

G	government
S	superannuitants
A	association

Secretary/Treasurer: Adrienne Dodge
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From the Chair

This year, 23 years after the GSA scheme closed to new members, there is a firm beginning of a declining GSA membership trend. It has impacted on us locally, with the committee having to modify our Over 80s visiting programme as we no longer have members able to devote their time to visiting.

The distribution of the newsletter has been centralised and this has released a declining number of members from another task.

The Auckland Branch has finally relented on meeting in the Central City and has moved its Branch Meetings to the Horticultural Hall, Great North Road, opposite Motions Road, Point Chevalier. The venue has plenty of off-street parking to encourage members to join us. It has good motorway access which will improve with the opening of the Waterview Tunnel. Buses stop directly outside the venue (Details of meeting dates are on Page 6 of this Newsletter).

This year's Council Meeting was historic in that, for the first time in 95 years, a woman, Janice Campbell was elected as GSA President.

At the Council Meeting we heard that some \$25,000,000 remains unclaimed from the fund. We suspect that much of this is the entitlement of surviving spouses or contributors whose careers in the Public service came to a premature and unexpected end through restructuring.

Newsletter

Auckland Branch
 October 2015
 P O Box 17086
 Greenlane

Auckland 1546

<http://www.gsa.org.nz/branch-auckland.html>

I encourage you to think about people you know who may fall into these categories and refer them to us so that we can help them to identify and retrieve their money, which has been forgotten or overlooked.

As 2015 draws to an end, I look forward to seeing you at our various Xmas functions at:

Papakura

Manurewa (Railways)

Papatoetoe

Auckland Central

North Shore

Mark Leys

Chairman, Auckland Branch GSA

Branch Activities

Please note that as from 3 November 2015 the venue for all Auckland Branch meetings has changed. These meetings will now be held at the Horticultural Hall, 990 Great North Road, Western Springs. There is plenty of free parking available on site and bus stops are nearby. For those whose local bus only takes you to the Point Chevalier shops there is another bus you can catch to the bus stop directly opposite the new meeting venue.

In addition to the North Shore meetings, which always provide a speaker and/or entertainment, our North Shore group sends out their own tri-yearly newsletter 'Supernews' to the members of this group.

To find out more about how to receive the Supernews please contact the group Secretary; Pat Christian Ph. 410-1052

Obituaries



The death of a most loved member of GSA Auckland Branch, Dr Rae West, Life Member of the Association.

It's hard to think of any group more heterogeneous in backgrounds, be it in politics or social settings or education or religious affiliations - or any human choices - than our Auckland branch but as the years went on loyalties strengthened and friendships cemented. For every single member no person stood taller than Dr Rae West. Or is more missed.

It is many years since my first attendance as an Observer at Council in Wellington. Horribly nervous in my ignorance of GSA matters I watched fascinated as Rae, Delegate for Auckland branch, elected to concern himself with some issues, seemingly uninterested in others. Beside him on the desk were his handwritten notes (as they were at our committee meetings, always, be he Chair or just member like the rest of us) someone marvellously prepared for each and every occasion.

I saw at once the affection he was held in and the respect universally given to him at Council. With good reason. Hadn't he just previously thrown out a piece of bureaucratic nonsense for the whole Association? Until then should an annuitant wish to assign a proportion of his super to his spouse, the Rules declared that a GP's certificate was required affirming that the annuitant and not the spouse would be the first to die! Rae with his incontestable professional authority - and his habitual commonsense - was just the person GSA needed. An insupportable request to make of any doctor, said he - the requirement was on its way. And all done in that characteristically gentle, softly-spoken, smiley way of his, I have no doubt.

Rae and his lovely wife Lilian have been friends to everyone in Auckland's widespread branch for so many many years. When he retired from his professorial Chair at Auckland University he made the GSA one of his many topics of interest. So he constantly worked at encouraging colleagues and friends to join and to participate in the branch. For that reason we certainly look back on years of meetings with superb speakers every single month and if no one was available Rae would read us one of his own superbly researched papers just delivered, or about to be, to his Meadowbank U3A.

But for me Rae West symbolised the best of an organisation that had been set up for people whose

loyalty and skills had built new Zealand in the past. This man with a background of academia, intellectual attainment that made him a path-finder in the Auckland School of Medicine, Chair of so many medical organisations, was in fact interested in "the little people" - those whose final income was so piteously lower than what it should have been. For them Rae retained his full commitment and endeavour and affection to the end.

We have lost someone dear to us but we have all been honoured by his being one of us.

We can only send our deepest sympathy to Lilian and her family.

Ruth McLay



Dr Stephen Wealthall

Stephen was a committed family man, a gentleman of the old school. He was the "tipping the hat, holding the door for a lady" gentleman. This very personable manner was equally matched by his professional career within the medical profession and his vast hands on knowledge and activity within the art world.

His knowledge of computer technology and the programming field was also matched by his search for simplicity within complex matters. He was able to reach out to the common man, yet match those from the University circles; he loved life and was creative in all its elements. Many of you will have seen his stories on his website <https://wealthalls.wordpress.com/> If not I encourage you to read about his days of childhood, school, university, medical training, and much more.

