



JUNE 2023 NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING MEETINGS THE HUB, 33 JOHNSONVILLE RD 7 for 7:30 pm

<p>Wednesday 21 June</p> <p><i>Finding the Staffordshire-born Ackley Children in Canada</i></p> <p>Rodney King</p>	<p>Wednesday 19 July</p> <p><i>On Scottish Resources: 'In Search of Scotland'</i></p> <p>Doug Miller</p>	<p>Tuesday 15 August, 5:30 for 6:00 pm</p> <p>'A quick pivot': Family History Resources at Wellington City Libraries (venue: National Library Auditorium)</p> <p>Gabor Toth</p>
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CONVENOR'S CORNER

Kia ora koutou

Well, I tentatively said to Ann, who asked me last year to join the committee, maybe I could help, and now I find myself Convenor! However, I am glad to be involved. I have enjoyed our speaker programme and it's lovely to meet others and talk about family history. The Committee are a hardworking, talented and committed group of people and with Robin and me joining and Prue not leaving till later in the year, we will be able to spread the workload a bit.

Like many organisations, we are faced with a declining membership, but I'm keen to do what we can to retain you, our current members, and attract new members. After all the interest in family history is growing! I am keen to hear about how we could make membership of the Wellington branch more valuable to you, so please email or phone me or catch me at the meetings

and let me know what is working and what could be better.

Prue, supported by other committee members, has been very involved in helping set up this year's Family History Month. Please see the programme later in the newsletter. I do hope that you will be able to come along to at least some of the talks. Also note that because of August being Family History Month, the Wellington Branch's August meeting will NOT be on the normal day of the week, at the normal time, or at the normal venue. See the information above under 'Upcoming Meetings'.

I understand that Rodney King spoke at the AGM about the changes to Rule 12 of the NZSG constitution. In effect this means that branches and interest groups will become more independent, so we don't get caught up in any potential financial challenges of NZSG. It therefore means we need to have our own constitution and consider applying to be an Incorporated Society. The committee will prepare a constitution and probably come to the July meeting with a draft for approval. This will simply document what we already do and comply with the legislation. The Wellington branch is already a registered charity.

I look forward to seeing you at our June meeting.

Geraldine Needham-Girven
Convenor, Wellington Branch

IN THIS NEWSLETTER

p 2 May's Speaker: Claire Bibby, *Extraordinary stories from Glenside and Halfway House*

pp 3-4 Getting to know you

p 4 *My African Ancestor* Geraldine Needham-Girven;
& Items of Interest from *WDYTYA*, Doug Miller

p 5 Family History Month: August 2023

p 6 *Don't believe everything you're told*, Christine Franzen

p 7 Book Review & What's on at your local branch?

P 8 Wellington Branch News, Directory

May's Speaker: Claire Bibby

EXTRAORDINARY STORIES FROM GLENSIDE AND HALFWAY HOUSE

This talk had generated quite a lot of interest and drew one of our largest audiences. A lot of people knew a little something about Glenside and Halfway House: they used to live near Glenside, or they'd seen the sign on the road. Others knew quite a lot: they had visited the heritage gardens or had ancestors who had lived in one of the places known as Halfway House. Claire Bibby was an enthusiastic proponent, and many of us left vowing to visit, especially the gardens during Festival Week (Mon 23 Oct through Sun 5 Nov 2023).

Most, including me, wondered about the odd name, the Halfway House. Apparently it was a common name in Britain for coaching inns or accommodation houses which were located halfway between two major stops. The name came along with the flood of British immigrants to Wellington starting in 1840. The first Halfway House was halfway between Wellington and Porirua, and Glenside itself was known as The Halfway because of its location on the route north. The house, owned by the Walls from 1841-49, provided accommodation for travellers from this very early date. A second house, built in 1880, replaced the earlier one and still stands, though much repaired and renovated. It's not clear whether the earliest houses were built as accommodation inns or were simply family homes which took in travellers.

The exceptionally good website, www.glenside.org.nz, is, first of all, a Glenside community website, but with two 'buttons' on the banner across the top which are very important for genealogists: one, labelled 'HALFWAY HOUSE', leads to a page with a side bar with 'Halfway House' (a section mainly on its restoration and archaeological finds) and 'House History' (a section on families that lived there). But for genealogists, the 'HERITAGE' button is the most important one and leads to a side bar with sections on 'Identities' and 'Early settlers'. These include **exceptionally** well documented histories of these families (not specifically associated with the Halfway House) including personal reminiscences and privately held photos not available elsewhere.

