



**Newsletter
Waikato-King
Country Branch
October 2020**

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0800 888 472

SEASONS GREETINGS

Your Committee extends very warm greetings to all our members.

Although this has been a difficult year, as GSA members we still have much to celebrate as summer approaches. As older citizens, we have been kept as safe as possible throughout the Covid crisis; our incomes have remained secure; and, as a Branch, our efforts over nearly a decade to press the GSA to future-proof the Association have finally borne fruit.

As a direct result of our Branch's persistence, our younger members and surviving spouses, mainly women, will be represented well into the future (see Jeremy Maseyk's report on the next page).

In late November, our Christmas Luncheon will again provide a wonderful opportunity for us to meet safely with our fellow members and to enjoy a lovely buffet and a few drinks.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON The Pavilion, Hamilton Workingmen's Club, Frankton FRIDAY 27 NOVEMBER (Full details pages 3 and 4)

Members, spouses, friends and any potential members are welcome. If you know of someone who is receiving Government Superannuation but who is not a member of the GSA, please encourage them to come to the luncheon and to join our Association.

2021 REGIONAL COFFEE MEETINGS AND LUNCHEONS

These too are very popular. This year we just managed to complete all our regional gatherings before the Covid lockdown.

We now have provisional dates and venues for next year's regional events. In Matamata, Taumarunui, and Cambridge, lunch will be preceded by a quick summary of GSA activities and issues with time to ask questions. In Te Kuiti, we will have a morning tea before our team heads for Taumarunui. Members, spouses, and potential members are very welcome.

Povisional Times and Venues

Matamata: 12.00 pm, Wednesday 3 March, RSA Ngaio St;
Te Kuiti: 10.00 am, (Morning Tea) Tuesday 9 March, Venue TBA;
Taumarunui: 12.30 pm, Tuesday 9 March, T&D Women's Club, Miriama St.
Cambridge: 12.00 pm, Wednesday 17 March, Cambridge Cosmopolitan Club,
88-94 Burns St.

Note: These events will be held before our next newsletter. We will write to and/or email all members living near the venues. Members from outside these areas are also welcome to attend. If you wish to, please contact our Branch Secretary, John Evered (see back page for details), two weeks before the event.

2020 GSA NATIONAL COUNCIL (AGM) REPORT

(This is a summary of Jeremy Maseyk's report to our September coffee morning)

Our Branch was represented by: our Chair, Jeremy Maseyk, Deputy Chair, Joan Currie, and Branch Committee Member, Keith Wooderson.

Life Members: I am delighted to report that Michael Law from our Branch was awarded Life Membership at this meeting. The award recognises Michael's commitment and contribution to the GSA at local and national level over many years. A respected, knowledgeable leader at both branch and national level he has provided advice and pertinent comment on matters of GSA business, adding significant value to the objectives of the Association. Maurice Sinclair of Canterbury/Westland Branch was also awarded life membership.

Membership subscriptions: For some years, our Branch has advocated a modest fee increase in order to future-proof the GSA for younger members and surviving spouses. The National Board responded to our submissions and proposed a remit, which our Branch seconded, to increase subscriptions to \$2.50 per monthly annuity payment. After a lengthy discussion, the remit was adopted.

This proposal was discussed with our Branch members at the 2020 round of regional meetings and at the 2019 AGM. The increase means that the Board now has some surety of income to lead the GSA into its next phase without the Association needing to draw down its financial reserves until the 2030s.

Centennial Celebration: Unfortunately, Level 2 restrictions prevented the Centennial celebration and book launch by Grant Robertson at Parliament. However, Professor Openshaw, the author of Safeguarding Super, attended our dinner on Saturday night and gave a short, entertaining talk about the stamina necessary to research and write a book like our Association's history.

Guest Speaker: Simon Tyler, the CEO of Government Superannuation Fund Authority, spoke about the operation of the Authority. The Authority manages the Fund with 13.5 staff and several contracted investment fund managers. Funds must be invested in a prudent commercial basis and maximise returns without undue risk, investments must not prejudice NZ's reputation. In 2019/20 the Authority paid \$901m in annuities to around 53, 000 annuitants.

Policy: We had an important discussion about the need to develop policy on the amalgamation or merging of branches, as members age and volunteers decrease.

