



Grey Power Wanganui Inc Newsletter

Affiliated to Grey Power New Zealand (Inc)

www.greypower.co.nz

'President Don's Report'...

Greetings to all Grey Power members

As the Grey Power movement enters the fourth decade of its existence, it is worth thinking back to 1986 when a large group of disaffected superannuitants in central Auckland held meetings in packed halls and marched in the streets to protest at the iniquitous surtax which had been imposed on them by the Muldoon government. The surtax was finally removed five years later by which time the membership had grown to 100,000.

Grey Power has now matured into an organisation whose membership aims and objectives are very much the same as they have always been but which is now welcoming younger folk to come on board in the expectation that they will in time assume the mantle of leadership at association level to replace long-serving committee members.

Mailing of voting papers for the local body elections will commence on **16 September**. Grey Power and the Ratepayers Association are supporting the Wanganui Chronicle to host meetings of candidates in the Concert Chamber on **7, 8 and 15 September** which will be chaired by Editor Mark Dawson. Be sure you do your homework and vote for those who have the skills and experience to acquit themselves well in local government.

I trust that you are all wintering well. Spring is not far way!

Kind regards

Don Burney
President



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WEBSITE REFERENCE

Grey Power Wanganui's own:
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www.greypower.co.nz

No liability is accepted for the contents of
this newsletter which is prepared in good
faith

☺☺☺ NEXT MEMBERS' GENERAL MEETING ☺☺☺

THURSDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER COMMENCING AT 2.00 PM

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH
CORNER WICKSTEED AND DUBLIN STREETS

GUEST SPEAKER:

MR KYM FELL, CEO
WHANGANUI DISTRICT COUNCIL

Donations of tinned food for FOODBANK will be very much appreciated

LOCAL BODY ELECTIONS SPECIAL - (Radar has rambled on)

Many of you will have noticed the absence of one name from the nominations. It is of course that of **Sue Westwood QSM** who has decided not to seek re-election. Accordingly, Grey Power takes this opportunity to acknowledge the huge contribution Sue has made to local body governance since as far back as 1981. In summary her record reads:

1981-1989 Councillor (Otamatea Ward) - Waitotara County Council
1995-2016 Wanganui District Council a total of **30**years!!

In that time Sue has chaired most of Wanganui District Council's committees, including the Positive Ageing Forum, and has capably served on a wide range of organisations as council appointee. She chaired the Wanganui Regional Community Polytechnic board from 2000 to 2002 and the PowerCo Wanganui Trust for a number of years. Sue has a particular aptitude for, and knowledge of, the regulatory process by which all local bodies are bound and her ability to articulate that knowledge will be difficult to replace. She is Patron of Relay for Life and holds a Rotary Paul Harris Fellowship. Thank you **Sue Westwood QSM** for your outstanding service to our community.

CANDIDATE PROFILES

The profiles in this newsletter are all from Grey Power members to whom invitations to participate were extended.

POINTS TO BE AWARE OF

Whanganui District Council and Horizons Regional Council – both operate under the 'first past the post' system. This means that you can vote for the number of candidates as stipulated on the voting paper. However, you can vote for a fewer number if you wish.

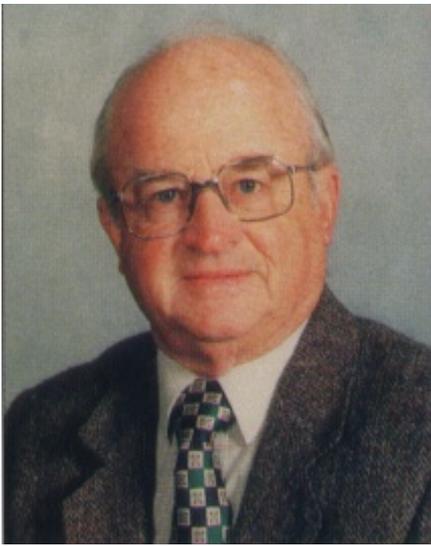
Whanganui District Health Board – the STV system requires more from the voter. Whether or not you vote for the full number of candidates stipulated on the voting paper you **must rank your selections in order of preference**. In past elections, too many voting papers have been invalidated through inattention to the instructions. Let's make a real effort to do it right this time!!

