



AUCKLAND BRANCH NEWSLETTER APRIL 2023

Secretary: Andrea Beechey
Ph: 0800 888 472

57/218 Greenlane West, Epsom, Ak 1051
Email: auckland@gsa.org.nz

Report from the Chair



This year Covid doesn't appear to be prevalent but many of you may have had flooding and damage to your homes with Cyclone Gabrielle. The committee and I hope that you have not suffered too much loss as a result of the recent

catastrophic weather events.

I greatly appreciate the support of the committee over the last year. We have made a commitment to hold four Branch meetings per year because we believe that the connections, we make with other GSA members helps to foster a strong Branch that can better serve you into the future. We hold our Branch meetings at the Western Springs Community Hall, 956 Great North Road, Western Springs.

Our Branch Secretary/Treasurer Andrea Beechey has continued to provide invaluable support for our members and committee.

Sub-branches

The Auckland Branch is privileged to have two sub-branches. These are the North Shore sub-branch and the Railways group. Advertised later in this newsletter are the current Branch and sub-branch events. With transport being more difficult this is a way that you can attend a social event in your local area. If you are on or near the North Shore, their meetings are held at the Birkenhead RSA. The Railways group functions are open to all members and are held at the Manurewa Cosmopolitan Club.

Your committee is as follows:

Sandie Gusscott – Chair – Education
Bret Bestic – Army
Claire Couch – Education
Keith Rawlings – Army

Craig Jensen – Dept. Chair – Science
Eric Bowater – Education & North Shore
Denise Greenwood – University
Max Thomson – Post Office

Rosemary Bell – Defence
Neil Carey - Railways
Murray McElwain – Railways

Sandie Gusscott
Chairperson

Membership including spouses

Unfortunately, as our members pass away the membership in the Auckland Branch diminishes. Our member numbers have reduced from 4,103 in 2022 to 3,852 at present and this is likely to accelerate in subsequent years.

Extensive research into the future viability of the GSA has been undertaken, using the excellent analysis provided by the Waikato/King Country Branch. The analysis shows that with our falling membership, our financial reserves will be depleted within approximately 12 years. In order to remain viable, the Board will be proposing to this year's Council that the member subscription be increased by 50 cents a payday. This will result in an annual increase of \$6.50 bringing the total subscription to \$39 per year. The committee in the Auckland Branch support this increase because having a strong organisation will ensure that our annuity is more secure. If approved, this increase will take effect on 1 April 2024.

Our emphasis for the next year will continue to be on our spouse members. We will be holding our AGM on Tuesday 6 June and our September branch meeting on Tuesday 5 September. I encourage all spouses to accompany annuitants to our branch functions.

Cost of Living Adjustment (CoLA) Over the year to 31 December 2022 the Consumers Price Index increased by 7.22% This increase will be applied in the next financial year commencing from the timing of when your annuity started. While this increase is welcome, ongoing cost increases will be a challenge for many.

Spouse Members Matter!!

As at January this year, of our 3852 Auckland members, 2104 were annuitants or pre-annuitants. Of these, 1079 had partners who enjoy complimentary GSA membership as spouse members. In the event of an annuitant's passing, the spouse member can then choose to become a member in their own right. Currently we have around 660 surviving spouse members. These figures tell us that we have about 2000 members who are either single or who haven't recorded a spouse with their membership details.

If you are an annuitant or pre-annuitant member, *we strongly recommend* that you make sure that we have details of your spouse or partner.

When a member dies, our Branch secretary contacts the spouse to make sure they are receiving their entitlements and provides the necessary authority to become a GSA member in their own right. In this way we can continue to look after their interests into the future. It also enables your Association to maintain its membership base and continue to be a strong and effective voice for all our members with the Government of the day. With the GSF having closed to new members in 1992, it is vital that we counter an inevitable decline in GSA membership by welcoming more spouse members.

You can record or update your spouse details by accessing our database through the GSA website <https://www.gsa.org.nz> or contact our Branch Secretary directly by phone or email.

Rosemary Angela Bell

SRN SCM PBCC Major ARRC

We thank Rosemary for her over 15 years of service on the committee. She has given this interesting account of her life for our newsletter.



"I was born on 17th of April 1945 and I ended WW2...Hitler saw what the British were producing and threw in the towel! I was born and bred in Surrey, England.

I gained my State Registered Nurse training in Kingston

upon Thames and completed Part 1 Midwifery training in Brighton General Hospital in Sussex, all births took place in the hospital. I trained in Part 2 Midwifery in Guildford.... cycling around the district on my trusty bicycle a la "Call the Midwife" and followed that with certification in Premature Baby Care. I joined Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service and worked in general nursing at the Royal Naval Hospital at Stonehouse in Plymouth. After that, I was posted as midwife to the Royal Naval Hospital Gibraltar where we cared for wives from Navy, Army and Airforce. Once back in England I returned to Stonehouse to general nursing. I moved inland as part of a team at WRNS New Entry establishment HMS Dauntless deep in the country near Reading in Berkshire My last posting was to Hasler the R.N. Hospital near Portsmouth in Hampshire again in general nursing.

In April 1976 I set sail from Southampton to New Zealand and had some of my birthday sailing through the Panama Canal. On arrival I stayed with friends from Gibraltar days and moved to Kaitia to the maternity unit. It was very

interesting and nothing had trained me for the experience of civilian life in a new country.

