



Northland Newsletter

October 2024

Council Update 2024

The Government Superannuitants Association Council meeting was held in Wellington over the weekend of 7-8 September. Roger Barber and Rex Morris attended as the delegates from Northland .

The President, Alan Straker, thanked the Executive Officer Lyn Buxton, Office Administrator Rachel Starkey and the Board Members for the work they have done this year. He especially mentioned the work of Michael Law, who has now stepped down from the Board, for his work in data collection, collation and analysis. All this paints a clearer picture of the GSA of the future. For instance, there are 1000 less subscription paying members each year. The current average age of subscription paying members is 82. Yet with careful management, adherence to the Financial Reserves Policy and further cost savings the GSA will keep going to at least 2035 – 2038 before drawing on reserves. Branches may hold twice the income from annual subscriptions or \$10,000 while any additional funds are to be returned to National Office to build reserve capacity for the future. Five Branches still hold significant reserves which need to be returned to National Office.

Work continues on the pre 1985 CoLA issue. The Minister of Finance, Nicola Willis has been advised of the issue. All members of the select committee who recommended the CoLA issue needed immediate attention have been contacted and asked to follow up as their recommendations have not been implemented. The Board will continue to pursue all avenues.

There was discussion on the Strategic Plan. The guiding principle being to safeguard members annuities. While there is currently nothing to suggest the Government will change the status quo, the GSA must remain vigilant. Hence the fifth principle, remain flexible enough to adapt to the future. As the GSA is not a 'welfare' organization and in accordance with Branch feedback, this word has been removed from the Constitution.

The Constitution has been rewritten to comply with the Incorporated Societies Act 2022. It has been adopted by Council and will now go to the Companies Office for checking. If it is in order no further work will be needed. The Association must be re-registered by April 2026.

There were two workshops. One was around Membership the other the need for branches to develop a strategic plan.

Life Membership awards were given to five deserving GSA members Rob Brangwin (Hawkes Bay), Marjorie Thomas (Hawkes Bay), Murray McElwain (Auckland), Alec Waugh (Nelson) and Tony Hamilton (Northland).

The guest speaker was Ireen Muir, the General Manager (Schemes) of Annuitas, a limited liability company providing executive office/secretariat services under contract to both the NPF and GSFA since October 2001 to grow our investment. Apart from an excellent presentation of the structure and overall function of Annuitas, the take home message was to always notify Datacom of any changes to your relationships, circumstances or details to ensure annuity payments are seamless.



Come to our

End of Year Christmas Function

At the Kamo Club

Wednesday November 20th 2024

Meet

Sandie Gusscott GSA Vice President

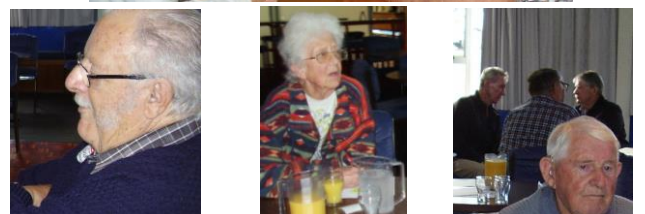
and be entertained by

"The Flaming Ukes"



AGM and Mid-year Function May 2024

Guest speaker Alan Straker, his wife Jo and GSA members socializing



Notes from your COMMITTEE

***As always we are seeking new members for the committee. Please talk to any one of the current Committee if you are interested.**

***From Your Secretary...Do you know anyone who worked for the Government and is receiving an annuity but is not a member of the GSA? We have pamphlets with information that you can request from me as well as a membership enrolment form. Let people know that the GSA can help in a variety of ways but most importantly in protecting their annuity.**

***If your contact details have changed, please let us know either by updating your information in the 'Members' section at www.gsa.org.nz or send an email to your Secretary at meauxco@gmail.com or phone 0800 888 472. While you are there enroll your spouse or partner as a member. This costs nothing as only one subscription is required.**

An aphorism is a statement of truth or opinion expressed in a concise, witty manner: You're not fat, just easier to see.

Your current committee

Chairperson

Tony Hamilton, 021547414
tah3524@gmail.com

Secretary

Rex Morris, 435 4628 or
0800 888 472
northland@gsa.org.nz

Treasurer

Tony Hamilton, 021547414
tah3524@gmail.com

Committee

Robin Shepherd, 09 4084192

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Roger Barber, 435 0785

tudorwoodnz@gmail.com

Sandra Strachan, 4362532

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Deborah Foote, 027 6340967

phoenixrae56@gmail.com

John Furey, 021 0365488

john.mata@slingshot.co.nz

Walter Smith,

waltersmithnz@gmail.com

From your Secretary...

The Personal Data Book is a great little book that can be used to record all of your basic information for quick access. It can be filled in online at www.gsa.org, under the members tab.

Or I can post you one. Send me an email at meauxco@gmail.com or phone **0800 888 472**.

The booklet covers:

Personal Details

Income and Banking

Fixed Assets

Liabilities, Investments and insurances

When I die and funeral wishes

Your Will

PROFILE of Northland GSA committee member ROBIN SHEPHERD QSO.

Distance is no obstacle.



