



PRESIDENT'S BULLETIN DECEMBER 2023

Hello all,
Welcome to the last president's bulletin for 2023



The Federation Board has completed its last board meeting for the year so please find a precis of our meeting plus some other miscellaneous bits and pieces for your information.

My apologies if I have provided too much information but we did a lot of work at our meeting.

We welcome comments please

SO, HERE IS WHAT WE DID AT OUR NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING:

A) The board adopted its 2023-2026 strategic plan with its vision, mission, values and focus areas.

The board had agreed earlier that the modernisation plan aims and goals would form the basis of our strategic plan because although the former was adopted fourteen years ago much of it is just as relevant today although some areas may need re-visiting in the future.



Please see the strategic plan details as provided below:

Grey Power's Vision

A country where seniors live in dignity enjoying a rewarding and sustainable quality of life.

Grey Power's Mission

To make New Zealand the best country in the world in which to retire.

Grey Power's Values

Compassion

Respect for others

Integrity

Diversity

The details of each focus area are:

Focus Area One – Financial/Strategy

That the Grey Power Federation is a financially sustainable entity.

Objective

Grey Power Federation maintains financial stability through appropriate funding mechanisms.

Goal One	Implementation	Standing Committee (S.C) or National Advisory Group (NAG) responsible	Timeline Completion
a) Implement a sponsorship/funding strategy. - Financial sustainability.	-Define the value proposition Grey Power can use to attract financial assistance? -Identify different means and opportunities to achieve financial sustainability. -Explore membership funding that supports both Board and Associations – Zones self-funding?	Finance & Investment S.C Membership S.C Comms & Marketing S.C	2024 AGM Treasurer to follow-up with Zones
b) Align expenditure with strategic outputs of this plan.	All expenditure must be aligned to strategic output before being approved by Board.	Board	Ongoing

NB: 2023 AGM motion:

That this meeting calls on the Board to prioritise the following issues raised at the AGM.

- 1) Reporting back to Associations on the significant variances in the 2022 Annual Accounts.
- 2) Circulate a revised budget after consideration of all cost saving measures and income improvement opportunities available.

- Number 1 is now being provided to Associations monthly.
Number 2 has occurred and the Federation board has implemented a risk management plan.

2. Focus Area 2 - Member Services

That the Grey Power Federation empowers Associations to provide member services.

Objective

To maintain member services that support member wellbeing.

To obtain an increasing and more diverse membership.

	Goal	Implementation	Standing Committee (S.C) or National Advisory Group (NAG) responsible	Timeline completion
	a) Logo: Ruru – tag line-? modernise	Taking research results into account, update or otherwise the Grey Power brand	Board	If required, approval AGM 2024.
	b) Determine success factors for attracting new members and retaining existing members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Monitoring new member numbers and reasons for joining. -Exit survey for members not renewing membership. -Researching general public regarding membership. -Telephone log as a research tool -Survey membership for 'other services' that could be provided, including discount products and services. -Annual review of Federation discount services with provider. 	<p>Membership S.C and Comms & Marketing S.C</p> <p>C. Singleton to provide a template for information gathering.</p>	2023-2025
	c) Central recording of appropriate membership information. Collect once, use many times.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Grey Power communicates appropriately with Association members. -Validate member acceptance of Grey Power messages/information (broadcasts) through the membership application/renewal process. 	<p>Legal, Regulations & Remits S.C</p> <p>Membership and S.C</p> <p>Comms & Marketing S.C</p>	2023-2026
	d) Existing membership role/staff focus on membership services, including research.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Annual Board review of member services, including effectiveness. -Annual member satisfaction surveys. Monitor/review discount services. 	<p>Membership S.C and Comms & Marketing S.C</p> <p>Research sub-committee</p>	2023-2026

3. Focus Area 3 – Advocacy

As the leading advocacy group for older persons, the Grey Power Federation enhances outcome-focused working relationships with decision-makers.

Objective - Central and local government and other decision-makers identify Grey Power as the leading advocacy group for older persons.

