

Branch Newsletter

Waikato-King Country
Branch
April 2021

Post Box 482
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Hamilton 3240
waikatokc@gsa.org.nz
0800 888 472

G government

S superannuitants

A association

Founded in 1920

A warm greeting to all members in our Waikato-King Country Branch.

What a difference a year can make. In 2020, we had to postpone our AGM and lunch until late November. This year we look to hold this event on the due date, 9 June, and again look forward to a good attendance. In July and September we will hold two coffee mornings in Hamilton, followed by our annual Christmas lunch in late November.

AGM AND LUNCH HAMILTON, 9 JUNE 2021

AGM followed by Lunch – Wednesday 9 June – 11.00am

(The Annual General Meeting is usually brief)

Hamilton Contract Bridge Club

20 Richmond St

For transport, ring/leave message for Michael Law on (07) 8562353 or text Michael on 022 139 8050

Please fill in and return the tear-off form at the bottom of page 4

‘ELDER ABUSE:’ A JULY COFFEE MORNING (NO CHARGE)

Speaker from Aged Concern

Wednesday 28 July – 10.00 am to 12.00 noon

Hamilton Contract Bridge Club

20 Richmond St

POST-COUNCIL COFFEE MORNING (NO CHARGE)

Tuesday 21 September – 10.00 am to 12.00 noon

Hamilton Contract Bridge Club

20 Richmond St

These popular events offer us opportunities to mix socially at no cost. The July event will feature a speaker from Aged Concern. At the second gathering, our delegates will report back on the GSA's Annual Council. If you intend to be at either coffee morning, please advise our Branch Secretary, John Evered (email waikatokc@gsa.org.nz; Phone: 0800 888 4720).

ADVANCE NOTICE: CHRISTMAS LUNCH HAMILTON, FRIDAY, 26 NOVEMBER

The Pavilion, Hamilton Workingmen's Club,
46 Commerce Street Frankton.

Full details will be in our October newsletter.

BOOK REVIEW

Safeguarding Super

A Celebration of the GSA Centenary

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.

Borrow Or Purchase This Excellent GSA History

This book is available at your local library. Your Waikato-King Country Branch has donated copies of the GSA's centenary history to all the public library systems in our region: Hamilton City; Matamata-Piako District; Otorohanga District; Ruapehu District (Taumarunui library) ; South Waikato District; Waikato District; Waitomo District; and Waipa District.

The Branch has also donated a copy to the library of each of the three major tertiary institutions in our region: Te Whare Wanaga o Aotearoa; The University of Waikato; and Wintec.

Alternatively, you can purchase this history through our local Branch (contact John Evered) or from our National Office (contact national@gsa.org.nz). The book costs \$40.00 plus postage.

AGM AGENDA

Welcome: Members and spouses, especially honorary life members

Period of silence: To remember members who have passed away since the last AGM

Apologies

Approval of the minutes of the 2020 AGM

Matters arising from the minutes

Annual Report: Jeremy Maseyk

Financial Report: John Evered

Address by GSA Representative

Elections: Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Committee

Appointment of Reviewer of accounts

Presentations to retiring committee members

General business

Lunch

Annual Report Year Ending 31 March 2021

As our 2020 AGM was delayed until 27th of November, this report covers the period from December 2020 to June 2021. During that period we held all our scheduled meetings, the Centennial book launch, Christmas lunch and the Regional meetings.

We propose to hold a free morning tea meeting with a guest speaker in July 2021. The topic will be 'Elder Abuse.' The speaker will be from Aged Concern.

Regional Lunches

In March we had our annual round of regional lunches in Cambridge, Matamata, and Taumarunui, and a coffee morning with members in Te Kuiti en route to Taumarunui. All the meetings were very well attended and were a good opportunity for committee members to meet with our members in those regions, provide them with an update of our branch and national activities, and hear about their concerns and issues. The meetings are also a very pleasant social occasion.

GSA Centennial book launch

Professor Openshaw, the author of "Safeguarding Super" a history of the GSA attended our Christmas lunch. He gave a very entertaining talk about his experience writing the book and some of the fascinating social attitudes over the past 100 years. He also outlined the many political struggles the GSA has encountered in protecting our annuities and fighting for equity and fair treatment of our members.

