



# Newsletter

## Manawatu Branch

### April 2020

**Branch Secretary**  
 0800 888 472  
 40 Highbury Avenue  
 Palmerston North 4412  
 Manawatu@gsa.org.nz  
 www.gsa.org.nz

#### Branch Committee

Chair: Gordon Batchelar.  
 Deputy Chair: Roger Openshaw  
 Committee: Arthur Evans:  
 John Lowen. Ros Hallam, Russell Hallam.  
 Annette Beasley.  
 Robert Crawley. Sid Murdie.

#### Delegates to Council. 2019

Gordon Batchelar.  
 Russell Hallam.

Secretary/Treasurer. Meg Vining  
 Reviewer. Helen Susmilch.

*This newsletter is being emailed to all our members with email addresses. We are unable to print and dispatch paper copies of the newsletter during the current Government emergency provisions. Please contact any member you know who does not have email and let them know the information from the emailed version.*

*Members will find updates on the GSA situation relating to Covid-19 on the GSA website – see below for the GSA ‘COVID-19 IMPACT UPDATE.’*

### **Annual General Meeting and luncheon scheduled for Wednesday May 27th.**

*GSA 2020 Branch AGMs around the country have been postponed indefinitely at this stage. Further information to follow once the Covid-19 social distancing requirements have been lifted.*

#### **Membership**

**As of 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020, membership totaled 981  
 It now totals 1094 (see database)**

Member Categories	31st March 2019	6 <sup>th</sup> March 2020
Annuitant	545	509
Annuitant spouse	284	272
Surviving spouse	155	149
Pre-annuitant	31	28
Pre-annuitant spouse	27	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>1042</b>	<b>981</b>

**DUE TO THE COVID-19 VIRUS**

**THE AGM ON 27<sup>TH</sup> MAY AT THE COACHMAN**

**HOTEL HAS BEEN CANCELLED.**

## **Chairperson's Report. 2020**

In my report of April last year, I stated the committee was busy looking at ways we could introduce members to becoming committee members with a view to becoming branch officers of the future.

This year your committee has 10 members who are all working hard to find new ideas for our social functions and dinners.

We have had a few pot-luck lunches, but they were not well supported. There was a suggestion of a bus trip, but the logistics proved too difficult to implement without a facilitator/coordinator to deal with the complexities. The suggestion of an afternoon tea with suitable dancing did not elicit any interest, nor did the idea of a morning tea.

An evening for the pre-annuitants was suggested but did not go any further as it was thought most were working and interest would be very low.

I have been advised that our Secretary/Treasurer Meg Vining is giving up the position at the AGM (now cancelled). I would like to thank her for her 6 years of hard work. As Meg was not a member of our organization it was hard for her to pick up the workings of the Association, but she did and always performed at a high level.

On behalf of the committee and myself I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for the excellent manner in which she has helped our members.

At our last committee meeting in March I was very pleased to note that John Lowen put his hand up for the position of Secretary/Treasurer on the understanding that Meg would train him until the AGM. John has been a long-standing member of our committee and I hope his experience will be a happy one.

To help John a new position was found: Editor of the Newsletter. This position has been taken over by Dr Annette Beasley, a recent member of our committee.

The position of Reviewer will become vacant at the end of this financial year and I would like to thank Helen Sussmilch for her services over many years.

The Branch received an email from Tony Hamilton (Council Chairman) advising that all Branch AGM's will be cancelled this year owing to COVID-19. For further information please refer to this newsletter, The Annuity News and the GSA website.

In the meantime, stay safe, stay home, stay well.

Gordon Batchelar.

## **Secretary/Treasurers Report.**

The 2019-2020 year had been ticking along quite nicely until January 2020 when the world hit a very big bump in the road in the form of covid-19. By the time you read this, I hope everything will be starting to revert to normal.

You will be aware that all AGM's have been cancelled, but in time they will take place again. In the meantime, your committee and Council has carried on safeguarding your interests.