One of the stories Claire told which particularly appealed was that of Thomas Bevan who stayed at the Halfway House, aged 9, in 1845. He, his parents, and several siblings had left London in Oct 1840, but by the time they arrived in Wellington in March 1841, his mother and a number of siblings had died, leaving his father with four young children to look after. His father became a rope maker in Te Aro, but trouble with flax supplies prompted him to move north of Otaki. He left the children with a relation intending that they be sent to join him by ship. Unfortunately a storm forced the ship back into the Harbour, and Thomas and his siblings fled the ship and hid until it left. His father sent a trusted Maori guide, Ropina, to lead them back. The journey on foot took 6 days, with Ropina carrying the youngest child much of the way. They spent the first night in Halfway House as Thomas Bevan later wrote in *The Reminiscences of An Old Colonist [1907]*:

'Our first day's journey brought us to Mr. and Mrs. Wall's house at Takapau, called in those days "The Half-way House." Those two kind settlers were very good to us, gave us food and shelter, and made up a bed for us in front of the fire-place.'

Finally their journey ended: 'Arriving at the pa a great cry of welcome arose from the Natives, who assembled to

meet us, and then we were led by our guide to our father.'

Thomas Bevan remained in Waikawa all his life, farming and rope making. I was astonished to learn that his ropes won prizes as far away as Vienna!

Many thanks to Claire for introducing us to such an important place in early Wellington history.



GETTING TO KNOW YOU

I'd like to make this a permanent feature of the newsletter. It's a chance for us to find out about each other's backgrounds, family history journeys, interests, and goals. We can learn so much from each other, and, indeed, isn't that one of the main reasons why the Wellington Branch exists? It should also help us as a Branch see what you want and need from us. First to contribute are the new members of our Branch Committee.

Geraldine Needham-Girven, Convenor: I haven't been a member of the Wellington branch for very long so many of you will not know me. I live in Khandallah with my husband and twin 20-year-old sons. I also have an older son and grandson who live in Melbourne. My family (parents and sister) emigrated from Essex, England to Auckland when I was 8. I worked in the public service until last year when I retired. Rotary, Johnsonville Citizens Advice Bureau and the Onslow Historical Society as well as yoga, pilates, reading and socialising all keep me busy. I have been researching my family history since the late 1980s, originally working with my first son going through the microfiche at Auckland Public Library! My Dad and his ancestors were from the East End of London and other family are from the South East corner of England. I have just discovered that my great-great-grandfather's brother, Robert Needham, came to Wellington in 1874, so it is exciting to see if I can find any relatives. I also research my husband's family and have met up with several people across NZ and Australia who are researching the Butcher family. I look forward to meeting more of you.

Robin Mossman, Secretary: My interest in genealogy started many years ago when I started collecting random bits and pieces about our families. My mother-in-law had an exhaustive memory for her family stories, many of which were true! As often happens, once the word got around all sorts of information started coming my way. Much of it was written down so I have some lovely essays and letters in family members' handwriting. My intention is to publish the stories for our grandchildren.

I joined the NZSG early on and after the children left home, I became involved in transcribing work under the leadership of Carole Devereux. This has continued and the team are in the final stages of transcribing the Dominion Post death notices for 2019. Until recently we lived on Waiheke Island, where Rex and I transcribed the Onetangi Lawn Cemetery, complete with comparisons to the Council records and photographs of each memorial. Did you know that Jim Anderton is buried there?

Shortly moving to Wellington, I received an email inviting me to come along to a Wellington Branch meeting. I dropped in and was amazed at the hard work put in by the committee to produce the stunningly good newsletter and interesting programme of speakers. The position of secretary has been vacant for a while, hopefully having somebody doing the job will enable the committee to continue to serve up such a great programme.

I am particularly pleased to have contributions from three of our newest members:



Rae Nicholl: My mother was born in 1920 in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India, and spent the first eight years of her life in the Bengal city of Calcutta. My grandfather had married into a prosperous Armenian family and baby Joan lived a life of privilege that included a personal *ayah*, who washed and ironed her clothes overnight, and a *punkawallah* who operated the ceiling fan to keep her cool as she slept. My mother was never able to return to India but the country was imbedded in her genes. She asked me many times to interview her but I was always too busy. Of course, I wish now that I had because, in desperation, she set up the tape-recorder and interviewed herself. Her delivery was wooden and she left out well-known stories and evaded topics that made her uncomfortable. But having heard her stories many times, they are in my head. As I age, my terrible fear is that Alzheimer's is just around the corner and if/when that day comes her stories will be lost forever. Luckily, the history of the Armenian Apcar family has been well-served by the web and I don't need to create a family tree but I do need to get my mother's stories down on paper in a coherent and readable form. And that is why I have joined the Wellington Branch of the NZSG. I have been dabbling with this project for decades and now I need advice, ideas and, hopefully, encouragement, to help me see the way forward to turn my family history into something that is not only lively and enjoyable to read but is also rigorous, as far as is possible.