Stephen's training in research overflowed into his retirement and the work he carried out for GSA Auckland branch and the GSA as a whole. He was prominent in locating speakers for the Auckland Branch monthly meetings and his introduction of those speakers was always researched and informative.

He was always ready with a greeting and even as his illness progressed he continued to work for the committee. Though his physical attendance was not possible at meetings his work continued to be acknowledged at each of our monthly committee meetings. He is greatly missed.

Rosemary Bell and Alec Waugh

Thinking of Assigning your Annuity?

The following is a reply from DataCom to a GSA member on the vexed issue of assignment. We have included it in this newsletter for your interest and reflection.

'Dear

Government Superannuation Fund (GSF)

Thank you for your recent query.

Section 48 (Section 7.3)

Under Section 48 of the Government Superannuation Fund Act 1956, contributors to GSF may make either an Absolute or Contingent election prior to retirement to increase the allowance payable to your spouse.

This election is only able to be made three months prior to retirement. As you are currently receiving your retiring allowance, this option is no longer available to you.

91B Assignment (Section 7.4)

Under a Section 91B assignment, you may assign up to 50% of your allowance to any other person (spouse, daughter, son or friend etc.). The assigned amount is reduced to an annuity by an actuarial factor based on the date of birth of both the assignee and yourself. If you would like quotes of the amounts payable please provide us with the assignee's name, date of birth, gender and proportion (%) of basic allowance to be surrendered by you.

In the event of your death, the assignee would continue to receive the assigned annuity. If the assignee predeceases you, their portion of the allowance will not revert back to you.

This option is irrevocable once payment has been accepted.

Annual cost of living adjustments will be payable on the assignee's annuity both before and after the member's death.

Should you make a Section 91B assignment, then your partner may also be entitled to a spouse allowance of up to 50% of the allowance you were receiving at your date of death.

Spouse Entitlements:

Under the Government Superannuation Fund Act 1956 (the Act), if you were to pre-decease your wife a spouse allowance may be payable to them.

This is paid at a rate of 10% for every year you were married or in a de facto relationship up to a maximum of 50%. That is to say that if you had been married or de facto for 5 years or longer at the date of your death, they would be entitled to an allowance of 50% of what you were receiving.

We do not hold records of spouse information on file. The entitlements of a spouse are established after a member passes away.

The important thing to note is that your partner should contact us as soon as possible in the event of your death, so that we can suspend future payments so that there are not any overpayments made to your account.

We would request the following documentation:

- The death certificate
- Spouse's birth certificate and bank details
- Marriage certificate/de facto information

We hope this answers your queries ...'



Your Auckland contingent at 2015 Council (right hand side of front row). From left to right; Mark Leys (Board), Alec Waugh (Delegate), Hilary Vautier (Delegate), Adrienne Dodge (Observer)

Since the last newsletter...

Due to National Office taking over the bi-annual mailout procedure for all GSA Branches, our May 2015 Auckland Branch meeting this year involved a different format to our usual meetings. Members met at the Horticultural Hall, Western Springs to enjoy a lovely morning tea and catch up on GSA matters.

Following this we headed off in private vehicles to the Aviation Museum in Motions Road for a self-guided tour around the various aircraft on display.

With this year, 2015, being the 100th Anniversary of the ANZACs and the meeting being within two weeks of ANZAC day, we had a larger member turnout than usual, which was marvelous to see. A number of members who had not attended for some time came along, and we were also delighted to see some new faces among the familiar ones.



June saw our AGM held at the Pioneer Women's Hall in the city. Our speaker for the meeting was Jim Turner, GSA President.

To find out who your elected committee is for this current year please go to Page 6 of this newsletter.

Our next meeting was 1 September. Despite the torrential downpours during the previous night, and into the morning of the meeting, 20 GSA members braved the elements and came along to catch up on GSA matters - specifically the pending Council Meeting in Wellington - and to enjoy a nice morning tea spread.



Our speaker on this day was Georgina Greville of Arthritis NZ who gave an interesting and informative presentation on Arthritis, some of the various forms it takes, and how best they can be managed. Attendees then asked a wide range of questions.

If anyone would like further information please feel free to contact Arthritis NZ Ph. 0800 663 463 or go to www.arthritis.org.nz For health information and self management the following is a New Zealand site recommended by Georgina – www.healthnavigator.com



This was our last meeting at the central city venue. Continued hire increases by Auckland Council, along with a dwindling number of attendees – an average of 20 over the last three to four years - parking problems and accessibility issues to this venue have all combined to push the Committee to seek a more satisfactory option.

The next Auckland Branch meeting is on 3 November 2015 at the Horticultural Hall, 990 Great North Road, Western Springs.

This building has free car parking within the grounds and buses stop nearby.

If any members would like to attend our meetings but will have problems getting to the venue please feel free to contact our Secretary, Adrienne Dodge Ph. 0800 888 472, or any of our committee, and we will do our utmost to assist you.

Your Committee

Continuing on from previous newsletters we would like you to know a little more about the newer members of your Auckland Branch Committee.



