

# ROTORUA GREY POWER

Phone: 07 - 346 1739 | Email: [greypower.rotorua@gmail.com](mailto:greypower.rotorua@gmail.com) | [www.greypowerrotorua.org.nz](http://www.greypowerrotorua.org.nz)

SPRING ISSUE 2022

## Hamurana Springs, Rotorua

Our beautiful, clean and  
clear water source

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GREY POWER ROTORUA  
1333 Eruera Street, Rotorua  
PO Box 414, Rotorua  
Phone: 07 - 346 1739  
Email: greypower.rotorua@gmail.com

**Office Hours:**  
11am to 2pm Tuesday to Thursday inclusive.

**Committee Members 2022/23:**

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

**COMMITTEE:**  
Ian Cairns / 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** or email **greypower.rotorua@gmail.com**

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

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# A Brief from the Chief

Left is a list of the officers and committee. Members might notice that the list looks rather different to what was decided at the AGM. At the AGM, Ian Cairns was elected President, I was elected Vice-President and David McPherson was elected Treasurer. Lyn Walker, Reynold Macpherson, Jim Adams, Michelle Nahu and Wieland Hartwig were elected to the committee. However, since the AGM, Lyn, Reynold and Jim have chosen not to be on the committee. Also, Ian Cairns has stepped down from the Presidency for personal reasons, but will remain as a committee member.

All this has led to some changes. The committee has elected me to the vacant President position and Michelle Nahu to the Vice-President position. Also, we have been able to co-opt Miriam Ruberl and John Somerville to the committee. As a former President, Miriam brings valuable knowledge and experience. Many of you might have met John in his roles in SeniorNet, CAB and the Motor Caravan Association. We value his capability and experience. I am confident that we now have an effective and positive committee, and we will be seeking to be an effective advocate for the older people of Rotorua.

However, for the committee to operate effectively, we need somebody to fill the key role of secretary. If you feel that you can help, please email us on greypower.rotorua@gmail.com.

We have been very aware of the difficulties faced by older people in using the parking system in the Rotorua CBD. Elsewhere in the newsletter you will find a proposal we have put to the Council. We feel that this would be a significant benefit to older people. As I write this, we are awaiting the Council's response.

A major issue for the next few months is the forthcoming local body elections. We will all be faced with difficult choices. As I write this, we have five nominees for the mayoral role, with a huge range of backgrounds, age and experience. This does raise a concern that with so many candidates we are very likely to have a winner that does not have an absolute majority. Whoever wins will need to demonstrate good leadership, management and relationship skills if they are to win the confidence of their councillors, council officers and the general public. In accordance with our constitution, we are politically non-aligned. We will not be endorsing any individual candidates. As in the past, we will be running forums to allow members and the general public to hear from the candidates and form their own opinions. These will be at Linton Park on 12 September at 1 pm and 7 pm. We hope to see you there.

Keith Garratt | President of Grey Power Rotorua Inc.



# What have we done?

- Removal of the Surtax
- Asset Testing Legislation being Phased Out
- Lower doctors' Fees
- Lower Pharmacy Fees
- Removal Over 80's Driving Tests
- Removal Simulated Driving Tests by Occupational Therapists
- Lower Tariff Electricity
- Superannuation Increased to 66% NATOTWW (net after tax ordinary time weekly wage)
- Rate Rebate Scheme revitalised and more recently extended to include retirement village residents
- Independent Superannuation & Income Centres
- Improved Regulations for Rest Homes
- Code of Practice for Rest Homes
- Abolition of Interest on Student Loans
- Hearing aid subsidy increased
- Sport Audits for Rest Homes
- Abolition of Interest on Student Loans
- Hearing aid subsidy increased
- Spot Audits for Rest Homes
- The National Superannuation Adjustment for the Tax Cuts in the 2007 Budget is a long-awaited recognition by a major political party of the plight of the elderly reliant on NZ Superannuation
- Rates Rebate Scheme indexed to CPI
- Retention of Graduating Doctors - (Student Loan)
- Lowering Electricity Increase for ETS
- Retention of SuperGold Card Off-Peak Travel
- Retention of SuperGold Card Waiheke Island Ferry Travel
- Increased funding for Glaucoma operations
- Annual clothing allowance for grandparents raising grandchildren (In conjunction with Grandparents raising Grandchildren)
- Winter Energy Payment
- Security doors on most Council owned pensioner flats.



