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CHAIR

Mike Smith

Deputy Chair

Ian Clunies-Ross

Wellington Branch Committee

Kevin Duggan, Kay Monks, Bryan Whisker, Ray Woolhouse, David Scott and Edgar Spark.

Wellington Life Members

Virginia Breen, Peter Chambers, Gray Nelson, Bill Robertson, Mike Smith, Peter Stewart, Terence Stock, David Thorp, Bryan Whisker, Priscilla Williams, Ray Woolhouse, Ian Clunies-Ross, Dallas Elvy, Ian Swift and Elizabeth Smaal

Annual General Meeting

All members are cordially invited to the Annual General Meeting at the Petone Working Men's Club, 47 Udy Street Petone at 11 am on Tuesday 25 June 2024 followed by a luncheon.

Registration to attend the AGM and luncheon is essential and can be made by contacting the Secretary at wellington@gsa.org.nz or calling 027 416 1675 no later than 18 June 2024.

Meeting papers will be distributed at the meeting.

Please also advise the Secretary by 18 June 2024 if you have any special dietary requirements. Members who wish to attend the AGM and luncheon will need to RSVP by contacting the Secretary either by phone or email.

The luncheon cost is \$20 for members and \$35 for non-members. Payment can be made to direct credit account 38 9014 0085421 00. (Quote name, annuity number and the reference **AGM**) or cash at the door. If paying by cash, please bring the correct amount as giving change is difficult.

A free bus is available departing platform 9 Wellington Station at 10.15am and returning after the luncheon (approx. 2.30pm). Prior registration for the bus must also be made by contacting the Secretary.

For the Wellington Branch to go on and prosper, we need members to step up and become office holders. Please give thoughtful consideration to joining our committee. If you are willing, please let us know. Nominations for Branch official positions can be made before or at the AGM.

Details of other social functions planned for 2024 are contained elsewhere in this newsletter.

Annual Report 2024

Welcome members and visitors to the 2024 Annual General Meeting of the Wellington Branch of GSA. The past year has had some challenges but, overall, has been a successful one.

Early in the year, Catherine Chang, our branch secretary, took up 12 months leave of absence for maternity and childcare and has expressed keenness to resume her role with us shortly. Thanks must go to Kay Monks who put her hand up and took over part of the secretarial role in Catherine's absence assisted by myself.

The branch 2023 AGM was held at the Petone Club in June and was attended by 56 members. The election of officers took place and the following keen team were elected to the committee: Chair Mike Smith, Deputy Chair Ian Clunies-Ross Committee Members Kevin Duggan, Bryan Whisker, Suzanne Holgate, Ray Woolhouse, Kay Monks and Edgar Spark. Since the AGM, David Scott has also joined the committee.

The Branch continues to have strong finances but, as time takes its toll, our membership is continuing to decline at a similar rate to national GSA membership trends.

During the year your committee was able to provide a full schedule of social activities, and these proved to be popular with members. Our thanks go to the McKenzie Trust for the support given by providing free bus transport to several of these events.

For this branch to remain strong and useful to members we need to have a committee of clear and diverse minds. Wellington Branch invites you to join with us and contribute to the running of the branch by offering a nomination to take up a role on our committee. The effort involved is not onerous with meetings six times per year, usually for a duration of less than two hours. I strongly urge you to give this your thoughtful consideration.

The mid-winter lunch was held in July at the James Cook Hotel Grand Chancellor was attended by 60 people. Bill Robertson, our guest speaker for the occasion, gave an illuminating address on the necessity for G S Fund members to belong to GSA as a means of having a voice to be used for the protection of their annuities. He gave a reminder that there is no one else to hold the present or future governments to account to live up to the promise previous governments made to us.

The annual Council meeting was held in September with delegates from all branches. President Tony Hamilton stood down from his roll and Alan Straker (Marlborough) was appointed unopposed as President. Sandra Gusscott (Auckland) was also appointed unopposed as Vice President. Other current members of the Board were re-elected: Robert Beckham (Southland), Anne Gover (Southland), Michael Law (Waikato King Country) and Alan Peck (Wellington). One vacancy remained which was filled by the nomination and appointment of Roger Openshaw (Manawatu).

Our annual Wairarapa luncheon was again held at the Masterton Club in September and local members were able to mix with and enjoy a very pleasant luncheon with several members who had travelled over from Wellington for the event.

By November it was time for our Christmas luncheon and once again the venue was Te Marua Golf Club where 61 members enjoyed good food and company in very pleasant surroundings. The Board be able to host Roger at this event. In return Roger addressed the gathering on the current work of the Board.

