



SUPER NEWS

Canterbury / Westland Branch
November 2020

Government Superannuitants' Assn., Canterbury / Westland Branch
129 Marshland Road, Shirley, Christchurch 8061

CURRENT DIRECTORY

Branch Secretary-Treasurer

	Janine Lynn	03 942 7338	Email cantywest@gsa.org.nz	Toll Free 0800 888 472
Chairperson	Maurice Sinclair	03 322 8649		
Vice Chairperson	Gavin Stuart	03 339 2326		
Committee	Bernie Rose	03 313 1569		
	Alister Ferguson	03 960 6209		
	Christine Payne	03 322 1774		
	Colin Keen	03 347 0655		
	Dick Kitto	03 322 4872		
	Graham Payne	03 322 1774		
	Ken Wheeler	03 313 9015		
	Neil Carter	03 332 2103		
	Ron Creighton	03 389 9710		

Walker Trust Convener Bernie Rose

District Liaison Members

Ashburton –	Vacant		
Greymouth:	Frank Lucas		03 768 5168
Hokitika:	Anne Kelly		03 755 6383
Westport:	Norman Crawshaw		03 789 8866

100TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - TUESDAY NOVEMBER 17 – 1.30 PM
PAPANUI R.S.A. 55 BELLVUE AVENUE, PAPANUI.

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. In Memoriam
3. Minutes of the 99th Annual General Meeting
4. Matters Arising
5. Chairman's Report
6. Branch Financial Statement
7. Walker Trust Financial Statement
8. Election of Officers
9. Roger Openshaw – GSA Centennial History Book
10. General Business

Afternoon tea will be provided at the conclusion of the meeting. Free parking is available at the Papanui R.S.A. Meals are available from 12 noon for those who may wish to pay for a meal, prior to the meeting.

All members are most welcome to attend.

You are also welcome to bring friends, especially Government Superannuitants who may not be GSA members and would not have received this newsletter.

Chairperson's Report

Since my previous report, all our lives have continued to be affected by Covid-19. (In that April newsletter, I promised to stop talking about Covid but of course, none of us can stop!) The first lock-down was a dramatic success caused by the amazing social responsibility of New Zealanders. While we are still enjoying the privilege of being mobile, our frequent walks took us past many others doing the same, all sharing smiles and friendly greetings yet respectfully maintaining social distance. There was a distinct feeling that we were all together on a single purpose. We must not forget though, that many superannuitants were much less fortunate, not having the chance of such freedom, perhaps because of reduced personal mobility or by being in elderly care accommodation which was necessarily kept totally secure.

Our Association has also been affected but not always in a serious way. Council 2020 was able to go ahead in early September although Branch Committee meetings were curtailed in earlier months. Our Branch missed two Committee meetings, and our Branch AGM in May was postponed because we could not meet social-distancing criteria. A new date and time has been set for our 2020 annual meeting: Tuesday 17th November, 1pm, but still at the Papanui RSA as previously planned. (See the item on the previous page.) Our meeting in Ashburton was postponed until next year.

I am not in the habit of writing obituaries but it is opportune to recognise **Rebe Nolan**, who provided help for our Branch over a period of more than 20 years and died in July at the age of 93. Rebe came to GSA in a round-about way, not herself directly contributing to our superannuation scheme but becoming a surviving spouse in 1994. Five years earlier and before she had even joined GSA, Rebe offered help by converting 3000 Canterbury/Westland member-records from a card system onto a new computer which had just been purchased. She also trained another person to be able to run the programme in future but when member information became more complex in 1993, Rebe again stepped-in to volunteer her help, changing the database and entering new information to each record. In 1994 when Rebe joined GSA she was “dropped into the deep end”, immediately becoming the membership secretary for our Branch of 3250 members, and rising. Other jobs such as newsletter editor kept her feet on the ground but she still found time to be a delegate to Council in 2005. Rebe was conferred with Life Membership of GSA in 2008. Just a few years ago, in 2016 when one of our delegates was suddenly unable to attend Council, Rebe, then in her late 80's, offered to take his place, cheerfully enduring the full weekend meeting, along with the early flight to Wellington on Saturday morning and the late Sunday evening return to Rangiora. We give our thanks to Rebe: one resilient lady.