I missed service life and applied and gained entry to the Royal New Zealand Nursing Corps and another new experience in the fact that I was given a rank. In the Royal Navy nursing officers were given honorary ranks for travel and luggage allowances. I had to learn the art of saluting! My first posting was to the Royal New Zealand Naval Hospital in Philomel as a captain where I met my husband to be and we were married in Holy Trinity Church Devonport in April 1980. David was posted to Defence HQ Wellington in 1980 and I was posted to Trentham Military Camp. David's final posting was Devonport Naval Base and I joined the nursing team at Whenuapai Airforce Base. I flew with Mercy Mission teams to Tonga, Australia and Papua New Guinea amongst others. I retired with the rank of Major.

I have had many roles on the committee over the years. I have enjoyed the company of my fellow committee members and I encourage members to consider this rewarding volunteer position.

At our recent successful branch meeting Professor Justin O'Sullivan provided an engaging talk on his team's research on gut microbes.

If you want to donate to the Liggins Institute you can do so by clicking on the link below to their Give a Little page. Donations can be of any size or amount, and all receive a tax receipt. Please put *Genomics* into the comments when you donate and they will know where it is to go:

<https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/giving/donate/a-z-list-of-funds/liggins-general-fund.html>

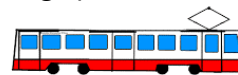
2023 Member Events

Auckland Branch AGM – Tuesday, 6th June 2023

Please join your committee at 10.30am at the Western Springs Garden Community Hall 2, 956 Great North Road, Western Springs for the AGM.

We commence with a catered morning tea and then our speaker, James Duncan the Tramway Project Coordinator at MOTAT, will give an entertaining speech entitled:

ALWAYS A TRAM IN SIGHT



It's a story about Auckland's much loved electric trams, told through a selection of historic images covering the glory years, then their fall from grace. The programme includes a ten-minute video, taking us through the declining years of the trams – these are the years that many of you will remember.

Our Chair, Sandie Gusscott will conduct a short meeting on GSA business and we will have an update from our President Tony Hamilton. The event concludes at 12 midday. Please bring your spouse or a guest and register attendees with our Branch Secretary, Andrea, as follows:

Ph 0800 888 472 or email auckland@gsa.org.nz

Auckland Branch Meeting – 5th September 2023

SAVE THE DATE!

Please save the date for our last Branch meeting of the year. It will be held on the morning of Tuesday, 5th September 2023 at the Western Springs Garden Community Hall 2. A catered morning tea will be provided. All arrangements, including details of our guest speaker, will be emailed mid-year. They will also be published on our website: <http://www.gsa.org.nz/branch-auckland.html>

Auckland Retired Railways Group – Mid Year Function

All members, partners and friends of the GSA are invited to the mid-year function on Thursday, 15th June 2023 at the Manurewa Cosmopolitan Club, Manurewa.

- ❖ Doors open at 11am and lunch will be served at 12.30pm
- ❖ RSVP by Monday, 5th June to Murray McElwain Ph 09 266 9959 or email murraymc2018@gmail.com
- ❖ Please provide \$15 cash pp 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

Please join us at the Birkenhead RSA, Recreation Drive, Birkenhead on Friday, 30th June 2023.

- ❖ We begin at 10am with morning tea and then we will provide a report on recent GSA business.
- ❖ At 11 am we introduce our speaker and at 12 midday a light luncheon will be served.
- ❖ Please register by emailing Eric Bowater at mandebowater@gmail.com or phone 09 4820250.

Auckland Branch
Draft Financial Statement for 31 March 2023

31 March 2022	31 March 2023	Financial performance (Profit/Loss)
		Income
33,453.26	31,650.91	Subscriptions (deducted GSF)
2,319.26	2,195.18	Subscriptions (deducted NPF)
1,261.76	1,368.36	Subscriptions (paid direct)
615.00	1,380.00	Functions Received
2,851.76	2,669.11	Interest Received
		Donations
40,501.03	39,263.56	Total Income
		Expenses
1,877.05	4,626.43	Functions
5,856.98	7,028.59	Communications
2,794.39	2,543.03	Organisation
14,597.58	17,274.10	Remuneration
		Office function
	18.75	Financial
143.12	708.96	Income tax
		General
25,269.12	32,199.86	Total Expenses
15,231.91	7,063.70	<i>surplus (deficit) for year</i>
31 March 2022	31 March 2023	Financial position (Balance Sheet)
100,409.03	115,640.94	Accumulated funds 1 April (previous year)
15,231.91	7,063.70	Surplus/Deficit (current)
	(20,000.00)	Distributions paid to National Office
115,640.94	102,704.64	Total (Accumulated Funds current)
		Represented by
		Assets
18,895.54	12,172.65	Cash account
5,147.93	18,917.86	Savings account
90,334.33	71,844.74	Term deposits
130.00	130.00	Petty Cash
114,507.80	103,065.25	total cash/bank
1,441.34		Accrued interest
		Less liabilities
308.20		Sundry accruals
	360.61	Kiwibank Credit Card
115,640.94	102,704.64	

Disclaimer: This is an interim financial statement and as such has yet to be examined by our Reviewer. The reviewed financial statement will be published on the website prior to our AGM on 6th June 2023.