



Minutes

Wellington Branch

20 August 2020

Secretary
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A meeting of the Branch Committee held electronically via ZOOM application at **10.00 am on Thursday 20 August 2020.**

Present:

Ian Clunies-Ross (Chair & Convenor), Peter Chambers (Deputy Chair), Kevin Duggan (arrived later), Graham Hill, Kay Monks, Alan Peck, Elizabeth Smaal, Mike Smith, Bryan Whisker and Ray Woolhouse.

1 Welcome:

The Chair welcomed all committee members to the ZOOM meeting.

2 Apologies:

Kevin Duggan for joining 45 minutes later.
The Chair moved that the apology be accepted.

Ian Clunies-Ross/Graham Hill

3 Minutes:

a) Committee Meeting held on 18 June 2020

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 18 June 2020 be accepted as a true and correct record, after correcting a spelling error.

Elizabeth Smaal/Peter Chambers

b) 2019 AGM draft minutes

The committee suggested an amendment to the wording on page 3. The draft 2019 AGM minutes were now ready to be distributed to members attending the 2020 AGM.

4 Matters Arising:

a) Notice of Motion to Increase GSA Subscription for Membership

The Board has proposed an increase in GSA membership subscriptions, based on the Waikato-King Country Branch financial modelling. With the current subscription rate of \$26 per year, GSA reserves will be exhausted by 2030.

The proposals were that membership subscriptions be increased to:

- a) \$2.50 per annuity pay day (to \$32.50 per year) - reserves exhausted by 2034,
- OR
- b) \$2.33 per annuity pay day (to \$30.29 per year) - reserves exhausted by 2033

Having an indication from the Treasury regarding the CPI would be helpful in deciding on membership subscriptions. The current ratio of the subscription divided between National Office and branches has resulted in branches increasing their reserves while National Office's reserves have remained more constant. The reserve figures are likely to

change over the next financial year as the branches start paying the printing and distribution costs of the newsletters and Annuity News. It was agreed that the branch should focus on the overall reserves of GSA rather than the reserves of individual branches. An increase of membership subscriptions is largely in response to the decline in membership numbers.

It was agreed **THAT** the Wellington branch would support the increase of membership subscription to \$2.50 per annuity pay.

Elizabeth Smaal/Graham Hill

Kevin Duggan joined the meeting at 10.40am

Discussion on membership subscriptions continued.

From an equity point of view, increasing membership subscription would be unnecessary. Further questions were raised as to why GSA needed a million dollars in reserves? Why each GSA branch needed reserves? What are these reserves for? An increase in subscription should not be looked at in isolation. It was a fraction of the answer of GSA viability.

GSA made a profit last year of \$80,000 and now wants to raise an additional \$100,000 from the members. The beneficiaries, the younger generation who were not GSA members, should benefit from this fund. The GSA reserves were sufficient at present. Raising the subscription would impact on pensioners who earn less than \$50,000 per annum.

The committee agreed that Wellington delegates should be in a position to debate and vote on this motion at Council as they thought suitable, with the agreement of the branch committee.

It was agreed that the previous motion moved by Elizabeth Smaal, seconded by Graham Hill "THAT the Wellington branch would support the increase of membership subscription to \$2.50 per annuity pay" be rescinded.

Ian Clunies-Ross/Bryan Whisker

It was agreed **THAT** Wellington branch gives the Wellington delegates freedom to vote on the motion to raise the GSA membership subscription, as they see fit, following discussion at Council.

Ian Clunies-Ross/Kay Monks

b) Council

Errors in Branch Bulletin

The committee noted a few errors in the Bulletin regarding the 2020 membership numbers on page 23, and the voting numbers of each branch on page 3 of the Bulletin. An error in these figures should not change the voting strength of branches at Council.

ACTION: Alan Peck will notify National Office regarding the correcting of some figures in the Branch Bulletin.

