

# MATAMATA GREY POWER NEWSLETTER

February/March 2015

## Inside

<i>Gallipoli</i>	2
<i>Oop's Moment</i>	3
<i>Free GP Visits</i>	3
<i>Last Word</i>	4

## Welcome New Members

We would like to make a special welcome to our new members. During the past twelve months we have recruited 115 new members giving us a total of 606 financial members. Nationally all associations are reporting a growth in member numbers.

## Subscriptions Now Due

With this news letter you will have received your membership renewal advice, which is due for payment by the 31 March.

Please follow remittance instructions as shown on your renewal advice. We will accept renewals at our March luncheon.

Please do not post cash.

Your new membership card and Local Directory and Discount Book will be posted to you in April.

## ENDURING POWER OF ATTORNEY SHOULD YOU HAVE ONE?

Having an Enduring Power of Attorney, (EPA), is something we have found, is not very well understood by most of us. Basically an EPA is putting in place a contingency plan should we become incapable of making our own decisions regarding our personal well being.

Planning for the future is important and involves predicting the effects, for example, that an illness, like dementia or a physical disability, might have on our ability to make rational decisions.

Granting enduring power of attorney is not something to be done lightly. Careful consideration must be given to the person with whom you have complete faith and trust. This person must act in your best interest at all times. To the person entrusted with the EPA it can be quite daunting as they will be totally accountable for their actions.

To help us separate myth from fact, we have invited David Parker LL.B of Edmonds Marshall as guest speaker on EPA's at our March 23 luncheon. David deals with relationship property matters, family law, employment law, property law (rural, commercial & residential), succession planning, trusts, estates and elder law.

David will explain in plain language the legal implications for taking such a move.

He will take your questions and provide you with the legal implications of an EPA.

For those of you who do not have an EPA, this may give you the reason to consider seriously taking the steps to set one on place. If you already have an EPA you may have your concerns you wish to raise.

Don't forget to book.

## Has The Council Got It Right?

Your committee is meeting with the District Council. Mayor Jan Barnes and our elected ward members. Held annually this meeting has always had positive outcomes with the majority of issues we raise.

Of all the special projects undertaken by our District Council the trial road realignment on Broadway and Waharoa Road East has engendered the most feed back.

With very few exceptions I have received universal condemnation of this trial.

Also being raised will be the Matamata Pools around which much confusion has ensued on what actually

the council is doing with the popular exercise pool which has been shut down.

Among other issues we intend to raise is the Memorial Centre refurbishment which is again subject to misinformation.

If you have an issue you would like us to raise with the council, please let us know.

The Mayor has stated on frequent occasions that she and the councillors value our face to face meetings, and recognises that we speak for the whole community not just Grey Power.

Have an issue please let us know.

## LEST WE FORGET

This year we mark the centenary of Gallipoli and ANZAC day. To many of us this is a day of remembrance of our forebears and the part they played in forming our national identity.

This year is also the seventieth anniversary of the end of the last world war. A conflict nearly all of us can identify with. There are very few of us who did not have a parent or sibling who served our country.

All around our Community are local halls with "Rolls of Honour" the names of the fallen as a stark reminders of their sacrifice so freely given.

Among our membership we have re-

turned servicemen who saw action in Korea, The Malay Emergency and Vietnam, and other theatres of War.

There are also amongst us those whose family served in the forces of the then enemy. Thankfully the peace that followed has meant we can befriend without hatred or prejudice our once former enemy.

Ron Moles our Secretary who along with his wife Joan has visited Gallipoli has penned a very personal view for us all to share.

I am reminded of a quotation, Politicians plan wars. Soldiers, pray for Peace.

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### Gallipoli a Personal Memory—Ron Moles

We were fortunate to be able to visit Gallipoli in September 2005, accompanied by a Turkish guide who gave us a very balanced view of their side of the war.

Our first view of the area when we stopped at the large wall with the famous message from Kemal Ataturk, "To the Mothers of NZ", inscribed in the stone,

Nearby was the stony beach alongside Anzac Cove, where we all alighted, and somehow found a space all by ourselves, to stare at this peaceful beach, and then to swing our gaze around to the enormous steep, bare, stony cliffs and gullies that seemed to tower over us – how could anyone expect men to scale those cliffs exposed to enemy gunfire?

The feeling, standing there, was such that I have never experienced before – we were among the dead, the gravestones, including the one of John Simpson Kirkpatrick (The Man with the Donkey), lining along the cemetery lawn, stared at us, - unable to speak, we all just stood silently, trying to imagine the sounds, the horror, the needless lives lost all those years ago. When we boarded the bus nobody spoke for some time – all quiet in their thoughts.

The bus took us up to Lone Pine Cemetery, devoted to fallen Australians – tidy grass between row on row of crosses, and the one lone pine overlooking it all.

From there we drove up to the site of Chunuk Bair, the highest point reached by the Anzacs, hillsides still clothed in the thick thorny scrub, the men fought through.

On the way we passed a large statue alongside the road – A Turkish soldier with a fallen Anzac slung over his shoulder, in recognition of the respect with which the Anzacs were held.

