



Secretary/Treasurer  
Desmond Sullivan  
Phone: 027 490 4784  
Email: [hawbay@gsa.org.nz](mailto:hawbay@gsa.org.nz)

## HAWKES BAY BRANCH NEWSLETTER October 2024

Welcome to the October 2024 edition of the HB Branch Newsletter.

### 2024 Christmas Luncheon

#### 2024 Christmas Luncheon

Venue: Magdalinos Room, Havelock North Function Centre, Te Mata Road

Date: Thursday 05 December 2024

Timing: 11:00am Refreshments and socialising  
11:30am Guest Speaker  
12:00pm Lunch

Cost: \$25.00 per person (This is the cost after the branch subsidy has been applied)

Who is welcome: Members, spouses, partners and friends

Guest Speaker: TBA

To confirm your attendance please contact our Secretary/Treasurer, Desmond Sullivan:  
Email: [hawbay@gsa.org.nz](mailto:hawbay@gsa.org.nz)  
Phone: 027 490 4784

Payment: Pay at the door with cash, please ensure you have the correct amount, or;  
Pay prior to the day via internet banking as follows:  
Account Name: HB Government Superannuitants  
Account Number: 38-9009-0663063-01  
Please include your 'surname' and 'Christmas' in the Particulars & Reference fields.

### Email Address

If you have recently acquired new skills on the computer and now have a email address or you have recently changed your email address, please advise our Secretary/Treasurer of your address so the members database can be updated. Just email your name to [hawbay@gsa.org.nz](mailto:hawbay@gsa.org.nz). from your email address.

## **Branch Committee**

Your branch committee members are:

Chair: Geraldine Travers

Vice Chair: Stan Simmonds

Committee: John Swinburn, Maree Harris, Lynnaire Nugent, Keith Simes, and Peter Williams

The Secretary will be happy to put you in contact with any Committee member. The Secretary's contact details are at the top of this newsletter.

## **Expressions of Interest**

Our current Secretary/Treasurer has moved to Wellington and is performing the role from there, the committee is seeking expressions of interest from any branch member with the necessary skills who might be interested in fulfilling the Secretary/Treasurer role. If you are interested in learning more and what is involved contact our current Secretary/Treasurer, Desmond Sullivan on the number at the top of the first page.

## **Scam Savvy**

If you are contacted by anyone claiming to be from Datacom or the Government Superannuation Fund, do not provide that person with any personal details. Personnel from either of those organisations will never ask you for personal details.

## **GSA Strategic Plan**

Our Vice Chair, Stan Simmonds discusses the GSA Strategic Plan in his report on the GSA Annual Council Meeting below. I would also like to highlight a section of the GSA Strategic Plan. The following is an extract from Section 5 of the Plan:

### **“The Political Landscape”**

“Superannuitants have always trusted in the integrity of successive governments to ensure the defined benefit pensions are paid as they become due, and as provided for in the Government Superannuation Fund Act 1956.

There is a shortfall in the GSF Fund which the Crown tops up the payment for annuitants each year.

This shortfall exists because, unlike present Kiwisaver Schemes, previous governments first, did not place members contributions into a designated GSF account (1900 to 1948) and second, did not match their employees contribution with an employer contribution.

It is important for all annuitants to continue to be aware that the current Government Superannuation Fund earnings represent only a portion of the contributions due to its members and the annual crown payments are deferred employer contributions. At present there is no indication that the government will change the status quo. However, annuitants can be confident that the GSA's main purpose is to protect their annuity.”

## **GSA Life Membership Awards**

At this year's GSA Annual Council Meeting 2024 a total of five members from throughout the country were granted Life Membership of the GSA, 2 from Hawkes Bay, and one each from Northland, Auckland & Nelson.

Section 6.12 of the GSA Constitution (dated Sept 2024) states, in part:

*"A member who has made an exceptionally meritorious contribution to the Association may, on recommendation of the Board or of any Branch with the prior concurrence of the Board, be elected by the Council as a Life Member of the Association. "*

Congratulations to the two Hawkes Bay Branch members, Rob Brangwin and Marjorie Thomas, for being bestowed with the honour of being Life Members of the GSA. Their citations read:

### **Rob Brangwin**

Rob retired from public service in 2008 after a career in the Justice and Corrections sector as a Probation Officer and later as an Area Manager. Since his retirement Rob has served as Club Captain of the Hastings Golf Club and held several roles within Rotary including Past President, Past Assistant Governor and Director. Rob has also worked on Rotary International projects in Fiji and Vanuatu as well as local, Hawkes Bay fundraising activities.

Despite being involved with all the activities mentioned above Rob felt it necessary to offer his time to the Hawkes Bay Branch of the GSA and at the 2009 Hawkes Bay Branch AGM he was elected to the Branch Committee. Rob remained an active member of the committee for 13 years, standing down in 2022.

