



Newsletter

**Manawatu Branch
OCTOBER 2017**

Branch Secretary
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Branch Committee

Chair: Gordon Batchelar.
Deputy Chair: Roger Openshaw
Committee: Arthur Evans:
Grahame Mclver: Gordon Bennett:
John Lowen: Cath Purdie.
Ian Knowles: William White. Robert Crawley.

Delegates to Council.

Gordon Batchelar.
Arthur Evans.

Secretary/Treasurer. Meg Vining
Reviewer: Helen Sussmilch.

Annual meeting and luncheon

All members, spouses, and partners are welcome to our meeting and luncheon. *(See details below)*

Date: Wednesday 29th November 2017

Meeting time: 10.00 am

Meal time: 12.00 Noon.

Venue: Hunterville Room. Hotel Coachman. 140 Fitzherbert Avenue. Palmerston North.
Parking available.

Membership

As of 31 March 2015 membership totaled 1,100
It now totals 1094 (see database)

Member Categories	2 nd April 2017	30 th September 2017
Annuitant	596	584
Annuitant spouse	304	307
Surviving spouse	171	167
Pre-annuitant	20	17
Pre-annuitant spouse	18	15
Total	1109	1090

I/We will be attending the Luncheon on
Wednesday 29th November 2017.

Names.....

Adress.....

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Phone().....

Number Attending.

Cheque.....

Chairmans's Report.

I would like to start by thanking the members of the committee for their continued support while I was unwell. It was helpful for my recovery to know that the committee was continuing to look after our members. I want to thank Vice Chairman Roger Openshaw for taking over while I was in hospital and also to Meg Vining who continued to keep things ticking along.

We are hoping to obtain sponsors to help with the cost of the dinners and bereavement cards and also to have more in the way of social outings i.e. not meetings but just to chat and are hopeful that members will feel free to make suggestions.

To that end we asked at the AGM for a show of hands for a "Pot Luck Lunch" and that event was held on Wednesday 27th September at the Deerstalkers Hall in College Street.

Meg will tell more in her report.

Arthur Evans and I attended the Association Conference in early September where unfortunately our submission for a small badge to be worn by members was defeated, however we are intending to look into the possibility of doing something locally.

My thanks to Arthur for not only attending conference but for driving to Wellington.

It is saddening to note that the Alan Peck, Chief Executive Officer for our Association is to leave us at the end of the year. Alan’s input and help has been invaluable to our branch and we wish him well in his retirement. We also welcome Karen Knobloch to the position of Office Manager in Wellington.

I urge all members to read the “Annuity News” it has information that has proved extremely helpful to members in the past and I am sure it will continue to do so.

I look forward to meeting with you at our Xmas Luncheon of November 29th.

It just remains for me to again thank my committee and Meg for their help and support over the past year and to wish them and the members of the Branch a “Very peaceful and happy Christmas and 2018”.

Gordon Batchelar. Chairman.

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Secretary/Treasurer’s Report

What a past 6 months it has been. Gordon’s illness giving us all several weeks of concern, however he continues to give of himself aided by our Vice Chairman Roger Openshaw and the committee, and all seems to be well now.

We held a “Pot Luck Lunch” on Wednesday 27th September at the Deerstalkers Hall in College Street. Palmerston North, which was successful with 20 attending. All seemed to be enjoying themselves judging from the chatter and comments after. My thanks to Gordon and Shirley Bennett for their help in arranging the hall and preparation ready for the Lunch.

It was decided that we would hold a BBQ in February 2018 and I will phone those on the list early in February. We would ask any members who would like to be phoned with the details get in touch with me 06 3548349 or use the email at the top of this newsletter.

If you attended the AGM, I already have your phone numbers. The BBQ will be held at the same venue i.e. Deerstalkers Hall, as if the weather is inclement we can still hold the event.

My thanks to Gordon, Roger and members of the committee, for their help and support during the year.

Peter and I wish everyone “All the best for Christmas and 2018”

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SCAMS. Please remember IF IT SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE, THEN IT PROBABLY IS. There are many unscrupulous people out there .

