



## Horowhenua/Kapiti Branch

Secretary: John Laurenson  
Ph: 021 445 115  
horo.kapiti@gsa.org.nz

*Our Waikanae End of Year Function is a Luncheon, and is on*

Thursday, 23 November 2023  
commencing at 11:00am at  
Plateau Function Centre,  
Pukeko Street, Parkwood Village  
off Ngarara Road, Waikanae

Guest speaker:  
Robin Gunston,  
Waikanae Estuary Care Group  
*Partners welcome.*

**Registration details at bottom of next page**

*Our Levin End of Year function is a Luncheon, and is on*

Thursday, 16 November 2023  
commencing at 11:00 am in the  
Hudson Room,  
Levin Cosmopolitan Club  
Main Road, Levin

Guest speaker:  
Tony Clifford,  
Horowhenua Health Shuttle  
*Partners welcome.*

**Registration details at bottom of next page**

### Message from the Branch Chairperson

I recently attended the GSA Annual Council Meeting along with John Laurenson. Council meetings are an important part of the GSA's activities, being the opportunity to review and develop new policy and to set future direction for the organisation. Matters discussed at this year's Council included: a limit on the financial reserves held by Branches; increase to the membership subscription by \$0.50 per payday or \$6.50 per year; review of the GSA strategic plan to better address future challenges; and the review of the constitution (to be presented at next year's Council meeting). I will discuss these matters in more detail at our forthcoming end of year functions.

Alan Straker was elected GSA President, with the departure of Tony Hamilton after 8 years on the Board (5 years as President).

**Jeff Taylor**  
**Branch Chairperson**

### Surviving spouses

There are many surviving spouses who are not members of the GSA. If you know of a surviving spouse (of a deceased annuitant) then please ask them to consider becoming a member of the GSA. We are committed to supporting surviving spouses and will assist with arranging membership. Please phone 0800 888 472 to discuss.

### Are we looking after our incomes together?

Many members will have spouses who may be entitled to payments when they are widowed. They are entitled to a proportion of your pension once they are on their own. Others will have partners who have their own superannuation but are reliant on your membership of GSA to protect their interests. Perhaps your partner is not a member of GSA and the contact would be lost if you were no longer a member.

We would like you to discuss your current arrangements with your partner and encourage them to join GSA if they do not already belong. The advantages are that when there are changes GSA can help with new arrangements, they can tell you about the status of the payments and advocate to keep the government focussed on continuing the payments. Their membership could make the transition smoother, and they could continue to enjoy member benefits such as our Christmas lunches.

If you would like to talk about membership for your spouse then please email ([gensec@gsa.org.nz](mailto:gensec@gsa.org.nz)) or phone (04 472 7006) the GSA National Office .

### 2022/23 Branch Committee

The committee was re-elected at the Branch AGM at Otaki in June 2023: Jeffrey Taylor (Chair), John Laurenson (Secretary), Paul Gardner, Roger Pitchforth, Edgar Spark, Patrick Thomas.

# Government Superannuitants Association Horowhenua/Kapiti Branch

## A Brief Outline of the GSA Organisation

**Branches:** The GSA is structured to be a collaboration of members grouped into Branches with geographical boundaries covering all of New Zealand (overseas resident members have connection through the Wellington Branch). Some branches are divided into sub branches.

Each branch has an annually elected committee and appoints a secretary. The branch provides the primary point of contact for members.

**GSA Board:** The annually elected Board is responsible for governing the GSA. The Board has a president, vice president and five Council elected members and up to two appointees. The board is required to meet no fewer than four times per year

**Council:** Council is the annual general meeting of the GSA at national level. Each branch may send two delegates to this meeting to represent its views. The Council sets the guidelines by which the Board is to operate until the next Council. Traditionally Council is held in Wellington and lasts two days.

**National Office:** At the national level the GSA has employees responsible for interaction with Datacom which administers the pension scheme under contract to the Government Superannuation

Fund Authority (GSFA). National office also services the Board.

Many important administrative tasks have over recent years migrated from branch level to national office including newsletter production and distribution and financial management systems.

## Branch Newsletter

The Branch produces two newsletters per year, in April and October. Like many other things, the cost of producing and mailing the newsletters is increasing, and much of this cost is incurred by the branch. To offset these costs, we are encouraging members to opt to receive their newsletters by email. To date, more than 200 of our members have taken up this option, and we would like to encourage other members to do likewise. Not only does email save costs, which in turn allows us to keep the membership fee low, it also helps us save trees. If you would like to receive your newsletter by email instead, please email your name or your annuity number to our secretary at [horokapiti@gsa.org.nz](mailto:horokapiti@gsa.org.nz) and we will add you to our special whānau. We appreciate you taking a few minutes of your time to help us create a better future for our tamariki and we look forward to hearing from you.

## Horowhenua/Kapiti Branch Membership Statistics at 30 September 2023

Annuitants	Spouses of Annuitants	Surviving Spouses	Pre Annuitants	Spouses of Pre Annuitants	
513	290	162	16	13	<b>Total 994</b>

## Booking and Paying for End of Year Functions

**Please ensure you register your intention to attend the Waikanae luncheon before 18 November 2022, and the Levin luncheon before 11 November 2022.**

**Option 1.** (Internet users) Pay the entry fee of \$20 per person by internet banking (Bank account 38-9014-0275903-01) THEN Send a confirming email to [horokapiti@gsa.org.nz](mailto:horokapiti@gsa.org.nz). Please confirm which Luncheon you are attending – Waikanae or Levin.

**Option 2.** (No internet access). Contact Branch Secretary (John Laursen) by phone (021 445 115) and Pay the entry fee of \$20 per person on arrival at the Luncheon.

**Please ensure you register your intention to attend the luncheon before 11 November 2023**

### **Wellington Branch Function**

The Wellington Branch is holding its end of year luncheon at the Te Marua Golf Club, Upper Hutt on Tuesday 21 November. The cost is \$40.00 per head. H/K Branch members are invited to attend. Please advise Kay Monks, 027 416 1675 if you are interested in going.