



Newsletter Waikato-King Country Branch October 2025

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SEASONS GREETINGS

Your Waikato-King Country Branch Committee extends very warm greetings to all our members.

ACTIVITIES

At both the national and branch levels, the GSA has continued to deal with issues raised by individual members. We have recently held regional luncheons in Cambridge and Matamata. On 30 October, we have coffee meetings scheduled in Otorohanga and Te Kuiti and a luncheon in Taumarunui. On 29 October, we will be holding coffee meetings in Taupo and Turangi in order to introduce ourselves to the GSA's Lake Taupo Branch members who will be merging with Waikato-King Country on 1 April 2026 (See John Cameron's report on Page 2)

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

The Conservatory, Hamilton Workingmen's Club, Frankton

FRIDAY 21 NOVEMBER

(Full details pages 3 and 4)

Our Christmas Luncheon offers all of us a great opportunity to get together again with our fellow GSA members. It also provides an opportunity for GSF annuitants who are not yet members to mix with us and learn more about why they should join. Thus, spouses, friends and any potential members are welcome. If you know of someone who is receiving Government Superannuation, but who is not a member of the GSA, please encourage them to come to the luncheon and to join our Association.

BRANCH COMMITTEE 2025

The Waikato-King Country Branch continues to enjoy a very stable Committee membership. However, we would also welcome interest from some of our younger members in order to ensure continuity.

At our Branch AGM in June, John Cameron was elected our Branch Chair; Jackie Woodland was elected our Branch Deputy Chair.

The other Committee members are:

John Evered (Secretary),

Joan Currie (Immediate past Chair),

Judy Benton,

David Cumming,

John Law,

Michael Law,

Barry Maughan, and

Jeremy Maysek.

GSA NATIONAL COUNCIL (AGM): CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT JOHN CAMERON

Greetings,

At our last AGM, I was elected Branch Chair for the next three years.

I joined the Government Superannuation Scheme just before it closed to new members in 1992 and I am eternally grateful that I did. I worked in various positions at the University of Waikato from 1988 until 2016, under four Vice Chancellors. For the last 16 years of my service I was Director of Facilities Management, responsible for building and maintaining all the facilities as well as Security, cleaning, Emergency Preparedness, and, of course, Parking. Enough about me.

Over the weekend of 6/7 September, I attended my first GSA Council Annual meeting, the GSA's national AGM. The primary purpose of the Association is to protect our annuities. It also represents members' interests when general and individual issues arise. To this end, the GSA maintains a very good relationship with the Government Superannuation Fund Authority (GSFA). The principal role of the Council is to ensure that members are getting good value for their subscriptions. Just over 50 people attended Council: the National Board, Branch delegates, some life members, and staff.

Of the 44,000 people in the Scheme, only about 2,500 are yet to retire. Unfortunately, over half of all annuitants are not members of the GSA. That risks undermining the Association's effectiveness, especially if the Scheme were to be under threat from a less than sympathetic Government. PLEASE, if you know anyone who is receiving an annuity and doesn't belong to the GSA suggest to them that it is in the interest of both them and their partners to belong. Make sure you provide them with our Secretary, John Evered's contact details (See Page 4).

There are five main matter on which I now want to report.

1. The GSA is a "sunset" organisation. Its members are getting older. But it will be well past 2050 before all those members and their spouses pass away. Over a long period, our Branch has taken the lead in preparing detailed modelling that charts the steady drop in the Association's financial membership. That work is the basis on which the GSA determines the income it will need, over the next two to three decades, in order to ensure it remains viable. Based on that modelling, Council approved a modest increase (\$0.30 per four weekly payday) in the annual subscription.

2. Council elected a new Board. Sandie Gusscott (Auckland) is the new President; Alan Peck (Wellington) is the new Vice President. Council re-elected sitting Board members John Beckham (Otago), Anne Gover (Southland), and Roger Openshaw (Manawatu). It also elected two new Board members, John Laurenson (Horowhenua/Kapiti), and Darryl Bellamy (Bay of Plenty).

