



Grey Power Hamilton

Newsletter No 1 - July 2024

Advocacy group promoting the welfare and well-being for those citizens in the 50+ age group.

Dear Members

LOOKING AHEAD – WHERE TO FROM HERE

Hello I'm Robyn Bryant, secretary for Grey Power Hamilton Association.

My first newsletter for Grey Power Hamilton, I considered many things I could write about, but settled on telling you a little about what has transpired with our association these past few years.

By putting it in this newsletter, I hope to create clarity as to;

- Why things may not be happening, like being able to contact someone.
- The frustration that has arisen as a result of past events.

Many members will already be aware of the critical decision made by the previous committee of this organisation, who decided to put Grey Power Hamilton into recess. I wasn't at that meeting, but my understanding was, that the sitting committee did not stand for re-election and thereby, a new committee could not be formed.

And so, at a special meeting, back in September 2022, a group of dedicated members made the decision to resurrect Grey Power Hamilton Association from the ashes.

The journey back since then, and I cannot state it strongly enough, has not been an easy one. With records destroyed, finances in chaos, it has been a difficult time for the committee, to put this organisation back together for the members who have remained loyal to this association and we thank you for that loyalty.

So, looking ahead, where do we go from here.

- We have seen committee members come and go since 2022 and this makes putting a working team together difficult. But your committee today believe we are on the right track.
- Re-building the members data base of contact details posed a challenge that is still a work in progress.
- Learning to work in the new realm of the communication age.

New initiatives have seen the introduction of:

- **Pastoral Care.** Under the leadership of John Carlisle. John provides members with emotional support and all matters are dealt with, in confidence. Persons requiring this service can request a meeting with John – use the contact form on the association web site or on the Grey Power Hamilton association cell phone 021 173 2672, week days between 10am – 4pm. All conversations again are in complete confidence.

- **Event Organiser.** A new position on the committee under the guidance of Brigitte Watson. Brigitte will be striving to arrange interesting speakers and outings for members. We look forward to activities to involve all members.

Dealing with Technology.

- **Online banking** - In a short space of time our generation has had to cope with major changes in the way we pay our accounts with the move away from cheque accounts. We have had the introduction of phone banking (for some time now) but the move is now pushing toward full online banking. And for some, the move is quite scary as we are targeted by fraudsters, who prey on those whose abilities do not allow them to define the real from the fake and so these fraudsters take advantage of the vulnerable. If you require any assistance with any areas relating to online banking please ask. We will assist if we can, again in full confidence. Remember your bank will never ask you for your pin or password.
- **Communication** - The trend is toward using email for communication as a means to getting information out to members. The cost to post out mail continues to rise. As of 1st July 2024, the cost to mail a letter is \$2.30 and that doesn't include the envelope and printing costs. For an organisation like ours, these costs run into big figures, thus the need to have emails so we can communicate and get information out to you.
- **Phasing out of landlines** – yes this will come and a look at a white phone book shows that the trend is to do away with land-lines, with many already choosing to do so. Cell phones will be the norm for many from now on as we progress further into the age of technology.

Grey Power Electricity Some members have chosen to have their power provided through Grey Power. We do ask that when you are setting up your payees on your bank account, clearly clarify the name of the account into which you are making the online power payments. We still have a few paying power bills to the wrong account. We will of course always reverse incorrect funds paid into our account, back to you.

Membership Cards This has caused some concern for members and we have endeavoured to improve our systems. Couples may get only one membership card as both are under the same membership number. Both can use the card, but if you wish to have your own card, please ask and we will provide you with one.

In conclusion. Grey Power committee members are volunteers. They give a lot of their time to this organisation. We know frustrating matters can happen, but we ask that you consider the person you are speaking to and treat them with kindness at all times.

We welcome members feedback on any of the items in this newsletter, please email us at greypowerhamilton@gmail.com with your comments.

kindest Regards, Robyn