**The Cogs are turning in the Editor's head.**  
(very slowly as I have a cold).

Here we are two thirds of the way through 2022. We have two more big events for you this year. Next month we have "Meet the Candidates" and Nov/Dec, our End of Year Luncheon.

You will have noticed a couple of changes in our executive line-up and Miriam is back for a short time also.

I don't have much trouble finding articles for the magazine but I would be very pleased to see some member input too. There are several items in this issue that need more than just a glance. So please read from front to back or back to front and re-gift to a friend who may not be fortunate enough to be a Grey Power Rotorua member yet.

I recently spent three days in Wellington at the GPNZF AGM as I am Zone 3 Director for the Federation. It was very well attended by nearly 90 delegates from most Grey Power associations in NZ. Apart from remits, we had guest speakers, including the Minister for Seniors (on video), the Aged Care Commissioner and more. President Jan Pentecost was re-elected unopposed and we have a new Treasurer as Roy has retired. Discussions on Age-friendly cities, membership, finances, Grey Power Electricity and going forward into 2023 were also on the agenda.

That's all from me in this issue of your magazine. Gerald Hanson, ANZIM, BGE.

Our friendly club aims to foster and share the love of Country Music with people of all ages, we meet on the 1st Wednesday from 1pm-3pm and the 3rd Sunday of the month from 1pm-4.30pm at the Rotorua Bowling Club next to the Blue Baths in the Government Gardens.

\$5.00 door charge for non-members.

**For more information go to Geyserland Country Music Club Facebook page or contact Dallas 350 2048 or Bruce 027 446 5800.**



Grey Power Rotorua

# A PROPOSAL TO FACILITATE PARKING FOR THE ELDERLY

1. INTRODUCTION

Grey Power Rotorua Inc. is affiliated to Grey Power NZ Federation Inc. Grey Power is dedicated to the welfare, interests and concerns of the many people who are over 50 years old, and is a neutral but assertive voice of influence in the political arena with no political affiliation. We are keen to work constructively with the Council on matters of concern to older Rotorua citizens.

2. THE PROBLEM

We have become aware of widespread dissatisfaction and confusion among the elderly about parking in the Rotorua CBD. This is not primarily about cost. We have heard frequent examples of older people avoiding the CBD because of confusion and a lack of confidence in using the paid parking system. They find the machines difficult and confusing and many are unable or unwilling to use the PrestoPark phone app. Using the machines in bad weather is a particular problem.

3. THE PROPOSAL

We propose that a system be put in place that would enable people over 65 to park with no fuss and at minimal cost within the CBD. The primary objective is to simplify the system to encourage the elderly to visit the CBD.

4. HOW WOULD IT WORK?

- The details of how the system would operate would be a matter for consultation with Council. A possible approach is:
- Rotorua citizens aged 65 and above could apply for a parking exemption permit on providing proof of residence in Rotorua, a current driving licence and the registration number of their car.
  - Applicants would pay a suitable fee.
  - Successful applicants would be provided with a windscreen exemption card similar to the vehicle registration cards.
  - Permit holders would be able to park in paid parking spaces with no further fee, but would be required to comply with posted time limits.
  - Permits would be renewed annually to confirm that they are still needed.
  - Permits would be personal to the holder and would not be transferable. They would be required to be returned if the holder is no longer able to drive, deceased or the car has been sold or

otherwise disposed of.

The technical aspects of monitoring and policing the system would be a matter for the Council. We imagine that the ability of the current system to read number plates could be adapted for this purpose. We understand that there is already a facility to provide exemptions for people working in community services such as the Citizens Advice Bureau, and we imagine that this could be adapted to provide exemptions for the elderly.

5. THE BENEFITS

Apart from the obvious direct benefit to the elderly, we believe that such a system would encourage retired older people to use the CBD during the day. This would help to bring some more life to the area and provide some added business for shopkeepers and café proprietors.

There would obviously also be a public relations benefit for the Council, given the widespread dissatisfaction about the parking system.

6. EXAMPLES ELSEWHERE

We are aware that some other councils have similar schemes. Whangarei is a particular example that has been drawn to our attention.

