

G	government
S	superannuitants
A	association

**Branch Newsletter**  
**Waikato-King Country**  
**May 2019**

Post Box 482  
Waikato Mail Centre  
Hamilton 3240  
waikatokc@gsa.org.nz  
0800 888 472

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**A warm greetings to all members in our Waikato-King Country Branch.**

**SOCIAL FUNCTIONS**

Once again, we are providing several opportunities for members to catch up with each other.  
Please feel free to bring your spouse, partner or a friend.  
We look forward to seeing you!

**AGM AND LUNCH HAMILTON, 10 JUNE**  
**AGM followed by Lunch – Monday 10 June – 11.00am**  
(The Annual General Meeting is usually brief)  
**Hamilton Contract Bridge Club**  
**20 Richmond St**

*For transport, ring/leave message for Michael Law on (07) 8562353 or text Michael on 022 139 8050*

**Please fill in and return the tear-off form at the bottom of page 4**

**POST-COUNCIL COFFEE MORNING: HAMILTON 16 SEPTEMBER**

**Monday 16 September – 10.00am to 12.00 noon**  
**Hamilton Contract Bridge Club**  
**20 Richmond St**

We held this event for the first time in 2018. It provides members with a chance to hear a report from our delegates who attended the GSA's Annual Council in Wellington and to mix socially over coffee/tea. For catering purposes, we will need advice of your intention to attend. A reminder will be sent by email. You can also request a written notification. To do so, contact our Branch Secretary, John Evered (email [waikatokc@gsa.org.nz](mailto:waikatokc@gsa.org.nz); Phone: 0800 888 472).

**Gold Coin Donation Appreciated**

**ADVANCE NOTICE: CHRISTMAS LUNCH**  
**HAMILTON, FRIDAY, 29 NOVEMBER**

Our very popular Christmas lunch will be held at a new venue:  
The Pavilion, Hamilton Workingmen's Club,  
46 Commerce Street Frankton.  
Full details will be in our October newsletter.

**REGIONAL ROUND-UP**

In March we had some wonderful regional lunches/coffee mornings with members. Lunches were held in Cambridge, Matamata, and Taumarunui. We also held a very well attended coffee morning with members in Te Kuiti en route to Taumarunui. A number of members took the opportunity to raise questions about their Government Superannuation.

## **LIFE MEMBERSHIP: JOHN FITZGERALD**

As we noted briefly in our last newsletter, we were thrilled to learn that John Fitzgerald, a previous Chair of our Branch, was awarded a life membership at the GSA's National Council in September 2018. The GSA's new President, Tony Hamilton, presented John with his Life Membership at our morning tea in September.

John had a long career in the public service. It began with his appointment as a Traffic Officer in September, 1963. He retired as a Commissioned Police Officer, Inspector, in August 1997. He became active in the GSA and, in May 2007, was elected on to the Branch Committee

The Association benefited immediately from his extensive experience in the public sector. John served faithfully in a number of capacities. He served for more than three years as a committee member, then three years as Deputy Chairperson. In May 2011, he was elected Branch Chairperson, a position he held for three years.

In the minutes of the 2012 Branch AGM, it is recorded "There was a major problem in the earlier half of the year as the committee was operating without a secretary and treasurer." John not only took over the role as Chairperson, but also managed both the secretarial and treasurer's duties for the Branch until a secretary/treasurer was appointed. John must be highly commended for his commitment and fortitude during this tenuous time. He remained on the Committee for a further three years after completing his term as Chairperson.

John represented the Branch at the Annual Council meeting for six years. He was invited to become an appointed member of the Board. John would have taken up the offer but for impending knee surgery. As a railways enthusiast, John proved the ideal person in the transition of the NZRSA members into the GSA. He worked closely with the local NZRSA executive, many of whom he knew personally, to bring this about successfully in the Waikato-King Country. Overall, John contributed an enormous input into national issues, and at branch level, mentoring those who came on to the committee.

