

G	government
S	superannuitants
A	association

Annual General Meeting

Will be held at the Wanganui East Club, Wakefield Street, Wanganui East, on Thursday 25th May 2017 commencing at 11.00 a.m.

Order of Business:

1. Welcome
 2. Apologies
 3. Minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting
 4. Matters Arising
 5. Annual report
 6. Election of Committee
 7. Appointment of Reviewer
 8. Speaker – Mike Smith
 9. General Business
- 12.30 Lunch

RSVP to me (Nola) on 06 345 0642 by Thursday 18th May 2017 if you are coming to lunch. Leave a message on the answerphone if I am out. Otherwise, email me - wanganui@gsa.org.nz.

Your committee has again decided that with we will still subsidise part of the cost with the amount of \$10.00 to be paid by you at the door. Dessert will be extra and you will need to order and pay for this yourself. Drinks will be available at own cost.

If you change your address please advise Datacom/GSF. They require all notifications to be in writing on their form. I have copies of this form should you require one. It also covers change of bank account.

Also let me know any change of address: Nola Crawford – Phone (06) 345 0642, 4/91 Harrison Street, Wanganui.

Did you get your notice from Datacom regarding your monthly annuity payment? If you didn't receive it and have changed your address you will need to contact Datacom urgently otherwise the payments may be stopped by Datacom. This is also explained in the Annuitants Newsletter sent out by the Government Superannuation Fund in March 2015.

I have decided to step down as secretary/treasurer at the AGM after 19 years. It's time I had a break from meetings.

WANGANUI BRANCH of GOVERNMENT SUPERANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION

May Newsletter

Most of the members of GSA received good news when the GSF (Government Superannuitant Fund) advised that we had received a small cost of living increase reflected in our four weekly Superannuation payment. This Cost of Living adjustment makes our super special and although many of our members are short changed because of tax changes of recent times, we are fortunate to receive a nett payment which is cost of living adjusted. Of course the amount of the increase depends on a number of factors which most of us know about. If you don't have this information then contact Head Office, visit the GSA website or turn to your local Branch to seek some guidance.

The GSA Board continues to deal with some tricky issues which include seeking costs from the GSF in a recent court case which the GSA won on behalf of one of its members. Another issue is the fact that the GSA has found out that the Superannuation Act allows members who have so selected to assign part of their annuity may have their variable allowance arrangements revoked. However, Datacom have stated that once the selection is made and Datacom advised of member's wish to change the allowance arrangement with their partner/spouse this change was binding forever. No doubt these matters will be dealt with in the Annuity News and you will get more in depth information especially after legal advice will be sought by GSA. The outcome of this case especially if the Act is correctly applied will affect a number of members and their final annuity.

This year is election year and superannuation has already shown that it will be a major topic in the hustings. No doubt you have a view on raising the age at which New Zealand Superannuation. The GSA Board is working on developing a position on the Bill English proposals. The GSA will be giving our members some guidance notes on issues which affect our members in our Association. But any success that we may have in influencing political candidates will be done by individual members putting our arguments in a logical manner. We may have to put ourselves in the firing line by speaking out in public meeting or by making direct contact with the candidates.

The Board is working on the wording of a proposed parliamentary Petition which outlines GSA position on gaining 100% CoLA – a policy which has been on the GSA “books” for some years. We will be asking members to support this by signing the petition. It is the Board's intention to include the petition signature sheet with the next Annuity News. It would be helpful if all members could return the signature sheet after following the directions which will be given out with the petition signature sheets.

One of the most interesting position papers I have read for some time has been produced by the Waikato Branch. The paper addresses the factor of being a “sunset organisation” and how the GSA long term i.e. 2030 must deal with the core issues of membership decline, financial implications, structural implications and legacy arrangements. The Waikato Branch supported their word arguments with well researched figures which certainly clarified the issues which face the GSA in the years ahead. Two issues which the position paper brings forward for consideration and cost savings are 1. Hold the Council meeting for one day only and 2. Board to have a reduced number of meetings held during the year. The committee would like to hear your views on these two proposals.

Your committee will discuss this paper and it will bring a summary statement to the AGM.

I extend a warm invitation to members to attend our AGM back in our Wanganui East Club venue. We have been very pleased with the support that our membership has given to our two Branch meetings and we look forward to this continuing support again this year.

WANGANUI BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT SUPERANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION

Chairman' Annual Report 2017

The affairs of the Wanganui Branch of the Government Superannuitants Association have been well managed by the elected committee. I would like to thank sincerely the committee members of Brian Algar Trevor Hall, Leith Power, Rod Davies and Marian Barclay for their support and contributions to the meetings. I would also acknowledge the ongoing work of our secretary Nola Crawford who keeps things ticking along managing our member data base and the branch finances. During the year the Branch received the resignation from Robert Lakeland who was one of our later superannuitants but his busy work and lifestyle meant he was unable to attend meetings so he made the decision to resign. We thank Robert for his contribution which brought a wider dimension to our discussions. Like every organisation we require to keep our committee membership moving forward and we would truly value new faces in the committee.

During the year our membership of the Branch has declined as we acknowledge the passing of some of our members. One member's death deserving of special mention was George Malcolm who was our oldest Association Life Member. While he hadn't attended our meetings for some he was always interested and made sure that he sent in an apology. The loss of membership by natural attrition is a factor affecting the long term future of the Association. Projections of numbers of members nationally will be outlined in a separate presentation at this Annual Meeting.

Our finances have been well managed by Nola and because we were running with a good surplus the Branch was able to provide our members with a higher quality lunch at our end of year meeting. This may not happen again as Head Office has put out a policy statement which puts constraints on how much we can subsidize the Branch's social activity. We are indeed grateful for the continuing services of Mr Doug Salter who has been the branch auditor/ reviewer for some years.

The Annual Council meeting saw our Branch have four members in attendance. We were able to achieve this by delegates making local commitments and allowing our observers have their costs paid for by National Office. The content of the Council meeting in my view was very mundane with little being new coming from Branches or the Board. Council had two very good speakers who brought challenges to us especially Michael Littlewood who put forward some good views on the effects of compulsory superannuation. As at any Council meeting there are some delegates who present reasoned argument but I was disappointed when one delegate had an unjustified attack on the Executive Officer. I don't believe any public meeting is the appropriate venue to present a complaint without prior discussion between the parties. The Association's Executive Officer provides good service to the Branch keeping us informed of matters that affect our membership. The Board continues with its monthly meeting and its minutes are shared to the Branches. We also appreciate the liaison visits by a Board member and we welcome Mike Smith again as he visits us today.

2017 promises to be a more vibrant meeting as the GSA prepares for the election later in the month and Council moves to a new venue in the city thus giving up the connection the GSA has had for some time with the Brentwood Hotel.

The assistance we get from the Wanganui East Club manager and his staff is of immense value to our Branch. The venue gives us plenty of parking, plenty of space, sound system and good quality food. These facets are important to the Association members and the Wanganui East Club makes us most welcome and give us great service.

I welcome members to this meeting and I look forward to renewing acquaintances and participating in a full meeting.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Full accounts will be available at our AGM.

Our finances are in a healthy state –

Balance of cheque account		\$ 2,556.18
Balance savings account		\$14,124.59
Our AGM lunch in May cost		\$ 1,394.00
Members' contribution		\$ <u>810.00</u>
	Cost to branch	584.00
November lunch cost		\$ 1,987.50
Members' contribution		\$ <u>700.00</u>
	Cost to branch	1,287.50