

G	government
S	superannuitants
A	association

**Newsletter 31**  
**Horowhenua/Kapiti Branch**  
**April 2017**

Secretary (0800 888 472)  
P Gardner  
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Levin 5510  
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*Our Next Members Meeting is the*  
**Annual General Meeting**  
*Set down for*  
**Wednesday 17 May 2017**  
**AGM from 11:00 am**

Luncheon to follow the meeting  
(\$10.00 per head)  
Partners are welcome.

at **Otaki RSA**  
9 Raukawa Street  
**OTAKI**

*Apologies are not required*

**National Newsletter**  
The latest national newsletter *Annuity News* (No. 95) is enclosed. It includes items on *CoLA ; The GSA Petition to Parliament; Spouses and Partners* and many other interesting items. Please take the time to read it.

**Luncheon Procedure**  
When you arrive at the Otaki RSA you will be given a name tag and you are then welcome to use the bar and socialize until 11:00 am when the AGM will commence. After the AGM proceed to the dining room where the caterers will serve diners with meat and you then self-serve your vegetables.

**Ex Railways Employees**

A luncheon was planned for The Avenue restaurant in Levin but due to the recent closing of that venue it has been decided no function will be held this time.

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**AGM Venue & Meeting Business**

The branch Annual General Meeting will take place in the main clubrooms at the Otaki RSA and will precede the luncheon.

The AGM meeting will start at 11:00 am so you need to arrive in time to register and be seated by then. Our guest will be the GSA Board member Mr Dallas Elvy who will speak on current GSA issues. Branch Committee Member Mr Roger Pitchforth will report on the member survey results. Other business will include presentation of the Branch Annual report, the Annual financial statements and the election of branch officers. Parking is available in the Otaki RSA car park and on the roadside nearby.

**Member Survey**

A big thank you to those members who took the trouble to complete the October 2016 survey distributed with the branch newsletter. A total of 106 responses were received (around 8%). As expected no radical changes will result and generally members were happy with the present branch operations. One change will affect the end of year meetings which will now be a subsidised luncheon rather than just an afternoon tea. Committee member Mr R Pitchforth will report, at the upcoming 2017 AGM, on the survey conclusions.

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Cut off and return before **14th May 2017** to

*The Secretary, GSA,  
34B Durham Street, Levin 5510*

I/We will be attending the AGM luncheon at Otaki RSA:-

Attendee's Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Number of persons attending \_\_\_\_ @ \$10.00 per head = \$ \_\_\_\_ .00

Contact phone number ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ***Payment must accompany this slip.***

**Government Superannuitants Association  
Horowhenua/Kapiti Branch  
ANNUAL REPORT : 2016/17**

The Horowhenua/Kapiti Branch of the GSA has concluded another successful year representing the interests of Government Superannuitants in the region, and I am pleased to present this report for our Annual General Meeting on 17 May. The Branch Newsletter accompanies the latest edition of *Annuity News*, which provides you with topical news and information from our National Office; both publications are printed and mailed by National Office, and for this we are most grateful.

I am sure that all of us reflect with satisfaction on the decision that we made at some point in our careers in Government service – in many cases when we first started work, and didn't really know what it all meant – to join the Government Superannuation Fund, or in some cases a Defined Benefit Plan of the National Provident Fund, and contribute a small percentage of our salary to become members. Now retired, we can look back on the wisdom (?) we displayed then.

Our role as an Association is essentially to safeguard the provisions of those schemes, and to secure the removal of any deficiencies or anomalies that may be identified. Put another way, the GSA exists to look after your interests in maintaining your entitlement to an annuity from a scheme to which you contributed during your working life. That annuity is sometimes described as a “benefit”, with the implication that it is a “hand-out” from the Government; it is not: you saved for your retirement, and the on-going payment that you receive is thus your right.

Sadly, we recognise that in many cases the actual contributor has passed on, and the annuitant today is now a surviving spouse, but that in no way diminishes the GSA's commitment to protecting and preserving **your** entitlement.

Issues have arisen in the past which need the intervention of the GSA; and it can be expected that there will be issues in the future. That is why the organization exists, and your support is appreciated.

During the year, our Branch surveyed the views of members. The results are mentioned elsewhere in the Newsletter, and will be the subject of a report at the AGM. It was reassuring to learn that members are generally comfortable with what the Branch is doing, including the staging of two general meetings during each year.

I conclude by recording my appreciation to each of my colleagues on the Branch Committee, and our Branch Secretary Paul Gardner in particular, for their contribution to all Committee activities and at meetings. Thank you all.

I look forward to seeing many of you on 17 May.

David Swallow  
Chairman

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**Financial Report to 31 March 2017**

The branch financial report for 2017 has not yet been reviewed but the provisional figures are

Subscriptions	\$7775	Cost of Functions	\$1321
Functions	\$ 440	Remuneration	\$2000
Interest	<u>\$1519</u>	Postage & Other	<u>\$ 758</u>
Total Income	<b>\$9734</b>	Total Expenses	<b>\$4079</b>
Increase in branch funds \$5655		Total accumulated funds \$54209	

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**Horowhenua/Kapiti Branch Membership Statistics at 31 March 2017**

Annuitants	Spouses of Annuitants	Surviving Spouses	Pre Annuitants	Spouses of Pre Annuitants
<b>708</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>