

G	government
S	superannuitants
A	association

Branch Newsletter Waikato-King Country May 2017

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

Once again, warm greetings to all members in our Waikato-King Country Branch.

SOCIAL FUNCTIONS

We have two social functions lined up, one in Hamilton and the other in Cambridge. These provide a great opportunity to catch up with former work colleagues and to renew friendships.

Please bring your spouse, partner or a friend.
We look forward to seeing you at one - or both!

HAMILTON, 8 JUNE

Lunch – Thursday 8 June – 11.00am

Preceded by the Annual General Meeting (which will be brief)

**Hamilton Contract Bridge Club
20 Richmond St**

For transport, ring John Cameron on 027 473 5950

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

CAMBRIDGE, 12 JULY

Lunch – Wednesday 12 July – 12.00 noon

We have now held two successful lunches in Cambridge.

Members from all areas are warmly welcome. Previous Cambridge lunches have attracted members from throughout Waipa, as well as Hamilton, and South Waikato

**Cambridge Cosmopolitan Club
88-94 Burns St**

ADVANCE NOTICE: COFFEE MORNING

Our branch plans to hold at least one coffee morning with a guest speaker during the winter. Details will be posted on the GSA webpage (gsa.org.nz). Click “activities in your branch” and then “Waikato-King Country.”

ADVANCE NOTICE: CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The annual Christmas lunch will be at Te Rapa racecourse on Friday 24 November

COMMUNICATION

The committee is keen to use email as an additional to keep in touch with members. If you are on email and would appreciate this extra contact, please send a message to the secretary at waikatokc@gsa.org. We will continue to mail Anuity News and newsletters.

COMMITTEE

We are always looking for new members to help run our local branch. The Committee meets for about 1½ hours every two months. We share the tasks, which are not onerous. We hold seven social events a year: three in Hamilton and annual regional lunches in Cambridge, Matamata, Taumarunui, and Te Kuiti.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Unfortunately, because of printing deadlines, our reviewed accounts are not yet available. They will be available for inspection at the AGM.

SPOUSES ARE STAKEHOLDERS

An annuitant's spouse (or civil union or de facto partner) is a stakeholder in the GSF.

A spouse often has to pick up responsibility for superannuation matters when the annuitant's health fails.

Further, where a spouse survives an annuitant, he or she is entitled to receive an annuity for the rest of his or her life.

SPOUSES' ENTITLEMENTS

The Government Superannuation Fund provided some excellent information in its March Newsletter. You will have received it with your 2017 'Cost of Living Advice.'

The Newsletter provided:

- an excellent summary of spouse entitlements on the death of a member;
- a very good summary of the procedures to be followed on the death of a member; and
- important advice about the need to keep spouses and family well informed in order to ensure that on the death of a member (a) the spouse receives her (or his) entitlements as quickly as possible and (b) there are no overpayments that have to be reimbursed.

SPOUSES' MEMBERSHIP RIGHTS

The GSA works very hard to try and ensure that spouses are kept well-informed.

The best way to keep spouses informed and to protect their rights is to make sure that they are signed up as members of the GSA. It doesn't cost any additional fee.

ASSIGNMENT

We often get asked about assignment.

Assignment allows an annuitant to assign up to 50% of his or her annuity to another person.

A very good summary was presented in the recent GSF Newsletter.

GSA PUBLICATION: Personal data book

This is a very popular GSA publication. So popular, our Branch keeps running out of copies.

Keeping personal records is very important. Death and illness often strike without warning and it is vitally important that a spouse or family members know where to go immediately in order to ensure that all superannuation matters are attended to within the required deadlines.

This booklet makes that task extra easy. If you would like a copy, contact our Branch Secretary (email waikatokc@gsa.org.nz; Phone: 0800 888 472).

PROTECTING OUR LONG-TERM INTERESTS

As we grow older, it is important that the GSA adapts in order to ensure that it is able to protect our interests. Who knows what changes to the Scheme future governments might propose when we are fewer and older.

In December, the King-Country Waikato Branch took the initiative to research the projected decline in the GSA's membership over the next 20 years and its likely impact on the Association's funds as well as its capacity to maintain its structures and services.