With his strong background and experience, John was well placed to lead the Branch into new territory with the appointment of a remunerated secretary/treasurer and with the transition of NZRSA members to GSA membership. He held strong views but, nevertheless, sought, and supported decisions made by, consensus. John has added significant value to the work of the Association.

John is held in the highest regard for his extensive knowledge, wisdom, sound advice and commitment to serve the best interests of the Association. John Fitzgerald has given exceptional meritorious service to the Association nationally and to the Waikato-King Country Branch.

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS WANTED**

Our Branch AGM is quickly approaching (see next page). As always, we are on the lookout for some new, younger members to join our very productive committee. Our Branch Committee meets six times a year (February, April, June, August, October, and December) to consider local and national issues. In between meetings, we use email to discuss any issues that arise. Each committee member takes responsibility for a local task. These are not onerous. Membership is not limited to the GSF annuitant. On our committee, as well as others around the country, spouse members make a very valuable contribution. For details about committee membership, contact our Branch Secretary, John Evered (email [waikatokc@gsa.org.nz](mailto:waikatokc@gsa.org.nz); Phone: 0800 888 472).

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2019 AGM will be held on Monday, 10 June at 11.00am at the Hamilton Bridge Club, 20 Richmond St, Hamilton. (For venue and lunch see page 4.)

### AGENDA

**Welcome** Members and spouses, especially honorary life members

**Period of silence** To remember members who have passed away since the last AGM

**Apologies**

**Approval of the minutes of the 2018 AGM**

**Matters arising from the minutes**

**Annual Report:** Dr John Moodie

**Financial Report:** Mr John Evered

**Address by GSA Representative**

**Elections:** Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Committee

**Appointment of Reviewer of accounts**

**Presentations to retiring committee members**

**General business**

**Lunch**

#### Annual Report Year Ending 31 March 2019

This year has been a significant one for the GSA and this has been reflected at branch level. In September, Tony Hamilton from Northland, who was our board representative, was elected President at the Association's Annual Council. Tony brings some new ideas to the Board and a new enthusiasm which I think is already showing at branch level. An example is Tony's offer to make himself available by Skype at our committee meetings should we desire it.

We also have a new board representative, Marjorie Thomas, from Hawkes Bay. She was unable to come to our Christmas function, having already accepted Rotorua's invitation, and so came to meet your branch committee at our first meeting of the year in February. Majorie updated us on the latest from Wellington, including the situation regarding the vacant vice president position and the 100% COLA (Cost of Living Allowance) issues that affects members who retired in the early 1980s. Jenny Barclay, the GSA Executive Officer, resigned last year. However, she now has agreed to remain; a decision welcomed by all. So, the organisation as a whole is in good heart as is our branch.

Nearly all the 2018 committee members have stayed on and I wish to pay tribute to their hard work which makes our branch run so efficiently. After the Annual, Council meeting, which John Evered, Keith Wooderson and I attended, we

held a morning tea in Hamilton to update members on the outcome. The highlight of this meeting was the awarding of Life Membership to John Fitzgerald by Tony Hamilton who also spoke on the council meeting and the recent changes to the board.

Despite some concerns from last year, and encouraged by reassurances from the venue managers, we again held our Christmas luncheon at Riverlea Theatre. A good number of people enjoyed an excellent meal. Unfortunately, the caterers are unable to oblige us this year so we have changed the venue.

In March, we held a morning tea or lunch with members in Cambridge, Matamata, Te Kuiti, and Taumaranui. We consider these regional events to be an important part of our function and we are always keen to get feedback and to hear of any ways we can help with annuity matters. In particular we can help when there is a change of circumstance such as when an annuitant or spouse dies.

