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## Marlborough Branch Spring 2019 Newsletter

End of year luncheon to be held at the Taylor's Bar & Restaurant (Clubs of Marlborough), 42 Alfred Street Blenheim – Friday 6th December, 2019 at 12 Noon. Doors open 11.30am.

**RSVP and Payment essential by 29<sup>th</sup> November.**



There will be a sit-down buffet Smorgasbord luncheon at a **\$25.00** cost for all attending. (RSVP form on page 4).

### Message from Chairperson- Alan Straker

Greetings to all members of the Marlborough Branch of GSA.

I'd like to begin my message by acknowledging the work of your local committee over the past year and the contribution they make to the running of our Branch. At the AGM in June, Colin Draper who has completed several years as secretary stepped down from this role. I want to acknowledge Colin's contribution to our Association. I also wish to thank Barbara Hutchinson for taking on the secretary's job. The remainder of the committee comprises: Noel Frater (treasurer), Alan McEvoy, Brian Bridgman, Joan Palmer, Peter Sangwine and David Jones). Barbara and David attended the Annual Council meeting held in September as your representatives.

Locally your committee has met each month to discuss and respond to issues affecting our members as well as planning activities for our Branch. Our March meeting was a combined one with our Nelson counterparts and by the time you read this we would have held a meeting in Picton and one in Kaikoura for members in those areas. Numbers for our AGM held in June were down on last year and we need to ensure that as many of you as possible attend to help keep you informed of branch and national activities. Attending your AGM doesn't mean you have to take on a committee role! Having said that it would be good for some others to put their hand up and put in a few hours each year to contribute to the committee.

At Council this year I was elected to the position of Vice President of our National Board. I have found this work both interesting and rewarding especially our Association's role in keeping the government of the day accountable for decisions made regarding your annuity. Governments come and go, and often big chunks of institutional knowledge can disappear quickly, so this makes GSA more important than ever in protecting the conditions of your annuity.

As at the end of March our local membership number was 563 (300 being annuitants with the balance being spouses or those still in the workforce) Overall this represented a drop of 10 members from the previous year. You'll be aware that our numbers are shrinking each year but nationally the Board are working hard to recruit new members. In the past year we have lost 800 members nationally but there are some 25,000 annuitants who choose not to belong to our association.

I am pleased to report that the petition regarding the 100% cost of living adjustment being paid to all members we sent to parliament last year worked it's way through the select committee stage and received a positive recommendation for the government to right this anomaly in our scheme. The recommendation is back with the Minister of Finance and the Board are seeking a meeting with him to keep pushing this issue which affects approximately 6000 of our members

I look forward to your attendance at the Xmas function, details of which are contained elsewhere in this newsletter.

Alan Straker

Chairperson

Marlborough Branch GSA



In loving memory of those members and family members who have passed away since Spring 2018.

Picton & Kaikoura Visits:

Picton:

Another successful visit by the Marlborough Branch committee (100% attendance), to Picton for the GSA members afternoon tea meeting. Although numbers were down this year, for those attending a very informative presentation was given by Chairman Alan Straker. Particularly discussions that were held at the 2019 Council AGM. This was followed by a sumptuous afternoon tea.

Kaikoura:

A visit is planned for 22<sup>nd</sup> October to present an afternoon tea meeting to the GSA members of Kaikoura.

Committee for 2019/20

Chairman – Alan Straker

Secretary – Barbara Hutchinson

Treasurer – Noel Frater

Members

Alan McEvoy

Peter Sangwine

Joan Palmer

Brian Bridgman

David Jones

**RSVP**

Yes, I am coming to the Luncheon  
on the 6<sup>th</sup> December 2019

I will be accompanied by

.....

I enclose \$.....

No, I am unable to come  
to the Luncheon.

*Please delete that which is not  
Applicable*

Signed.....

Please print name: .....

Please return to your Treasurer at  
P.O. Box 4033,  
Blenheim, 7201.  
or

Email: [lyn.noel@xtra.co.nz](mailto:lyn.noel@xtra.co.nz)

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11-7500-0581667-11

Attending the Annual Meeting for the second time was more enjoyable than last year. There were two reasons for this. I knew more about the operation of the GSA at a national level and I was able to participate more fully. The second reason was that the meeting was much more tightly run - thank you Chairman Tony Hamilton. We were able to travel to Wellington on the Saturday morning 9.30am flight and return on the 5.30pm flight on Sunday afternoon. With the continued decrease in membership numbers the Board had proposed an increase to the annual subscription. However, the meeting did not agree and the proposal was voted down. Our two Guest Speakers, Andrew Bayly from the Opposition, and Deborah Russell from the Government both agreed that we had a case for change to the pension as we petitioned. I came home feeling that we had a competent board running our organization and that they will lead a strong campaign with the Minister of Finance to acknowledge and amend the legislation for those members who are not receiving their full entitlement.

Barbara Hutchinson.

An important part of an AM, is of course, to elect a committee, in our case a Board. This year we had an election for the Vice President's position and for the 5 members of Council.

The Board was elected as follows;

President: Tony Hamilton (Northland)

Vice President: Alan Straker (Marlborough)

Members: Rob Brangwin (Hawkes Bay); Alan Peck(Wellington); Dallas Elvy (Wellington); Mike Smith (Wellington); Marjorie Thomas (Hawkes Bay).

Life Membership was awarded to Mark Leys from Auckland and Gavin Stuart, Cant/Westland