

Chairman's Update – September 2022

The Council meeting was held in Wellington on the first weekend in September. This was the first actual meeting for two years, due to Covid restrictions. Important items from the previous year, *the 2020 minutes and annual accounts*, needed acceptance before the current meeting could begin.

The President reported that while it had been difficult to operate under Covid restrictions business, continued. New skills were learned, including the conducting of virtual meetings and online Board elections. The financial position was improved for National Office and most Branches because of travel restrictions. However the ongoing problem of an ageing membership persists with some Branches being unable to attract office holders (Chairs, Secretaries, and Treasurers) or reach a quorum for meetings. The quorum for an AGM is 20 members and a committee meeting now requires four. He mentioned that there is a new Incorporated Societies Act and the GSA will need to comply with the changes as they become known. He touched on the personnel changes in the Wellington National Office and introduced the new Executive Officer, Gabe Pang.

The Agenda commenced with the Finance Sub-Committee. The Strategic Plan Reports followed, outlining the progress made in achieving the organization's goals in the areas of Communication, Advocacy, Organization (branch liaison and support, employment, constitution), Support for members, Recruiting and finally Policy objectives.

Board elections were held. Both the President (Tony Hamilton) and Deputy President (Alan Straker) were re-elected unopposed. Five of the 7 candidates who stood for the Board were elected.

Three Life memberships were awarded. The recipients were Dick Kitto (Canterbury), Ian Clunies-Ross (Wellington) and Dallas Elvy (Wellington).

A rule change to increase the number of Board members from five to six was promulgated by the Hawkes Bay Branch. Board members would be elected for a two year term, with three standing down each year by rotation. All would be available for re-election. This would allow a planned roll-over to maintain continuity. The motion was lost due to the increase in cost and unpredictability of life.

Two guest speakers addressed the meeting. The first, Simon Tyler, described the function and performance of the Government Superannuitants Fund Authority, (GSFA). He described their progress on meeting the expectations of Government and outlined their aggressive investment policy. He noted that \$920 million was paid out to annuitants last year. Approximately 70% of this comes from Government coffers, the other 30% comes from their investments. Simon is retiring after 10 years of service. The asset base has risen from \$3 billion to \$5 billion under his tenure.

The second speaker was Greg O'Connor, the Labour MP for Ohariu. He had just been appointed Deputy Speaker of Parliament. He spoke of his experiences as an MP. Greg noted that the existence of the GSA is an important reminder to Government of our significance. His take-home message was for us to "stay organized and continue to do what we are doing!"

The issues discussed at Council, were reported back to Branch members at meetings in Mangonui and Whangarei.

Finally we look forward to catching up with members socially at our Christmas luncheon at the Kamo Club on 24 November.

Roger Barber

Chairperson.



**Come to our
End of Year Christmas Function**

At the Kamo Club

Thursday November 24th 2022

Guest Speaker will be

Penny Sutton

Electronic Resources Librarian

Whangarei District Libraries



AGM and Mid year Function

Tony Hamilton President of GSA introducing the speakers, Willow-Jean Prime MP for Northland and Dr Emily Henderson MP for Whangarei



Notes from your COMMITTEE

*As always we are seeking new members for the committee. Please talk to any one of the current Committee if you are interested.

***From Your Secretary...**Do you know anyone who worked for the Government and is receiving an annuity but is not a member of the GSA? We have pamphlets with information that you can request from me as well as membership enrolment form. Let people know that the GSA can help in a variety of ways but most importantly in protecting the annuity.

*Feel free to bring a friend or two along to the Mid Year and Christmas functions at the non subsidised rate of \$30 per person.

Your current committee

Chairperson

Roger Barber, 435 0785
tudorwoodnz@gmail.com

Secretary

Rex Morris, 435 4628 or
0800 888 472
northland@gsa.org.nz

Treasurer

Tony Hamilton, 929 9772
tah3524@gmail.com

Committee

Robin Shepherd, 09 4084192
rlshepherd@orcon.net.nz
Harris Shortland, 4347550
h.shortland@extra.co.nz
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John Furey, 021 0365488
john.mata@slingshot.co.nz

From your Secretary...

The Personal Data Book is a great little book that can be used to record all of your basic information for quick access. It can be filled in online at www.gsa.org, under the members tab.

Or I can post you one. Send me an email at northland@gsa.org.nz or phone **0800 888 472**.

The booklet covers:

Personal Details
Income and Banking
Fixed Assets
Liabilities, Investments and insurances
When I die and funeral wishes
Your Will

Receiving the Annuity News and the Branch Newsletter

With postage costs continuing to rise the Association is making a request to members to consider receiving our publications via email.

If your personal information needs updating (address, phone number etc). DATACOM also needs to hear about information changes.

Please contact us either by email (northland@gsa.org.nz), by phoning one of your Committee members or using

0800 888472.

Farmer John lived on a quiet rural highway. As time went by the traffic built up at an alarming rate. It became so heavy and fast that his chickens were being run over at a rate of three to six a day. So Farmer John called the Sheriff's office and said, "You've got to do something about all of these people driving so fast and killing my chickens."

