



NELSON BRANCH NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2020



Nelson Branch: nelson@gsa.org.nz

Secretary: Margaret Palermo

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Phone 0800 888 472 or 538 0233

A SPECIAL MESSAGE TO OUR MEMBERS

Our committee wish to explain to all members that because of the lockdown in May, our AGM was cancelled however we are obliged to formalize the annual accounts and nominate the committee for 20/21. The committee have decided to put aside some time at the beginning of our lunch. We realize this is not the best scenario but I am sure those of you who attend our lunch will understand these circumstances.

100 YEARS

After our shortened AGM we can start celebrating the GSA 100 years. We are very fortunate that the author of the GSA History book will be attending our lunch. Professor Roger Openshaw will say a few words about the book. There will be order forms for you to purchase this book. At \$40.00.

After Roger has spoken then we will cut the anniversary cake then lunch will be served. Phil our chef has given us a special lunch for this occasion.

The good part is that the committee decided that because this is special we are going to pay for your meal and two drinks. (spirits you will have to pay for). Unfortunately we have to put a cap on numbers so the first 150 members who contact Denis will be accepted BUT we may have to reduce to 100 if covid restrictions come back into force. Members of GSA who

wish to bring a guest along who is not your spouse/partner they will have to pay \$30.00.

If you wish to attend please contact Denis by email wastneyd@xtra.co.nz or post enclosed form. Please let Denis know by Monday 23rd November. Or phone after 6pm 545 7299.

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Name: member also spouse/partner

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Guests

name.....

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS – It is very important that if you change address, email address, phone number please let the secretary know so we can alter our database. Phone Margaret 538 0233.

BOOKLETS – Most of you members will have these booklets but if you don't and would like to receive RETIREMENT AND YOUR ANNUITY and PERSONAL DATA BOOKLETS please let the secretary know so we can post to you.

MOTUEKA OR TAKAKA VISITS – Because of all the disruption this year we have been unable to arrange a visit but will be looked at next year. Both visits to these places have been very successful in the past.

On behalf of our Chairman John Russell and committee we wish you all a very merry Christmas and all the very best for 2021.

2020 ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING 5/6TH SEPTEMBER AT WEST PLAZA HOTEL, WELLINGTON.

Chairman John Russell and Committee member Alec Waugh were the chosen representatives at this year's Council meeting, held at West Plaza Hotel.

Due to covid 19 issues, a number of apologies were received with Otago and Horowhenua Branches not present, but the remaining 17 branches were in attendance.

The highlight of the conference was the launch of the Centennial History 1920-2020 SAFEGUARDING SUPER; THE GOVERNMENT SUPERANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION. Originally this launch was to be hosted at Parliament by the Finance Minister, but covid 19's restriction meant this did not occur, and the launch took place at the Council dinner on the Saturday night.. Author Roger Openshaw gave an engaging 15 minute address and to applause the book was made available. Members should note that Roger is our guest speaker at our Christmas function in December and copies of the publication will be available for purchase at a cost of \$40.00.

Tony Hamilton (Northland) was re-appointed President with Alan Straker (Marlborough) Vice President. The board for the 2020/21 year is Rob Brangwin and Marjorie Thomas (Hawkes Bay) Dallas Elvy, Alan Peck and Mike Smith (Wellington)

Life member appointment was Maurice Sinclair (Canterbury)

Business issues centered around subscriptions, with the Council voting in favour of a subscription increase to \$2.50 per annuity pay day (\$32.50) annually. The rationale for the increase centered around current and future financial viability, including sufficient funds to safeguard our annuities from any possible political attempt in the future to amend annuity provisions. This possibility is unlikely but a prudent organization always prepares for all possible contingencies. Nelsons position was supportive in principal to the motion, but we felt it should have been increased further to avoid having to review this issue each year.

The meeting spent considerable time addressing policy re future amalgamation issues or similar as branches are challenged by either

dwindling committee numbers or a lack of nominations to take leadership positions within each branch. Future proofing and the many elements to these issues received robust and discussion and will remain as likely future council agenda items.

The Cola issue affecting pre1985 annuitants is still an outstanding policy issue, the Minister of Finance Grant Robinson indicating he will address the issue, if re-elected at the 17th October 2020 election?

An attempt by Canterbury district to re-open the Annuity Reduction factor issue which was dropped from the policy agenda in 2017 was unsuccessful, Nelson did not support Canterbury's motion.

Discussion also took place on Double Taxation issues which only affects GSA members who reside internationally. The GSA keeps a watching brief on these matters. Nelson made the suggestion a briefing paper on this topic, including the numbers affected and their locations might be a useful educational and reference tool. There are 40 tax treaties in existence and a further 12 under negotiation.

Recruitment of new members is always a council issue, including retention of existing members and it remains very important for spouses of members to be identified and enrolled where possible. Local knowledge and contact of GSA annuitants are still the best method of maintaining our numbers and protecting Annuities.

Alec Waugh

Nelson Delegate 2020.
