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Newsletter
Gisborne Branch
October 2015

Gisborne@gsa.org.nz

GSA Members Christmas Luncheon 2015.

The members Christmas luncheon will be held at 12.00pm on the 26th day of November 2015 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 five mains, priced at **\$20.50 per person**. Each diner is



expected to pay for their meal directly to the restaurant at the time of ordering, so there is no requirement to forward your cheque to the Secretary. 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. **Paua Fritters**, battered paua fritters served with fries & 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. All this will be followed by Tea or coffee. The committee will also be providing on the tables wines & orange juice.

Wairoa and Mahia members. It was decided that on this occasion the committee would pay for their Christmas luncheon should they attend this function.

As with previous years we will be running several raffles throughout the afternoon for box of biscuits or chocolates. Audrey Curd will be again baking & providing 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 23rd **November 2015**, informing of the number in your party attending the Christmas luncheon. We were informed by the Tatapouri Fishing Club that we will be charged for the numbers notified attending the luncheon, so if you are unable to attend after notifying, please tell us as soon as possible so we can change our bookings.

M.V.Takitimu Pilot Boat Trip

At the Gisborne GSA annual general meeting there was a large interest shown from the members attending to reinstate social activities. The first venture we thought to commence with was an afternoon trip out on the Boat Takitimu, with afternoon tea at the Tatapouri Sport Fishing Club. As it would be enjoyed best in good weather we are looking to do the trip in late November to early December. If you are interested in participating please notify Des Omundsen 06 8688384, or 027 3503058 or domundsen10@gmail.com who will inform you of the date and time for the trip. The boat can accommodate from 25 to 30 passengers and the cost for this trip is \$300.00 so with a full complement of passengers the cost per member sailing would be \$10.00. For safety reasons all those sailing would need to wear a lifejacket, which are supplied onboard, along with tea or coffee and this is all part of the admission fee. The boat is berthed just below the Tatapouri so there is not a long walk for members to partake in afternoon tea.

The M V Takitimu is believed to be the oldest pilot vessel in New Zealand still able to be operated. In fact it is still commercially used when the local pilot vessel is under service and on the hard stand. She is also notable for the original fixtures and fittings that have survived. It is administrated by a trust and a group of hard working volunteers who restored it to its now wonderful and seaworthy standard.



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Extension of the Gisborne walkway

Good reasons to go walking (1) Walk to manage your weight. (2) Walk to get your blood pressure in line. (3) Walk to protect against Dementia. (4) Walk to prevent Osteoarthritis. (5) Walk to reduce cancer risk. (6) Walk to prevent or control Diabetes. (7) Walk to lower your heart disease risk. (8) Walk to improve your moods. (9) Walk to reduce pain. (10) Walk to reduce your chance of a stroke.

The extension of the Gisborne walkway now commencing from the end of Grey Street following the Taruheru River along to the Turanganui River then along the Waikanae Beach to Midway Beach. The new section from Captain Morgan's the other end of Grey Street to the Olympic Pool at the

Midway was opened on the 1st day of August 2015, consisting off both a concrete and board walk with the surrounding area landscaped. Facilities on this section of the walkway consist of gas barbeques and tables, seating, drinking water and showers spaced all along this section. It is a great asset to Gisborne and pleased to announce that it is being used by the local residences and visitors alike. On some weekends I have seen more people using this walkway than shoppers downtown Gisborne during the week. Both walkers and bikers along with constrained dog walking are welcome to make use of these facilities. Further there is an existing walkway following the railway line from Stanley Road past the Awapuni School to the Information Centre in Grey Street. A walker can match up these two walkways up for a approximately 45 minute round walk on flat ground.



One activity the GSA Gisborne branch Committee has considered setting up for the members is to commence a weekly GSA group walking or cycling programme making use of these marvellous facilities. If members have an interest in this could you make contact with Des Omundsen 06 8688384, or 027 3503058 or email domundsen10@gmail.com.



Remember the Christmas story Scrooge.
Well he must have had a wife.

The old miser loved nothing more than the money that he accrued during his lifetime. He knew that his time was coming shortly, and he made his wife of 65 years promise that he was to be buried with all his wealth. Within a short time he was stretched out in his casket, and the good wife was comforted by their best friend. Just before the undertaker closed the casket, the wife went forward and placed a shoe box beside him. When she returned to her seat her friend said " I hope you weren't crazy enough to put all that money in there with that stingy old man"

She said yes, "I'm a good Christian , I can't go back on my word, so I did what I promised"

"You mean to tell me you put every cent in the casket?"

"I sure did", said the wife "I got it all together, put in to my account, and I wrote him a cheque".