UPCOMING MEETING ON 15 SEPTEMBER

The Council's new Chief Executive has been able to find an hour or so in his busy work schedule to talk to us about the role of Local Government in the Community. For those who have not met Kym Fell, it is a great opportunity which ought not to be missed. Please make every effort to attend.

RETIREMENT VILLAGE SEMINAR

A free seminar for people thinking about living in retirement villages will be held on **28 September** at the **RSA Club** commencing at **10.30 am**. These events help people get practical tips and advice so they can make informed decisions before committing. They are run by the Commission for Financial Capability with support from the Retirement Villages Association and experienced lawyers. Each session is 90 minutes long and there is plenty of time for questions. Refreshments are provided. **You must register by telephoning 0800 268 269 – don't leave it to the last minute!!**



GRAHAM ADAMS

Candidate for Whanganui District Health Board

I was previously a member of the board at the time of the rebuild of the acute services and theatre block at Whanganui Hospital in 2004 and am now keen to represent the community again.

Currently, I am a board member of Age Concern Wanganui, treasurer of Grey Power Wanganui, treasurer of the New Zealand Council of Elders, and a trustee for 30 years of the Akoranga Education Trust which will soon recommence making grants to UCOL students. I am also Chairman of the Ratepayers Association which position I intend relinquishing at the 2017 annual general meeting.

Through my involvement with Grey Power for 15 years and Age Concern 4 years I am acutely aware of the absolute need to retain all the existing services our first class hospital provides. I am also conscious of the need for much more Government funding for the ever-increasing demands for elective surgery procedures that our ageing community requires.

The retirement of long serving board members Kate Joblin and Allan Anderson reduces significantly the knowledge base of the board. I am confident of being able to rapidly get to grips with present day procedures and processes and be an effective contributing member in short order. I pledge to prepare well and attend all meetings having studied all the voluminous papers which are routinely distributed beforehand.

Thank you for your support.

Graham Adams No.1!!



CHARLIE ANDERSON

Candidate for District Council & District Health Board

I am standing for my second term as WDC Councillor and first term for the District Health Board.

I have to admit my first term in council was pretty untidy. I was out of my depth actually, I got growled at by the Mayor on several occasions for using unsavoury words in the chamber, -not the done thing- very little help was offered the newbies which I found quite disappointing. With the exception of Sue Westwood's help when we needed it, we were pretty much hung out to dry.

I can't imagine the carnage for example if we had a new mayor and 12 new councillors sitting around the table, so to lose someone of Sue's experience and knowledge is a disaster in my opinion. Her in-depth knowledge of process will be very difficult to replace.

During my first term I voted against the "H" twice. On the first vote the "H" lost 7-6. Considering the referendum which clearly had the community against the "H" that should have been the end of it, but no, 16 days later we were back again. That vote went 10-3 in favour. I wonder who got at whom. Perhaps the most controversial thing, that has happened in Wanganui's history in modern times. Some of my colleagues say "get over it". I can't, I am still a bit stunned by it actually, especially when I hear and see the TV news and weather every night.

I was the ONLY councillor who voted against the 40 plus million dollar Waste Water Treatment Plant initially, but in time Cr Vinsen and Cr Baker-Hogan came on board, sadly we didn't have the numbers and the final vote went 8-3 in favour of this massive spend. I find it incredible that this council engaged Massey University to carry out a study to see if this spend was affordable, they came back with "the poor can't afford it but the rich can". I could have given that advice for free! If it must be I will do all I can to support the best price for this community. Don't get me wrong, my colleagues are all good people, and have supported some very good things that I am passionate about for this city, -keeping open and upgrading the Wanganui East Pool, and unanimously supporting the flight school are just two examples.

RATES. I live just across the boundary in the Rangitikei district. My opponents say because of

that I have no interest in rates in Wanganui. My Daughter and Son in Law own several quality rental houses in Wanganui, so yes, I have a very keen interest in keeping our city's rates as low as possible. Rates are the biggest concern for people in any city and we must keep them affordable. But if we want to continue the level of service we enjoy in Wanganui, we MUST increase our population to share the load. In saying that, the number of people moving here is increasing, but there is more to do.

