



North Shore Supernews

Newsletter of the North Shore Sub-Group Government Superannuitants Association

November 2023

END OF YEAR CHRISTMAS FUNCTION

Date: Friday 24 November 2023

Venue: Birkenhead RSA, Recreation Drive, Birkenhead.

Time: 10.00am Tea/Coffee available.

Mix and mingle – Please wear your name badge if you have one.

Speaker—see below

12.00 Lunch – full Xmas menu with dessert,
see the insert, with registration and payment details.

RSA limited bar open for wine/beer with your meal –own cost.

Speaker: Pastor Mike Enright

**“What do you REALLY know about Christmas—and
where did you learn it?”**

There is plenty of parking at the venue, and the RSA is well signposted.

There is a lift from the main floor down to the function room.

Hope to see you there.



How Our GSA Finances Are Utilised

Next April you will receive the usual notice from Datacom, advising most of you the new amount of annuity after the Cost Of Living Adjustment is applied. It will also show the deduction taken out for membership of GSA. From April it will be \$3.00 per 4-weekly annuity payment (\$39.00 pa), up from the current \$2.50 (\$32.50 pa). If people are still working (pre-annuitants) they pay this membership subscription as a yearly lump sum on invoice.

You could describe this membership of an active organization of over 100 years duration as a small insurance premium against any future government tinkering adversely with our contractual retirement entitlements which we have paid our share for. It is a great pity that about half of the recipients of a GSF Annuity have not joined the GSA despite enjoying its protective benefits.

What happens to these GSA deductions? They pass from Datacom to the national GSA in Wellington, with Datacom taking a small distribution fee. Since GSA is organized into geographic Branches, the national GSA distributes 40% of the funding to the Branches on a membership population basis. With its share, the national GSA office is managed by its unpaid governing Board, arranges its annual Council meeting, and pursues issues affecting members, assisted by two part-time paid administrative staff.

The larger Branches such as Auckland are able to employ a paid secretary/treasurer to assist the volunteer committee and respond to the needs of local members. Smaller Branches have to depend entirely on the administrative capability of willing volunteers. The national GSA is looking at ways of easing this burden.

Because Auckland is such a large spread-out urban area, some years ago several sub-groups were formed: Papakura, Papatoetoe, Hibiscus Coast, North Shore and Railways. North Shore (probably formed in the late 1980s) by 2004 had John Raven as Chairperson and John Hickey as Secretary/treasurer (with several changes of personnel since then). This Group seems to have always maintained its own meeting schedule and bank account. That is why as a North Shore GSA member you receive not only the national GSA and Auckland Branch newsletters (in April and October) but also our North Shore newsletters (in March, June and November), which ask for a small \$10 annual sub per household to pay for printing and distribution. The other sub-groups have not survived, apart from Railways who run their finances under the Auckland umbrella. Auckland Branch usually gives a modest assistance grant to the North Shore Group.

We have been recently using the funds accumulated from people's past generous donations to subsidize luncheon events such as the 2022 and 2023 June AGMs and the pre-Xmas function in November, to encourage people to attend. The national GSA's policy is that Branches may offer up to 50% subsidy on meals accompanying a GSA meeting, also to encourage attendance. Meeting socially with other ex-government employees and spouses is an example of "beneficial networking" and usually provides informative talks or entertainment.

So, to be eligible for the \$15 subsidy offered for our upcoming North Shore Xmas luncheon, you must be up-to-date with your 2023 newsletter subscription of \$10. Please do come along.

Eric Bowater
Treasurer



Time is the longest distance between two places.

Tennessee Williams

No one can make you feel inferior without your consent.

Eleanor Roosevelt

GSA NORTH SHORE SUB-GROUP – XMAS 2023

Kia Ora to our North Shore GSA Members

Welcome to this edition of our Xmas newsletter and I am sure you will enjoy the article Eric has written concerning utilization of our GSA finances. Your committee has also been busy working away in the background and we are still working through the new way that our committee operates- albeit with only three meetings a year it is not fast paced.

We are now looking towards the end of 2023, and you should have this final year newsletter in time for our next meeting on 24 November when we can also enjoy our Xmas lunch together. Looking back at the last 11 months it has been a very difficult year with inflation, continual escalating household and living costs coupled with indifferent supply chain problems – not to mention the very difficult crime situation. Add to the mix earlier widespread flooding and the most miserable winter weather that I can certainly recall since moving to Auckland during 1995, it is probably one of those years we are unlikely to remember with much fondness.

However, to encourage my blood to unfreeze I went to Samoa at the end of August for a fortnight to catch up with old friends staying in their village of Saoluafata which is about 15 kms from Apia. I enjoyed doing virtually nothing – simply reading, eating heaps of local Samoan food of all kinds, enjoying lovely sunny and hot days (every day was 29 degrees by mid-morning) and swimming in the ocean a few feet from my chalet. My friends who prior to retirement held very senior positions in the Samoan Government and continue to live very busy lives in voluntary roles at both Village and National level continue to make frequent trips to Apia and it was interesting for me to see the very considerable developments since I last visited about 7 years ago or for that matter since late 1980's when I worked in Samoa for a few months.