Goal	Implementation	Standing Committee (S.C) or National Advisory Group (NAG) responsible	Timeline completion
a) Enhance existing relationships and continue to build relationships with central Government, regulatory bodies, and other decision-makers.	Board and Associations continue developing outcome-focused relationships through ongoing advocacy on behalf of all older persons, including Memorandum of Understanding where appropriate	Advocacy & Lobby S.C to explore memorandums of understanding with kindred bodies	Ongoing
b) Engaging membership in advocating with local government and community decision-makers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -With the exception of local body issues at a national level, Zones and Associations are empowered to manage outcome-focused relationships with local government and community decision-makers. - Develop a mechanism to report outcomes to Federation Board. - Continue to engage subject matter experts to assist research and support the advocacy process. - AGM workshops 	Local Bodies, Housing and Transport National Advisory Group plus other National Advisory Groups as necessary Comms/Marketing SC, Research sub-committee and relevant others L. Findlay and M. Boag to facilitate	Ongoing 2024 AGM
c) Advocacy issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the advocacy issues and documentation to pass a relevance test? - Utilise Federation priority criteria 	Advocacy/Lobby S.C	Ongoing
d) Archive of all Association newsletters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Federation office to hold an archive of Association newsletters in an electronic repository - Archive to be utilised for advocacy and information to share with associations 	Federation secretary & office staff	Ongoing

4. Legal/Structure

That Grey Power Federation is positioned as the leading advocate for older people through legal and governance structures.

Objective:

The board and staff will provide assistance, guidance, and leadership to support the Federation, Zones and Associations.

a) Develop a constitution that will enable Federation, Zones, and Associations/branches to meet the Incorporated Societies Act and work and operate together in harmony.	Federation constitution for approval at 2024 AGM. Federation to provide template for Associations.	Legal, Regulations & Remits S.C	2024 AGM Early 2024 Final completion to Incorporated Soc. by 2025
b) Formal communication strategy between Board, Zones, and Associations/branches.	- Develop and implement the draft communication plan = Board. - Zone, Association involvement as necessary.	Comms & Marketing	2024
c) Restructure Board to focus on strategy and policy only.	-Employment of staff to enable the Board to restructure itself as a strategic board using not-for-profit governance board principles. -Board members skilled in not-for-profit governance. -Board appointments consider succession planning	Board	To be re-assessed when funding permits
d) Policy document review	All policy documents, including operational manuals and job descriptions, reviewed on a 3-yearly basis with amendments approved and added/removed as required.	Board with recommendations from National Advisory Groups and Associations	One third of policy documents reviewed each year.

Focus Area 5- Infrastructure

The Grey Power Federation develops integrated data systems to service Association members, Board and Zones.

Objective

Centralised digital systems that enable seamless use of data to achieve Association and Board goals.

Goal	Implementation	Standing Committee (S.C) or National Advisory Group (NAG) responsible	Timeline completion
a) Integrate systems to achieve data integrity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Develop a centralised database -Continue with website update -Board and Associations enable data to be entered once. -Provide Board members with Grey Power email address -Provide devices for Grey Power work only with all the required programmes. 	Comms & Marketing, Office staff	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>In the future</p>
b) Communication directly to members and wider public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Federation Board shares Russell McVeagh legal opinion with Zones and Associations to enable direct communication from Board with Association members. -Use centralised database to communicate with Association members. -Develop media distribution channels and content that demonstrates the value of Grey Power to New Zealand with the aim of being the 'go-to' organisation for older persons' issues. 	<p>Board, Legal, Regulations & Remits S.C</p> <p>Comms /Marketing S.C</p>	Ongoing

C. Singleton was appointed as the overall project manager to provide a task list for the board, to assist teams where necessary and move the work along to enable deadlines to be met.

We hope that our plans going forward are of interest to members and progress on these will be reviewed at each board meeting.

Your comments are welcome



B) The usual reports were discussed and the following points of interest are provided:

B1) Treasurer's Report -has been circulated to associations

- Three points of interest were that:

- 2024 Budget-the board accepted the 2024 budget and this will be distributed to associations early in the New Year after the current financial year has been completed.

- Unfinancial members receipt of the Grey Power Quarterly magazine – it was agreed that all previous policy be rescinded and that the June edition of the magazine contains a reminder that if members have not paid their capitation subscription the June magazine will be the last they will receive. When payment is received delivery will resume.
- the auditor has advised that the Federation should keep sufficient funds on hand to cover three years expenditure in case of unforeseen circumstances.
- the current risk analysis - it was agreed that the adequacy of financial reserves clause be changed from impact level moderate to high.

B 3) Other Reports-

Magazine – discussion occurred regarding the request for digital copies for those members who wanted to receive their magazine this way and it was pointed out that each Association receives a hard copy which is sent to Presidents. On December 8th 832 members had requested digital copies of the magazine

- The proposed printing dates for 2024 are:
- March 5, Tuesday
- June 4, Tuesday
- September 9, Monday
- November 19, Tuesday

Discussion on whether there should be 3 or 4 editions of the magazine each year occurred and it was agreed that it remain at 4. It was discussed that if costings do not change there is a possibility the number of issues could be reduced. The AGM to be advised if that is the case.

