“Sign of the Times”

In a vet’s office:
“Unattended children given a free kitten.”
Parking lot outside vet’s office:
“Parking for customers only, others will be neutered.”
In a Veterinarians waiting room:
“Be back in 5 minutes. Sit! Stay!”
Billboard on the side of the road:
“Keep your eyes on the road and stop reading these signs.”
On a fence:
“Salesmen welcome – dog food is expensive.”
Outside a muffler shop:
“No appointment necessary, we’ll here you coming.”

Next Meetings
February 26th
March 25th
April 22nd AGM
May 27th
June 24th Dinner.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is published in good faith and has been derived from sources believed to be reliable and accurate. However, neither the Grey Power New Zealand Federation Inc, nor any person involved in the preparation of this publication accepts any form of liability whatsoever for its contents, including editorials, advertisements, opinions, advice or information, or for any consequences for its use. Grey Power New Zealand Federation Inc is a non-political organization with no affiliation to any political party or political group.

Two men were walking home after a Halloween party and decided to take a shortcut through the cemetery just for laughs. Right in the middle of the cemetery, they were startled by a tap-tap-tapping noise coming from the misty shadows. Trembling with fear, they found an old man with a hammer and chisel, chipping away at one of the headstones.

“Holy cow, Mister,” one of them said, after catching his breath, “You scared us half to death! We thought you were a ghost!”

“Those fools!” the old man grumbled. “They missed my name!”

“Keep your eyes on the road and stop reading these signs.”
In a no smoking area:
“If we see smoke, we will assume you are on fire and take appropriate action.”

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Presidents Report
November 28th 2011 Issue 8

PRESIDENTS REPORT
November 2011

Well the Politicians have really let the cat out of the bag re the retirement age being shifted from 65 to 67 in year 2020 and then on a sliding scale for thirteen years. I think that if we are all honest with our selves we knew that with the baby boomers coming on around year 2020 the government were going to have to do something or they would be struggling to pay a decent pension to all of us. So now we will all have to put our thinking caps on to make sure that one and all are treated alike and not dumped into the to hard basket and left there to rot and starve like paupers. Maybe we will have to stand fast on this subject and all pull together and work together to make sure that one and all are treated fairly.

There will be people who can probably work till they are 69 or 70 but on the other hand there will probably those who have worked all their life in a heavy manual job and their bodies are spent by the time that they get to 50 or 55 and these people also have to be accounted for on a invalids pay if their bodies are in poor shape and medically have to take early retirement and all of these different cases must also be on an automatic increase strapped to the C.P.I. each six months or yearly.

Now as I close this my last report for the year I am sorry to have painted you a glum picture but we must not go about with rose tinted glasses on.

In answer to a question about superannuitants and overseas travel at our August 22nd meeting.

Going Overseas? Always tell WINZ if you are going overseas. If you don’t tell WINZ and your payments continue, you may have to pay back the money you received after you left New Zealand. You may still be able to get your NZ Super, but it is best to call Specialised Processing Services on 0800 77 227 to find out.

Please ask for “Retired and Going Overseas” brochure for more details.

This was taken from New Zealand Superannuation brochure. – SUPE0001- April 2011.

Many thanks to those members who supplied the information regarding these two above items.

~Mark Twain~
July 25th Trevor Wilson

Trevor Wilson from STAR Special Technology and Resources Mobility & Disability Centre, had a display of many various items of aids for those with varying degrees of disability. Some small and some large, from big handled peelers, items to help with opening jars or cans, bathroom-kitchen-mobility-jug tippers – special computer keyboards plus many other helpful utensils at reasonable prices, which some people took advantage of. to walkers and scooters, which were outside in the van should any one want to see them. There was a full comprehensive of helps and for more information visit the store at 219 Collingwood Street Hamilton or www.starmobility.co.nz or 0800-839-2800. At the beginning of the talk he gave out brochures explaining about STAR. One of them had 3 stickers on and that resulted in a prize of a Travel Buddy that went to George Wardlaw. They will give a full scooter service every six months for $40 and no charge for travel if there is a group booking of 4 or more. One of our members was quoted $2000 for repairs to her scooter and Star did the repairs for $505. Hire equipment is also available.

