



Newsletter

Manawatu Branch

April 2024

Branch Secretary
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Branch Committee

Chair: Roger Openshaw

Secretary/Treasurer: Graham Poucher

Committee: Don Barrett (Dep Chair), Gordon Batchelar, Annette Beasley, Anne Jamieson, John Lowen, Sid Murdie, Chris Saunders and Bob Wolfenden.

Reviewer: Don Scott

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Notice of AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Manawatu Branch of the GSA will be held at The Verdict Function Room on Tuesday 28th May 2024 at 10:30am. The AGM will be followed by a luncheon. All members, spouses and partners are welcome to attend our Annual General Meeting and luncheon, as outlined below.

Date: Tuesday, 28th May 2024

Meeting Time: 10.30

Lunch: 12.00

Venue: Function Room, Verdict Café, 32A The Square, Palmerston North

AGM Agenda

- 10.30am Welcome and Apologies
- AGM Minutes – Tuesday 30th May 2023
- Chairperson's Report
- Secretary / Treasurer's Report
- Election of Chairperson and Committee Members
- Guest Speaker – Suzanne Andrews (House of Travel) on "Overseas Travel for the over seventies".

Report from the Chair, March 2024.

I trust that you have all had a wonderful festive season with family and friends. As you know, since my last report as Chair of the Manawatu Branch a General Election has seen a change of government. Whilst we have not yet had the opportunity to meet formally with those of the new administration most directly concerned with annuity and retirement matters, rest assured that, as always, we in GSA will continue to look after your interests.

In this first edition of our Branch Newsletter for 2024, you will find details of our forthcoming AGM. If you have not already done so, I urge you to consider attending this event, which, of course, will include a very nice luncheon at the Verdict café, conveniently located right on the Square, Palmerston North. As far as travelling is concerned, the extension of Gold Card free parking until 3.00pm thanks to a recent Council vote has made it easier than ever before to enjoy hassle-free parking for our vehicles.

As I explained at our Christmas function late last year, I now wear two hats, so to speak. In addition to chairing our local branch committee, I am now a GSA board member, responsible for reporting back regarding Board activities and decisions to the Kapiti-Horowhenua and Wellington Branches as well as to the Manawatu Branch.

Although the Board has yet to have its first meeting in Wellington which will take place on Tuesday 5 March, we have already initiated the years work. One of the most significant of our tasks for this year will be a thorough revision of the existing GSA Constitution. This is necessary in order to comply with the new Incorporated Societies Act now in force. We are also in the process of updating information on the GSA website, given that this method of communication is becoming increasingly important in the digital age. A further task, once again one now required under the Act, has been the compilation of a so-called Conflict of Interest Register. As many Board members, including myself, serve as Branch Chairs in addition to being Board members, this will serve to ensure that we as individuals do not have hidden agendas when we deal with difficult or controversial issues. I was particularly conscious of this responsibility when I was researching the history of GSA.

It remains for me to issue a very warm welcome to all of our members, particularly those who are new to GSA. Our continued ability to speak on your behalf is ultimately dependant on our membership base at both branch and national levels. Whilst this base will inevitably decline across the country in years to come, it is vital that we continue to recruit members. I particularly encourage those of you who wish to play a more active role to join us on the Branch Committee in 2024.

Once again, I look forward to seeing you all at our forthcoming AGM!

Roger Openshaw
Branch Chair.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

A change in Government late last year and the ongoing impacts of ever increasing rises in the cost of living, have increased stresses for many. In particular, those dependent on fixed incomes such as pensioners and superannuitants. By the time you read this you will have received the 4.70% Cost of Living adjustment (COLA) to your Annuity and this may have gone some way to ameliorate the effect of rising costs.

Once again the highlight of the past year was our Christmas Social held at the Verdict on The Square in Palmerston North. While numbers were down a little on the previous year it was an enjoyable day.

Your committee now meets at the Verdict conference room which has been generously provided to us at no cost. This represents a saving of \$300 per year for the Branch. The Branch Committee is in good heart but we are always looking for new members so give some thought to putting your name forward at the AGM.

Membership our numbers continue to decline, although we are still getting a few new members moving into the district. The figures below illustrate the drop in membership in each category since 31 March 2023 i.e. a period of just under 10 months.

Manawatu Branch Membership as at 24 January 2024

<u>Total</u>	<u>Annuitant</u>	<u>Annuitant Spouse</u>	<u>Surviving Spouse</u>	<u>Pre Annuitant</u>	<u>Pre Annuitant Spouse</u>
781 (-63)	417 (-25)	232 (-11)	121 (-5)	6 (-12)	5 (-10)

Financial

The Branch continues to be in a very sound financial state, with provisional figures for our Accumulated Funds at 31 March 2024 totalling \$26,942. Funds in individual Branch accounts are:

Operating Account **\$18,624**

Savings Account **\$1,905**

Term Deposit **\$6,413**

The final figures will be presented at the AGM following a review by our reviewer, Don Scott.

Graham Poucher
Secretary/Treasurer

AGM Luncheon at the Verdict

At the conclusion of the formal part of the AGM Lunch will be served. The full cost of the luncheon is \$50.00 however; the Committee have agreed to subsidise this cost thereby reducing the cost to members attending down to just \$25.00 per person.

A detailed lunch menu was not available at time of writing however you can be assured that Carole and the team at the Verdict will provide their usual excellent buffet with a choice of meats, salads and vegetables together with desserts to tempt you.

I/We will be attending the Luncheon on Tuesday, 28th May at The Verdict Cafe, The Square, Palmerston North

Name(s).....

Address:.....

Phone ().....

Number Attending..... Cost \$25.00 per person)

Payment may be made by:

Internet Banking: WESTPAC Acct "Manawatu Br GSA,

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.

Please complete this form and return to the Secretary at 10 Madison Avenue, Palmerston North 4414 by no later than Monday 20th May 2024 or E-mail details to Manawatu@gsa.org.nz . Please allow five days if forwarding by post.