



**Newsletter**  
**Gisborne Branch**  
**November 2020**

Gisborne@gsa.org.nz

## **GSA Members Christmas & AGM, Luncheon 2020.**

The members Christmas luncheon will be held at 12.00pm on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of November 2020 at the Tatapouri Sport Fishing Club. The club will be setting up the Conservatory dining room for our sole use with tables set out for diners. Due to the Covid 19 level 4 lock down earlier this year, the Government Superannuitants Association, **AGM**



luncheon across the country was cancelled. Due to this we will hold a short AGM prior to this Christmas luncheon, to appoint the committee for the next six months, along with any other matters arising from our members. The existing Committee are all prepared to continue in their role until the next AGM in May 2021, if the members wish to re-elect them. This should be a short meeting. The Tatapouri club has a special Christmas (a la carte) Menu with a choice of four mains, priced at **\$20.50 per person**. Each diner is expected to pay our Treasurer for their meal **\$15.00**, either prior, (Direct Credit Internet Banking: ANZ Bank account Number 11-6300-0610166-11. Please show your Surname in the Reference or the Particular column). Or **\$15.00 cash, no cheques**, on the day and we will complete a tally sheet with your choice of meal from the set menu. This is a new requirement from the restaurant as they will not take individual payments for a set menu. These choices include **Hot Grilled Ham**, hot ham off the bone served with grilled pineapple rings, fries & salad. **Fish of the Day**, battered, crumbed, or pan-fried served with salad & fries. **Chicken Breast**, grilled chicken breast, topped with tomato & chilly salsa, grilled with cheese, served with new potatoes & salad. **Minute Steak, Tender Ribeye** steak grilled, served with salad & fries, mushroom, or pepper sauce. **Deserts** provided will be **Christmas pudding**, served with custard & cream. The committee will be providing on the table's wines & orange juice, along with a Christmas cake for all attending to enjoy.

As we did last year each member attending will be given a free raffle tickets, for a raffle with six draws for a box of biscuits or chocolates. Six prizes, however each member can only win one prize.

Should you require transport to attend the Christmas function please make contact with the Secretary who will arrange it for you.

For catering reasons could you also contact the **Secretary** by phone 06 8688384 or 027 3503058 or E mail [domundsen10@gmail.com](mailto:domundsen10@gmail.com) , by the 23<sup>rd</sup> **November 2020**, informing of the number in your party attending the Christmas luncheon. The Tatapouri Sport Fishing Club will be charging us for the numbers we notified attending, so if you are unable to attend after notifying us, please tell us as soon as possible so we can change our bookings.

### **Existing Committee members:**

**Chairperson:** Chesley Birch.

**Dep Chairperson:** Trevor Cook.

**Secretary:** Des Omundsen.

**Treasurer:** Evan Parkin.

**Committee:** Robin Arthur, Barrie Denham. Graeme Revell.



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### **Menzshed Tairawhihi.**



What is a menzshed? In a nut shell it is a club that brings men together in a community space to share their skills, be involved in a social gathering and work on individual tasks or a group project for the shed or their local community. The type of projects undertaken is up to the individual sheds around New Zealand and usually involves taking on some community projects such as

building playgrounds for pre schools, repairing the toy library stocks, building planter boxes for their local community and the list goes on depending on the shed's involvement with their local community. It is a great place for members to learn new skills. The shed has builders, engineer's cabinet makers and very skilled handy men who pass on their skills to others who may not have been exposed to using practical skills in their past. It is known as a menzshed however most sheds have female members who take on the same tasks as their male members. Some sheds use their female members to teach more domestic type tasks to other members in need of these skills. Gisborne has several female members in their club. The Gisborne shed is set out as a joiner's shop with electrical woodwork machinery most of them being donated by local people whose family members have passed on and the Bunnings Warehouse, who have been most generous. On retirement couples often find it hard to adjust to being together (or under the other's feet) every waking and sleeping hour and this sometimes causes friction between them. The shed goes a long way to overcoming this problem. As a result, women are among the most ardent supporters of the menzshed. It is generally known that men have a smaller circle of friends than women, so the shed is a great place to increase this circle with new friends outside of their family's social circles. Menzsheds are used by health professionals to gain access to men who may otherwise not take care of their health. Most sheds invite health professionals to give informational talks on basic health checks, held at the shed where members would feel more relaxed in their own environment. The Gisborne Menzshed is known as Menzshed Tairawhihi and is situated on the corner of Parkinson Street and Innes street. It is open for the members at 9.00am Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Its membership subscription is \$30.00 per year. E mail is [tairawhitimenzshed@gmail.com](mailto:tairawhitimenzshed@gmail.com) . The contact person is James Aramoana, phone 0224650396. Members of the shed assist the Stroke foundation with their projects on the Saturday. The Health Camp on the Wednesday in the afternoon and the IHC personnel for those not too effected mentally, one at a time on a one on one system any day of the week. The YMCA make use of their facilities and skills training during the school holidays.