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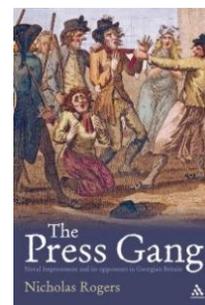
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2015 to 2016, Gisborne Branch GSA committee members

Chairperson Chesley Birch 8674214 27 Bulwer Road Gisborne 4010
Dep Chair Trevor Cook 8689600 cookscorner95@ymail.com
Secretary Des Omundsen 8688384 or 0273503058 gisborne@gsa.org.nz
Treasurer Geoffrey Smythe 8689311 brynhaugh@xtra.co.nz
Committee Barrie Denham 06 8676047
Committee Graeme Revell 06 8673508
Committee Evan Parkin 068671903

Recruitment

At the 2014 GSA Council meeting a direction was given to all GSA district to increase their membership and report back to the 2015 GSA Council meeting with their costs and their successes in this challenge. At this meeting some of the problems raised in recruitment from around the districts were that Datacom send out application forms, each April to the Pre-Annuitants and those receiving an annuity but not members of the GSA. Some people approached to join the Association stated that if they wished to join they would have by now or saw us as just another union, (could you imagine superannuitants striking). This year the committee have put an extra effort into inviting those receiving, or about to receive, an annuity of the GSF or NPF to join as a member of the Gisborne branch of the GSA. It resulted in Northland and Gisborne being the only two branches to increase their members, even though Gisborne was only by one member. The committee would like to take this opportunity to welcome those new members who have recently joined and hope your time with us is helpful and enjoyable. The most important focus the national management of the GSA have, is their members. Never hesitate to make contact with the committee should you have a concern that we may be able to resolve.



The Gisborne War Memorial Theatre.

After extensive renovations the War Memorial Theatre opened on ANZAC day of this year. It is now a concert style theatre, modern, comfortable and air conditioned. The seating is arranged theatre style. It is a fully equipped small theatre with dressing rooms, properly equipped with lights and mirrors, toilets and kitchen facilities. It now has a capacity of 480 seating and suitable for overseas artists. On the 3 October it hosted the live musical group touring New Zealand, staging the South Pacific.



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Council Annual Meeting 2015



This year the annual Council meeting was held on the 5th day of September and the 6th day of September at the Brentwood Hotel on a lovely day in Wellington. It commenced at 9.30am on the Saturday and finished at 3.00pm Sunday. This venue is very good as it is close to the Wellington airport and close to a bus route with plenty of parking available. Chesley Birch and Des Omundsen were the two delegates for the Gisborne branch. Chesley travelled to and from Wellington by bus while Des drove down in his car.

Council Speaker.

This year we were addressed by the Chief Executive from the Government Superannuation Fund Authority Mr Simon Tyler. He spoke about the schemes administration and their investments, their strategy and performance. He said that the management of the scheme was with Datacom who look after day to day administration, collect contributions, calculate and pay out entitlements and handle enquiries. During 2014 to 2015 years \$877 million dollars were paid to members. This year was a good year for fund investments returning 13.3% after fees but before tax. He said the fund has achieved an average return of 15% over the last three years. He further stated that the fund had grown over the year from \$3,677 million to \$4,078 million giving a surplus of \$511 Million. The deficit has reduced from \$9,147 million to \$8,592 million. In summary he said Datacom continue to improve its services, the high investment returns of the last few years cannot continue and the investments continue to focus on the long term to add value.

Council Workshops

The members of the Council were broken up into four workshops with Des Omundsen in number 2 and Chesley Birch in workshop 3. workshop 1 was to look at Recruiting Pre-Annuitants, workshop 2 Recruiting Annuitants, workshop 3 Dealing with individual members issues and workshop 4 Looking at branches into the future. The brainstorming ideas were reported back to the Council and a report formulated to be distributed to the branches. At this point I would like to quote an extract from the Presidents report. The value of the GSA remains however as an organisation which for almost a century has cared for the interest of scheme members, both before and after retirement, providing some sense of security and an opportunity for socialising with former colleagues. These are not minor issues and fully justify the interest and commitment of the members at branch and national level who continue to give their time and energy to ensure the organisation remains active.

Board Elections

At a result of the constitution changes this year the Council are to elect a President, Vice President & five Members to the Board. As there are nine Members on the Board, two further Members are appointed by the Board. This is to get a gender, cultural & district balance along with special skills that may be required from time to time.

This years election resulted with.

President : Janice Campbell. (Wellington)

Vice President : Bryan Whisker. (Wellington)

Members: Jim Turner, (Wellington). Bill Robertson, (Wellington). Tony Hamilton, (Northland). Mark Leys, (Auckland). Diane Ward, (Nelson).

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