



## North Shore Supernews

### Newsletter of the North Shore Sub-Group Government Superannuitants Association

March 2024

#### MARCH 2024 MEETING

**Date:** Friday 22 March 2024

**Venue:** Birkenhead RSA, Recreation Drive, Birkenhead.

**Time:** 10.00am Tea/Coffee available.

10.15am Business

**Speaker:** 11.00am **Professor Peter Lineham**, retired well-known Professor and commentator on Religious History. His topic is:

**“Explaining the Phenomenon of Brian Tamaki and the Destiny Church”.**

He will look at it objectively and professionally. Peter’s brief biographical background is: **Professor Peter Lineham** has for many years written and lectured extensively on the religious history of New Zealand, although his earliest work, continuing, was on the eighteenth- and nineteenth-century history of British Protestant sects. His recent work has focused on broader trends in contemporary religion, although he has not lost his fascination with the nineteenth-century adjustment of religion within New Zealand. His most recent book is **Destiny: the Life and Times of a Self-made Apostle** (Penguin, 2013). He is currently engaged in various projects on new religious movements in New Zealand, and on Brethren, Protestant, Evangelical and Anglican history. (Like ourselves he is a recipient of GSF).



There is plenty of parking at the venue, and the RSA is well signposted.  
There is a lift from the main floor down to the function room.

**Hope to see you there.**

## **PONDERING ON LIFE AND WHAT'S AHEAD - *Eric Bowater***

We in the GSA older demographic are a diverse lot.

But hopefully every one of us has attended to the making of a legal Will (and a Memorandum of Wishes) as to where we want our assets to go after our death. This is a vital task, as is also the establishment of an EPA (Enduring Power of Attorney) for Welfare and Property if we become incapacitated while still alive and can't manage our own affairs.

I know of an older couple with declining health, owners of a multi-million-dollar farm, who stubbornly refuse, despite much urging, to establish Wills, which is setting up for very expensive High Court adjudication for their 4 sons.

Some of us GSA people have lived solo all our lives, and are well used to what that entails. Many of us are widows (since women tend to live longer), receiving the half-annuity along with NZ Super. Some are widowers, learning the fine arts of cooking for themselves (and maybe on a half-annuity as well). Some are divorcees. Some of us are still fortunate to be in a couple relationship, sharing household responsibilities. Some of us have one of a couple living independently while the other requires rather expensive rest home, hospital or dementia care.

Sadly, I have just recently joined the widower club.

Margaret, my dear wife of nearly 63 years, gradually developed coughing and breathing problems which her GP thought were asthma-related or heart-related. When admitted to North Shore Hospital in late October, these problems were diagnosed as caused by accumulation of pleural fluid, which in turn was caused by inward migration of cancer cells from an undetected breast tumour. After pleural drainage and stabilization (with no feasible oncology treatment possible), she was moved to Te Mana Private Hospital for her final week of very good palliative care.

She was quite philosophical over the prospect of dying at 86, which happened on November 26. On December 2 family, friends and colleagues gave her a splendid celebration of her life and farewell, and we've set up a memorial scholarship in her honour in an area she was passionate about.

Fortunately, we had earlier, together, done much practical and financial planning, and a lot of reading and spiritual reflection over end-of-life matters, whichever one of us died first (being male and a year older, I thought it would probably be me!).

So I use this experience with my Margaret to urge people in a couple relationship, to do this practical and spiritual forward planning, so that whoever is destined to go first can know that the survivor is well-equipped to deal with what follows.

And those who are already living solo: do the same for your descendant family and your friends: they will thank you for it. You might even sit down to write your memoirs—your life story and your reflections on it—as a legacy (as Margaret and I each have done).

## **NORTH SHORE SUB-GROUP AUCKLAND GSA – March 2024**

Kia Ora to all our North Shore GSA Members

Welcome to 2024 and by the time you receive this in March almost 3 months of the year will have passed when we next meet on 22 March!

Hopefully, you will have enjoyed the festivities and been able to have some rest, relaxation and most importantly some fun during this summer.

I know that we are all keeping a remarkably close watch on inflation, and we certainly struggled with that during 2023. Officially inflation is recently said to be on the downward trend, but one can only hope that this proves to be a sustained progress back to the 1 -3% range in rapid fashion this FY. Whether this can be achieved however seems moot given some very high indicative rises in such things as rates, Water Care, and all types of insurances to name a few.

