

G	government
S	superannuitants
A	association

Newsletter Waikato-King Country Branch October 2017

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0800 888 472

GREETINGS

Your Committee extends very warm greetings to all our members.

We have had yet another busy year. A highlight has been Rob Grant's life membership (see report on Page 2). Another significant development has been the *Future of the GSA* Review which the Waikato-King Country branch initiated. In addition, we again held successful luncheons in regional towns and an excellent coffee meeting in Hamilton. More functions are planned for 2017.

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

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON, RIVERLEA THEATRE, FRIDAY 24 NOVEMBER **PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF VENUE**

(Full details pages 3 and 4)

This very popular event provides an excellent 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.

REGIONAL LUNCHEONS

(All 12 noon 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 2017 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 7 March
Matamata RSA, Ngaio St.

Te Kuiti, Monday 12 March
Lyceum Club, 4 Hinerangi St.

Taumarunui, Tuesday 13 March
Either T&D Women's Club, Miriama St.
Or Taumarunui RSA

Cambridge, Wednesday 11 July
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.

ROB GRANT LIFE MEMBERSHIP

We are delighted to report that former Waikato-King Country Branch Secretary and longtime committee member, Rob Grant, was awarded life membership at the GSA's recent Annual Council. Members may recall that our branch honoured Rob at last year's Christmas Function prior to his shift to Rotorua. His new branch kindly invited our Chair to present Rob with his life membership certificate at a recent, very well attended morning tea in Rotorua.

Rob's became active in the GSA immediately after he retired as the Director of Facilities Management the University of Waikato. Today's campus owes much to his vision and oversight. Rob served five years as Branch Secretary and then continued to serve on the Committee until his shift. Rob contributed significantly to major administrative changes in the GSA. He also made considerable input into constitutional changes and to policy.

Perhaps most significant to members was Rob's interest in those living outside of Hamilton. It was during his period as a Branch Officer that we established our regional lunch meetings, most of which he attended right up to his move to Rotorua.

FUTURE OF THE GSA

In our last newsletter (May 2017) we reported that the Waikato-King Country Branch had taken the initiative to research the impact of the projected decline in the GSA membership over the next 20 years. We also reported that both the National Board and branch committees had responded very positively.

The GSA Board (our national committee) set up a sub-committee on which branches were well represented. It met and reported very promptly. The sub-committee considered both the Waikato-King Country papers and other data obtained from the Government Superannuation Fund. Perhaps the biggest surprise was to learn that the average age of GSA members is 79; another surprise was to learn that the Association is now attracting only 25% of retirees.

In short, as we all get older, the Association is soon going to struggle to find people to serve on branch committees. And while the Association has substantial reserves, these are projected to decline quite quickly from the very early 2020s as membership falls and income drops.

The subcommittee made a series of constructive recommendations around future structure and funding. These were incorporated into a Board report to the Annual Council. Although not all recommendations were adopted, Council has recognised the inevitability of branch amalgamations, over time, and the need for a fee increase. Unfortunately, it adopted a much smaller fee increase than the Waikato-King Country Branch advocated. This will inevitably mean that from the mid- to late 2020s, surviving members will have to dig deeper in order to keep the GSA functioning effectively.

BRANCH NEWS

At our very well attended AGM in June, we elected a new committee. John Moodie was elected Chair and Jeremy Maseyk Deputy Chair. John Evered remains Secretary-Treasurer. Other committee members are: Judy Benton, John Cameron, Joan Currie, John Law, Michael Law, Barry Maughan, Norman Thomson, Lindsay Wilson, 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 John Cameron on 027 473 5950

	Date:	Friday 24 November
	Time:	11.30am – 2.30pm
	Cost:	\$ 25.00 per head
	Venue:	RIVERLEA THEATRE, HILLCREST, HAMILTON (See directions on Page 4)

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 14 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
- 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 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.