



# ***SUPER NEWS***

***Canterbury / Westland Branch***  
***November 2024***

<b>Government Superannuitants' Assn., Canterbury / Westland Branch</b>		
<b>129 Marshland Road, Shirley, Christchurch 8061</b>		
<b>CURRENT DIRECTORY</b>		
Branch Secretary-Treasurer		
	Janine Lynn	03 942 7338    Email <a href="mailto:cantwest@gsa.org.nz">cantwest@gsa.org.nz</a> Toll Free 0800 888 472
Chairperson	Maurice Sinclair	03 322 8649
Vice Chairperson	Gavin Stuart	0274391155
Committee	Bernie Rose	0211846915
	Alister Ferguson	03 960 6209
	Colin Keen	03 347 0655
	Dick Kitto	0211627899
	Doug Francis	021973193
	Ken Wheeler	03 3108639
	Ron Creighton	03 389 9710
	Tony Gooding	021359208
Walker Trust Convenor	Janine Lynn	
Walker Trust Social Convenor	Bernie Rose	
		<b>District Liaison Members</b>
		Ashburton: Vacant
		Greymouth: Vacant
		Hokitika: Anne Kelly                      03 755 6383
		Westport: Norman Crawshaw    03 789 8866

### **Chairman's Report, November. 2025**

In my report for the April Newsletter, I wrote about expected employment cuts in the Public Service. Many have now happened, with more job losses still happening. Government Engagement of “spin doctors” will mean that we will hear only a little about the effects of these cuts and we have already heard reports from some Ministries about employees being forbidden to talk about them. We will all have our own stories. Two of my family are Public Servants and both have been very lucky in retaining their jobs. There were, however effects which weren’t obvious before the process started. The two places that I know about do not have clear “front” and “back” office roles. Managers were required to make rapid decisions. The retained staff were not all the best staff but in some cases were those who were good at self-promotion. Office dynamics became scrambled as some managerial roles were re-assigned and were not the result of careful selection as would have occurred in a stable workplace. Government had already determined that unfilled vacancies at the time of down-sizing would not be filled. This was a further potential money-saving action because There would be no redundancy costs for those positions. The effect though, was that those vacancies, which were a natural transitional state in every workplace, were jobs now lost which could not be fitted into a pattern that a CEO might be pursuing when deciding

priorities for retention. In neither workplace I know about has there been any recognizable removal of “waste”. Money saved? Definitely. Other good reason? Definitely not.

Public Service cuts might not be all bad. A small rural hospitality business owner near Christchurch wanted to sell the business earlier this year. No satisfactory bids. When asked later in the year, the owner said they are now very likely to get a sale because they have heard of ex Public Servants moving out of Wellington with their savings.

Annuitants may have noticed a small reduction in their annuity payments since April, the result of a subscription increase of .50 cents per payday, or \$6.50 over a whole year. I use the word “small” for the reduction because it is interesting to compare this with what annuitants are actually receiving. Of surviving spouses, our lowest income group who are receiving up to 50% of the original annuity, 99.7% are receiving more than \$7,500 a year. Of female annuitants 99.9% are receiving more than \$17,500 and of male annuitants 99.9% are receiving more than \$20,000. As the justification for a subscription increase was being developed prior to 2023 Council, the potential decline in annuitant numbers was projected into future years. When the actual percentage decline for the year ending March, 2024 became available for the Canterbury/Westland Branch, it was 6.4% compared with the previously projected number of 6.7% nationally. That close match in numbers gives confidence that the projection procedure is reliable. I wrote more detail about subscriptions in the Newsletter of last November, 2023, which is available on the Canterbury/Westland Branch, part of the GSA website, (although there it is called “October, 2023”).

Council 2024 was held on the weekend of September 7-8. Our delegates were Maurice Sinclair and Tony Gooding, while two others from our Branch attended as Life Members: Gavin Stuart and Bernie Rose. For Tony it was a bit of a whirlwind with it being his first Council meeting, at which he was also elected to the Board. For many years it had been a concern that there were no South Island members on the Board, but Tony’s election now makes it four from the mainland with President Alan Straker from Marlborough, John Beckham and Anne Gover from Southland and Tony Gooding from Canterbury/Westland. I am not providing a summary of the Council meeting, assuming that the business will be covered in the National Newsletter – Annuity News. As with last year’s Council the meeting was short, with the formal parts finished by mid-afternoon Saturday. Two Board members had organised workshops for Sunday morning. Council is an extremely important part of the GSA process, but it is also a costly exercise. Despite our electronic world there is still a lot of support for face-to-face meeting and I am one of those advocates. There is certainly room for innovative thinking regarding the future organisation of our Council meetings.

