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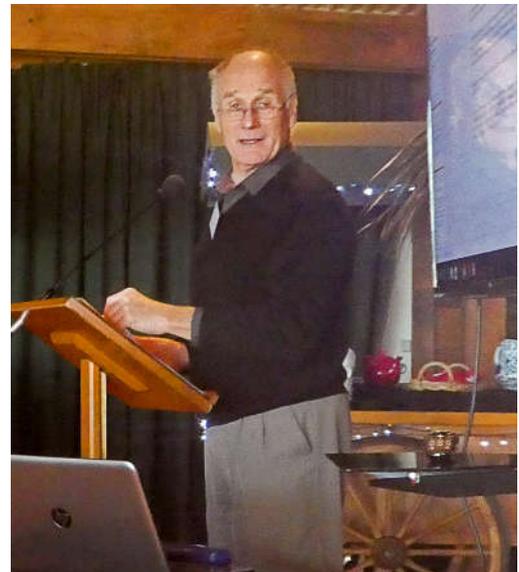
Newsletter Wellington Branch October 2017

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2020: Centenary of the GSA

To mark the Centenary of the GSA the Association has commissioned Professor Roger Openshaw (Massey University) to write its history. At our Mid-winter lunch at 'The Pines' Island Bay, Roger gave a talk on his work.

He began his address by outlining some of the research questions that will help shape the history. He reminded us that his book will focus on the GSA rather than the Government Superannuation Fund (GSF) as such, because a book by Neil Atkinson – *Rewarding Service: a history of the Government Superannuation Fund*, published in 2002, already deals with the history of the Fund. Roger pointed out that published histories of organisations such as GSA are typically ranged along a continuum. At one end of this continuum are publications comprised largely of snippets and vignettes, both informative and amusing, thus highlighting the experiences of individual members at various times. At the other end are publications that, in addition to highlighting the lived experiences of the membership, attempt to go beyond this in order to demonstrate for example, just how the organisation has evolved over time, how it has met various challenges, and with what success. The aim here is to incorporate a critical analysis that, whilst recording personal experiences and views, might in addition make such a history more relevant for a contemporary readership.



Roger intends to make use of interviews with key GSA members, thus recording for posterity the diverse and multi-faceted experiences of those who have contributed so much to the Association over the years at both branch and national level. To this end the various GSA branches have identified significant individuals who might provide some valuable insights into the workings of the Association at both regional and national level.

In addition there are a number of useful written sources, both published and unpublished, that will inform the GSA History Project. Newspapers and various periodicals can be accessed through research tools such as *Papers Past*. In Wellington, Alexander-Turnbull Library holds an extensive manuscript collection including many personal papers relevant to the project. Extensive Archives New Zealand files emanating from the Government Superannuation Board, the former Departments of Social Welfare, Treasury and Railways, together with records from the State Services Commission, are proving particularly valuable in providing a wider context for the various initiatives and submissions presented over the years by GSA.

The sources Roger will use then are extensive in nature. As with all historical evidence, however, it will ultimately be the task of the historian to interweave intelligently this diverse material into a coherent, informative and lively account.

AGM – Wellington Branch GSA

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Petone Working Men's Club Tuesday 23 May 2017 at 11 am and was followed by lunch.

Elizabeth Smaal, Branch Chair, welcomed 64 members and presented her annual report noting the branch membership stood at 5,400, an increase of 345 over the previous year, the biggest branch in the country. She mentioned that the two key issues facing the association are firstly, the 100% COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment) and our Association's continuing efforts to make the government keep its promise to our members who are not receiving the full annual adjustment and, secondly the importance of recruiting new members. Then GSA president Janice Campbell addressed the meeting and provided a national perspective especially regarding the review of the association's future. Ian Clunies-Ross spoke about the initiatives to recruit new members and Graham Hill outlined the programme for SuperTravels.

Elizabeth thanked Maggie Lee and the branch committee for all their hard work and the staff of the National office of the GSA for their continuing support.

Officers 2017/18

Chair: Ian Clunies-Ross
Deputy Chair: Peter Chambers

Branch Committee: Janice Campbell, Peter Chambers, Kevin Duggan, Wilf Haskell, Graham Hill, Colin Macintosh, Kay Monks, Elizabeth Smaal, Mike Smith, Bryan Whisker, Ray Woolhouse.

Secretary: Maggie Lee

Life Members:

Virginia Breen, Marie Byrne, Peter Chambers, Allen Hair, Howard Halley, Bruce Kelly, Brian McKeown, Alan McMaster, Gray Nelson, Jack Price, Bill Robertson, Elizabeth Smaal, Mike Smith, Leicester Stewart, Peter Stewart, Terence Stock, Ian Swift, David Thorp, Jim Turner, Bryan Whisker, Priscilla Williams, Ray Woolhouse

Elizabeth Smaal –Life Membership

At this year's Council meeting Elizabeth was elected a life member for her outstanding work and leadership within the Association. An extract from the nominating citation stated:

After raising a family in Nelson followed by a teaching career culminating as Principal of Nelson College for Girls, Elizabeth moved to Wellington as Practice Manager for Deloitte before becoming very involved in administration for the Anglican Church both in the Diocese of Wellington and nationally. Elected as a Wellington Branch committee member in 2011 she then served as Branch Chair from 2014 to 2017 and served on the Board workshop for National policy issues on Taxation. Elizabeth was the Branch delegate for four Council meetings during one of which the Constitution was amended to change the requirement for Wellington representatives on the Board. Through her leadership as Chair, at a time when the financial relationship with the shared National Office was renegotiated, she was instrumental in the Branch becoming financially secure after many years of marginal operation. During her time as Chair, Elizabeth was involved in establishing and is a trustee of the MacKenzie trust set up for the benefit of Wellington GSA members. We are fortunate she continues to serve as a member of the Branch committee.