Apia has become a very modern centre now boasting many large new buildings and houses. There is not the space in this missive to go into any depth, but their economy post Covid appears to be generally buoyant, and people seem to be getting ahead. Their average modest family-owned vehicles are more modern and rank very favourably than that generally found in Auckland - although they have yet to move to EV vehicles. Driver standards are high, and vehicles are carefully driven. As a generalisation I think we now pale by comparison in driver standards.

Tourism was very adversely impacted by Covid but is bouncing back well and looks good for the future. I attended a dinner and floor show provided by a dancing group from Hawaii at a new hotel recently built in Apia which is an impressive building. The coastal resorts are equally impressive and many of you will remember the film "Return to Paradise" which put the then "Western Samoa" on the international map. The Return to Paradise resort is located where that film was shot, and every time visited is always an enriching and rewarding experience. I imagine that Samoa will soon start to rank alongside Rarotonga, Tahiti and Fiji as the premier tourist destinations in this part of the Pacific.

Looking forward to 2024 – I should like to thank you all for your continued interest and support. I should also like to thank all members of your dedicated committee for their hard efforts and that fully extends to Larry Robbins - who has hung in there to ensure that we did not lack for speakers this year and deserves an MID for his sterling work on all our behalf.

To every GSA member of our Sub-Branch, we hope that you have a lovely and rewarding Christmas / New Year period spent with those you love and care for and let us also hope that 2024 will be a much more positive year at every level for New Zealand.

Brian Lewis
Chairman



Your Committee:

Chairman: Brian Lewis **Secretary:** Pat Christian **Treasurer:** Eric Bowater

Members: Jack Harris, Graeme Wake, Sylvana Whyborn, Robert Whyborn.

Phones: Pat 09 4101052 Eric 09 4820250

So, I can't bring a stick inside



But you're allowed a whole tree?



At the airport check-in desk, a woman passenger told the clerk: "I want you to send one of my bags to New York, one to Chicago and the other one to Los Angeles"
"Sorry, we can't do that," said the clerk.
The woman snapped: "Well, you did last week!"

A budget airline flight was delayed for nearly two hours. When the plane finally took off, the passengers asked the flight attendant the reason for the late departure.

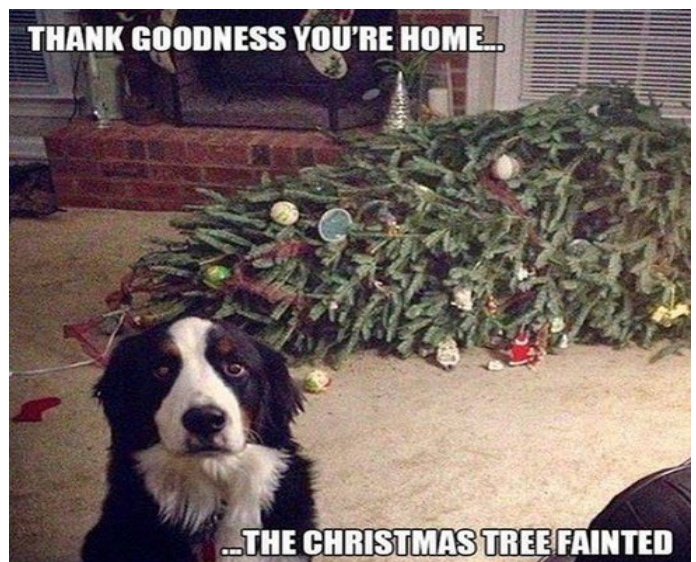


"Well," she explained, "the pilot was worried about a noise he heard coming from one of the engines, and it took us a while to get a new pilot."

A woman was looking through the frozen turkeys at a supermarket but couldn't find one big enough for her family at Christmas. She asked a stock boy: "Do these turkeys get any bigger?"
"No, Ma'am," he replied. "They're dead."

A woman baked two cakes to sell at her village fund raiser—one for five dollars, the other for ten dollars. A man soon expressed an interest in buying one and, pointing at the ten-dollar cake, asked her: "What type of cake is that?"
The woman replied: "That's Madeira cake."

A man went to the perfume counter of a big department store and said he wanted a bottle of Chanel No. 5 gift wrapped for his wife for Xmas. "A little surprise, is it?" asked the sales assistant. "Yes," said the man. "She's expecting a new car!"



CHRISTMAS FUNCTION MENU

HOT HAM ON BONE
ASSORTED SALADS
ROAST GOURMET POTATOES
SEASONAL STEAMED VEGETABLES
BREAD ROLLS & BUTTER

CHRISTMAS PUDDING WITH
BRANDY CUSTARD
PAVLOVA WITH FRESH FRUIT TOPPING
WHIPPED CREAM

Served as a buffet.

Please register and pay for the luncheon by the deadline of
Friday 17th November- \$20.00 each per paid up member
(non-paid up 2023 members/guests \$35.00)

to register: Eric Bowater
mandebowater@gmail.com or phone 09 4820250

to pay online to:
ASB account: 12-3026-0737928.00

