



Newsletter
Lake Taupo Branch
October 2015

Lake Taupo Branch
11 Logan Ave
Wharewaka
taupo@gsa.org.nz
0800 888 472

**2015 End of Year Meeting, Xmas Function
and Lunch**
Bridge Club Rooms Tauhara Road
Date Thursday 26 November 2015
Time: 10.30am
\$10.00 per person

Programme:

- 10.30am: Introduction and Welcome;
Chairman's Report on the Annual Council Meeting;
Update on current issues confronting the GSA by Tony Hamilton;
Question Time.
- 11.15am Entertainment. Yet to be arranged.
- 11.45am Social time with a light lunch served at 12.00.

Branch Activities

Your Branch Committee has met once since the Annual General Meeting to discuss the remits to be presented at the September Annual Council Meeting and to plan 2015 Christmas Function. There has been very little activity in the organisation recently. The reason being that the new Constitution has been amended and adopted and progress on the two main advocacy issues, the tax equity project and the 100% Cost of Living adjustment for pre 1985 retirees have stalled. The National Newsletter will update you on these advocacy issues.

Locally the Branch Committee placed an advertisement in the local paper in an effort to attract new members but this didn't bring any success.

This year we welcomed Alison Crowe as a new member of the Branch Committee

The GSA Board has allocated Board Member Tony Hamilton to look after our Branch's interests. We look forward to meeting Tony at our Christmas function. Tony replaces Edgar Spark who has retired.

Annual Council Meeting

I attended the annual GSA Council Meeting in September. As the National Newsletter goes into details of the meeting I will briefly mention the items discussed.

The minutes of the 2014 annual Council Meeting and the Chairman's Special Meeting were tabled and passed.

The Council was addressed by Simon Tyler Chief Executive Officer of the Government Superannuation Fund Authority. He discussed the current investment environment, strategy and the fund's financial performance. He advised the fund investment strategy has given a satisfactory return which means the Government pays out less from general taxation to meet its superannuation obligations. He also gave an insight into the upgrade of the new software which pays our annuity. This will run in parallel with the present software until any problems are corrected and hopefully avoid any Nova type pay issues.

In accordance with the GSA's new Constitution there were a few minor changes to the composition of the Board. The new Board is:

- Janice Campbell Wellington President
- Bryan Whisker Wairarapa Vice President
- Board Members: Mark Leys Auckland, Bill Robertson Wellington, Dianne Ward Nelson, Tony Hamilton Northland, and Jin Turner Wellington.

This year I was nomination for one of the vacant positions on the GSA Board. I accepted this nomination and stood for the Board at the Council Meeting. My nomination unsuccessful however I did find the process an interesting one.

Membership

Like all organisations in the community there is a trend of a continual loss of membership. This is enhanced with an organisation like the GSA with its ageing membership. This year the Branch has had fewer members pass away than in the previous year. May I extend my sympathies on behalf of the membership to those families that have lost loved ones.

The need to recruit new or lapsed members is important to all especially in the Taupo Branch. Some time was spent in the Council workshops discussing initiatives to increase membership.

We look forward to welcoming you at our Christmas meeting and enjoying a social occasion. Again this year the Committee is offering a first prize draw of a \$50 motor trade voucher and a second prize of a \$25 grocery voucher. The draw will be based on the number allocated to you when you pay your \$10 entry fee to the Secretary. This prize is not offered to those who pay at the door. Once again the \$10 entry fee is subsidised by Branch funds.

In closing, I and the Taupo Branch Committee wish you all a happy Christmas and a healthy 2016 and look forward to seeing you at future meetings.

Winston Grantham
Chairman

Please return the reply form below by Friday 20 November 2015 to:

Colin Crowe, 11 Logan Avenue, Wharewaka, Taupo 3330 (phone 07-3786627)

This will assist us in advising numbers to the caterer. If you require transport please indicate this on the return slip with a contact number.

Please make cheques payable to the GSA Lake Taupo Branch

I/We will be attending the social function on 26 November 2015 and enclose a cheque/cash for \$.....
(\$10 per person)

Name (please print
clearly):.....

I require transport: Yes/No Contact phone
number.....