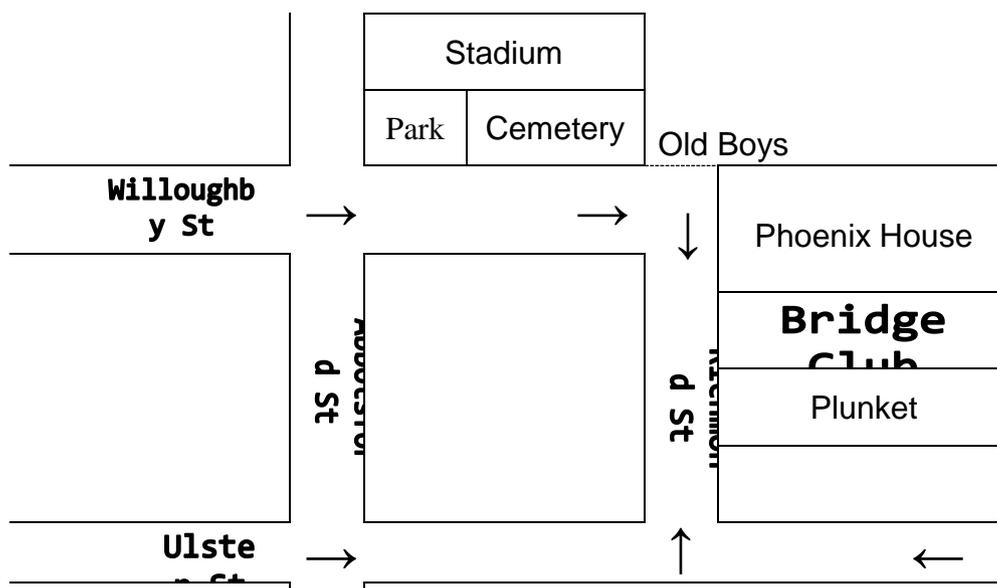
I am stepping down as Chair of our branch at the AGM in June. We are always looking for people willing to serve on the committee particularly women. With a strong and active committee this need not be an onerous commitment and it is a rewarding role where you meet some really fine people. So please give it some serious thought. Once again I thank all of the committee for their cheerful willingness to help. It has certainly made my job so much easier and enjoyable. Special thanks to our secretary treasurer John Evered who works very hard behind the scenes and produces exemplary minutes and books that balance.

John Moodie, Chair

**NOTE:** Annual accounts will be presented at the AGM.

## Venue for the AGM/LUNCH 11am, Monday 10 June 2019

Hamilton Contract Bridge Club, 20 Richmond St.



**From south:** (1) Go north on Anglesea St, go straight on to Willoughby St, turn right into Richmond St.  
**or:** (2) Go north on Victoria St, veer left on to Ulster St, turn left into Richmond St

**From north:** Go south on Te Rapa Rd, go straight on to Ulster St, turn right into Richmond St.

**Parking:** Plenty of off-street parking in front of, and behind, the Bridge Club building.

### Reply to AGM/Lunch invitation

(You may decide to come to the AGM but not stay for lunch. This is fine – just turn up on the day and no money is payable.)

#### Please reply by **Friday 31 May** by selecting one of the following three options:

- Fill in the reply slip, detach it and post it with your cheque to The Secretary.  
Please make cheques payable to GSA Waikato-KC Branch, or
- Make a direct payment to the GSA Waikato-KC bank a/c (details below).  
Also, fill in the reply slip, detach it and post it to The Secretary (address below), or
- Make a direct payment to the GSA Waikato-KC bank a/c (details below).  
Also, eMail the names and dietary requests to The Secretary (eMail address below).

**Direct payment details:** Account no: 02 0316 0159181 00 Code: *Lunch* Reference: *Your name*

**The Secretary, GSA Waikato-King Country, P.O. Box 482, Hamilton 3240**

eMail waikatokc@gsa.org.nz  
 Phone 0800 888 472

✂ .....  
**I/We will attend the AGM/Lunch**      No attending: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$12.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) (for name tags):  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Special dietary requirements (Specify each person):  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Payment - tick the appropriate one:     Cheque is enclosed     Direct Payment