



# Northland Newsletter

October 2021

## Report from Chairperson 2021

The key event in the calendar of the Government Superannuitants Association is the annual National Council meeting normally held in early September. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, this year's meeting has been postponed, and subject to sufficient easing of the current restriction will be held on the 23 and 24 October. This means the planned report-back meetings scheduled for late September have been put on hold pending the final outcome of National Council.

The Northland Branch held its 72nd Annual General meeting in early June. Fortunately, it was not delayed by the pandemic which saw last year's AGM delayed until the end of the year and held concurrent with our Christmas luncheon in November. This year's AGM was well attended. Barry Davis was elected as Deputy Chair replacing Tony Hamilton who continues to be heavily involved in National Board activities as President. We reluctantly accepted the resignation of Jack Kerr from our executive committee and acknowledged the valuable contribution he has made over recent years. Jack joined in 2014, from the Railways Superannuitants Association, when they disbanded and their members joined GSA.

Northland Branch recently participated in a national survey designed to measure the health of all branches across the country. Many smaller branches are struggling to remain viable due to the steady drop in numbers due to our aging membership. It is becoming increasingly difficult for some branches to attract active committee members. In Northland we have experienced a 12.5% drop in members over the last 3 years.

In April 2018 there were 808 members, compared to 707 members in April 2021. Sadly, this represents a decrease of 101 members.

In spite of this, we have remained an active Branch, with an enthusiastic committee.

We look forward to a good attendance once more at this year's Christmas luncheon planned for November.

- Roger Barber, Chairperson



**Come to our Christmas Luncheon**

**At the Kamo Club**

**Thursday November 25<sup>th</sup> 2021**

**Entertainment**

**Nur Belly Dance**

A brief update on matters to be discussed at the Council Annual meeting:

Elect a new Board: seven members nominated for five positions.

Being unopposed Vice President Alan Straker and President Tony Hamilton continue in those positions.

Significant rule changes will be debated. If agreed to, key changes will confirm the use of digital meetings, plus make proxy voting at Council meetings possible should that be required.

"In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life: It goes on." -Robert Frost.

Life goes on is a redundancy. Life is defined by its going on. -David Levithan

Keep calm and Carry on. -Maira Kalman

Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end. -Seneca

No matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life does go on, and it will be better tomorrow. -Maya Angelou

## Notes from your COMMITTEE

This is a reminder that most banks are no longer issuing or receiving cheques.

When it comes time to pay for the Christmas function this year and all future functions, the options will no longer include cheques. You may pay by telephone banking, online banking, internet banking or through the local branch of your personal bank.

GSA Northland, **11-5000-0724650-11**

### Your Current Committee

#### Chairperson

Roger Barber, 435 0785  
[tudorwoodnz@gmail.com](mailto:tudorwoodnz@gmail.com)

#### Secretary

Rex Morris, 435 4628 or  
0800 888 472  
[northland@gsa.org.nz](mailto:northland@gsa.org.nz)

#### Treasurer

Tony Hamilton, 929 9772  
[tah3524@gmail.com](mailto:tah3524@gmail.com)

#### Committee

Robin Shepherd, 09 4084192  
[rshepherd@orcon.net.nz](mailto:rshepherd@orcon.net.nz)  
Harris Shortland, 4347550  
[h.shortland@xtra.co.nz](mailto:h.shortland@xtra.co.nz)  
Sandra Strachan, 4362532  
[sandrastra@hotmail.com](mailto:sandrastra@hotmail.com)  
Deborah Foote, 4361739  
[phoenixrae56@gmail.com](mailto:phoenixrae56@gmail.com)  
Barry Davis  
[bjd58@hotmail.co.nz](mailto:bjd58@hotmail.co.nz)

**The Personal Data booklet** is designed to record a wide range of information and a completed copy of this kept in a file with your statements from Datacom will be extremely useful for a surviving spouse.

It will also be very helpful for a surviving spouse if your GSA six digit number is written on the front of the file. If you don't have a booklet, or can't find it, contact your Branch Secretary at **0800 888 472**.

## Contact your Association

at any time by dialling

**0800 888472**

From the mind of George Burns...

You know you're getting old when you stoop to tie your shoelaces and wonder what else you could do while you're down there.

People ask me what I'd most appreciate getting for my eighty-seventh birthday. I tell them, a paternity suit.

First you forget names, then you forget faces. Next you forget to pull your zipper up and finally, you forget to pull it down.

I look to the future because that's where I'm going to spend the rest of my life.

You can't help getting older, but you don't have to get **old**.

Don't stay in bed, unless you can make money in bed.

Young. Old. Just words.

### Receiving the Annuity News and the Branch Newsletter

With postage costs continuing to rise the Association is making a request to members to consider receiving our publications via email.

If your personal information needs updating (address, phone number etc). DATACOM also needs to hear about information changes.