Why stand for the WDHB? I am a pioneering air ambulance helicopter pilot from the 1970's. The growth in this industry is incredible in terms of technology and necessity and although part of this industry I make no claim to having helped plan its incredible growth, but was simply swept along by the technology surrounding it. What happened in those days? Patients were strapped on the outside of our helicopters or slung below for extended periods of time. We considered this normal practise and it was. I couldn't see any change into the future, but boy did it happen. In 1996 I was awarded the Queens Service Medal for my efforts in SAR and air ambulance services.

My greatest concern with all these wonderful advances in technology, medicine and services, is that some accountants, lawyers, academics and politicians who probably weren't even born when all this stuff started being developed, have the power to destroy whatever they have the will to destroy with the stroke of a pen. The Maternity service at Wanganui base hospital was nearly lost, but was saved by an astute board. Palmerston North's great little privately operated air ambulance service was destroyed with the stroke of a pen, that work now being carried out from a publicly subsidised Wellington service at huge extra cost. If I can help stop one small part of this destruction I will be happy. If I can help grow these services I will be even happier. I could go on but Mr Adams only gave me a little space here!!

So good luck with "your" upcoming elections, and remember vote strategically. I am only one voice in the wilderness, let's leave this wonderful city a better place for our Kids.



JEREMY AUSTIN

Candidate for Horizons Regional Council

I was born and educated in Wanganui; my wife and I have been farming in the Fordell District for 38 years.

I am asking for your support in the upcoming elections.

Horizons has a budget of millions of dollars; it is a serious business and needs experienced people to run it.

I have that experience, having served on a considerable number of Boards and organisations both in Wanganui and throughout New Zealand, some of which include as a Director of The NZ Meat Board, Chairman of Whanganui College Board of Trustees (Collegiate and St Georges Schools) and Director of Waitotara Farmers Holding (Waitotara Meat Company) and it was in this latter capacity that I started a long and fruitful relationship with Rod Pearce and after discussions with him he suggested I put my name forward.

I served as an officer in the New Zealand Army TF for 6 years.

Currently I am Chairman of the Whangaehu-Mangawhero River Committee for Horizons.

Standing under the Rates Restraint banner with David Cotton is important because we believe a joint approach will give Wanganui better representation.

I am aware that many of our ratepayers are hurting and I pledge to look after the most vulnerable in our community.

I am not a member of any Political Party and am funding this campaign myself

SUPPORT US SO WE CAN SUPPORT YOU

Authorised by Jeremy Austin, Private Bag 3603, Wanganui



RANGI M WILLS

Candidate for Whanganui District Council and Whanganui District Health Board

History is the best judge of character. Wanganui bred and schooled. Served 34 years in the NZ Fire Service. Held senior office rank for 26 years. Served 6 years as the Director of Planning and Operations for the NZ Fire Service Commission. Responsibilities nationally, corporate business, operational planning and auditing operational, financial and business efficiency with oversight of a \$170 million annual budget.

My governance experience includes: National Casino Control Authority, Whanganui District Health Board also chaired Risk and Audit committee, 4th term Wanganui District Council (served one term as Deputy Mayor). NZ Fire Service Commission also serving on the Risk and Audit Committee, \$350m annual Budget, PowerCo Trust Board, Hospice Wanganui Board, Wanganui Regional Museum Joint Council and Tikanga Maori House committee. Wanganui Education Trust, Grey Power Wanganui Board.

I am a Justice of the Peace (JP) and a Member of the Institution of Fire Engineers (England)

I am also a committee member of a number of other local organisations.

My promise is to ensure the efficient and effective management of our district without imposing a huge burden on ratepayers and future generations.

Authorised by Rangi M Wills, 41a Putiki Drive, Wanganui.



DAVID COTTON

Candidate for Horizons Regional Council

Firstly, thank you for the opportunity to represent you over the past three years.

I am seeking re-election and ask for your support.

I have been transparent on how and why I voted on issues plus made myself available to you, throughout the past 3 years, not just in election year.

Rate Restraint is the number one issue for me, knowing the difference between best practice and good practice, needs versus wants, and how to deliver quality services at a price our community can afford.

Horizons is a \$40 million business with \$350 million of assets serving 220,000 people in our region. I have the right experience to manage and understand a balance sheet, have demonstrated balanced decision making, Environmental, Social, plus Economic values.

I do not believe in party politics and have self-funded my election campaign.

Built relationships with all stake holders including other councillors as you need seven votes to change policy.