Amalgamation of Branches (p.49 of the Bulletin):

The Board motion to approve an amalgamation policy will be considered at Council. With the inevitable decline in membership, GSA needs to have a policy in place to assist

branches when the current structure of the organisation is at risk and when branches are no longer viable. National Office currently has interim processes in place but in the longer term, more needs to be done by National Office to support all branches.

It was noted that the Constitution indicates that the assets of branches being dissolved are transferred to the branch into which the amalgamation is to take place. The constitution did not, however, cover the issue of the members of the branch being transferred to different branches. The proposed policy suggests a proportion of divided assets should be based on the ratio of the split. The details of the split were not cover in detail in the policy but will be covered by the amalgamation planning group when deliberating in the future. Amalgamation was only one way to solve the survival of GSA branches. The Board would need to look into a number of alternative ways of assisting branches with further discuss at Council in the future. Wanganui branch approached National Office to take on the membership function on its behalf. Wellington has agreed to assist Horowhenua/Kapiti with this task. Should National Office take over the membership function for the Wanganui branch, it should consider taking over the function for all branches.

This amalgamation policy will be discussed at Council, including any proposed amendments to the policy. If Wellington branch members have queries they should raise them with our delegates so that branch delegates can raise these issues at Council.

The committee agreed that the branch support the Amalgamation of Branches policy in principle.

Tax Equity

Canterbury branch is to table a motion that addresses again the issue of fairness and equity in taxation. As this is a late motion, Council will need to decide whether or not it is to be discussed at Council.

It was agreed **THAT**, should it arise, the Wellington branch position on the Tax Equity issue is to vote against this motion being discussed at Council.

Bryan Whisker/Graham Hill

c) October Newsletter

The final draft of the newsletter should be sent to National Office by 8 October. The Social subcommittee is to support the Secretary to coordinate the newsletter. Some photographs from functions and AGM nomination forms will be included in the newsletter. The Chair will write his section and send it to the Secretary.

ACTION: The Committee is to send any items to be included in the October Newsletter to the secretary.

5 Membership Trends:

a) Wellington Branch Membership Report as at 31 July 2020

Member Trends	31-Mar-20	31-July-20	Change
Annuitant	2,594	2,537	-57 (-2.20%)
Annuitant spouse	1,426	1,401	-25 (-1.75%)
Surviving spouse	773	760	-13 (-1.68%)
Pre-annuitant	141	130	-11 (-7.80%)

Pre-annu/spouse	109	103	-6 (-5.5%)
Total	5,043	4,931	-112(-2.22%)

b) Wellington Region

Member Locations	Wellington	Australia	Overseas Other	Wairarapa	Totals
Annuitant	1,855	380	131	171	2,537
Annuitant spouse	1,020	216	59	106	1,401
Surviving spouse	529	141	30	60	760
Pre-annuitant	125	0	3	2	130
Pre-annu/spouse	98	0	3	2	103
Total	3,627	737	226	341	4,931

c) National Membership Report as a Comparison

Member Trends	31-Mar-20	31-July-20	Change
Annuitant	12,805	13,286	-481 (-3.75%)
Annuitant/Spouse	7,222	6,768	-454 (-6.28%)
Surviving/Spouse	4,379	4,093	-286 (-6.53%)
Pre-annuitant	519	487	-32(-6.16%)
Pre-annu/Spouse	411	390	-21(-5.10%)
Total	25,336	25,024	-312 (-1.23%)

6 Correspondence:

Nothing to report.

7 Finance:

a) Accounts to 30 July 2020

The financial report was circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. The purchase of a new laptop for the branch had put the branch's finances in deficit. However, this will improve by the end of this year.

b) Payments

The following tables list the payments made for **June** and **July**:

June 2020

Date	Expense	Amount	Payee
29 May	Wages	\$682.12	Secretary
12 Jun	Wages	\$ 682.12	Secretary
18 Jun	Home printing	\$48.22	Secretary
18 June	Greeting card	\$5.20	Expression Arts and Gallery
18 June	Cleaning, electricity	\$21.87	GSA National
18 June	Rent	\$204.80	GSA National
18 June	Postage envelop (100 pack)	\$139.70	Warehouse Stationary
18 June	Courier documents to Ray Woolhouse	\$8.50	NZ Post
18 June	PAYE Tax return	\$419.05	IRD
18 June	Mileage for Poster distribution	\$176.66	Bryan Whisker

