



SUPER NEWS

Canterbury / Westland Branch

November 2025

Government Superannuitants' Assn., Canterbury / Westland Branch
129 Marshland Road, Shirley, Christchurch 8061

CURRENT DIRECTORY

Branch Secretary-Treasurer Email cantywest@gsa.org.nz

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Chairperson	Maurice Sinclair	03 322 8649	
Vice Chairperson	Doug Francis	021973193	
Committee	Alister Ferguson	03 960 6209	
	Bernie Rose	0211846915	
	Colin Keen	03 347 0655	
	Dick Kitto	0211627899	
	Gavin Stuart	0274391155	
	Ken Wheeler	0276299941	
	Raewyn Dawson	0276970926	
	Ron Creighton	0220804100	
	Tony Gooding	021359208	

Walker Trust Convenor Gavin Stuart

District Liaison Members

Ashburton:	Vacant	
Greymouth:	Vacant	
Hokitika:	Anne Kelly	03 755 6383
Westport:	Norman Crawshaw	03 789 8866

Chairman's Report, November. 2025

In the April newsletter, I mentioned “my old head”, when talking about my lack of understanding as to how American tariffs would affect us. I hope you will forgive me for using that concept again, as I write a few words about artificial intelligence, (AI). I feel I won't be the only reader who has concerns about how AI is being used, how it will develop through the remainder of our lives, and whether our old heads will be able to keep up with its ramifications. AI is developing extremely fast, and already we have heard of examples where a person's physical appearance and voice has been so well duplicated that even the original person felt they would have been deceived. More mundane activities, such as AI for writing job-application letters are common-place.

Two examples follow, which I encountered recently.

I was talking about AI to an academic biologist and she was keen to show how 'good' AI could actually be. She knew I had a reasonable background in the subject and would be able to appreciate the outcome. Her approach was to ask me to write a biological question which I would like to see an answer for. It was a surprise, therefore, for her to ask me to go away and answer my own question! I came back in 90 minutes with my typescript. To get the fastest response, I used ideas and examples from my own memory, greatly reducing the research time. My biologist friend then put my question to an AI programme. Two more surprises: the answer was correct, well-constructed and more comprehensive than my own answer. It was also done very, very fast.

One of my sons is an environmental chemist, often looking at biochemical pathways. Many pathways, and substances have very long names and are usually given abbreviations. (One of the most common examples is DNA, short for a name with 22 letters.) For a teaching example, my son chose a substance, which I will call RIN3 because I have forgotten the actual name. He then asked an AI programme what RIN3 was. The programme couldn't give an adequate answer. He then added a paragraph from a biochemical paper, where the term RIN3 was used but without any description about what RIN3 actually was. The AI programme then had a context to work within and came up with a correct, detailed answer which it must have compiled from a range of biochemical publications. My son was stunned with the precision in the document and by how quickly it was produced: "almost instantaneously!".

I read in a magazine this week how AI was going to hugely increase productivity. These examples above suggest that is true: for example, a report-writer can extract much more product per day. Unfortunately, that also means fewer report-writers needed. My old head has a problem with how many employees will be put out of jobs through AI and how our communities are going to be able to look after them. Other worrying things about AI are the immense amounts of energy required in developing AI systems and also that AI content can be produced so quickly that the internet can be flooded with AI generated text so fast that balance, control or regulation can't operate. Some commentators show that AI can come up with nonsense amongst good sense. Am I going to be able to tell the difference? Am I going to be able to tell whether an article has been written by a human, or AI?

Maybe your Chairperson didn't write this at all.

GSA Council 2025 was held in the second weekend of September. I presume there will be a full review of it in Annuity News and that will save any summary here. Your delegates were Maurice Sinclair and Doug Francis, and we were pleased that there was more discussion on topics this year, taking the formal business well into the second day.

Our Canterbury/Westland committee continues to be well-attended, along with the addition of a new member from the Annual Meeting: Raewyn Dawson. She has 'hit the ground running', being regularly involved in discussions and sharing her wisdom.

Later in this newsletter you will see details for the Christmas Luncheon. Come alone or organise a group to share an afternoon with lovely people.

Maurice Sinclair,
29th September 2025.

BRANCH MEETINGS are held on the 4th Tuesday of every month except December, at the Papanui RSA, 55 Bellvue Avenue, Papanui, commencing 1.30 pm. Members are welcome to attend, however we would ask you to please ph Janine (942-7338) and let her know that you would like to attend, so that we can cater for afternoon tea.

Liaison Personnel - Urgently required for:
Ashburton & Greymouth
Call Janine (03) 942-7338 for details

Visits To Our Sub Branches

The Canterbury Westland GSA Branch committee members' travel to our Sub Branches in Ashburton, Rangiora and the West Coast on a rotating 3 year cycle, to meet with our members.

