



Northland Newsletter

October 2020

Council Report-2020

The annual National Council meeting was held in Wellington on 5-6 September. This year celebrated 100 years of activity by the Government Superannuitants Association. To mark this milestone, a centenary publication was commissioned. The plan was to launch this publication at Parliament, hosted by the Minister of Finance Grant Robertson. Covid-19 restrictions meant the event was cancelled. The book, 'Safeguarding Super' was therefore launched at the Council dinner the following evening, preceded by a witty address from the author Emeritus Professor Roger Openshaw.

Council opened with the Presidents Report followed by a Financial Report which recorded a surplus, largely due to good management by the GSA Board. A zero budget is forecast for the current year. As costs rise and membership decreases any surplus will gradually be eroded. A healthy organisation going into the future is paramount to safeguard Annuities. The Council, accepting this premise, voted to ensure this situation continued. Subscriptions will now rise to \$2.50 per 28 day pay period.

During the Strategic Plan Reporting, discussion was goal driven. Communication, advocacy and organization were discussed first and centered on how best to achieve a healthy responsive organization into the future. First steps were taken to address declining membership and difficulty in attracting office holders by approving an Amalgamation Policy. The remaining two goals were support of members and recruitment.

Stated policy objectives continue to be:

- Fairness and equity in taxation
- Universal and timely receipt of 100% cost of living adjustment (COLA)
- Fairness in remuneration for members still employed. We are fortunate that Alan Peck (our past CEO), who is now on the Board, is also now a member of the GSFA Appeals Board.

Board elections were not required this year. Current office holders were re-elected unopposed. We congratulate Tony Hamilton for being elected National President for a further 12 months.

Two new life members were announced. These were Michael Law from the Waikato/King Country Branch, and Maurice Sinclair from Canterbury/Westland.

The guest speaker this year was Simon Tyler, Chief Executive of the Government Superannuation Fund Authority.

The GSFA also has a new Chairperson, Ann Blackburn.

The GSFA is responsible to the Minister of Finance and its goals are to use best practice to

- Maximize returns with minimal risk
- Meet the expectations of stakeholders

They are subject to a statutory 5 year review, next due in June 2021. In the financial year to June 2019/2020, \$901m was paid out to GSF annuitants.

Simon pointed out that their performance does not affect our annuity as the payment is underwritten by the Government. Key GSFA investments are in equities, with their success measured against a Reference Portfolio. They are expected to outperform Government bonds. They follow an ethical investment policy dictated by Government policy on such issues as tobacco based industries, climate change and reduction in carbon emissions. Simon summarised the challenges ahead for the GSFA including

- Continuing services in a Covid-19 environment
- Easing of monetary conditions globally
- Recent cyber-attacks on the share market
- The 2021 Statutory Review

The second day of the Council meeting concluded with a strategy session where Branches were able to give feedback to the Board on their vision for the future and the way forward.

- Roger Barber Chairperson

Join us at the **Kamo Club**

Wednesday November 12th 2020 for the

**AGM and GSA Centennial
Celebration**

Guest speaker is

Emeritus Professor

Roger Openshaw

Meet the author of 'Safeguarding Super'.
**Book order forms will be available. Or see
Annuity News for more information on
how to purchase.**

Notes from your COMMITTEE

A reminder that, the Mid Year and End of Year functions, will once again, cost \$20per person.

As you all know it is the Centenary of the GSA this year and as part of the celebration, we are asking for ideas to develop a timeline. Do you have any photos relating to your working life as a GSA member that you would be happy to share? There will be a pin board available at the end of year function for your offerings. Any and all ideas and memorabilia will be gratefully received.

Your Current Committee

Chairperson

Roger Barber, 435 0785
tudorwoodnz@gmail.com

Secretary

Rex Morris, 435 4628 or
0800 888 472
northland@gsa.org.nz

Treasurer

Tony Hamilton, 929 9772
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Committee

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The Personal Data booklet is designed to record a wide range of information and a completed copy of this kept in a file with your statements from Datacom will be extremely useful for a surviving spouse.

It will also be very helpful for a surviving spouse if your GSA six digit number is written on the front of the file. If you don't have a booklet, or can't find it, contact your Branch Secretary at **0800 888 472**.

