

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 23rd November 2023 commencing at 11:15 a.m.**

The meeting will feature a report on Council meeting highlights, entertainment and a subsidized 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. Desserts at your cost of \$7 will be available 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 \$15.00 payable at the door. The Branch is heavily subsidising the balance of the cost of the meal. The costs are increasing and to meet the subsidy guideline requirements as promulgated by the GSA Board, the costs to members have increased. The Branch committee believes that members will still be getting good value for the meal costs even with an increase in at the door charges.

RSVP please to Marian Barclay on 06 343 2789 or to Marian's email address jmbarclay10@gmail.com by **Friday the 17th November 2023** to inform her that you are coming to the lunch. We would appreciate receiving any apologies.
Please leave a message on Marian's answerphone or on her email. Any message left will be acknowledged if you leave your contact details

Our guest speaker for this November meeting is Scott Flutey who is the Whanganui District Council Heritage adviser. Scott will be able to inform us of his role and the outcomes it brings to Whanganui.

A note from the Branch Chairperson

I was annoyed that I could not attend the annual Council meeting as I had my first dose of Covid! Brian Algar has written a report about the meeting, and this can be read on the back of this newsletter.

It was great to read about his comment about our Branch being mentioned at the Council meeting. I was very pleased to have three new committee members elected at our AGM. We need to keep our good reputation as being a strong branch of the GSA.

I hope to see a good attendance at our Christmas meeting.

Trevor Hall Chairperson.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING 9-10 SEPTEMBER 2023

Unfortunately, Trevor Hall, Branch President, contracted Covid a few days before the meeting and was unable to attend. Brian Algar, Treasurer, attended the meeting along with delegates from 19 branches. The new Executive Officer, Lyn Buxton and new Office Administrator, Rachel Starkey were introduced and welcomed, together with new board members Michael Law (Waikato) and Sandie Gusscott (Auckland). After 5 years as President, Tony Hamilton, vacated his role and handed over to Alan Straker. Tony reinforced the need to be prudent in our actions to ensure the longevity of GSA.

Guest Speaker, Tim Mitchell, Chief Executive of Government Superannuation Fund (Annuitas) was appointed in January 2023. He explained his role with GSFA and National Provident Fund combining as Annuitas.

Financial Reports and Annual Accounts were approved. Three matters of interest to Wanganui members are:

- Subscription level increase to be 50c per payday (\$39 per year) as from 1 April 2024.
- Branch fund reserves that exceed a designated level are to be returned the National Office. Our branch opposed this policy but was overridden (as stated in the constitution) by the Board before the AGM.
- Regarding Branch funds to subsidise social functions the policy is stated “as a general rule the recommended level of subsidy for any social occasion should not exceed 50%”

Strategic Plan 2022-2023. In some parts of the country the branch structure and operation are under severe stress. Some branches have experienced difficulties in appointing/retaining committee members and officials. As of 31 March 2023, the Wanganui Branch had 470 members. It is of note that the Wanganui branch was highlighted and congratulated for its efficiency in having the largest proportion of its members attending its AGM.

Guest Speaker, Jane Wrightson (Retirement Commissioner) provided extensive information concerning her role in:

- Raising public understanding and advise Government on policies that will enhance retirement outcomes for New Zealanders
- Monitoring the effects of the retirement villages legal framework
- Helping New Zealanders think long term to improve their financial outcomes and prepare for retirement

Other areas discussed include:

- 40% of NZers live on NZ Super alone: another 20% have minimal extra income
- House prices in NZ are 8.8 times the average household income (3-4x is considered affordable)

Further information is provided on retirement.govt.nz/policy

Regards
Brian Algar, Delegate