



Chair

Michael Smith

Deputy Chair

Vacant

Wellington Branch Committee

Ian Clunies-Ross, Kevin Duggan, Suzanne Holgate, Kay Monks, Alan Peck, Elizabeth Smaal, Bryan Whisker, and Ray Woolhouse.

Wellington Life Members

Virginia Breen, Marie Byrne, Janice Campbell, Peter Chambers, Bruce Kelly, Gray Nelson, Bill Robertson, Elizabeth Smaal, Mike Smith, Leicester Stewart, Peter Stewart, Terence Stock, Ian Swift, David Thorp, Bryan Whisker, Priscilla Williams, Ray Woolhouse

Newsletter Wellington Branch October 2021

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www.gsa.org.nz

2021 AGM and Luncheon

Once again, the year continues to slip quickly by and one of the main features of our lives continues to be Covid 19 and the restrictions it brings. However, we were fortunate to be able to hold our AGM in May as planned at the Petone Workingmen's Club. This year we were honoured to welcome our President Tony Hamilton and he took the opportunity to comment on some issues of importance to our association and our membership. Nominations were received and the following officers were elected:

Chair: Michael Smith

Deputy Chair: vacant

Committee members: Ian Clunies-Ross, Kevin Duggan, Suzanne Holgate, Kay Monks, Alan Peck, Elizabeth Smaal, Bryan Whisker, and Ray Woolhouse.

2022 Annual General Meeting:

Please note in your diaries that our 2022 AGM will be held **on Wednesday 15 June 2022**. The venue has yet to be confirmed. Further details will be advised in our May 2022 Branch Newsletter.



GSA President Tony Hamilton addressed to the members attending the AGM on 26 May 2021 at Petone Working Men's club

It is pleasing to note that the branch once again has a strong committee to represent, promote and serve the interests of members. We are also very fortunate to continue to have the very capable secretary Jirayu Brennan to assist us.

The financial report was received, and it was noted that the branch continues to be in a strong financial position. Tony Hamilton addressed the AGM on several issues including; Succession planning at both branch and board level is of utmost importance.

Branches need to remain viable within the Association ensuring that annuities being paid to members are not reduced or removed in the next few decades as membership becomes depleted.

This year three Board members have indicated their intention to step down from the Board and Tony indicated that wherever possible the opportunity would be taken to encourage new members to the Board while also addressing balance/diversity both graphically and by gender

At the next Council meeting the Board will also be proposing constitutional changes, some of which will cover issues that have arisen as a result of Covid – 19. Planned changes include:

- The ability to be able to allow for virtual branch and council meetings when required.
- No automatic right for a branch Chair to be a delegate to attend the Council.
- Enable subscriptions rates to be reviewed each year. However, this will not suggest a change would happen every year.
- A process to enable amalgamation of branches as the need arises in the future.

Tony also commented on the COLA petition which was favorably considered by the Parliamentary Select Committee and yet to be actioned by government. The Board will continue lobbying other Cabinet Ministers to push this issue.

The President also stressed the importance of annuitants understanding their ability to assign part of their annuity to another person and the implications resulting from taking this option. Members can be fully informed on this by enquiring to Datacom before making any binding decision. Following this address attendees adjourned to enjoy a hearty meal.

Mid-Winter Luncheon

This year our luncheon was held at James Cook Hotel Grand Chancellor on The Terrace on Thursday 29 July 2021 without interference from Covid. We were fortunate to have Bill Day, the Chair of the Wellington Hospitals Foundation as guest speaker.

Bill was well received by those present and proved to be a very entertaining speaker who explained the work of the Foundation. He enlightened us with interesting aspects of working with the Wellington Hospitals Foundation following the announcement of the extraordinary gift of \$50 million to build and donate a new world-class children's hospital to our region by Mark Dunajtschik and Dorothy Spotswood.

Bill's work is mainly to head and work with Foundation trustees to provide funds for

some equipment and hospital facilities not provided through government funding. Numerous volunteers work through the Foundation with the hospitals in our region and much of the fundraising is spontaneous from individuals, clubs of all description and service organisations throughout the lower half of the North Island.



Bill Day, The Chair of Wellington Hospital Foundation was a guest speaker at the Mid-Winter Luncheon at James Cook Hotel Grand Chancellor on 29 July 2021

At the conclusion of this address, the branch was pleased to donate to the Foundation. The James Cook Hotel is a change in venue for us and 55 members attended the lunch. Feedback has been very positive, and we will consider using the venue again in the future.

Wairarapa Luncheon

Covid restrictions also caused cancellation of our planned lunch and branch update meeting at Masterton. A free bus will now be provided for Wairarapa members to join us at our Christmas function to be held at Te Marua Golf Club, Kaitoke Park on Wednesday 24 November 2021. We plan to visit Masterton next year.

Christmas Function 2021



Due to a popular demand, we are again holding this end of the year luncheon at the **Te Marua Golf Club, State HW 2, Upper Hutt on Wednesday 24 November 2021** from midday to 2:15 pm approximately. The price is \$30 per person. There is parking available at the Club. If you are driving, the golf club is clearly sign posted on the left of the main road (SH2 to the Wairarapa) 3.5 km north of the turn off to Waikanae via Akatarawa Road. We hope you will be able to join us for this Christmas function. Please note that you are welcome to bring a friend to the luncheon; it is not restricted to members. The price for non-member will be \$35 pp.