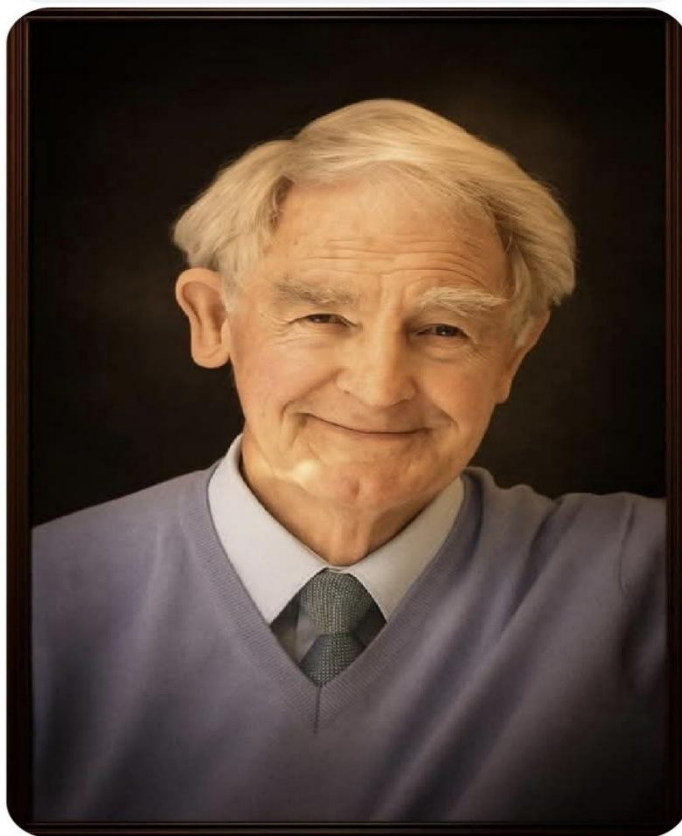
We travelled to Ashburton for a Meeting in February, 2024, and we travelled to Rangiora in March this year, both were successful Meetings.

We plan to travel to Greymouth/ West Coast during this financial year 25/26.

A separate Newsletter will be sent to our members in the West Coast area advising them of the dates, venue and times approximately 3 weeks prior to the Meeting.

However, if anyone has any questions, issues etc that they wish to discuss, please feel free to call Janine on 0800 888 472, or email cantywest@gsa.org.nz

Janine Lynn
Secretary/Treasurer



We were saddened to learn of the passing of Peter Gooding, on 22 September 2025, aged 93. Peter was voted on to the Canterbury Westland Branch committee in 1992. Peter was the Secretary/Treasurer, Chairman, Super News Editor, in fact did any role that was vacant. He was a delegate to many Council Meetings and in 2002 was made a Life Member of the Government Superannuitants Association.

Peter retired from our Committee in 2009, to care for his wife Jane who passed away in 2012.

Peter's funeral service will be held at St. James Church, cnr Harewood & Waimakariri Rds, on 21 October, 25 at 11 am.

CHRISTMAS FUNCTION NEWS

On Tuesday, 2 December, 2025 our Christmas Luncheon will be held in “The Junction” a separate, events area within the Richmond Club. located on the corner of Stanmore Road and London Street in Richmond. A large carpark is available with entrances from both London and Avalon Streets. Metro Bus Service stop on the corner of Stanmore Road & London Street, Route 60, and the Orbiter each provide regular services.

**Refer to all other details on this Function on Page 8 of this Super News
Should anyone require a lift to the venue, call Janine, and she will attempt to help out**



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Have you reached the age of 79? If you have, we will post you a Birthday Card, or we can visit you, on all your following birthdays. All that is required, is for you to telephone Janine (03 9427338 or 0800 888 472) with your date of birth and telephone number.

If you are 80 years plus and did not receive a card or a visit, please call Janine on 03 942-7338 or 0800 888 472.

WALKER TRUST REPORT

Our “team of visitors” have been working hard again this year, visiting those on our list of over 80’s on, or close to their birthdays. These visits have been greatly appreciated, going from the thank you cards, notes and telephone calls we receive.

We are looking for members who can assist with visiting members on their birthday, in the following areas:

- Cass Bay / Governors Bay
- Ashburton Area
- Sumner / Richmond Hill / Ferrymead
- Greymouth
- Northwood
- Rangiora/Pegasus

This is a very rewarding task that does not take up much of your time. We would love to hear from you – Call Janine on (03 942-7338) for further information.

At our AGM held in May, our Guest Speaker was Brent Ruru.
He was very interesting, regarding funeral options.

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Helping families navigate:

Memorial Services | Celebrations of Life
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EVERYTHING FUNERAL

Your life. Your farewell. Know your options.

*Do you know what
your funeral options
are when you die?*

Burial or cremation?

Funeral service or memorial service?

Engaging a funeral director or
doing-it-yourself?

Embalm or not to embalm?

What does it cost?

What support services are available to
help with the grief of losing a loved
one?

And, if you want to pre-plan a farewell
in advance, where should you begin?

Advocacy | Group Presentations
Celebrant | Grief Tools

An independent service.

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SECURITY ALERT

Aren't all medical alarms the same?



Actually...no, they're not!