During the year the branch committee met on six occasions to deal with the operation of the branch, and it was always pleasing to work within the co-operative atmosphere generated by the committee. In December, Suzanne Holgate stepped aside from the committee to pursue other personal interests. During her time with the Committee Suzanne has been very energetic by taking a keen interest in membership recruitment, particularly in the education sector spending numerous hours visiting schools promoting GSA to pre annuitants. Suzanne still intends to have continuing interest in in this area of our work.

This branch continues to have a close working relationship with the neighbouring Horowhenua / Kapiti branch. Edgar Spark is a member of the H/K branch and serves on our committee as a liaison between the two branches. This year Edgar was recognised in the 2024 New Year Honours and made a member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to Railway Unions. Our congratulations go to Edgar on this award.

Mike J Smith

Mike Smith

Chair Wellington Branch

Mid-Winter Luncheon:

The mid-winter lunch will be held at the Angus Motor Inn , 5 Cornwall Street Lower Hutt on 23 July 2024. There will be mix and mingle at 11.30am followed by the luncheon at 12noon.

Prior bookings for the luncheon are essential and can be made by contacting the Secretary at wellington@gsa.org.nz or by calling 027 416 1675 no later than 6 July 2024.

The cost of the meal is \$35.00 for members and \$50 for non-members.

Payment can be made to direct credit account 38 9014 0085421 00. (Quote name, annuity number and the reference **MIDI**) or cash at the door. If paying by cash, please bring the correct amount in a self-named envelope as giving change is difficult.

Free car parking is available at the venue, but drivers must register the vehicle details at reception when arriving.

A free bus is available departing platform 9 Wellington Station at 10.15am and returning after the luncheon (approx. 2.30pm). Prior registration for the bus must also be made by contacting the Secretary.

Wairarapa Luncheon:

This luncheon will be held at the Masterton Club, 98 Chapel Street, Masterton on 24 September 2024 commencing with a short meeting at 11am.

This is a governance meeting and the luncheon will be subsidised by the Wellington Branch. The cost is \$20 for members and \$40 for non- members.

Prior bookings for the luncheon are essential and can be made by contacting the Secretary at wellington@gsa.org.nz or calling 027 416 1675 no later than 15 September 2024.

Wairarapa Lunch continued on page 4

Payment can be made to direct credit account 38 9014 0085421 00. (Quote name, annuity number and the reference **MAST**) or cash at the door. If paying by cash, please bring the correct amount in a self-named envelope as giving change is difficult.

2024 Christmas Luncheon:

The Wellington Branch Christmas Luncheon will again be held at Te Marua Golf Club.
Date – Tuesday 19 November 2024
Further detail of this event will be contained in the Wellington Branch newsletter to be published in October 2024. Please diary this date.

**Wellington Branch Railway Social Club
Mid-Winter Luncheon**

An informal group of former employees of Railways and GSA members.

The Mid-Winter luncheon will be held on Wednesday 10th. July 2024
at Petone Working Men’s Club, Udy Street Petone. Cost \$28 per person. Cash only payable at the door. Please be seated by 12 noon.

For bookings, please contact Ray Woolhouse, Wellington (ph. 04 973 8158).
A booking is essential and must be made at least two days before the function. Late bookings cannot be accepted.

The McKenzie Trust
How we may help you

The McKenzie Trust was established in 2017 for the purpose of helping with travel to enable those who would like to attend GSA Wellington Branch functions but are unable to do so because of lack of support, declining health, reduced mobility or other like reasons. Currently the Trust covers the cost of buses hired for transport to functions.

If you, or someone you know, would like to attend any GSA function, but need extra help with transport, please contact the Secretary.

Attendance at Social and Governance Functions
A Reminder

The Wellington Branch organises four outings per year – two are social: mid-year lunch and the Christmas function. The other two could be classed as governance (working) meetings i.e. AGM and the September Wairarapa meeting. The meals at functions may be subsidised – therefore members pay the subsidised price and non-members pay the full cost.

A refund for non-attendance at functions will be made if the member notifies the secretary before the closing date of the function registration. In exceptional cases, refunds will be assessed by the committee.

FOR YOUR DIARY

WELLINGTON BRANCH

AGM

DATE Tuesday 25th June 2024

Petone Working men's Club.

RAILWAY SOCIAL CLUB

MID - WINTER LUNCHEON

Date Wednesday 10th. July 2024

Petone Working Men's Club

WELLINGTON BRANCH

MID – WINTER LUNCHEON

Date Tuesday 23rd July 2024

Angus Motor Inn

WELLINGTON BRANCH

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Date Tuesday 19th. November 2024

Te Marua Golf Club

Details of this event will be published in the October 2024 newsletter.