

# NELSON BRANCH NEWSLETTER

April 2022



## 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 888 472 or 538 0233

## Chairman Report

Once again it's time to report on some of the Nelson branch committee's activities. The Covid Virus continues to have a major effect on the working of the Branch also I have had a minor operation in hospital. I thank both Margaret and Dennis for running the branch through November while I was in bed recovering.

National office twice cancelled the AGM so Margaret was busy with getting new delegates to travel to Conference then changing ticket for different delegates. At time of writing, she is still dealing with the travel agent on credits for these flights. Unfortunately, the Nelson Committee has postponed our Branch AGM due to the large number of people in the Nelson area affected with the Omicron variation of the virus. The Branch committee did not want our members getting sick though attending an annual meeting. We hopefully will have our AGM later in the year.

At time of writing this report I have just received a notice from Tony Hamilton our National President asking branches to write to our MP complaining about the lack of movement on the Cola (see below). I will contact Rachel Boyack MP regarding this matter.

*John Russell*

Chairman

## An Important Message

Due to covid 19 and the many cases in Nelson it is with regret that the committee have decided to postpone our AGM in May once again.

## Questions and answers or suggestions

We had proposed to have a Q&A session at this year's AGM, but instead the committee decided to let all members have an opportunity to email or phone in your questions or suggestions and the answers will be published in the October newsletter. We feel it is important that you as members have a say and this is your chance. We had been approached after Tony our National President spoke at an AGM several members came up with different questions so thought we would give you the opportunity to tell us what is on your mind with regards to our Nelson Branch.

Email address for questions – [nelson@gsa.org.com](mailto:nelson@gsa.org.com) or phone 0800 888 472  
or Denis Wastney [wastneyd@xtra.co.nz](mailto:wastneyd@xtra.co.nz) or phone 027 616 6071.

We look forward to receiving your questions or suggestions.

## Postponed Events

Motueka Visit. We were planning a meeting and lunch for our Motueka and surrounding districts and Takaka but have decided to wait until covid calms down.

Ernest Rutherford R/V get together: last year we held a very successful get together/afternoon tea with GSA members who were residents of Oakwood Retirement Village, so we decided to continue with GSA members at Ernest Rutherford and Summerset R/V. Details will be in our October newsletter, but unfortunately covid has put a stop to our visits until later in the year

*When you're 20 and you drop something, you pick it up.*

*When you're 80 and you drop something, you decide you don't need it anymore.*

## **Membership**

The Nelson Branch's membership was 804 a year ago now at this time we have a membership of 772. Unfortunately, since November last year we have not had any new members or transfers from other branches. If any of you know of an old colleague to might like to join the GSA or a friend that is eligible to join the GSA you might like to ask them to join by email [nelson@gsa.org.com](mailto:nelson@gsa.org.com) or phone 0800 888 472.

We know there are many GSF members receiving their annuity but are not members of our branch who could be approached.

## **How the GSA can help you**

**Networking** - the local branch provides social functions and information advice.

**Advocacy** - at a National level with Government to ensure future proofing your annuity

**Information** - in the form of the annuity News a National Newsletter, Branch Newsletters and a website which contains all the branch newsletters and other national news at [www.gsa.org.nz](http://www.gsa.org.nz)

**Local branch** - phone 0800 888 472 or email [nelson@gsa.org.com](mailto:nelson@gsa.org.com)

**National Office** - phone 04 472 7006 or email [gensec@gsa.org.nz](mailto:gensec@gsa.org.nz)

***As you have a hard-working committee, I decided to include some profiles of these people starting with Denis Wastney the treasurer.***

Hi Everyone,

My name is Denis Wastney born in October 1941 I was fourth in a line-up of eight children (2 girls and 6 boys). My family originated in the UK and in 1841 on board the 'WHITBY' with Arthur Wakefield, my great, great Grandfather arrived in Nelson. The family settled in the Glen/Wakapuaka area and married into many of the local pioneer families. I was educated at Richmond Primary and Nelson College. Joining the New Zealand Forest Service in 1957 I served with this department until 31st March 1987 when with the stroke of a pen, thousands of people were made redundant through the restructuring of several government departments.

At the time my wife and I were keen trampers, so we headed off to Nepal. Here we tramped up to Mt Everest base camp where we met up with Gary Ball, Rob Hall and John Gully, who were in the process of climbing Mt Everest without oxygen. Following this trip, I worked at Tahunanui Beach Camp and Nayland College, but Nepal again called so off we went and walked the Annapurna circuit. We loved every minute of it. Following this trek, we spent two months touring around Europe, Great Britain, California and Hawaii.

I spent the next 16 years working for Carters in Nayland Road, but it was interfering with my recreation so it was time to retire. The following years were spent in Lions Clubs International, Arthritis Foundation, Community Support, GSA and biking the many cycleways of NZ.

You know you're getting older when you have a party and the neighbours don't realise it.