Maurice Sinclair,  
28<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

**Board**

President: Alan Straker, Marlborough.  
 Vice President: Sandra Gusscott, Auckland  
 Members: Alan Peck, Wellington.  
 Anne Gover, Southland.  
 Roger Openshaw, Manawatu.  
 John Beckham, Southland.  
 Tony Gooding, Canterbury/Westland

**BRANCH MEETINGS** are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month except December, at the Papanui RSA, 55 Bellvue Avenue, Papanui, commencing 1.30 pm. Members are welcome to attend, however we would ask you to please ph Janine (942-7338) prior, and let her know that you would like to attend, so that we can cater for afternoon tea.

**Liaison Personnel - Urgently required for:**  
 Ashburton & Greymouth  
 Call Janine (03) 942-7338 for details

**Visits To Our Sub Branches**

The Canterbury/Westland GSA Branch committee members' travel to our Sub Branches in Ashburton, Rangiora and the West Coast on a rotating 3 year cycle, to meet with our members.

We travelled to the West Coast in May,2023 which was very successful with 50+ members attending. and we also travelled to Ashburton for a Meeting in February, 2024. Also very successful.

We plan to travel to Rangiora in 2025.

A separate Newsletter will be sent to our members in the Rangiora, North Canterbury area advising them of the dates, venue and times approximately 3 weeks prior to the Meeting.

However, if anyone has any questions, issues etc that they wish to discuss, please feel free to call Janine on 0800 888 472, or email [cantywest@gsa.org.nz](mailto:cantywest@gsa.org.nz)

Janine Lynn  
 Secretary/Treasurer

## CHRISTMAS FUNCTION NEWS

On Monday, 2 December, 2024 our Christmas Luncheon will be held in “The Junction” a separate, events area within the Richmond Club. located on the corner of Stanmore Road and London Street in Richmond. A large carpark is available with entrances from both London and Avalon Streets. Metro Bus Service stop on the corner of Stanmore Road & London Street, Route 60, and the Orbiter each provide regular services.

Refer to all other details on this Function on Page 8 of this Super News.

Should anyone require a lift to the venue, call Janine, and she will attempt to help out

It is amazing how quickly kids learn to drive a car, yet are unable to understand the lawnmower, dishwasher or vacuum cleaner.

somee cards  
user card





Some mobility parking available if booked ahead..

WEA was founded in 1917 to provide lifelong learning for all. WEA offers courses in a wide range of interest areas with a special focus on social justice and the environment.

Courses include Tai Chi, Singing, History, Science, Arts and crafts etc. In small friendly learning groups, Phone 03 366 0285 or email [admin@cwea.org.nz](mailto:admin@cwea.org.nz), Course brochures available.

Courses are held at WEA 59 Gloucester Street, Christchurch opposite the Art Gallery.

Website: [www.cwea.org.nz](http://www.cwea.org.nz)

Shows the full range of courses, times dates and online enrolment.

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Have you reached the age of 79? If you have, we will post you a Birthday Card, or we can visit you, on all your following birthdays. All that is required, is for you to telephone Janine (03 9427338 or 0800 888 472) with your date of birth and telephone number.

If you are 80 years plus and did not receive a card or a visit, please call Janine on 03 942-7338 or 0800 888 472.



### **WALKER TRUST REPORT**

Our "team of visitors" have been working hard again this year, visiting those on our list of over 80's on, or close to their birthdays. These visits have been greatly appreciated, going from the thank you cards, notes and telephone calls we receive.

We are looking for members who can assist with visiting members on their birthday, in the following areas:

- Cass Bay / Governors Bay
- Ashburton Area
- Greymouth

This is a very rewarding task that does not take up much of your time. We would love to hear from you – Call Janine on (03 942-7338) for further information.

AT OUR AGM – Held in May 2024  
The guest speaker was Grant Windsor,

Spoke about his involvement with Radio Lollipop.

Radio Lollipop is a volunteer run charity providing care, comfort, play and entertainment for sick children in hospital.

