



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 21st November 2019 commencing at 11:15 a.m.

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

The menu will provide a choice of roast beef or pork and battered fish. A range of hot vegetables and cold salads will be available from the self-service buffet. There will be a choice of festive desserts available for purchase at your cost. Tea and coffee will be available free.

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

The cost to each attendee will be \$10.00 payable at the door. The branch is subsidising the balance of the cost of the main meal

RSVP please to Marian Barclay on 06 343 2789 or to Marian's email address jmbarclay10@gmail.com by **Friday the 16th November 2019** 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.

Wanganui Branch

November 2019

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT for CHRISTMAS MEETING

Brian Algar and I attended the Annual Council meeting in Wellington. Each of the 19 GSA branches usually sends 2 delegates to this important event. The GSA council and the elected board discuss our current policies and set future directions for our organisation. One of the main tasks of the GSA is to safeguard the provisions of the superannuation fund for all our members. Our scheme is known as a "deferred benefit scheme". Government do not like these types of schemes as they are a binding financial commitment. We rely on the integrity of future Governments to continue to keep their promise to public servants by not making any major changes to our entitlements. Some of the important topics at the Annual Council meeting included:

***Viability of the GSA**

The viable future of the GSA. Reduction in membership due to natural attrition. We need to keep recruiting new members. Various actions/options were discussed. More information to follow.

***100% Cola Petition**

Our petition to the Finance and Expenditure Select Committee to get 100% COLA payments for about 6000 annuitants who missed out getting the full adjustment, was successful. We now have to keep the pressure on the Minister of Finance to find the extra money.

***Subscription increase remit**

The remit to increase the subscriptions by 30c per pay day (\$3.90per year) **was lost (40 to 25)**. The larger city branches voted against it, while the smaller city branches were mostly in favour. I was disappointed as we need a healthy bank balance in order to keep our organisation viable and effective.

***Centennial of GSA**

The centennial booklet has been completed by Roger Openshaw. Part of the book will show how perceptions of our organisation have changed over time by using political cartoons from different eras to demonstrate this. We need to think about how our branch would like to celebrate the 100 years. Any ideas? Let a committee member know if you have.

***Election of Board.**

Tony Hamilton continues as our president with Alan Straker as vice president. Our past Executive Officer Alan Peck was a newly elected Board member, with Rob Brangwin, Dallas Elvy, Mike Smith, and Marjorie Thomas being re-elected for a further term.

***Finance.**

The Board has addressed the financial concerns that were discussed at the 2018 Council meeting. We now have in place a 'fit for purpose' system whereby we can supply an accurate, timely, set of reviewed accounts.

Further information on both the Board activities and GSA goals, policies, and support services can be found on the web site (www.gsa.org.NZ), in the Annuity News, or by using the free 0800 888 472. number.

Our national organisation is only as strong as our branches. Each branch needs an effective group of people, who are willing to be on the local committee. A few of our members have served on the committee for a number of years. We need their expertise but at the same time, we need "new blood" for us to be a viable and useful committee of the GSA. Please consider putting your name forward at our AGM in May. National President Tony will be attending this meeting planned for May 20th 2020.

The Branch would like to acknowledge the passing of Nola Crawford earlier this year. Nola was a life member of the Wanganui Branch of GSA and served as our secretary/treasurer for many years.

If you change your address please advise Datacom. Freephone 0800 654 731 or email gsf@datacom.co.nz or raglen411@gmail.com Also contact your branch secretary Neil Elgar- phone (06) 345 7239 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.

I would like to thank our current committee for the work they do on your behalf. During the year Vicki Milliken resigned from our committee. Thank you for your work as Almoner. I wish everyone well in your future endeavours. All the best for the future, enjoy Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

Trevor Hall
Chairperson