Maurice Sinclair,
5th October, 2020.

Some Comments on GSA Council 2020.

For the 2020 Council meeting in the first weekend of September, there were two nominees for Canterbury/Westland delegates: Maurice Sinclair and Gavin Stuart. In the absence of our Annual Meeting there was no opportunity for the Branch to formally accept those nominations so our Branch Committee decided they would nevertheless be our delegates.

Over the last two years, preparations have been made for the publication of a book describing the first 100 years (from August 1920) of the Government Superannuitants Association. Written by Emeritus Professor Roger Openshaw (a Massey University history academic and GSA member himself,) the book was to be launched on the Friday afternoon prior to the weekend of this year's Council meeting in Wellington. All the Council delegates, Life Members who were attending Council and several other guests had arranged to be at Parliament for the centennial reception but because the Covid-19 infections persisted in Auckland, there was a late cancellation as social-distancing could not be guaranteed. However, an alternative book-launch

was arranged and the author of the book, "Safeguarding Super. The Government Superannuitants Association. *A Centennial History 1920 - 2020*" was presented to those attending the President's Dinner function on the Saturday night.

Gavin Stuart gives his impressions:

"Roger Openshaw did not wish to go through the book in any detail but enlightened us on how one goes about compiling material for such a book. This proved to be most entertaining, and quite a journey that involved a lot of travel for research of archive files as well as approaching members for photographs and interviewing members on their experiences. It also involved sifting through vast numbers of old photographs and the numerous political and satirical jokes that were published in various media pages over the past years.

Our Executive Officer brought out a box of the books and they sold so quickly that another box was required to meet the demand from those attending. Our Branch was fortunate to purchase 2 signed copies of this book at \$40 per copy. Further copies will be available at our AGM or can be purchased directly from national office.

During my personal reading of the book I have found that it is a compelling read for anyone who has been involved in the Government Superannuitants Association and/or the Government Superannuation Fund."

Disappointing though it was to lose that afternoon festivity at Parliament, we had an early, unstressful start to Council next morning and this perhaps contributed to the efficient and constructive meeting which followed.

Finance. In recent years we have had questions relating to the accounts as published in a July bulletin (which shows details of all business to be discussed at the upcoming Council meeting.) By corresponding with national office, we resolve many of those questions in advance, saving Council time dealing with simple mistakes or poor communication. On the other hand, none of this becomes part of Council minutes so perhaps nothing gets learned. We will consider our strategy on this over the coming year.

Subscriptions were the main financial discussion for 2020. For some years, Waikato Branch has produced arguments and modelling regarding GSA future financial survival. Their basic philosophy revolves around two points:

- 1) Without a subscription increase, the Association has a limited life of only around 10 years before costs exceed income plus reserves, assuming our current expenditure.
- 2) Any subscription increase should be made as soon as possible because our membership is dropping, by 5% this year and the rate increases over succeeding years. The larger the pool of subscribers the better.

If the Association runs out of money in 10 years, there will still be nearly 9000 fee-paying members. Surely they deserve to have the presence of GSA to collectively protect annuities? The proposal was to increase subscriptions from \$26 per year to \$32.50 per year and this would ensure about 14 years of financial life for GSA. There will still be nearly 6000 paying members by this time so some future increases will still be necessary as well as rigorous work on reducing costs.

Council accepted a rise in subscriptions by \$6.50, to \$32.50 a year, (\$2.50 per pay for 13 pays a year.) The vote was a very clear majority on voices.

Potential amalgamation of Branches. The Board produced a comprehensive paper on the state of branches, how some are already in difficulty and how amalgamation of branches could occur. Some delegates described the great difficulty they were having getting members to volunteer for administration jobs. Surprisingly, this included Auckland so this suggests there will be a real problem for quite a few of our 19 branches throughout the country.

Council accepted the paper as a statement of policy and procedures relating to Branch amalgamation.

An interesting outcome of discussion was that we don't know how much our members actually identify with their locality and whether there might be a loss of interest in GSA should their branch amalgamate with another, losing the link with their 'local' region. For example, would GSA lose members from South Canterbury if they were amalgamated with Canterbury/Westland?... or from Northland if amalgamated with Auckland? In theory though, any problems arising with our annuities are national problems, independent of regions but we just don't know how much our Branches are dependent on local interest.