The Constitution allows the Board to merge or amalgamate branches if for some reason they become unviable, so a policy is vital. The policy defines criteria to trigger an amalgamation, a consultation process, and a process to amalgamate branches and deal with assets. Although some branches are struggling to form committees and attract people to meetings, the Association's President, Tony Hamilton, emphasised that there is no intention to amalgamate any branches in the near future and that the Board will look to support and assist branches first.

General: The Minister, Grant Robertson, has appointed a former GSA National Director and current Board member, Alan Peck, to serve on the Government Superannuation Fund Authority appeals board. This is a very welcome move as the two previous ministers declined to appoint a GSA nominee.

JOIN US FOR OUR AND CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON (AND DELAYED AGM)

We invite you to join your fellow superannuitants at this year's delayed AGM and annual luncheon. This invitation is also extended to your spouse, your partner or a friend. Intending members are also welcome.

We are happy to meet reasonable requests for help with transport: ring John Cameron on 027 4735950

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| Date: | Friday 27 November |
| Times: | AGM: 10.30 am to 11.30 am Lunch: 11.30am to 2.30 pm |
| Cost: | \$ 25.00 per person |
| Venue: | THE PAVILION, HAMILTON WORKINGMEN'S CLUB, FRANKTON (Directions on back page). |

We hope you will be able to join us on this happy occasion. The venue has adequate parking. The bar will be open if you wish to share a convivial drink with friends.

Please reply by Tuesday 17 November by selecting one of the following three options:

- Fill in the reply slip, detach it and post it with your cheque to John Evered (address below). waikatokc@gsa.org.nz
- Please make cheques payable to GSA Waikato-KC Branch, **or**
- Make a direct payment to the GSA Waikato-KC bank a/c (details below).

Also, fill in the reply slip, detach it and post it to John Evered (address below), or email the names and diet requirements to John Evered (email below).

Direct payment details: Account no: 02 0316 0159181 00 Code: *Lunch* Reference: Your name

John Evered: Address GSA, P. O. Box 482, Hamilton 3240
eMail waikatokc@gsa.org.nz Phone 800 888 472

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I/We will attend the Christmas luncheon

No attending: _____ @ \$25.00 = \$ _____

Name(s) (for name tags): _____

Special diet requirements: (Vegetarian, Vegan, Gluten free, other [please specify for each person requiring a special diet])

Payment - tick appropriate one: Cheque is enclosed Direct Payment

DIRECTIONS TO HAMILTON WORKINGMEN'S CLUB

The Hamilton Workingmen's Club is located at 45 Commerce St, Frankton.

It is best to enter Commerce Street from Norton Road. The Workingmen's Club is approximately half way down the first block, on the left-hand side. There is plenty of parking. From the parking area, good signage indicates the path to the Pavilion, which is to the right as you drive in.

From the North: Take Te Rapa Road into Ulster St. Turn right into Mill St. Turn left into Norton Rd. Turn Right into Commerce St.

From the West: Take Massey St. to Norton Rd. Turn right into Norton Rd. Turn right into Commerce St.

From the South: Drive to Tristram Street. Turn left into Tristram St (at Pak'n'Sav). Continue on Tristram St to Ward St. Turn left into Ward Street which becomes Seddon Road. Continue along Seddon Road to Norton Road. Turn left into Commerce St.

From the North-East, cross the Waikato River at a preferred bridge. Drive West down Mill Street to Norton Road. Turn right into Norton Road. Turn right into Commerce Street.

AGM AGENDA

Welcome: Members and spouses, especially honorary life members

Period of silence: To remember those who have passed away since our last AGM

Apologies

Approval of the minutes of the 2019 AGM

Matters arising from the minutes

Annual Report: Mr Jeremy Maseyk

Financial Report: Mr John Evered

Elections: Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Committee

Appointment of Reviewer of accounts

Presentations to retiring committee members

General business

COMMITTEE MEMBERS WANTED

We are always on the lookout for some new, younger members to join our very productive committee. The committee meets six times a year, in the even numbered months. Each member takes on a job, none of which are onerous.

Membership is not limited to the GSF annuitant. On our committee, as well as on others around the country, spouse members make a very valuable contribution. In our case our Deputy Chair, Joan Currie, is a spouse member.

For details contact our Branch Secretary, John Evered (see below)

WAIKATO-KING COUNTRY BRANCH CONTACT DETAILS

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