Robin Shepherd putting the finishing touches to one of his exhibition works. Northland Age. 29 May, 2018

A horse breeder, artist, farmer. My wife of 59 years, Gena (deceased), was a teacher till age 73. Children; Professor Peter Shepherd PhD. Member of Royal Society, Stephen Shepherd B Sc Hons. Senior Executive, Michael Shepherd B V Sc. Veterinarian to many rich and famous including the Royal family, Joanne Schrafft, NZ Rep Equestrian, rider coach, horse trainer and beef farmer. By way of introduction. I am an elected member of Northland GSA committee, the only current member who participates using electronic communications. I believe I can make contributions to the committee but never physically attend meetings. I live in rural Kaitaia so three-hour journeys to attend meetings is not attractive.

I qualify as a GSF scheme "pensioner" as I completed 40 years in education as a teacher, lecturer, organiser, manager and governor. My wife and I taught in Northland schools, including Te Hapua from 1968 for four years. We were the last married couple to be appointed to a Maori School. Prior to that I had worked in three Maori schools; Te Rawhiti, Ngaiotonga and Te Horo. At various times I chaired Te Houtaewa Maori Trust, the Mangonui County A and P Association, Northland Community College, Kaitaia College Board, The Northland Land Transport Committee, Waiharara School Board, Far North REAP (Rural Education Activities Programme) Board and the REAP national body. I had a long history in Scouting leadership and administration, Pony Clubs, Sport Northland. In retirement, nowadays, I keep busy with family, painting for exhibitions, writing a weekly column for the Northland Age and occasional pieces for three house magazines. woodworking, committee work and family. I have just handed over the reins of our farm to my daughter. I have a monthly gig entertaining oldies in the Switzer Home. I have three published novels, four collections of short stories, a poetry anthology and five histories and another in process.

Life at 88 is fun which includes being patron of the New Zealand Boot Throwing Association.

Receiving the Annuity News and the Branch Newsletter

With postage costs continuing to rise the Association is making a request to members to consider receiving our publications via email.

If your personal information needs updating (address, phone number etc). DATACOM also needs to hear about information changes.

Please contact us either by email (northland@gsa.org.nz), by phoning one of your Committee members or using

0800 888472.

The man behind this familiar face.

Chairperson, Roger Barber, steps down after serving the Northland Branch of GSA for seven years.



Roger was born on a poultry farm at Owairaka in Auckland in 1947. He began his schooling when the family moved to Howick at the then Howick District High School before becoming a foundation student at Pakuranga College. He began his tertiary education at Massey University moving to Auckland University to complete a Science degree majoring in Botany.

His employment with the Department of Agriculture began in Auckland. It was 5th May 1970 and that is also when he began contributing to the GSF. He later returned to Massey for a post graduate diploma in Horticulture.

His next position was in Northland, where he was awarded a Rotary Scholarship to complete a Masters degree in Agriculture specialising in Fruit Crops at the University of Florida. While there, he and wife Margaret lived in Gainesville in northern Florida.

On his return to NZ, he was transferred to the Bay of Plenty as a Horticultural Advisory Officer to service the burgeoning horticultural industry, particularly Kiwifruit. In 1980 he returned to Northland as a Scientist where he set up the Kerikeri Horticultural Research Station. He later became the Regional Director of MAF Technology responsible for Pukekohe and the North. He also served as a Director on the Board of the Ruakura Agricultural Research Centre.

Roger took a “golden handshake” and retired early from Government service in 1992, and he and his wife purchased an avocado orchard at Three Mile Bush immediately west of Kamo. There they raised two sons and still reside on the property in their “retirement.”

Roger joined the Northland Branch of the GSA in 1992 and became a member of the Committee. He took up the post of Chairman about seven years ago.

While Roger is stepping down from the role of Chairperson to devote more time to his grandchildren, he will remain on the committee.

The Committee wish to thank Roger for his time as Chairperson and continued service to the Northland Branch of the GSA.

Northland GSA members attending the first of the 2024 Council Report back meetings held at St Johns Church, Kamo, Whangarei, Tuesday 17th September.

Members participated in a vigorous discussion.



Northland GSA members attending the second of the 2024 Council Report back meetings held at Mangonui Memorial Hall, Mangonui, Tuesday 24th September in the morning.



The third Council Report back meeting was held at St James Church Hall, 209 Kerikeri Road, Tuesday 24th September in the afternoon.



❖❖❖ End of Year Function ❖❖❖

Wednesday November 20th 2024

at the Kamo Club (Meldrum Street)

11:00 Gather and socialise

11:30 Welcome by Branch Chairperson, Tony Hamilton

11:45 Update on GSA matters, presented by Sandie Gusscott,
GSA Vice President, who will join us for lunch

12:00 "The Flaming Ukes" will entertain and join us for lunch

12.35 Lunch will again be café style finger food

Juice provided

Other drinks at own expense

\$25 per person – the Branch provides a subsidy for GSA members.

If you know anyone who receives an Annuity and is not a GSA member bring them along and as always non-GSA members are welcome at the non-subsidised rate - \$35 each

For the name tags:

When making your payment online please put first and last name into the details for us.
If there is not enough room, or you prefer, simply email those details through to Tony:

tah3524@gmail.com

Don't forget to let us know your special dietary requirements so we can let the caterers know.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR PAYMENT BY 15 NOVEMBER

Pay using telephone banking, internet banking,
at your local Bank Branch or pay online

to bank account:

GSA Northland, **11-5000-0724650-11**

(Please include your name/s in the details)