7. CONCLUSION

We see this proposal as a positive move to enhance the wellbeing of the elderly, while also having potential benefits for the CBD.

Wieland’s Snippets

In the past, anyone wishing to communicate with the deceased had to resort to such old-fashioned (and questionable) techniques as moving objects. Who would have thought that Amazon of all people would soon be able to remedy the situation? Although the language assistant Alexa will probably not be able to call the afterlife, she will speak to us in the voices of family members - including those who have died. Less than a minute of recording should suffice for the software to be able to imitate a voice. In a video from Amazon, a child asks, "Alexa, can Grandma finish reading The Wizard of Oz to me?" And then Grandma or Alexa reads. As long as Grandma doesn't listen too...



Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

with the upcoming split of rate payments between RDC and Regional Council I was wondering how the Rates Rebate scheme would be handled. Turns out, I was too naive to ask.

I sent this email to Regional Council: *"How do rates rebates work with this new split rates arrangement, please."*

Regional Council reply was: *"Up until 30 June 2022, Rotorua Lakes collected their rates and our rates on our behalf. From 1 July 2022 we have begun to correct[sic] our own rates."*

*If you have a direct debit set up with Rotorua Lakes, you will need to keep this and set up a new authority with us.*

Does anybody at Regional Council read their emails? Is this an auto reply from their email responder Zendesk? Do they speak English? See [sic] above.

Had Regional Council bothered to find out, they would have seen that I had already set up a Direct Credit for them. This reply tells me that they are only interested in monies as opposed to service.

Wieland Hartwig

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## How to Notice Signs of Functional Decline in Seniors

After a certain age, some level of decline should be expected year after year. In our forties and fifties, this decline is incremental. It happens slowly, and while it can affect our physical and mental performance, most of us are still able to live our lives comfortably. But in our sixties and beyond, decline begins to speed up. Eventually, seniors reach a point of functional decline. This is the point where elderly care is required for seniors to live comfortably and safely.

Unfortunately, it can be hard to spot functional decline. While decline accelerates in seniors, it still happens gradually enough that functional decline can go unnoticed. As a result, seniors who require elderly care in some form — either from family caregivers, in-home elderly care professionals, or facility living — end up without the support they need.

So how can you spot signs of functional decline in elderly adults?

### Learn the Signs of Functional Decline

To determine whether or not your loved one may need elderly care or another senior service, you need to know the signs of functional decline. Keep in mind that functional decline relates to physical and cognitive function, so you need to be aware of the signs of decline for both.

#### Signs of Physical Decline

- |                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Limited mobility         | Memory problems            |
| • Change in posture/gait   | Mixed-up words             |
| • Frailty/lack of strength | Confusion                  |
| • Poor coordination        | Aggression                 |
| • Difficulty breathing     | Irritability               |
| • Limited stamina          | Anxiety                    |
| • Exhaustion               | Inexplicable behavior      |
| • Poor balance             | Poor self care             |
| • Pain/soreness            | Poor housekeeping          |
| • Signs of injury          | Change in financial habits |

#### Signs of Cognitive Decline

### Monitor Your Loved One for Signs

People sometimes miss signs of decline because they don't know what to look for. But more often, people

miss them because they aren't really looking. Decline happens gradually enough that family members fail to recognize the point where elderly care may be necessary. To help prevent this from happening, family members should be making a conscious effort to monitor their elderly loved ones and track changes in their functional abilities.

One strategy is to take stock of the things your loved one has difficulty with over the course of a typical week or month. You can do this mentally, or you might consider taking private notes. This will allow you to compare how your loved one is functioning now compared to the past. Gradual changes become much more stark if you can compare how well they're doing now to six months or a year ago.

You may also wish to have conversations with family members. Sometimes, individual family members each notice different signs of decline, but nobody notices all of them. Conversations with your loved one will also give you a better sense of the areas where they feel they're having the most trouble. These conversations can also give insight into signs of decline that occur in private.

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*Stephen Gregory-Hunt*

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# Zweibrücken R2-D2

## Zweibrücken, Germany

A university observatory dome painted like the beloved "Star Wars" robot.



