

Wanganui Branch



End of Year - Christmas Meeting

This meeting is set down to be held at the Wanganui East Club, Wakefield Street Wanganui East on **Thursday 22nd November 2018 commencing at 11:15 a.m.**

The meeting will feature a report on Council meeting highlights, entertainment and a two course meal. We hope that our meal will commence around 12:30 pm.

The menu will provide a choice of roast meat, baked ham and battered fish. A range of hot vegetables and cold salads will be available from the self-service buffet. There will a choice of deserts to complete the meal. Tea and coffee will be available free.

A range of refreshments purchased at your own cost are available from the bar

The cost to you will be \$10.00 payable at the door. The branch is heavily subsidising the balance of the cost of the meal. We will be limiting the number of places available to 100 attendees.

RSVP please to Marian Barclay on 06 343 2789 or to Marian's email address jmbarclay10@gmail.com by **Wednesday the 14th November** 2018 to inform her that you are coming to the lunch. We would appreciate receiving any apologies.

National Office has continued with the mailing out of our newsletters. This may mean you receive very advanced notice of this End of Year – Christmas meeting so mark the date on your calendars and be prepared to join members of the GSA in another Branch meeting and hopefully catch up with past work buddies and gain more information about the workings of the GSA's organisation.

The GSA depends on active functioning branches which are managed by an elected management committee. Of course the committee is and must be responsive to its members. Although the branch has only two meetings a year members are encouraged to raise any matter at these branch meetings or directly contact any committee member who will bring the item of concern to the attention of the committee or seek assistance from National Office staff.

Each year the branches meet in a forum designated the Council. Each branch has two representatives but their voting power is based on branch membership so while Wanganui branch has two votes, Waikato has four votes. It is the role of Council to set policy, approve finances and elect the Board which will manage the affairs of the GSA until the next Council meeting.

Our present Board is headed by a new President Tony Hamilton and he is supported by a committee of six elected members and two co-opted members. The Board has a mixture of very experienced members to other just commencing their second term. Members can be assured that the Board members do a lot of work between the Board's six weekly meetings

If you change your address please advise Datacom. Freephone 0800 654 731 or email gsf@datacom.co.nz

Also contact your Branch secretary Neil Elgar – phone (06) 345 7139 or mail your information to 27 Oakland Avenue, Saint John's Hill, Wanganui or email wanganui@gsa.org.nz or raglen411@gmail.com

PSA Holiday homes are available to GSA members. Phone 0800 103 090. Some of our members have taken advantage of these facilities and were pleased with the standard of accommodation.



Newsletter

Wanganui Branch

October 2018

Chairperson's Report

Neil Elgar and Brian Algar have recently returned from attending the annual Council Meeting in Wellington. Each of the 19 branches usually sends 2 delegates to this important event. The GSA Council and elected Board discuss our current policies and set the future directions for our organisation. One of the main tasks of the GSA is to safeguard the provisions of the GSF for all of our members. We do not want some future government reducing the benefits that we have achieved. A report on the Council meeting will be presented at our Christmas meeting. Further information will be published in the Annuity News.

Our organisation celebrates its 100th birthday in 2020. We all need to make sure that the GSA continues to be a strong advocate for our members. We can all help by supporting our local branch and by recruiting new members. Currently Rod Davies, our committee member who represents our ex railway members, is endeavouring to contact as many of these people as possible in order to encourage them to join our organisation. If you know the contact details of any of the ex railway workers who receive our annuity, please contact Rod on 06 344 3024 or email him at rodandsheila@slingshot.co.nz.

A new position on our committee is that of almoner. We are fortunate to have Vicki Milliken on our committee who has agreed to do this important task. If you know of any member who requires some help or support, please make contact with Vicki on 027 222 3909 or vickiron@xtra.co.nz.

I would like to thank our current committee for the work they do on your behalf.

All the best for the future, enjoy Christmas and a happy new year to you all.

Trevor Hall
Chairperson

The Branch would like to acknowledge the passing of Ray Staal on the 20th August 2018. Ray was made a Life Member of the Railways Superannuitants Association in 2007 and so became a Life Member of the GSA when the RSA merged with the GSA. Ray was also very active in community organisations so his contributions will be missed. We extend our condolences to his wife Mary who is a member of the GSA and to his family.

Our past secretary/treasurer of many years Nola Crawford has not enjoyed the best of health spending some time in hospital and in respite care. Nola has been visited by members of the GSA. We wish her the very best and a return to good health.

Our guest speaker at this year's Council meeting was Greg O'Connor MP for one of the Wellington electorates and a member of the Labour Party. Greg achieved some fame as the President of the Police Association before he entered politics. His talk naturally included some referral to his role in the Police. Some of his material was humorous but other matters reflected the depth of social interaction the frontline cops often face. Some facts he mentioned that relate to our social situation.

- The average age of Members of Parliament is 47
- Only 4 of the MPs are over 60
- In 2017 24% of the people over 65 are still in paid employment
- Our age group are not really victim of crime. Our grandchildren in today's social environment are more likely to experience crime on their person than the more "mature" groups.