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TARANAKI BANCH GSA NEWSLETTER

Chairman's Report October 2019

Another six months and it's newsletter time again. Once more the year has been hectic, and somewhat difficult for us.

Our AGM was as well attended as any, and the existing Committee were re-elected for another year. The guest speaker, Sue Oliver, who runs the Te Henui Cemetery Gardening Group, was one of the most entertaining speakers we have ever had. They have undertaken to voluntarily clean and brighten up the Te Henui Cemetery, adding colourful plantings to some of the graves, and one could just envisage the light hearted fun that they manage to create as they do so. She certainly entertained us brilliantly.

Mike Smith, our Board representative, brought us up to date with the activities of the Board.

The Council Annual Meeting took place over the weekend of 7th and 8th September, and the Taranaki Delegates were myself and Ian McKillop. The meeting was well run by Tony Hamilton, his first as President, assisted by the National Office staff.

There were two guest speakers, the first being Andrew Bayly, MP for Hunua, Opposition Spokesperson for Revenue and Associate Spokesperson for Finance. He spoke on the broad subject of superannuation schemes, and other aspects of Government. Andrew displayed a very wide knowledge based on his experiences both before, and from within Parliament. The second guest speaker was Deborah Russell MP for New Lynn, Chairperson: Finance and Expenditure Select Committee. This was the Committee that handled the GSA petition seeking to persuade Government to correct the failure to give the pre-1985 retirees 100% Cost of Living adjustments. Deborah has a broad base of experience in a number of fields and she praised the Association's Board members, and supporters, who were involved in both presenting the petition and the follow-up with the select committee. Ultimately, when questioned, she indicated that she has played her part in recommending to Government that the petition should be given favourable consideration, and it is now up to the Minister of Finance to carry on. She clearly stopped short of saying that she would be playing any further part. Tony Hamilton did advise us, that he had met Grant Robertson informally, and was given an indication that it would be given favourable consideration. I have had no further indication that there has been progress since then. A good aspect of this year's speakers was that neither took the opportunity for electioneering. A pleasant change.

The Board elections saw Tony Hamilton returned unopposed as President. Alan Straker (Marlborough) was elected Vice President. The elected members of the Board are Rob Brangwin and Marjorie Thomas (Hawkes Bay), Dallas Elvy, Alan Peck and Mike Smith (Wellington). Mike Smith has again been appointed as our representative and will be attending our Christmas meeting.

A motion from the Board to raise the subscription was defeated. It would have amounted to \$3.90 per year, and it is considered unfortunate by our delegates that it was not passed, because at some point, there will have to be a significantly bigger increase to ensure the sustainability of the organisation.

Contd.

I look forward to meeting as many as possible at our Christmas function, and I wish you all the best for the festive season.

Les Sharp
Chairperson, Taranaki Branch



Christmas Meeting and Lunch

Wednesday 27 November 2019

Venue THE QUALITY HOTEL, NEW PLYMOUTH

Format	10am	Morning Tea or Coffee and welcome
	10.30	Apologies Chairman's Report
	10.50	Mike Smith will give us an update from the Board.
	11.00	Our speaker is Fiona from Bees 'R Us
	11.40	Mix and Mingle – drinks
	12 noon	Buffet Lunch

Members, spouses and friends are invited to this meeting
The subsidised cost is \$20 per person which includes morning tea and lunch
If you are paying by cheque please make cheque payable to: Taranaki GSA
Or payment direct to 153953 0455999 00

Please ring Doreen McCaffrey, phone 753 3240 or email taranaki@gsa.org.nz by 21 November if you are able to join us. We look forward to seeing you there.

Membership

Our current membership is 527. Since our AGM 11 have died and we have welcomed 4 new members to our branch.

Change of address

If you have a change of address please let Doreen know in order that we can ensure our records are correct, thank you.