



**Newsletter**  
**Gisborne Branch**  
**April 2020**

Gisborne@gsa.org.nz

## **Cancellation of the Gisborne Branch GSA 2020, Annual General Meeting.**



The Gisborne Branch AGM was to be held this year on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of May 2020 at 12.00pm at the Gisborne Tatapouri Sport Fishing Club at the Wharf on Esplanade Road.

On the 19 March we received a written direction from the GSA President informing that all the Government Superannuitants

Association Annual General Meeting within the country are not to proceed. I have enclosed part of this direction in this newsletter.

*The newsletter is being e mailed to all members with e mail address. They are unable to print and dispatch paper copies during the current Government emergency provisions.*

*Note to members: Refer Annuity News for the GSA Board's role in assessing the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on planned GSA events. Accordingly our AGM scheduled for 27 May 2020 has been cancelled. Should the national situation improve considerably a meeting may be re-instated or re-scheduled for a later date. Watch the GSA website, and/or phone your Branch secretary for any update.*

The planning for Council and the centennial celebrations will continue at this stage, as they are just over 5 months away. Branches are to go ahead with identifying their delegates and making travel bookings. The Board will monitor the situation very closely in relation to Council and National Office is working closely with the West Plaza, who are of course themselves significantly impacted and have their own risk plan in place. As there is no AGM to elect these delegates the committee will make this decision, however if any member has strong feelings as to who should take up these delegate roles please make contact with the secretary Des Omundsen, e mail [domundsen10@gmail.com](mailto:domundsen10@gmail.com) or phone him on 027 3503058, prior to the committee meeting to be held on the 13 May 2020 with your proposal.

Unless directed from the National Office otherwise the standing committee will continue with their present role until the next AGM, whenever that is.

This year the GSA has been operational for 100 years. Professor Roger Openshaw (a member from the Manawatu GSA Branch), has written a book and it is being published by Steele Roberts Publishing for launch at this year's Council Meeting. The branches have been encouraged to partake in some local celebration for this momentous occasion, however this will now be in doubt with the restrictions imposed resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic.

### **The Chairperson's Report**

I present the annual report of the Gisborne GSA Branch year ending 31 March 2020. Our Branch being one of the smallest in New Zealand functions well due to the dedication of our committee and to them my special thanks.



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There were three social functions held for our Branch this year, being the AGM, the Christmas function and more recently a morning tea at our local Museum. All attended by a core group of our members of our branch. Our annual meeting with the Gisborne, Hawkes Bay and Wairoa was not held due to membership illness, however it is our intention to renew this annual meeting when circumstances permit.

Recruiting is ongoing and three new perspective members have yet to complete and return their application forms. Other perspective members still in the work force will be contacted after their retirement. It is essential that members advise their branch of known people eligible to join our association.

For the continuation of our Branch Committee it is important that members offer their services and skills to ensure the branch continues into the future. With both financial and health challenges facing our members, the importance of a strong association is essential for our members to survive these trying times.

Chesley Birch  
Chairperson

**Our Members who have passed on during 2019 until 31 March 2020.**

Mr James Wharepapa (January), Mr Roland Matley (March), Mrs Beverly Kerr (March),  
Mrs Sandra Greaves (April), Mr Frederick Roberts (May), Mrs E Christmas (June),  
Mrs Lancley Hughes (August), Mrs Myra McKinlay (September), Mrs Isa Joan Scott (September).  
Robert Allan (January), Thomas Hall (January), Michael Thompson (February). Audrey Curd (March). Audrey was a previous committee member and I remember many committee meetings held at her residence with afternoon tea provided. She also made the Christmas cake each year for our Christmas function. Audrey attended both my daughters and my wife's funerals and it is with great disappointment because of the pandemic I cannot do the same for her.



Our joy will be greater, our love will be deeper, our life will be fuller because we shared your moment.

No one is actually dead until the ripples they have caused in this world die away.

Our thoughts and sympathies are with the families and friends that mourn the loss.

