

# NELSON BRANCH NEWSLETTER

October 2021.



## Committee 2021/22

<b><u>Chairman</u></b>	John Russell
<b><u>Vice Chairman</u></b>	Tony Greep
<b><u>Treasurer</u></b>	Denis Wastney
<b><u>Minute Secretary</u></b>	Nick Farr
<b><u>Members Secretary</u></b>	Margaret Palermo
Alec Waugh, Mick Alder and Monty Tawhai	

**Nelson Branch:** [nelson@gsa.org.nz](mailto:nelson@gsa.org.nz)

**Secretary:** Margaret Palermo

**Contact:** 0800 9888 472 or 538 0233

## AGM 2021 REPORT

The AGM was held at the Waimea Club on Tuesday 23 June 2021. The National President Tony Hamilton and Vice President and Marlborough Chairman Alan Straker were our guests. 49 members attended and our lunch was to a high standard as always.

There was a call for new committee members but unfortunately no one was nominated. We cannot stress enough that over the next few years we are going to need new committee members to keep the Nelson Branch viable, so please think about it. We only have 4 meetings a year.

Diane Ward read a Tribute to Graeme Valpy. Graeme was a chairman then Secretary over a number of years and became a Life Member in 2016. The full tribute is reprinted in the newsletter

## CHAIRMANS ANNUAL REPORT

**Hello** from your GSA Chairman. I write this as we move into level two, so I hope you have all survived level four without any troubles and too much inconvenience. Level four has meant that the National Council has been postponed from early September until later in October. Even then we are not sure at this stage whether it will take place as these are uncertain times. If not, the plan is to postpone Council until early 2022.

Our AGM was attended by the National President Tony Hamilton who spoke about the liaison visits to all branches by Board members as well as discussions about the changes of how branches were now to deal with surviving spouses, Assignment of Annuities and the organisation of the National Council.

After the national President's visit to our AGM we had a few members interested in what went on at our branch meetings, so here are some of the items discussed and organised so far this year.

The Nelson Committee has held two meetings this year. Items discussed were holding a mini-meeting at Oakwoods Retirement Village and visit to Golden Bay. Unfortunately, the Golden Bay trip was cancelled due to lack of interest; however, the meeting with 20 or more GSA members at the Oakwoods was a great success. Quite a few of their residents attended our AGM as well. Our second meeting of the year was after the treasurers and secretary's annual reports, where the committee also dealt with issues on the agenda for the National Council. Some of these issues were: finances both national and Nelson, COLA,

surviving spouse issue, and changes to the constitution to allow for digital meetings for branch committees and AGM's.

Both Tony Greep and I will report on the Council meeting whenever it is held.

I hope you will all listen to the Government's procedures for stopping the spread of this deadly virus.

Best wishes to you all for the rest of the year and especially the coming Christmas season.

John Russell Chairman

### **CHRISTMAS FUNCTION**

*This will be held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December at Club Waimea, Lower Queen Street, Richmond.  
It will commence at 11.30am with lunch to be served at 12.15pm.*

The committee have once again subsidised the meal which will cost \$20.00 per member. If you wish to attend, please register by the 28<sup>th</sup> November with Denis Wastney 545 7299 Or 027 616 6071. Payment by direct debit into GSA Account Nelson **03 1354 0027969 00**. Please add your name with payment. If paying by cash please send/deliver to **13 Essex Terrace, Stoke**.

If members have paid and don't attend unfortunately, we cannot reimburse them as the chef will have prepared food for them.

We would really love to see any new members attending. This is a good way of meeting new GSA friends.

### **TRIBUTE TO GRAHAM VALPY 1935 - 2021**

**Graeme** first came onto the GSA Nelson committee in 2002. He was quickly snapped up as the Chairman and became very involved in the workings of the Association. He attended many joint meetings with Marlborough Branch and National Council Meetings and at this level was able to make cogent suggestions. One of these, that he investigated thoroughly, was the use of a national 0800 number which automatically transferred to branch secretaries anywhere in the country saving people the cost of toll calls. This enabled increased recruitment of new members.

When we were having a local recruitment drive, he drew up a poster for schools and personally delivered them to the school speaking to teachers whenever possible. During one general election he and others lobbied local MPs to promote outstanding issues with our pensions.

He had excellent computer skills and used these to establish a database of our members long before the current national one. He also used these skills as a tutor at Senior Net.

In 2009 he swapped positions with the secretary bringing along two sparkly hats to the AGM which he and I swapped.

