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Newsletter
Gisborne Branch
November 2018

Gisborne@gsa.org.nz

GSA Members Christmas Luncheon 2018.

The members Christmas luncheon will be held at 12.00pm on the 28th day of November 2018 at the Tatapouri Sport Fishing Club. The club will be setting up the Conservatory dining room for our sole use with tables set out for diners.

The Tatapouri club has a special Christmas (a la carte)

Menu with a choice of four mains, priced at **\$20.50 per person**. This year there will be a Cruise Ship the **Golden Princess** visiting the port of Gisborne during our luncheon, so the Club will be also involved with their visit. Each diner is to pay for their meal \$20.50 to a committee member designated for this task and they will pay the restaurant on one account. You are still expected to order your choice of meal at the restaurant as with previous visits. These choices include **Hot Grilled Ham**, hot ham off the bone served with grilled pineapple rings, fries & salad. **Fish of the Day**, battered, crumbed or pan-fried served with salad & fries. **Chicken Schnitzel**, baked chicken schnitzel topped with tomato & chilly salsa grilled with cheese, served with new potatoes & salad. **Minute Steak**, Tender Ribeye steak grilled served with salad & fries, mushroom or pepper sauce. **Deserts** provided will be **Christmas pudding**, served with custard & cream. The committee will be providing on the tables wines & orange juice.

As with previous years we will be running several raffles throughout the afternoon for box of biscuits or chocolates. Audrey Curd will provide the Christmas cake for all attending to enjoy. Should you require transport to attend the Christmas function please make contact with the Secretary who will arrange it for you.

For catering reasons could you also contact the **Secretary** by phone 06 8688384 or 027 3503058 or E mail domundsen10@gmail.com , by the 26^h November **2018**, informing of the number in your party attending the Christmas luncheon. The Tatapouri Sport Fishing Club will be charging us for the numbers we notified attending, so if you are unable to attend after notifying us, please tell us as soon as possible so we can change our bookings.



GSA secretaries meeting for 2018

A meeting for the three larger branches (Auckland Wellington and Christchurch) were previously held looking at their specific needs. The other venues where set up for Palmerston North on the 2nd of May, Tauranga on the 17th of May. At this stage the south islands meeting was yet to be arranged. Gisborne was included in the Palmerston North venu along with Horowhenua/Kapiti, Manawatu, Taranaki, Wellington, Northland, Hawkes Bay and Whanganui. These meeting were run by the Executive officer Jenny Barclay and the Office Manager Karen Knobloch. Des Omundsen was the only Gisborne member who could attend this meeting this year.

The meeting was held at the Hancock Community Centre King Street Palmerston North. It commenced at 10am and started with a welcome and introductions of all those attending.

The agenda covered

How's it going: when secretaries raised concerns and supported current practices such as the need for a secretary kit, the importance of social functions and the use of social events with speakers. Northland are holding meeting across its large region to stimulate interest and Hawkes Bay and Gisborne holding joint meetings and Wairoa.

Communications: there was a question raised about the need for hard copies of the bulletin sent out to branches in preference to just using email.

Publications: for the preparation of the newsletter there needs to be a review of the timing in the annual calendar and to produce newsletters in a format more readable on portable devices. Annuity news there was good feedback on the move to use only 8 Pages.

Newsletter Gisborne Branch November 2018

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Database: there were some issues on the use and recording of member's deaths and contacting and recording spouses as pending members. The use of the term lapsed in the database was confusing secretaries as having multiple meanings. It was raised that the operation manual needs to go on the website along with the national office calendar.

Finances: the secretaries thought the move to MYOB programme was very beneficial but a concern was raised over kiwibank's recent introduction of a dollar charge per cheque processing.

Future secretaries meetings: all thought the smaller meetings were a better option as there is an opportunity for everyone attending to contribute, however this should not be set in concrete as it could be certain situations which may call for a different response.

On the completion of all the secretaries meetings around the country a paper will be produced from the National Office with all the recommendations sent out to all branches. The meeting concluded at 2pm when all headed off for their respective homes.

The Gisborne coffin Club.



The original New Zealand coffin Club was founded in Rotorua in 2010 by a former palliative care nurse Katie Williams then aged 77. Since then the model has spread around the country and there are now dozens of coffin clubs operating in both the north and south island. Because of her work and her age she stated she became a perpetual mourner. She said she has seen a lot of people dying and their Funerals were nothing to do with the vibrancy of those people's lives. She believed that the people she had in her care deserves a more personal farewell. Williams initially launched the Kiwi coffin club in her garage, with no tolls, no volunteers and no idea how to construct a coffin. Later a host of handy local men came on board and the club took off and soon they had to

move to a larger facility to cater to its swelling numbers. Katie Williams stated there is a lot of loneliness amongst the elderly and the coffin Club is also structured as a social organisation can go some way to meet this vacuum. As well as members building their own coffins they share morning tea and lunches, enjoy music and loads of cuddles.