**Shortly after a British Airways flight had reached its cruising altitude, the captain announced:**

**"Ladies and Gentlemen, this is your captain. Welcome to Flight 293, non-stop from London Heathrow to New York. The weather ahead is good, so we should have an uneventful flight. So, sit back, relax, and... OH...MY GOD!"**

**Silence followed..... complete silence!.....**

**Some moments later, the captain came back on the intercom.**

**"Ladies and Gentlemen, I'm sorry if I scared you. While I was talking to you, a flight attendant accidentally spilled coffee in my lap. You should see the front of my pants!"**

**From the back of the plane, an Irish passenger yelled "For the luvva Jaysus, you should see the back of mine!"**



**When you move it is vitally important that you inform ---**

**Both** your Local Branch **AND** The Government Superannuation Fund  
**OR** The National Provident Fund.

Canterbury / Westland Branch	Government Superannuation Fund	National Provident Fund
Govt. Superannuitants Assoc.	PO Box 3614	PO Box 1036
129 Marshland Road	WELLINGTON 6140	WELLINGTON 6140
Christchurch 8061	Toll Free 0800 654 731	Toll Free 0800 628 776
Toll Free 0800 888 472		

*When members change addresses, we sometimes lose track of them. Datacom has the addresses of all annuitants, but they are not allowed to give us any change of address information, as this would breach privacy rules. Currently, we have lost track of the members listed below.*



**LOST MEMBERS**

Mrs Phyllis Brice  
Mrs Thelma Britt  
Mrs Raewyn Chamberlain  
Mrs Eileen Chisholm  
Mr Frederick Church  
Ms Patricia Dye  
Mr John Fleming  
Mrs Valmai Hale  
Mrs Phyllis Hancock  
Mrs Beatrice Hendry  
Mrs Aldyth Ellen Hudson  
Mr Robert Kenny  
Mrs Val McAuslan  
Mrs Joan McGrath  
Mr Robin O'Neill  
Mr Brian Rowlands  
Dr John Sheppard

**Last known address**

18 Hillview Road, Phillipstown  
43 Aylmers Valley Road, Akaroa  
35/1226 River Road, Ashburton  
V13A/60 Browns Road, St Albans  
147 Cavendish Road, Casebrook  
2/323 Wairakei Road, Burnside  
Box No, New Brighton  
6 Gatony Place, Avonhead  
20 Hope Street, Shirley  
21 Marshs Road, Templeton  
3 Arthurson Mews Woolston  
3/150 Williams Street, Kaiapoi  
36 Tauhinu Ave, Lincoln  
17 Alexander St, Greymouth  
Hawarden  
22 Karoro Place, Greymouth  
2/7A Medbury Tce, Fendalton

**A Big "Thank You" to those members who help me locate our "missing members" every 6 months. Your calls are greatly appreciated. Janine**

**CHRISTMAS BUFFET LUNCH****CHRISTMAS BUFFET LUNCHEON MENU****Main:**

Maple & Mustard Champagne Ham  
 Roast Beef & Gravy  
 Cauliflower & Broccoli cheesy mornay.  
 Buttery minted peas  
 Seasonal Roasted vegetables.

**Salads:**

Seasonal green salad  
 Classic potato salad and  
 crispy bacon

**Dessert:**

Mini pavlova with cream  
 and kiwifruit  
 Sticky date pudding with  
 caramel sauce

Tea/Coffee  
 Xmas Cake

**CHRISTMAS BUFFET LUNCHEON****MONDAY 2 December 2024****12 Noon – Bar Service from 11 am****RICHMOND WORKING MENS CLUB****75 London Street, off Stanmore Road**

You are welcome to bring a friend.

**RAFFLE TICKETS WILL BE ON SALE 5 tickets = \$5**

Cost after subsidy, per person \$39.00, and must be made to our account as below,

Our A/c is ANZ 11 7800 0989568 00. Please ensure you use your surname as the Reference.

Please make payment, then complete and return this section by **WEDNESDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2024**.

I/We intend to be present at the Christmas Luncheon. Cost \$39.00 per person

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ Paid Internet Banking \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please Print:

Name: First \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Partner: First \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Friend: First \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Ex Department: \_\_\_\_\_

**This tear-off must be sent by due date, as there will definitely be no door sales.**

Ample Parking, .