Other branches responded very positively as did our National Board. We are represented on a national sub-committee that met on 10 April. It was a very productive meeting. We will report further in our next newsletter.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2017 AGM will be held on Thursday 8 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

Minutes For approval, the minutes of the 2016 AGM

Matters arising from the minutes

Annual Report Presented by the Chairperson

Financial Report Presented by the Secretary

Address by GSA Board Member, Tony Hamilton

Elections Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Committee

Appointment of Reviewer of accounts

Presentations to retiring committee members

General business — Close of meeting — Lunch

Annual Report for the year ending 31 March 2017

The GSA has 19 branches. A branch's role is to:

- * arrange social opportunities for members to meet and engage with each other;
- * provide advice and assistance to members as required;
- * keep members informed about and seek feedback on current issues; and
- * liaise with the GSA National Board on issues of concern to members.

During the past year, your branch again held seven, successful, social events; an increase of two:

- * the 2016 lunch and AGM (Hamilton);
- * the 2016 Christmas lunch (Hamilton);
- * a coffee morning with speaker (Hamilton); and
- * four regional lunches (Cambridge, Te Kuiti, Matamata, and Taumarunui).

Committee members enjoy regional lunches. The Branch contacts all members in the region. We get excellent feedback. And while many members cannot come to the lunch, they appreciate a personal invitation and a follow-up phone call.

The Branch keeps members informed through its twice-yearly newsletter which is distributed with the GSA's *Annuity News*. We continue to build a better email contact list. We look to use it to supplement newsletters.

As reported above, in December, our Branch took a strategic initiative to review the GSA's future.

The GSA's membership has now begun to decline. With fewer and fewer contributors in the state sector there are fewer younger retirees to serve on our branch committees. The decline in membership is also just beginning to have an impact on the GSA's finances.

Our Branch documented these changes and called for a strategic review of the GSA's structures as we head into a new era.

We have been very pleased with the response from other branches and the GSA Board.

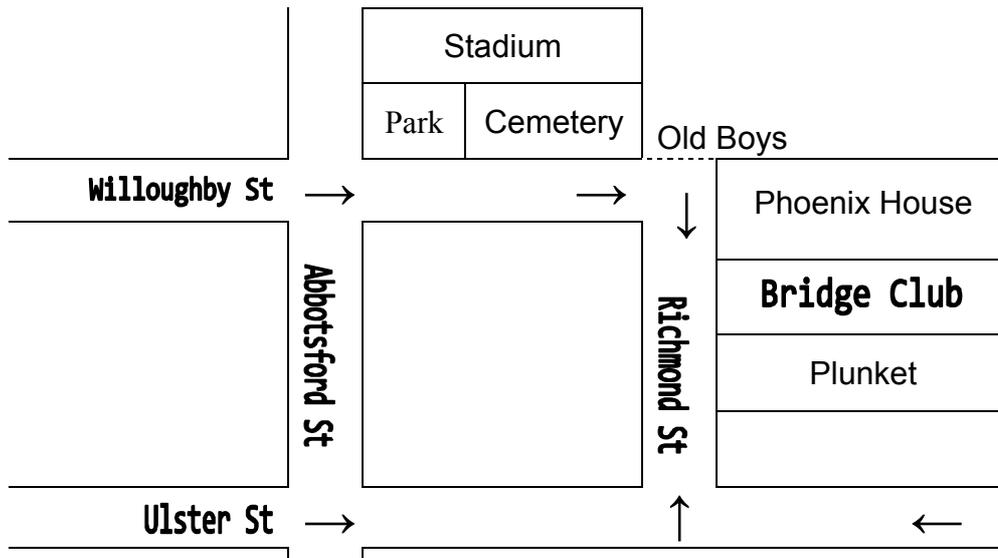
At our Christmas lunch we thanked Rob Grant, who has moved to Rotorua, for the wonderful service he gave to our Branch. We miss Rob's contribution to our Committee's deliberations.

My term as Chair has now expired. Fortunately, our able Deputy, John Moodie, is available for election.

Tony Hamilton (Northland) continues as our Board liaison person. He keeps us well informed and will address this year's AGM

Michael Law, Chairperson

Venue for the Lunch/AGM Thursday 8 June 2017
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 Lunch/AGM 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 *Wednesday 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 Lunch/AGM 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

