

G	government
S	superannuitants
A	association

Branch Newsletter
Waikato-King Country
May 2018

Post Box 482
 Waikato Mail Centre
 Hamilton 3240
 waikatokc@gsa.org.nz
 0800 888 472

Once again, warm greetings to all members in our Waikato-King Country Branch.

SOCIAL FUNCTIONS

We have four social functions lined up, three in Hamilton and one in Cambridge. These provide a great opportunity to catch up with former work colleagues and to renew friendships.

Please bring your spouse, partner or a friend.
 We look forward to seeing you at one - or all!

HAMILTON, 14 JUNE

Lunch – Thursday 14 June – 11.00am

Preceded by the Annual General Meeting (which will be brief)

Hamilton Contract Bridge Club
20 Richmond St

For transport, ring/leave message for Michael Law on (07) 8562353 or text Michael on 022 139 8050

Please fill in and return the tear-off form at the bottom of page 4

CAMBRIDGE, 11 JULY

Lunch – Wednesday 11 July – 12.00 noon

We have now held three successful lunches in Cambridge.

Members from all areas are warmly welcome. Previous Cambridge lunches have attracted members from throughout Waipa, as well as Hamilton, and South Waikato, with many people catching up with old colleagues and friends.

Letters will be sent to members in the Waipa District; others wishing to attend are asked to advise our Branch Secretary, John Evered, (email waikatokc@gsa.org.nz; Phone: 0800 888 472)

Cambridge Cosmopolitan Club
88-94 Burns St

POST-COUNCIL COFFEE MORNING: HAMILTON 20 SEPTEMBER

Thursday 20 September – 10.00am to 12.00 noon

Hamilton Contract Bridge Club
20 Richmond St

This new event will provide members with a chance to hear a report from our delegates and to mix socially over coffee/tea. For catering purposes, we will need advice of your intention to attend. A reminder will be sent by email. You can also request a written notification. To do so, contact our Branch Secretary, John Evered (email waikatokc@gsa.org.nz; Phone: 0800 888 472).

Gold Coin Donation Appreciated

ADVANCE NOTICE: CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The annual Christmas lunch will be at Riverlea Theatre on Friday 23 November.

All the details will be in our October newsletter

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2018 AGM will be held on Thursday 14 June at 11.00am at the Hamilton Bridge Club, 20 Richmond St, Hamilton. (For venue and lunch see page 4.)

AGENDA

Welcome Members and spouses, especially honorary life members

Period of silence To remember members who have passed away since the last AGM

Apologies

Minutes For approval: The minutes of the 2017 AGM

Matters arising from the minutes

Annual Report: Presented by the Chairperson, Dr John Moodie

Financial Report: Presented by the Secretary, John Evered

Address by GSA Board Member: Tony Hamilton

Elections: Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Committee

Appointment of Reviewer of accounts

Presentations to retiring committee members

General business — Close of meeting — Lunch

Note: John Moodie's Annual Report is on Page 3.

NEW EXECUTIVE OFFICER: JENNY BARCLAY

As noted in his Annual Report (Page 3), our Chairperson, John Moodie, recently took the opportunity to meet the GSA's new Executive Officer, Jenny Barclay. The Association has been very fortunate indeed to attract a top quality successor to Alan Peck. Jenny is a GSF Annuitant and a GSA member. She brings to the position extensive experience in the public sector including senior leadership positions in tertiary education, both in New Zealand and overseas. Jenny also held a senior position at Te Papa Tongarewa. We look forward to Jenny attending a branch function some time in the future.

NEW GOVERNMENT: NEW OPPORTUNITIES

The election of a new Government offers an opportunity for the GSA to resolve several outstanding issues. These include the unfair way in which the Cost of Living Allowance is calculated for our oldest members and our ongoing concerns over the detail of the pre-taxation of our annuities. Members will recall that the two previous Ministers responsible for the GSF, Hon Bill English and Hon Steven Joyce, were not receptive to our concerns. Our National Board will be meeting the new Minister, Hon Grant Robertson, in the near future. The Board also expects to have a positive discussion with the GSF Board once new members have been appointed.

PROTECTING OUR LONG TERM INTERESTS

Although the GSA has an ageing membership, it is vital that it remains a viable, effective organisation for as long as possible. In late 2016, the Waikato-King Country Branch initiated a national discussion on the Association's future. Our National Board responded positively and much progress has resulted. One outcome was the recent, modest increase in our annual subscription. Another, is the appointment of Board Member, Tony Hamilton—who is well known to our Branch—to chair an important sub-committee. Its task is to develop a long-term, strategic approach to the branch restructuring that will be necessary as our membership ages and declines. The Waikato-King Country Branch welcomes both the establishment of this sub-committee and Tony's appointment as Chair. Your committee will be making input as appropriate.

Annual Report for the year ending 31 March 2018

This, my first year in the chair of the Waikato King Country branch, has gone very quickly and smoothly due to the efficiency of our secretary John Evered and the support I have had from the committee.

The GSA has 19 branches. A branch's role is to:

- arrange social opportunities for members to meet and engage with each other;
- provide advice and assistance to members as required;
- keep members informed about and seek feedback on current issues; and
- liaise with the GSA National Board on issues of concern to members.

At the AGM in June a strong committee was re-elected and later Alan MacDonald, recently transferred from the Manawatu, was co-opted.

A well supported lunch in Cambridge was chaired by Michael Law and this event has now firmly established itself in our calendar. The Hamilton morning tea was most informative, with guest speakers from Civil Defence and Neighbourhood Support.

