

**Kia ora koutou,**



It is a real honour to be the new Minister for Seniors. I'm looking forward to getting out and talking with you and finding out more about your issues and priorities.

As the MP for Hutt South, I have enjoyed developing strong relationships with local senior groups, they always keep me on my toes! I really look forward to expanding these relationships throughout the country.

My focus will be on advancing the priorities of the portfolio and continue to implement the Better Later Life – He Oranga Kaumātua Strategy.

I'm well aware that 'seniors' aren't a group of people who are all the same. Like all our population older people are increasingly diverse and government policies and services need to recognise that.

Over the next few months you will hear more from me and what I hope to achieve in the role during my tenure. I wish the outgoing Minister Dr Ayesha Verrall the very best, she has done an outstanding job in this role and I know she will bring a breadth of experience to her new role as Minister of Health.

Ngā mihi,  
Ginny Andersen  
Minister for Seniors

*Sourced: Office for Seniors*

## **Review of Retirement Villages Act begins in 2023**

In 2023 the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, working in partnership with the retirement sector, will begin a review of the Retirement Villages Act. This review will be part of the Ministry's wider housing work programme and a commitment to creating thriving communities where everyone has a place to call home.

The Retirement Villages Act 2003 (the Act) sets out obligations for retirement village operators and the rights of residents and anyone considering moving into a retirement village.

The Act has two main purposes:

- protecting the interests of residents and intending residents,
- to enable retirement villages to develop under a legal framework that is easy for residents, intending residents, and village operators to understand.

It's almost been 20 years since the Act and related regulations and codes were introduced and these have not been reviewed since. The review aims to address issues and strike a balance between the rights and responsibilities of residents and operators of retirement villages.

You can find out more about the review at <https://www.hud.govt.nz/our-work/your-rights-as-a-retirement-village-resident/>

*Sourced: Office for Seniors*

***Our Vision: Older people live a valued life in an inclusive society.***

## Free Staying Safe Driver Refresher course for older drivers



Has it been years since you have had a driving refresher course? Have some rules changed that you may not be aware of?

Are you now taking new medication that may or may not affect your driving?

Do you want to keep your driving skills for as long as possible?

If you answered yes to any of these things, then you should come along to our **FREE** driving refresher course for seniors!

The Staying Safe Course is a theory-based refresher course for seniors facilitated by local Age Concerns.

During the course participants will re-familiarise themselves with traffic rules and safe driving practices as well as increase their knowledge about other transport options available to help keep them mobile for as long as possible, whether behind the wheel or when they stop driving.

We want to keep our seniors in New Zealand safe and connected, so if you are interested in doing the driving course, please phone the office and we will book you in, 07 578 2631.

Alternatively, if you have already put your name down for the course, We will be in contact soon!



## Changes to dental assistance

From 1 December 2022, the Ministry of Social Development updated the Special Needs Grant for dental treatment.



The key changes include:

- up to \$1,000 through a Special Needs Grant can be used for dental treatment in a 52-week period. This is an increase from the previous amount of \$300 in a 52-week period.
- criteria for treatment through the Special Needs Grant is expanding from 'emergency' to 'immediate and essential need'. An outline of what is and isn't considered immediate and essential is on this dental treatment page.
- you can get more than one payment within a 52-week period, up to a total of \$1,000.

As an example, if you got help with a \$300 Special Needs Grant for dental treatment in July 2022 and you had an immediate need for essential dental treatment you could apply to receive up to \$700 from 1 December 2022. From July 2023 you would once again be entitled to up to \$1,000 for an immediate need for essential dental treatment.

For more information, visit the dental treatment page on the Work and Income website. <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/health-and-disability/dental-treatment.html>

**IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!**

**2023 / 2024 Subscriptions**

Age Concern Tauranga's Membership period is from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

To renew your membership or join as a new member, please complete the details on the back page of this Newsletter, cut it out and post to the address provided or call into the office.

**Eftpos** is available. Sorry, **no Credit Card** payments.

If you would like to pay online, our account details are:  
Age Concern Tauranga Inc | **03 0445 0172665 00**  
Please use your initial and surname as the reference.

Thank you for your continued support and welcome to our new members.





## Keeping you in the know on copper withdrawal

The way Kiwis connect to landline and broadband services is changing as our online habits evolve and new, more robust and reliable technologies come to light. As such, many of you will have heard about the withdrawal of copper services. For some, this has been concerning with many worried that their landline and broadband – which is often what medical alarms and home security rely on – will be switched off overnight.

