



Newsletter

Manawatu Branch

April 2023

Branch Secretary
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302C Kimbolton Road
Feilding 4702
Manawatu@gsa.org.nz
www.gsa.org.nz

Branch Committee

Chair: Roger Openshaw
Committee:

Gordon Batchelar, Don Barrett, Annette Beasley, Sid Murdie and Graham Poucher

Secretary/Treasurer:
John Lowen
Reviewer:
Meg Vining

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Annual General Meeting and luncheon scheduled for Tuesday 30th May 2023
All members, spouses and partners are welcome to attend our Annual General Meeting and luncheon, as outlined below.

Date: Tuesday, 30th May 2023

Meeting Time: 10.30

Lunch: 12.00

Venue: Function Room, Verdict Café, The Square, Palmerston North

AGM Agenda

10.30am Welcome and Apologies

AGM Minutes – Wed 1st June 2022

Chairpersons Report

Secretary / Treasurer's Report

Election of Chairperson and Committee Members

Guest Speaker

Mr. John Beckham – Branch Liaison Board Member - National Office

Lunch

Report from the Chairperson - April, 2023

Report from the Chair, March 2023.

First off, I wish to extend my heartiest greetings to all GSA members in the region, whether they be Superannuitants, dependent spouses, or members still in employment. I trust that most of you have enjoyed the summer break. In this context though, I ask you to remember the families who have been less fortunate, especially those who have recently suffered bereavement. I also wish to extend the sincere sympathy of our branch committee to those members and their families throughout the region who have experienced problems and loss due to the recent cyclone.

Your committee has now embarked upon its regular schedule of meetings for 2023. Whilst we have a core of able and active members, we remain extremely conscious of the fact that ours is a sunset organisation. Hence the urgency of maintaining a credible, indeed, a durable presence at the local level. Whilst all GSA branches will find this task increasingly more difficult as time goes on, it is well worth my emphasising, yet again, that without a viable committee in the longer term, Manawatu GSA will eventually be faced with one of two options, both of which will inevitably mean a loss of local input at both regional and national levels. One option suggested at last year's Council, is proxy voting. This arrangement would entail us surrendering our voting rights in favour of an adjoining branch, thus enabling them to vote on our behalf. The other option would be incorporation, probably into either the Whanganui or Kapiti branches, always presuming of course, that they themselves have retained a viable presence.

If neither of these options sounds very palatable to Manawatu GSA members, please consider volunteering for your Manawatu Branch committee. The duties of the committee are not onerous, so meetings are both relaxed and informal. We also have regular social get-togethers, and these provide a golden opportunity to get out and to make new friends. So, if you are a GSA member, a dependant spouse, or a currently employed member pondering retirement, here is your chance to provide a significant contribution to the future health of GSA as an organisation as well as continuing to be a useful, valued member of the wider community.

Finally, I especially look forward to meeting with current and new members at our forthcoming AGM. See you all there!

Roger Openshaw
Chairperson

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

This time last year the Prime Minister had announced the easing of the COVID lockdown and we were hopeful of a more "normal" year. Unfortunately this was not to be. With the boggy of Inflation, ever increasing rises in the cost of living and very

unstable weather conditions, particularly the two recent Cyclones, it has been a less than memorable year. However, by now you will have received the 7.22% Cost of Living adjustment (COLA) to your Annuity and that this has gone some way to ameliorate the effect of rising costs.

Once again the highlight of the past year was our Christmas Social held at the Verdict on The Square in Palmerston North. While numbers were down a little on the previous year it was an enjoyable day.

This will be the last Report I will be making as I am relinquishing the role of Secretary/Treasurer and will be passing on the baton to Graham Poucher from Palmerston North. Graham has been a Committee member for the past two years.

Membership our numbers continue to decline, although we are still getting new members moving in to the district.

Manawatu Branch Membership at 31 March 2023 (GSF, NPF and Pre Annuitants)

<u>Total</u>	<u>Annuitant</u>	<u>Annuitant Spouse</u>	<u>Surviving Spouse</u>	<u>Pre Annuitant</u>	<u>Pre Annuitant Spouse</u>
<u>844</u>	<u>442</u>	<u>243</u>	<u>126</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>15</u>

Financial

The Branch is in a very sound financial state with Accumulated Funds at 31 March 2023 of \$23,701, made up of:

<u>Operating Account</u>	\$15,762
<u>Savings Account</u>	\$1,853
<u>Term Deposit</u>	\$6,086

John Lowen

Secretary/Treasurer

AGM Lunch at the Verdict

At the conclusion of the formal part of the AGM Lunch will be served. The full cost of the luncheon is \$55.00 however; the Committee have agreed to subsidize this cost thereby reducing the cost to members attending down to just \$27.50 per person.

Lunch -Menu

Main

Slow roasted beef with Yorkshire pudding and Jus

Creamy white wine Chicken

Crispy Roast Potatoes

Hot roast vegetable salad with balsamic dressing

Seasonal steamed veggie medley

Crunchy slay and Green leaf garden salad

Dessert

Fresh Fruit Salad

Assorted flavour Cheesecakes

Chocolate silk tart and whipped cream

Please complete this form and return to the Secretary at 302C Kimbolton Road, Feilding 4702 by no later than Monday 22nd May 2023 or E-mail details to Manawatu@gsa.org.nz . Please allow five days if forwarding by post.

I/We will be attending the Luncheon on Tuesday, 30th May at The Verdict Cafe, The Square, Palmerston North

Name(s).....

Address:.....

Phone ().....

Number Attending..... Cost \$27.50 per person)

Payment may be made by:

Internet Banking: WESTPAC Acct "Manawatu Br GSA,

Account No: **03-0726-0578952-00**, (please ensure you enter your name in the Particulars **panel**) Or

At your Bank by **Bank Deposit** (Account details as above); please ensure your name is included as Depositor.