18 June	Committee meeting morning tea	\$24.42	New World
26 Jun	Wages	\$ 682.12	Secretary
	TOTAL	\$3,094.12	

July 2020

Date	Expense	Amount	Payee
9 July	New Laptop for Branch (included 3 years warrants)	\$1,973.4	PG Tech Wellington LTD
9 July	PAYE Tax return	\$335.24	IRD
9 July	Deposit for AGM/Centennial/End Year function	\$500	Silverstream Retreat
9 July	Prepaid Postage 100 pack DLE envelopes & Stationaries	\$315.83	Warehouse Stationary
9 July	Newsletter printing cost	\$1,153.45	GSA National Office
9 July	Rent	\$204.80	GSA National Office
9 July	Cleaning, electricity (Anvil House cluster)	\$28.54	GSA National Office
9 July	Printing	\$1.59	GSA National Office
10 July	Wages	\$682.12	Secretary
24 July	Wages	\$682.12	Secretary
	TOTAL	\$5,877.09	

It was noted that the Deputy Chair had dealt with a number of amendments for the automatic payment of the office rent due to a rent discount by the landlord during Covid-19 Lockdown. It went well with Kiwibank.

The payments were noted and approved.

Elizabeth Smaal/Ian Clunies-Ross

8 MacKenzie Trust:

Nothing to report.

9 Board Report:

Alan Peck reported as follows;

- a) The Board discussed the Covid-19 alert level restrictions and their implications for Council in September. If the country stayed in alert level 2, and Auckland in level 3, a ZOOM meeting for Auckland delegates would be carried out at Council. The other branches' delegates would be able to attend Council in person. West Plaza hotel had a good IT facility to support IT requirements for Council.
- b) The host, the Hon. Grant Robertson and the Office of the Speaker of the Parliament would decide on the centennial book launch at Parliament on 4 September 2020 should the country still be under Covid-19 alert level 2 restrictions.
- c) The Board was to meet again on Monday 24 August 2020 to decide on further Council matters.
- d) There were no branch visits from branch liaison Board members since March due to Covid-19 lockdown.

10 Sub Committees reports:

a) Recruitment

- i. The branch has not followed up on the recruitment poster due to Covid-19 restrictions. The recruitment subcommittee planned to carry on checking on the posters later in the year.
- ii. Bryan Whisker was able to get the list of names of the public servants and registered teachers, lists that could be used to seek out potential new GSA members. Electoral rolls should also be investigated.
- iii. The Recruitment sub-committee would be reconvened to tackle this task beyond 26 November - the date of the last Wellington Branch function for 2020.

b) Honours

Nothing to report.

c) Policy

Nothing to report.

d) Finance

Nothing to report.

e) Social

The Social subcommittee had met on Friday 7 August. Minutes had been circulated with the agenda

i. Mid-winter Luncheon

The committee decided to cancel the mid-winter luncheon at James Cook Grand Chancellor hotel on Wednesday 26 August 2020 due to the Covid-19 alert level 2 restrictions. The main concern was that members getting to the venue using public transport would be at risk of exposure to the Covid-19 virus. The hotel was chosen mainly because of its central location and its easy access to public transport. With the distancing restrictions that would still apply at the hotel on the day of the event, the branch felt that socialising would be compromised. In addition, a plated meal rather than the popular buffet would apply.

The committee also decided that to postpone the event would not be practical as the Wairarapa luncheon was scheduled for 24 September. The guest speaker for the mid-winter luncheon would be contacted and asked if he would be interested in attending the Wairarapa function. All members who had booked to attend the mid-winter luncheon were to be notified and refunded if they had already paid.

