



SOUTHLAND BRANCH NEWSLETTER April 2021

Message from the GSA Board

Dear Southland Branch Members

**A personal request from the GSA President
– your branch needs you!**

Your current committee, led by Don Mowat has done a terrific job for many years managing the branch for your benefit.

However, it is time for 'new blood' and we are asking you to put your hand up and commit to serving on the Southland Branch GSA Committee.

The Branch is at a crossroads, with long-standing committee members stepping down from the committee after many years of service.

However, if no committee is forthcoming, the GSA Board will have to explore the only other option available to it, which is to close Southland Branch and have the members belong to the nearby branch (Otago).

The Southland Branch AGM date has been set for Monday 14 June 2021, and we are encouraging you to attend the meeting, and volunteer to be on the committee. Details of the Southland Branch AGM are further on in this newsletter.

The GSA Constitution stipulates that a committee must have a minimum of five members and with recent changes, this may well not be so at the time of the AGM without you putting yourself forward. The more members a Branch committee has, the lighter the workload for all!

The aim of the GSA Board is to maintain branches for as long as possible, however if this is not viable, the only alternative will be to consider amalgamating the branch with another. Local representation is important, but as membership ages and numbers drop, some branches will cease to be viable. Amalgamation becomes the only option. Has Southland branch reached this stage?

It is the Board's hope that you will turn up to support your branch and that we see some renewed interest in joining the committee. Being a committee member is not an onerous task, but it is an essential one, and it can be very rewarding.

If you feel that you can dedicate a small amount of your time to supporting your local committee, please raise your hand at the AGM, or better still let the Branch know of your interest before then.

Should the branch not be able to form a viable committee, the Board will be left with no alternative other than proceeding down the path of amalgamation.

The Southland Branch Committee needs your support please.

Tony Hamilton – GSA President

From the Secretary

Hello members

Hopefully your world has returned to normal after the events of last year.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY 14 JUNE 2021

CLUB SOUTHLAND, 115 LEET ST

INVERCARGILL

COMMENCING AT 2.30PM

Agenda

Welcome

Apologies

In Memoriam

Minutes of the 2020 AGM

Matters Arising

Chairman's Report

Branch Financial Statement

Election of Officers

- Chairman
- Delegate to National Council
- Vice Chairman
- Treasurer
- Committee

General Business

Moving house?

Thank you to the members who have remembered to contact me with their change of addresses. I enter your new address into our GSA database.

Datacom

While Datacom does have the addresses of all annuitants they are not allowed to give the GSA any change of address information, as this would breach privacy rules.

To advise Datacom, I can send you a form or you can phone 0800 654 731 to notify them of any changes either to your address and/or bank account details. Where mail is returned to me or bank accounts are closed, Datacom will make reasonable efforts to try to locate you. If you cannot be located, your annuity may be suspended until contact is re-established.

GSA Centennial book for sale

There will be copies available for purchase at the AGM, \$40 per copy, 'Safeguarding Super, A centennial history 1920 – 2020', An interesting read written by Professor Roger Openshaw.

Committee members required

We urgently require members for our branch committee to retain a quorum for our meetings and to provide a variety of opinions regarding decisions we make on your behalf. We have four meetings a year as well as the AGM. It is not an onerous task and the committee are a friendly bunch. Contact Donald or Louise if you are interested.

Joining a Spouse as a Member

It does not cost any extra to enrol your spouse or partner as a member. A couple

sharing an annuity pays one subscription. If a spouse survives a deceased member they receive half the annuity and continued branch communications.

Change in contact details

If you change any of your contact details you will need to contact both Datacom, 0800 654 731 and Southland GSA, 0800 888 472 so we can update this information on our respective databases.

Louise Craig
Southland GSA Secretary

BRANCH COMMITTEE

Chairman:

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Acting Vice-Chairman

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Committee

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