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TARANAKI BRANCH GSA NEWSLETTER

CHRISTMAS MEETING AND LUNCH

WEDNESDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2017

Venue		Vogeltown Park (Old Boys Club) 197 Carrington Street, New Plymouth
Format	10am	Morning Tea or Coffee and welcome
	10.30	Apologies Minutes of previous meeting Matters arising Chairman's Report
	10.50	Mike Smith, our Board liaison Officer
	11.05	Evan Cottam, Taranaki Rescue Helicopter Trust
	11.40	Mix and Mingle - drinks
	12 noon	Lunch

Members, spouses and friends are invited to this meeting.

The subsidised cost is \$25 per person which includes morning tea and lunch.

If you are paying by cheque, please make cheque payable to Taranaki GSA

Parking Entrance to the Vogeltown park is via a drive which runs down from Carrington St. Parking is limited to 35 cars and we will have members supervising parking there.

When that park is full, cars will need to be left on Carrington Street.

There will be a drop off area for passengers who cannot walk down, or up the driveway and if you require transport to our lunch please contact Doreen McCaffrey, phone 753 3240.

MENU for Lunch

- Ham Carvery
- Roast Chicken
- Garlic-Herb Roast Potatoes
- Roast Vegetable Medley
- Coleslaw
- Garden salad
- Gravy-Mustard- Salad Dressing
- Dessert**
- Christmas Puddings
- Vanilla Custard
- Fruit Salad
- Tea 'n' Coffee Station



Please ring:

Doreen McCaffrey, 753 3240 or email (Taranaki@gsa.org.nz) by 25 November to let me know if you are able to join us.

Chairman's Report October 2017

Another year that has gone very quickly for me and another deadline (newsletter to Head Office for printing) looms near.

The turnout at our AGM in May was as good as we have had previously and I thank all those who attended. Our planned guest speaker, Rev Murray Elliot, unfortunately experienced a problem that saw him hospitalised at the time of our meeting. He has recovered and at the time of our Christmas meeting will be holidaying overseas. I am hopeful that he will still be our guest at a future meeting. John Lucas, Chairman of the Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival Trust, filled in at very short notice. I was certainly amazed to learn of the huge amount of work that the trust accomplishes to both publicise the event, to an audience that results in increased tourist visits to Taranaki, and ensuring that the Festival runs smoothly.

On Wednesday 23rd August a group of 16 members from New Plymouth and 3 picked up along the route went to the South Taranaki Club where we were joined by 21 South Taranaki members for lunch and a brief meeting. It was great to have so many enjoying the event, and I thank Ian McKillop for organising the bus, and helping me by phoning members prior to the event. I also thank Doreen McCaffrey for her part which included preparing name tags for those attending. This event was a trial as previous attempts which were run before my time on the committee were reportedly unsuccessful. I feel that this trip was very successful with nearly 40% of the South Taranaki membership attending. I believe that the committee is justified in organising further similar events. The photo shows the group leaving New Plymouth. Apologies for the lack of one at the venue, I hadn't planned on being distracted at the critical time, and failed to delegate the task.

At the beginning of September, Alex Fahey and I attended the Associations annual Council Meeting in Wellington. The only guest speaker was Simon Tyler, Chief Executive of the Government Superannuation Fund Authority. This is the organisation that manages the Fund on behalf of the Government. It was obvious that Simon's management of the fund is very competent. To borrow another member's comment, "He has grown into the job."

The biggest focus of the meeting was on the different proposals considered for restructuring the organisation to cope with the need to maintain an effective organisation that remains financially viable for as long as is practicable. Already there are five branches with smaller membership, whose future viability is under threat. Two workshops were held, where chosen groups discussed various proposals from different view-points. The results were then brought back and formed the basis for discussion of the Board's motions. Of these, the motions that the Council accepts that the paper presented as the blueprint for planning the long term future of the GSA, and that the subscription be increased to \$2.00 per annuity payday (nominally \$26.00 per annuity per year), were passed. The increase was largely justified by inflation since the last increase, and although the Associations overall reserves appear healthy, there will still have to be increases in the future to maintain the financial viability of the organisation for as long as possible.



Motions to reduce the number of Branch Delegates to one and to have a Branch Member attend as an Observer, were considered to be impracticable and were defeated. While these options may save on costs in the short term they were seen to ultimately restrict the effectiveness of having two delegates at meetings of the Council.

There is pressure on the board to conduct some of its meetings by video link and that would significantly reduce costs. Other proposals, such as trying to shorten the annual meeting of Council, or aiming for biennial meetings, were again not considered viable for several reasons.

A motion from the Manawatu Branch for a GSA Badge was defeated.

Roger Openshaw gave an address on progress with the centenary history project.

Again we look forward to our Christmas meeting where the guest speaker will be Evan Cottam from the Taranaki Rescue Helicopter Trust. The committee has decided to increase subsidisation of the event to cover increased catering cost. I would be pleased if there is a significantly increased turnout of members taking advantage of the return on their subscriptions. You are all entitled to it, and if it was to cause the committee some temporary embarrassment, then we may have to re-think our strategy. However, we will still be pleased to have the pleasure of your company.

If you have ideas as to how we can do it better, then we would welcome your input.

In closing I wish you all the best for the festive season, which I hope you will be sharing with your families, and may we all be around to share more newsletters and events.

Les Sharp