



# AUCKLAND BRANCH NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2022

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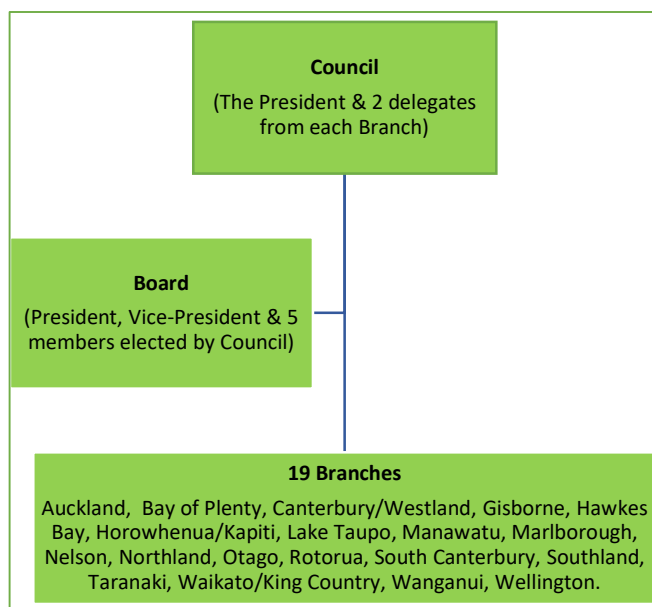
## Report from the Chair



Last month we were able to hold a Branch meeting (other than the AGM) for the first time in two years. It was great to be able to catch up with old friends and meet new members as well. Our hope is that more members will bring their spouses to our meetings in the future.

The Council of GSA were also able to meet in person this year. For those of you who are not sure how the GSA works, I have provided an organisational chart and descriptor.

There are 19 Branches of the GSA in New Zealand with Auckland being the second largest. Each Branch has a Committee and a Chair.



The Board represents all the branches and has a President, Vice President and 5 members elected by the Council. The Association is governed by the Board when the Council is not in session, although the Board reports to the Council.

The Council meets once a year and is made up of life members and two representatives from each Branch, although only the representatives from the Branch can vote for Board members. The Council has the power to change the Constitution. At the Council meeting held on 3 and 4 September 2022, the 2022/2023 Board was elected as follows:

Tony Hamilton – President (Northland)  
Alan Straker -- Vice-President (Nelson)  
John Beckham – Southland  
Anne Gover – Southland  
Sandie Gusscott – Auckland  
Michael Law – Waikato/King Country  
Alan Peck – Wellington

I am very honoured to be able to represent the association at a national level and hope that by being on the Board I can contribute to the GSA continuing to be an active and vibrant association.

Thank you to all those who attended our Annual General Meeting in June. It was a great event with our President Tony Hamilton speaking and Alexis Sawyers from Age Concern <https://www.ageconcernauckland.org.nz> talked about elder abuse and what her organisation does to assist older Aucklanders who become victims. It is worth checking out their website.

### Your 2022/2023 committee is as follows:

Sandie Gusscott – Chairperson – Education  
Craig Jensen – Deputy Chairperson - Science  
Max Thomson – Post Office

Murray McElwain – Railways  
Keith Rawlings – Army  
Claire Couch – Education

Rosemary Bell – Defence  
Neil Carey – Railways  
Eric Bowater – Education

Our Christmas function is being held on a Wednesday this year. The date is Wednesday, 7 December at 11.30am at the Grey Lynn RSC. All of the details are included later in this newsletter and I encourage you to register as soon as possible. The Branch is subsidising the lunch by 50%. This is an opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones and we are hoping that members and their spouses will join the Committee at the event.

Sandie Gusscott  
Chairperson

*Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

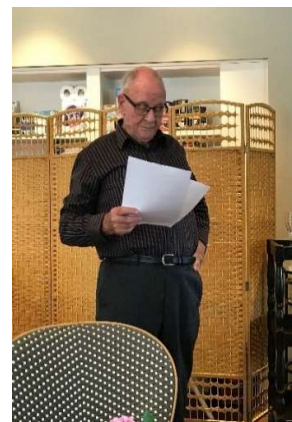
## Introducing Eric Bowater

Here is another bio on one of our dedicated committee members. Some may already know Eric through his role as the Treasurer of our North Shore sub group.



Eric did a science degree at Auckland University majoring in Biological Sciences and Chemistry. Here he is in 1958 with some Moa bones. He then trained as a secondary school teacher starting his career at Mt Albert Grammar in the early 1960's. In 1966 Eric was promoted to Head of Science at Thames High School and stayed there until 1987 when he returned to Auckland to a Head of Department role at Birkenhead College. Although he officially retired in 1996, he went on to enjoy a relief teacher position at St-Cuthbert's College for a further 6 years.

Eric and his wife Margaret were then able to travel extensively. Destinations included the United Kingdom, Europe, the Middle East and North America. On returning from their travels Eric's interests turned to history and he is now the Convener of the Birkenhead U3A History Group and the Travel Group. He researched and wrote 2 books on his family history. Eric is involved with the Birkenhead Anglican Church including singing in their choir. He and Margaret raised 3 children and have 2 grandchildren. Eric has been an invaluable member of our committee and we thank him for over 10 years of enthusiastic and loyal service.



## 2022/2023 Member Events

### **Auckland Branch Christmas Function 2022**

To all members and their spouses, please join us to celebrate Christmas with a 3-course lunch on **Wednesday, 7 December 2022 from 11.30am.**

- ★ **Venue:** Grey Lynn RSC, 1 Francis Street, Grey Lynn (Richmond Road end)
- ★ **RSVP:** The subsidised cost to Auckland Branch members is \$20 pp, payable to our bank account number **38 9010 0813532 00**. Please also register your attendance with our Branch Secretary, Andrea on [auckland@gsa.org.nz](mailto:auckland@gsa.org.nz) or call **0800 888 472** by 30 November 2022.

### **Auckland Branch Meeting – March 2023**

## **SAVE THE DATE!**

Please save the date for our first Branch meeting of the year. It will be held on the morning of Tuesday, 28 March 2023 at the Western Springs Garden Community Hall 2. A catered morning tea will be provided. All arrangements, including details of our guest speaker, will be emailed in the New Year. They will also be published on our website:

<http://www.gsa.org.nz/branch-auckland.html>

### **Auckland Retired Railways Group - Christmas function 2022**

All members, partners and friends of the GSA are invited to the Christmas function on Thursday, 17 November 2022 at the Manurewa Cosmopolitan Club, Manurewa.

- ★ Doors open at 11am and lunch will be served at 12.30pm
- ★ RSVP essential by Monday, 7 November 2022 to Murray McElwain Ph 09 266 9959 or email [murraymc2018@gmail.com](mailto:murraymc2018@gmail.com)
- ★ Please provide \$15 cash pp in an envelope with the names of those attending. No change will be given and cheques won't be accepted.



### **North Shore Sub Group - Christmas function 2022**

Please join us at the Birkenhead RSA, Recreation Drive, Birkenhead on Friday, 25 November 2022.

- ★ We begin at 10am with morning tea and then we will provide a report on recent GSA business.
- ★ At 11 am we introduce our speaker, John Cowan (radio personality and writer) and at 12 midday a luncheon will be served.
- ★ Please register and pay by 18 November by emailing Eric Bowater at [mandebowater@gmail.com](mailto:mandebowater@gmail.com) or phone 09 4820250. The subsidised cost to North Shore members is \$15 pp or \$30 for non-members and is payable to **12-3026-0737928-00**.

