



# Newsletter

## Manawatu Branch

### October 2023

**Branch Secretary**  
0800 888 472  
10 Madison Avenue  
Palmerston North 4414  
Manawatu@gsa.org.nz

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#### Branch Committee

Chair: Roger Openshaw

Committee:

Don Barrett (Dep Chair) Gordon Batchelar, Annette Beasley, Anne Jamieson, John Lowen, Sid Murdie, Chris Saunders and Bob Wolfenden.

Secretary/Treasurer:  
Reviewer:

Graham Poucher  
Don Scott

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#### Report from the Chair, October 2023.

Back in March I was able to report that our Manawatu Branch Committee had already commenced its regular schedule of meetings for 2023. This year we have been fortunate in retaining a good balance of new and existing committee members. Given that GSA remains a sunset organisation with an average membership age across the country of 82 years, it remains urgent that our branch continues to welcome anyone from the region willing to join us on the committee in 2024. So please, if you have the time, do consider putting your name forward. Committee meetings are held bi-monthly, and you will have an opportunity to meet new friends of like mind.

Our secretary-treasurer, Graham Poucher and I recently attended the 2023 GSA Council meeting held in the West Plaza Hotel, Wakefield Street, Wellington. There were two interesting guest speakers at Council this year. The first of these was Tim Mitchell, who currently heads the GSF Authority, from which we all draw our annuities. Tim reassured us that the Fund remains in good health. There is a constantly evolving reporting regime in place. Every five years there is a review of the Fund commissioned by the Minister of Finance. In addition to the requirement to demonstrate ongoing financial health, the GSF investment strategy must now prioritise a responsible, ethical portfolio that takes account of such international concerns such as climate change. A further challenge of particular relevance to us at GSA today is the previously mentioned progressive decline in membership amongst those contributing to and withdrawing annuities. This reality will require effective management over an extended transitional period, taking account of the fact that GSF will inevitably have a finite life.

The second speaker at Council was Retirement Commissioner, Jane Wrightson. Her lively address underlined the relative advantages in lifestyle many of our GSA members enjoy. In this context, she emphasised the financial and other difficulties that many New Zealanders now faced in retirement.

Our current GSA President, Tony Hamilton, gave his last address at Council, as he is stepping down this year. His replacement is Alan Straker, Chairperson of the Marlborough branch, and formerly GSA vice president. Our new Vice President is Sandra (Sandie) Guscott, chairperson of the Auckland branch so we have a good gender and regional balance in the top echelons.

At Council, I was formally welcomed onto the GSA Board as a new member. In addition to being on two Board sub-committees, I will have the responsibility next year of reporting back to three GSA Branches: Wellington, Horowhenua/Kapiti, and Manawatu. Fortunately, the Board and our various GSA branches

are able to call upon the assistance of the two newly appointed GSA central office staff: Lyn Buxton (Executive Officer), and Rachel Starkey (Office Administrator).

It remains for me to say how much I am looking forward to seeing you all at our forthcoming Christmas function to be held, once again, at the Verdict on the Square. Until then, I wish you all an enjoyable Christmas period with family and friends, and a prosperous New Year in 2024.

Roger Openshaw,

(Chair, Manawatu Branch).

### Secretarial

Your Committee has been regularly meeting since the AGM in May there has been little of significance for the Branch to consider. While we have a reasonably sized committee, however, as Roger has stated there is always room for more committee. Any new blood on the Committee would be very welcome.

**Come along to our 2024 AGM, planned for Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2024 and join the Committee.**

Our Branch membership remains fairly stable and at the 31<sup>st</sup> of March stood at 844.

### Membership as at 31 March 2023

Membership Category	31 March 2022	31 March 2023
Annuitant	456	442
Annuitant Spouse	246	243
Surviving Spouse	137	126
Pre-Annuitant	26	18
Pre-Annuitant Spouse	22	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>887</b>	<b>844</b>

### Finance

There has been very little activity on the financial front and accordingly our accumulated funds are in a very sound state and currently stand at **\$24,876** (Current Account \$16,767, Savings Account \$1,876 and Term Deposit \$6,233)

### End of Year Function

Given the success last year the Committee have again organised a Christmas Social Function at the Verdict Cafe, 32 The Square, Palmerston North, on **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023**. You will be please to hear that there has been no increase in cost and the cost of the meal this year will remain at \$50.00 per person. In accordance with GSA policy, the Branch Committee will subsidise the cost by 50% and consequently, the cost to individual members is only **\$25.00** each.

Parking is available in the Square about 50 metres from the Verdict and while Supergold card holders can obtain a free parking permit from PNCC or Grey Power this expires at 12.00 noon, so you will need to pay a parking fee.

## **Christmas Luncheon**

Christmas Luncheon to be held at the Verdict Café,  
32 The Square, Palmerston North,  
on **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

11.00am – 11.30am Meet & Greet

1130 Welcome by Prof. Roger Openshaw – Chairperson

12 noon Lunch

### **Menu**

*Orange glazed roast pork with apple sauce and jus  
Turkey roll with cranberry stuffing  
Mini minted baby potatoes  
Asparagus with hollandaise  
Garden salad  
Kumera Mash  
Roast pumpkin with maple drizzle*

### **Dessert**

*Bowls of seasonal berries  
Pavlova  
Solid chocolate cups filled with Baileys mousse  
Whipped cream  
Mini Xmas tarts*

Please complete the form over and return to the Secretary at 10 Madison Avenue, Palmerston North 4414 by no later than 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023 or E-mail details to [Manawatu@gsa.org.nz](mailto:Manawatu@gsa.org.nz).

Please allow three days if forwarding by post

I/We will be attending the Xmas Luncheon on Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at the  
Verdict Café, 32 The Square, Palmerston North

Name(s).....

Address:.....

Phone (    ).....

Number Attending..... (Cost \$25.00 per person)

**Payment may be made by:**

**Internet Banking:** WESTPAC Acct “Manawatu Br Government Superannuitants  
Association”, 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.