

G	government
S	superannuitants
A	association

SUPER NEWS

***Canterbury / Westland Branch
November 2017***

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

CURRENT DIRECTORY

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Chairperson Maurice Sinclair 03 322 8649

Vice Chair Gavin Stuart 03 339 2326

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Alister Ferguson 03 960 6209

Colin Keen 03 342 8399

Dick Kitto 03 322 4872

Dugald McDonald 03 322 4105

Neil Carter 03 332 2103

Ron Creighton 03 389 9710

Walker Trust Convener Bernie Rose

District Liaison Members

Ashburton – Vacant

Greymouth: Frank Lucas 03 768 5168

Hokitika: Anne Kelly 03 755 6383

Westport: Norman Crawshaw 03 789 8866

Chairperson's Report

Another half-year and GSA annual Council have passed, all having flashed-by rather quickly. Gavin Stuart has written some Council notes and there will be more in the "Annuity News" enclosed with this newsletter but published by the National Office.

Our Branch Committee has been enhanced by the addition of Neil Carter who, at the annual meeting in May, had expressed interest in learning more about the Association and the administration of Government Superannuation. Adding to that good fortune is the return of Dick Kitto who had resigned for family reasons but has now found enough time to return and I look forward to his energy and flow of ideas. How to find members who can sit on Committees, and especially to act as Branch officers, is a frequent topic at National Council meetings and just at the moment our Branch is lucky to have a vibrant group contributing widely-varied experience to meetings which are relatively relaxed but where we get all the formal business done in good humour.

I have kept this report short because I have put some ideas together into an essay on earthquakes which is included below. It is simply a number of ideas which have been running around in my head recently and although it is not a topic much related to GSA, all of us are intertwined with earthquakes either in the recent past or will be in the future.

Maurice Sinclair.

New Zealand and New Zealanders.

Browsing glossy magazines and tourist brochures you could be excused for thinking that a country can be represented by the experiences it offers through its shopping malls, markets, craft beer, wine, excellence in dining etc. The trouble is that throughout western countries those experiences are similar so what kind of things really do separate the nature of New Zealand from many other countries?

The upper South Island people might give a rapid answer: *earthquakes*. A friend of ours from Australia reluctantly agreed to go to Picton to attend a meeting which would take place two months after the Kaikoura earthquakes. Her single clear requirement was: "If I'm going to feel an earthquake, I'm not going!" She already knew of a major difference between Australia and New Zealand and it sure wasn't the quality of food and drink!

We all still remember the Kaikoura quakes from November last year. I live just beyond the south end of Christchurch and felt the quake as a rolling motion, most notable for the length of time it went on. Nearly 10% of members of our Canterbury/Westland Branch of GSA live north of the Waimakariri River, much closer to the quake centre than I do, so all of you will have been much more disturbed by it than I was. Those living from Culverden northwards will have had a terrifying night.

That name "Kaikoura" for those quakes is not totally appropriate because the first and largest quake, magnitude 7.8, which began the sequence was located just south of the township of Waiau. Energy was directed north-eastwards, other faults were triggered and the most-obvious land damage was along the Kaikoura Coast, hence the name "Kaikoura quakes". For the ordeal of those in Waiau that night, the name "Waiau quake" might have been some compensation! Within a few minutes, 20 or more different faults had moved including some offshore 120 kilometres north from where the quake began and North Canterbury and Marlborough had a world record for the most complex seismic event ever recorded. Indeed there were two world records because the accelerations of the ground during the quake at Waiau were greater than at Christchurch which at that time was a world leader through its quake in 2011!

With my wife Devon, I recently had the privilege of being in a group which visited a farm (near Waiau) within a few kilometres of the epicentre of the Kaikoura quakes. Something I never expected to see were plastic water-storage tanks split by the violence of the water movement inside. Not so surprising, but none-the-less sobering, was to see and stand alongside "The Wall" where a whole piece of country (and the hills beyond) have jumped vertically by 3.5 metres as well as having been shifted sideways by two metres, probably all taking less than a second! (Impressive although obviously less so than the 12 metre lateral shift recorded north of Kaikoura, near Kekerengu.) Fences were displaced by several metres and an enormous landslide had started 1000 metres up a hillside and slumped in a single block across the Leader River. Much of the slipped material was covered in forest which is still on its surface but the trees will find it a bit strange, all now growing at a funny angle. Once the pain of damage has dimmed there will be many earthquake tales to be told.

