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Marlborough Branch Spring 2017 Newsletter



A message from Chairman Alan Straker

Greetings to all members of the Marlborough Branch of the GSA.

This is my first communication to you in my role as Chairperson after being elected at the AGM in June.

I retired at the end of 2015 after a 43 year career in education the last 24 as principal of Whitney Street School.

I am married to Jo who also retired at the end of 2015 (to keep an eye on me apparently). We have three children and 8 grandchildren.

While our Association has been described as a 'sunset organisation' with a diminishing membership through natural attrition it still has a significant role to play in safeguarding the provisions of the GSF and NPF for our 26,500 members.

There are several thousand annuitants who are not members of the GSA so if you are aware of someone in this position encourage them to join. At \$21 for a year's membership it's a small amount to pay should issues arise with your annuity and you require the support of GSA. I encourage all of you to take active interest in the GSA even if it's just keeping informed through the branch newsletter or Annuity News.

End of Year Luncheon
To be held at the
Taylor's Bar & Restaurant
(Clubs of Marlborough)

42 Alfred Street Blenheim

Monday

20th November 2017 at 12.30pm

Doors open at 12 Noon

RSVP and Payment Essential

By 13th November



This year we are having a sit-down buffet
Smorgasbord luncheon at a cost for all
attending \$25.00
(RSVP form on page 4 of this Newsletter)



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You are served by an active local committee but like all organisations we need to ensure

that this continues by recruiting new committee members. If you feel that you could contribute by attending 7x1&1/2 hour meetings a year then please contact either myself (ajstraker@xtra.co.nz). or secretary Colin Draper (marlborough@gsa.org.nz). On this note thank you to Barbara Hutchinson who joined the committee after the AGM.

In closing I want to acknowledge the contribution of John Lewis who served on the committee, in various roles for many years, the last 6 as chairperson. John 'retired'at the AGM.



Gloria & John Lewis

Following a presentation at our AGM – June 2017.

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

The Government Superannuitants Association (GSA), has as one of its goals 'to actively pursue the recruitment of new members'. You will not be surprised to hear that the number of government superannuitants is in continual decline as the scheme was closed to new members early in the 1990's. As the years go by, there will be fewer and fewer annuitants. Inevitably the Government Superannuation Fund will need to be wound up in the future and as annuitant numbers decline the services of the GSA will assume increasing importance. The role of the GSA is to provide support, information and advocacy services for members and take action to protect the interests and welfare of members.

One important service the GSA provides is to enable the spouse/partner of members to join the association as a 'Spouse/Annuity Partner' at no additional cost. Those who have done so have seen the need, particularly if the annuitant dies first, as this can ensure a smooth transfer of entitlement to half the annuity.

Government agencies are reluctant to back date entitlements and GSA can assist at what can be a stressful time.

To remain effective the Association needs to maintain its membership strength and accordingly recruitment programs to contact potential members and encourage them to join. It is difficult with the privacy act, to obtain lists of those retired members who do not belong to the GSA.

There-fore the best way to contact those members would be from existing members to approach their friends and colleagues who could invite them to join the Association. If further information or application forms required please contact Branch Secretary through the website www.gsa.org.nz or 0800 888 472.

Committee for 2017/18

Chairman – Alan Straker
Secretary / Newsletter – Colin Draper
Treasurer – Noel Frater

Members

Alan McEvoy – Peter Sangwine
Peter McMillan – Joan Palmer
Brian Bridgman – Barbara Hutchinson



In loving memory of those members and family members who have passed away since Autumn 2017.

Board Representative:

Following the meeting held in Wellington on the 2nd/3rd September, our Branch Chairman Alan Straker was co-opted on to the National Executive. 'Alan's responsibilities will be decided at the next Board meeting in October.

Picton & Kaikoura

A very successful visit to Picton on the 12th September for GSA members. Chairman Alan delivered a presentation to how the GSA was progressing following discussions held at the Wellington Council meeting. This was followed by a sumptuous afternoon tea. Members who attended were most appreciative of the Branch committee visit.

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Kaikoura:

A visit before the end of the year is planned by our Chairman Alan Straker, to ensure those members that they have not been forgotten. However, as soon as practicable in the New Year a more extensive committee number will return to Kaikoura as 'normal'.



**END OF YEAR LUNCHEON
MONDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 2017
12 NOON**



RSVP

Yes, I am coming to the Luncheon
on the 20th November 2017

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 return to your Treasurer at

P.O. Box 4033,
Redwoodtown 7242
or
Email: lyn.noel@xtra.co.nz

if paying by Direct Debit
11-7500-0581667-11