As a way of marking the centennial we have donated a copy of "Safeguarding Super" to the district libraries in our region, and to the Waikato University, Wintec and Te Whare Wananga libraries.

The book is available for purchase for \$40. Please contact our secretary if you would like to buy a copy.

Christmas Lunch

We held our 2020 Christmas lunch in the Pavilion at the Hamilton Working Men's Club. Judging from the feedback we received, people enjoyed both the occasion and the venue so we propose to hold it there again this year. There was however a long wait to be served so this year we intend to have a buffet. For people who might struggle serving themselves committee members will be on hand to assist.

Membership

As of January 2021 the Waikato King-Country branch membership stands at 1412 and National membership is 24,593.

Committee

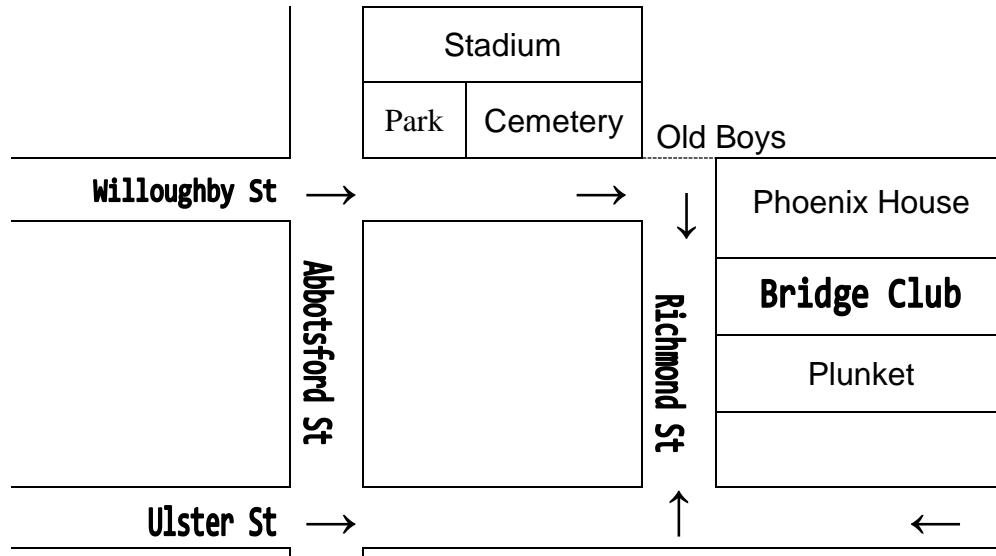
Finally I thank all the committee for their continued support, good ideas, effort in running events, and attending to committee business. All are standing again this year but we are always looking for fresh faces and fresh ideas to keep our branch lively, strong and advocating effectively on your behalf to protect our annuities.

Jeremy Maseyk

Chairperson

Venue for the AGM/LUNCH 11am, Wednesday 9 June 21

Hamilton Contract Bridge Club, 20 Richmond St.



From south: (1) Go north on Anglesea St, go straight on to Willoughby St, turn right into Richmond St.
or: (2) Go north on Victoria St, veer left on to Ulster St, turn left into Richmond St

From north: Go south on Te Rapa Rd, go straight on to Ulster St, turn right into Richmond St.

Parking: Plenty of off-street parking in front of, and behind, the Bridge Club building.

Reply to AGM/Lunch invitation

(You may decide to come to the AGM but not stay for lunch. This is fine – just turn up on the day and no money is payable.)

Please reply by Friday 28 May by selecting one of the following two options:

- Fill in the reply slip and post it to: The Secretary (address below); or
- Email your response, including dietary requirements, to: The Secretary (waikatokc@gsa.org.nz).

Payment:

- Make a direct payment to the GSA Waikato-KC bank a/c (details below); or
- Arrange with John Evered to make a cash payment on the day

Direct payment details: Account no: 02 0316 0159181 00 Code: *Lunch* Reference: *Your name*

The Secretary, GSA Waikato-King Country, P.O. Box 482, Hamilton 3240

eMail waikatokc@gsa.org.nz
 Phone 0800 888 472

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I/We will attend the AGM/Lunch No attending: _____ @ \$12.00 = \$ _____

Name(s) (for name tags):

Special dietary requirements (Specify each person):

Payment - tick the appropriate one: Cash on the day Direct Payment