Earthquakes are very familiar to us and even before those of the last 7 years we will be able to remember our houses creaking or shaking. Many of us will have heard stories (such as from my mother) of Napier 1931 and we may even have Napier survivors still with us here today. In 1994 there was a medium earthquake in Arthurs Pass and the road in Otira Gorge was closed briefly because of landslides. In those days I was taking groups of students tramping and one of our regular routes took us into valleys close to the epicentre of that quake, south of Arthurs Pass. For that tramp the next year, I was unable to take the students but another experienced tramper offered to go. He had not done that trip before so without a thought about the recent earthquake, I described the trip in detail including about what the route would be like on the first afternoon after climbing up to the high saddle:

"You run down a steep shingle-slide into the valley of Easy Stream. Called 'Easy' because after your tough climb it is a gentle downhill walk for a few kilometres through forest and grassy river-flats to your campsite."



“The Wall” Woodchester Station, North Canterbury

Back at school on Monday, he said:

“You called it Easy! There's a bloody lake filling the valley. We had to bash for hours through the forest to get around the lakeside.”

Two years later I did the trip again. We planned the first day to give ourselves extra time to get around the lake but there was no lake. The water had burst through the earthquake's landslide. There we stood, looking down a 6-lane highway width of flat shingle for the next 2 kilometres to camp. Easy Stream had just got easy again!

Here in the east we will hold our collective breath on behalf of our colleagues in Westland for the day when the Alpine Fault moves, for move it must. Our earthquakes are a source of financial loss, misery, death and emotional harm but they signal that we are on a land thrust upwards as two great parts of the earth's crust grind together. A lack of earthquakes would mean that process had stopped or had never begun. If it hadn't begun, New Zealand would not have its head above the sea. The Southern Alps continue to be pushed up but are eroding and falling down nearly as fast, producing sediment and giving us our characteristic braided rivers. Earthquakes tell us it is all continuing. Rather than food, drink, shopping and entertainment, it is the *earthquakes* which are telling us that New Zealand will continue to be *our* special country.

Maurice Sinclair.

The second day of Council 2017 (3rd September) saw the presentation of Life Membership Awards. Of particular note was that one of our own, Bernard Rose ('Bernie') received an award for his exceptional service to our Association. He joins GSA's prestigious Roll of Honour and the nomination from the Canterbury/Westland Branch Committee is reproduced here.

Citation on **Bernard G. Rose** for Life Membership.

Bernard has been a member of GSA for 33 years since he retired from the Army in 1984. He has served on the Canterbury/Westland Branch Committee for 13 years, continues in that role and has maintained near-perfect attendance over that time.

A strength Bernard brings is his maintaining individual contact with older members, a highly significant part of our Committee's reason for existence. Since 2006 Bernard has led the Walker Trust, (established following a bequest by a member impressed by the fact that the only visitor he had over a number of years was another GSA member).

Following any member turning 80 and at succeeding birthdays, Bernie sends a birthday card and arranges a visit (if they are on a 'requested' list). He sends around 300 cards a year and arranges himself and a team of about 14 volunteers to make between 120 and 160 visits in that time as well. Bernard compiles a monthly report on the visits, costs incurred and how his fundraising has augmented Walker Trust funds.

Bernard organises the venue and logistics for our annual meeting and the Christmas luncheon.

Bernard began GSA's investigation into the damaging CoLA formula after legislation was amended in 2009 and he relentlessly pressured our Branch Committee until there was full understanding of the problem. At a national level along with other members of our Committee, Bernard fought long and hard to achieve GSA acceptance that the new formula for CoLA was unjust and that working to achieve justice for our most disadvantaged older members deserved high priority in GSA objectives. He attended Council in 2009 when the issue was rejected although subsequent presentation in 2010 was accepted. The successful case was largely the product of research and nationwide networking by Bernard Rose. Subsequently, for six years in parallel with GSA, Bernard has lobbied MP's, Ministers and the Prime Minister attempting to get them to seriously consider the CoLA case. Allowing himself to be used as a specific example to politicians to illustrate the negative influence of the new formula on the value of his annuity and by contacting other annuitants, carrying out subsequent analysis and making it available to GSA, he has significantly contributed to a dossier for use in subsequent GSA arguments.

