

Northland Newsletter

October 2025

Council 2025 report.

GSA Council Meeting September 6th & 7th 2025:

Secretary, Walter Smith and Chair, Tony Hamilton, attended.

The Council meeting is the governing body for the organisation. Its function: to review GSA previous years' work, financial performance. Rule changes properly notified are also voted on.

The meeting started at 11:00 am on the Saturday, this time as a cost saving measure. Again, as a cost saving measure a secretary / treasurer training day was held on the preceding Friday. Many were also delegates to the Council meeting.

After all these years of trying to sort out the problem of our annuitants who retired before 1985 not receiving 100% of the cost-of-living adjustment, we still have no progress. The current government has completely rejected the recommendation of the 2018 Select Committee. Nothing more we can do at this stage.

You will see our new Board named in the Annuity News. The new President, elected unopposed, is Sandie Gusscott from Auckland. An election was needed for the 5 board members.

Our finances are in good shape. In the National Office and Branches we have accumulated funds of over \$1.5m. Most of this is in term deposits. Whereas there are some who would like to see the funds invested elsewhere (shares etc), the policy is to hold it where it is. They are members' funds and the risk of losing it needs to be minimised. The money is for use as a 'fighting fund' should our annuities ever be threatened, also to prolong the viability of GSA as our membership declines.

GSA membership as at 31 March 2025 was 19,426. (Northland 547). Total GSF contributors, deferred and active annuitants was 45,540 (as at 30 June 2024 – the 30 June 2025 GSF Annual Report is not yet available). GSA includes with the Datacom 'March letter' an advertising pamphlet to attract new members.

There was an interesting talk from ex MP Tracey Martin who is now the Chief Executive of the Aged Care Association NZ.

The GSA strategic plan was considered. The Branch put together an annual plan for this current financial year. If you would like to see it email me a request please.

Constitution changes: an item re overseas members failed to pass; it was agreed that Branches and National Office be audited together (rather than reviewed). Some debate about this.

The annual subscription was increased from \$39.00 to \$42.90.

Lake Taupo Branch will be disestablished with the members coming under the Waikato / King Country umbrella.

Three Life Member awards were made.

Two workshops were held (topics - annual plan, update of the operations manual).

We ended before lunch on Sunday with a lively talk from Irene Muir who is employed by GSFA (Annuitas) to oversee the day-to-day annuity operation by Datacom.

All the best for a great summer and festive season.

Tony Hamilton, Chairperson.



**Come to our
End of Year Christmas Function
At the Kamo Club**

Wednesday November 19th 2025

**The entertainment will be provided by
the Hurupaki School Kapa Haka group.**



Northland GSA members at the Midyear luncheon and AGM. Tony Savage (L) of Savage Law spoke about what an EPOA or enduring power of attorney involves.

Tony Hamilton presented Bill Mallet, Branch Finance Reviewer of 14 years plus, with a Certificate and thank you gift.



AGM attendees listening to the proceedings.



Notes from your COMMITTEE

*As always, we are seeking new members for the committee. Please talk to anyone the current Committee if you are interested.

***From Your Secretary...**Do you know anyone who worked for the Government or who is a surviving spouse of someone who worked for the Government and is receiving an annuity but is not a member of the GSA? We have pamphlets with information that you can request from me as well as membership enrolment form. Let people know that the GSA can help in a variety of ways but most importantly in protecting the annuity.

Your current committee

Chairperson

Tony Hamilton, 021547414
tah3524@gmail.com

Secretary

Walter Smith
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0800 888 472
northland@gsa.org.nz

Treasurer

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Committee

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The Personal Data Book is under review.

It is a great little book that can be used to record all your basic information for quick access.

Currently it can still be filled out online at www.gsa.org.nz under the members tab.

It can also be posted to you if you email your Branch Secretary at

waltersmithnz@gmail.com
or
phone **0800 888 472**.

The booklet covers:

Personal Details

Income and Banking

Fixed Assets

Liabilities, Investments and insurances

When I die and funeral wishes

Your Will

Two chaps were having their regular midweek game of golf but were getting increasingly frustrated by a couple of slow players ahead, who would not call them through.

Finally, after waiting half-way down the fairway once more while the players ahead fiddled around and dawdled around the putting green, one said, "I'm sick of this. I'm going to go and have a word with them."

So, he strode off, but when he was halfway to the green, he suddenly turned off the fairway into the bushes and came back to his friend.

"I can't go up there," he explained. "One of them is my wife and the other is my mistress."

So, the other chap said, "No worries – I'll go and give them a lecture on golfing etiquette." So off he strode in a very purposeful manner, but halfway to the green he turned off into the bushes and sneaked back to his mate.

His only comment was, "Gee! It's a small world, isn't it?"

