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TARANAKI BRANCH GSA NEWSLETTER

Government Superannuitants Association, Taranaki Branch

Chairman's Report October 2023

Firstly, I thank all of you who attended our AGM on 16th May. Again, we had a good number of members attending. The existing Committee were elected unopposed, however, following the meeting Judy Hanline and Sandra Weston volunteered to join the committee, and they have been coopted. I am grateful that we have new members as it is vital for the future of our Branch and the Association.

Our Board representative Alan Peck addressed the members, and he stressed the need for rejuvenation of committees with younger members, as well as advising us on progress with the issues that the Board was working on.

Following the formalities, we were addressed by Dion Cowley of Hiringa Positive Energy on the plan for, and progress with, the Taranaki Hydrogen Project.

HIRINGA Home About Us What We Are Doing Why Hydrogen? Resources Contact

POSITIVE ENERGY

Hiringa. A Māori word meaning perseverance, energy, determination, inspiration, vitality.

We are a next generation energy company redefining the future of green energy infrastructure and transport fuels through the adoption of green hydrogen.

Our annual Council meeting was held on 9th and 10th September where Denyse Salisbury and I represented our Branch. The most important item of business was the decision to increase the subscriptions by \$0.50c per annuity payday, commencing on the first payday in April next year. This will ensure that projected reserves will cover the Association's operations until 2038.

Guest speakers at the meeting were Tim Mitchell, who is the new CEO of Annuitas/GSFA who control the Fund investment policies and are the primary link with the Minister of Finance. The other guest speaker was Retirement Commissioner, Jane Wrightson who gave an interesting address on her work and the issues surrounding equity in NZ Superannuation. While not of direct relevance to us, it was still most interesting.

The nominations for the Board only met the required number, so no election was required. Tony Hamilton stood down after 5 years as President which as well as endeavouring to get the 100% COLA issue for pre 1985 retirees settled, included working through all the extra issues brought about by Covid. He was also instrumental prior to being on the Board in changing the Constitution in respect of voting at Council eliminating the rule which allowed all Board members to vote on motions, which meant that they were able to block-vote thereby reducing the ability of the Branches at National level to determine Policy on behalf of the membership at large. Alan Straker (Marlborough, former Vice-President) is now President, and Sandra Guscott (Auckland and former Board member) is now Vice-President. Board members are: Robert Beckham (Southland), Anne Gover (Southland), Michael Law (Waikato, King Country), Roger Openshaw (Manawatu and new member) and Alan Peck (Wellington).

Alan Peck has again been appointed as the Board representative for our Branch, so we continue to have the value of his knowledge, experience, and input for the coming year.

Tony Hamilton gave us a valedictory address and included some indications of what we need to consider for the future of the Association.

The focus this year will be on producing amendments for the Constitution to meet the requirements of the new Incorporated Societies Act.

He mentioned that Branches need to be proactive in getting viable numbers attending functions, particularly AGM's where, while most Branches manage to achieve the minimum of 20 required for a quorum, the target should be the 10% as recommended in the Constitution. Some Branches have achieved this, others fall short. We had 31 members at this year's AGM which is short of the 42 that would have met the 10% recommended.

Suggestions to save costs at National level could include having a video meeting for Council every second year. My view on that is that it should be guided by the amount of business to be transacted. I have attended a long video meeting and found it very demanding.

At some point it may be deemed necessary to reduce the number of delegates to one per Branch. I consider that this option would mean that a new delegate would not have had the opportunity to usefully participate in their first year. Branches used to be able to send observers to Council, however this was blocked during the Covid situation, and has not been allowed since. Having two delegates is also useful in discussing issues that may develop during a meeting.

There is still the need to refine the employment conditions for Secretary/Treasurer roles.

The good relationship and goodwill that exists between the Board, GSFA and Datacom needs to be maintained.

At present, the future for Branches that fail to remain viable is not defined beyond the provision that the Board will manage whatever change they deem necessary. I still personally support retention of a viable Branch supported by centralised administration. What is clear is that there will be increased administration costs to meet the reduction in local Branch, and National availability of active members due to the increasing average age of our members.

We look forward to seeing as many as possible of you at our Pre-Christmas meeting on 29th November. Our Board representative, Alan Peck will be attending, and our guest speaker will be Bryan Hocken MNZM, farmer, also known as the honorary Mayor of Tarata. Bryan has been a staunch advocate for farming and involved nationally in sheep dog trialling. I am assured that he is a most interesting character.

Les Sharp

Chairman;

Taranaki Branch.



Christmas Meeting and Lunch

GSA 2023

Wednesday 29th November 2023

Venue	THE PLYMOUTH INTERNATIONAL HOTEL Courtney Street Brougham Room	
Format	10.30 am	Mix and Mingle Morning Tea Welcome - Tea or Coffee Devonshire Scones served with cream & jam
	11am	Guest Speaker - Bryan Hocken MNZM
	12 noon	Lunch served to the table.

Members, spouses and friends are invited to this meeting
The subsidised cost is \$25 per person which includes morning tea and lunch

Payment to Taranaki GSA

15 3953 0455999 00

or cash on the day

Please ring Denyse Salisbury, phone 753 4998 or 021 0428268 or email taranaki@gsa.org.nz

by 22nd November if you are able to join us. We look forward to seeing you there.

Change of address

If you have a change of address, or phone number please let Denyse know so that she can ensure our records are correct.

If you have an email address, please also let Denyse know so that it can be added to our records and the database.

We encourage members to add their spouses to their member page if they have not already done so. Your spouse or partner can join the GSA for FREE and receive full membership rights with our compliments. Should you pre-decease your spouse or partner, they will then be able to join the GSA in their own right on payment of the membership subscription.

The newsletter is published twice a year if you have an email address or cell phone number, we can let you know of any news and upcoming events/functions. Thank you.