



Newsletter

Manawatu Branch

October 2024

Branch Secretary
0800 888 472
10 Madison Avenue
Palmerston North 4414
Manawatu@gsa.org.nz

Branch Committee

Chair: Roger Openshaw

Committee:

Don Barrett (Dep Chair), Annette Beasley, John Lowen, Sid Murdie, Chris Saunders and Bob Wolfenden.

Secretary/Treasurer:
Reviewer:

Graham Poucher
Don Scott

Report from the Chair, October 2024.

I trust that you are all coping with the cold wet weather we have been experiencing in the Manawatu during September, our first month of Spring. We can at least look forward to the Manawatu Branch Christmas Function in late November. I hope to see many of you there to enjoy the beginning of the festive season.

Secretary-Treasurer, Graham Poucher, and I braved the conditions to attend the Secretary-Treasurers meeting held in Wellington on Friday 6 September. This event was immediately followed by GSA's annual Council function which took place on Saturday 7 September and Sunday 8 September, both events being held at the West Plaza Hotel function rooms on Wakefield Street.

Regarding the Secretary-Treasurer's event, and speaking as someone who finds daunting any computer programmes purporting to make financial matters easier, I have to admit being impressed by the 'hands-on' presentations of the invited speakers. Each took us, step by step, through the complexities of MYOB, GSA's preferred method for recording Branch financial records. Nevertheless, by the end of Friday's sessions I found myself more than ever appreciative of Graham's work as Secretary-Treasurer on our behalf.

As you may know, Council is the supreme decision-making body of GSA. This means that any decisions made at Board level, together with remits brought forward by the various Branches are debated at Council and, if necessary, voted upon. Our guest speaker for Council 2024 was Ireen Muir of Annuitas. Ireen oversees annuity payments on behalf of both the Government Superannuation Fund and the National Provident Fund. I was most impressed by her presentation, particularly the manner she and her team deal daily with what are often highly complex issues regarding the payment of annuities.

Both the new GSA Strategic Plan and the modified Constitution were passed at Council with only minor changes being required. This will mean that we can hopefully jump the queue of over 20,000 societies wishing to have their organisations registered as Incorporated Societies.

At Council I was re-elected to the GSA Board for 2024-25. One of the major items for our next Board meeting in October will be GSA's Financial Reserves Policy. Passed at the 2023 Council, this policy

requires Branches to hold financial reserves sufficient to permit the running of all Board activities for two years. All excess funds are then returned to the National Office for investment on behalf of all GSA members throughout the nation. Our own Manawatu Branch fully complies with this policy, rendered especially urgent by an aging GSA membership which will necessitate more and more Branch responsibilities being taken over by National Office.

Finally, as Christmas and hopefully better spring weather rapidly approach, I wish you all well for the future during the remainder of this year, and the first half of 2025.

Roger Openshaw
Branch Chair

Secretarial

Your Committee has been meeting regularly since the AGM in May this year. While we do have a reasonably sized committee, there is always room for more. Any new blood on the Committee would be very welcome. Come along to our AGM next year, planned for Tuesday 27th May 2025 and put your name forward to join the Committee.

Communication

Over the next 12 months we will be phoning all members to confirm that we have your correct personal details in our membership database. We are doing this to improve communication with our members in the future. So please don't be surprised if you get a phone call from one of the members of the Branch Committee.

Our Branch membership remains fairly stable and at the 31st of March stood at 787 as follows.

Membership as at 31 March 2024

Membership Category	31 March 2023	31 March 2024
Annuitant	442	415 (-27)
Annuitant Spouse	243	233 (-10)
Surviving Spouse	126	114 (-12)
Pre-Annuitant	18	14 (-4)
Pre-Annuitant Spouse	15	11 (-4)
Total	844	787 (-57)

Finance

As Roger has mentioned we have restructured our finances to comply with the Financial Reserves Policy approved in August this year. We now have Term Deposits (reserves) of the required amount of \$13,500, being the equivalent of 2 years of our disbursements from subscriptions, and together with a balance in our operating account at 30 September of \$5,469, our finances are in a sound position. We have returned \$10,000 excess funds to National office and in future will review our financial position each year in March to determine if we have any further excess funds to be returned.

End of Year Function

Given the many positive comments from last years function we have again organised a Christmas Social Luncheon at the Verdict Cafe, 32 The Square, Palmerston North, on **Tuesday 26th November 2024**. With the continuing rises in the cost of living the cost of the meal will increase to \$60 per person. In accordance with GSA policy, the Branch Committee will subsidise the cost by 50% and, consequently, the cost to individual members is only **\$30.00** each.

Parking is available in the Square about 50 metres from the Verdict and Supergold card holders who are ratepayers can obtain a parking permit from PNCC which provides free parking from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Monday to Friday.

Christmas Luncheon

Christmas Luncheon will be held at the Verdict Café,
32 The Square, Palmerston North,
on **Tuesday 26th November 2024**

11.00am – 11.30am Meet & Greet

11.30am Welcome by Prof. Roger Openshaw – Chairperson

12 noon Lunch

Menu

Champagne Ham on the bone served with mustard fruits
Rosemary Infused Lamb with mint jelly
Mini minted baby potatoes
Crunchy Slaw
Seasonal Green Leaf Salad
Greek Salad
Hot Roast Vegetable Salad with Balsamic Dressing

Basket of Farmhouse Breads and Buns

Dessert

Mixed Berries with Whipped Cream
Pavlova
Baileys Chocolate Mousse Cups

Please complete the form overleaf and return to the Secretary at 10 Madison Avenue, Palmerston North 4414 by no later than Tuesday 19th November 2024 or E-mail details to Manawatu@gsa.org.nz.

Please allow at least a week if forwarding by post.

I/We will be attending the Christmas Luncheon on Tuesday, 26th November 2024 at the
Verdict Café, 32 The Square, Palmerston North

Name(s).....

Address:.....

Phone ().....

Number Attending..... (Cost **\$30.00** per person)

Payment may be made by:

Internet Banking: WESTPAC Acct “Manawatu Br Government Superannuitants
Association”, Account No: **03-0726-0578952-00**, (please ensure you enter your
name in the Particulars panel)

Or

At your Bank by **Bank Deposit** (Account details as above); please
ensure your name is included as Depositor.