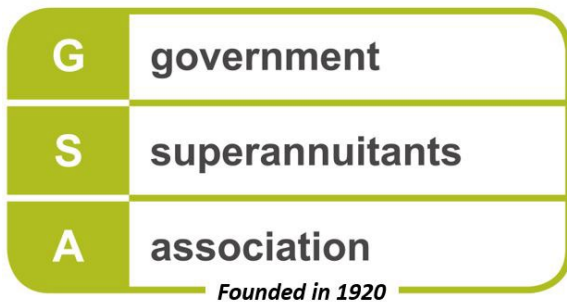




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WELLINGTON BRANCH NEWSLETTER October 2025

Welcome to the October 2025 edition of the Wellington Branch Newsletter.

2025 End Of Year Luncheon

Date: Tuesday 18 November 2025

Venue: Te Marua Golf Club, 675 Main Road North, Te Marua, Upper Hutt

Timings: 11:00am Refreshments and socialising
11:30am Guest Speaker/Entertainment
12:30pm Lunch

Cost: Member - \$30.00 per person (This is the cost after the Branch Subsidy has been applied)
Non-Members - \$40.00

Who is welcome: Members, spouses, partners and friends

To confirm your attendance please contact Kay Monks as follows:

Email: gsawellingtonfunctions@gmail.com

Phone: 027 416 1675

Please tell Kay:

- If you will be utilising the free bus to travel the function. You must register.
- If you have any special dietary requirements

Payment: Pay at the door with cash, please ensure you have the correct amount, or;
Pay prior to the day via internet banking as follows:

Account Name: **Government Superannuitants Assn Wellington Branch**

Account Number: **38-9014-0085421-00**

Please include your surname, annuity number and Christmas in the Particulars, Code & Reference fields.

Branch Committee

Your branch committee members are:

Chair: Desmond Sullivan

Vice Chair: Mike Smith

Committee: Ian Clunies-Ross, Kay Monks, Bryan Whisker, Ray Woolhouse, David Scott, Julia London, Mike Woods, Paul Franken and Edgar Spark.

Wellington Life Members

Virginia Breen, Peter Chambers, Ian Clunies-Ross, Dallas Elvy, Bill Robertson, Elizabeth Smaal, Mike Smith, Peter Stewart, Terence Stock, Ian Swift, David Thorp, Bryan Whisker, Priscilla Williams, and Ray Woolhouse.

From the Branch Chair

Hello everyone, my name is Desmond Sullivan. It is my pleasure to be taking over the branch leadership reins from Mike Smith who stood down from the Branch Chair position at our AGM held in June. Mike has ably led the branch for last six years. I thank Mike for the excellent work he did as Branch Chair. Mike remains on the committee as Deputy Chair.

For those who don't know me, I became entitled to a GSF annuity after completing over 20 years' service in the Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF), as an Armament Technician. After leaving the RNZAF in June 1995 I moved to Napier where I worked as a manager for a local locksmith, a full-time student for 3 years studying for the NZ Diploma in Business Studies, a Practice Manager for an insurance and investment broker, a bookkeeper & technical administrator for an aircraft maintenance firm and finally as a self-employed bookkeeper and small business administrator. I continue my self-employment on a part-time basis.

When I started collecting my GSF annuity I joined the Hawkes Bay Branch of the GSA and was appointed to the Hawkes Bay committee and to the position of Secretary/Treasurer in July 2020. I resigned from the Hawkes Bay committee in November 2023 when I moved to Wellington. I continued as the Hawkes Bay Branch Secretary/Treasurer until June 2025, carrying out the duties from Wellington. I was elected to the Wellington Branch committee in June 2024.

Except for the resignation of Kevin Duggan who has moved to Hawkes Bay, and the changes around Mike Smith and myself, your committee remains largely the same as last year. Kevin spent many years on the committee and served as our financial reviewer. Kevin will be missed on the committee.