"What do you want me to do?" asked the sheriff. "I don't care, just do something about those crazy drivers!" So the next day the Sheriff had the county workers go out and erect a sign that said: SLOW--SCHOOL CROSSING

Three days later Farmer John called the Sheriff and said, "You've got to do something about these drivers. The 'school crossing' sign seems to make them go even faster." So, again, the Sheriff sent out the county workers who erected a sign which said SLOW: CHILDREN AT PLAY

That really sped them up. So Farmer John called the Sheriff every day for three weeks. Finally, he got the Sheriff, "Your signs are doing no good. Can I put up my own sign?" The sheriff told him, "Sure thing, put up your own sign." He was going to let the Farmer John do just about anything in order to get him to stop calling every day to complain.

Three weeks later there had been no more calls and curiosity got the better of the Sheriff, "How's the problem with those drivers. Did you put up your sign?" "Oh, I sure did. And not one chicken has been killed since then. I've got to go. I'm very busy." He hung up the phone.

The sheriff was curious and thought "I'd better go out there and take a look at that sign... it might be something that we could use to slow down drivers..." So the sheriff drove out to Farmer John's house, and his jaw dropped the moment he saw the sign.

NUDIST COLONY!
GO SLOW AND WATCH OUT FOR THE CHICKS

**Contact your Association
at any time by dialling
0800 888472**



For a copy of your own You are able to purchase your own copy of this fascinating account of the GSA over the past 100 years, at a cost of \$40 per book plus postage.

Don't delay. Place your order directly with National Office by email at national@gsa.org.nz or phone 04-4727006

"Thanks for the Opportunity to have been on the GSA Committee



From the time I started work I was involved in Superannuation and now that I am long retired the benefits are even more obvious.

In the mid 60's I was an Accountant for Cable Price Downer Ltd. I managed their group superannuation scheme. While managing the investment portfolio and seeing, first hand, the benefits accruing to members on their retirement was rewarding.

In 1973, after an extended OE I returned to New Zealand and became a foundation member of the Accident Compensation Commission (ACC). Joining the National Provident Defined Benefit Plan (DBP) was an easy decision to make. DBP members form a minority of GSA membership since they were not core public servants. The decision by the Government to close the Government Superannuation membership resulted in my helping to establish Shamrock Superannuation Ltd, an independent superannuation fund for ACC staff, which still operates today.

On retirement in 2009 Marianne and I attended our first GSA luncheon in the Kamo Club where we were met enthusiastically by Hugh Black and "next minute" I was on the GSA Committee. Committees, of one sort or another, have been a feature of my life since I was 16 and as mentioned by Jack Kerr on his retirement from the GSA Committee, such participation can be very rewarding.

I remained on the local GSA Committee for two terms before a work commitment in Botswana caused me to resign. I returned to the Committee for two years under Roger Barber's chairmanship. I have enjoyed my time on the GSA Committee but more recently I have become closely involved in the restoration and day to day operation of the Whangarei Men's Shed, based at the old railway station. Time constraints mean that I have had to relinquish the GSA Committee role.

I know that the Committee is in very good hands and wish everyone all the best for the future. Having the GSA to keep a watchful eye on the operation of our superannuation scheme brings peace of mind.

Cheers

Barry Davis

Council 2022



Gabe Pang, Executive Officer; Tony Hamilton, President; Alan Straker, Vice President



Speakers were Greg O'Connor, Deputy Speaker of Parliament and Simon Tyler Chief Executive Officer at Annuitas Management Ltd

The 2022 Council report back meeting at Deveron Street Hall in Whangarei, was held Tuesday September 13th

Morning tea was shared by thirteen Northland GSA members who came to hear the latest news from this year's Council.



The 2022 Council report back meeting at the Mangonui War Memorial Hall, was held Wednesday September 21st

Morning tea preceded the formal Council report back which included a lively discussion.



❖❖❖ End of Year Luncheon ❖❖❖

Thursday November 24th, 2022

at the Kamo Club (Meldrum Street)

11:00 Gather and socialise

11:30 Welcome by Branch Chairperson, Roger Barber

11:45 Council Catch Up

12:00 Speaker: **Penny Sutton – Electronic Resources Librarian**

12.30 Luncheon will be preceded by a blessing

Juice provided

Other drinks at own expense



\$20 per person – the Branch provides a subsidy for GSA members

If you know anyone who receives an Annuity and is not a GSA member bring them along and as always non-GSA members are welcome at the non-subsidised rate - \$30 each

After making your payment either complete and return this form with your name for labels

or, better still, simply email those details through to tah3524@gmail.com

Special dietary requirements? Email / post so we can let the caterers know.

\$20 per person – the Branch provides a subsidy

Superannuitant non-members welcome too - \$30 each

If unable to email please post first / last name/s to:

Tony Hamilton

PO Box 3286, Onerahi

Whangarei 0142

Email: tah3524@gmail.com – quicker and easier this way

no later than Friday 18th November

Northland Branch G.S.A

Year End Luncheon



Pay by telephone banking, internet banking or at a local bank branch.

to bank account:

GSA Northland, **11-5000-0724650-11**

Include first / last name in the banking details

or email the information to tah3524@gmail.com