

In recent weeks, many communities across the country have faced incredibly tough weather events, and our hearts go out to all those affected.

Among the loss and disruption, we've also seen remarkable strength, neighbours helping neighbours, families supporting one another, and communities pulling together in inspiring ways. We're thinking of everyone still waiting for news of loved ones, and all those beginning the journey of rebuilding their homes, and lives. Stay strong, brighter days are ahead.

Centre Stage for SuperBlues

The 60+ age group moves to centre stage this year as the most significant voting bloc in electorates around the country as our political leadership prepares for the year end general election.

SuperBlues are readying for the challenge as opposition parties seek to whittle down National's popularity among our segment as the most responsible and careful steward of the public purse in times of economic stress.

Chair Colleen Singleton says the 60+ group is a "must target" section of the population for candidates. There are about 840,000 superannuitants, with 50,000 in retirement villages.

Majority support in this group can be vital to success. While it is currently strongly inclined to National, we are currently seeing renewed vigour from other parties in pursuing it."

She says regular morning or afternoon teas to which friends can be invited to mingle with supporters and meet candidates or Ministers can be strong catalysts for attracting fresh support. Attendance of candidates and sitting MPs at lunches



National Party Leader Christopher Luxon relaxing with Northcote SuperBlues.

especially organised by SuperBlue members are also helpful in drawing in new friends and supporters.

It may also be of benefit to establish telephone teams in Auckland, Hamilton and Christchurch to supplement the Wellington activities. Training resources in the capital can be utilised.

We have got to make 2026 our big year. We are thriving in Auckland with Co-ordinator Elizabeth McEwen doing sterling work around electorates and Lee Mathias working hard in policy forums.

With Christchurch Metro now in full swing, Wellington Metro having a full forward programme of activities and active groups in Southern, Nelson and within CNI the outlook is bright.

While political polls reflect a tightening contest between National and Labour entering the new year, we expect this will work in our favour. Community interest will be stirred in the likely outcome and more attention given to the positions on issues expressed by candidates within electorates.

Our positioning as the party that offers most hope for economic growth, political stability, and consistent export growth in the face of uncertain global geo-strategic developments provides our individual

Dial-a-Nat

The telephone team that Deputy-Chair James Austin regularly has with him on “Dial-a-Nat” duties at National House during Friday mornings achieved accolades from MPs for their pre-Christmas efforts. SuperBlues volunteers drawn from Wellington Metro were called on to prompt membership subscription renewals and draw in new members. James reports a high level of success. There is a clear groundswell of support for National now that the evidence of economic growth is starting to become apparent.

electorate candidates an excellent platform for handling local issues.

We enter the New Year on an optimistic note for the country, the party, businesses, and families who have found the past 12 months a stressful period while working out the economic and financial strains of the post- Covid years.

SuperBlues are a key element in National’s bid for a second term. We are up for the challenges ahead.



Wellington Metro SuperBlues enjoy their morning tea at a Friday morning telephone session checking in with Party members and likely recruits: From left: Mei Ho; Colleen Singleton; James Austin; Yew Mun Ho; Elizabeth Griffin; Digby Paape; Bill and Donas Nathan.

Annual Meeting and Change Ahead

The SuperBlues Annual General Meeting is set for Wellington’s Wilton Bowling Club on Thursday, 19 March, at 10 o’clock in the morning with preparations being made for members to attend by “Zoom”, that National Party members are unable to participate in any voting that may be held at the meeting. Voting must be IN PERSON only.

Important to note however that all National Party Financial members are entitled to attend in person and voting will be confined to those who are present in line with the Party’s Constitution and Rules.

Chair Colleen says she intends to step down from her position at the meeting after serving some nine years in succession to founder Bernardine Poole who, with Nancy MacDonald and Pam Finlayson, established SuperBlues in 2007.

Colleen says she is pleased to note the surge in development of SuperBlues over her term in office, with lively electorate and Metro branches established around the country during her term.

It is especially gratifying to see Canterbury Westland forging ahead with its Metro group in Christchurch. I would like to

pay tribute to Dr David Bromell, David Abbott and Jock Muir who played such a significant part in getting this group under way with a clear strategic plan for success in the area's electorates.

We are now in a strong position in most electorates around the country and there is a growing appreciation among MPs of the work that we can do in helping them achieve success on election day.

Colleen's position along with that of other SuperBlues' office holders will be up for election at the AGM.

Editorial Comment

SuperBlues Chair Colleen Singleton deserves the thanks of all National Party members for the work she has conducted to ensure the development and contribution of the group to the party's success. The seamless transition of stewardship from founder Bernardine Pool in 2017 was impressive, along with Colleen's willingness to take on at her own expense with James Austin regular visits to SuperBlues groups in various parts of the country. The formation of the Metro SuperBlues in Christchurch was a long-held dream.

The current executive is: National Chair, Colleen Singleton; Deputy-Chair, James Austin; Secretary, Marion Clark; Treasurer, Graeme Sugden; Policy, Lee Mathias; Communications, Bruce Kohn; Regional representatives, Elizabeth McEwen, Auckland; Neville Fursdon, CNI; Tim Skinner, LNI; Jock Muir, Canterbury-Westland; Vacancy, Southern. All except Colleen have signalled their willingness to stand again this year.

Nominations can be forwarded to Colleen (csgnis@gmail.com) by Monday, 16 March.

Colleen's strong background of organisation with regulatory authorities, knowledge of strategic planning, appreciation of the subtleties and twists and turns of political life along with her commitment to voluntary work on behalf of "people" needs were of immense value to SuperBlues. We have always advocated involvement with Grey Power. Colleen took it to a new level by achieving the Chair of Grey Power Wellington Central Association and four years on the Federation Board. This year's annual meeting will be her last in the Chair of SuperBlues. We extend our thanks to her along with all good wishes for future activities.