



NEWSLETTER

BAY OF PLENTY

OCTOBER 2023

**Chair:** Darryl Bellamy

**Vice Chair:** John Ladd

**Committee:** Shirley Waid, Ken Crosswell, Jeannie Johansson, Anke Hermannsdorfer, Anne Cato and Barbara Wade

**Area Representatives:** Thames – Nil, Waihi - Bernie Ellmers, Whangamata - Bob & Robyn Smith, Whakatane – Nil, Whitianga - Nil

**Contact Bay of Plenty Secretary:** Jeannie Johansson. Mobile 0211106990 Email bayofplenty@gsa.org.nz

Please let your secretary know of any changes to address, contact numbers and email address. Also remember Datacom GSF 0800654731 NPF 0800628776

### **2023 Christmas Luncheon:**

This will be held on the 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at the Tauranga Citizens Club 13th Avenue Tauranga at 11am. We will have many lucky door prizes and a guest speaker.

### **Chairs Report:**

Well, it's that time of the election cycle for us all to consider "what is best for us". No matter your political persuasion we are being bombarded by promise after promise and we have enough life experiences to know that they cannot all be delivered due to both time and financial constraints.

So now is the time to sort out the wheat from the chaff and on election night sit back and enjoy doing what gives you the best enjoyment – listening to music or playing games with grandchildren.

In September both myself and committee member Ann Cato attended the Annual Council Meeting in Wellington. This was the last meeting for outgoing President Tony Hamilton and with very little else on the agenda, the spotlight fell on the guest speakers to entertain us. Jane Wrightson, the Retirement Commissioner did just that with a lively presentation on the various narratives

Reflecting on her narrative, I appreciated just how valuable the Government Superannuation Fund has been as a supplementary source of income to the NZ Superannuation Fund for us and why it is so very important to protect that source through to our passing.

Our Secretary Jeannie Johansson has been very proactive in raising the profile of the of the Bay of Plenty Branch and striving to engage new members including surviving spouses.

After last year's successful and almost entirely single-handed effort visiting outlying areas, she has organised another set of visits for this year and final dates and times will be circulated shortly. So far, a meeting in Whitianga has been confirmed for 8 November.

For a lot of us decisions will have to be made about eventually having to downsize our place of residence and moving to a retirement village. There are many issues to consider, and the Government made a commitment to review the Retirement Villages Act. A lot has been said how the current act did not favour retirees as much as it did the large retirement home industry. For those considering their futures, I would advise you all to read up on the subject and a good starting point would be [Review of the Retirement Villages Act 2003: Options for change, Discussion Document \(hud.govt.nz\)](http://hud.govt.nz).

### **Area Activities:**

- Area meetings have been planned for November 2023, Thames 1<sup>st</sup>, Whakatane 2<sup>nd</sup>, Whitianga 8<sup>th</sup>, Whangamata 9<sup>th</sup> (Morning) and Waihi 9<sup>th</sup> (Afternoon). All members in these areas have been sent flyers with the relevant information. We look forward to seeing many of our Area Members at these functions.

### **Committee Member Profile:**

#### Ken Crosswell

- I joined the Post Office as a telegram boy in Wairoa 1946, progressing through the Postal, Telephone Exchange, learning Morse later transferred to the Trentham Morse School, where I qualified in Morse and Teleprinter telegraphy, then transferred to the Wellington Telegraph Office.
- After three months I was transferred to Auckland, Wellington, Cambridge, New Plymouth, Hamilton and finally back to the Auckland Telegraph Office in 1953, where I spent four years in the Telegraph Office. While living in Auckland I met Maureen, later becoming engaged and married in August 1957. In September I was transferred to the Auckland Cable Station (Cable & Wireless Ltd) Oversea cable telegraphy. I returned to the Auckland Telegraph, April 1962 and in July that year I was promoted as Manager, Telegraph Branch Hokitika. Our eldest daughter arrived two weeks after arriving in Hokitika, we enjoyed this time as a family and our third son arrived early New Year's Day 1964. My position as Manager was being appointed Excise Officer, Customs Department, which involved visiting the 2 Local breweries where we checked Specific Gravities of the brewing contents and provided with samples of the local brew. In 1969 I was promoted to Technical Supervisor, Wellington Cable & Wireless Station remaining there until late 1977, during this period our youngest daughter arrived completing the family. I was appointed Manager, Cheque Encoding Centre, Lower Hutt, where the staff processed all Post Office cheques, Payroll, Radio & TV Licencing and Stores. My final promotion was to the Napier Telegraph Branch as Manager and I Retired in June 1984.
- Retiring at 54 years of age led me to other ventures in the racing industry, where I installed TAB betting machines, maintaining, and replacing faulty machines, I travelled to race meetings from Wairoa, Hastings, Woodville, Feilding, Levin and Masterton for 6 years. Maureen set up a Public Typists business associated with an accountant, the latter setting me up in the accounting.

I covered audits for the Napier Cosi Club such as checking stock, wages and installing the TAB for their club members. The Public Typists business was prospering, so we converted over to the early computers, with knowledge of these I could assist both Maureen and the accountant.

- One day a search agency from Auckland called into the office and this led going to the Land & Deeds office searching titles both for Real estate and Companies, this was very lucrative. In 1989 we sold the business and set out on a caravan Journey from Napier via Gisborne to Tauranga, where we decided to purchase a house and settle down, which our desire 30 years earlier.
- We settled in Welcome Bay, later moving to the Mount for seven years, then back to Greenwood Park village in Welcome Bay 200., In 2006 our friend Dave Webster (GSA BOP committee) invited me to a committee meeting, where I have been ever since, enjoying meeting member as treasurer. Maureen took over the Secretaries position for several years until just before her death 2013, when I covered the Secretaries position for a temporary period. I really enjoyed working with Arthur Johansson as we both had. a great relationship from our Post Office days. Over the time of being treasurer, I enjoyed working with all committee members.

### **2023 AGM – Retiring Committee Members:**

Left Photo - Our Chair Darryl presenting Mr Ray and Mrs Ailsa Whatmough with a gift of thanks for their work in the Whakatane area which spanned over 10 years. They have moved to Rotorua and we wish them well.

Middle and Right Photo - Darryl presenting Mr Ron Salmons with a gift of thanks for 23years of service to the BOP Committee.



**AGM Luncheon 11am for meeting followed by Guest Speaker then Lunch.**

**I/We** shall be attending the AGM Luncheon.

Name(s).....

Phone:.....

Address:.....

Email:.....

Number Attending..... Cost will be \$20.00 per person. Please pay  
\$..... by either:

Direct credit account 03 0435 0458010 00 quote name in the reference.

I will bring \$..... to the luncheon in an envelope with name(s) and  
reference AGM.

All replies are to the Secretary by email [bayofplenty@gsa.org.nz](mailto:bayofplenty@gsa.org.nz)  
or phone 021-1106990.

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