THE WORLD IS FULL OF incredible observatories. But though most of those focus on the stars, it’s rare to find one that pays homage to the resident of a galaxy far, far away.

A university in Germany has transformed its hilltop observatory into the charming likeness of RD-D2. The blue and white building looks like an oversized replica of the beloved Star Wars robot.  
*(Article from Atlas Obscura 2022.)*

The project that transformed the building into this pop culture homage was led by Dr. Hubert Zitt, an immense fan of the franchise who even gives lectures on the films. He and his students were quickly able to paint the observatory and turn it into the quirky attraction it is today.

The building itself is a small public observatory that holds a 14-inch reflector with a myriad of filters and attachments. The place, though part of the university, is not used for science and is instead used for public showings.

### END OF LIFE CHOICE ACT

*Letter to Grey Power Federation, May 2022*

I find it very distressing that the Government decided to fully fund a shortened life (under the End of Life Choice Act) but will only fund about 50% of hospice care for those who seek to prolong life I note that the funding for assisted suicide came out of the existing Health budget so impacted on all health care provision. Why does hospice care to increase the quantity and quality of the last stages of life depend about 50% on charity while assisted suicide is considered worthy of full taxpayer support?

Only once this century (2015) has hospice funding been mentioned in a Government Budget.

*David McPherson, Rotorua*

# More health workers for Rotorua and the Bay of Plenty

Help is on the way with our Labour government taking new steps to boost the health workforce and ease pressure on our local health system.

Since we came into office in 2017, we’ve made building our health workforce a priority. Thousands more doctors and nurses are now working in the system and more nurses are being trained. We’ve also changed immigration rules to make it easy for health workers to come here.

However, with the worst flu season ever and COVID-19 putting pressure on systems, we know we need to do more. So, I’m excited that our Labour government has announced new initiatives to grow our health workforce.

We’re making it easier and cheaper for international health workers to get professional qualifications recognised. We’re providing up to \$10,000 to support overseas nurses with registration costs and covering international doctors’ salaries during induction courses and training internships. We’re establishing a one-stop recruitment service within Health New Zealand, to make it easier for health workers to move here and find jobs.

We’re also focused on our home grown workforce. We’re providing financial support to help New Zealand nurses get re-registered. We’re training more doctors, nurses and radiographers, and encouraging our many volunteer COVID-19 workers to consider a health career.

Initiatives like these weren’t possible under the old structure with 20 district health boards all working separately. I know that there isn’t a quick fix, but these measures will help ensure we have more health workers here in Rotorua to look after us and our families when we need it the most.

## More support with the cost of living

I'm proud that Labour are taking action and easing the pressure on Kiwis. These actions include:

**Cost of Living Payment** of \$350

**Winter Energy Payment** for over 1m people

**Half price public transport** extended, and made **permanent** for low income Kiwis

**Fuel tax cut and reduced road user charges** extended

Boosts to **student allowances**, main **benefits** and **superannuation**

**Action on supermarkets**, to ensure people are paying a fair price

Minimum wage increased to **\$21.20 per hour**

**Tāmāti Coffey**  
Labour List MP

0800 TAMATI (826 284)

Authorised by Tāmāti Coffey MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

# Fye Bridge (Norwich, England)

One of the oldest bridges in Norwich was used during the English witch trials and is said to be haunted.



FYE BRIDGE HOLDS A TERRIBLE and brutal history. The current structure was built in 1933 and is regarded as the oldest known bridge site in Norwich. It stands where the original wooden bridge would have laid—th earliest reports of which were in 1153.

In the mid-1600s, East Anglia found itself in the throes of the witch trials, headed by the infamous Matthew Hopkins and John Stearne. During this time, many people, mostly women, were tried and killed for allegedly partaking in witchcraft. Fye Bridge is said to be the site of the ducking stool, a contraption into which an accused witch would be placed and dunked into the River Wensum below.

Water was considered so pure an element that it repelled evil, so if a woman survived the ducking, then she was a witch If the woman drowned, they were innocent of witchcraft, though unfortunately dead. Prior to Hopkin’s witch hunts, the ducking stool at Fye Bridge would have been used as a punishment of humiliation for “disorderly women” and “dishonest tradesmen.”

