



Newsletter

Manawatu Branch

April 2022

Branch Secretary
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Feilding 4702
Manawatu@gsa.org.nz

Branch Committee

Chair: Roger Openshaw

Committee:

Gordon Batchelar, Don Barrett, Annette Beasley, Robert Crawley, Ros Hallam, Russell Hallam, Sid Murdie, Graham Poucher and Meri Tipene-Walker

Secretary/Treasurer:

John Lowen

Reviewer:

Meg Vining

Annual General Meeting and luncheon scheduled for Wednesday 1st June 2022

All members, spouses and partners are welcome to attend our Annual General Meeting and luncheon.

Date: Wednesday 1st June 2022

Meeting Time: 11.00am

Lunch: 12.15

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

AGM Agenda

11.00am Welcome and Apologies

AGM Minutes – Wed 26th May 2021

Chairpersons Report

Secretary / Treasurer's Report

Election of Chairperson and Committee Members

Guest Speaker

Mr. Tony Hamilton – President of GSA - National Office

Lunch

Report from the Chair, March 2022.

Since my last report, we in the Region have been experiencing yet another Covid outbreak, this time of the highly infectious Omicron variant. I would like to remind members to keep safe during this trying time, but also to reassure you all that there will be better times ahead. Because of the current situation, the annual meeting of the GSA Council, originally postponed in September 2021 and rescheduled for 30 January 2022, did not take place, important business being dealt with on-line.

I can report that your local branch committee is in good health, with members continuing to meet regularly and discuss issues relevant for both our branch and nationally. However, overall membership of GSA is inevitably declining due to old age. Last year the GSA recorded a net loss of 1,651 members. In this context it is vitally important that at the branch level we continue to attract new committee members if we wish to retain the Manawatu Branch as a viable entity in the future. The alternative, should we not be able to do this, would be amalgamation with a neighbouring branch and the possible loss of local input. I want to stress that committee membership is not onerous and provides a golden opportunity to make new friends and have some fun along the way.

In April you would have received the annual Cost of Living Allowance adjustment to your Annuity following confirmation of the 31 December 2021 increase in the Consumer Price index of 5.95%. I am sure that such an increase was most welcome to members, especially those who retired many years ago on smaller annuities. It is important to remember that over the years since the organisation's foundation in 1920, the Association has indefatigably fought for an annual Cost of Living Allowance adjustment, with the full 100% indexation for most members finally being achieved following the passage of the GSF Amendment Act, 2009. The Association is still campaigning vigorously, however, for the 100% Cost of Living Allowance to be applied to those who retired prior to 1985.

The Datacom document referred to above also includes some very useful information, especially for those who have changed their address or are contemplating changing their address in the future. We are also reminded that, because Identity and Survival forms are no longer sent to New Zealand residents, it is extremely important that Datacom is notified immediately following the death of an annuitant. The GSA has produced a useful booklet for Members called "Personal data for....". Copies of this booklet will be available at the AGM or can be obtained through the Branch Secretary."

On an altogether brighter note, I would like on behalf of the Manawatu Branch of GSA, to extend to you all a warm invitation to attend our AGM to be held at the Verdict café and Restaurant on 1 June 2022.

Once again, please take care and stay safe!

Roger Openshaw

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

With the recent pronouncements from the Prime Minister, we can perhaps look forward to a somewhat more "normal" life with more freedom of movement and able to attend entertainment events and dine-out in more relaxed surroundings. Hopefully, relaxing the present restrictions will not add further burdens on already overworked Health and Elder Care folk.

As you can see from the Chair's report, the GSA National Office has been operating in only a very limited capacity and as a result there has been very little activity generated for Branch Secretaries.

Apart from Committee Meetings and the all too frequent Bereavement Letters to surviving widows/widowers I have had little to do.

For me the highlight of the past year was our Christmas Social held at the Verdict on The Square in Palmerston North. I personally enjoyed it and it was particularly pleasing that it attracted more members of the Association than any other event I have been involved with since becoming a member of the Manawatu Branch's Committee some 15 years ago.

Membership as noted by the Chair our numbers are declining, however, I have noted that some of our reductions are due to members leaving our Branch and moving to another. Nevertheless, there has been a steady number of members dying, requiring bereavement letters and advice being sent to surviving spouses. I must sadly advise of the death of two of our Branch's Life Members:

Arthur Evans who passed away on 29 October 21 (Arthur was also a staunch member of the Ashhurst RSA); and

Dorothy Fordyce who passed away on 5 March 22.

Manawatu Branch Membership at 31 March 2022 (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>887</u>	<u>456</u>	<u>246</u>	<u>137</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>22</u>

Financial

The Branch is in a very sound financial state with Accumulated Funds on 31 March 22 of \$19,800.00, made up of:

Operating Account **\$12,017**

Savings Account **\$1,836**

Term Deposit **\$5,946**

The Committee will undertake a review of the Accumulated funds with the aim of determining whether some should be passed back to National Office to be invested as at present the funds are earning Interest of just 0.15% on current accounts and 1.07% on Term Deposit.

John Lowen

Lunch - 1215

Cost of Lunch at the Verdict. The full cost of the luncheon is \$35.00 however, the Committee have agreed to subsidize the meal by reducing the cost to members down to just \$20.00

Lunch -Menu

Main

Slow roasted Beef and Gravy

Chicken and Mushroom in white wine sauce

Crispy Roast Potatoes

Hot roast vegetable salad

Seasonal steamed veggie medley

Dessert

Fresh Fruit Salad

Assorted Cheesecake

Brandy Snaps

Please complete this form and return to the Secretary at 302C Kimbolton Road, Feilding 4702 by no later than 25th May 2022 or E-mail details to Manawatu@gsa.org.nz

Please allow three days if forwarding by post.

I/We will be attending the Luncheon on Wednesday, 26th May at Distinction Coachman Hotel

Name(s).....

Address:

Phone ().....

Number Attending..... (Cost \$20.00 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.