



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

Post Box 482  
Waikato Mail Centre  
Hamilton 3240  
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0800 888 472

**SEASONS GREETINGS**

Your Committee extends very warm greetings to all our members.

Your local Branch has been very busy this year. At the national level we have continued to press the GSA to future-proof the Association so that our younger members will be represented well into the future (see next page). At the local level we have continued to hold successful coffee meetings and luncheons in regional towns and again held an excellent coffee meeting in Hamilton at which Jeremy Maseyk reported back on the GSA’s Annual Council (see next page).

In this newsletter we feature our forthcoming Christmas Luncheon. Please note the venue. We also give advance notice of next year’s regional lunches.

**CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**  
**The Pavilion, Hamilton Workingmen’s Club, Frankton**  
**FRIDAY 29 NOVEMBER**  
**(Full details pages 3 and 4)**

A great opportunity for all of us who have a common interest in our superannuation scheme to catch up with each other. Members, spouses, friends and any potential members are welcome. If you know of someone who is receiving Government Superannuation but who is not a member of the GSA, please encourage them to come to the luncheon and to join our Association.

**2020 REGIONAL COFFEE MEETINGS AND LUNCHEONS**

These too are very popular. Lunch will be preceded by a quick summary of GSA activities and issues with time to ask questions. Note: These events will be held before our next newsletter. We will write to and/or email all members living near the venues.

Members are especially invited to bring spouses and/or partners and to raise questions about the scheme. Members may also bring along potential members such as friends who receive Government Superannuation but who are not yet members of our Association.

- Matamata: 12.00 pm, Wednesday 4 March, RSA Ngaio St**
- Te Kuiti: 10.00 am, Tuesday 10 March, Venue TBA**
- Taumarunui: 12.30 pm, Tuesday 10 March, T&D Women’s Club, Miriama St.**
- Cambridge: 12.00 pm, Wednesday 18 March, Cambridge Cosmopolitan Club, 88-94 Burns St.**

Attendance at regional luncheons is not restricted to members who live in those areas. Other members are also most welcome. If you live outside the above areas and would like to attend a luncheon, please contact our Branch Secretary two weeks in advance.

## 2019 GSA NATIONAL COUNCIL (AGM) REPORT

On 16 September, our branch Chair, Jeremy Maseyk, presented a comprehensive report on this year's GSA National Council to a very well attended coffee meeting in Hamilton. Jeremy's report is summarised here.

Our branch was represented by, Jeremy, Deputy Chair, Joan Currie, and Branch Secretary, John Evered.

Membership subscriptions: Our AGM authorised your committee to propose a motion to increase subscriptions to counter declining GSA income. Instead of a flat rate increase for all members our initial proposal was a sliding scale where people on higher annuities paid more than those on lower annuities. This was rejected because Datacom's systems can't handle this type of deduction. For the same reason our alternative proposal of a percentage increase was also rejected. By the time we proposed the only remaining option of a flat rate increase the date for accepting remits had closed. We weren't too concerned because there was a Board motion proposing a 30 cent increase from April 2020 and we could present our proposal at the 2020 Council meeting.

In the meantime we had circulated our proposal and all the supporting arguments, which included extensive analysis of membership, income and expenditure, to the Board and branches prior to the Council meeting.

Even though we didn't have a motion on the table the President considered our proposal and the supporting arguments were worthy of discussion before considering the Board's motion and he gave me the opportunity to speak to it. There was considerable interest and much admiration for our Branch's analysis. We answered several questions but as it was only discussion document no decisions were made.

After considerable debate, the Board's motion was lost. This has potentially serious consequences for the Association, as income is now insufficient to fund much of what the GSA seeks to undertake for its members.

Recruitment: Recruitment is an ongoing, difficult task. The meeting discussed various ways of reaching potential members, including a nice looking information poster prepared by the Wellington Branch. Two target groups are pre-annuitants and surviving spouses, but of course we should be encouraging any one we know who is eligible to belong to the GSA to join. More recruitment will increase our revenue.

History of the GSA: A history of the GSA, marking its centenary, is nearing completion. The Board is considering publication options with the aim of it being widely available at an affordable price.

Cost of Living Allowance: Parliament's Finance & Expenditure Select Committee has recommended to Government that it consider the anomaly raised in the GSA's petition on the unfair application of 100% cost of living allowance for pre-1985 annuitants. It is now over to the Minister of Finance to consider. The Board will be making representations to him as soon as possible.

