

G	government
S	superannuitants
A	association



WANGANUI BRANCH

End of Year – Xmas Meeting

The Christmas meeting will be held at the Whanganui East Club, Wakefield Street Thursday 21st November as usual starting at 11:15 a.m.

This meeting will include a report on the National Council meeting highlights, held in September, a guest Speaker followed by a subsidised meal.

As usual the meal will be a special Christmas meal with choices of meat for the main and a super dessert.

Tea and coffee will be freely available and refreshments will be available at the bar, at your cost, following the announcements and during the meal.

The total cost per person will be \$25 payable at the door. As usual the Branch subsidises the meeting cost from funds provided by the GSA National Office, as a result of your GSA membership fees. Noting the two special meetings – the AGM and the Xmas meeting are subsidised – attendees gain a significant return from the GSA membership fees from ALL Members.

If you know members who normally do not attend or have not joined the GSA invite them along.

Our guest speaker will be DALE PULLIN, the Bushy Park Manager who will tell of his role and some interesting information about Bushy Park facilities.

RSVP to Marian Barclay Phone 06 343 2789 or email Marian jmbarclay10@gmail.com

before **15 November** to ensure the numbers for the meal can be established for the caterer. Leave a message on the answerphone if no answer – all emails and phone messages will be acknowledged



Apologies from members welcome.

WANGANUI BRANCH
GOVERNMENT SUPERANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION

Chairperson's Report to Christmas Meeting 21 November 2024

Robin Paul and I attended the Annual Council meeting held in Wellington. Delegates from all 19 branches attend this annual event.

The main topics for discussion were 2024-2026 strategic plan and the new constitution that must be approved by the end of 2025 to comply with the requirements of the Incorporated Societies Act. Reports from the various Board Committees were also presented and discussed.

As our members age, the GSA faces a major challenge. How do we future proof our organization to ensure that it remains sufficiently viable to protect the interests of our youngest members and their spouses or partners?

While we currently have just over 100 members who are centenarians, we still have many younger members, with over 1,000 of them under the age of 65. Thus, the GSA firmly holds the view that it is the responsibility of the Association's current leadership to plan strategically to ensure we retain a viable organization. To achieve this goal, we have three priorities:

- to continue to manage prudently the Association's finances;
- to maintain an effective Branch structure – retaining active local branches will help ensure better contact with members and help us to better protect their individual and collective interests;
- to keep building the GSA's membership to delay drawing down the Association's reserves.

GSA is working on this at two levels: through the recruitment leaflet sent out by GSF/Datacom to non-GSA members; and through National Office and Branches encouraging surviving spouses to become members.

The Political Landscape

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

The Crown tops up a shortfall in the GSF Fund for payment to annuitants each year. This shortfall exists because, unlike present KiwiSaver schemes, previous governments first, did not place members' contributions into a designated GSF account (1900-1948) and second, did not match their employees contributions with an employer contribution.

It is important for all annuitants to be aware that the current GSF earnings represent only a portion of the contributions due to its members and the annual Crown payments are deferred employer contributions. There is no indication that the present government will change the status quo. In addition, annuitants can be confident that the GSA's main purpose is to protect their annuity.

Our **local branch** continues to function very well thanks to the great work of our committee and the support of our members. Your continued support is vital.

- Please support our meetings and lunches
- Try to recruit new members – new membership forms are available from committee members. A special form is available for surviving spouses.
- Consider becoming a member of our committee. We meet about 4 times a year to plan functions and discuss matters raised by the GSA Board.

Thanks to John Granville, Marian Barclay, Deborah Hipango, Jan Katene and Robin Paul for the work they do on our local committee.

Season's Greetings to you all.

Trevor Hall, Chairperson