



**Newsletter
Waikato-King
Country Branch
October 2024**

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

SEASONS GREETINGS

Your Waikato-King Country Branch Committee extends a very warm greetings to all our members.

At both the national and branch levels, the GSA has continued to deal with issues raised by individual members. As this newsletter goes to press, your branch is again holding regional coffee meetings and luncheons, in Cambridge, Matamata, Otorohanga, Taumaranui, and Te Kuiti.

We now look forward to our annual Christmas Luncheon.

**CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON
The Conservatory, Hamilton Workingmen’s Club, Frankton
FRIDAY 29 NOVEMBER
(Full details pages 3 and 4)**

Our Christmas Luncheon offers all of us a great opportunity to get together again with our fellow GSA members. It also provides an opportunity for GSF annuitants who are not yet members to mix with us and learn more about why they should join. Thus, spouses, friends and any potential members are welcome. If you know of someone who is receiving Government Superannuation, but who is not a member of the GSA, please encourage them to come to the luncheon and to join our Association.

BRANCH COMMITTEE 2024

The Waikato-King Country Branch continues to enjoy a very stable Committee membership. However, we would also welcome interest from some of our younger members in order to ensure continuity.

At our AGM in June, Joan Currie was re-elected Branch Chair, following another very successful year in that role. John Cameron was re-elected Deputy Chair. We have also welcomed a new member, David Cumming. At the AGM, we also took the opportunity to acknowledge the very significant contribution of a retiring member, Keith Wooderson, and a previous Committee Member, Maureen Wooderson. They are shifting to the Kapiti Coast and we wish them well.

- Our other Committee members are:
- John Evered (Secretary)
 - Jeremy Maysek (Immediate past Chair)
 - Judy Benton
 - John Law
 - Michael Law
 - Barry Maughan
 - Jackie Woodland

GSA NATIONAL COUNCIL (AGM): CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Joan Currie

Although out of sequence, I want to note that Michael Law has, due to personal reasons, retired from the GSA board. We as a Branch thank him very much for his efforts over the last few years, and hope that he will continue to assist us in the branch for many years to come.

John Evered, our Branch Secretary, and I attended National Council (Michael was also there as a Board member). The first major item was the GSA's Strategic Plan. Council adopted the following guiding principles:

- * Safeguard our members' annuities;
- * Maintain a cohesive organization;
- * Provide leadership through the Board and National Office;
- * Ensure that all members have the opportunity to continue to engage in the organization; and
- * Remain flexible enough to adapt to the future.

Your Branch committee had also been involved in the redrafting of the GSA Constitution in order to meet the requirements of new Incorporated Societies legislation. Changes included (1) removing the word "welfare" as the GSA is not a 'welfare organisation' (See the Strategic Plan's *guiding principles* above); and (2) adjusting quorum numbers for meetings to recognize the reduction in the size of branches.

Council also discussed the GSA's reserves policy. Several branches have large reserves while others are running at a loss. It has been decided that Branches can retain either two years' subscriptions or \$10,000, whichever is the greater. Updating the database is another ongoing concern. As members age, there is a recurring problem with members not telling the GSA when they shift or replace their 'landline' with a mobile.

Five new life members were elected: Rob Branwin and Marjorie Thomas (Hawke's Bay); Murray MacElwain (Auckland); Alex Waugh (Nelson) and last, but not least, former President, Tony Hamilton (Northland).

On the Sunday, Ireen Muir, the General Manager of the Annuitas addressed Council. Annuitas is jointly owned by the Government Superannuation Fund and the Trustees of the National Provident Fund. It provides both bodies with management services and invests both bodies' assets. Annuitas then contracts Datacom to administer the schemes. On average, the GSF pays out \$55 million in annuities every four weeks.

Ireen made a number of very important points which your Branch is now passing on to members.

- * Power of Attorney (POA) and Enduring Power of Attorney (EPOA). Ireen strongly recommends that all annuitants provide Datacom with copies to be kept on their individual files;
- * Keep Datacom (and the GSA) up-to-date with any and all changes in personal details;
- * Provide Datacom with any legal documentation that can help a surviving spouse establish her or his right to a surviving spouse's annuity. And make sure a POA/executor has copies;
- * Also provide documentation regarding any change in marital/relationship status.

It is especially important not to fall into Datacom's *Gone No Address category*. Datacom will move heaven and earth to find you if they lose track of you, but the onus is on annuitants to keep their details up-to-date.

Throughout her talk, Ireen emphasized the importance of the GSA as a key stakeholder that represents its members' interests. In his comments, GSA president, Alan Straker, picked up on that theme and underlined just how important it is for all Government Superannuitants to be GSA members. He noted that while the GSA had a very cordial, co-operative relationship with Annuitas and Datacom, the GSA cannot represent non-members. This can mean that surviving spouses of non-members can be left without an informed voice to assist and represent them when their annuitant spouse/partner dies.

It is very important that all of us point out to annuitants who are not in the GSA the difficult situation in which they could leave their surviving spouse/partner on their death if they and their spouse/partner are non-members.

Council ended with our President, Alan Straker, expressing very heartfelt thanks on behalf of all present to the wonderful job done by our National Office staff, Lyn and Rachel.

JOIN US FOR OUR CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

We invite you to join your fellow superannuitants at this year's annual luncheon. This invitation is also extended to your spouse, your partner or a friend. Intending members are also welcome. We are happy to meet reasonable requests for help with transport: ring John Evered Ph 0800 888 472.

Note: Lunch will be a buffet; committee members will assist or serve those with mobility issues.

Date:	Friday 29 November
Time:	11.00 am – 2.30 pm
Cost:	\$ 25.00 per head
Venue:	THE CONSERVATORY HAMILTON WORKINGMEN'S CLUB, FRANKTON (See directions on Page 4)

We hope you will be able to join us on this happy occasion. The venue has adequate parking. The bar will be open if you wish to share a convivial drink with friends.

Please reply by *Tuesday 6 November* by selecting one of the following three 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*

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I/We will attend the Christmas Lunch No attending: ____@ \$25.00 = \$ ____
Name(s) (for name tags):

Special diet requirements: (please specify for each person requiring a special diet)

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

DIRECTIONS TO HAMILTON WORKINGMEN'S CLUB

The Hamilton Workingmen's Club is located at 45 Commerce St, Frankton.

It is best to enter Commerce Street from Norton Road. The Workingmen's Club is approximately half way down the first block, on the left-hand side. There is plenty of parking. From the parking area, good signage indicates the path to the Pavilion, which is to the right as you drive in.

From the North: Take Te Rapa Road into Ulster St. Turn right into Mill St. Turn left into Norton Rd. Turn Right into Commerce St.

From the West: Take Massey St. to Norton Rd. Turn right into Norton Rd. Turn right into Commerce St.

From the South: Drive to Tristram Street. Turn left into Tristram St (at Pak'n'Sav). Continue on Tristram St to Ward St. Turn left into Ward Street which becomes Seddon Road. Continue along Seddon Road to Norton Road. Turn left into Commerce St.

From the North-East, cross the Waikato River at a preferred bridge. Drive West down Mill Street to Norton Road. Turn left into Norton Road. Turn right into Commerce Street.

WAIKATO-KING COUNTRY BRANCH CONTACT DETAILS

Phone: 0800 888 472; **Email:** waikatokc@gsa.org.nz **Postal:** P O Box 482, Hamilton 3240