Being a councillor is not a singles game, I have shown this ability; don't take my word for it ask members of Wanganui District Council, Iwi, and the Rural Community Board.

Importantly I would like to acknowledge Councillor Rod Pearce for the outstanding work and commitment he has made to our region

I will continue to work hard to ensure we have an affordable region to live work and play.

SUPPORT US SO WE CAN SUPPORT YOU

Thank You

Authorised by David Cotton, PO Box 427, Wanganui



JUDITH MacDONALD

Candidate for Whanganui District Health Board

Judith has been an elected member of the WDHB board for two terms since being elected in 2010. She is an experienced governor and in a good position to challenge health decision making and contribute to health strategy given she has 35 years experience working in the health sector in a variety of leadership and clinical positions across the Whanganui region.

Born and raised in the Taihape district and educated in Wanganui, Judith started her local nursing career at Taihape Hospital as a Charge Nurse before moving to Whanganui 18 years ago to take up a senior management position at Whanganui Hospital. In 2003 she supported the general practice leaders to develop a PHO (Primary Health Organisation) for the Whanganui district and has led this organisation (now Whanganui Regional Health Network) as their Chief Executive since July 2003.

Judith is an experienced governor and in addition to being an elected member WDHB is a Director of Whanganui Accident and Medical, Gonville Health, Taihape Health and a past Director of Life to the Max and Whanganui Womens Refuge.

Her interest in the health needs of vulnerable people and children has resulted in numerous leadership roles such as Deputy Chair WDHB Community and Public Health Advisory Committee, Chair WDC Pensioner Housing Advisory Committee, Chair Local Cancer Network, Chair Collaborative Clinical Director Forum and Chair Whanganui Childrens Team Governance Group.

Her experience of the health sector locally and national is critical to influencing health policy locally. She is a keen campaigner for the hospital and primary care sectors to be 'knitted together' better to ensure a better patient journey with no risk of people falling through the gaps.

Judith is supported in this community by her father Ron, husband Bruce, daughter, son in law and two gorgeous grandsons.



ALAN TAYLOR

**Candidate for
Mayor and District Council**

BEYOND 2030 TEAM

Alan is a fifth-generation Westmere grain farmer, married to Bronwyn with three adult children.

Alan attended Wanganui High School, he lectured and graduated from Massey University (post-graduate honours), then studied and lectured in Canada.

He has chaired the New Zealand Grains Council and served at board level on the Foundation for Arable Research, the Arable Food Industry Council, and Federated Farmers New Zealand.

Locally, he has been involved in junior rugby, Westmere School activities, Wanganui Provincial Federated Farmers, and the Rural Community Board, chairing it for the past six during which he was Council's appointee from the Board. He is a qualified Resource Management Commissioner, Bushy Park Trust Board member, and community representative on MSD's Regional Benefits Review Committee.

Alan's passion is to foster recognition of Whanganui District's urban/rural interdependence.

Authorised by A Taylor 28 Blueskin Road, Whanganui



DAVID BENNETT

**Candidate for
District Council**

BEYOND 2030 TEAM

David has lived and worked in Whanganui his entire life. He attended Wanganui Technical College then studied to become a qualified accountant.

In 1982 he and wife Marion purchased the safety helmet factory which became Pacific Helmets, now a major innovative Whanganui employer producing helmets sold in over 90 countries and worn by millions preventing injury and death.

David is well recognised for his recent community activities, including the Tech Centennial Reunion Committee, restructuring the City Mission, and seismic upgrading of the Westmere Memorial Presbyterian Church. David is a church Elder and was recently awarded an ONZM by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

The Bennett family are passionate about Whanganui's future.

Authorised by David Bennett, 21 Sandcroft Drive, Whanganui



MURRAY CLEVELAND

**Candidate for
District Council**

BEYOND 2030 TEAM

Murray is 58 years of age, married to Shelly with three adult children.

Murray attended Wanganui High School then trained in civil engineering with Ministry of Works and Development. Primarily, he was involved in roading projects, qualifying as a Registered Engineering Associate.

In 1994 he established TestLab Wanganui and continues to provide contract Materials Testing Services, Training and Consultancy across the lower North Island.

Between 1992 and 2008 Murray was elected to school trustee boards at primary and secondary levels serving four terms as Chairman. Since 1999 Murray has been involved with youth training via NZ Cadet Forces, being Unit Commander 2007 – 2009.