The Christmas function at the end of November was a departure from previous years in that it was held at Riverlea Arts Centre. Our Board liaison representative, Tony Hamilton, who has supported our branch so ably, spoke about the future direction and the issues challenging the GSA.

Regional lunches held in Matamata and Taumaranui were attended by committee members from Hamilton. Your committee members appreciate the opportunity to meet with members and to hear of any concerns.

John Evered, Joan Currie and I attended the Council meeting in Wellington in September. The main issues discussed centred around the long term Strategic Plan and in particular measures that will ensure the viability of the organisation for the next twenty plus years.

Our branch supported the move to increase the subscription. We argued that building reserves now, while the membership numbers are high, means that the burden is spread more widely and the organisation is better equipped to fight any legal battles that might occur.

We also supported the move to consolidate the organisation's funds centrally so as to better the returns. The exact details of this have yet to be finalised but branches would still have funds to cover the things they do at present.

Probably the most enjoyable thing for me was to receive on behalf of Rob Grant, a long time member and committee member of this Branch, a Certificate of Life Membership. Rob was nominated by this branch but now lives in Rotorua. At the kind invitation of the Rotorua Branch, a group of us went to a Rotorua branch meeting where I was able to present the Certificate to Rob.

In March I travelled to Wellington and met with our new Executive Officer, Jenny Barclay. I was very impressed with her knowledge and her grasp of the GSA and its problems. I am sure the GSA is in good hands.

I would like to thank all our committee members for their work and support throughout the year in particular I would like to thank John Evered, our secretary, who produces the best minutes I have come across.

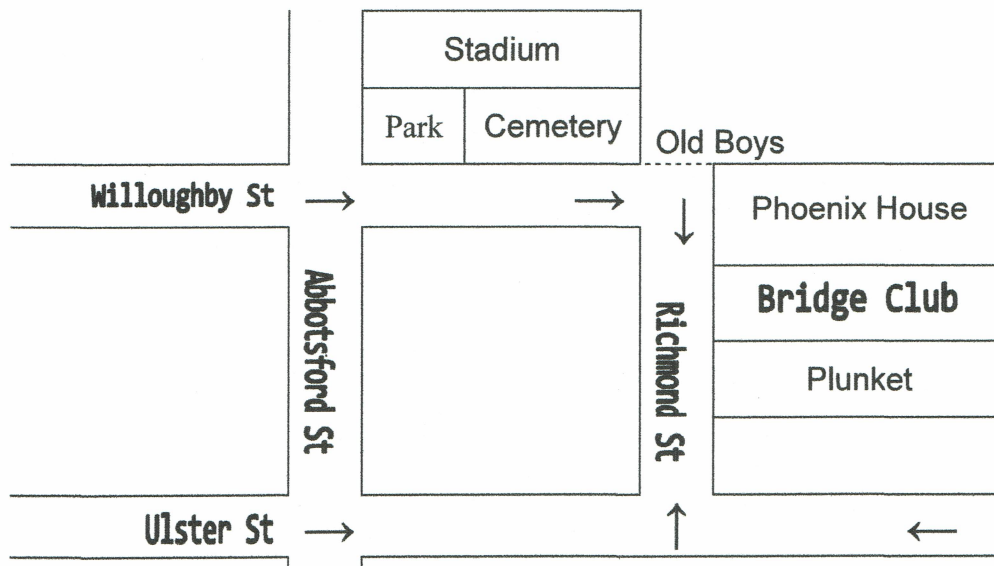
I would also like to express my appreciation for the support that Tony Hamilton, our Board liaison representative, who willingly makes the journey from Whangarei to be with us at our important meetings and who keeps us up to date on board matters.

John Moodie, Chair

NOTE: Annual accounts will be presented at the AGM

Venue for the Lunch/AGM 11am, Thursday 14 June 2018

Hamilton Contract Bridge Club, 20 Richmond St.



From south: (1) Go north on Anglesea St, go straight on to Willoughby St, turn right into Richmond St.
or: (2) Go north on Victoria St, veer left on to Ulster St, turn left into Richmond St

From north: Go south on Te Rapa Rd, go straight on to Ulster St, turn right into Richmond St.

Parking: Plenty of off-street parking in front of, and behind, the Bridge Club building.

Reply to Lunch/AGM invitation

(You may decide to come to the AGM but not stay for lunch. This is fine – just turn up on the day and no money is payable.)

Please reply by Wednesday 6 June by selecting one of the following three options:

- Fill in the reply slip, detach it and post it with your cheque to The Secretary.
Please make cheques payable to GSA Waikato-KC Branch, or

- Make a direct payment to the GSA Waikato-KC bank a/c (details below).
Also, fill in the reply slip, detach it and post it to The Secretary (address below), or

- Make a direct payment to the GSA Waikato-KC bank a/c (details below).
Also, eMail the names and dietary requests to The Secretary (eMail address below).

Direct payment details: Account no: 02 0316 0159181 00 Code: *Lunch* Reference: *Your name*

The Secretary, GSA Waikato-King Country, P.O. Box 482, Hamilton 3240

eMail waikatokc@gsa.org.nz
 Phone 0800 888 472

✂ _____

I/We will attend the Lunch/AGM No attending: _____ @ \$12.00 = \$ _____

Name(s) (for name tags):

Special dietary requirements (Specify each person):

Payment - tick the appropriate one: Cheque is enclosed Direct Payment