

Wanganui Branch



Annual General Meeting

This meeting is set down to be held at the Wanganui East Club, Wakefield Street Wanganui East on Thursday 19th November 2020 commencing at 11:15 a.m.

Order of Business

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting – copies will be available on the tables
4. Matters arising from the minutes
5. Annual Report – this has been prepared by the Chairperson and is part of this newsletter
6. Financial Report – copies will be available on the tables
7. Election of Officers and the Committee
8. Appointment of Reviewer
9. General Business

10. Speaker – Professor Roger Openshaw author of the book “Safeguarding Super.”

Our menu covers the choice of two roasts - beef or pork or battered fish. A range of hot vegetables and cold salads will be available from the self-service buffet.

The cost to you will be \$10.00 payable at the door. The branch is subsidising the balance of the cost of the meal.

A limited selection of deserts will be available for purchase from the kitchen and at your own cost. Also a range of refreshments purchased at your own cost will be available from the bar immediately after the conclusion of the meeting.

RSVP please to Marian Barclay on 06 343 2789 or 0274 779097 or to Marian’s email address jmbarclay10@gmail.com by Wednesday the 12th November 2020 to inform her that you are coming to the lunch. We would appreciate receiving any apologies. Any messages left on Marian’s answer phone or on email will be acknowledged so please use these contacts if you don’t get a direct response.

National Office has continued with the mailing out of our newsletters. This may mean you receive very advanced notice of the AGM so mark the date on your calendars and be prepared to join members of the GSA in another Branch meeting and hopefully gain more information about the workings of the GSA organisation.

If you change your address please advise Datacom. Freephone 0800 654 731 or email gsf@datacom.co.nz
Also contact your Branch secretary Neil Elgar – phone (06) 345 7139 or mail your information to 27 Oakland Avenue, Saint Johns Hill, Wanganui or email wanganui@gsa.org.nz or raglen411@gmail.com

The updated booklet “Retirement and Your Annuity” is available free to members.

Let Marian know when you phone in that you are interested in getting a free copy of this updated resource.

Chairpersons Report for November 2020 Meeting

Brian Algar and I attended the Annual Council Meeting in Wellington when we celebrated the Centenary of our organisation, The Government Superannuitants Association.

From the beginning, the GSA worked to assist governments to understand the importance of adequately supporting retired public servants after they had completed their service to the country. A lot of us do not realise that many of our current benefits were only achieved by our association during many years of negotiations with various governments. In 1933 the Association president reiterated the Association stance based on the contract between the government and its employees.

The most important business of our Association during the past year was the action taken by the Central Executive in opposing the Bill presented to Parliament last session, to amend the existing superannuation law. The proposals in the Bill would, if carried into effect, reduce the allowances already granted to a certain number of our members. The breach of contract thus contemplated would be unworthy of our Legislature and dishonourable in the extreme. (page 43 "Safeguarding Super".

Various discussions with Government officials have continued to this day to protect and enhance our annuity. In the centennial book "Safeguarding Super" by Roger Openshaw (P51), it is noted that a perennial theme in the association's long history is one of fierce debate within branches and between branches and executive level that sometimes occurs during periods when the association as a whole is facing testing times. While this is a theme in the association's history, it is positive, indeed a constructive feature. As such, it remains today. History is often far from "finished business".

This reinforces the need for each branch to remain a strong voice within the G.S.A. Many branches are struggling to get members to join their committees. I hope Wanganui does not become a casualty due to a lack of support!

This year's council meeting went well despite the various Covid restrictions at level 2. The main points of interest will be covered in the October Annuity News, however I will mention a couple of the main points.

- Finance. Members' subscriptions were increased by 50c a month to \$32.50 per year. An increase at this time was considered to be the best way forward to provide for the financial viability of our organisation.
- Future of Branches. The G.S.A. will see an inevitable decline in member numbers. This decline will place the structure of our organisation at risk. The G.S.A. must be able to adapt to meet changing circumstances. One change that cannot be forestalled is the impact of reducing numbers in small branches. Both the Board and Council are looking at ways to "future proof" our organisation. Input from members would be welcome.

Our organisation has a strategic plan (2020-23) which outlines the areas of focus. Members' support of both our own brand and the larger G.S.A. is vital if we are to survive.

I would like to thank our current committee for the work they do on your behalf. I wish everyone well in your future endeavours. Enjoy Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

Trevor Hall
Chairperson.