall, 518-year-old statue?



Very carefully. Six times a year, Eleonora Pucci, the in-house restorer of the Galleria dell'Accademia, takes on the daunting task of tidying Michelangelo's David.

It begins with a photographic close-up to track how the statue is faring, and to verify how much dust and microscopic debris has accumulated. Then, standing atop scaffolding, Pucci dusts the statue with a synthetic brush and sucks up any particles with a specially designed vacuum strapped to her back.

"To be able to contribute, even in a small way, to the conservation of David's beauty," Pucci said, makes hers "the best job in the world."

**Laughter is the best medicine.  
But, if you're laughing without  
any reason, you need medicine.**

*Not sure which is more funny; the  
church name, the city or the message.*

