

<b>G</b>	<b>government</b>
<b>S</b>	<b>superannuitants</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>association</b>

*Founded in 1920*

## Horowhenua/Kapiti Branch

Secretary: John Laurenson  
Ph: 021 445 115  
horo.kapiti@gsa.org.nz

*Our **Waikanae** End of Year Function  
is a Luncheon, and is on*

**Thursday 20 November 2025**

commencing at 11:00am at  
Plateau Function Centre,  
Pukeko Street, Parkwood Village  
off Ngarara Road, Waikanae

Guest speaker:

**Richard Palma**

**Te Papa**

*Partners welcome.*

**Registration details at bottom of next page**

*Our **Levin** End of Year function  
is a Luncheon, and is on*

**Thursday, 13 November 2025**

commencing at 11:00 am in the  
Levin RSA

5 Devon Street, Levin

**Note that this is a new venue for us**

Guest speaker:

**Terry Hemmingsen**

**Grey Power**

*Partners welcome.*

**Registration details at bottom of next page**

### **Message from the Branch Chairperson**

On behalf of your committee, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all members of the Horowhenua/Kapiti branch of the GSA, and this our October newsletter. The committee is currently busy arranging the end of year functions. Our ability to run these functions, and to provide a meal at a reasonable cost, is dependent on the number of members attending the functions. I would therefore encourage all members to take the opportunity to attend these functions and to 'mix and mingle' with fellow members. I'm looking forward to seeing you at the Levin and Waikanae functions.

At this year's Council Meeting John Laurenson and Jeff Taylor were the branch delegates. The annual Council meeting is where key GSA policy decisions are made, and the GSA Board for the coming year appointed. Key outcomes from the meeting were:

- An increase of 30c per payment effective from 1 April 2026. There was acknowledgement of the need to look at cost savings, rather than just increase annual subscriptions.
- The motion that Overseas members be transferred from the Wellington branch to National Office was lost. Need for further consultation with overseas members.
- The Lake Taupo branch will amalgamate

with Waikato King Country, the first GSA branch amalgamation.

- John Laurenson (our branch secretary) was appointed to the GSA Board.
- Hon Tracey Martin, CEO of the Aged Care Association provided an informative presentation on the state of the aged care sector. We hope to make her presentation available to members. On the day before the Council meeting, the secretaries day provided an opportunity to discuss administrative matters. Key messages from this session were:

- A new database and website, are on the way
- New publications relating to surviving spouses, personal information, and recruitment of new members will be available soon.

### **End of Year Function Guest Speakers**

The guest speaker at the Waikanae function will be Ricardo Palma, Honorary Research Associate at Te Papa. Ricardo enthralled attendees with his presentation three years ago. This year he is presenting on – Collecting ectoparasites in 'Las Islas Encantadas (Galápagos Islands).

The Levin function will be addressed by Terry Hemmingsen from Grey Power Horowhenua, and he will talk about growing up in rural NZ the 1950s. We look forward to seeing members at these functions.

**Jeff Taylor (Branch Chair)**

## **Assignment**

The assignment of a proportion of your annuity to another person has become a bigger issue in recent months, with more members making enquiries and is often misunderstood. Section 91B of the Superannuation Act allows a superannuitant to “surrender” up to half of the annuity to another person. The member must be alive when the assignment in writing is delivered to Datacom. Assignment is irrevocable and cannot be changed once the first payment is made.

While the GSA does not provide individual advice on assignment, it has prepared a guide for members. You can get a copy by contacting our membership administrator at [wellington@gsa.org.nz](mailto:wellington@gsa.org.nz) or phone 0800 888 472. Alternatively, you can contact Datacom directly at [gsf@datacom.co.nz](mailto:gsf@datacom.co.nz) or 0800 654 731 to discuss your specific requirements.

## **2025/26 Branch Committee**

The committee was re-elected at the Branch AGM at Otaki in May 2024: Jeffrey Taylor (Chair), John Laurenson (Secretary), John Collins, Paul Gardner, Roger Pitchforth, Edgar Spark, Patrick Thomas.

## **Branch AGM 2025**

A successful AGM was held at the Otaki RSA on 29 May, with 37 members: comparable to previous years, but only 4.2% of our membership. The committee is keen to increase attendance at future

AGMs, and following a survey of a small number of attendees, has undertaken to look at an alternative venue for next year's AGM.

## **Local Committee Contacts**

Committee members are available if you have matters that you would like to bring to the committee's attention:

**Levin and Horowhenua, Otaki** - Patrick Thomas  
027 236 8226

**Waikanae, Paraparaumu** - John Laurenson  
021 445 115

**Paekakariki** - Edgar Spark 021 261 1240

## **Keeping in Touch**

For the National Office and branch committee to keep you informed of matters relating to the association, we rely on having your up-to-date contact details. If your contact details change, please inform our membership administrator at [wellington@gsa.org.nz](mailto:wellington@gsa.org.nz) or phone 0800 888 472.

## **New Members**

Do you know anyone receiving GSF who is not a member of the GSA, or of surviving spouses who may not be GSA members? If so, please ask them to contact Jeff Taylor (021 135 3230) to discuss the benefits of GSA membership.

## **Horowhenua/Kapiti Branch Membership Statistics at 30 September 2025**

Annuitants	Spouses of Annuitants	Surviving Spouses	Pre Annuitants	Spouses of Pre Annuitants	
453	257	152	16	5	Total 877

## **Booking and Paying for End of Year Functions**

For catering purposes can you please ensure you register your intention to attend either luncheon before 10 November for Levin, or 17 November for Waikanae.

**Option 1.** (Internet users) Pay the entry fee of \$22 per person by internet banking:

(Bank account 38-9014-0275903-01) THEN Send a confirming email to [horokapiti@gsa.org.nz](mailto:horokapiti@gsa.org.nz). Please confirm which Luncheon you are attending – Waikanae or Levin.

**OR**

**Option 2.** (No internet access). Contact Branch Secretary (John Laurenson) by phone (021 445 115) and Pay the entry fee of \$22 per person on arrival at the Luncheon.

## **Wellington Branch Function**

The Wellington Branch is holding its end of year luncheon at the Te Marua Golf Club, Upper Hutt on Tuesday 18 November. H/K Branch members are invited to attend. Cost is \$30 per head. Please advise Kay Monks, 027 416 1675 or [gsawellingtonfunctions@gmail.com](mailto:gsawellingtonfunctions@gmail.com) if you are interested in going,