Scammers are also sending messages purporting to be from COUNTDOWN, QUANTAS, PAK N SAVE, NEW WORLD AND MANY OTHERS. They look great as they tell you, you have won a gift voucher etc., and ask you to verify/click on a link

THESE ARE SCAMS. I’VE CHECKED WITH THE COMPANIES AND WHILE THEY ARE AWARE OF THE SCAM THERE IS LITTLE THEY CAN DO.

PLEASE DO NOT CLICK ON THE LINK. JUST DELETE THE EMAIL

The scammers are also now sending text messages. (I've just had one telling me I have just had thousands of dollars put in to my trading account (I don't have a trading account) just and ordinary one so please BE AWARE.

A reminder to members with spouses who are not yet members to please register your spouse on the GSA website or call your branch secretary? There is no extra cost for a spouse to join.

MEETING AND LUNCHEON.
AGENDA

10-00 a.m. Welcome and Apologies.
Presidents Report.
Previous November 2016 meeting minutes.
Secretarys Report.

Guest Speakers. **Surprise.!!**
12-00 Noon Luncheon.

MENU
Bread Rolls

Salad Selection.

Mixed Leafy Greens Salad with toasted seed and citrus dressing. GF

Hot Selection.

Lemon and thyme roast chicken supreme GF
Steamed baby potatoes with mint sauce GF/V
Steamed seasonal vegetables with olive oil infused with lime GF/V

Carvery

Honey Glazed champagne ham on the bone GF

Dessert Selection

Chocolate torte V
Raspberry & White Chocolate Cheesecake V
Fruit Salad GF/V

*GF= Gluten Free

*V= Vegetarian

Your meal has been subsidized by the Manawatu Branch. PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM ON PAGE 1 (ONE) AND RETURN TO THE SECRETARY BY SATURDAY 27TH MAY 2017.

Make cheques payable to "GSA Manawatu Branch" Endorsed "Account Payee Only" No cash via post please. Cost \$20.00 per person.

Reply to Secretary Meg Vining no later than Sunday 28th May 2017. Mail to : Meg Vining 40 Highbury Avenue. Palmerston North 4412.

Don't forget to let your Secretary know, if you are planning a move and also to let Datacom know.

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The GSA History Project. Report from Professor Roger Openshaw.

The GSA History project is proceeding well, with a considerable extent of oral and written evidence having been collected already. A dozen interviews with key GSA officeholders, both past and present, have now been completed. I attended Council as an observer rather than as a delegate, and this more relaxed status allowed me the freedom to conduct one-on-one sessions with six individuals who have at various times played significant roles in the Association. All these interviews are now stored as well as soliciting unique written information from several other informants.

I have been focusing particularly on the formative years of the Association between the two World Wars, as in so many ways these troubled decades set the agenda for the Association for decades to come. At this time GSA was known as the Superannuated Public Servants' Association. I have been particularly fortunate in locating details of the very first SPSA delegation, led by its very first President, Captain W. de Rune Barclay, to the then Prime Minister of New Zealand, William Ferguson Massey. Of particular concern to the delegation was the plight of early post-World War One superannuated public servants and their widows, due to the fact that rampant wartime inflation had reduced the purchasing power of pre-war annuities in particular, causing considerable hardship amongst members.

I was also fortunate in being able to locate Archives New Zealand files dealing with the impact of the Great Depression on public service superannuitants. In my recent address to Council I was able to cite the views of the Public Expenditure Commission, 1932. Despite the fact that the membership of this commission was highly conservative in most financial matters, their report criticised New Zealand governments from 1919 on for failing to supply their mandated employer's contribution into the Fund. This criticism, it might be noted, could well be applied to governments in more recent times. History it seems, remains highly relevant to us, and as philosopher and writer, George Santayana reminded us, "we forget the lessons it teaches at our peril".

Roger Openshaw

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RETIREMENT.!!! (FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE RETIREES.)

Question: How many days in a week.?

Answer: 6 Saturdays, 1 Sunday.

Question: When is a retiree's bedtime?

Answer: Three hours after he falls asleep on the couch.

Question: What is the biggest gripe of retirees?

**Answer: There is not enough time to get everything done.
Have a great Christmas.**