Another change within the administration of the branch has been the recent resignation of our Secretary/Treasurer Catherine Chang. Catherine took over the role of Secretary/Treasurer in January 2022, initially as a temp, then as a permanent employee from April 2022. I'm sure you will all join me in wishing Catherine all the best in her future endeavours.

Wellington Railway Social Club

The next Wellington Railway Social Club luncheon will be held on Wednesday 5th. November 2025.

Venue – The Petone Club commencing 12 noon.

The Petone Club has recently changed its catering arrangements, and it is now difficult to make a prior booking for informal groups such as ours. If you are intending to join us for lunch, please contact Ray Woolhouse (ph. 04 973 8158) at least two days before the event.

Food of your choice can be ordered on an individual basis from the Club Menu on the day.

Invitation From The Horowhenua/Kapiti Branch

The Horowhenua/Kapiti Branch holds two end of year luncheons and have kindly extended an open invitation to all members of the Wellington Branch to attend these luncheons.

Details are as follows:

Horowhenua/Kapiti Branch End Of Year Luncheons

Luncheon 1

Date: Thursday 13 November 2025

Venue: Levin RSA , 5 Devon Street, Levin

Speaker: Terry Hemmingsen from Grey Power who will be reflecting on growing up in rural NZ, the Waikato, in the 1950s and onwards.

Luncheon 2

Date: Thursday 20 November 2025

Venue: Plateau Function Centre, Pukeko Street, Parkwood Village off Ngarara Road, Waikanae

Speaker: Ricardo Palma, Honorary Research Associate at Te Papa. He is presenting on – Collecting ectoparasites in ‘Las Islas Encantadas (Galápagos Islands)

Timings: Both functions commence at 11:00am

Cost: \$22.00 per person (member or non-member)

To confirm your attendance at either of the two functions please contact John Laurenson as follows:

Email: horowhenua.kapiti@gsa.org.nz

Phone: 021 445 115

Council 2025

Highlights of the GSA Council Meeting held 6/7 September 2025:

Our membership fee will increase on 01 April 2026 from the current \$39.00 per year to \$42.50 per year. An increase of \$3.90 per year. This is deducted from your annuity each payday if you are an annuitant. For those still contributing to the GSF you will be invoiced by National Office annually.

With our current level of income and expenditure it is expected that the GSA will start dipping into reserve funds around 2028/2029

The mortality rate of our members is expected to exceed 10% per annum within 5 years.

The GSA Board remit to transfer administration of our overseas members from Wellington Branch to National Office failed.

3 GSA members were granted Life members – 2 in the Bay of Plenty Branch and 1 in Auckland.

Lake Taupo branch is to amalgamate with Waikato/King Country on 1 April 2026. This is a voluntarily move on their part. As of mid-July their branch membership stood at 159 members. The branch felt it was in the best interests of the branch to amalgamate. A number of different options were considered before settling on the Waikato/King Country amalgamation.

The Constitution was amended to allow attendance at branch AGMs via virtual/electronic means and to allow up to 2 delegates from each branch to attend Council instead of the current 2

Alan Straker stood down as National President after 8 years on the Board, 2 of which were as National President. The new Board comprises the following members:

- President Sandie Gusscott, Auckland
- Vice Pres Alan Peck, Wellington
- Members Darryl Bellamy, Bay of Plenty
 Robert Beckham, Otago
 Anne Grover, Southland
 John Laurensen, Horowhenua/Kapiti
 Roger Openshaw, Manawatu

There were six nominations for Board membership and only five positions. Sitting Board member Tony Gooding from the Canterbury/Westland Branch was not re-elected. Darryl Bellamy and John Laurensen are newly elected Board members.

Members Contact Details

If you have recently acquired new skills on the computer and now have an email address or you have recently changed your email address, please advise our Secretary of your address so the members database can be updated. Just email your name and phone number to wellington@gsa.org.nz from your email address.

Any change of physical address or phone number should also be advised to our Secretary so these may also be updated in our members database.