

G	government
S	superannuitants
A	association

Wellington Branch Annual General Meeting 2020 Minutes

The 99th Annual General Meeting was held at Silverstream Retreat, 3 Reynolds Bach Drive, Lower Hutt on Thursday 26 November 2020 at 11.15am.

Welcome

The Chair, Ian Clunies-Ross, welcomed members to the 99th AGM of the Wellington Branch of the Government Superannuitants Association. He noted that the AGM was usually held in May each year. However, the Covid-19 pandemic had deferred the 2020 meeting until November. Members had received the minutes of the 98th AGM and the full financial report for 2019/20.

Deceased Members

The Chair acknowledged Allen Hair, who died in February 2020. He was a Wellington branch committee member and the National President from 2008-2011. Graham Hill, Wellington branch committee, paid tribute to Delrae Wilson who died late last year. She had made a major contribution to the running of Super Tours.

Members stood for a minute for respect and reflection remembering members of the Association who had died in the past year.

Present

Ian Clunies-Ross (Chair), Jirayu Brennan (Secretary), and 84 members and spouses.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Jenny Barclay, Jocelyn Hendry, Bruce Kelly, Alan Peck, John Peacock, and Caroline Williams.

The Chair moved that these apologies be accepted.

Chair/ Christabel Gibson

Minutes of the AGM 2019

The minutes of the 98th AGM were taken as read and confirmed as correct.

Peter Chambers/Suzanne Holgate

Matter arising from the Minutes

At the AGM in 2019 it was agreed that in the 2020 accounts the expenditure attributed to 'Organisation' would be enumerated. The Chair asked that this be discussed under the Financial Report.

Annual Report

The annual report was distributed in the April newsletter. The Chair acknowledged the Wellington branch was in a good shape with a productive committee that worked well together. A number of projects were successfully undertaken by subcommittees. The recruitment subcommittee had made

progress but there would be more recruiting to do. The Wellington branch is the largest branch. The Chair would be stepping down at this AGM as his three-year term had ended.

Early in 2020 Kiwibank would no longer accept cheques. Other banks are to follow suit. Members had paid for the functions either by using online banking or with cash paid at the function. This is working better than was initially anticipated.

Alan Peck and Michael Smith, Wellington branch committee members, were re-elected to the GSA Board at the Council in early September 2020. Safeguarding Super, a centennial history, was launched at Council and Council has voted to increase the membership subscription fee by \$0.50 per pay day. The fee had not been increased since 2017.

The Chair acknowledged the presence of Horowhenua/Kapiti branch Chair, Roger Pitchforth, Treasurer, Paul Gardner, and the Secretary, Jeffrey Taylor. Wellington branch had been working in partnership with Horowhenua/Kapiti branch since August 2020 to administer the H/K branch membership function. This had been working well.

Bill Robertson spoke about Cost-of-Living Adjustment (CoLA) petition that had been put to the government in December 2018. The petition was successful, the Government acknowledging that in 2009 the formula for the CoLA changed and members who retired pre 1985 have never received the 100% indexation that they were promised. However, the select committee's decision had not been acted upon in the budget. The retired members affected, were now ninety-five years old, making this an urgent matter.

Bill Robertson proposed that the Wellington Branch write to the Minister of Finance urging him to act on the select committee's findings. A member proposed that the Minister for Senior and Veteran Affairs also be included in the letter.

Mike Smith noted that the Board had written to the Hon. Grant Robertson, the Minister of Finance, three weeks ago asking him to review the situation urgently. The Board was still waiting for a response.

It was moved **THAT** the Chair write to the Board and request urgent action asking the Minister of Finance for priority implementation of the 100% Indexation of CoLA for pre 1985 retirees forthwith.

Bill Robertson/Ian Swift

Bill Robertson then suggested that GSA needed representation on the Government Superannuation Fund Authority (GSFA). GSFA had the following three purposes: 1. To maximise the earnings from funds, 2. To maximise the earnings from the Crown, 3. To meet a reasonable expectation of its stakeholders. Government was one of the stakeholders, and its expectations were fully met. However, where were the other fifty-eight thousand stakeholders represented? When GSFA was set up, Michael Cullen was appointed as a nominated member of GSA. He served three terms. Later GSA did not have any member representation on the GSFA. GSA was now fortunate to have Alan Peck represented on the Government Superannuation Appeals Board. However, GSA also needed a representation on GSFA. This would meet the third purpose that the GSFA meets a reasonable expectation and interest of its stakeholder. A member raised a question regarding the skill set required for a member to represent GSA on the GSFA Board. It was suggested that this would need to be one of the criteria to be addressed.

