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APR - MAY
2016

Annual General Meeting

On Thursday 28th April 2016,
10:30am – 12:30pm.

Museum Hotel, 90 Cable St,
Wellington.

GUEST SPEAKER at AGM

Ken Daniels, from AGE CONCERN, will speak on "Positive Aging in the Modern World".

Agenda:

10:30am	AGM reports & election
11:30	Speaker
12:00	Refreshments

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2017

Invoices were forwarded to all Wellington Central members on 9 March with the covering letter advising that payment was due by 20 April. If you have not paid your subscription please do so as soon as possible. If you have not received or have mislaid your invoice please contact me and I will get a replacement to you post-haste.

It is essential that your payment reaches this office by 16 May to ensure that the June issue of the National Grey Power Magazine reaches all members.

The notice that appeared in the March issue makes the Grey Power Federation position quite clear:

Financial Members only

Association Members are advised that at the Federation Board meeting held from February 23 to 25 it was decided that the June issue of the Grey Power magazine will only be sent to those members who are recorded as being Financial Members on the Federation Data base at May 20 2016.

All members are reminded to renew subscriptions before that date so their entitlement to the discount benefits such as Grey Power Electricity, Challenge fuels and discounts provided by your Association are still available to you as a member.

R REID

Federation treasurer

Planned Speaker's Meetings

Write these into your diaries – the next meeting will be on Thursday 16th June – we are asking WCC workers to speak.

Following this, the next planned meeting will be on Thursday 1st September – we are asking a couple of WCC Councillors to speak.

More details to follow.....

Terry Scoble
Treasurer – Wellington Central
Phone (04) 4616 399 e-Mail: terrys@xtra.co.nz

Changes to Funding of Super Gold Card Travel

From: Grey Power Federation 29 Feb 2016

Associations and their members will be aware of the Government's move to change the funding mechanism for Super Gold Card (SGC) travel and to make other changes to the administration and operation of this scheme.

Several areas of this proposal have caused concern to Grey Power. These include a cap on funding for five years (CPI adjustment only); the potential for cost transfer from central Govt. to regional councils, and the potential impact of the requirement to use electronic ticketing on the universality of the scheme.

The relevant Federation Board Committees have been pursuing these issues on your behalf and will continue to do so. Actions taken and positions reached to date are as follows.

No loss of Access: During the October advocacy visit, this issue was discussed with the Minister, Simon Bridges, and we obtained an assurance that none of the changes will affect access. This is reflected in current documentation eg New Zealand Transport Authority (NZTA) allocation methodology principles "access of SGC holders to the scheme is not affected".¹

Funding allocation: NZTA has been tasked with developing a funding model in conjunction with regional councils, Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) and other stakeholders. We will be making a submission to NZTA as major stakeholder on your behalf. We are also in contact with LGNZ and various regional councils throughout the country to ensure our view point is heard. NZTA's preferred option does give more money to the regions at the expense of the main

¹ Engagement on the development of a sustainable SuperGold funding allocation pg 5 principles

centres, which together with the lifting of the moratorium on new services could help address the concern about the lack of services there. However it will be down to local associations to lobby for those services within their area.

Cost transfer: We understand from regional councils that NZTA's proposed option for funding allocation has allayed some concerns regarding cost transfer, and one that provision has now been made for increased funding above CPI if "robust data and evidence is provided to support the need".²

Electronic card requirement: One of our main concerns has been that the requirement for the use of an electronic ticket could undermine the universality of the SGC travel scheme, and add considerable end user cost. To date the Ministry of Transport (MoT) have softened the original proposal to introduce this requirement immediately, to the extent that it is now up to Regional Councils when this requirement is introduced. Our concern is that their change is more to do with the practicalities of implementation for regional councils than an attempt to address the problem of universality.

We will raise this issue specifically with the Minister, and will also continue to advocate directly with MoT on this point.

We would ask that all associations also lobby their regional councils to ensure that mandatory electronic ticketing is delayed until obtaining one is possible for visitors before they need one eg at the airport, station etc and that there is no requirement to keep a cash balance. This is particularly relevant for Auckland associations and members.

We will notify you all of any further issues or progress as and when it occursⁱ

² Engagement on the development of a sustainable SuperGold funding allocation pg 4 Background



Rt Hon Winston Peters

New Zealand First Leader
Member of Parliament for
Northland

6 April 2016

GOVERNMENT PLOTTING TO KILL OFF SUPERGOLD CARD

The much-loved SuperGold Card, carried by over 640,000 Kiwis, is in peril, says New Zealand First.

"There's been an attempt to erode it for several years by the National government – now it is trying to score a fatal blow," New Zealand First Leader Rt Hon Winston Peters said today.

Mr Peters took a train from Petone into Wellington in defence of the card and at Wellington railway station said he had been inundated by phone calls and emails from cardholders who fear the end of their free

transport, instigated in 2007 to fill empty seats in off-peak hours.

"With the government requiring the card to be absorbed into smart cards from July 1, and a lid put on funding, it's likely that the SuperGold Card concession will eventually disappear.

"It is being targeted at a time when baby boomers are reaching retirement – at the rate of 29,000 a year.

"They could miss out on free transport after a lifetime of work and paying tax while over 80,000 parent immigrants receive NZ Super after 10 years, and free hospital care and other public services from the moment they arrive. How is that fair to hard working Kiwis?