**A Tribute to our previous Treasurer Geoffrey Smythe.**

Geoffrey retired as a Manager in the Department of the Survey & Land Information in Hamilton during the year of 1996, moved to our wonderful City of Gisborne and joined the Gisborne Branch of the GSA. Within the later part of the 90s he was elected by the local members at our AGM to join the committee. He is regarded as a true gentleman who could be approached by members on any GSA matters, knowing he would make all effort to solve their problem. He was proven to be one of our most reliable & punctual members of the committee, only being absent on health issues. On the retirement of our previous Treasure Nan Trueman he took up this challenge regardless of at that time he had some reservations of taking up this task. During his time as



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Treasurer he introduced to the Branch two computer systems, the existing system used at his introduction to the job, which was cumbersome to operate, then the newer system now used MYOB, which has proven itself great to use and producing great reports. Above and beyond his duties as Treasurer he took up the responsibility of vetting the local Newsletter. Being fastidious in all he undertakes he would find all spelling mistakes and other faults, which the writer was good at producing, well prior to it getting printed and dispatched. Because of health issues Geoffrey did not stand for the position of Treasurer or the committee at the last AGM 2019. I could not do a better tribute to Geoffrey than using the lyrics from one of Bette Midler's song The Wind Beneath my Wings. It must have been cold there in our shadow. To never have sunlight on your face. You were content to let us shine, that's your way. You always walked a step behind. So, we were the ones with all the glory. While you were the one with all the strength. A beautiful face without a name for so long. A beautiful smile to hide the pain. Did you know that you're our hero. And everything we would like to be. We can fly higher than an eagle, for you are the wind beneath our wings.



### **Tairawhiti Museum Visit**



At the 2019 Christmas function the committee asked those attending if there was any interest in attending the Tairawiti Museum on an agreed day for a morning tea and a conducted tour of the Museum paid for by the committee. At that stage there was a great interest shown in this social gathering. The Museum was contacted and agreed with this going ahead on the 18 March 2020 at 10.30 am. A letter was sent to all those that showed interest in this activity informing of the date and time along with

the meeting place, requesting they reply with their attendance prior to this date. On the morning of the visit due to the Covid 19 virus the Secretary received several phone calls from members informing that they could not attend stating they had become unwell and taking the advice given if that unwell don't attend any gatherings. Just prior to the meeting time the Secretary was contacted by the Museum informing that the conducted tour had to be cancelled due to complying with the ongoing requirements of the Covid 19 Virus. They did say that we were welcome to move around the Museum at our leisure. At 10.30 am there were 13 members attending the Museum. The Museum staff had set up a reserved table for our members and had prepared a special generous morning tea for all the GSA members attending. The Covid 19 virus may have had some concerns with members attendance along with the conducted tour, but did little to containing the amount and volume of our conversations during the morning tea. On the completion of the morning tea some members left while others took the opportunity of the visit of the museum while others gathered and continued with the world's problems and reminiscence. One further problem arose when we went to pay for the morning tea with our cheque and they stated that they could not accept cheques. The committee had previously raised this problem with the Bank and at our committee meetings without any solutions. This left us with a problem however the helpful staff made an exception and accepted our cheque. Further work needs to be done to ensure we are not facing this problem again. In total it was a very successful and enjoyable gathering.





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<b>Gisborne Branch</b>	
Financial Statements for 31 March 2020	
31-Mar	31-Mar
	Financial Performance
	Profit/Loss
	<b>Income</b>
\$1,313.35	Subscriptions(deducted GSF)
\$97.37	Subscriptions(deducted NPF)
\$41.60	Subscriptions(paid direct)
\$66.10	Functions Received
\$4.36	Interest Received
<b>\$1,522.78</b>	<b>Total Income</b>
	<b>Expenses</b>
\$760.98	Functions
\$89.73	Newsletter
\$22.00	Printing & Stationery
\$50.00	Review Expenses
<b>\$922.71</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>
<b>\$600.07</b>	<b>Surplus</b>
	<b>Balance Sheet</b>
\$5,589.16	Accumulated Funds
\$600.07	Surplus
\$6,189.23	Total
	<b>Represented by</b>
\$6,189.23	Cash Account
	 A review is limited primarily to enquiries of Branch personnel and an analytical review of compliance with policy and procedures as applied to the financial data. I have not performed an audit and accordingly I do not express an audit opinion. On the basis of my review nothing has come to my attention that causes me believe that the financial statements do not give a true and fair view.