Today, Fye Bridge is said to be home to the ghost of a woman who was tried on the site and later burned for witchcraft at the nearby Lollard’s Pit, which is now the site of a local pub. According to those who have seen her, the ghost is dressed in rags and begs strangers to help her pick up a dropped bundle of sticks that was used to kindle the fire that killed her. Beware, helpful citizens, for they say if you do, you will die in a fire within the year.

*Article from Atlas Obscura July 2022*



## National will repeal Three Waters.

**We're fighting Labour's Water asset grab.**

**Todd McClay**  
MP for Rotorua  
toddmcclay.national.org.nz

Authorised by Todd McClay, Parliament Buildings, Wellington.

**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.**



Your Next Car

A teenage grandchild recently bought her first car. Against the advice of her family, she bought a powerful six cylinder one. The 12 year daughter of a friend sent me an email, talking about a car show she attended with her family describing all the great “muscle” cars and large SUVs. I was much less enthusiastic about these events. These two young people don’t seem to know about the most pressing issue of our time. They, and the rest of their generation will suffer the consequences of a lot of what we didn’t get right. Unfortunately, many follow blindly in our footsteps of the past which may lead to a disaster. What is even more disturbing is, that they either ignore or are not aware of what is happening to our climate and what some of the causes are.

Even though vehicles have become more efficient in their fuel use, the total emissions from traffic has not dropped, quite the opposite; they have gone up in total. This is due that New Zealanders have been buying ever bigger vehicles for the last two decades and there are more cars on the road in total. To put it plainly, if you need a car in the future and your next car is not electric, then it must be a much smaller one than the one you got now.

There are circumstances where it is very difficult not to use a car. However, many times there are better alternatives. Some of the alternatives are using public

transport, share vehicles, cycle, walk, electric bikes and scooters. The best way to reduce emissions is of course that we drive less.

Unfortunately, our infrastructure for these kinds of transport is not at the same level as in some European cities and towns. Fortunately, town planners are starting to take these modes of transport into consideration when planing new roads and altering existing ones.

The biggest two barriers of the uptake of electric vehicles are the availability and upfront costs. Even though over the life time of a car, the overall costs of an electric vehicle is lower, people cannot afford the upfront costs. The infrastructure at the end of the life of an electric car is also still in its infancy, but is expected to grow rapidly in the coming years.

Going back to the two young women at the beginning; have we failed them? Have we educated them about the climate change? Have we been an example to show them what can be done to arrest the climate change? Are we supporting the people and institution which work for reducing emissions; not only vehicles but from all sources? Have we put pressure on the local and national government to act accordingly?

What will we get in return for working actively in decarbonising our vehicles? Our children and grandchildren will get a planet they can actually still live on and enjoy.

OUT and ABOUT with WIELAND

We met at 9:30am at Parksyde. At 10 am we drove to the Rotorua Coffin Club, 2 Old Quarry Road. This is the original Rotorua Coffin Club founded by Katie Williams and now mainly run by Jo-Ann La Grouw.

There were about ten people, and we all listened to the entertaining stories about the hilarious stuff that is going on at the club (behind the scenes as well).

See here for some of the fun stuff: <https://loadingdocs.net/thecoffinclub/>

The questions were amazing and some of the answers were surprising, i.e. you can arrange a private funeral, but not in Rotorua. In Rotorua there has to be a registered funeral director present.

Outing on 20 June

We met at 9:30am at Parksyde. At 10am we carpoled to Mamaku Blue Farm near Mamaku.

It was a very cold, drizzly and windy day. None of us were keen to go on a tour through the farm. Instead, we and some tourists gathered in the cozy coffee shop looking out over the blueberries and did a great job of socialising and getting to know people better.



A very nice time was had by all.

Wieland

COMING EVENTS  
NOT TO BE  
MISSED!

**12 Sept** - 1pm and 7pm. Meet the Candidates and hear them answer our questions in the lead up to the local elections.

**Where?** Linton Park Community Centre for both times.

**3 Oct** - 1pm Grey Power Rotorua Member Forum with Annette Hall from Dementia Lakes.

**Where?** Linton Park Community Centre. For details see here: <https://dementia.nz/dementia-lakes/> <https://thecarevillage.co.nz>

**URGENT**

This matter requires  
**IMMEDIATE  
ATTENTION**

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**PLEASE NOTE as from 1st January 2023 there will be a \$10.00 service charge to do this for you.**

**How you pay your regional council rates has changed**

**What the change means for you.**

If you are a ratepayer, your Bay of Plenty Regional Council rates will no longer be invoiced by your city or district council. Instead, you will be invoiced by Bay of Plenty Regional Council and you will pay your rates directly to us.