OUR ALARMS ARE:

Fully MOBILE (GPS)
Two way voice comms
Showerproof
Fall detectors

Able to summon a
SECURITY GUARD
More AFFORDABLE
than many others!

Able to connect you to
ANY EMERGENCY
SERVICE (Ambulance,
as well as Police & Fire)

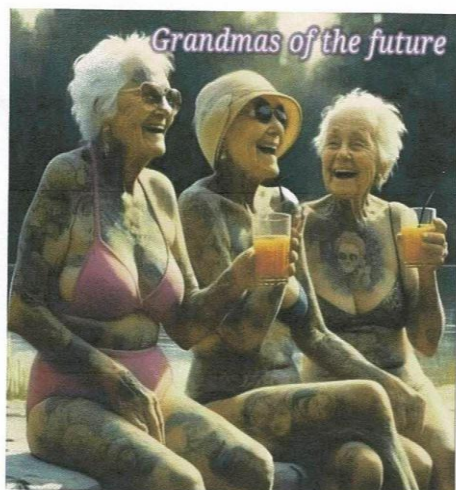
You may be eligible for
government funding too.

Let's
talk!

Doug Francis

Canterbury Veterans Consultant

021 973 193





When you move it is vitally important that you inform ---

Both your Local Branch **AND** The Government Superannuation Fund
OR The National Provident Fund.

Canterbury / Westland Branch	Government Superannuation Fund	National Provident Fund
Govt. Superannuitants Assoc.	PO Box 3614	PO Box 1036
129 Marshland Road	WELLINGTON 6140	WELLINGTON 6140
Christchurch 8061	Toll Free 0800 654 731	Toll Free 0800 628 776
Toll Free 0800 888 472		

When members change addresses, we sometimes lose track of them. Datacom has the addresses of all annuitants, but they are not allowed to give us any change of address information, as this would breach privacy rules. Currently, we have lost track of the members listed below.



LOST MEMBERS

Miss Nancy Bell
Mrs Catherine Best
Mrs Beverley Buchols
Mrs Patricia Busson
Mr Aidan Carrick
Mrs Eileen Chisholm
Mr Frederick Church
Mrs Linda Dawe
Mrs Isabella Dawson
Mr Gordon Flecknoe
Mrs Judith Garvey
Mrs Valmai Hale
Mrs Beatrice Hendry
Aldyth Ellen Hudson
Mrs Dawn Jack
Mrs E Maureen Jones
Mr James Lawrence
Mrs Kathleen Muir
Mr Richard O'Connell
Mr Stanley Papps
Mr Peter Reynolds
Miss Martha Thompson

Last known address

50B Murray Pl, St. Albans
8 Piper Lane, Beckenham
21 Whero Ave, Lyttelton
58 Quinns Rd, Shirley
17 Manchester St, Tinwald
V13A/60 Browns Rd, St Albans
147 Cavendish Rd, Casebrook
9 Woodhaven Pl, Parklands
6/67 Norwich St, Linwood
6 Kyeburn Pl, Avonhead
31A Sails St, Papanui
6 Gatony Pl, Avonhead
21 Marshs Rd, Templeton
3 Arthurson Mews Woolston
612 Birchfield Rd, Westport, 7891
30 Clydesdale Way, Lincoln
86 Iris Taylor Ave, West Melton
61 Springs Rd, Sockburn
6 Lesley Keast Pl, Hornby
10 Willowbrook Pl, Fendalton
15 Severn St, St. Albans
7 Suva St, Upper Riccarton

A HUGE THANK YOU to the members who help with locating missing Members.

CHRISTMAS BUFFET LUNCH



CHRISTMAS BUFFET LUNCHEON MENU

Main:

Maple & Mustard Champagne Ham GF
 Roast Beef & Gravy GF
 Cauliflower & Broccoli cheesy mornay.
 Buttery minted peas GF
 Seasonal Roasted vegetables. GF

Salads:

Seasonal green salad GF
 Classic potato salad and
 crispy bacon

Dessert:

Mini pavlova with cream
 and kiwifruit GF
 Sticky date pudding with
 caramel sauce

Tea/Coffee

Xmas Cake

CHRISTMAS BUFFET LUNCHEON

TUESDAY 2 December 2025

12 Noon – Bar Service from 11 am

RICHMOND WORKING MENS CLUB

75 London Street, off Stanmore Road

You are welcome to bring a friend.

RAFFLE TICKETS WILL BE ON SALE

Cost after subsidy, per person \$39.00, and must be made to our account as below,

Our A/c is ANZ 11 7800 0989568 00. Please ensure you use your surname as the Reference.

Please make payment, then complete and return this section by **FRIDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2025**

I/We intend to be present at the Christmas Luncheon. Cost \$39.00 per person

Number attending _____

Paid Internet Banking \$ _____

Please Print:

Name: First _____

Surname: _____

Partner: First _____

Surname: _____

Friend: First _____

Surname: _____

Phone No: _____

Ex Department: _____

This tear-off must be sent by due date, or you can email cantywest@gsa.org.nz or phone me and leave a message.

Ample Parking, .