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TARANAKI BRANCH GSA NEWSLETTER

Government Superannuitants Association, Taranaki Branch

Chairman's Report October 2025

It has been a difficult year for me with my wife, Sue gradually succumbing to the illness which ended her life in June. Our move to Summerset Pohutukawa village in April and caring for her left me no time or energy for anything else, hence my absence from our AGM.

I appreciate very much that others were able to step in and run the AGM on 28th May. I also appreciate that enough of you turned out to exceed the minimum number for a quorum, and that we have been able to welcome John Thomason to the Branch Committee.

The Association's annual Council meeting on the first weekend of September was attended by me and Denyse Salisbury. As well as the normal formalities, there were two items of relevance. The first was the proposal to increase the subscription from the first payday in April 2026 by 30 cents per annuity payday. Once again, the Waikato Branch has done substantial work to try and predict the trends of decreasing member numbers and how long the organisation can survive. The decline in member numbers is working against us, and the reluctance of the substantial numbers of eligible non-members to join is probably the biggest single factor that could be altered if a way could be found to motivate them. At present they have benefited from the gains achieved by the Association over the last 105 years, and yet they fail to be moved by attempts to get them to join and support this valuable work.

Probably the most significant item was the decision to close the Lake Taupo Branch and to transfer its members to the Waikato Branch. Lake Taupo Branch had low membership, and insufficient were attending the general branch meetings to provide a Quorum. The Board became involved and at a Special General Meeting it was decided that the best result would be a merger. The options were carefully considered, and the most favoured option was presented to Council. Following significant discussion, it was approved.

A factor that is of relevance to our Branch is that other options such as centralised management will most likely increase the cost of operating a branch. Because of the additional travel involved to attend meetings, I would still fight to keep Taranaki as a separate branch operating under centralised management if required.

Our current status can only be maintained if enough of you, the members, continue to attend general meetings of the Branch in sufficient number that we meet the quorum requirements, and also, younger members step up to replace the older Committee members.

Guest speakers included the Honourable Tracey Martin, Chief Executive of Aged Care Association of NZ. She gave us an overview of the problem in NZ of having enough appropriate accommodation for those who need care and the cost of providing it. The answers require significant increases in expenditure and a lowering of the current assessment thresholds. It is imperative and both Government and the affected citizens are not going to be happy.

The other guest speaker was Ireen Muir CEO of the GSFA. Her address was mainly focussed on statistics relating to Datacom's operation of the scheme. One aspect that was commented on is that Ireen has a significantly better attitude to fixing some of the problems that have occurred.

This has also involved the relevant Board members, and one result has been to change the deadline requirements around the processing of assignments. It does support the fact that the Association is still able to achieve benefits for the members that would not happen without the organisation.

Alan Peck is again our Board representative for the coming year. He has also been appointed to be the Vice President of the Association.

Sandie Guscott from Auckland has been appointed as President. She is a highly competent administrator and well suited to guiding the development of a new structure for the organisation to meet the needs of remaining effective for as long as possible as the membership declines.

With ongoing increases in the cost of meals and hire of the venue we have had to increase the cost to members again. I questioned the aspect of the AGM being a statutory requirement with Alan Peck and we may be able to separate the venue hire cost, from the requirement of the Branch meeting, that the cost to members not being more than 50% of the total cost for that function. That would mean having a differential between AGM's and our Christmas meetings.

For our Christmas meeting the Committee decided that we should have some entertainment instead of a guest speaker. This will be a small musical group: **Spotswood College – All Stars Band**

Les Sharp
Chairman
Taranaki Branch



Spotswood College is a co-educational state [secondary school](#) in [Spotswood](#), [New Plymouth](#), [New Zealand](#). It was founded in 1960 and celebrated its 50th Jubilee in 2010.

Jam Band is a performance-based course designed to help students reach their full potential as live musicians.

It offers a unique opportunity for like-minded students to collaborate create and perform music in a supportive and creative environment.

Students will form bands, rehearse regularly, and develop skills in musicianship. Stagecraft, and teamwork.

They will have the opportunity to perform live at events such as Band Slam and other school/community functions. The course also supports original music creation, with access to basic recording tools, and guidance on songwriting and production.

Whether they are a guitarist, drummer, vocalist, keyboardist, or any other musician Jam Band offers a platform to grow their confidence, creativity, and performance skills - all while having fun with others who share their passion for music.





Christmas Meeting and Lunch

GSA 2025

Wednesday 26th November 2025

Venue	THE PLYMOUTH INTERNATIONAL HOTEL Courtney Street Blenheim Room	
Format	10am	Mix and Mingle Morning Tea Welcome - Tea or Coffee
	11am	Spotswood All Stars Band Entertainment: They will play a mixture of original pieces and pop covers
	12.15pm	Lunch served to the table.

Members, spouses, and friends are invited to this meeting
The subsidised cost is \$35 per person which includes morning tea and lunch
The subsidised cost for Morning Tea only is \$5.00 per person.

Payment to Government Superannuitants Association

15 3953 0455999 00
or cash on the day

Please ring Denyse Salisbury, phone 753 4998 or 021 0428268 or email taranaki@gsa.org.nz

by 19th November if you can join us. We look forward to seeing you there.

Change of address

If you have a change of address, landline phone number or cell phone number please let Denyse know so that she can ensure our records are correct.

If you have an email address, or have changed your email address please let Denyse know so that they can be added to our records and the database.

We encourage members to add their spouses to their member page if they have not already done so. Your spouse or partner can join the GSA for FREE and receive full membership rights with our compliments. Should you pre-decease your spouse or partner, they will then be able to join the GSA in their own right on payment of the membership subscription.

The newsletter is published twice a year if you have an email address or cell phone number, we can let you know of any news and upcoming events/functions. Thank you.