



SUPER NEWS

Canterbury / Westland Branch
November 2023

Government Superannuitants' Assn., Canterbury / Westland Branch
129 Marshland Road, Shirley, Christchurch 8061

CURRENT DIRECTORY

Branch Secretary-Treasurer
 Janine Lynn 03 942 7338 Email cantywest@gsa.org.nz Toll Free 0800 888 472

Chairperson Maurice Sinclair 03 322 8649

Vice Chairperson Gavin Stuart 0274391155

Committee

Bernie Rose 0211846915

Alister Ferguson 03 960 6209

Colin Keen 03 347 0655

Dick Kitto 0211627899

Ken Wheeler 03 3108639

Ron Creighton 03 389 9710

Tony Gooding 021359208

Walker Trust Convenor Janine Lynn

Walker Trust Social Convenor Bernie Rose

District Liaison Members

Ashburton: Vacant

Greymouth: Vacant

Hokitika: Anne Kelly 03 755 6383

Westport: Norman Crawshaw 03 789 8866

Chairman's Report, November. 2023

With the 2023 General Election imminent, I won't waste members' time by producing a large report when there are more pressing issues to read about. I will include comments about our annual Council meeting, held in the second weekend of September.

Regarding the coming election, it has been interesting to compare what would seem to be a clear indication from polls that the Government will change, with what I hear as I chat to people where quite a number are uncertain just how they will vote. I see that as a reflection of potential policies being promoted that have untested consequences and of course, it is the headline which gains most attention, not the subsequent analysis. To use just two examples, one plan to cut taxes might be half a billion dollars short in one of the ways it could be paid-for yet details for justification of that plan are not being made available by the proposers. Taking GST off food has long been suggested as a crucial method of helping people on lower incomes but as any of us would see when we think it through, this is an extremely complex issue, not the least of which is a definition of "food". The costs of administration might be quite high, but are as yet, unstated. Also potentially confusing is the idea that voters should be comparing promises for the future yet not taking into account what successes might have been achieved in the past. New Zealand has significant debt (although not greatly notable by international standards) largely created during the pandemic while keeping businesses afloat and people employed. Now that debt is being used as a weapon against a government which kept the country running and saved thousands of lives. I can see how such confusion might be fostered but I wonder how it can improve the intelligence of the electorate.

In recent times GSA National Office has had quite a number of changes in staff, making it difficult for Branch secretaries to do their jobs consistently well. National Office has two new staff members: Lyn Buxton, Executive Officer and Rachel Starkey, Office Administrator. After meeting them at Council in Wellington, and seeing how they worked together and having seen how well they had done most of the organisation for their first Council meeting, I have great hope that they will become a stable and supportive pair in the GSA office.

For my part as Canterbury/Westland Branch chairman, my great support is our secretary Janine Lynn and our Branch Committee which keeps me on my toes, taking all business seriously while engaging in friendly, lively and intelligent discussion. We are fortunate to have gained a new member to the committee, Tony Gooding, a surname some will remember, he being a son of a past chairman: Peter Gooding. Tony is a younger man, it is all relative of course, but perhaps 15 years younger than many of us so he is one who will be taking this Branch, and our Association through to the future. His frequent use of “Why” suggests he is certainly one person to do that but he will need others near his age to jump on-board as well.

Some comments on Council 2023, September 9th – 10th.

Through last year there were some problems for secretaries as GSA revised computer programmes. It wasn't particularly clear why that was happening but it was explained to Council that the GSA computer software had to be upgraded so that we could assure Govt Superannuation Fund Authority, and their agents Datacom, that their data would be secure on our computers.

Tim Mitchell, new CEO of Annuitas, which runs Government Super Fund (GSF) and National Provident Fund (NPF) was the first Guest speaker. He described his work in the investment industry in several countries and although born in France he had “come back” to Wellington which he had known in his childhood. One question he will be dealing-with is that GSF and NPF both have finite lives because membership closed many years ago. How will the declining membership, declining income and fund capital be managed in the future? Of interest to GSA members is that GSF investment over the last 10 years averaged an annual return to the fund of 8.9%.

