

<b>G</b>	<b>government</b>
<b>S</b>	<b>superannuitants</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>association</b>

## Newsletter Waikato-King Country Branch October 2018

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0800 888 472

### SEASONS GREETINGS

Your Committee extends very warm greetings to all our members.

Yet another busy year! We have held successful luncheons in regional towns and an excellent coffee meeting in Hamilton. At that meeting the GSA's new President, Tony Hamilton, presented a well-deserved life membership to our Branch's former chair, John Fitzgerald while John Moodie 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, RIVERLEA THEATRE, FRIDAY 23 NOVEMBER

**Riverlea Theatre**  
**(Full details pages 3 and 4)**

This event provides a great opportunity for all of us who have a common interest in our superannuation scheme to catch up with each other.

We welcome members, spouses, friends and any potential members. 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.

### 2019 REGIONAL LUNCHEONS

**(Cambridge and Matamata: 12 noon to 2.00 pm; Taumarunui: 12.30 pm to 2.00 pm)**

These too are very popular. Lunch will be preceded by a quick summary of GSA activities and issues with time to ask questions. These details, together with any amendments, will be featured again in our first 2019 Newsletter.

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 were not yet members of our Association.

#### **Matamata, Wednesday 6 March**

Matamata RSA, Ngaio St.

#### **Te Kuiti, Tuesday 12 March**

An early morning Coffee; venue TBA

#### **Taumarunui, Tuesday 12 March**

**Either** T&D Women's Club, Miriama St.  
**Or** Taumarunui RSA

#### **Cambridge, Wednesday 20 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.

### **LIFE MEMBERSHIP: JOHN FITZGERALD**

Our Branch is delighted that the GSA Annual Council recognised John's long service to the Association. A full report will be included in our next newsletter.

### **ANNUAL COUNCIL 2018:**

#### **A NEW ERA IN GOVERNMENT-GSA COMMUNICATIONS**

The GSA's Annual Council was held in Wellington on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of September. Our Branch Chair, John Moodie, reported back to members at a coffee meeting on 20 September.

John welcomed Tony Hamilton, the GSA's new president. John noted that his election represented a very significant, generational shift in the GSA's leadership. Tony is one of the youngest members on the GSA's National Board. Based in Whangarei, he is also the first president from outside of Wellington. Tony has been our Branch's liaison person for some years and has developed a very positive relationship with our local committee. He brings new energy to the presidency and an acute awareness of the challenges facing the Association as its membership inevitably declines.

John reported that our Branch delegates felt much more positive about this year's meeting than they did last year.

An important contribution to that feeling was the advice from the outgoing President, Janice Campbell, that the new Coalition Government had taken steps to restore positive communication with the Association: "We were actually invited to go and see the new Minister of Finance, Grant Robertson, after the previous Minister could not find 20 minutes for a meeting in 9 years." Janice also noted that "Mr Robertson was supportive, and he knows what the GSA is and what it does."

In his report, John highlighted the address to Council by the newly elected MP, Mr Greg O'Connor. A former President of the Police Association, Greg impressed John with his very good working knowledge of the Government Superannuation Scheme. A short time before Council, Mr O'Connor had presented to Parliament the GSA's petition for a group of elderly annuitants to receive the full 100% cost of living increases they have been denied as a result of an administrative error (The previous Government had refused to address this injustice).

Our Branch continues to be deeply concerned about the Association's finances, in light of declining membership. Nationally, the GSA ran at a loss last year as did several branches. While the GSA has solid reserves, our Branch has undertaken detailed projections that show graphically that those funds will be exhausted long before all the members have passed away. John told Council that it was irresponsible not to increase the membership fee, in line with increases in the annuity, if we wish to retain a vibrant organisation that will be here to represent members deep into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

### **BRANCH NEWS**

Although our AGM attracted fewer members this year, it was again successful. There were a few changes to our committee. Norman Thomson and Lindsay Wilson stood down from the Committee after long service. During the year we had co-opted Alan MacDonald. The 2018/19 members are: John Moodie (Chair), Jeremy Maseyk (Deputy Chair), John Evered (Secretary-Treasurer), Judy Benton, John Cameron, Joan Currie, John Law, Michael Law, Barry Maughan, Alan MacDonald, and Keith Wooderson.

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

**Phone:** 0800 888 472; **Email:** waikatokc@gsa.org.nz **Postal:** P O Box 482, Hamilton 3240

## JOIN US FOR OUR CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

We are pleased to invite you to join your fellow superannuitants at this year's annual luncheon and renew friendships made during your working years. 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 23 November</b>
	<b>Time:</b>	<b>11.30am – 2.30pm</b>
	<b>Cost:</b>	<b>\$ 25.00 per head</b>
	<b>Venue:</b>	<b>RIVERLEA THEATRE, HILLCREST, HAMILTON</b> <b>(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 13 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

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**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 RIVERLEA THEATRE

The Riverlea Theatre is located at 83 Riverlea Road, Hillcrest.

Riverlea Road is off State Highway 1, South of Hamilton.

If driving South, drive through the roundabout near New World Hillcrest and proceed South on SH1 for about 800 metres, Riverlea Road is on the right.

If driving North, Riverlea Road is on the left-hand side of SH1 as you come up the rise towards Hillcrest. Riverlea Road is about 800 metres **before** the Mobil Petrol Station and Hillcrest New World.