C) Items of Interest from Standing Committee and National Advisory Group Reports:

C.1) Advocacy and Lobby=

The following advocacy focus areas for 2023/2024 were adopted by the board:

- **Retirement Cost of Living** - Grey Power will be asking the government and opposition politicians - what are your policies to tackle the burden of the higher cost of living for low-income households?

This was an agreed election issue and has been allocated to all relevant National Advisory Groups- e.g., energy- cost of power etc.,

- **Housing** – Grey Power will be asking the government and opposition politicians how will they address the major issue of the lack of affordable suitable accommodation for older people?

Issues include:

- a) Property rates (rates Rebate)
- b) Rental provision
- c) Plus 2023 AGM remit 13 – cash asset threshold be increased for accommodation supplement & remit 9 – more affordable housing.
- d) Village resident financial sustainability

These were agreed issues by the board and have been allocated to Local bodies, Housing, & Transport National Advisory Group for a), b) & c) and Retirement Villages National Advisory Group for d).

- Transport

Issues include:

- a) Minimum standard for public transport
- b) Option for those without a driver's licence – to include continuation of work on the over 80's driving tests
- c) Loss of individual independence
- d) other transport issues

These were agreed election issues and a 2023 AGM remit and have been allocated to Local bodies, Housing, & Transport National Advisory Group.

- **Health** - Grey Power will be asking the government and opposition politicians - what are your policies to ensure that all New Zealanders have access to equitable, adequate healthcare as soon as possible?

Issues include

- a) Equitable, adequate access to public health services including home and aged care facility care
- b) AGM 2023 remit 5- rest Home Standard rooms provisions
- c) Affordability (dentist, Optician, hearing, general)

Agreed election issue and 2023 AGM remit and has been allocated to the Health, Retirement Villages & Aged Care National Advisory Groups

- **Law and Order** - Personal safety

This is a board recommendation and has been allocated to the Law & Order National Advisory Group.

- **New Zealand Superannuation and supplementary benefits**- Grey Power will be asking the government and opposition politicians - what are your policies to provide certainty to current and future retirees that NZ Super and supplementary benefits will ensure that they can live in dignity during retirement?

This was also an agreed election issue area

Other action –

Briefing papers -National Advisory Group chairs have been requested to provide the advocacy chair with bullet points for briefing papers to go to the relevant newly appointed Ministers – the president will provide a briefing paper example National Advisory Group chairs that require one.

C.2) Remit up-date – because the new coalition Government has only just been sworn in the only action to date has been the allocation of the 2023 AGM remits to the relevant portfolios. They are as follows:

REMIT 5 - REST HOME'S 'STANDARD ROOM'S PROVISION

Moved: Marlborough / Seconded: Golden Bay

That Grey Power Federation lobby Government to ensure that rest homes provide, especially in new buildings, a reasonable proportion of 'standard rooms' affordable to those receiving superannuation and limited accommodation supplements as part of the options available for residents going into rest home care.

Allocated to the Retirement Villages National Advisory Group

REMIT 9 – MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING REQUIREMENT

Moved: Horowhenua / Seconded: South Taranaki

That the Grey Power Federation Board strongly recommend to the current Political Government and Political Opposition Parties to fast forward the building of more affordable houses, particularly targeted for seniors, across the whole of New Zealand.

Allocated to Local Bodies, Housing & Transport

REMIT 10 – MOBILITY DEVICES (TRANSPORT) USE

Moved: Auckland / Seconded: North Shore

That Grey Power Federation support and request Government to introduce legislation to govern use of mobility devices on pedestrian walkways or shared public spaces.

Explanation:

The speed and noiseless approach of these devices, particularly from the rear (or back) of pedestrians can cause serious distress and accidents to the pedestrians.

Allocated to the Local Bodies, Housing & Transport National Advisory Group

REMIT 13

Moved: Napier

That the Board of the Grey Power NZ Federation, their advocacy team and local associations lobby Central Government and 2023 General Election Party candidates to support senior renters by significantly raising the cash asset threshold for accessing the Accommodation Supplement (AS).