The main issue at Council was the proposal for a subscription increase. For several years Waikato/King Country Branch has produced spreadsheets showing how GSA finances will reduce in future years, how many members will still be present when our money runs out and what will be needed to keep that membership supported. Some of money held in Branches and at National Office is intended for future possible contingencies such as for political action and GSA survival, should a government unilaterally change our superannuation conditions. We can't actually let our money “run out”, we must keep some reserves. Because we are losing members at 6% per year (2022 data), it makes sense to maximise any increase by making it as soon as possible. An example of the effects of that kind of loss is the current Auckland membership of annuitants at 2743 will have dropped to around 620 by 2038. Modelling suggests that this is the year when our reserves are all used and our newly boosted subscription income (2023) is not enough to keep our association running. Future Boards and Branches will have to make new subscription proposals as appropriate for the future. The average age of annuitants is 82 years. The proposal was for an increase of 50 cents per payday, an increase of \$6.50 for the year to make a total subscription of \$39 per year. Although I called it the 'main issue' at Council, the supporting rationale and data had been provided to Branches earlier in the year. There was informative comment by Board member Michael Law (Waikato/King Country), very little discussion, and the motion passed. The subscription increase will apply from 1st April 2024.

Council's second guest speaker was Jane Wrightson, Retirement Commissioner. Jane was dynamic, well-prepared, full of good ideas, with a great knowledge of those she represented and bustling with energy. If politicians could listen attentively to people like her, or even be like her, NZ Governments would gain huge respect.

While the official timetable for Council involved sessions on Saturday and Sunday, all the formal business had been completed prior to the expected finish time on the Saturday and only an informal meeting was called for the Sunday morning. This was a reasonably brief set of questions and comments which were on the mind of the outgoing President, Tony Hamilton. With no nominations for Life Membership this year and therefore no time required for presentations, with no elections required, and with few contentious issues requiring lengthy discussions, it was no great surprise that Council finished early.

Maurice Sinclair,
28th September 2023.

Board

President: Alan Straker, Marlborough.
Vice President: Sandra Gusscott, Auckland
Members: Alan Peck, Wellington.
Michael Law, Waikato/King Country.
Anne Gover, Southland.
Roger Openshaw, Manawatu.
John Beckham, Southland.

BRANCH MEETINGS are held on the 4th Tuesday of every month except December, at the Papanui RSA, 55 Bellvue Avenue, Papanui, commencing 1.30 pm. Members are welcome to attend, however we would ask you to please ph Janine (942-7338) and let her know that you would like to attend, so that we can cater for afternoon tea.

**Liaison Personnel - Urgently required for:
Ashburton & Greymouth
Call Janine (03) 942-7339 for details**

Visits To Our Sub Branches

The Canterbury Westland GSA Branch committee members' travel to our Sub Branches in Ashburton, Rangiora and the West Coast on a rotating 3 year cycle, to meet with our members.

We travelled to Rangiora for a Meeting in August, 2022, which was very successful with 50+ members attending. We also travelled to the West Coast in March, 2023 and held a meeting in Greymouth, which Also very successful.

We plan to travel to Ashburton in 2024.

A separate Newsletter will be sent to our members in the South Canterbury/Ashburton areas, advising them of the dates, venue and times approximately 3 weeks prior to the Meeting.

However, if anyone has any questions, issues etc that they wish to discuss, please feel free to call Janine on 0800 888 472, or email cantywest@gsa.org.nz

Janine Lynn
Secretary/Treasurer

CHRISTMAS FUNCTION NEWS

On Monday, 4 December, 2023 our Christmas Luncheon will be held in “The Junction” a separate, events area within the Richmond Club. located on the corner of Stanmore Road and London Street in Richmond. A large carpark is available with entrances from both London and Avalon Streets. Metro Bus Service stop on the corner of Stanmore Road & London Street, Route 60, and the Orbiter each provide regular services.

Refer to all other details on this Function on Page 8 of this Super News.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Have you reached the age of 79? If you have, we will post you a Birthday Card, or we can visit you, on all your following birthdays. All that is required, is for you to telephone Janine (03 9427338 or 0800 888 472) with your date of birth and telephone number. If you are 80 years plus and did not receive a card or a visit, please call Janine on 03 942-7338 or 0800 888 472.

WALKER TRUST REPORT

Our “team of visitors” have been working hard again this year, visiting those on our list of over 80’s on, or close to their birthdays. These visits have been greatly appreciated, going from the thank you cards, notes and telephone calls we receive.

We are looking for members who can assist with visiting members on their birthday, in the following areas:

- Cass Bay / Governors Bay
- Ashburton Area
- Sumner / Richmond Hill / Ferrymead
- Bromley / Woolston
- Greymouth
- Prebbleton / Lincoln / Rolleston

This is a very rewarding task that does not take up much of your time. We would love to hear from you – Call Janine on (03 942-7338) for further information.

Margaret Coghill celebrated her 101st Birthday on 5/5/2023



Margaret lives in her own home, and has a current drivers licence.

Margaret Lanyon (a Walker Trust visitor) visited on her Birthday and took the photo. Thank you

AT OUR AGM – Held in May 2023
The guest speaker from Civil Defence

Spoke on the Alpine Fault 8 and when/if we lose power for weeks. Below are items we should consider essential to survive, in no particular order.

