



## Horowhenua/Kapiti Branch

Secretary: John Laurenson  
Ph: 021 445 115  
horo.kapiti@gsa.org.nz

*Our **Waikanae** End of Year Function  
is a Luncheon, and is on*

Wednesday, 20 November 2024  
commencing at 11:00am at  
Plateau Function Centre,  
Pukeko Street, Parkwood Village  
off Ngarara Road, Waikanae

Guest speaker:

**Brittany Ryan**

**Nga Manu**

*Partners welcome.*

**Registration details at bottom of next page**

*Our **Levin** End of Year function  
is a Luncheon, and is on*

Thursday, 14 November 2024  
commencing at 11:00 am in the  
Hudson Room,  
Levin Cosmopolitan Club  
Main Road, Levin

Guest speaker:

**Ted Melton**

**Horowhenua Crime Camera Trust**

*Partners welcome.*

**Registration details at bottom of next page**

### **Message from the Branch Chairperson**

The GSA Council met in September, and John Laurenson and Jeff Taylor represented our branch. Council meetings are an important part of the GSA's activities, being the opportunity to review and develop new policy and to set future direction for the organisation. Key items from this year's Council were:

**Financial Reserves Policy.** As their term deposits mature, branches should return surplus funds to the National Office, while retaining adequate funds to conduct the affairs of the Branch.

**Strategic Plan.** The 2024-26 plan was endorsed by the Council, and this Branch will use the strategic plan to develop and report on annual plans focused on delivering some of those goals.

**Branch AGMs.** While our branch continues to have good attendance at our AGMs, for some branches attendance is an issue. The Board has reduced the quorum for AGMs to 5% of membership, or 20 members.

**Constitution.** With some minor amendments the reviewed constitution was approved by Council and will be re-registered under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022.

**Membership.** GSA continues to encourage annuitants and surviving spouses to join the

Association. Two new recruitment brochures have been produced, one of which focuses on surviving spouses. These are available on the GSA website, and copies will be available at our end of year functions.

**Guest Speaker.** Ireen Muir from Annuitas, provided an excellent insight into how the GSFA and NPF schemes are administered. Annuitas contract the day-to-day administration to Datacom. Of particular interest was the discussion on assignment of the annuity, de facto relationships, and residential care arrangements. She also highlighted the need for annuitants to have relevant information available so that payment of the annuity to surviving spouses can be actioned without undue issues. This information was extremely insightful and would be of value to all GSA members. To this end, we are considering running a session (with Ireen) for members in 2025.

#### **Secretaries Day**

National Office held a session for branch secretaries and treasurers prior to Council. This was an opportunity for these branch office holders to discuss issues and to be updated on new administrative developments. John Laurenson and Paul Gardner attended on behalf of our branch.

**Jeff Taylor**  
**Branch Chairperson**

## Are we looking after our incomes together?

Many members will have spouses who may be entitled to payments when they are widowed. They are entitled to a proportion of your pension once they are on their own. Others will have partners who have their own superannuation but are reliant on your membership of GSA to protect their interests. Perhaps your partner is not a member of GSA and the contact would be lost if you were no longer a member.

We would like you to discuss your current arrangements with your partner and encourage them to join GSA if they do not already belong. The advantages are that when there are changes GSA can help with new arrangements, they can tell you about the status of the payments and advocate to keep the government focussed on continuing the payments. Their membership could make the transition smoother, and they could continue to enjoy member benefits such as out Christmas lunches.

If you would like to talk about membership for your spouse then please email ([gensec@gsa.org.nz](mailto:gensec@gsa.org.nz)) or phone (04 472 7006) the GSA National Office.

### 2024/25 Branch Committee

The committee was re-elected at the Branch AGM at Otaki in May 2024: Jeffrey Taylor (Chair), John Laurenson (Secretary), Paul Gardner, Roger Pitchforth, Edgar Spark, Patrick Thomas.

### Branch AGM 2024

A successful AGM was held at the Otaki RSA on 30 May, with 38 members and partners in attendance. The AGM is an important event for the Branch, as it is when members get to hear about matters related to the Association, and to elect your branch committee. We look forward to seeing as many members as possible at the 2025 AGM, scheduled for May 29th. Our speaker will be Alan Straker, the GSA President.

### Local Committee Contacts

Committee members are available if you have matters that you would like to bring to the committee's attention:

**Levin and Horowhenua, Otaki** - Patrick Thomas  
027 236 8226

**Waikanae, Paraparaumu** - John Laurenson  
021 445 115

**Paekakariki** - Edgar Spark 021 261 1240

### Surviving spouses

There are many surviving spouses who are not members of the GSA. If you know of a surviving spouse (of a deceased annuitant) then please ask them to consider becoming a member of the GSA. We are committed to supporting surviving spouses and will assist with arranging membership. Please phone 0800 888 472 to discuss.

## Horowhenua/Kapiti Branch Membership Statistics at 30 September 2024

Annuitants	Spouses of Annuitants	Surviving Spouses	Pre Annuitants	Spouses of Pre Annuitants	
469	265	158	14	11	Total 916

## Booking and Paying for End of Year Functions

**For catering purposes can you please ensure you register your intention to attend either luncheon before 11 November for Levin, or 17 November for Waikanae.**

**Option 1.** (Internet users) Pay the entry fee of \$20 per person by internet banking:

(Bank account 38-9014-0275903-01) THEN Send a confirming email to [horokapiti@gsa.org.nz](mailto:horokapiti@gsa.org.nz). Please confirm which Luncheon you are attending – Waikanae or Levin.

**OR**

**Option 2.** (No internet access). Contact Branch Secretary (John Laurenson) by phone (021 445 115) and Pay the entry fee of \$20 per person on arrival at the Luncheon.

### Wellington Branch Function

The Wellington Branch is holding its end of year luncheon at the Te Marua Golf Club, Upper Hutt on Tuesday 19 November. The cost is \$40.00 per head. H/K Branch members are invited to attend. Please advise Kay Monks, 027 416 1675 if you are interested in going,