Guest Speakers: Andrew Bayly, Opposition Spokesperson for Revenue and Associated Spokesperson for Finance, commented on the value of older people in employment, the changing nature of superannuation generally, future trends and possible changes in national superannuation and Kiwi Saver. Dr Deborah Russell, Government MP and Chair of the Finance & Expenditure Select Committee congratulated the GSA on its activism and advocacy and on its presentation of the petition on the cost of living allowance to the Finance and Expenditure Select Committee.

## JOIN US FOR OUR CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

We invite you to join your fellow superannuitants at this year's annual luncheon. This invitation is also extended to your spouse, your partner or a friend. Intending members are also welcome.

We are happy to meet reasonable requests for help with transport: ring Alan MacDonald on 07 850 0845

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Friday 29 November</b>
<b>Time:</b>	<b>11.30am – 2.30pm</b>
<b>Cost:</b>	<b>\$ 25.00 per head</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>THE PAVILION HAMILTON WORKINGMEN'S CLUB, FRANKTON (See directions on Page 4)</b>

We hope you will be able to join us on this happy occasion. The venue has adequate parking. The bar will be open if you wish to share a convivial drink with friends.

**Please reply by *Tuesday 12 November* by selecting one of the following three options:**

- Fill in the reply slip, detach it and post it with your cheque to John Evered (address below). [waikatokc@gsa.org.nz](mailto:waikatokc@gsa.org.nz)
- 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 John Evered (address below), or email the names and diet requirements to John Evered (email below).**

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

**John Evered:** Address GSA, P. O. Box 482, Hamilton 3240  
eMail [waikatokc@gsa.org.nz](mailto:waikatokc@gsa.org.nz) Phone 800 888 472

✂ .....

**I/We will attend the Christmas luncheon**

No attending: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Special diet requirements: (Vegetarian, Vegan, Gluten free, other [please specify for each person requiring a special diet])  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

## **DIRECTIONS TO HAMILTON WORKINGMEN'S CLUB**

The Hamilton Workingmen's Club is located at 45 Commerce St, Frankton.

It is best to enter Commerce Street from Norton Road. The Workingmen's Club is approximately half way down the first block, on the left-hand side. There is plenty of parking. From the parking area, good signage indicates the path to the Pavilion, which is to the right as you drive in.

From the North: Take Te Rapa Road into Ulster St. Turn right into Mill St. Turn left into Norton Rd. Turn Right into Commerce St.

From the West: Take Massey St. to Norton Rd. Turn right into Norton Rd. Turn right into Commerce St.

From the South: Drive to Tristram Street. Turn left into Tristram St (at Pak'n'Sav). Continue on Tristram St to Ward St. Turn left into Ward Street which becomes Seddon Road. Continue along Seddon Road to Norton Road. Turn left into Commerce St.

From the North-East, cross the Waikato River at a preferred bridge. Drive West down Mill Street to Norton Road. Turn right into Norton Road. Turn right into Commerce Street.

### **STOP PRESS: TAKE ACTION TO RETAIN CHEQUES**

Many GSA members are very concerned that Government agencies such as Accident Compensation Corporation, Inland Revenue, and Kiwibank have all announced that they will cease handling cheques from the end of February, 2020.

Many older people don't have or don't trust or for good reasons cannot use either internet or telephone banking. Their lives will be made more difficult if they cannot pay by cheque.

You can take action!

Contact the Minister for Seniors, Hon Tracey Martin, Private Bag 18888, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160. Ph (04) 817 9999.

You can also contact MPs from the Waikato-King Country region:

David Bennett, National MP, Hamilton East. Office: 510 Grey St., Hamilton. Ph.834 3407.

Barbara Kuriger, National MP, Taranaki-King Country. Office: 53 Mutu St., Te Awamutu. Ph. (07) 870 1005.

Tim MacIndoe, National MP, Hamilton West. Office: 543 Te Rapa Rd., Hamilton. Ph. 850 6262.

Hon Nanaia Mahuta, Labour MP and Cabinet Minister. Office: Unit 5, 1130 Victoria St., Hamilton. Ph. (839 6063.

Adrian Rurawhe, Labour MP. Unit C 291-293 Mannering Street, Tokoroa. Ph. (07) 886 9303.

Jamie Strange, Labour List MP. Office: Unit 5, 1130 Victoria St., Hamilton. Ph 839 6063.

Tim van de Molen, National MP. Office: 49 Broadway, Matamata. Ph. 0-800 438 846.

### **WAIKATO-KING COUNTRY BRANCH CONTACT DETAILS**

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