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## TARANAKI BRANCH GSA NEWSLETTER

### Government Superannuitants Association: Taranaki Branch Chairman's Report: April 2020

*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 does not have email and let them know information from the emailed version.*

*Members will find updates on the GSA situation relating to Covid-19 on the GSA website – see the opening page for GSA' COVID-19 IMPACT UPDATE."*

*Also, from our President: 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.*

Who would have expected the current situation a couple of months ago? I expect that by the time you read this, you will have had quite enough of being confined because of the Covid-19 virus.

As expected, we have had to cancel our plans to hold our usual gathering and AGM in May. We may be able to re-schedule our Branch AGM when some degree of normality is restored, but no-one knows at this stage when that might be. The Board have directed that the 2019 Branch Committee continue to operate until the AGM is held.

Our Board are still proceeding with plans for the Council meeting and Centennial book launch to be held commencing with a function at Parliament on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September, followed by the Council meeting over the weekend. The Committee have selected me, and Ian McKillop, to repeat our past performance as your delegates.

Those who attended our Christmas meeting last year were very well entertained by our guest speaker Fiona Black from "Bees R Us". Fiona told us of her introduction to bee-keeping, starting with the declaration that she was never going to go near a bee, leading on to the life of bees, and the different stages of their business. Fiona is a great actor and I don't think that anyone there would recall laughing so much, yet learning something about bees at the same time. Unfortunately, I was equally entertained, and didn't get a photo of Fiona as she entertained us. In acknowledgement of her taking the time to be with us, a donation was presented to Fiona for "Conductive Education".

When we do manage to hold our AGM, we are in the position where we still need to have volunteers among the more-junior members of the Branch, to take over from those who have given their time to keep the Branch Committee viable. We still have over 500 members, and yet we struggle with having barely enough committee members to meet the minimum requirement for a quorum at some of our meetings. Some of the current members are serving, in part, so that we retain our Taranaki Branch. Under the present rules, if we cannot produce a viable committee, the Board will assign our Branch to be part of a geographically adjacent Branch. Under that scenario, any functions would then be those arranged by that Branch. The committee generally only have four meetings each year so the

commitment isn't onerous. While my early life experience was in the RNZAF, where volunteers were likely to be told that they had been "volunteered" for something, I do not believe in putting pressure on people to step up and take responsibility. I prefer genuine volunteers who value what GSA does, and want to see it remain viable. We can never be complacent about the value of our annuity and the possibility of threats to it.

That said, the sun still rises in the East and sets in the West.



Below: The quietest time of our Christmas Meeting.



Watch out for Covid-19. It needs humans; we don't need it.

Les Sharp

Chairman: Taranaki Branch. GSA.

### Membership

Our current membership is 513. Sadly 27 members have died since our 2018 AGM and we have welcomed 6 new members, some of whom have transferred from other branches.

Taranaki Branch

Financial Statements for 31 March 2020

Year to	Year to	
31-Mar-19	31-Mar-20	
\$	\$	
3558	3410	Subscription (deducted GSF)
318	300	Subscription (deducted NPF)
106	105	Subscription (paid direct)
1755	1260	Functions
137	241	Interest
	125	Sale of Lap Top
<hr/> 5874	<hr/> 5441	<b>Income</b>
		<b>Expenditure</b>
3450	3203	Functions
2214	338	Organisation
800	800	Remuneration
4		General
<hr/> 6468	<hr/> 4341	<b>Expenditure</b>
<hr/> -594	<hr/> 1100	<b>surplus (deficit)</b>
31-Mar-19	31-Mar-20	
12348	11754	Accumulated funds 1 April 2019
-594	1100	Surplus (deficit)
<hr/> 11754	<hr/> 12854	
		<b>Represented by Assets</b>
3754	4854	Cash Account
8000	8000	Term Deposits 1 \$4000 12 mnth 3.05%
		2 \$4000 12 mnth 2.95%
<hr/> 11754	<hr/> 12854	<b>total cash/bank</b>
		(not yet reviewed)

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE TARANAKI BRANCH OF THE GSA  
HELD FRIDAY 22 May 2019**

Present 30 members, Mike Smith (Board member) and his partner

**Apologies:** Frankie and Trevor Owen, John and Judy Cunningham, Rex and Margaret Dowman, David and Rosemary Smart, Florence Bateman, Ian and Jill McKillop.

Moved by Les Sharp that these be accepted, seconded Alex Fahey Carried

A minute's silence was observed in remembrance of those members who had died since our last AGM.

**Minutes of 2018 AGM:**

These were distributed to members and taken as read.

Moved that they be accepted as a true and correct record: Moved by Les Sharp, seconded by Rosalie Rangī. Carried.

**Matters arising:** Colleen Harrison asked for clarification re the membership of the Government Superannuation Appeals Board. Les said Mike Smith would speak on that later

**Financial:**

Doreen presented the Annual Accounts as printed and reviewed by Peter Cotterill.

Moved that they be accepted as a true and correct record:

Les Sharp Seconded: Colleen Harrison. Carried

Mike Smith (Board) spoke about the suggestion National Office would ask branches to forward funds held in term deposits to National Office so that they could gather more interest by bulk investment. He pointed out that this had been rescinded at the 2018 Council Meeting.

Branches were to be invoiced for the cost of printing their newsletters in the future.

**Election of Officers:**

**Chairman:** Les Sharp advised that he was available to continue. Doreen called for further nominations. As there were no other nominations Les Sharp was re-appointed as Chairman. Carried

**Committee:** The existing committee members had advised that they were available. Les called for further nominations for Vice Chairman and the Committee. As there were no further nominations the following committee members were re-appointed:

Vice Chairman: Ian McKillop

Rosalie Rangī, John Schicker, Alex Fahey, Dennis and Denyse Salisbury

**Board Liaison Officer:**

Les introduced Mike Smith the Board representative for Taranaki who spoke of matters being discussed at National level. Points covered included:

The GSA Operations Manual is being revised.

A petition was presented to members of Parliament regarding the 100% COLA for pre 1985 annuitants where the previous legislation had not delivered the promised adjustment.

Government Superannuation Appeals Board: The Minister of Finance had, unfortunately, appointed a person to fill a vacancy without consultation with the GSA. There is the possibility of a further vacancy in the next 12 months, and this time the GSA will be consulted in the selection process.

2020 Centennial of the GSA: The book has been written. It is currently being proof read and costed.

Mike also spoke about the possibility of a Buy Out of the GSF funds in the future. This would be challenged by the GSA.

**Guest Speaker:**

Les welcomed Sue Oliver, a volunteer gardener in the Te Henui cemetery.

Sue gave us a wonderful overview of the work her team of four do in making the Te Henui cemetery No 7 on the list of sites of interest in New Plymouth. She filled her talk with much humour which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Les thanked Sue and gave her a donation towards their work.

The meeting closed at 11.45am and was followed by lunch.