Allocated to the Local Bodies, Housing & Transport National Advisory Group & Retirement & Superannuation & Local Bodies etc.,

Here is the action so far on 2023 AGM constitutional remits:

REMIT 1

Privacy Act reference update

That the words "Privacy Act 1993" be replaced with the words 'Privacy Act currently in force' in clauses 8.7 (d) and (e).

Has been attended to by the Legal, Regulations and Remits Standing Committee

REMIT 3 – REMITS UPDATE & STATUS

Moved: King Country / Seconded: Hamilton

That the GPFNZ Board is requested to provide a quarterly update on the status of all AGM Remits to Associations.

To be overseen by the Advocacy and Lobby standing committee and has commenced in this bulletin

REMIT 4 – FEDERATION AGM VENUES

Moved: Eastern Southland / Seconded: Central Otago

That consideration be given to alternating the location of the National AGM to having one AGM in the North Island and the following year in the South Island.

National secretary is to report on this at the next board meeting

REMIT 7 – TREATY OF WAITANGI INCLUSION

Moved: South Taranaki / Seconded: Horowhenua

That Grey Power New Zealand Federation recognise the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi) as the founding document of New Zealand and incorporate The Treaty into the Grey Power New Zealand Federation Constitution;

Legal, Regulations and Remits Standing Committee to attend to this

C.3) Communication/Marketing =

- The President has asked for a communication and marketing plan to be provided to board members.
- The Communication & Marketing Standing Committee are to produce a GPF public brochure to better communicate our work to stakeholders and the general public prior to the 2024 AGM.
- B. Obers is to send a copy of the current owl which can be digitally enlarged.

C.4) Aged Care: - We have only one member on this National Advisory Group– if anyone would like to join us, please let me know.

D)Miscellaneous

- The board is to send a letter of support to the Living Wage Movement.
- The board meeting was addressed by Fergus Wheeler who spoke about Death without Debt
- The Vice-President represented Grey Power at a hui to support a collaborative approach amongst key organisations to advancing the causes of older people during the UN Decade of Health Ageing. Grey Power will be represented on this group by D. Marshall and J. Pentecost.

E) Comment on the election of the Coalition Government:

- The Federation Board wish the Minister of Seniors the Hon Casey Costello and the new government all the very best and we look forward to working with them in the next three years.
- The government's 100-day plan – there are some government policies in this plan (please see those below) that are of particular interest to Grey Power and we will be looking for more details to enable us to lobby as per our advocacy focus areas next year.
Zones/Associations will be asked to assist the board with this

The areas of particular interest are:

- Rebuilding the economy and easing the cost of living:
- Beginning efforts to double renewable energy production, including drawing up a national policy statement on renewable electricity generation.
- Beginning work on a new government policy statement reflecting the new Roads of National Significance and **new public transport priorities**
- Beginning work to enable more houses to be built, by implementing the Going for Housing Growth policy ...
- Restoring law and order:
- Improving security for the health workforce in hospital emergency departments
- Signing an MoU with Waikato University to progress a third medical school
- Beginning work on delivering better public services and strengthening democracy
- Setting five major targets for the health system, including for wait times and cancer treatment
- Taking the first steps to extend free breast cancer screening to those aged up to 74
- Establishing a priority one category on the social housing waitlist to move families out of emergency housing into permanent homes more quickly

In conclusion, I hope you have gained some knowledge, through these bulletins this year, about how your Federation board works and if you have any questions, comments, or information on how we can improve our work please let me know.

On behalf of your board members, Russell Bird – Zone One, Sandy Feringa- Zone Two, Raymond Mudford – Zone Three, Colleen Singleton – Zone Four, Kevin Gardner – Zone Five and Bill Obers-Zone 7 plus the Federation Vice-President-David Marshall, the national Secretary – Jo Millar and the acting national Treasurer – Lew Findlay may I thank you all for your work for older people over the past year.

Our sincere wish is that you all have the best Christmas and New Year possible.
Please take care

Jan Pentecost
President
Grey Power NZ Federation Inc.



Days filled with warmth and sun

I wish you love and friendship too
Throughout the coming year
Lots of laughter and happiness
To fill your world with cheer

May you count your blessings, one by one
And when totalled by the lot
May you find all you've been given
To be more than what you sought

May your journeys be short, your burdens light
May your spirit never grow old
May all your clouds have silver linings
And your rainbows pots of gold

I wish this all and so much more
May all your dreams come true
May you have a Merry Christmas Grey Power friends
And a happy New Year, too.
(My interpretation of a poem by Ruth Kephart)