We believe that Bernard Rose is an ideal 'grass-roots' member of GSA and we recommend him as a most-worthy recipient of Life Membership.

Canterbury/Westland Branch GSA, 2017.

Bernie & Janice Rose
Walker Trust



THE JOYS OF SHARING, LIVING, AND GIVING, ARE FOUND IN FRIENDS.**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.

We are one of the few branches that carry out this small gesture to our older members, and have noted that we have a lot of birthdates missing from the database and

we wish to have this updated.

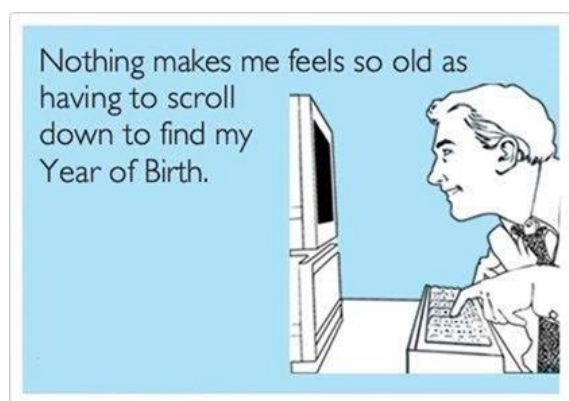
WALKER TRUST REPORT

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 Papanui area. This is a very rewarding task that does not take up much of your time. We would love to hear from you -

Call Janice or Bernie on (03 313 1569) for further information.

Bernie & Janice Rose
Phone (03) 313-1569





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 606
129 Marshland Road	WELLINGTON 6145	WELLINGTON 6140
Christchurch 8061	Toll Free 0800 654 731	Toll Free 0800 628 776
Ph: (03) 942 7338 or 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

Mr Derek Alabaster
Mr Ian Batchelor
Mr Noel Bell
Mr Leicester Brice
Mrs Johanna Bridger
Mrs Carolyn Byron
Mrs Marjory Carson
Mr Walter Cox
Mr Brian Edmonston
Mrs E Cecillia Elder
Mrs Hillary Evison
Mr Robert Gordon
Mr Alan Greening
Mr Victor Holder
Mr Joseph Johnson
Mr Richard Lucas
Mrs Kerry MacDonald
Mrs Hazel McIntyre
Mrs Elizabeth Morris
Mrs Veronica Senior
Mrs Margaret Stone
Mrs Margaret Stringer
Mrs Hazel Waters
Mrs Marguerite Whitworth
Mr William Willmott

Last known address

PO Box 6285, Upper Riccarton
69 Regency Cres, Redwood
12 Dumfries Drive, Riccarton
18 Hillview Rd, Phillipstown
17 Waipapa Ave, Diamond Harbour
5 Bengal Drive, Cashmere
55 Rochester Street, Linwood
11/72 Rose Street, Somerfield
80 Elizabeth Street, Ashburton
17 Webb St, St Albans
Villa 209, Alpine View Village
73 Georgina Street, Marshland
Rangitata Huts, Ashburton
3/13 O'Briens Rd, Sockburn
50A Memorial Ave, Ilam
15A Leinster Rd, Strowan
7/33 Winchester Street, Merivale
PO Box 34 Taitapu
c/- 26 Roberts Drive, Somerfield
40 McCarthy St, Hoon Hay
2/78 St James Ave, Papanui
ex Northland, now in area 8053
2/30 Bowen St, Upper Riccarton
Edith Cavell RH, Sumner
373 River Rd, Richmond

CAN YOU HELP: Please phone Janine Lynn at 942-7338 or 0800 888 472 with details if you are able to help.

LIAISON PERSONNEL REQUIRED – ASHBURTON

The main requirement is a friendly person who can be a local contact for anybody wanting information. If you are even considering volunteering, please contact our secretary Janine and have a chat with her about the ways in which you could help. 03-9427338 or 0800 888 472

PSA Holiday Homes.

The Public Service Association has 41 accommodation units available in - Whitianga, Rotorua, Raumatī Beach, Nelson, Carters Beach, Otematata, and Te Anau.

The units vary in size, sleeping between 2 and 9 persons per night.