However, these are extremely limited examples in a whole variety of costs we may individually have to meet every day across the broad spectrum of our own personal and household expenditure budgets and that list is often not short.

The Cost-of-Living percentage adjustment paid to us should hopefully have been formally communicated to everyone individually through Data Com by the time we meet. It will be interesting to see how far it goes in addressing inflation outcomes and the bottom-line impacts on our own individual household budgets.

Which brings me to our own Super News publications and catering costs which unfortunately have not escaped the ravages of inflation and you have guessed it - our increasing costs must now also be addressed.

However, it is also important to note that additional funding has been kindly provided during 2023 and now also promised during 2024 from the main GSA Auckland Branch for which we are most grateful.

Accordingly, I just want to flag that your committee will need to tentatively discuss this aspect with you at our next meeting to sound out opinion - but we may not by then have firmed up concrete proposals to put to you for consideration.

In that case it may simply mean that if no firm funding consensus is reached on 22 March - that then having taken on board your views we would plan to come back to you at the AGM later this year with considered final proposals.

***Brian Lewis***

Chairman

### **Your Committee:**

**Chairman:** Brian Lewis    **Secretary:** Pat Christian    **Treasurer:** Eric Bowater

**Members:** Jack Harris, Graeme Wake, Sylvana Whyborn, Robert Whyborn.

**Phones:** Pat 09 4101052    Eric 09 4820250



I took my 8 year old daughter to the office on 'take your kid to work day'. But when we walked into the office she started to cry. As concerned staff gathered around, I asked her what was wrong and she said, "Daddy where are all the clowns you said you worked with?"

A Genie granted me one wish, so I said, "I just want to be happy". So now I'm living in a little cottage with 6 dwarves and working in a mine. 'whistle while you work....."



**To the Milkman:**

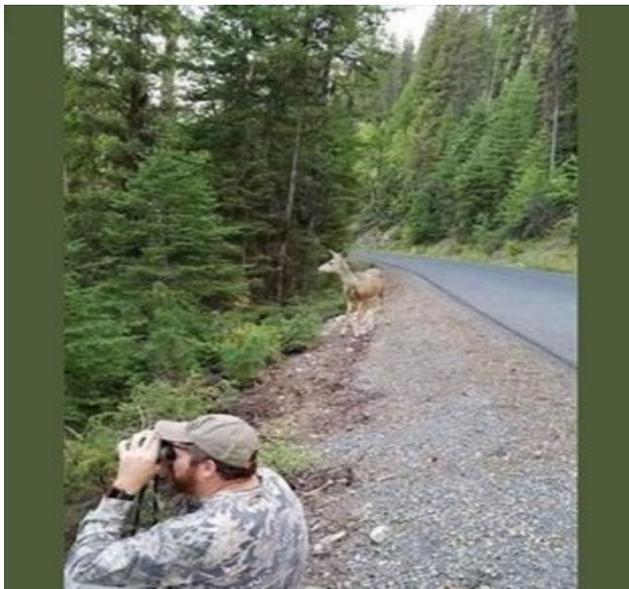
- Dear Milkman, I've just had a baby, please leave another one.
- Please leave an extra pint of paralysed milk.
- Sorry not to have paid your bill before, but my wife had a baby and I've been carrying it around in my pocket for weeks.
- My daughter says she wants a milkshake. Do you do it before you deliver or do I have to shake the bottle?
- Milkman, please close the gate behind you because the birds keep pecking the tops off the milk.
- Milk is needed for the baby. Father is unable to supply it.
- When you leave the milk, please put the coal on the boiler, let dog out and put newspaper inside the screen door. PS Don't leave any milk.



A lot of people ask me if I were shipwrecked on an island and could only have one book, what would it be?



I always say "How to Build a Boat."



A man attending a job interview was asked what he thought his greatest qualities were.

"My motivational skills," he replied. "At my last job everyone said they had to work twice as hard when I was around."

**If you use a computer have you enrolled to receive the Ministry of Social Development newsletter?**

**Office for Seniors.govt.nz and click the button.** Gives you news and articles relevant to us seniors, details of Gold Card specials, what the years NZ Super will be etc. I find it interesting—Pat.