Elizabeth Smaal receiving Life Membership of the GSA from President Janice Campbell at Council

Travel Mobility

In August our President Janice Campbell proved to us all that restricted mobility is no barrier to travel. Janice and husband Colin McIntosh travelled to Europe and cruised up the Danube from Budapest and then down the Rhine to Amsterdam. She said 'In the last few years I had to use a wheel chair. This year we bought a TravelScoot powered by battery. This tricycle is much lighter than a traditional wheelchair and folds up to fit in the car boot. I was able to move around the ship and go with the walking tours up inclines, across cobblestones, into shops and even drive onto buses, trains and taxis in Amsterdam and London.'



GSA President Janice Campbell and her travel scooter

The TravelScoot folds up and is very light once the compact 2 kg battery is detached. As with all mobility devices there is no cost to take them on planes and other transport. Most countries are aware that the elderly make up an increasing number of travellers and provision for them is increasing.

Christmas Luncheon 2017

We hope you will be able to join us for the Christmas function. Please note that you are welcome to bring a friend to the luncheon; it is not restricted to members. It will be held at the Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club, 11 Logan Street, Upper Hutt on **Thursday 23 November 2017**, from midday to 2:00 pm approximately. The price is \$29 per person. There is parking available at the Club. A return free bus will be provided to the Club from the Wellington Railway Station, departing Platform 9 at 11:00 am.

Please return the slip on the insert to this Newsletter to "Wellington Branch, PO Box 11993, Manners St, Wellington 6142" no later than Thursday 16 November.

Recruitment and Retention

The Wellington Branch will over the next year focus on recruiting amongst the pre-annuitant group. Nationally there are around 8,000 government super members in work but less than 500 are members of the GSA. It seems most who do join only start thinking about doing so when they retire. Pre-annuitants need to know what their super entitlements are well before they start their retirement and their annuity is finally fixed. The GSA can and has provided substantial assistance to pre-annuitants in appeals relating to the GSFA interpretation of what constitutes salary for superannuation purposes.

Our ability to make contact with the pre-annuitant group has always been a problem but the GSA is committed to doing so. To that end it has approached the State Services Commissioner to ask for help in contacting these people.

It is just as important to look after the current membership. Over the next year the Wellington Branch hopes to develop its contacts with members via a telephone network. The purpose of the network would be for volunteers to personally call to provide information and, if appropriate, to assess members opinions.

Currently the Branch has an electronic database of the names of all its members but few phone numbers. For a network to be effective it needs phone numbers and a postal code. The aim is, using the postal code to group members according to locations. You can help us build up our database by contacting the Wellington Branch secretary Maggie Lee and providing the detail listed below. Your assistance will be appreciated.

Email: **wellington@gsa.org.nz**
Subject: **Network**
Giving your: **Surname and Given name(s)**
Phone number, and
Postal Code

Or

Telephone: **0800 888 472**

Let's give this a go!



SuperTravels

SuperTravels organised tours lasting several days, and also day trips for several years. However, at the Annual General Meeting on 30 June 2017 the meeting decided that SuperTravels be disbanded. This was the inevitable consequence of insufficient people being willing to fill important positions on the Committee to assist with the planning, and arranging tours and trips. If you were involved with SuperTravels, and its predecessor SuperTours, the Committee thank you for your support in several ways, such as attending annual meetings, serving on the committee, acting as a tour leader, and as a participant on the many tours that operated over many years.

Wellington Branch Railway Social Club

This is an informal group of former employees of Railways and GSA members wishing to attend our functions will be most welcome.

Our Christmas luncheon will be held at Petone Workingmen's Club on Wednesday

6 December 2017 at 12.15pm.

Cost \$19.90 per person.

For bookings please contact Leicester Stewart, Wellington (ph. 04 567 2484 or mobile 027 345 5030).

A booking is essential and must be made at least two days before the function – late bookings are not accepted.

Contacts for annuity matters

GSF enquiries

GSF Administrator, Datacom Employer Services Ltd, PO Box 3614, Wellington 6140

Phones: 04 470 6348

0800 654 731

Email gsf@datacom.co.nz

Website www.datacomgsf.co.nz

NPF enquiries

NPF Administrator, Datacom Employer Services Ltd, PO Box 1036, Wellington 6140

Phones: 04 381 0650

0800 628 776

Email npfenquiries@datacom.co.nz

Website www.datacomnpf.co.nz

It is a good idea to have your annuity number handy when you make any enquiry. It can be found on any Datacom letter addressed to the annuitant.

Annuity News

The Annuity News and this Branch Newsletter are sent to you twice a year in May and October. If you are missing either documents contact the Branch secretary (contact details on the front page). Also available are pamphlets with important information about your annuity. If you require further clarification you may contact the Executive Officer, Alan Peck.



Change of address

Please let the Secretary know if there are any changes to your personal details. You can update these yourself at www.gsa.org.nz. From the homepage select "Update Details" and enter your annuity number and last name, then select the 'update details' box. Note that while your changes will be recorded, they will **not** be updated immediately as they will be checked for consistency before being implemented.

It is very important to advise Datacom immediately of any changes to your address and/or bank account details. Where mail is returned 'gone no address', or bank accounts are closed, Datacom will make reasonable efforts to try to locate you. If you cannot be located, your annuity may be suspended until contact is re-established.

"To me old age is always fifteen years older than I am". Bernard Baruch

In conclusion

Your Wellington branch committee looks forward to meeting and greeting you at the Christmas function. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy year ahead.