Please contact us either by email  
([northland@gsa.org.nz](mailto:northland@gsa.org.nz)), by phoning one of your  
Committee members or using **0800 888472**.

Judy's grandmother once told Judy about how she and Judy's grandfather met.

"I was dating this man but suddenly he left for war. We wrote love letters to each other and I learnt how splendid the man was."

Judy asked her grandmother, "So you married him when he came back from war?"

Her grandmother laughed, "Oh, no! Your grandfather was the postman!"

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Why don't you stamp e-mails?

Your foot would break the computer screen!

We look forward to a good attendance at the forthcoming Christmas function. As always we are seeking keen individuals for the committee. Please talk to any one of the current Committee if you are interested.

“Working on committees is a very rewarding experience.”



The Northland GSA is always looking to welcome new Committee members. Please contact any member of the Committee, at any time, if you are interested.

Jack 'Pud' Kerr worked for the New Zealand Railways for 41 years.

During the 41 years of his working life, 34 years were as an engine driver.

He joined the Railway Superannuitants' Association (RSA) on his second pay day in 1955.

The Government Superannuation Fund closed to new members in 1992. In 1993 the Government sold New Zealand Rail for \$328 million to a consortium in which the US company, Wisconsin Central was the leading shareholder.

These changes impacted on the Government Superannuation Fund in general and on the RSA in particular. There could be no new members in the RSA.

It was estimated RSA funds would run out in 10 to 15 years. This led to Jack and all his RSA colleagues being offered the opportunity to join with the GSA.

For 36 of Jack's 41 years at work he has served as a PSA delegate, on the NZ Railways Staff Welfare Trust, and on the RSA committee.

Since the RSA members joined the GSA in 2014 he has served on the Northland GSA committee.

Jack is retiring from committee work to spend more time in his garden.

Two elderly gentlemen from a retirement centre were sitting on a bench under a tree when one turns to the other and says: "Slim, I'm 83 years old now and I'm just full of aches and pains. I know you're about my age. How do you feel?"

Slim says: "I feel just like a newborn baby."

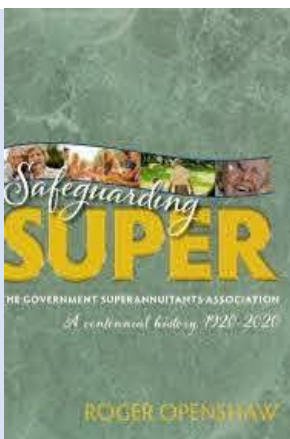
"Really? Like a newborn baby?"

"Yep. No hair, no teeth, and I think I just wet my pants."

A look inside.....

“The 1970's were to bring even greater challenges for the association.....Sex-role stereotyping, sexism, and sexual harassment became terms soon understood in everyday conversation. While almost all GSA members were inevitably from an older generation of New Zealanders, the greater visibility and activism among women in wider society was still to have a marked impact during this period. For one thing, women were becoming more visible within the association and were receiving some acknowledgement of their intellectual contribution in addition to their contribution to administration and policymaking.”

From Chapter 5, **The unsettling '70s**, “...a simple to complex matter”, page 87



**For a copy of your own** ..... You are able to purchase your own copy of this fascinating account of the GSA over the past 100 years, at a cost of \$40 per book plus postage. Members will receive a copy signed by the author.

Don't delay. Place your order directly with National Office by email at [national@gsa.org.nz](mailto:national@gsa.org.nz) or phone 04-4727006.



## Christmas Luncheon

**Thursday November 25<sup>th</sup> 2021**

at the Kamo Club (Meldrum Street)

11:00 Gather and socialise

11:30 Welcome by Branch Chair, Roger Barber

11:45 Council Catch Up

12:00 Entertainment by Nur Belly Dance

12:25 A blessing will be offered

12.30 Luncheon

Juice provided

Other drinks at own expense

Please complete and return the form (or simply email) after making the payment.

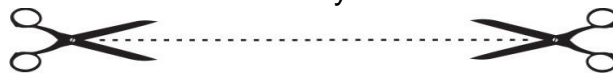
**Let us know your special dietary requirements so we can let the caterers know.**

*\$20 per person – the Branch provides a subsidy  
Superannuitant non-members welcome too - \$28 each*

Please return to  
Tony Hamilton  
PO Box 3286, Onerahi  
Whangarei 0142

Or email: [tah3524@gmail.com](mailto:tah3524@gmail.com) – quicker and easier this way

no later than Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November



Northland Branch G.S.A  
Christmas Luncheon

First name and surname for label(s) please \_\_\_\_\_

**Cheques can no longer be used.**

Please pay using telephone banking, internet banking, at your local Branch or pay online

**to bank account:**

GSA Northland, **11-5000-0724650-11**

(Please include your name/s in the details, or email the information to

[tah3524@gmail.com](mailto:tah3524@gmail.com) )