A small profile of Murray McElwain of the 1931 vintage.

For the first part of my working life I was supposed to be a baker but it did not work out this way. With the shutting down of the schools in 1946, because of the Polio scare, I was out of school and with no job. I had just turned 16 so my father started me as a Junior Porter on the Marton Railway platform. After three months I applied for work in the Locomotive Department in Palmerston North. I started there in June 1948 as a cleaner. I cleaned one locomotive, a Pacific Class for the south bound 'Daylight Limited'. With my 43 years I worked on the Main Trunk Line from Paekakariki to Auckland and on to Opuia and Okaihau and also Taumarunui to New Plymouth. The years of the steam locomotives were very interesting. It was during these years I realised the importance of unions and the people that ran them. I attended locomotive union meetings in Palmerston North, Auckland and Whangarei. I saw the influence of communism within a branch!

On retiring I joined the Auckland branch of the Railways Superannuation Association and took on the role of Auckland representative for the bi-annual Wellington meeting. With the winding up of the RSA in New Zealand I associated myself with the Papatoetoe sub-branch of the Government Superannuitants Association. I am now also attending the committee meetings of the Auckland Branch of the GSA. This committee has members from all types of Government departments. This I find interesting as the GSA endeavours to get better conditions out of the Government for its members. This vignette will be seen by all Auckland members of the GSA and I invite you to attend the local meeting closest to you. The

addresses and dates of such meetings are on Page 6 of this newsletter.



Auckland Retired Railways Group/ NZ Railways Superannuitants Association

Invite

**All Members, Partners, Friends and GSA to
Xmas Luncheon, Thursday 26 November
2015**

**Manurewa Cosmopolitan Club, 6 Alfriston
Road**

Manurewa

Mix & Mingle 11.30a.m. Lunch 12.30p.m.

Cost \$10.00 per person

Bookings by Friday 23 October 2015 to

Murray McElwain (Ph. 266 9959)

Villa 136, Acacia Cove Village

131 Wattle Farm Road, Manurewa 2103

Make cheques payable to

'Auckland Branch GSA'

Please enter by Car Park Door

**If a member of RSA or Cosmopolitan Club,
enter your name and membership number
on sheet with Lynne**

(Liquor Law Requirement)



Your Committee

Mark Leys (Chair)	Police	294 8927
Alec Waugh (Deputy Chair)	Police	489 9711
Adrienne Dodge (Secretary)		0800 888472
Gwynne Urquhart	Education	520 0649
Rosemary Bell	Defence	838 5575
Eric Bowater	Education	480 5753
Ron Garnett	Post Office	2987821
Tauira Te Kapua	Post Office	376 4580
Murray McElwain	Railways	266 9959
Neil Carey	Railways	625 4058
Hilary Vautier	NPF	813 4028

Honorary Life Members

Mr Hugh Dickinson,

Mr Ivan Fay, Mrs Ruth McLay

Branch Meetings, HORTICULTURAL HALL, 990 Great North Road, Western Springs 10.30am

3 November 2015	*7 June 2016*
1 December 2015	6 September 2016
1 March 2016	1 November 2016
3 May 2016	6 December 2016
	* = AGM

Railways Sub-Group Christmas function
26 November 2015. Please refer to Page 4 of this newsletter for details.

Committee Meetings Horticultural Hall, 990 Great North Rd Western Springs (Last Tuesday 10-00)

27 October 2015	31 May 2016
24 November 2015	28 June 2016
26 January 2016	26 July 2016
23 February 2016	30 August 2016
29 March 2016	27 September 2016
26 April 2016	25 October 2016

North Shore Sub-Group Meetings Taitamariki Guide Hall (off Auburn St) (4th Fri – March, June and Nov 10-00)

27 November 2015	24 June 2016
26 March 2016	25 November 2016

Papatoetoe Sub-Group Meetings Acacia Court, 25 Kolmar Rd, (2nd Weds 10-00)

11 November 2015 – Lunch at Marina Thai, Halfmoon Bay ***	8 June 2016 - AGM
10 February 2016	14 September 2016
13 April 2016	9 November 2016
*** If you are not a regular attendee please phone Pip van Duyn 576 8932 to advise attendance and for start time on this day.	

Papakura Sub-Group Meetings RSA 40 Elliott St, Papakura (Mar, June, Sept 10.00)

2015 Christmas Function – Date to be confirmed	23 June 2016*
24 March 2016	22 September 2016
	*AGM



Keep this date free!! Pop this notice on your fridge!

Auckland Branch GSA

invites all members and their partners
to their Christmas Function

Tuesday 1 December 2015

at the Horticultural Hall, 990 Great North Road, Western
Springs

commencing at 10.30am

A very nice Christmas morning tea will be supplied

The Filimoehala family will provide entertainment

William Filimoehala; Soprano Cornet

Anne Filimoehala; Tenor Horn

Linda Filimoehala; Euphonium

There is no charge and we would love to have you come and join us on
this date.

RSVP between 14 – 25 November 2015

Ph.0800 888 472 or email Adrienne; auckland@gsa.org.nz