Board Election. Perhaps another indicator of potential problems in GSA's future is there was no need for any Board election. There was a single contender for President, for Vice President and the current Board members all stood again with no competition. While we have no disrespect of the current Board, in our institution we would still like to see democracy in action.

Branch Remits which arrived too late for the Council Bulletin. Several remits had arrived late and the Constitutional process for acceptance was that the Council had to approve that any such remit could be put before the meeting. None of the remits were accepted and that surprised us because there was plenty of time available. We voted for each to be discussed but ours were lonely voices. Increasing the disappointment was that one of those remits came from Canterbury/Westland and it was a serious consideration of the 'Reduction Factor': that 30% tax which Government Superannuitants have paid since the tax methodology was changed in 1990.

Council finished Early. Due to several factors, Council business was completed before the end of Saturday's allotted time. Sunday became free apart from some informal group-discussions about GSA's future held on Sunday morning from 9am.

Maurice Sinclair,
Gavin Stuart,
6th October 20

Life Membership.

Each year, the Honours Committee of the Board evaluates nominations for Life Membership in regard of those members who have shown "exceptionally meritorious contribution to the Association". It was with great satisfaction we heard that Maurice Sinclair had been accepted as a Life Member. Not only has Maurice given great service to our Branch. Maurice joined our Committee in 2007, was elected Vice Chairperson in 2010 and Chairperson in May 2013, a position he still holds. In addition to his work for our Branch, Maurice has committed toward the wider work of the GSA through being a member of the Futures Committee, established by the Board. Attended at the Special Board Meeting to promote and support for the retention of the 30% tax issue as a priority for our organisation. Maurice also attended the Special Meeting with Government Members of Parliament to present the petition re the issue of CoLA, as he had been responsible for most of the correspondence and promotion of the case from our Branch. Maurice joins three other notable Canterbury/Westland Life Members in Peter Gooding, Bernie Rose, and Gavin Stuart.

Janine Lynn
October 2020.

BRANCH MEETINGS are held on the 4th Tuesday of every month except December, at the Papanui RSA, 55 Bellvue Avenue, Papanui, commencing 1.30 pm. Members are welcome to attend, however we would ask you to please ph Janine (942-7338) and let her know that you would like to attend, so that we can cater for afternoon tea.



When you move it is vitally important that you inform ---

Both your Local Branch **AND** The Government Superannuation Fund.
OR The National Provident Fund.

Canterbury / Westland Branch
Govt. Superannuitants Assoc.
129 Marshland Road
Christchurch 8061
Toll Free 0800 888 472

Government Superannuation Fund
PO Box 3614
WELLINGTON 6140
Toll Free 0800 654 731

National Provident Fund
PO Box 1036
WELLINGTON 6140
Toll Free 0800 628 776

When members change addresses, we sometimes lose track of them. Datacom has the addresses of all annuitants, but they are not allowed to give us any change of address information, as this would breach privacy rules. Currently, we have lost track of the members listed below.



LOST MEMBERS

Ms Nancy Adams
Mr Leicester Brice
Mrs Marie Carter
Mr Herbert Coombes
Mrs Zylda Geal
Miss Lois Goold
Mr Russell Haigh
Mrs Isobel Holden
Mrs Edith Holland
Mrs Valda Hopkins
Mrs Patricia Hudson
Mr William Ironside
Mrs Isla Lewis
Mr Alexander Lillie
Mrs Jan McAllum
Mr James McCabe
Mr Arnold Parr
Mrs Gloria Ralph
Miss Noeline Robinson
Mr John Tasker
Mrs Teresa West
Mrs Mollie Woods

Last known address

58 Scarborough Road, Sumner
18 Hillview Road, Phillipstown
9A Apollo Place, Papanui
1/71 Office Road, Merivale
17 Rugby Street, St Albans
212A Waimairi Road, Ilam
1B Parkstone Avenue, Ilam
28 Erin Crescent, Mairehau
Elmswood RV, Bryndwr
2/27 George Street, Rangiora
Parkstone R V
504 South Eyre Road, Kaiapoi
5/10 Alpine View Lane, Parklands
TH55/24 Charles Upham Drive, Rang
11A Harrods Court, Ilam
35/115 Salisbury Street, 8013
19B Jubilee Road, Akaroa
c/- Mr B Ralph, Karamea
443 Papanui Road, Strowan
45 Manse Street, Leeston
1/14 Mansfield Avenue, St Albans
14/53 Colwyn Street, Bryndwr

CAN YOU HELP: Please phone Janine Lynn at 942-7338 or 0800 888 472 with details if you are able to help.

