



Secretary: Andrea Beechey  
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**NEWSLETTER**  
**Auckland Branch**  
**April 2021**  
C/- 57/218 Greenlane West, Epsom  
Auckland 1051

**Chairperson’s Report**

After a call for more committee members last year from our President Tony Hamilton, I am delighted to let you know that the Auckland Branch now has a strong committee consisting of eight new members and five existing members. Committee members were concerned that without the Auckland Branch the interests of our members may not be prioritised. This committee is motivated to make sure that the interests of its members continue to be looked after, both now and in the future. With the GSF closed to new members for nearly 30 years now, it’s vital that we continue to have a strong and effective GSA to represent us.

It is a great privilege to be your new Chairperson and after spending a number of years since retirement in governance and leadership roles both in and out of the government sector, I am excited to bring my skills to this new role.

Previously I spent more than 25 years in education spanning all sectors from Early Childhood Education to Tertiary and promoting New Zealand Education to the rest of the world through large international contracts. My passion is business in education, team development and helping give women, in particular, the opportunity to realise a better future. This includes pay equity and women in leadership within organisations and on Boards.

We are fortunate that Craig Jensen has agreed to be our Vice-Chairperson. He has a background in Human Resources and management, and after a long and rewarding career with one of the Crown Research Institutes, and before that DSIR, Craig retired in 2020. Craig’s experience has included payroll management, and through this, he developed a good understanding of GSF operations and conditions.

**Your Committee:**

Sandie Gusscott – Chairperson  
Rosemary Bell – Defence  
Murray McElwain – Railways  
Neil Carey – Railways  
Keith Rawlings – Army  
Bret Bestic - Army  
Nancy de Freitas – Tertiary Education

Craig Jensen – Vice-Chairperson  
Eric Bowater – Education and North Shore  
Margaret (Peggy) Nepia – Education  
Peter Buchanan – Crown Research Institutes  
Max Thomson – Post Office  
Claire Couch – Education



**Sandie Gusscott, Chair; Adrienne Dodge, outgoing Secretary; Craig Jensen, Deputy Chair**

Adrienne Dodge, our Branch Secretary/Treasurer of 8 years, resigned in November and I very much appreciate that she continued in her role until the end of March. She has given our branch exemplary service, and nothing has been beyond her capabilities. I particularly liked her thoughtful approach with regard to our older members – even phoning those who she thought might be attending our Branch meeting in March, to personally let them know that it had been cancelled. You are amazing Adrienne. Go well and we hope you enjoy your trip to Australia to see your family. Arohanui

We welcome Andrea Beechey as our new Secretary/Treasurer. We were thrilled with the number of responses we received from our email to our members in January regarding the search for a new Secretary/Treasurer. The quality of applicants was outstanding and after a lengthy process Andrea was selected. Andrea has a background in payroll, accounting, and customer service.

Sandie Gusscott – Chair

**Annual General Meeting**

As you know, unfortunately we had to cancel our Branch Meeting at the beginning of March. Our next Branch Meeting is the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and will be held on Wednesday, 2 June at Western Springs Garden Community Hall, 956 Great North Road, Western Springs. We encourage you to join us. As well as the AGM, Troy Churton, who previously worked for the Retirement Commission, is going to speak about “The Possible ‘Fish Hooks’ when selecting a Retirement Village”. Tony Hamilton, our National President, will be providing an update from the National Office.

So please, save the date and join us at the AGM. Most of the committee members will be there and we are very much looking forward to meeting you all.

**Members aged 80 plus**

Did you know that the GSA Auckland Branch has been sending birthday cards to our members when they turn 80? In future, we’ll also send cards to our members when they turn 85, 90, 95 and 100. This is a small way that we can acknowledge the valued contributions of our long-term members, and the service they have given to our country in the past.

The following are the planned dates for GSA meetings over the next six months or so. These dates are dependent on any restrictions imposed due to Covid19. Up to date information is available on the GSA Auckland Branch website <http://www.gsa.org.nz/branch-auckland.html>

Auckland Branch Meetings, Western Springs Garden Community Hall  
956 Great North Road, Western Springs 10.30am

2 June 2021 (AGM)	7 September 2021
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Committee Meetings, Western Springs Garden Community Hall  
956 Great North Road, Western Springs 10.30am

27 April 2021 (ZOOM)	27 July 2021
25 May 2021	31 August 2021 (ZOOM)
30 June 2021 (ZOOM)	28 September 2021

North Shore Sub-Group Meetings, Birkenhead RSA, Recreation Drive,  
Birkenhead 10.00am

25 June 2021 AGM	26 November 2021
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**Auckland Retired Railways Group.....**

invite all members, partners and friends of the GSA to their mid-year function on Thursday 17 June 2021 at the Manurewa Cosmopolitan Club, Manurewa.

Doors open at 11am. Lunch is at 12.30pm.

RSVP essential by Monday 7 June 2021 to Murray McElwain Ph 09 266 9959 or [murraymc2018@gmail.com](mailto:murraymc2018@gmail.com)

Please provide \$15 cash per person in an envelope with the names of those attending. No change will be given. Cheques will not be accepted.



The Auckland Branch Reviewed end of year Financial Accounts to 31 March 2021 will be made available prior to the Branch Annual General Meeting.