## **Introducing Tony Greep**

Hi everyone I am in my third year as a branch committee member and have been a member of the GSA since retirement in 2013. I was raised on a farm in Tapawera before moving to Richmond in 1970. I am married to Lyn with two adult daughters and two grandchildren. I have a background in building/construction and completed 39 years with the Nelson Polytechnic/NMIT in a number of positions from tutoring through to senior management. I was also involved with the tutor association at both local and national levels. I have been a keen sports person in rugby/refereeing, tennis and trampolining and in recent years continued with tennis, walking and biking.

## **Safeguarding Super a history of the Government Superannuitants Association 1920-2020** **by Roger Openshaw**

This interesting book documents the way that successive governments over the years have endeavoured to alter provisions in the contract to decrease the amount paid to Superannuitants. During this time many dedicated people have fought to reverse decisions and make the scheme the fairer one that we are in receipt of today even though there are still a couple of outstanding issues. This is why we need the strength of our members. If you know of people in receipt of the Government Super, please encourage them to join our ranks. As a surviving spouse I am a member and when approached to rejoin and continue with this membership when my husband (spouse) died, I was very happy to do that. It is important to be informed and the Association does this very well with the above-mentioned publications. It is also important to ensure spouses and family have this information due to the continuing nature of the pension on the death of a spouse. Please also keep your address up to date with both the GSA secretary and Datacom.

## **Editor's Note**

I have been searching the internet for jokes to put in the newsletter. Many of them are unsuitable for this but they are very funny. I suggest if you want a lift in mood, head for google and search for jokes for seniors.

## **100% Cost of Living Adjustment (CoLA) for Annuitants who retired before 1985**

GSA petitioned Parliament on 3 July 2018. The report from the Finance & Expenditure Committee (in May 2019) agreed that the formula used in the 2009 legislation 'appears to be a different formula to that used in previous iterations.' The report went on 'We recommend to the Government that it take note of this finding and consider options for addressing the resultant lesser payments received by contributors and beneficiaries of the fund.'

The most recent communication from Finance Minister, Hon Grant Robertson (26/11/2021), states 'I understand your concerns around the progress of decision making following your petition. This has been an extremely busy time for the Government with a considerable number of competing priorities. We are currently in the strategic phase of Budget 2022 and agencies will shortly begin developing initiatives for consideration by Cabinet. I intend to begin engagement with officials in the coming weeks on this initiative.'

The minister's letter continues: 'I caution that this does not mean the initiative is guaranteed to be included in Budget 2022, as Cabinet is the decision-making authority and will give its consideration alongside all other Government initiatives.' And so, we wait!

*The above was written by Tony Hamilton GSA President*

I thought I would have a look at the GSA website then pulled up the North Shores newsletter for this month. They have a whole page of jokes and did I laugh. So, then I checked the previous years. If you have time take a look it is amazing. If anyone has jokes, they would like to share please email me [dianeward125@gmail.com](mailto:dianeward125@gmail.com). We certainly need a lift in spirits these days.

Stay safe out there everyone and make sure you are triple vaxxed.

## Annual Financial Report Nelson Branch 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

31 Mar 2021	31 Mar 2022	Note	Explanatory Notes
\$	\$	<b><u>Income</u></b>	
5,049	6,026	Subscriptions (deducted GSF)	Amounts recd 4 weekly
331	380	Subscriptions (deducted NPF)	Amounts recd 4 weekly
167	162	Subscriptions (paid direct)	Received annually
70	2,825	Functions	Total amount paid by members
7	3	Interest	Gross interest received
0	0	Donations	Donations/Sponsorship
0	40	Book Sale	100 year GSA book
<b><u>5,624</u></b>	<b><u>9,436</u></b>	<b><u>Total Income</u></b>	
		<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>	
3,052	4,412	Functions	Social function's part paid by members
675	467	Communications	Telephone, Postage, Laptop, maint etc
28	252	Organisation	Committee meetings, travel, printer
2,160	2,430	Office Function	Rent paid for office functions
60	60	Review of accounts	
180	172	Newsletter Printing	
<b><u>6,155</u></b>	<b><u>7,793</u></b>	<b><u>Total Expenditure</u></b>	
<b><u>-(531)</u></b>	<b><u>1,643</u></b>	<b><u>Surplus / (deficit)</u></b>	
<b>31 Mar 2021</b>	<b>31 Mar 2022</b>	<b>Financial position as at 31 March 2022</b>	
19,401	18,901	Accumulated funds 2020/2021	
(-531)	1,643	Add surplus or deduct deficit	
31	31	Investment interest (on Call only)	
<b><u>18,901</u></b>	<b><u>20,575</u></b>		
		<b>Represented by assets</b>	
7,860	4,722	Cash account	
11,041	16,555	Term deposit \$6,544 / On call account \$10,011.	
<b><u>18,901</u></b>	<b><u>21,277</u></b>	<b><u>Total cash/bank</u></b>	
686	0	Accrued Interest (If over \$100)	
0	0	Accounts receivable - Any amounts due at year's end	
0	0	Less Liabilities	
0	702	Less Accounts payable	
<b><u>19,587</u></b>	<b><u>20,575</u></b>		

**SUBJECT TO REVIEW**