

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**



**AND A HAPPY
NEW YEAR**

REPORT FROM CHAIRPERSON November 2020

Once again it is my pleasure to present to you my annual report. As you are aware 2020 has been an extremely difficult year for everyone. Our mid-winter function/AGM had to be postponed due to the Covid-19 and our lockdown. We are now able to proceed with another function. We are subsidizing your meals as we have done in the past and we hope you are all able to enjoy this luncheon with us.

As you will also be aware our lovely "Seven Oaks" has now been demolished to house St. John Ambulance. The committee made many enquires as to where we could hold this year's luncheon, and have chosen Armadillos (it was Richard Pearse), between Wilson & Le Cren Streets. There should be ample parking and level access for everyone. We will have our meal at 12 noon. We will also have a representative from the Board attend and he will update you all.

In September this year, our Secretary Gavin and I attended the AGM in Wellington. It was an interesting and well-run meeting. In fact we finished half a day earlier than in the past. Unfortunately owing to the Covid-19 we were unable to visit Parliament for our book launch. As you know we celebrated our Centennial this year and we have several copies of the book available for members to borrow.

There has been much discussion this year on whether we can remain a branch of the GSA. If we do not reach the required number of members to form a committee, we will have no option but to amalgamate with a larger branch.

I urge you all to please read the message from the Board and give it some serious consideration. The Board have been working closely with us this year and have been very helpful.

I wish to thank the committee for the support I have received this year and especially the help from Secretary Gavin.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our Xmas luncheon on 26th November.

Alison Forniss

Chairperson

MESSAGE FROM THE GSA BOARD

Dear South Canterbury Branch Members,

It has been an interesting year, and that's an understatement. We hope that everyone has managed to stay safe while we navigate our way through these tricky times.

It has been a particularly interesting year for your branch. We say this because your branch needs you now more than ever.

As most of you will be aware, the branch was very effectively run by Alan Ferriss and his dedicated committee for many years. When Alan died in 2017 the reins were taken over by his widow, Alison. Alison and her small band of long-serving volunteers have done a terrific job holding the branch together, but now they need help.

Early this year it became apparent that the branch was in trouble. Alison could only count on the support of three committee members, some of whom had expressed a desire to be less involved after many years of commitment. The Constitution stipulates that a committee must have a minimum of five members, so we should note that the branch committee was, in fact, not viable. This situation has caused the Board some concern.

The aim of the Board is to maintain branches for as long as possible, but we have recognised that should a branch be unable to elect a viable committee the only alternative would be to consider amalgamating the branch with another. Local representation is important, but as membership ages and numbers drop some branches will cease to be viable. Amalgamation becomes the only option. Has South Canterbury reached that stage?

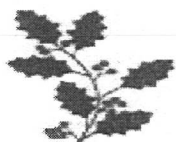
The Board was planning to use the AGM in May to push for some new faces to serve on the committee. As you know, the pandemic lockdown forced the postponement of the AGM and the Board decided to take no further action until an AGM could be held later this year.

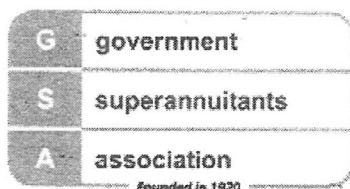
There will be a short AGM on 26 November.

It is the Board's hope that members turn up to support their branch and that we see some renewed interest in joining the committee. Being a committee member is not an onerous task, but it is an essential one, and it can be very rewarding. Accordingly, if you feel that you can dedicate a small amount of your time to supporting your local committee, please raise your hand at the AGM.

Should the branch not be able to form a viable committee, the Board will be left with no alternative other than proceeding down the path to amalgamation.

Your committee needs your support.





South Canterbury Branch

Ph 03 615 5183 email:bgsom@xtra.co.nz

October 2020 Newsletter

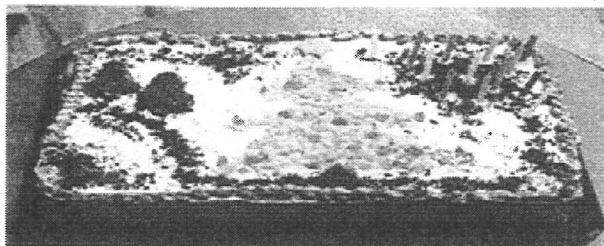
To Branch Members

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON AND AGM.

To be held at the Richard Pearce Tavern, 118 Le Cren Street, Timaru on Thursday 26th November 2020 commencing around 11 30, for social Get Together, followed by lunch at 12 and then the Annual General Meeting.

- * Our Branch is subsidising our Luncheon...the price **\$20 per head**.
- * Fruit juice will be supplied.
- * A FREE DRINK is yours from the Bar
- * There's a piece of Christmas cake following our dessert.
- * And there's a GUEST SPEAKER



PLEASE REGISTER FOR THE LUNCHEON BEFORE 20th NOVEMBER

RESERVATION AND PAYMENT...by FRIDAY NOVEMBER 20th

SOUTH CANTERBURY GSA

Registration for Christmas Luncheon and A G M at Richard Pearce Tavern, Le Cren Street, Timaru on Thursday 26TH November 2020.

Name.....

Phone.....

Accompanied by.....

I enclose my cheque \$20.00 (one person) \$40.00 two people []

Please make out cheques to Cash OR G. Somerville

I have paid by internet to Bank No 12 3159 0030475 00 [] Please include your Name in Transfer

I shall pay at door []

Ill health prevents my attendance []

Detach and send to G. Somerville, 23a Guise Street Temuka by 20th November, or phone 03 615 5183 or email bgsom@xtra.co.nz

Please understand that once you have booked our Branch is obliged to pay whether you attend or not.

We appreciate members who put in an apology ...

It keeps us in touch with you.

"Hi Honey. I'm home... forever!"

RETIRED



May your New Year 2021 be COVID freeand a very fulfilling one!!

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE GSA SOUTH CANTERBURY