The good news is that that won't happen and in fact, the transition will be gradual and take place over several years. Chorus, New Zealand's largest telecommunications infrastructure provider, can only withdraw copper services where fibre is available, and only having provided you with plenty of notice too. While copper has served us well for decades, it is subject to wear and tear and therefore degrades over time. What this transition is doing is future-proofing New Zealand's connectivity with new and improved technologies.

Fibre broadband, which is now available to 87% of New Zealanders, is the fastest, most reliable type of connectivity and it is able to support our growing telecommunications and broadband needs with plenty of room to spare.

It's important also to remember that you don't

need to give up your current phone number, landline, or access to broadband – the only thing that will change is the way these are connected and for some, you may be able to choose between several options, including fibre, fixed wireless, HFC cable, or satellite.

However, if you do not have access to an alternative to copper, perhaps you live in the more remote parts of Aotearoa, you will not be asked to move from your existing service – in fact, nothing will change for you, and Chorus will continue to ensure the copper lines serving you are well maintained.



- If Chorus or your service provider doesn't contact you about these changes, you're not affected.
- These changes are not happening overnight - instead they are being rolled out over several years, area by area.
- You can keep your existing phone number, landline and broadband. The way these are connected will just be upgraded to a more modern technology.

Sourced: Office for Seniors

## Daylight savings time ends — 2 April 2023

**Sunday, 2 April 2023**  
3am clocks are turned  
backward 1 hour to  
**Sunday 2 April 2023**  
2am standard time.



Age Concern Tauranga thank the following Funders and Sponsors for their continued support:



Tauranga District Stamp Club



## Regular and Monthly Events

### Monthly Meeting - March / April 2023

**Venue:** Tauranga Citizens Club, 13<sup>th</sup> Ave, upstairs. \$4pp refreshments provided.

**Start:** 10.00am to 11.00am. **All welcome.**

#### THURSDAY 30 MARCH 2023

**Speaker:** Legacy Funerals – Kiri Randall, General Manager **Topic:** Overview of Legacy, pre-arranging and pre-payment.

#### THURSDAY 27 APRIL 2023

**Speaker:** Here to Help U – Sarah Baldock and Amanda Gabb. **Topic:** Here to Help U service.

### Wednesday Walking Group Key Dates - meet at 10am unless advised

- 8 March:** Fraser Cove, Burger King
- 15 March:** Maungatapu Shops
- 22 March:** Eden Crescent, Brookfield off Millers Road (turn right into Saint Pauls Drive and turn left into Eden Crescent)
- 29 March:** Bayfair Shopping Centre, Farm St
- 5 April (9.30am Start):** Katikati Bird Gardens (carpool – meet at Bethlehem Road carpark)
- 12 April:** Sunny Bay Road, Matua (off Levers Road)
- 19 April:** Countdown Greerton
- 26 April:** St Stephens Church, Brookfield (off Brookfield Terrace)

### Coffee and Conversation 10.30am to 12.00pm

A monthly meet up and making **new friends** over a cuppa is a great way to staying connected in your community. For catering purposes, phone our office on 578 2631 to register. **Bring a friend, have fun!**

#### Brookfield – 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month

##### Wednesday 1 March, 5 April and 3 May

St Stephen's Methodist Church Hall, 9 Brookfield Terrace, Brookfield \$3.00pp

#### Greerton – 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month

##### Thursday 9 March, 13 April and 11 May

Greerton Senior Citizens Hall. 33 Maitland Street, Greerton. \$3.00pp

#### Mt Maunganui – 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month

##### Wednesday 15 March, 19 April and 17 May

Mt Maunganui RSA. 544 Maunganui Road, Mt Maunganui. \$3.00pp

#### Te Puke – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month

##### Tuesday 14 March, 11 April and 9 May

Citizens RSA Te Puke. 179 Jellicoe Street, Te Puke. \$5.00pp

### 500 Card Group - Mondays – except public holidays

Come along and learn with a friendly fun group from 9.30am to 11.30am held at our office. Gold coin donation. Light refreshments provided. All welcome.



### Age Concern Tauranga Membership Application

(Please accept our sincere thanks for your support)

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms \_\_\_\_\_

First Name

Surname

Street \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb \_\_\_\_\_ City/Town \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ D.O.B. \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

A receipt will only be sent if the box is ticked

Membership year runs from  
1st April to 31st March

Subscription per household \$25.00

Donation (Tax Deductible over \$5.00)

\$5  \$10  \$20  \$30  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Method of payment

- Cash
- Eftpos at office (sorry no credit card)
- Phone Banking
- Internet Banking - Westpac

Account : **Age Concern Tauranga**

Account No: **03 0445 0172665 00**

(Reference: full name/send in form or email)

- New member
- Existing member
- Receive Magazine/Newsletter by email