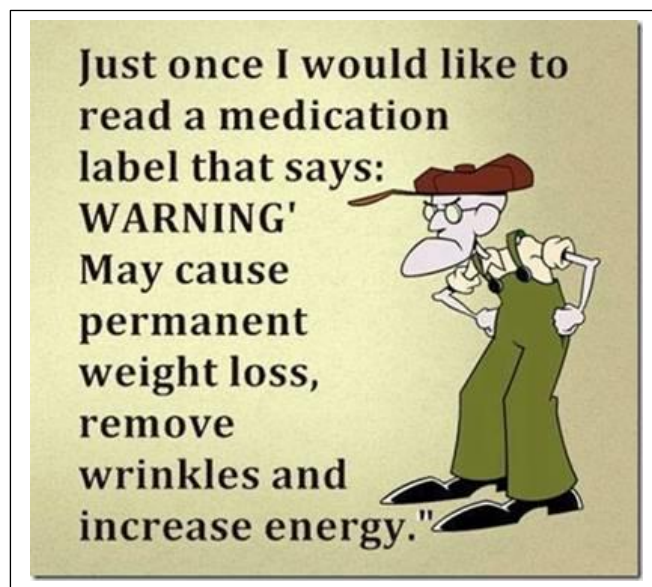
The costs vary, with units ranging from approximately \$50 to \$125 per night. For full details ---

Toll Free 0800 10 30 90 www.psa.org.nz

E-mail plus@psa.org.nz Fax 04 917 2053

You will need to have your GSF number available for phone calls or for inclusion in e-mails. You can find this on the Datacom letter, sent to you in March/April of each year. This number never changes.

You need to book well in advance to be sure of a booking.



Council Meeting - 2017

Maurice Sinclair and I attended as delegates at the new venue, West Plaza, Wellington on 2 -3 September. All were surprised to learn that Alan Peck, Executive Officer will not be renewing his contract with the GSA after January 2018, and the new Board will be seeking a replacement.

I reported that Bernie Rose and I, on a personal basis, had not been able to get a meeting with the Minister of State Services or the member of Treasury, Oliver Martin, who the Minister recommended, to discuss the issue of CoLA and the tax on our annuities. Tony Hamilton from Northland reported that he had met with Winston Peters, and Allan Hair (Life Member) reported that he had discussions with 5 MP's on various issues. Again it is clear that Government has little desire to engage with the GSA on any issues.

Simon Tyler from the GSFA gave an interesting presentation on how the fund is performing, currently returning 13.9% with the total fund now at \$4.399 billion, helping reduce Government liability on our annuities.

A good deal of time was spent on the Future of the GSA when 14 recommendations were discussed, mostly aiming to improve GSA's financial future. Members will notice little change although there will be a small increase in subscriptions. Savings will be made through some changes to structure of the annual Council meeting, timetabling of Board meetings and greater efficiency in investment of reserves. The Board will develop strategies for the amalgamation of some Branches over coming years. It is a sad fact that all branches are in decline and to help with our recruitment of new members, if anyone knows a retired or about to retire GSF person, please encourage them to join the GSA to maintain our current conditions and annuities.

The last business of Council was to pass without dissent, the Motion from our Branch, "That the GSA make efforts to meet with the appropriate Government members to discuss issues and restore a working relationship for the future".

Gavin Stuart.



CHRISTMAS BUFFET LUNCHEON MENU

Main:

Roast Beef and Pork
Potatoes
Roasted Vegetable Medley
Seasonal Vegetables

Dessert:

Choice of 2 Desserts
Christmas Cake
Tea/Coffee

CHRISTMAS BUFFET LUNCHEON

Tuesday 12 December 2017

12 Noon – Bar Opens at 11 am

Papanui RSA – 55 Bellvue Avenue, Papanui

\$25 per person

You are welcome to bring a friend.

If you are attending please complete the tear-off section below.

Please complete and return this section by FRIDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2016

I/We intend to be present at the Christmas Luncheon. Cost \$25 per person

Number attending _____ Cheque enclosed \$ _____

Please make Cheques payable to GSA Walker Welfare Trust and send to

Bernie Rose

Villa 25, 3 Reeves Road

Rangiora 7400

Please Print:

Name: First _____

Surname: _____

Partner: First _____

Surname: _____

Friend: First _____

Surname: _____

Phone No: _____

Ex Department: _____

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