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# Marlborough Branch Autumn 2018 Newsletter



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**Annual General Meeting**  
To be held at the  
**Taylor's Bar & Restaurant**  
(Clubs of Marlborough)  
42 Alfred Street Blenheim  
**Monday**  
**18<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at 11.30 am.**  
Doors open at 11.00 am.  
Finger food lunch (approx) 12.15

## *RSVP and Payment Essential*

*By 11<sup>th</sup> June 2018*

*(RSVP form at the end of this newsletter)*

### Agenda:

- 1, Welcome*
- 2, Apologies*
- 3, Minutes of the 2017 AGM*
- 4, Chairman's Report*
- 5, Treasurer's Report*
- 6, Election of Committee*
- 7, Appointment of Reviewer*
- 8, General Business*

### **A message from Chairperson**

#### **Alan Straker:**

Greetings to all members of the Marlborough Branch of GSA.

Firstly, thank you to the members who attended our Xmas function at the end of last year. Some great entertainment and a lovely meal contributed to a successful function.



A finger food luncheon will be held after the AGM at a cost of \$15 for all attending.

Hopefully we will have good attendance at our AGM in June and again at the Xmas function later in the year.

Several of our members have passed away over recent months and on your behalf the committee has sent messages of condolence to the families. Remember to ensure that the Association is aware of your correct contact details and changes in circumstances when a member dies, so we can provide you with support regarding your annuity in what can be a stressful time.

Your local committee have been busy responding to various policy papers and documents generated by the national Council meeting via the national Board. Our recent combined meeting with our Nelson counterparts saw further discussion on some of these issues. All Branches will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the initiatives being proposed by the Board before final actions are taken.

The coming years will be challenging for our Association as we experience a declining membership and decreased income. We are only as strong as our membership and it's important to ensure that we don't lose sight of the fact that our primary role is to work for our members to protect the conditions of their annuity.

For your part you can help by keeping informed through the local newsletter and Annuity news.

Check out the GSA website for up to date information ([gsa.org.nz](http://gsa.org.nz)). If you have any concerns about any aspects of your annuity contact our secretary Colin Draper who, if he doesn't have the answers will certainly point you in the right direction.

I would like to acknowledge the work your Branch committee puts in on your behalf especially Colin who manages his role very effectively.

A warm welcome to David Jones who joined our committee at the February meeting. As I've said before if you can spare the 10 – 12 hours a year to offer your services to our committee it would be really appreciated.

Alan Straker

Chairperson

Marlborough Branch GSA



### Are You Our Oldest Member?

We are trying to identify our oldest GSA member in Marlborough.

As we don't have birthdates or ages of some of our members we need your help.

Do we have a member who is a hundred or more? Over ninety or approaching ninety?

If you could be our oldest member we would love to hear from you. 2/

Your achievement could be recognized at our upcoming AGM. Nothing embarrassing!

If you could be our oldest or if you are in the 90-100 range, please let us know by contacting the secretary Colin Draper on 578-9388 or Alan McEvoy on 578-1456

#### Board Snippets from Alan Straker

##### Board Representative:

I was appointed to the GSA Board following the Council meeting last September. The Board is tasked with implementing GSA Council decisions and ensuring the overall health of the GSA as an organization.

I am also involved on two sub committees, a Working Group on Recruitment of new members and an Audit & Risk committee to strengthen Association safeguards.

The board has also established a Future Restructuring Committee following a decision from the 2017 Council meeting. As an organization that has an aging membership it was envisaged at Council that the structure of the organization will need to adapt to enable it to be responsive to its changing membership needs. All members through their branches will have the opportunity to provide feedback to the Future Committee on their thoughts for the organization. Please take this opportunity.

There are also some major proposals around financial restructuring and investment of reserves. Again all

branches have been provided with draft documents for discussion and feedback before any recommendations are adopted at Council later this year. The Board has been heartened by the positive response received from government personnel to request for meetings. Already a meeting has been held with the State Services Commissioner and an avenue to contacting current contributors still in the workforce has been established. This will give access to a possible 4000 members for our Association. A meeting with the Minister of Finance is in the pipeline which is an important step in solving the issue of a group of our members not receiving the full 100% cost of living adjustment. The outcome of this meeting will determine whether the petition that many of you signed last year will proceed to Select Committee stage. Jenny Barclay is our new Executive Officer, taking over from Alan Peck shortly before Xmas last year. Jenny has settled quickly into the role and is working alongside office manager Karen Knobloch in the Wellington office.

Part of my Board role is to liaise with the Nelson Branch and ensure effective support and communication are maintained. We in the Marlborough Branch are fortunate to have a good relationship with our friends from over the hill and meet formally as a combined group once a year and attend each other's social functions.

Alan Straker

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**RSVP**

- Yes, I am coming to the AGM Luncheon on The 18<sup>th</sup> June 2018

I will be accompanied by

.....

I enclose \$ .....

- No, I am unable to come To the luncheon.

*Please delete that which is not Applicable*

Signed .....

Please return to your Treasurer at  
 P.O. Box 4033, Redwoodtown,  
 Blenheim 7242 or  
 Email [lyn.noel@xtra.co.nz](mailto:lyn.noel@xtra.co.nz)  
 If paying by Direct Debit  
 11-7500-058-1667-11

Branch Secretary:

As I become more involved in my role as Branch secretary I am now more than ever convinced that the GSA as a national body is doing everything and making every effort to care for all Superannuitant members of our organization.

Numbers are falling as have been mention by our branch Chair. To be able to maintain effectiveness whilst continuing to 'recruit' members still in the work force i.e. pre- annuitants, such an organization remains viable and appropriately structured to attain all its the objectives.

Paperwork for a secretary never stops! Routine administration to maintain the effectiveness of an organization is gratifying knowing that members with any concerns are being heard and actions taken in a timely manner that helps all.

Thank you  
Colin Draper



AGM  
Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2018 11.30am