The Gisborne Club was first discussed at an inaugural meeting in the Tatapouri Sports Fishing Club on the 18th of January 2018. At this meeting it was agreed that a Gisborne coffin Club would follow along the lines of the Kiwi coffin club in Rotorua, be set up to give our local people the option of obtaining a low cost Casket which they could furnish and decorate to their own design. A founding member obtained templates for various sizes of coffins from the Rotorua Club to be used for producing these low cost Casket. Another founding member offered the use of his Joinery workshop at 522 Gladstone Road Gisborne, for the manufacturing of the caskets. He also offered the use of the showroom to the front of the workshop to be used for the fitting out of the caskets by the club members. The club days are Wednesday morning, 9 am until 1.00 pm for specialist members for the manufacturing of the coffins. Saturday mornings are from 9 am until midday for the members to meet in the showroom to have a chat, morning tea and be involved in the fitting out of their coffins. A members joining fee has been set at \$30 with an annual fee of \$10. A basic coffin constructed in MDF which comes with a lid, fixing screws, 6 wooden or rope handles, a liner and two coats of primer/ sealer paint cost \$350. Members have 6 weeks in which to carry out the painting and fitting out of the coffin at the club. There is a time limit due to the space available for storage there. Their aim is not to be another funeral director, or a coffin manufacturer but a community facility for anyone they can help with these needs at a much reduced cost involving their personal touches.

Newsletter
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Port development and cruise ships visits.



Through the council's navigations projects, the ports enhancement project has got underway which includes landscaping the port area and the development of a new floating dock for the use of pleasure boats, commercial fisherman, a tailored berth for the Waka Hourua Tairawhiti and to provide better access for the cruise ships passengers when visiting Gisborne. The new floating Dock

will give a safe access for the school children's involvement with the Waka during their school education project, along with a much improved landing platform for the disembarking visiting tourists from the cruise ships when visiting our lovely city. The 12 week face lift commenced with the contractors Bellingham Marine from Auckland removing the existing piles that were installed in 1990 and the development of the new floating Dock. Most of this infrastructure was made of concrete and timber in Auckland and trucked down to Gisborne.

The 2018 / 19 cruise ship season will start in mid November with the arrival of our regular visitors the Golden Princess & concludes in March and will see 19 cruise ships call into Gisborne. They will anchor in the bay and load their passengers onto their tenders which will transport them to disembark on the new floating dock to participate in Gisborne's hospitality. An off ship excursion for them into a new city provides a wonderful chance to experience what it might be like to live and play there and perhaps purchase something to remind them of their visit, as well as some luxury items. Feedback from previous cruise ship passengers visiting Gisborne stated that the Gisborne experience is as good as any offered anywhere. Where else can you disembark from a cruise ship and step aboard a vintage steam train from the wharf, visit an area where you can view and feed Stingrays close up, or visit the Eastwood hill arboretum. Cycles can be rented to visit the local markets and wineries along with farm tours to add to the mix. Free buses are also provided for the passengers coming off the cruise ship to visit the city. Many Gisborne volunteers known as the green team, station themselves around the city wearing a green t-shirt with the words on it stating I am a local ask me, to give directions to our visitors and making them feel welcome. I think it could be said well done Gisborne.



Gisborne Branch GSA Committee contacts.

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Secretary Des Omundsen 068688384 or 0273503058 gisborne@gsa.org.nz

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2018 Council meeting

This year the Gisborne delegates for the Council meeting were Des Omundsen and Chesley Birch, with the venue set at the West plaza hotel Wellington, on the weekend of the 1st & 2nd September 2018. Des travelled to and from Wellington by private car while Chesley, because of family commitments, travelled down and back by bus. While the hotel was very fallacious, their parking was expensive and very awkward to navigate to being in central Wellington.

Address by Greg O'Connor MP for Ohariu.



Greg O'Connor introduced himself as a new MP for the Labour Party now at the age of 60 years, working with a younger group of MPs in Parliament with the average age of 46 years. However he did not see this as a disadvantage as he can use his previous work experiences in the Police force in an advisory role to his younger party members and create a balanced parliament. Finding those present at the council meeting, all grey haired, he pointed out to the council that the aged community should not feel threatened by today's crime rate as it is our grandchildren more likely to be targeted by crime.

He stated that being a police officer and having contributed to the government compulsory super scheme himself, he understands some of our concerns and will present our causes to the appropriate people in parliament. He further said talking to backbenchers like himself is very beneficial as they know the doors that need to be opened to get results for our submissions. He has already presented one of our submissions in parliament and will continue to do so. In questioning he was asked if he knew of any policy getting introduced to parliament which may diminish our scheme. His answer was he had no knowledge of any and thought that any government would be silly to interfere with such a scheme whose members are perspective voters, particularly as it is also a diminishing group. Those present enjoyed his presentation that much that he had to be asked to bring his presentation to a close as we had well run out of time and needed to move on to other topics.

The board elections.

President: Tony Hamilton. (Northland) (37 votes)

Vice President: no results. (The Board will have to fill this vacancy.)

Bryan Whisker (Wellington) with 28 votes missed out as President and did not stand for Vice President, after 3 years as Vice President and 6 years on the Board. A great loss of experience to the Board along with good representation for the members.

Board members:

Dallas Elvy (Wellington) 61 votes

Mike Smith (Wellington) 58 votes

Bill Robertson (Wellington) 50 votes

Alan Straker (Marlborough) 44 votes

Marjorie Thomas (Hawkes Bay) 41 votes

Rob Brangwin (Hawkes Bay) who was on the Board, missed out with only 39 votes.



The Committee wish you all a very merry Christmas