A free bus will be provided to the venue from Platform 9 at the Wellington Railway Station leaving at 10.30am. If required, it will make stops at Waterloo Station bus stop at 10.45am and Upper Hutt station at 10.55am. Look out for the Transit bus. The bus will be provided for the return trip.

Due to the cancellation of the Wairarapa Luncheon this year, we are providing a free transport for GSA members living in Wairarapa who wish to attend the Christmas luncheon. The bus will depart from Masterton at Transit, Queen Street at 10am, and stop at the following: Carterton Memorial Square at 10.15am, Greytown at Main Bus Stop in the middle of town at 10.45am, and Featherston at Adamson Service Station at 10.45am.

Please see the slip at the end of this Newsletter to advise us that you are coming, if you need to catch the bus, if the MacKenzie Trust could assist you further with transport and for making payment to the Branch.

Booking is essential. Please return the booking form (last page of this newsletter), or telephone or email Jirayu by 17 November 2021.

The MacKenzie Trust – How it may help you

The MacKenzie Trust was established in 2017 as a legacy of Supertours that operated from 1988 for the benefit of Wellington Branch members.

The Trust may provide assistance with travel to enable those who now find it difficult to attend GSA Wellington Branch functions because of lack of support, declining health, reduced mobility or other like reasons.

If you, or someone you know, would like to attend the Christmas Luncheon, but need extra help with transport, please complete the reply slip on the last page, paying particular attention to tick the box "MacKenzie Trust extra help request" and someone will contact you. If you have any questions regarding the trust, please contact Jirayu.

Contacts for Annuity Matters

GSF enquiries

GSF Administrator, Datacom Employer Services Ltd, PO Box 3614, Wellington 6140

Phones: 04 470 6348
0800 654 731

Email gsf@datacom.co.nz

Website www.datacomgsf.co.nz

NPF enquiries

NPF Administrator, Datacom Employer Services Ltd, PO Box 1036, Wellington 6140

Phones: 04 381 0650
0800 628 776

Email npfenquiries@datacom.co.nz

Website www.datacomnfp.co.nz

It is a good idea to have your annuity number handy when you make any enquiries. It can be found on any Datacom letter addressed to the annuitant.

Wellington Branch Railway Social Club Christmas Luncheon

Our Christmas luncheon will be held on **Wednesday 10th November 2021 at Petone Workingmen's Club**. Cost \$25 per person. Cash only payable at the door, correct money would be appreciated. Please be seated by 12 noon.

For bookings, please contact Ray Woolhouse, (a/ph. 04 973 8158). Bookings are essential and must be made at least two days before the function. Late bookings cannot be accepted.

Former employees of Railways and any GSA members wishing to attend our functions will be most welcome.

Recruitment and Retention We need new members!

If we are to maintain the strength and viability of our association, we must provide non-members with information and encourage them to consider joining.

We are, each and every one of us, potential recruiters and word of mouth is a powerful way to inform and convince others to join. What can you do?

If you are aware that any of your friends or contacts are former government workers, e.g., public service, education, police, health service, and they are not members of GSA please encourage them to join.

We have new recruiting information available from the Branch secretary

Change of Address

Please let the Secretary know if there are any changes to your personal details. You can enter these yourself at www.gsa.org.nz From the homepage select 'Update Details' and enter your annuity number and last name, then select the "update details" box. Note that while your changes will be recorded, they will **not** be updated immediately as they will be checked for consistency before being implemented.

It is very important to advise Datacom immediately of any changes to your address and/or bank account details. Where mail is returned "gone no address", or bank accounts are closed, Datacom will make reasonable efforts to try to locate you. If you cannot be located, your annuity may be suspended until contact is re-established.



*The GSA Wellington Branch Committee
wishes you and your
family a very Happy Christmas and
a wonderful New Year to follow*

BOOKING FORM

Cut here-✂

Christmas Luncheon– 12noon on Wednesday 24 November 2021

I/We shall be attending the Christmas luncheon at Te Marua Golf Club, 675 Main Road (SH2), Te Marua, Upper Hutt.

Name(s) _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____

Number attending _____ Cost will be \$30.00 per person (\$35 per 'non-member' guest) Please pay \$ _____ by either:

Direct credit account 38 9014 0085421 00 **by 17 November**. Quote name, annuity number and the reference **XMAS**, or:

I will bring \$ _____ to the luncheon in an envelope with name(s), annuity number and **XMAS** marked on it.

Please tick for MacKenzie Trust Extra Help Request

A free bus will depart from Platform 9, Wellington Railway Station at 10.30am

It will stop at Waterloo Station at approximately 10.50am and Upper Hutt Station at approximately 11.10am

Please Tick **ONE** box to indicate the station where you wish to join the bus.

From Wgtn Station Platform 9 Waterloo Station Upper Hutt Station

Wairarapa Members requiring a free bus please select below:

A free bus will depart from Masterton at approximately 10am, Carterton at approx. 10.15am, Greytown at approx. 10.30am and Featherston at approx. 10.45am

Please Tick **ONE** box to indicate the station where you wish to join the bus.

From Masterton Tranzit Queen Street Carterton Memorial Square

Greytown Bus Stop Mid-Town Featherston Adamson Service Station

Please return this completed page to the Secretary, GSA Wellington Branch, PO Box 11993, Manners Street, Wellington 6142 **by 17 November** if:

1. You have paid by direct credit but wish to travel by bus or
2. You are bringing payment in an envelope on the day or
3. You are seeking MacKenzie Trust help