A Big "Thank You" to those members who are able to help me locate our 'missing members' every 6 months. Your calls are greatly appreciated.

Visits To Our Sub Branches

The Canterbury Westland GSA Branch committee members' travel to our Sub Branches in Ashburton, Rangiora and the West Coast on a rotating 3 year cycle, to meet with our members.

We had planned to travel to Ashburton in April of this year, however Covid-19 hit and we had to cancel our plans. However, with fingers crossed, our plans are to visit Ashburton early in 2021, Rangiora 2022 and the West Coast in 2023.

A separate Newsletter will be sent to our members in the Ashburton catchment area, advising them of the dates, venue and times approximately 3 weeks prior to the Meeting.

However, if anyone has any questions, issues etc that they wish to discuss, please feel free to call Janine on 0800 888 472, or email cantywest@gsa.org.nz

Janine Lynn
Secretary/Treasurer

THE JOYS OF SHARING, LIVING, AND GIVING, ARE FOUND IN FRIENDS.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Have you reached the age of 79? If you have we will post you a Birthday Card, or we can visit you, on all your following birthdays. All that is required, is for you to telephone Janine (03 9427338 or 0800 888 472) with your date of birth and telephone number.

We are one of the few branches that carry out this small gesture to our older members, and have noted that we have a lot of birthdates missing from the database and we wish to have this updated. If you are 80 years plus and did not receive a card or a visit, please call Janine on 03 942-7338.



WALKER TRUST REPORT

Our "team of visitors" have been working hard again this year, visiting those on our list of over 80's on, or close to their birthdays. These visits have been greatly appreciated, going from the thank you cards, notes and telephone calls we receive.

We are looking for members who can assist with visiting members on their birthday, in the following areas:

- Cass Bay / Governors Bay
- Ashburton Area
- Lincoln / Rolleston
- Sumner / Richmond Hill / Ferrymead
- Bromley / Woolston
- Addington / Middleton / Hillmorton
- Russley / Bishopdale / Burnside
- New Brighton / Avondale
- Parklands / Mairehau

This is a very rewarding task that does not take up much of your time. We would love to hear from you – Call Bernie on (03 313-1569) for further information.

CHRISTMAS BUFFET LUNCH



CHRISTMAS BUFFET LUNCHEON MENU

Main:

Roast Beef and Lamb
Roast Potatoes
Roasted Vegetable Medley
Minted Peas
Cauli/Broccoli Bake

Dessert:

Fresh Fruit Salad
Apple Crumble
Christmas Cake with Tea/Coffee

CHRISTMAS BUFFET LUNCHEON

Tuesday 10 December 2019

12 Noon – Bar Opens at 11 am

Papanui RSA – 55 Bellvue Avenue, Papanui

You are welcome to bring a friend.

RAFFLE TICKETS WILL BE ON SALE 5 tickets = \$5

If you are attending please complete the tear-off section on page 8



Again, this year we are giving our Members who wish to attend the opportunity to pay via Internet Banking.

Our A/c is Westpac 03 0830 0270990 000. Please ensure you use your surname as the Reference.

Please complete and return this section by **SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2020**

I/We intend to be present at the Christmas Luncheon. Cost \$25 per person

Number attending _____ Cheque enclosed \$ _____ Paid Internet Banking \$ _____

Please make Cheques payable to GSA Walker Welfare Trust and send to

Bernie Rose
Villa 25, 3 Reeves Road
Rangiora 7400

Please Print:

Name: First _____ Surname: _____

Partner: First _____ Surname: _____

Friend: First _____ Surname: _____

Phone No: _____

Ex Department: _____

Payment and this tear-off must be sent by due date, as there will definitely be no door sales.



Isn't he beautiful!!! Found in the hot water cupboard at Motel in Blenheim.