What do you call a tiara that is lost on a golf course?

A diamond in the rough.

Novinophobia

The fear of running out of wine.

**Contact your Association
at any time by dialling
0800 888472**

Receiving the Annuity News and the Branch Newsletter

With postage costs continuing to rise the Association is making a request to members to consider receiving our publications via email.

If your personal information needs updating (address, phone number etc). DATACOM also needs to hear about information changes.

Please contact us either by email (northland@gsa.org.nz), by phoning one of your Committee members or using

0800888472

My young daughter and her friend both needed new boots as Winter approached.

One morning a few weeks later, the friend got into the car, and she was wearing new boots.

"I like your new boots," I said and asked where she had gotten them.

"At the store" she replied.

"Which one?" I asked.

She looked down at her new boots and after a lengthy pause said, "Both of them!"



**Introducing Rex Morris.
Outgoing secretary of
the Northland Branch of
the GSA after 14 plus
years.**

The everlasting memory I have of growing up in the small Waikato coal mining village of Rotowaro, which no longer exists, is of the small locomotives shunting up and down delivering empty coal wagons to the mine screening plants and returning the full wagons to the NZ Railway yards. The coal mines and railways dominated our lives as children. As teenagers, my brothers and I had holiday jobs working in various roles around the underground mine pit tops. Relatively easy work for very good money. My first pay cheque was £5.4.6 for a week's work. I attended St Anthony's Catholic School in Huntly, which required a 6 mile train journey each way for eight years. After primary school I attended Huntly College and looking back can see that we had some outstanding teachers who help engender a strong love of literature, history and geography. In my last year I was a School Prefect and was also awarded the coveted Citizenship Cup.

Following secondary school, I settled on a career in teaching and attended Hamilton Teachers College for three years, graduating with a Diploma of Teaching. Students were paid to go to Teachers' College - my net fortnightly pay was \$67.00. It was a small salary but paid for board and most living costs. In return for the salary, students were bonded to the Education Department for three years after their training. My first teaching positions were in Tokoroa, Mataura and Riverton. After Riverton I won a position as a specialist teacher of Literacy in the Buller District, based in Westport. I worked in all of the schools in the area from Karamea to Murchison and Reefton. Following that role, I worked in Edendale, Taihape and Whangarei Primary Schools in senior management roles until I won my first Principals position at Eketahuna in the Wairarapa. While at Taihape I met my wife Fleur, also a teacher, and our eldest son started school there. We had two more children who attended all of the schools we taught at.

My appointment at Eketahuna coincided with the most significant change to the NZ Education system, commonly referred to as 'Tomorrow's Schools.' This devolved responsibility for school property, personnel, finances and curriculum fully to the schools and involved creating the Boards of Trustees to assist with a governance role. This was a steep learning curve but with lots of training and collegial support, the changes were fully implemented. After five years at Eketahuna, I gained a promotion as Principal of Kamo Primary school. I was Principal there for 15 years before I retired from full time work at 60 - an option made possible, and easy, because I had been a member of the GSFA since I started Teachers College in 1970.

Thanks Rex. We look forward to your continuing work on the committee.

Thoughts to ponder...

If you replace "W" with a "T" in "What Where and When," You get the answer to each of them.

100 years ago, everyone owned a horse and only the rich had cars. Now everyone has a car and only the rich own horses.

The 2025 Council Report back meeting at St Johns Church in Whangarei, was held Tuesday September 16th

Northland GSA members came to hear the latest news from this year's Council Meeting, chat and share over a cuppa.



The 2025 Council Report back meeting at at the St James Chruch Hall in Kerikeri, was held Tuesday September 23rd.

Northland GSA members came to hear the latest news from this year's Council Meeting, chat and share over a cuppa.



❖❖❖End of Year Function❖❖❖

Wednesday November 19th, 2025

at the Kamo Club (Meldrum Street)



11:00 Gather and socialise

11:30 Welcome by Branch Chairperson, Tony Hamilton

11:45 Update on GSA matters

12:00 Entertainment : Hurupaki School Kapa Haka Group

12.35 Lunch will again be café style and finger food

Juice provided

Other drinks at own expense

\$15 per person – the Branch provides a subsidy for GSA members.

If you know anyone who receives an Annuity and is not a GSA member bring them along and as always, non-GSA members are welcome at the non-subsidised rate of \$25 each

For the name tags:

When making your payment online please put first and last name into the details for us. If there is not enough room, or you prefer, simply email those details through to Tony Hamilton at tah3524@gmail.com

Don't forget to let us know your special dietary requirements so we can let the caterers know.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR PAYMENT BY 14 NOVEMBER

to: GSA Northland,

bank account: 11-5000-0724650-11

(Please include your name/s in the details)