The shed is a non-profit organization and any work they undertake for others at their request is for the material cost and a donation, but not money usually in the shape of vouchers. They do have contacts who will work for the disadvantaged at a very reduced cost and these members can be contacted through James Aramoana 0224650396 or the Gisborne GSA secretary 0273503058



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## **Council Meeting 2020.**



Due to ill health Des Omundsen was the only delegate at the Council representing the Gisborne branch at this years Council meeting. The meeting was to commence with the launch of the centenary book to be held at the Parliament building on the Friday at 4.00pm. He arranged tickets to fly to Wellington on the 6.30am flight to be there for the book launch, however Covid 19 level 3 restrictions cancelled these Friday activities with the book launch changed to take place at 7.00pm the following Saturday evening. He continued with this flight giving him the day in

Wellington. He took this opportunity to take a ferry trip to Matiu/Somes Island, after a visit to the museum on the wharf with information exhibited on the island's history. It would be his recommendation for any member visiting Wellington to take this experience. There is no charge for the Museum or to land on the island, plus you can use your gold card for the ferry from 9.00am until 3.00pm for free. The island has an interesting history.

The Council meeting commenced at 9.30am on the Saturday using the Covid 19 restrictions precautions with tables set out for social distancing and the Auckland delegates separated wearing masks. After the welcome and the normal looking at the previous minutes and credentials the Board introduced the remit for the members subscriptions to increase to \$2.50 per annuity pay day (\$32.50 per year). This motion was debated but passed with a small majority in favour.

Our guest speaker was Simon Tyler who is the chief Executive Government Superannuation Fund Authority. He explained to those present how the Authority distributes the annuity to the members and their investment policy for the fund. He stated that they take more educated risks with the fund than they did several years ago as it has a better return. In a nutshell high risk, short term investments and low risk long term investments.

Alan Peck, one of the Board members took us through the proposed policy to amalgamate Branches. This came about resulting in a branch not being able to set up a committee and requested assistance from the National Office. Gladly, after this request the Branch managed to sort this problem, without amalgamation or assistance. It was pointed out that it is the Councils responsibility to amalgamate any Branches where necessary, if problems arise, where the members do not necessarily all go to the same branch, depending on their residency. It was also pointed out that in the situation of the Council not being able to meet, the Board can act in their absence. This policy was passed as it will happen in the future with the decline in the members numbers.

As there were no challenges for the Board it remained with. President: Tony Hamilton (Northland). Vice President: Alan Straker (Marlborough). Members: Rob Brangwin (Hawkes Bay), Dallas Elvy (Wellington), Alan Peck (Wellington), Mike Smith (Wellington), Marjorie Thomas (Hawkes Bay).

The Council broke at 5.00pm and reassembled at 7.00pm in the meeting room for the launch of the Centennial Safeguarding of the Super book written by a Manawatu member Professor Roger Openshaw. After a welcome from the president, Roger took us through the difficulties and joys of being a historian and a book writer. The book illustrates the difficulties set up for the GSA by previous government's along with times of hardship and war, times we hope do not take place

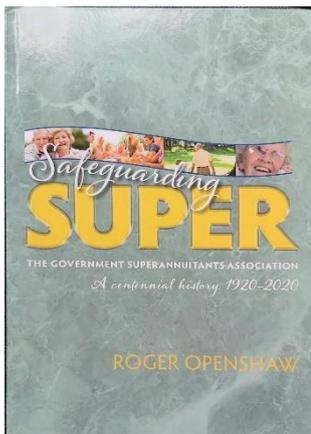


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again, and shows the necessity of our Association. Roger stayed on at the meeting to sign the books purchased by members and to enjoy the evening meal. The Council continued at 9.00am the following morning with a brainstorming session on the future of the GSA and strategies to implement in the future with our declining membership. There was a lot of good ideas put forward so are hopeful it will be of value for the coming GSA management

### **The Centennial book Safeguarding SUPER by Professor Roger Openshaw**



To celebrate 100 years of the GSA in operation, Roger Openshaw a Manawatu GSA member was asked to put together a book on the history of the GSA and this was presented at this year's Council meeting. Roger is a Professor in History and was lecturing at the Massey University. History reveals the GSA commenced in 1920 on the tail end of the Spanish Flue pandemic which affected approximately 500 million, killing 20 to 50 million worldwide, with New Zealand losing half as many people to the Influenza as it did during the whole of the first world war. Now we are celebrating 100 years on and I hope on the tail, of another pandemic Covid 19.

At the Council meeting after its launch, the book became available for sale and our branch made purchase of two copies. The committee agreed for this purchase so members can have access to a copy of the history of our GSA. If interested in reading this book all you need to do is make contact with Des Omundsen phone 027 3503058: E mail: [domundsen10@gmail.com](mailto:domundsen10@gmail.com) or [gisborne@gsa.org.nz](mailto:gisborne@gsa.org.nz) notifying of your interest and he will get you a copy to read. It is a book of 179 pages plus Appendices. Should the demand to read this book by members increase, the Committee will purchase more copies to meet the demand.

Should you wish to purchase a copy for yourself, the price per copy is \$40.00 and you also need to do is contact Des at the above address, who will arrange this purchase for you. This is your opportunity to enjoy this great read of our organisation.



The Committee wish you all the happiness that Christmas can bring along with the very best through the year that lie ahead.