At Chunuk Bair, a large statue of Kemal Ataturk stood looking towards the stone cenotaph commemorating our fallen – we left a poppy on the steps, along with a tiny NZ flag we had taken with us.

Reconstructed trenches were on the hillside – friend and foe so incredibly close to one another – and from there we could look back to Anzac Cove, and over to the elusive Dardanelles. For me this was a once in a lifetime experience – it brought home to me the horrors of warfare, the courage and bravery of our soldiers, and it made me feel proud to be a New Zealander.

I gathered some seeds from a pine at Chunuk Bair, declared them to customs, sowed them here, and grew six small pine trees.

Two are now growing at the RSA Cemetery – planted by two College boys, Dylan Bowler and Todd White in 2008.

The others are at Matamata College, Firth Primary, Te Poi School and Centennial Drive.

## OOP's WE GOT IT NEARLY RIGHT

In our November newsletter we incorrectly gave out information on renewal of your motor vehicle registration. We apologise if this has caused confusion. We published information given to Grey Power in good faith.

We stated that 31 March was the cut off date for registration at the old price, when in fact the new

reduced rate kicks in on July 1.

To save you money on your registration read the blue leaflet that comes with your registration form. Paying for a reduced period is acceptable. NZ Transport (NZTA) have advised their agents of the options of paying for a reduced period. Just remember your next renewal will be after 1 July 2015.

## FREE GP VISITS?

Grey Power has welcomed a New Zealand First Bill which would see people with the Super Gold card and who draw national superannuation get three free visits to their GP per year. With about 600,000 Super Gold card holders the Bill, if it became law, would add about \$60 million to the national health cost of about \$15.5 billion, less than half of one percent.

The Super Gold Health Check Bill was drawn from the ballot of private members' Bills in December 2013 and will be considered by Parliament in February.

If the bill passes its crucial first reading New Zealand First leader Winston Peters is expected to send it to the Finance and Expenditure committee for consideration.

Grey Power national president Terry King said medical costs increased with age for most people, including visits to the GP. He said on average New Zealanders

spend 10 days a year in hospital but for people over 65 there was a dramatic increase in the number of people requiring specialist medical treatment and the amount of time they spent in hospital, the average cost of a visit to the doctor was now about \$35

"For most families on the average income these costs can be met but for people over 65 who are reliant on national superannuation the frequency and costs of GP visits can be a serious financial burden."

Mr King said many folk had heard of cases where elderly people either put off going to the doctor or declined to pick up prescriptions from the chemist to avoid the costs.

"That simply makes matters worse when they finally go to the doctor and we need a circuit breaker to ensure these people get the medical attention they need." Mr King said, because Labour Party policy at the September election was for free doctor visits for people over 65 he presumed they will support the bill.

## SWITCH AND SAVE

The number of Grey Power members nationally who have joined Grey Power Electricity has now passed the 6000 mark.

The savings to be made are considerable and are worth investigating.

All you need to do is phone 0800 473 976. They will give you an instant no obligation quotation so you can make a direct comparison with what it is costing you with our provider.

The power price is guaranteed for five years, and there are no contracts to sign.

Feedback we are receiving from those who have made the switch has been very positive.

## PAY EARLY AND WIN

One again we are having our annual win a \$80,00 grocery voucher for those of you who pay your annual subscription by the 30th May 2015.

This proved to be very popular last year. The winner will be drawn at our June luncheon. You do not have to be present to win.

## March Grey Power Luncheon

Monday March 23

Guest Speaker

Mr David Parker

Enduring Power Of Attorney

The legal bits explained

Bookings Essential

Phone 888 9956

By Friday 20th March  
\$12.00 per person

## Luncheon

March 23

## Reservations

## Phone

888 9956

### Grey Power Matamata Contact Details

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### Joining Grey Power

Is Easy Fill in form below send with  
subscription to  
1 Nikau Place Matamata

My / Our details are:

Single ☐ Couple ☐

Mr ☐ Mrs ☐ Ms ☐ Dr ☐ Other ☐

Initials or First Name(s)

Last Name

Address

Post code

Phone

Annual Subscription

Single \$15.00

Couple \$24.00

☐ Please tick this box if you do not wish to  
receive promotional material

## PERSONAL SAFETY WHAT WE NOW MUST DO

Recent burglaries and home invasions in Matamata bring home to us the need for ensuring we have taken reasonable precautions to protect our personal belongings..

Well gone are the days when we never locked our doors or were able to leave windows open on hot days and nights.

There are people out there who are all too willing to seize an opportunity to break in to your property.

Police advise us to ensure our doors are locked, even when we are at home.

If you leave a window open make sure it has restrainers to prevent it opening wide enough

to allow some one to climb in.

The other thing we used to do is leave a key under a flower pot, or hidden some where on your property.

These opportunists usually find your hide away.

Do not leave wallets or handbags sitting on the side board or table.

If you are going away, let the neighbours know, and have your mail cleared every day.

Do not hesitate to call the police if you have any reason to feel unsafe.

If you have genuine concerns about people wandering around then call the Matamata Police.

## Bayleys Matamata Residential Team



**Margaret Troughton**  
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**Julie Dare**  
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M 027 292 6531



**Chris Metcalfe**  
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### Bayleys Matamata

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**BAYLEYS**

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