



NELSON BRANCH NEWSLETTER

September 2025

<u>Committee 2025 – 2026</u> Chairman – Michael Berry Vice Chairman – Alec Waugh Secretary – Donna Horn Treasurer – Jonathan Seagers Committee members – Tony Greep, Monty Tawhai, Neil Brown, Dulcie Carson, Una McNair	<u>Nelson Branch</u> <u>point of contact:</u> Secretary – Donna Horn Telephone – 0800 888 472 or 021 150 9111 Email - nelson@gsa.org.nz
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From The Chairman

Hello, Nelson Branch GSA members and spouses. Our branch continues to be in good health and has been re-invigorated by two new committee members. It is a pleasure to welcome Jonathan Seagers as our new treasurer following the standing down of his long-serving predecessor, Denis Wastney. Jonathan brings with him a background in accounting and previous experience as being a treasurer for another organisation. We are also privileged to have the services of Una McNair on the committee. Una had a long and respected career in education and adds another female voice to the committee to give the representative balance of our membership.

The GSA asked branches to reduce the length of their newsletter to four pages, so this issue is slightly shorter than previous ones.

Michael Berry

Chairman

GSA Nelson Branch

Christmas Lunch

Tuesday, 9th December 2025

Arrive 11-30 to 11-45 am. Concludes approx. 1-45pm

Come along and gather with your fellow Nelson GSA members.



The classic Christmas Buffet - choice of mains and dessert (any or all!) then coffee or tea. Drinks available at the adjacent bar.

Complimentary Raffle Ticket

Club Waimea

345 Lower Queen Street, Richmond

Free Car Parking at Venue. Bus stops close by.

We need you there! We have a large local membership so would love to see you in person.

The (subsidised) price this year is an attractive **\$20 per person**.

Please register for the lunch before Thursday, 4 December 2024.

Contact our treasurer, Jonathan Seagers, by email: seagers.nz@gmail.com

or by telephone on 027 545 7969. Payment can be made either:

- by internet banking to the GSA a/c No. 03 1354 0027969 00 (please include your name) or
- by cash by arrangement with the Treasurer.

Transport to Christmas Lunch

If you have no transport to Club Waimea for the Christmas Lunch, would you please let us know, so that we can see if something can be arranged. Please contact our Secretary, Donna, at 0800 888 472 or nelson@gsa.org.nz

Note that the Nelson eBus Routes 1 and 5 travel along Lower Queen Street and stop outside the nearby Oakwood Retirement Village. Use your Bee Card, which if linked to your Super Gold card, will give you free travel in the off-peak. Route 1 is half-hourly to and from Nelson via Waimea Road. You can use Route 2 from Nelson via Tahunanui and change at Stoke or Richmond to Route 1. Route 5 has one service to and from Motueka that is suitable for this event. Unfortunately, Route 6 from Wakefield does not run at a suitable time.

Branch Activities

Our Vice-Chairman, Alec Waugh, is investigating holding some meetings at retirement villages where there is a significant GSA membership. His initial plan is to hold one at Oakwoods in October to establish its viability. We will then progress to other venues next year. Notification of these events will be directed to those members who are residents, so will not be generally broadcast. The GSA head office can send out notices to all branch members but at a cost to the Branch. We will use email where members have this facility but recognise that those without email must not be excluded from notification of events. In addition, the Nelson Branch section of the GSA website will carry notices of events when they have been organised. Members are welcome to offer suggestions for activities or venues to the Secretary for consideration by the Committee.

GSA Council Meeting 2025

The annual meeting of the GSA Council was held in Wellington on 6 & 7 September. The Council is the supreme ruling body of our organisation and comprises the GSA President and two delegates from each Branch. Also present are the GSA Board and Life Members. Alec Waugh and Una McNair represented the Nelson Branch this year.

Annuity News, the national GSA newsletter, will cover the business aspects of the meeting so this note will just report on a few observations.

- There were no unexpected dramas. Nelson's suggested changes to the Policy wording under the heading "*5 Background - The Political Landscape*" were accepted, and Nelson was to the fore, once more, with a suggestion that the Board

looks at the Accumulated Funds (Reserves) of the organization, and whether a component should be placed in managed funds, e.g. Kiwi Saver, to preserve and enhance membership funds. Currently 100% are in term deposits which, when inflation and tax is applied, does not enhance our reserves. The suggestion was for Board consideration and was not formally debated by Council.

- The subscription rate is to be increased by 30 cents per fortnight from 1 April 2026, (\$42.90 per year). The sub increase was part of a hybrid approach to the long-term future of the organization, with increasing debate and focus on the best structure for the future for the GSA, including effective costs savings etc. Detailed statistics were provided to delegates on this topic, with projections, keeping in mind the trend continues of declining membership and less subscription paying members.
- Several Council workshops took place, on branch leadership, retention, and recruitment of members, etc., and several updated pamphlets and brochures were produced.

Our Generation

Contributed by Alec Waugh

From a recent University of the 3rd age Newsletter:

If you were born between 1930 and 1946, you belong to an incredibly rare group: only 1% of your generation is still alive today. At ages ranging from 77 to 93, your era is a unique time capsule in human history. Here's why: You were born into hardship. Your generation climbed out of the Great Depression and bore witness to a world at war. You lived through ration books, saved tin foil, and reused everything — nothing was wasted. You remember the milkman. Fresh milk was delivered to your door. Life was simpler and centred around the basics. Discipline came from both parents and teachers, with no room for excuses. Your imagination was your playground. Without TVs, you played outside and created entire worlds in your mind from what you heard on the radio. The family gathered around the radio for news or entertainment. Technology was in its infancy. Phones were communal, calculators were hand-cranked, and newspapers were the primary source of information. Typewriters, not computers, recorded thoughts. Your childhood was secure. Post-WWII brought a bright future — no terrorism, no internet, no global warming debates. It was a golden era of optimism, innovation, and growth. You are the last generation to live through a time when: Black-and-white TVs were cutting-edge. Highways weren't motorways. Shopping meant visiting downtown stores. Polio was a feared disease. While your parents worked hard to rebuild their lives, you grew up in a world of endless possibilities. You thrived in a time of peace, progress, and security that the world may never see again. If you're over 77 years old, take pride in having lived through these extraordinary times. You are one of the lucky 1% who can say, "I lived through the best of time!"