Contact your Association

at any time by dialling

0800 888472



Council 2020: from left to right, Tony Hamilton (GSA President and Treasurer of Northland Branch), Roger Openshaw (author of Safeguarding Super: A centennial history. 1920 – 2020), Deborah Foote (Northland Committee member & delegate), Roger Barber (Chairperson Northland GSA & delegate). Northland Branch was again well represented.

“Retirement: It’s nice to get out of the rat race, but you have to learn to get along with less cheese.” *Gene Perret*“

Retirement, a time to do what you want to do, when you want to do it, where you want to do it, and, how you want to do it.” *Catherine Pulsifer*

“There is no need to be bound by convention, push the envelope, do it weird, do it different, but most of all do it fun! Be that cigar chomping rock’n’roll granny if it takes your fancy.”

Receiving the Annuity News and the Branch Newsletter

With postage costs continuing to rise the Association is making a request to members to consider receiving our publications via email.

If your personal information needs updating (address, phone number etc). DATACOM also needs to hear about information changes.

Please contact us either by email (northland@gsa.org.nz), by phoning one of your Committee members or using **0800 888472**.

~ from “101 Fun Things to do in Retirement” by Stella Rheingold

How do you know you are getting old? People phone you at 9pm and ask, “Did I wake you?”

At my age, flowers scare me. ~ *George Burns*

We look forward to a good attendance at the forthcoming Annual General meeting. We are also looking for new committee members. Please talk to any one of the current Committee Members if you are interested or just nominate yourself at the AGM.



Report back from Annual Council Meeting, Whangarei.

The first report back meeting was held on September 22nd at the Anglican Church Hall in Deveron Street.

About thirty GSA members attended to hear the latest developments and a chit chat over a cuppa.

The Annuity pathway: where the GSA has fitted in for 100 years

The **Government** Legislates, sets rules and delegates to GSFA.

GSFA (Government Superannuitants fund Authority) administer the funds that are paid out to Annuitants. They publish a report on all aspects of their operations every year. Including details of how much money they have, how they invest it, how many annuitants there are and the changes to these numbers. All information relating to their operations is on their website. <https://www.gsfa.govt.nz>

The GSFA delegates the business of paying the Annuities to Datacom.

Datacom send out a letter each March to inform Annuitants of the movement in the Consumer Price Index and how it relates to each annuitant's allowance.

GSA (Government Superannuitants Association) provides a collective voice to protect the superannuation rights of government employees who have contributed to one of the Government Superannuation Fund (GSF) schemes or the National Provident Fund (NFP).

As such the GSA safeguards the current provisions of the schemes and seeks to improve them by having deficiencies and anomalies removed. Further information relating to their operations is available on their website. www.gsa.org.nz

Report back from Annual Council Meeting, Mangonui.

The second report back meeting was held on September 30th at the Memorial Hall on the waterfront.

About a dozen GSA members attended to hear the latest developments and share ideas and cuppa.



End of Year Luncheon, AGM and Centennial Celebration

will be held on
Thursday November 12th 2020
at the Kamo Club (Meldrum Street)

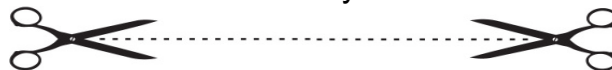
- 11:00 Gather and socialise
 - 11:30 Welcome by Branch Chair, Roger Barber
 - 11:45 AGM
 - 12:00 Guest speaker:
Emeritus Professor **Roger Openshaw**
 - 12.30 Luncheon and intermittent Quiz
- Juice provided
Other drinks at own expense

Please complete and return the form below if you intend to be present for this event.
Let us know your special dietary requirements so we can let the caterers know.

*Note: \$20 per person
Superannuitant non-members welcome too*

Please return to
Tony Hamilton
PO Box 3286, Onerahi
Whangarei 0142

no later than Friday 6th November



Northland Branch G.S.A

AGM, End of Year and **Centennial Celebration** Luncheon

Enclosed is \$..... for Luncheon Booking/s
(\$20 per person –our Branch provides a subsidy)

First name and surname for label(s) please _____

Cheques should be made payable to:
'Government Superannuitants Assoc - Northland' (**NOT** Kamo Club.)
In February 2020 Kiwi Bank stopped using cheques.

Or pay to online bank account:

GSA Northland, **11-5000-0724650-11**

(Please include your name/s in the details, or email the information to
tah3524@gmail.com)

