



AUCKLAND BRANCH NEWSLETTER APRIL 2022

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Chairperson's Report



It is hard to believe that we have had another year that has been impacted by Covid 19. As I write this, the number of cases are increasing day by day and hopefully it means that the end is in sight.

I cannot thank the committee enough for all of their support for the GSA Auckland branch. In the last year we have continued to meet every month – either by Zoom or in our meeting room at Western Springs. The majority have attended every month which means that we have been able to keep the momentum going. We will be looking for new committee members at the next AGM so that we can continue to be refreshed.

Andrea Beechey, our Secretary/Treasurer has now been with us for a year and is an invaluable support for our members and committee.

We were extremely disappointed to have to cancel the Christmas function last year. It is something that we all look forward to and for some, the only time when you can

Your committee is as follows:

Sandie Gusscott – Chairperson – Education
Craig Jensen – Vice-Chairperson - CRI
Max Thomson – Post Office
Eric Bowater - Education

Murray McElwain – Railways
Keith Rawlings – Army
Claire Couch – Education

Rosemary Bell – Defence
Neil Carey – Railways
Peter Buchanan – CRI

Sandie Gusscott
Chairperson

catch up with old colleagues. We are hopeful that this year our events will go ahead.

At present we have 4103 members with 1832 being surviving spouses. You may have wondered why we use the word 'spouse'. That is because spouse is a gender-neutral term. For some government sectors more men are the annuitant whereas for other sectors it is women. Given that nearly half of our members are spouses, we want to do more to ensure that they feel equally included in our support and events. Did you know that without the encouragement of some of our spouses our annuitants may not have chosen membership? We will be holding our AGM on 7 June and our September branch meeting on 6 September. I encourage all spouses to accompany the annuitants to our functions.

For the first time since 2008 there has been a substantial increase in the CPI. In previous years the increase was less than one percent whereas this year it is 5.95%, which will be reflected in an increase in our annuities from 14 April 2022. While this will be welcome, ongoing cost increases will be a challenge for many.

This is a reminder to all our Auckland members to please send any recent change of address or telephone number details to our Branch Secretary by emailing auckland@gsa.org.nz or calling **0800 888 472**. If applicable please also provide an email address, so that we have another option for keeping in touch. Alternatively, check your details on the GSA website (you will need to log in) and update if necessary.

Make sure you let Datacom know too. They can be contacted on 0800 654 731 (for GSF) or 0800 628 776 (for NPF)

Introducing Murray McElwain

We would like to introduce one of our committee members to you in this issue. Murray McElwain is our 80



Plus Co-Ordinator and every month, with the help of his wife Lyn, he takes great pleasure in sending out birthday cards to our older members. On special birthdays he also includes a GSA pen or a music CD.

Murray started a part time job in the Railways in Marton in 1947. Not long after he got the opportunity to ride on a steam locomotive and from that moment on, he dreamed of driving them for a living. This involved many years of working his way up the ranks as a fireman. He was posted to depots in New Plymouth, Stratford and Palmerston North and then in 1953 he got a transfer to Whangarei (via Auckland) and it

was here that he sat and passed his 2nd grade driver's ticket. A combination of driving and fireman duties in depots all around Northland led to obtaining his 1st grade driver's ticket in 1956. He met and married Lyn while in Opuia in 1960 and soon after was allocated a Railway house in Taumarunui. He worked driving goods trains, express trains and later - railcars. His working area was Taumarunui, New Plymouth, Hamilton and Taihape. 21 years and 4 children later he was transferred to the locomotive depot in Westfield, Auckland where he spent the last 10 years of his career working his way up to the position of Manager in the Administration Office. He retired 1991 after 43 years service.

Murray loves to hear from members when they receive their cards and records each message in a book. Drop the Secretary an email or call her and she can pass your message on to him. Thanks, Murray, for your years of dedicated service on the committee. Your contribution is valued by all.

Aged Care Commissioner Appointed

A nurse who headed a huge rest home and retirement village business has been appointed as New Zealand's inaugural Aged Care Commissioner, and tasked by the Government with "leading much-needed systematic change in the sector".

Carolyn Cooper has resigned as the managing director of Bupa Villages & Aged Care NZ, which has about \$1.6 billion of assets in Aotearoa, to take up the new watchdog role for a five-year term, starting next month.



She has also been on the board of the Aged Care Association, which represents most rest home owners and operators and, in the past, criticised the Labour Government's decision to establish an Aged Care Commissioner as "another layer of bureaucracy doubling up on already rigorous audit and reporting".

She told the Herald the association's concerns lessened as it became clear how the role would work with other regulators. However, her industry ties wouldn't mean she lacked bite as a new

watchdog, she said. "I have a very broad health experience background. I understand the way DHBs work, I understand how other parts of the sector work. And I am there for older people, that is my main thing - to make sure of their rights, protection and access to healthcare. "I have lived experience in the area - my mum is in aged care - so I understand what it's like to be a family member.