3. We had a very interesting, topical address from the Hon Tracey Martin, a former NZ First MP and Minister for Seniors. Now CEO of the Aged Care Association of New Zealand, she made a number of important observation:

- NZ has an aging population, but successive governments have not planned adequately for its needs;
- About 25% to 28% of that population will eventually need some form of Residential Care;
- Over the next five years, there will be a shortfall of 12,000 Residential Care beds;
- If nothing is done to provide those beds, by 2043 nine out of every ten hospital beds will be occupied by people over the age of 65; and
- It is of very serious concern that almost all Psycho-geriatric care is provided by the not-for-profit sector, not the large, for-profit Retirement Village owners. The not-for-profit sector's capacity is well short of what is required.

4. We were addressed by Ireen Muir who is employed by the GSFA as the General Manager for all the Government Superannuation and National Provident Fund schemes. The Fund pays annuitants over \$1 Billion a year. The Government pays approximately 1/3rd. The GSFA surveys members every three years. It has a 80% satisfaction rating. Appeals also measure satisfaction. There has been only one in the last two years. The GSA has a nominee on the Appeals Board.

5. Lake Taupo Branch merger with Waikato-King Country Branch.

This is highly relevant to our Branch. Council resolved that from 1 April 2026, the Lake Taupo Branch, with its funds, will merge with the Waikato-King Country Branch. The move was initiated by Lake Taupo Branch members at their last AGM. This merger will bring an additional 160 members into our Branch. At Council, we had a very productive discussion with the Lake Taupo Branch's delegates and have already taken initiatives to welcome those new members into our Branch. In October we will host local events in Taupo and Turangi (See Page 1 above)

JOIN US FOR OUR CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

We invite you to join your fellow superannuitants at this year's annual luncheon. This invitation is also extended to your spouse, your partner or a friend. Intending members are also welcome. We are happy to meet reasonable requests for help with transport: ring John Evered Ph 0800 888 472.

Note: Lunch will be a buffet; committee members will assist or serve those with mobility issues.

Date:	Friday 21 November
Time:	11.00 am – 2.30 pm
Cost:	\$ 25.00 per head
Venue:	THE CONSERVATORY HAMILTON WORKINGMEN'S CLUB, FRANKTON (See directions on Page 4)

We hope you will be able to join us on this happy occasion. The venue has adequate parking. The bar will be open if you wish to share a convivial drink with friends.

Please reply by *Friday 14 November* by selecting one of the following three options:

- Fill in the reply slip and post it to: The Secretary (address below); or
- Email your response, including dietary requirements, to: The Secretary (waikatokc@gsa.org.nz).

Payment:

- Make a direct payment to the GSA Waikato-KC bank a/c (details below); or
- Arrange with John Evered to make a cash payment on the day

Direct payment details: Account no: 02 0316 0159181 00 Code: *Lunch* Reference: *Your name*

✂

I/We will attend the Christmas Lunch No attending: ____ @ \$25.00 = \$ _____

Name(s) (for name tags):

Special diet requirements: (please specify for each person requiring a special diet)

Payment - tick the appropriate one: ☐ Cash on the day ☐ Direct Payment

DIRECTIONS TO HAMILTON WORKINGMEN'S CLUB

The Hamilton Workingmen's Club is located at 45 Commerce St, Frankton.

It is best to enter Commerce Street from Norton Road. The Workingmen's Club is approximately half way down the first block, on the left-hand side. There is plenty of parking.

From the North: Take Te Rapa Road into Ulster St. Turn right into Mill St. Turn left into Norton Rd. Turn Right into Commerce St.

From the West: Take Massey St. to Norton Rd. Turn right into Norton Rd. Turn right into Commerce St.

From the South: Drive to Tristram Street. Turn left into Tristram St (at Pak'n'Sav). Continue on Tristram St to Ward St. Turn left into Ward Street which becomes Seddon Road. Continue along Seddon Road to Norton Road. Turn left into Commerce St.

From the North-East, cross the Waikato River at a preferred bridge. Drive West down Mill Street to Norton Road. Turn left into Norton Road. Turn right into Commerce Street.

WAIKATO-KING COUNTRY BRANCH CONTACT DETAILS

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