**Why the change?**

We want to be more transparent and accountable for the work we do for you using your rates. By invoicing you directly, you will have better visibility of where your money is spent to create a healthy environment, freshwater for life, safe and resilient communities, and a vibrant Bay of Plenty region.

**What happens next?**

**Early September**  
receive your Regional Council invoice

→

**20 October 2022**  
Regional Council invoice due

Your city or district council will continue to send you rates invoices for the services that they provide.

**There are plenty ways to pay your rates**

In person

Online

Credit card

Direct debit

**Calculate your rates 2022/23**

You can find out the cost of your rates for the year by going to our website and doing a property search.

Keep updated about the change in rates collection at [boprc.govt.nz/rates](https://boprc.govt.nz/rates) or call our Rates team on **0800 BOP RATES (0800 267 728)**

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REGIONAL COUNCIL  
TOI MOANA**

10 GREY POWER ROTORUA

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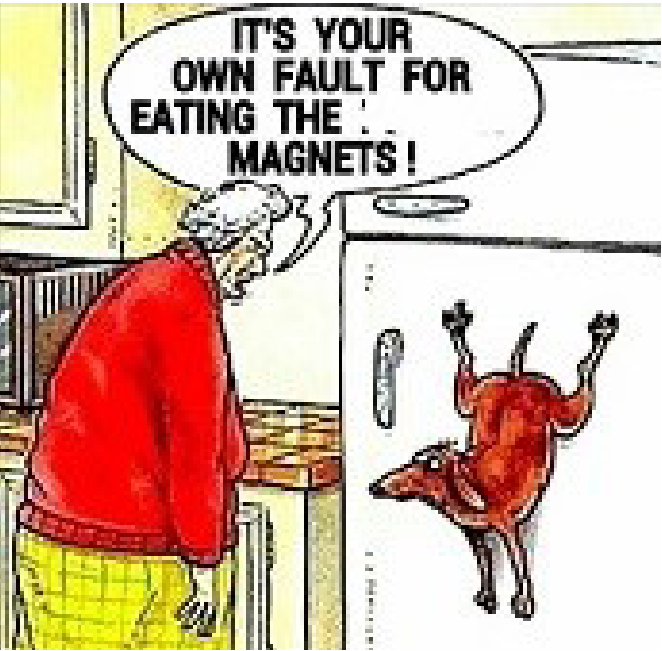
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Why Dinosaurs Matter

by Kenneth Lacovara  
(paleontologist and geologist)

Why study the ancient past? Because it gives us perspective and humility. The dinosaurs died in the world's fifth mass extinction, snuffed out in a cosmic accident through no fault of their own. They didn't see it coming, and they didn't have a choice. We, on the other hand, do have a choice and the nature of the fossil record tells us that our place on this planet is both precarious and potentially fleeting. Right now, our species is propagating an environmental disaster of geological proportions that is so broad and so severe, it can rightly be called the sixth extinction. Only unlike the dinosaurs, we can see it coming and unlike the dinosaurs, we can do something about it. That choice is ours.



“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

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**1-2 copies** \$5.00 each + \$3.50 postage and packaging.

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**10+ copies** \$4.50 each. Please ask for a quote on post and packaging.

TOTAL: \$ .....

I finally did it!

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

Rotorua Public Library

From 1 July 2022 we are Fines Free. This means there are no overdue fines on items that are returned late (unless they become lost). All existing overdue fines and charges for damaged and lost books (prior to 1 June 2022) were wiped to give everyone a clean slate.

What does fines free mean? Is everything free?

Fines free means we no longer charge overdue fines for books returned late.

If books aren't returned you will receive two overdue notices, before the overdue items become lost and replacement fees added to your card.

Is borrowing New Releases free?

No, there is still a rental fee for borrowing new release books, DVDs and magazines.

Why have you removed overdue fines?