There's lots to me other than my experience with Bupa." Seniors and Associate Minister of Health Dr Ayesha Verrall said Cooper had a more than 40-year career in all parts of the health service, mostly in the public hospital system and including governance, executive and clinical leadership roles.

2022 Member Events

There is always the possibility that the Government could impose Covid 19 restrictions which affect the following events. If events do go ahead, attendees may need to present their vaccine passport, wear a mask and follow social distancing rules. Any updates will be published on the GSA Auckland Branch website prior to the event <http://www.gsa.org.nz/branch-auckland.html> under the 'Activities in your branch' heading.

Auckland Branch Meeting and AGM - Tuesday, 7 June 2022

All Auckland members of the Government Superannuitants Association are cordially invited to our next Branch meeting. Please bring your partner/spouse along to meet our National President, your committee and other members. We are meeting in Hall 2 this time as this is a larger venue and will make social distancing much easier. A catered morning tea will be provided. There will be 2 gift baskets to give away, one for members and one for partners/spouses.

Time: 10.30am - 12.30pm

Venue: Western Springs Garden Community Hall 2, 956 Great North Road, Western Springs

Directions: The Western Springs Garden Community Hall is in the same area as MOTAT and the Western Springs Park. It is on the opposite side of Great North Road to these attractions. There is ample parking.

Speaker: Alexis Sawyers from Age Concern will talk to us about elder abuse and what her organisation does to assist older Aucklanders who become victims.

RSVP: For catering purposes, please register your interest in attending by contacting our Branch Secretary, Andrea on auckland@gsa.org.nz or call **0800 888 472**. Please feel welcome to come along on the day, even if you don't register. This meeting is free.

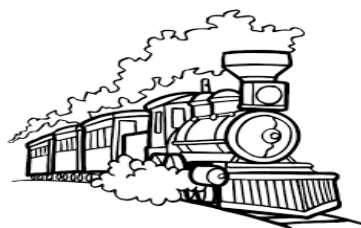


Auckland Retired Railways Group function

All members, partners and friends of the GSA are invited to the midyear function on 23 June 2022 at the Manurewa Cosmopolitan Club, Manurewa.

Doors open at 11am and lunch will be served at 12.30pm

RSVP essential by 13 June 2022 to Murray McElwain Ph 09 266 9959
Or email on murraymc2018@gmail.com



Please provide \$15 cash per person in an envelope with the names of those attending. No change will be given and cheques won't be accepted.

North Shore Sub Group AGM – 1 July 2022

Please join us at the Birkenhead RSA, Recreation Drive, Birkenhead on 1 July 2022.

We begin at 10am with a morning tea and then we are joined by our Auckland Branch Chairperson, Sandie Gusscott, for a speech called '**Always in Education**' and an update from her on recent Auckland Branch activity. A light lunch will then be served.

Please register by 24 June by emailing Eric Bowater at mandebowater@gmail.com or phone 09 4820250

Further details about the AGM will be published in the June edition of the North Shore sub branch newsletter.

**Auckland Branch
Draft Financial Statement for 31 March 2022**

31 March 2021	31 March 2022	Financial performance (Profit/Loss)
		Income
28,372.53	33,453.26	Subscriptions (deducted GSF)
1,993.37	2,319.26	Subscriptions (deducted NPF)
1,206.38	1,261.76	Subscriptions (paid direct)
1,325.00	615.00	Functions Received
4,484.88	2,851.76	Interest Received
120.00		Donations
		Other
37,502.16	40,201.03	Total Income
		Expenses
3,719.68	1772.05	Functions
8,832.90	5856.98	Communications
3,153.00	2794.39	Organisation
14,975.79	14,597.58	Remuneration
		Office function
		Financial
	143.12	Income tax
		General
30,681.37	25,164.12	Total Expenses
6,820.79	15,336.91	surplus (deficit) for year
31 Mar 2021	31 March 2022	Financial position (Balance Sheet)
93,588.24	100,409.03	Accumulated funds 1 April (previous year)
6,820.79	15,336.91	Surplus/Deficit (current)
100,409.03	115,745.94	Total (Accumulated Funds current)
		Represented by
		Assets
9,797.81	18,895.54	Cash account
2,306.38	5,147.93	Savings account
86,810.64	90,334.33	Term deposits
130.00	130.00	Petty Cash
99,044.83	114,507.80	total cash/bank
2,121.74	1,441.34	Accrued interest
		less liabilities
757.54	203.20	Sundry accruals
100,409.03	115,745.94	

Disclaimer: This an interim financial statement and as such has yet to be examined by our Reviewer. The reviewed financial statement will be published prior to the 7 June 2022 AGM.