August 22nd Don McLeod

Don McLeod from the Matamata/Piako Council gave apologies from Hugh Vercoe as he had another appointment. Don came to talk to us about the councils Long Term Plans for the next 10 years, and to seek our input about what we think. 6 questions are being asked in many different ways. 1. How much are you willing to pay? 2. Rates. Keep the rating system as it is, or change to a more user pays system, or make rates more tax based? 3. Supporting economic growth. 4. Growth who should pay? 5. Paying for our roads. 6. Water from the tap is not free. We need a consent to take it. b. dams to store it. c. infrastructure to pass it around.

September 26th

Political forum comprising NZ First Barbara Stewart, National Lindsay Tisch, Labour Kate Sutton, Greens Cameron Hunter. The same 5 Questions were asked of each of them.
1/ Income Equality
Cameron—wants to reduce the gap first $10,000 tax free, GST back to 12.5% Introduce property tax, raise minimum wage.
Kate—first $5000 tax free, minimum wage to $15, cut GST off fruit & veg.
Lindsay—grow the economy making provision for wages going up, tax for most is 17%, secondary employment is 21%. Barbara—economy is not good last 25 years have not been good, country needs to export more, national wealth for everyone including superannuitants.
2/ Power
Kate—Labour not to sell state assets, invest in renewable power generation.

Lindsay—asset sales, you can switch power companies to save on power, www.whatsmynumber.co.nz
Barbara—opposed to asset sales, expand Super Gold Card to give 10% off power operational by winter 2012.
Cameron—expensive to heat homes, privatized = not accountable, decent funding for disadvantaged citizens, increase funding for insulation.
3/ Food
Lindsay—GST in NZ is one of the simplest in the world, remove off food would be about $1 a week, universal, tax system, will NOT remove GST off food.
Barbara—GST should be removed from food, NZ price for NZ food should be de-linked from global prices, some of our food is 30% less to overseas consumers.
Kate—will remove GST from food they introduced rates rebate scheme.

Kate—will not take GST off rates they introduced rates rebate scheme.

5/ The Quality of Aged Care
Kate—should be built on dignity, respect, Labour will implement some of the concerns, minimum staffing levels, raise minimum wage to $15.
Cameron—health policy increased funding for aged care, all have a right to care, greater number of nurses in society, all new homes to be friendly for disabled.

Lindsay—funding has gone up $100 million plus $1.5 million into health budget, spot audits done on homes, 250 extra doc’s and nurses in Waikato, bond system to help new graduates to stay in hard to staff areas.
Barbara—aged care is an important area, since 2008 funding has fallen.

Several questions were then forthcoming from the floor to which each MP was given the opportunity to respond.

October 17th

Jan from the Matamata Country Lodge gave a very good account of how the lodge is run and how they care for the patients with either Alzheimers or Dementia. Lynn Pettigrew (we have seen Lynn earlier this year) also explained how Home Instead managed patients in the home.

I talk to myself because I like dealing with a better class of people.
~Jackie Mason~

Life

TO some life is a never-ending trial.
To others it is miracles each day.
Each often starts in identical circumstances.
One ends in a garden of delight.
The other ends in a pit of despair.

MEMBER PROFILE
Roy n Sue Cunningham (present secretary/treasurers) met and married in England in 1963. They have 2 English children and 2 NZ children and 9 grand children and 1 great grand child. They moved to New Zealand on June 14th 1971 after a serious motor accident for a better life for themselves and their 2 children. Roy worked as a Toolmaker/fitter for the ICI zip factory in Manurewa and Sue also worked in the zips assembling them until just 17 months after arrival in NZ came baby 3 then baby 4. Roy then applied to train as a Teacher at the Teachers training College in Auckland and was accepted and then began training in a “pressure cooker” Technology Teachers Course. Then began teaching at Bader Intermediate in Mangere. In 1985 Roy n Sue and the two latest arrivals went to England for 11 months on study leave. Then on arriving back in NZ Roy went back teaching and ended up at Manurewa Intermediate for 19+ years. Sue worked 4+ years at “Owls House” day care centre then at “The Baby Factory” for 5+ years and then moved to “Jolly Jumper”. On retirement in 2006 we sold up and moved to Morrinsville to be closer to our daughter and granddaughter and also for the quiet country life. We joined “Grey Power” a year later in September 2007. We have now been here 5 years and enjoy the area.

We love New Zealand and are happy we came here. This is our home and always will be.