In the past overdue fines were introduced to encourage library members to return books. It has become something that has embarrassed members and stopped some from visiting the library.

The fines model is out of step with our goal of increasing use, trust, connection and wellbeing.

International evidence has proven that going fines free increases membership and allows greater participation in accessing resources, especially for those in lower socioeconomic groups who need us most.

I have charges on my card for lost books.

Do I need to pay these?

In order to start the new financial year with a clean slate we did a once only debt write off - including lost and damaged books. Fines for books that were lost on or before 1 June 2022 were written off. If you have lost a book on or after 1 June you will be charged the replacement cost and a processing fee.

I always return my books on time but worry that other people won't return their books once there are no fines.

Libraries around the world have reported that removing fines has actually lead to increased return rates, borrowing and membership. So we're not anticipating an increase in late returns - non-returned books automatically become lost so this will remain an incentive for returning books on time.

Edited article from Robyn Skipwith,  
Rotorua public Library, August 2022



HOSPICE FUNDING

Hospice is about “Living every moment”. The primary purpose of hospices is the provision of end of life care. They have an holistic approach which means that palliative care attends to more than someone’s physical health. There is a focus on quality of life with services including cultural, psychological, spiritual, financial and social support and many larger hospices have inpatient units as well. Two-thirds of patients prefer to be at home so there is a community focus on care; not merely for end of life but for enabling people to live their lives well. While hospice is about concluding lives well, it is a place for living and getting the maximum out of what remains of that life.

There are 33 hospice services in New Zealand but inevitably there is a wide range in their incomes. Their level of taxpayer support has depended on their local District Health Boards but has averaged about 40% of their costs. At the top end, services include a palliative specialist as a medical director with provision of short term inpatient facilities and in-house respite care. At the other extreme, the West Coast has no buildings or staff and only provides financial support to patients. In the middle you may find day care facilities and specialist nurses and a visiting doctor who has minimal palliative care training. The level of financial support from their local communities clearly has a major effect on what can be accomplished. Only one third of people dying in NZ are supported by a hospice but it is predicted that the need will increase by 50% within 20 years and this is far more than the current structure is capable of meeting. Palliative medicine is the only medical speciality that is not fully funded.

Research into the effects of hospice care, using randomised controlled trials has found some interesting results, particularly with community care:

- 1. Unsurprisingly, it has improved the quality of life. Managing pain and symptoms to keep the patient comfortable through to the very end is Hospices goal. Hospitals are essentially there for curing reversible diseases and the doctor’s training is to continue treatment in pursuit of cure. Conversely, hospices are for those with irreversible conditions and their services concentrate on benefiting the life that is being completed.
- 2. What was something of a surprise to the researchers was that length of life also increased. There appeared to be many reasons for this. Pain reduction is the most obvious and a majority of hospice patients do not experience severe pain. Other reasons include reduced loss of dignity,

- reduction in fear of death, fewer symptoms requiring hospital visits, increased satisfaction with their care, and being able to stay in their own homes.
- 3. Possibly the most surprising was the financial benefit. Excellent quality palliative care lowered contact with the hospital and admission process which reduced costs on the healthcare system. A UK study found that services were either cost effective or cost neutral and that early palliative care was more cost effective than that provided later. An Australian study found involvement in palliative care reduced hospital costs by \$5000-\$8000 per patient.

These studies showed a three-way benefit from palliative care. Patients under hospice care lived longer, had a better quality of life, and the taxpayer saved money through lower overall costs to the health system.

The benefits of hospices have had little recognition from our law makers. The year 2015 is the only time this century that a Minister of Finance has even mentioned hospices in a Budget speech. There was a small funding boost in May 2020 but it did not allow for any improvement in services as it barely covered the increased costs for fuel and staff wages.

In contrast, implementing the End of Life Choice Act required significant funding to set up the major bureaucracy which now oversees it, drawing time, expertise and money that would otherwise have provided positive benefits for a health system already under strain. The Minister of Health announced last November that those wanting to use that service would be fully funded, presumably because he thought that a user pays system would have deterred people from using it, but he did not provide any additional money for it. It seems strange that a government is willing to fully fund early death while those who want to get the maximum benefit from the end of their time need to rely on charities.

