



AUCKLAND BRANCH NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2023

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Report from the Chair



Gosh, this year seems to have gone so fast. By the time you receive this we will almost be into November and Christmas is just around the corner.

We have held 3 very successful branch events this year and have met new members and caught up with old friends. Thank you to those of you who came along and a special

thanks if you brought your spouse or you are a surviving spouse and came. The committee works extremely hard to put on these events for you. I would like to thank them for their support over the last year. They are:

Chair Sandie Gusscott – Education

Deputy Chair Craig Jensen – Science

Committee Members

Rosemary Bell – Defence

Eric Bowater – Education & North Shore Sub Branch

Neil Carey - Railways

Murray McElwain – Railways & 80 Plus

Claire Couch – Education

Denise Greenwood – University

Keith Rawlings – Army

Max Thomson – Post Office

At the last Branch meeting six people volunteered to be part of a Focus Group. Many thanks to those people who have volunteered. We expect the first meeting to be at the start of 2024. The purpose of the Focus Group is to not only contribute to suggestions for involving more branch members in events but also to consider ways of recruiting more members and influencing our Parliamentarians to ensure that the conditions for our annuity are preserved.

Last weekend, the 102nd Council meeting was held in Wellington. All 19 branches had at least one representative there. Tony Hamilton, the President for the last 5 years, was thanked for his outstanding contribution to the GSA.

The next Board was unanimously elected as follows

President – Alan Straker (Marlborough)

Vice President – Sandie Gusscott (Auckland)

Board Members:

Robert John Beckham (Southland)

Anne Gover (Southland)

Michael Law (Waikato)

Roger Openshaw (Manawatu)

Alan Peck (Wellington)

It is a privilege to accept the role of Vice-President and in that role I want to ensure that the GSA remains strong and resilient so that we are well-placed to safe-guard our members' annuities. My aim is to continue to have a vibrant organisation where members, including spouses and surviving spouses, are valued, our annuity is preserved, and all Branches are supported by the Board and play an active role in achieving the Strategic Goals of the GSA.

There was some discussion about a proposed increase in your membership contribution. As mentioned, it was confirmed at the Council meeting that from 1 April 2024 membership fees will increase by 50 cents per annuity payment with the increase meaning that the annual membership fee is \$39.00.

We look forward to meeting you again at our Christmas function which is being held at the Pt Chevalier Bowling Club on Wednesday 6 December 2023.

Sandie Gusscott
Chair

2024 Branch Meeting Dates

- Tuesday, 26 March 2024
- Tuesday, 4 June 2024 (AGM)
- Tuesday, 17 September 2024

Our branch meetings are free to members and their spouses. They are held in the morning at the Western Springs Garden Community Hall 2. All final arrangements, including the details of our guest speakers, will be emailed prior to the meeting. They will also be published well in advance on our website: <http://www.gsa.org.nz/branch-auckland.html>

Please Register your Spouse as a Member

It costs nothing to register your spouse as a member of the GSA. Once we have details of your spouse on our records it enables us to assist them should you pre-decease them. We can offer support and help them to obtain the survivor portion of your annuity without delay.

To update your records please contact our Branch Secretary, Andrea, on 0800 888 472 or email her at auckland@gsa.org.nz. Or if you prefer, you are able to login into your records on our website by using your GSA password. A password can be obtained by emailing national@gsa.org.nz

PRESENTATION FROM THE CHAIR OF THE RETIREMENT VILLAGES RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

The guest speaker at our September branch meeting was Nancy Nielsen, who chairs the Auckland Central branch of the Retirement Villages Residents Association of New. The RVR is a fast-growing national association, formed to promote and protect the rights of retirement village residents in New Zealand. It is focused on providing a voice for residents in retirement villages on issues related to the Retirement Villages Act 2003 and the Retirement Villages Code of Practice 2008. The Act defines the rights of retirement village residents when they commit to an Occupation Right Agreement (ORA) with the owner of a retirement village to purchase a license to occupy a villa, cottage, or apartment. The RVR should not be confused with the Retirement Villages Association, which represents the interests of retirement village owners.

In her talk, Nancy described a number of anomalies and injustices which the RVR is working to ensure are addressed as part of a forthcoming review of the Act. This has involved the RVR working with other organisations such as Grey Power and with the New Zealand Government. It is encouraging that there appears to be widespread agreement across the main political parties of the need for change.

Membership of the RVR is open to all retirement village residents, with associate membership available for family and friends. See www.rvrnz.org.nz for further information.

Craig Jensen
Deputy Chair

2023 Christmas Events

Auckland Branch Christmas Function – Wednesday, 6th December 2023

All members, please join your GSA Committee for a buffet lunch. Bring your spouse or a guest.

- **Venue:** Point Chevalier Bowling Club, 23 Dignan Ave, Pt Chevalier (ample parking)
- **Time:** 12pm – 2pm
- **Cost:** \$15 per person and payable to our account number 38 9010 0813532 00
- **RSVP:** Register your attendance by emailing Andrea on auckland@gsa.org or call 0800 888 472 by 30 November



Auckland Retired Railways Group – End of the Year Function

All members, partners and friends of the GSA are invited to our end of the year function on Thursday, 16 November 2023 at the Manurewa Cosmopolitan Club, Manurewa

- **Time:** Doors open at 11am and lunch will be served at 12.30pm
- **Cost:** Members and partners please provide \$15 cash per person and non-GSA members \$25 cash per person in an envelope with names of those attending. No change will be given
- **RSVP:** By Monday, 9 November to Lyn McElwain phone 09 266 959 or 021 298 8297 or email Murray McElwain on murraymc2018@gmail.com

North Shore Sub Group – Christmas Luncheon

Please join us at the Birkenhead RSA, Recreation Drive, Birkenhead on Friday, 24 November 2023

- **Time:** We begin at 10am with morning tea and then a brief report on recent GSA business
- **Speech:** Mike Enright is speaking on "What Do You Know About Christmas?" This a light-hearted look at Christmas songs and carols. A Christmas luncheon will then be served
- **Cost:** The subsidised cost for North Shore members is \$20 per person or \$35 each for non-members and is payable to our account number 12-3026 0737928 00
- **RSVP:** Please register by emailing Eric Bowater at mandebowater@gmail.com or Phone 09 482 0250