ACTION: Secretary and Social committee to contact all booked members to notify them of the cancellation and to arrange the refund.

ACTION: Secretary to contact James Cook Grand Chancellor to cancel the luncheon and arrange for the \$500 deposit to be refunded.

ACTION: Kay Monks to contact Bill Day, the guest speaker, to notify him of the cancellation and to suggest he might consider attending the Wairarapa luncheon.

ii. Wairarapa Luncheon on 24 September

This luncheon, on Thursday 24 September, would at this stage, continue as planned. The committee decided that there would be no free transport provided for members to attend the function. Last year, there was only one member who required transport. If members attending the luncheon and coming from Wellington were in need of transport, they should notify the Secretary. The McKenzie Trust fund was available to assist these members as well as the Committee who would offer transport if required.

iii. AGM and Centennial Celebration Luncheon Plan (26 November)

A. 2020 AGM:

The 2020 AGM was to take place 30 minutes prior to the centennial celebration luncheon. The GSA President, Tony Hamilton, had declined the branch's invitation to attend the AGM and the celebration. The Board had stated that the end of the year/centennial celebrations would predominantly be 'social' not 'business' and that the President intended visiting each branch in 2021.

The committee discussed the nominations to go forward to the 2020 AGM. The Chair announced that he would step down as Branch Chair. Mike Smith had agreed to be nominated for the position of Branch Chair. Mike Smith would nominate Kay Monks and Ray Woolhouse for the committee and Peter Chambers advised that he would be stepping down as Deputy Chair. The branch was still actively seeking a nomination for the position of Branch Deputy Chair. Graham Hill expressed his intention to step down from the committee. Other committee members expressed interest in being nominated for the branch committee.

The AGM nomination form was to be included in the October newsletter with members being encouraged to consider service on the Wellington branch committee. The deadline for the nominations to be received by the secretary would be two weeks prior to the event.

ACTION: Secretary to work with the Chair regarding the nomination forms and necessary paperwork.

Mike Smith and Kay Monks left the meeting at 11.45pm.

B. Centennial Celebration:

The committee was informed that Emeritus Professor Roger Openshaw was unable to attend the Wellington branch Centennial Celebration. He had been the Branch's guest speaker at the mid-winter luncheon in 2018. It was confirmed that the President, Tony Hamilton, would also not attend the branch AGM and centennial luncheon.

The copy of the centennial book 'Safeguarding Super - the Government Superannuitant Association 1929-2020' would be available for purchase following the book launch either on 4 September at Parliament or at the Council dinner on 5 September. It would be sold for \$40 per copy and branches would have copies available for sale at their centennial celebrations.

The Social Committee presented a budget of probable costs relating to the centennial luncheon for the committee's consideration. The costs included the meal at \$37.50 per person, transport, a corporate gift, two lucky spots and a drinks voucher for 100 people 10 of which could be guests. Branch members attending the event would be charged \$10 as per the branch meal charges policy. The committee approved a \$6,000 budget for organising the celebration.

ACTION: Secretary to confirm the \$37.50 menu with the Silverstream Retreat

ACTION: Social subcommittee to meet and discuss the details of the menu at a later stage.

It was agreed that Wellington Branch life members should be invited as guests to the luncheon. The number would be limited to 20 guests. It was also noted that the branch could advertise this celebration aiming to attract a potential future GSA member.

The committee agreed that there would be no special guest speaker at the celebration. The committee would rely on each other to assist with the formalities. Alan Peck agreed to manage the Christmas music as background at the function. There would be no additional charge for using audio visual at the Silverstream Retreat as long as they were available in the hired room. The cost was already included in the package.

The Social Subcommittee was thanked for all the hard work getting the plan together.

ACTION: Social committee continued to work on details of the Centennial celebration.

11 General Business:

Next Committee meeting will be on Thursday 15 October 2020.

The meeting closed at 12.10pm

Jirayu Brennan,
Branch Secretary



Confirmed:
Ian Clunies-Ross,
Chair