It was moved **THAT** Wellington branch write to the GSA Board to urge them to make representation to the Minister of Finance for a member of GSA to be represented on the GSFA Board.

Bill Robertson/Bryan Whisker

It was moved **THAT** the annual report as printed be adopted.

Chair

Financial Report

The Wellington branch financial report for the year ending 31 March 2020 was presented by Peter Chambers, the branch Deputy Chair. The report, now eight months old due to Covid-19, was published in the April 2020 newsletter. The branch's finances are in a good position overall.

There was a decrease in the surplus this year (\$2,153 compared to \$10,997 in 2019). This was due to two factors. Firstly, the branch had to pay for the printing of the newsletters where in the year before National Office had covered the printing costs. Secondly, the branch had two business meetings, the 2019 AGM, and the Wairarapa Luncheon in September both of which were subsidised substantially. Subscriptions at present are strong and would continue over the next year with the motion at Council to increase the weekly subscription by \$0.50 per pay day. The financial position in November 2020 remains strong.

The branch committee was acknowledged and thanked for the job well done.

Peter Chambers apologised that in the accounts for the year 2020 the expenditure attributed to 'Organisation' was not enumerated as was agreed at the 2019 AGM. The figures covered in this item relate to expenses of committee members and the costs associate with the meetings.

A question was asked for clarification regarding a substantial increase in the remuneration for the secretary from \$14,203 in 2019 to \$21,745 in 2020. The increase was due to various factors. There was no secretary for two months from August until October 2018, the hourly rate was increased for the new secretary. The secretary took on more roles and the committee had increased her hourly rate in 2019 and 2020.

A question was asked about a decision from the Council to increase a member subscription taking effect in April 2021. It was suggested that this could result in a lot of members resign especially those who were single. What were the reasons to defer until April 2021? Was it to counter the CoLA to take place next April except when the inflation rate not exceeding 1%? The Board intent to defer the increase in the event that there would be no CoLA. If that was the case, there will be a lot of members resign. It was believed that the Board had authority to defer the increase in the light of the deduction of annuity taking place from member in April next year. It was clarified that the inflation rate from April 2020 until today was not below 1%. It was likely it would not be below 1% by April 2021 unless things were drastically changed. The committee member had been monitoring the figure of inflation rate from the Treasury and ensured it was safe. Chair assured that this point was taken and if this were to happen the Wellington branch would approach the Board to discuss this at the Board meeting.

It was moved **THAT** the annual accounts for the year ending 31 March 2020 be accepted.

Peter Chambers

Financial Reviewer

It was moved and seconded that Kevin Duggan be appointed Financial Reviewer for the Wellington Branch of the GSA for the year ending 31 March 2021.

Ian Clunies-Ross / Ray Woolhouse

Election of Branch Committee

Nominated and elected for this year:

Chairman: Michael Smith

It was moved and seconded that Michael be elected as Chairman for this year

Ian Clunies-Ross/Bryan Whisker

The Chairman was appointed unopposed and by acclamation.

Michael Smith, the new Chair of Wellington branch was congratulated. He thanked members for their vote of confidence in his new chairmanship. There was no nominee for Deputy Chairman.

Deputy Chairman: Vacant

Committee Members:

Eight nominations had been received. The Chairman asked those nominated to stand to make themselves known to members. They are: Peter Chambers, Ian Clunies-Ross, Kevin Duggan, Kay Monks, Alan Peck (not present), Elizabeth Smaal, Bryan Whisker and Ray Woolhouse.

It was moved and seconded that the eight members nominated for the Wellington Branch Committee be appointed en bloc.

Mike Smith/Ian Swift

Ian Clunies-Ross, the immediate past Chair, thanked the strong committee and wished them another successful year.

General Business

No general business was discussed.

The Chair closed the AGM 2020 at 12pm.

Confirmed



Michael Smith
Wellington Branch Chair
26 November 2020