It is quite clear that greater government funding of hospices would actually result in more money being available for health care in general. It would also mean improved outcomes for people with terminal illnesses and life limiting conditions, and provide greater equity for people in smaller communities.

What do you think?  
Is this a matter that Grey Power should be lobbying for?

David McPherson | Grey Power Rotorua Inc



**Grey Power Rotorua Inc.**

**RENEWAL and NEW MEMBER APPLICATION FORM**

[www.greypowerrotorua.org.nz](http://www.greypowerrotorua.org.nz)

PO Box 414, ROTORUA 3040

1333 Eruera Street

Phone 07 346 1739

Office hours Tuesdays-Thursdays

11.00am - 2.00pm

[greypower.rotorua@gmail.com](mailto:greypower.rotorua@gmail.com)

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**Grey Power office** - Come in, complete a renewal or membership application form and pay by cash or EFTPOS. EFTPOS : Cheque or savings only as we cannot accept Credit Cards.



# INVITATION from Grey Power

on September 12th 2022 at 1pm to 3pm  
and 7pm to 9pm Linton Park Community Hall

We will be hosting **MEET THE CANDIDATES 2022**  
for Mayoral and Councillor candidates

Each candidate will have the opportunity to speak for up to 5 minutes  
on 4 questions put forward in advance by Grey Power Rotorua Inc.

Refreshments will be available after each session.

Donations will be gladly accepted to assist with our costs for this event.

## Do you remember the 1950s?

*Excerpts from NZ History website 24 July 2022*

### POPULATION:

#### Plunket baby, 1950s

The post-war 'baby boom' was the main contributor to a population increase of nearly 400,000 during the 1950s. But it was an immigrant on the Captain Hobson who in September 1952 officially took New Zealand's population past the two million mark. More than 125,000 migrants settled here during the decade, the vast majority of them British. Approximately 50,000 came as assisted migrants, including 5000 'displaced persons' from Europe and 1100 Hungarian refugees fleeing Soviet repression after the 1956 uprising. By December 1959, 2.3 million people called New Zealand home.

### Popular Culture:

#### Aunt Daisy

While television was transforming life in the United States and Britain, regular broadcasts would not start here until 1960. Radio was pre-eminent, and Maud Basham (Aunt Daisy) and Selwyn Toogood ruled the airwaves. For 30 years Aunt Daisy's cheery trademark 'Good morning, everyone!' greeted housewives and the elderly at 9 a.m. on weekdays. Toogood's quiz show *It's in the bag* became one of the most popular evening radio programmes following its debut in 1954 (and later made a successful transition to television). Catchphrases such as 'By hokey!' and 'What should she do, New Zealand?' (choose a known sum of money or the unknown contents of 'the bag', which could be whiteware or a booby prize) became part of the Kiwi vernacular.

Radio was under state control and listeners paid the

Post Office an annual licence fee of just over £1. In 1956 a new Pye radio, Model 77 with 'the luxury of BANDSPREADING', would set consumers back £35 17s 6d – about four weeks' pay for the average worker, and a hefty \$1800 in today's money.

Bodgies and Widgies In All shook up, historian Redmer Yska examined 'the rise of the New Zealand teenager'. Ron Palenski described the impact of rock 'n' roll as the arrival of change at '78 revolutions a minute'. New subcultures such as 'Bodgies' and 'Widgies' emerged. Young men with slicked-back hair dressed in stovepipe pants and winkle-picker shoes hung out in milk-bars and cafes – much to the concern of older New Zealanders. In 1954 a Special Committee on Moral Delinquency in Children and Adolescents, chaired by lawyer Oswald Mazengarb, blamed the rise in 'juvenile delinquency' on the absence from home of working mothers, the easy availability of contraceptives, and on young women who enticed men into having sex.

Those convinced the nation's youth were out of control pointed to high-profile murders such as the 1954 killing of Honora Parker and the 1955 'Jukebox murder' of Alan Jacques by Albert 'Paddy' Black. The emergence of rock 'n' roll was supposedly central to this deterioration of values and behaviour. The prime local example in the 1950s was Johnny Devlin, New Zealand's answer to Elvis Presley.

New Zealanders were among the most regular cinemagoers in the world. The 'pictures', as they were popularly known, were an essential part of life. The West Coast had the highest attendance per head of population.