



GREY POWER MARLBOROUGH

Advocating for people 50 +

President's news

Welcome to our newsletter now being published in The Sun newspaper.

This is one of the many changes that we are planning for Grey Power Marlborough over the next five years.

I have been reading an article by Diana Clement on ageism and some perceptions the general population have of people 50 years and over.

Some of the areas the article focused on were the difficulty of finding paid work from 50 onwards, Elder Abuse; either physical, financial or neglect, lack of health services and lack of affordable housing for seniors.

Many people see seniors in our community as 'just old'.

They forget that many of these people have paid tax their whole working life, often did not have the ability to save for their retirement and some of them, through no fault of their own, were unable to find full-time paid employment.

I have had the opportunity to work in rest home care facilities and home care for seniors.

All of these people led interesting lives, some of them in high powered positions and some of them just ordinary bog-standard lives.

They are a generation of givers, not takers.



Gayle Chambers President, Grey Power Marlborough.

Grey Power is all about making sure our seniors get a fair deal from all areas of society. We lobby local and national governments on a regular basis and work with other like-minded organisations.

We are a voice for those who cannot speak for themselves.

If you are 50 or over join Grey Power and fight the fight for our seniors.

Gayle Chambers

Grey Power Achievements

We encourage people 50+ in age to join Grey Power. Here are the final five of the 25 achievements we are proud to have been effective in obtaining for seniors at the national level. We have been highlighting five per month since August.

1. Hearing aid subsidy increased.

2. Retention of SuperGold Card Waiheke Island Ferry Travel.

3. Increased funding for glaucoma operations.

4. Annual clothing allowance for grandparents raising grandchildren.

5. Security doors on most Council-owned pensioner flats.

NEMA advice on My Vaccine Pass

On the visit to the Emergency Management Authority, as described in the article on Grey Power advocacy on the following page, we asked them to send us their best advice to pass on to you. The following is a clear information sheet on the vaccine pass.

"My Vaccine Pass is an official record of your COVID-19 vaccination status. It can be used from Friday 3 December when New Zealand moves to a traffic light system.

Under the traffic light system, you may need to show your My Vaccine Pass in a range of places, for example: events, hospitality, close-proximity businesses, such as hairdressers and gyms, sport, and faith-based gatherings.

Businesses cannot accept a purple vaccination appointment card or vaccination confirmation letter as proof of your vaccination status.

You will not need to show proof of vaccination to access: supermarkets, pharmacies, health and disability services, petrol stations, public transport — for example, buses and trains, schools and early learning service providers, housing and housing support services.

Requesting a pass

My Vaccine Pass is free.

You can request a My Vaccine Pass if you have had 2 doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine in New Zealand.

There are four ways to get your My Vaccine Pass:

1. Via internet / online. If you have an email address and valid identification (passport, birth certificate, drivers' licence) you can request your pass through the website: [MyCovidRecord.health.nz](https://www.mycovidrecord.health.nz)

2. Via phone. If you cannot access My Covid Record, or do not have a unique email address or valid ID, you can call the Ministry of Health on: 0800 222 478 to request a physical copy. It will help to have your NHI number ready — you can find this on a hospital letter, a prescription or prescription receipt.

3. In person. Some pharmacies that are carrying out COVID-19 vaccinations, are also able to assist people with getting your My Vaccine Pass. Visit: www.healthpoint.co.nz to check if a pharmacy near you is offering that service.

4. Via text for disabled people. Text service to support disabled people – 8898."

Blenheim Riverside Railway

Are you planning to get away with your family and especially the grandchildren into New Year?

The Blenheim Riverside Railway is one place to take them. See the website www.riversiderailway.nz for details. Afternoon trips occur in December on Sunday 5

and 17.

It's a great train trip, surprisingly scenic, and you could be supporting local businesses and groups as you go on the outing.

Brian McNamara, Publicity Officer.

Unique... Because we understand that everyday life is.

GREY POWER MEMBERS DISCOUNT
Conditions apply

03 578 4719
Cnr Hutcheson & Parker Sts, Blenheim
www.sowmans.co.nz

Need help to access your vaccine passport?

