

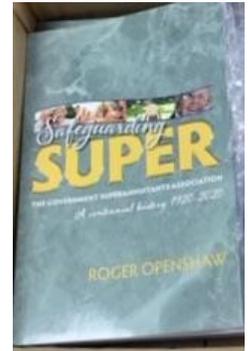
Press Release



Government Superannuitants Association Launches Centennial History

Since its first meeting in August 1920, the Superannuated Public Servants' Association, which became the Government Superannuitants Association in 1958, has fought for and defended the rights and entitlements of the thousands of government employees who contributed, compulsorily for the most part, to the various government superannuation schemes in place.

For 100 years the association has represented employees from public servants, nurses, doctors, teachers, railway workers, post office workers, police, to members of the armed forces and many others. From small beginnings in the 1920s membership of the GSA rose to over 28,000 in 2017.



Throughout this time the GSA has advocated passionately on behalf of those who it believed deserved better treatment. Notable successes have included allowances for widows, protection of the rights of widows to remarry, and annual cost of living adjustments. Much of what we, as a society now take for granted, was hard fought for over many years.

“a distinctive feature of the battles the association has fought has been its consistent aim to achieve justice for government superannuitants the concept of a contract between government employees and their employing authority.”

Professor Roger Openshaw has written a comprehensive history to commemorate the centennial anniversary of the association. In his book, **“Safeguarding Super”** he has drawn extensively on archived material including minutes of meetings, newspaper reports, and correspondence between the SPSA/GSA and the governments over time. His interviews with long-retired members provide an almost anecdotal recounting of the later history by those who have been very much part of it. Professor Openshaw provides an in-depth look at the machinery of government and the actions of various senior government ministers, and how attitudes towards retired government employees and their welfare have changed through the years.

The superannuation schemes which these employees joined became victims of the economic whirlwind of the late 1980s. The schemes were closed to new members in 1992 and the GSA now regards itself as having the responsibility to look after its members until they are no more. There will be no opportunity to write a bicentenary history.

(The book is available through the Government Superannuitants Association, contact national@gsa.org.nz. Cost \$40.00 plus p&p.)