Unfailingly courteous and cheerful he was always very willing to help people. His wife Lois was also on the committee and for some time was the minute secretary and a great support to him.

He retired from the committee in 2013. In 2016 he was made a Life Member of the Association for his very valuable contributions to Nelson, and the Association as a whole. .... Diane Ward, Life Member.

## **TAKAKA TRIP**

**Unfortunately**, we had to cancel our trip this year due to lack of numbers. Next year we are hoping to visit Motueka. We usually have a lunch and last time had a great get together with some of our members.

## **RETIREMENT VILLAGE VISITS**

**At** a committee meeting we decided to visit our GSA members who are residents in a retirement Village.

Our first visit was at **Oakwoods** and we also invited members who are residents at **Waimea Plains**, **Olive Estate** and **Stillwater Gardens**. We had 25 members attend. This was a great way of updating our members on what was going on at National Office/Board level and our own branch. Our committee attended as well and we had a great get together with afternoon tea. Many thanks to Alec Waugh for organizing this. John Russell (Chairman) spoke with a Q&A time.

We are organizing a get together at **Ernest Rutherford** and inviting members from **Kensington Court** early next year. Mid-year we will visit **Summerset** and **Summerset in the Ranges**.

*Ah, the modern days... I just saw a grandpa help a youngster who was staring into his phone, to cross the street.*

## **HOLIDAY HOMES**

**As** the fine weather approaches and we think of going away consider the PSA holiday homes. They have 41 homes available in 8 locations, Whitianga, Rotorua, Ohakune and Raumati in the North and Nelson, Carters Beach, Otematata and Te Anau in the South Island.

1. You can book 3 months in advance with a maximum of 1 unit per GSA member at any one time.
2. You need to provide your GSA number when booking.
3. Pay the same rates as PSA members.
4. Not able to book public holidays and school holidays.

You can book by phoning 0800 10 30 90 Mon-Fri or email enquiries to [holiday/homes@psa.org.nz](mailto:holiday/homes@psa.org.nz)

## **CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

**It** is very encouraging to receive a number of phone calls/emails with change of address, phone numbers and even a death of a loved one. It is very important to know so we can keep our database up to date. Please keep up the good work.

## **BOOKLETS**

**The** secretary has a number of "Retirement and your Annuity" and "Personal Data if you wish to have a copy of. Please email [nelson@gsa.org.nz](mailto:nelson@gsa.org.nz) or phone 0800 888 472.

We also have available copies of the book especially written for the GSA 100 years called "Safeguarding Super".

If you wish to purchase the cost is \$40.00 or you can phone the 0800 number if you wish to borrow.

*A retired man now volunteers to entertain patients in assisted living homes and hospitals. He visited one hospital in Brooklyn and brought along his portable keyboard. After telling jokes and singing songs at patients' bedsides, he said farewell and, "I hope you get better."  
One elderly gentleman replied, "I hope you get better, too."*

## **ANNUITY NEWS**

**Twice** a year we all receive two newsletters. One is the Nelson Branch newsletter and the other one is the Annuity News compiled by National Office. Both contain useful information but the latter is particularly helpful with much relevant information about our annuity. Someone once asked at another meeting what the CoLA is. I found this concerning as the Cost-of-Living Allowance is a percentage rise that we find each year in our annuities. It is also, often spoken about in the AN (Annuity News) as some people who were members prior to 1980 do not receive the full allowance due to an incorrect formula being used for the way the allowance was processed. The Association has been advocating for the Government to correct this anomaly for some years. The Finance Minister Grant Robertson has been taking a keen interest in this but unfortunately it will not be implemented in the foreseeable future due to budgetary constraints.

It also worries me that members are not reading the AN. I really encourage you to save these publications for future reference. It also has a helpful Q & A section that you can send queries to. Please members also ensure that your spouse's/partners/families read this. Over the years I have talked with so many spouses who have no idea what is involved with this annuity so it is essential that they have this information. Spouses/partners also bear some responsibility to understand about the annuity especially when faced with a bereavement.

*Why did the golfer bring an extra pair of pants?  
In case he got a hole in one.*

## **GSA WEBSITE**

[www.gsa.org.nz](http://www.gsa.org.nz)

**Similarly**, this is also a useful tool in acquiring information. All the newsletters from other branches are included along with information from National Office.

***It's been a difficult couple of years especially for Auckland Residents. When we look at how other countries are faring it is heartening to see the majority of people getting behind the Government and joining the team of 5 million to keep New Zealanders safe.***

***So, stay safe in your bubbles and masks, enjoy your activities, and have a great Christmas (it's not far away).***