Our finances are in a good place and again this year and we will have a surplus. It was not possible to give you the reviewed accounts due to COVID-19 but they were reviewed up until 29<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

On a personal level I have decided the time has come for the Branch to have a new Secretary/Treasurer. I had intended to stay until the AGM but as that has been cancelled I will be staying a little longer (not too long though) until my successor John has had time

to sit with me and learn the ropes and then take over. Thus, ensuring a measured and timely takeover.

I have enjoyed my time with you, and I thank each and every one of you for your friendship and support. I also acknowledge the support of Gordon Batchelar and all the committee with much gratitude, and to my partner Peter Joe, whom you will have met on the occasions of our luncheon meetings, always goes my undying love and gratitude for his unfailing support at all times.

Stay well, stay home and look after yourselves.

Meg Vining.

**Scams.** Be very aware of persons phoning alleging they are from a Telco, Power Co and others, asking for your personal details. i.e. Bank account numbers. Don't be taken in!

## **COVID-19 OUTBREAK**

Ministry of Health Guidelines

*As from 21<sup>st</sup> March 2020, the Ministry of Health is advising all citizens aged 70 years and older to:*

- stay at home
- avoid close or prolonged contact with other people
- stop having visitors to your home
- stay off public transport

*You are also advised to:*

- wash your hands regularly with soap for 20 seconds (two verses of Happy Birthday!)
- maintain physical distance from others when outside the home – 2 meters is recommended as COVID-19 can spread from person to person through physical contact. This means stopping kissing, hugging and all other forms of close physical contact.
- Alternatives include, waving, smiling or other non-physical contact greetings – be creative!

## **Grocery shopping**

For some the current restrictions will be difficult. Unfortunately, for those who lack electronic access the only option is to rely on the goodwill of family and friends to either shop for them or place an electronic order which can be collected from the supermarket or delivered to a residential address.

Below are the options for on-line grocery shopping.

- *All three major supermarkets in Palmerston North offers on-line ordering.*  
New World  
Pac 'n' Sav  
Countdown
- Groceries can either be collected from New World or Countdown supermarkets via the 'Click and Collect' option or delivered for a fee, see below.
- Note: *no delivery is available from Pac 'n' Save, where groceries must be collected.*

**New World** delivery fees:

\$15.00 for grocery order to the value of \$199.99

\$10.00 for grocery order above \$200.00

**Countdown** delivery fees:

\$14.00 for grocery order to the value of \$199.99

\$9.00 for grocery order above \$200.00

**Manawatu Branch  
Financial Statements for 31 March 2020**

31 March 2019	31 March 2020	Financial performance
		<b>Income</b>
6556	6204	Subscriptions (deducted GSF)
413	333	Subscriptions (deducted NPF)
446	333	Subscriptions (paid direct)
2193	2191	Functions
185	173	Interest
		Donations
9793	9234	
		<b>Expenditure</b>
3900	3700	Functions
354	444	Communications
	429	Organisation
3000	3000	Remuneration
488	272	Office function
		Review
		Income tax
229	179	General
7971	8024	<i>expenditure</i>
1822	1210	<i>surplus (deficit) for year</i>
		<i>Capital expenditure</i>
		<i>surplus (deficit)</i>
31Mar19	31Mar2020	Financial position
9552	11374	Accumulated funds 1 April 2019
1822	1210	Surplus (deficit)
11374	12584	
		<b>Represented by</b>
		Assets
4167	5084	Cash account
1593	1714	Savings account
5614	5786	Term deposits
11374	12584	<i>Total cash/bank</i>
		Accrued interest
		Accounts receivable
		less liabilities
		Accounts payable

I have reviewed the financial statements above for the year ended 31 March 2020

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 to believe that the above financial statements do not give a true and fair view

Signed

Signed:

Secretary

Chairperson

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Name .....

Date .....