"National has a low regard for Seniors. First they stopped new bus, training and ferry operators joining the scheme while they dragged out a review of the transport concession for five years, then they put a lid on SuperGold Card funding and shifted responsibility to regional councils who fear having to top it up.

'Ratepayers may be forced to dip into their pockets. It will only be a matter of time before councils and transport operators pull out of the scheme.

tell the government – fund the SuperGold Card the way it should be and stop attacking us," says Mr Peters.

"Free off-peak public transport for seniors is being eroded by stealth. Senior citizens must fight back and

SUPERGOLD CARD: Stop Tampering with it!

Tell this Government to stop downgrading the Gold Card.

Please print this petition and sign it and return it to L W Findlay P O Box 5477 Palmerston North.

Please share this with all your friends.

(Make a Petition Form – use an A4 page, landscape. Set it out as follows ☺)

To the House of Representatives

We the undersigned, respectfully request that the House of Representatives examine the capped bulk funding model to ensure SuperGold Card free off-peak public transport scheme is adequately funded and appropriately resourced by central government.

(Fit this table to the landscape page. Add as many lines as you need to fill the page):

NAME	SIGNATURE	EMAIL ADDRESS [SEE BELOW]

(Add this at the bottom):

By writing your email address, which is optional, you specifically consent that the organiser may communicate with you on SuperGold Card issues and/or share your email address with other groups and organisations campaigning on SuperGold Card issues.

Please send to L W Findlay, P O Box 5477, Palmerston North, by the 31st of May 2016

(This is the end of the page).

OR: go to our website to download a pdf copy of the page.

Powers of Attorney

Appointing an enduring power of attorney is second only to having a will in ensuring that personal, legal and financial affairs are kept in order according to your wishes. Making a power of attorney is a straight forward procedure and could, possibly, be handled by your lawyer as an adjunct to other work such as a will revision at minimal cost. It is important however that you choose your attorney very carefully. Remember that should the PoA have to be invoked that the person/s named will have complete control in the case of incapacity and should be absolutely trustworthy.

Do you Need to Review and Update your Will?

When did you last review your will? As you grow older and your situation changes it is important for you to ensure that your will continues to be a reflection of how you want your estate to be dealt with. Changes in personal circumstances such as divorce, partner death or additions to family could be good reasons for a review. Or it may be that you are entering into a new relationship that will result in agreements at variance with your existing will. Changes in your personal

circumstances or a change of heart are further reasons for reviewing and updating your will. And even if you have none of these things you should still review it every three to four years.

Time to get Your Free Flu Protection

**Influenza.
Don't get it.
Don't give it.
Get
immunised.**

If you are aged 65 years or over, you should consider getting your annual influenza immunisation – it's available free for you from your doctor or nurse from March until the end of July.

Influenza or 'the flu' isn't just a 'bad cold'. It is a serious disease that can put people of any age or state of health in bed for a week or more, lead to complications such as pneumonia or organ failure, a stay in hospital, or even death. As you age the risk from influenza complications increases, no matter how fit or healthy you think you are. For advice about influenza immunisation visit www.fightflu.co.nz or call 0800 IMMUNE. The influenza vaccine is a prescription medicine. Talk to your doctor or nurse today about the benefits and possible risks.

More Information about Influenza:

Influenza or 'flu can be a serious illness – it's more than a "bad cold". Anyone can catch it – even the fit and healthy.

Influenza Symptoms	Cold Symptoms
Sudden onset of illness. Moderate to severe illness lasting 7-10 days	Mild illness
Fever (usually high)	Mild fever
Headache (may be severe)	Mild headache (congested sinuses)
Dry cough may become moist	Sometimes a cough
Muscle aches	Muscle aches uncommon
Shivering	A runny nose
Bed rest necessary	
Can suffer severe complications (e.g. pneumonia)	

The influenza virus spreads easily and can be anywhere. It could be coming from a colleague's cough or sneeze, hiding on a shopping trolley or waiting on the bus or your friends may be carrying it.

Influenza Facts

- Influenza isn't just a bad cold – it can be serious and can kill
- A human sneeze can contain millions of individual influenza viruses
- Influenza virus can remain in the air, or on surfaces, for some time, so it can be very difficult to avoid
- More than 200,000 New Zealanders contract influenza each year. Of these, it's estimated that approximately 400 people will die either directly or indirectly as a result of influenza
- More than a million Kiwis get annual influenza immunisation
- Immunisation helps prepare your immune system to fight influenza
- Influenza vaccination is moderately effective. It cannot guarantee you will not catch flu but has been shown to significantly reduce disease and time off work.
- You cannot get influenza from the vaccine
- Influenza immunisation is FREE for those most at risk of complications from influenza.

GL Wellington Central: MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL

Address:		Phone No:	
		Mobile Ph:	
		Post Code:	
Email:		Date of Birth:	
Subscription for year:	Apr 2016—March 2017	Individual (\$15)	Couple (\$20)
Donation: \$		(Amount) \$	
<p><i>Payable by Cash or cheque to "Wellington Central Grey Power" (attach to this form)</i> <i>Or: pay by Internet Banking to Kiwibank, A/c 38-9008-0407615-00</i> (Please include your name and/or membership number in banking details and send this form to PO Box 13-755 Johnsonville)</p>			
I am interested in helping: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Giving a lift to a member in my area to meetings • Helping with phoning members reminding them of meetings • Working on the Committee Anything else?		Do you want to receive promotional material? YES / NO	
PLEASE NOTE: Processing of your application cannot be completed until such time as the payment (by cheque, cash, or direct credit) has been received			