Murray is passionate about sustainable growth for Wanganui and utilising Wanganui resources to make this happen.

Authorised by Murray Cleveland, 9 Tarata Street, Wanganui



GRAEME YOUNG

**Candidate for
District Council**

BEYOND 2030 TEAM

Graeme has resided in Wanganui for over 40 years, is married to Sheila, with three adult children and five grandchildren.

Graeme is a Consulting Professional Engineer. A director of Payne Sewell Ltd, he was responsible for a wide range of infrastructural projects for Local Authority and Government organisations, locally and internationally.

Graeme has held a number of positions in sporting administration; he is a former Chairman of Wanganui Cricket, Central Districts Cricket Association and served for a period on the NZ Cricket Board of Control. He is a former Chairman of Sport Wanganui.

Graeme's passion is to ensure that Wanganui remains an attractive city for those residing here.

“WHANGANUI BEYOND 2030: Inspiring future growth”

Authorised by Graeme Young, 22 Sandcroft Drive, Wanganui



KATE JOBLIN

Candidate for Whanganui District Council

I am very committed to Whanganui, so after eleven years serving on the DHB, standing for Council seemed a logical next step. I come with no particular axe to grind other than a strong desire to keep our community's interests at the heart of Council business.

Council operates in a complex environment – and we need to manage that. We must get the basics right by taking a common sense approach and be clear about Council's goals. Also balance the needs of our community today with looking to the future. Having good relationships with our partners is a priority, because strong relationships will be critical to serving our community well.

I grew up here and with my husband have raised six children. With parents, children and young grandchildren here, I am passionate, proud and committed to Whanganui.

I fiercely want Whanganui to succeed – but it must succeed for all of us.

Authorised by Kate Joblin, 19 St Oswalds Drive RD 1, Whanganui



Upcoming Events

Save the Date!

Enduring Power of Attorney Info Session	September TBC
Volunteer Celebration	13 Oct 2016
Senior Driving Programmes	from November
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ROB VINSEN

Candidate for Whanganui District Council

GREETINGS to all GREY POWER MEMBERS from Cr Rob Vinsen

“Fighting for the ratepayer “ best describes my focus if I am re-elected.. Next term, the ratepayer is going to need someone with experience in their corner.

The Three Key Issues this Election :

- **Replacing the failed Wastewater Treatment Plant**

While I understand that the subject of replacing the failed Wastewater Treatment Plant is one that many would like to brush aside for more “positive” subjects like “More Tourism” “ More Marketing”, “More Events” “More Arts” etc they do so at their peril. This plant will suck \$107M out of the local economy over the next 25years. It threatens to leave nothing available for the “nice to haves” that we all wish to enjoy in our community.

Currently rates are planned to increase 15.2% over the next three years if the \$41.2M Wastewater Plant is built, and debt is programmed to reach \$130M – up from the current \$76M. This must not happen...there is another option put forward by MWH Global costing \$12.8M but only the election of like minded councillors will ensure that this option is considered.

- **Lowering the cost of Council**

I identified cost savings in 15/16 of \$1m and in 16/17 \$500,000 and I advocated for these during the rate setting process. I will continue to do that if I am re-elected.

- **Lack of growth in our economy and rating base**

Wanganui has an impressive range of community, cultural, and sporting facilities. We must maintain this infrastructure and leave them in good shape for the enjoyment of our community and our future generations. The costs of doing this will continue to inflate, but if the rating base does not grow also, the burden on the ratepayer keeps rising. Growing this rating base is a priority for me, and I will continue to take an active role in projects that will offer Wanganui a better future ie the Whanganui Port Redevelopment, locating Satellite Recycling Drop Off Centres in the suburbs., and relocating the Commercial Pilot Training Academy from it's Feilding base to the Wanganui Airport.

In seeking your support for third consecutive term , I offer you this experience, and a full commitment to you and our city.

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Our Objectives

In recent years there
has been a lack of
effective leadership...

**WHANGANUI
BEYOND 2030**
INSPIRING FUTURE GROWTH



The Whanganui
Beyond 2030 team
is ambitious for Whanganui.

We want the whole region -
city and rural to prosper and grow.

Let's do it!!

AUTHORISED BY DAVID BENNETT
21 SANDCROFT DRIVE, WHANGANUI