We will be at Vines Village Café tomorrow 10am - 2pm Thursday December 2nd Please bring identification

With the kind help of Vines Village Café

Age Concern Marlborough
Serving the needs of older people

Booster vaccines are due from 29th November 2021 for people who had their second covid vaccination six months ago.

BOOKINGS CAN BE MADE ONLINE

Marlborough Primary Health
Phone **03 520 6200**
22 Queen St, Blenheim
www.marlboroughpho.org.nz

Welcoming **GREY POWER** to the Blenheim Sun

We are delighted to be bringing you the GREY POWER MARLBOROUGH monthly newsletter.

Wednesday Sun
Marlborough's largest circulating newspaper



GREY POWER MARLBOROUGH

Advocating for people 50 +

Grey Power advocacy

Grey Power's major work is in advocacy with local and central government. Remember, our focus is upon issues that affect the 50+ age group more than the general population.

On Thursday November 25 three members of one of the Grey Power National Advocacy Groups (NAGs) travelled to Wellington to meet four different government agencies or ministry officials to discuss and press for government action. Three members of this NAG are based in Marlborough.

Here is a summary of the report that our local secretary and NAG chairman Graeme Faulkner wrote on these visits. You may read about these advocacy visits in the national Grey Power magazine to be sent to all members in 2021.

Because of length, we can't print all the knowledge gained from these four visits. Should you want more detailed information, ring our office (before it closes for Xmas on 17 December) on 578 4950 and ask for information. You might also be directed to talk to one of the NAG committee for information.

"We first visited the emergency management authority, NEMA. They are planning the pandemic response especially for the future when borders are opened, and have prepared a very simple plan about what people should do if required to self-isolate. We have asked to receive this and distribute it via emails and our newsletters to our members,



A visit to Wellington to advocate for Grey Power members. Second from left, NAG chairman Graeme Faulkner and far right, member Carol Blomquist with two ACC officials.

along with notes to outline the efficacy of vaccines for both lowering contraction rates and coping with symptoms of covid.

We then discussed with two ACC managers a number of issues such as surgical mesh, the threshold for hearing aids being lowered from 6% to 5%, the relationship between ACC and the new health organisation in the offing; also, injuries caused by uneven footpaths etc. The suggestion was that we should engage with the new ministry for the disabled.

The Minister for ACC is currently working on a detected bias against Maori,

Pacifica and women in general, based on ACC's own research. The Minister currently has working groups in this area. This is well in hand.

We raised the question of gradual process when this was used to decline ACC cover for injuries sustained by older people. ACC have suggested that we talk to the Minister about this.

We discussed situations where treatment providers add co-payments, which are not forbidden by ACC. Our members need to be aware to ensure treatment is covered wholly by ACC and attend

the emergency department in the local hospital. Private practitioners do point to a lot of overheads that are not covered by the Schedule. This matter has not been looked at for some time and ACC suggest that we deal with this by approaching the Minister.

Our visit to the Justice Department was an introductory one. We found beyond ACC tribunals, there was not much of particular concern to 50+ people in particular. They advised when people take matters to the ACC tribunal to get proper advocates to work with them, even if they cost more, to get better outcomes. Use of citizen's advice or community law to assist was also suggested.

We were counselled to advise our members to keep personal documentation up to date particularly as passports, licences, birth certificates and 18+ ID are used for legal purposes when lodging documents for any court hearing. It seems our more senior members sometimes lack attention to these matters.

Finally, we met with an official of MBIE – again an exploratory visit- because MBIE is responsible for preparing policy and legislation in relation to ACC. They suggested that we comment on various MBIE annual surveys e.g. the age scale for hearing loss. Likewise we discussed the gradual process with them and MBIE strongly suggested that this issue be bought up with the Minister sooner rather than later."

Office Snippets

There has been an overwhelming demand for help with downloading Vaccine Passes. REAP Marlborough are unfortunately no longer able to help.

Hearing aid batteries, sizes A10, A13 and A312 are available from the office,

\$6 per card of 6. Come and stock up before Christmas!

Please be careful paying your Grey Power Electricity (Pulse Energy!) bills online over Christmas. There will be no-one in the office to refund your money if you pay Grey Power

Marlborough by mistake!

The office is closing at 1pm Friday 17 December, and will re-open at 9am on Monday 17 January.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our members! We look forward to catching up next year.

Savour the Summer Sunshine



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