Rob was elected to the position of Committee Vice Chair in 2011 and held this position until the Branch AGM in 2013 when he was elected as Committee Chair, a position he held until 2015, standing down after two years as per Hawkes Bay Branch policy. After standing down from the Committee Chair position he held the Vice Chair position for a further year. Rob attended Council Meetings as a Branch Delegate on a number of occasions.

Rob was elected to the GSA Board at the 2016 Council Meeting and was re-elected each year until he stood down at the 2021 Council meeting.

While on the Board Rob held a number of different sub-committee positions including Convenor of the Membership Sub-committee, Branch Support and Liaison Sub-Committee, Employment Sub-committee and Futures Sub-committee. Rob always performed these duties and those of Board Liaison to the highest of standards.

Rob has proven himself to be an exemplary member of the Association since joining the Branch Committee in 2009, giving meritorious service throughout that time. The Hawkes Bay Committee considers Rob to be more than worthy of being granted Life Membership of the Government Superannuitants Association.

### **Marjorie Thomas**

Marjorie grew up with a family ethic of learning, work and community involvement. She retired in 2010 after working in the both the public and private sectors. In the public sector she worked for the Dept. of Labour/Work & Income NZ. Her voluntary work since retirement has including work with Victim Support, the Wellington HD Association and her children's School Committee, serving as Committee member, Vice Chair and Chair for many of them.

Marjorie added yet another string to her volunteer bow when she was elected to the GSA Hawkes Bay Branch Committee at the 2010 AGM. Marjorie remained an active member of the Branch Committee for the following 14 years until she stood down at the 2024 AGM.

At the 2013 Hawkes Bay Branch AGM, Marjorie was elected to the position of Vice Chair. She held this position for two years, until in 2015, she was elected Hawkes Bay Branch Committee Chair. She held the Committee Chair position for the following two years standing down at the 2017 Branch AGM as per Hawkes Bay Branch policy. Marjorie also attended Council Meetings as a Branch Delegate on several occasions. Marjorie was a signatory on the Branch bank accounts for several years up to her standing down.

Marjorie was elected to the GSA Board at the 2017 Council meeting and was re-elected every year until she stood down at the 2022 council meeting. While on the Board Marjorie held several different sub-committee positions including the Employment Sub-committee, Membership Sub-committee and the Futures Sub-committee. Marjorie took her GSA Board duties and her Board Liaison responsibilities seriously and always performed them to the highest of standards.

In all possible respects, Marjorie has proven to be a valuable asset to the Government Superannuitants Association at both Branch and National levels giving exceptional and meritorious service to the GSA since her retirement 14 years ago. The Hawkes Bay Branch Committee believes she is deserving of being granted Life Membership of the Government Superannuitants Association.

## **GSA COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING 2024.**

**By Stan Simmonds, Vice Chair, Hawkes Bay Branch Committee**

Our Branch Chair, Geraldine Travers and I, attended the meeting at the West Plaza Hotel in Wellington on Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 September. As the new boy on the Hawke's Bay Committee, I saw an opportunity to learn more of the National structure and governance. A welcome from the President, Alan Straker was read in his absence as he and others had met travelling difficulties, including our Chair. His opening remarks included thanks to Lyn Buxton and Rachel Starky for their work in the last twelve months, particularly for processing over 300 new member applications as well as dealing with the administration work required with the fee rise in April. Just a reminder that the fee is has been increased by 50cents every four weeks. WOW!

With the 2023 general meeting and financial report read and approved, I took interest in the Strategic Plan for 2024 – 2026. It may not be earth shattering but I took interest in some saliant points that I thought I would share.

### **Mission**

To provide a collective voice acting, where appropriate, to protect the interests of members and preserve their Government Superannuation Fund Annuity.

### **Values**

Meeting members needs in a timely, responsive, sensitive and proactive way.

Having a sound knowledge of all aspects of the GSF and NPF (defined benefit) schemes impartially.

Being politically non – partisan in pursuing members interests. A point a number of Branches mentioned was the removal of the word “welfare” as, of course, that is not our function.

### **Guiding Principles**

Safeguard our members annuities.

Maintain a cohesive organisation.

Ensure all members have the opportunity to continue to engage in the organisation.

Remain flexible enough to adapt to the future.

The goals of the Board were clear and indicate they are a team working hard in our interests.

Irene Muir spoke on annuities which was well received.

On the subject of members and membership, out of a total of 19,600 NZ Resident Members, 692 attended AGM's, 3.5% of all eligible Members. The Board noted it was becoming difficult for some Branches to achieve an AGM quorum, set at 10% or 20 Members, for this reason it was proposed the requirement be amended to 5% of Membership, or 20 Members. Very obviously there has been a big effort to sign up more members and/or spouses.

On the matter of spouses applying for funds after the death of a pension recipient, there is to be more advice to be given on proof of identity and Power of Attorney.

Finally, for me it was a pleasure for our President and myself to receive two Life Membership Certificates on behalf of two long serving and hard working Branch Members, who have worked on behalf and for the benefit of us all. These will be presented to the recipients at our next Hawke's Bay Committee meeting.