- Gas options for cooking, if possible with side burner, BBQ with spare gas bottle
- Tin fruit, etc to eat without cooking
- Bottled water
- Chocolate & energy bars
- Toilet paper
- 2 large buckets with lids, include plastic bags (for use as toilets)
- Hand sanitizer – to save water
- Cash in gold coins and \$5 & \$10 notes
- Medical supplies
- First Aid Kit
- Torches, plus a supply of batteries
- Battery radio – however could use car radio, for updates
- Mobile Phone & charger – keep charged up
- Escape bag with warm clothes, easy walking shoes. If winter, may need hot water bottle
- If separated, plan where you will meet
- Insurance and other important documents
- Add other items that maybe important to you and your family
- Some people do not allow the car fuel tank to go below ½ full.
- Search the AF8 web site.

Coming soon to a street near you!

Street golf





When you move it is vitally important that you inform ---

Both your Local Branch **AND** The Government Superannuation Fund

OR The National Provident Fund.

Canterbury / Westland Branch	Government Superannuation Fund	National Provident Fund
Govt. Superannuitants Assoc.	PO Box 3614	PO Box 1036
129 Marshland Road	WELLINGTON 6140	WELLINGTON 6140
Christchurch 8061	Toll Free 0800 654 731	Toll Free 0800 628 776
Toll Free 0800 888 472		

When members change addresses, we sometimes lose track of them. Datacom has the addresses of all annuitants, but they are not allowed to give us any change of address information, as this would breach privacy rules. Currently, we have lost track of the members listed below.



LOST MEMBERS

Last known address

Mrs Beryl Antiss	Woodcote RV, Hornby
Mrs Anne Bierwirth	21/1 Lady Isaac Way, Mairehau
Mr Andrew Carstairs-McCarthy	1/29 Clyde Rd, Ilam
Mrs Eileen Chisholm	V13A/60 Browns Rd, St. Albans
Mrs Judith Denton	1/116 Lincoln Rd, Spreydon
Mrs Lynnsey Devine	1/66A Bowenvale Ave, Cashmere
Mrs Lynnsey Devine	1/66A Bowenvale Ave, Cashmere
Mrs Catherine Grayburn	1 Appleby Cres, Burnside
Mr Jim Henry	24B Locarno St, Opawa
Mr W R Houghton	Apt 34/41 Caledonian Rd, St Albans
Mrs Aldyth Ellen Hudson	3 Arthurson Mews Woolston
Mrs Dawn Jack	Westport, 7825
Mr William McCaw	114/73 Roydvale Ave, Burnside
Mrs Joan McGrath	77 Alexander St, Greymouth
Mrs Judith Muirhead	29/131 Wairakei Rd, Bryndwr
Mr Stanley Papps	19 Glandovey Rd, Fendalton
Mrs Karin Reid-Martin	1/12 Blairdon Pl, Bishopdale

A Big "Thank You" to those members who are able to help me locate our "missing members" ever 6 months. Your calls are greatly appreciated,

CHRISTMAS BUFFET LUNCH**CHRISTMAS BUFFET LUNCHEON MENU****Main:**

Maple & Mustard Champagne Ham
 Roast Beef & Gravy
 Kumara & Horopito gnocchi, charred veges.
 Buttery minted peas
 Gourmet potatoes with olive oil & mint
 Cauli & broccoli cheesy mornay

Salads:

Coleslaw, toasted seeds
 & dill ranch dressing
 Caesar salad – lettuce,
 croutons, crispy bacon,
 parmesan, egg &
 dressing

Dessert:

Mini pavlova with cream
 and kiwifruit
 Apple & apricot crumble
 & custard
 Tea/Coffee
 Xmas Cake

CHRISTMAS BUFFET LUNCHEON**MONDAY 4 December 2023****12 Noon – Bar Service from 11 am****RICHMOND WORKING MENS CLUB****75 London Street, off Stanmore Road**

You are welcome to bring a friend.

RAFFLE TICKETS WILL BE ON SALE 5 tickets = \$5

Cost after subsidy, per person \$39.00, and must be made to our account as below,

Our A/c is ANZ 11 7800 0989568 00. Please ensure you use your surname as the Reference.

Please make payment, then complete and return this section by **FRIDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2023**

I/We intend to be present at the Christmas Luncheon. Cost \$39.00 per person

Number attending _____ Paid Internet Banking \$_____

Please Print:

Name: First _____ Surname: _____

Partner: First _____ Surname: _____

Friend: First _____ Surname: _____

Phone No: _____

Ex Department: _____

This tear-off must be sent by due date, as there will definitely be no door sales.

Ample Parking, .