Max Kennedy: Although I have dabbled in genealogy for decades, I have enjoyed giving more time to researching my family in retirement. Some in the family are related to placenames in New Zealand; **Thomas Kennedy** and **Sophia Streeter**, who lived at and gave their name to Kennedys Bush in the Port Hills, Christchurch, and **Thomas Jones** and **Ann Traill** who travelled on the ship Bombay to New Zealand, which the Bombay Hills just south of Auckland are named after. Sometimes I am lucky and have family diaries from the 1800s and in other instances I know nothing about the ancestor concerned. I have found DNA very successful in the search. I still struggle with things – how to turn meagre often dry facts into an entertaining story or how to prioritize (how wide should I investigate my tree or should I focus on direct ancestors); etc. I have specific roadblocks e.g. how to get crew lists of whaling ships coming from the USA to New

Zealand in the 1830s. I am keen to explore the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and natural language processing (NLP) in genealogy. If anyone has any ideas or experience, please get in touch. I very much enjoy the thrill of the chase involved in getting information and the discovery aspect of genealogy. Biographer **Richard Holmes** uses the expression “*handshake across time*” to describe the written link with previous generations. Genealogy is about family links and their stories. It is very important and rewarding to get to know my ancestors by shaking their hands across time.

Gerard (Gerry) Pratley: I am interested in people’s lives and their culture, their heritage, from where they have come. I am New Zealand born, from Wellington, and my parents were also New Zealand born. My father’s heritage is Anglican English from a Cotswolds village in Oxfordshire called Milton under Wychwood. Also there is some Swedish Scandinavian heritage. My mother’s heritage is Irish Catholic from Roscommon and other areas of Ireland, and the border river region of Scotland. Big thanks for the work you do. I am interested in what other people have to say about their own lives, heritage, and culture.



‘Grandma’ Mary Ann Chittenden
née Forster
b. 20 Jan 1847, d. 29 Oct 1940

MY AFRICAN ANCESTOR By Geraldine Needham-Girven

My mother was seven when her great-grandmother died, and so she remembers her. Luckily a few photos have survived. Grandma Chittenden was small and dark and had no teeth, and lived until she was 93.

According to Mum, the family story was that her great-grandfather was in the navy (true) and had met his wife in Malta and brought her back (not true). Mary Ann Forster (my 2X great-grandmother) was born on 20 January 1847 in Portsea Island, Portsmouth. Her parents were Edward Coriden Forster and Mary Ann Robbins. Edward was described on both documents as a seaman. His navy record shows that when he enlisted in 1854, he had a dark complexion and hair and black eyes but when he reenlisted in 1861, he was described as black complexion, hair, and eyes.

I was intrigued by this and then when DNA became available it became clear that all my relatives on my mother’s side have some East African DNA. At the time of writing my mother has 4% Ivory Coast and Ghana, and I have 2% Ivory Coast and Ghana and 1% Benin and Togo. I take the actual numbers with a grain of salt but given all the evidence, we believe we have African ancestry.

So where did Edward come from? Well, he was born on 10 June 1814 in London, and baptised on 6 July 1814 in St Marylebone. His parents were Junius Coriden, a servant, and Mary Ann Forster, who married in 1813 in St Marylebone. Junius

Coriden was buried in 1820 in St Marylebone, aged 60. Mary Ann Forster was buried on 30 December 1828, also in St Marylebone.

Our theory is that Junius might have been brought as a servant to London from the Caribbean, as many Africans were taken from Africa to the Caribbean as slaves. According to *Black England: A Forgotten Georgian History* by Gretchen Gerzina, published 2022, there were about 15,000 black servants in London in the late 1700s. The only earlier record we have found for names like Junius Coriden is a baptism in Jamaica in 1783 for Junius Coryton. It is the wrong date, but it is at least a similar name in the Caribbean. I may never know for sure, but I am proud of my African heritage.

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM *WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE*

Issue 200, February 2023 Compiled by Doug Miller

Ancestry www.ancestry.com has added about 95,000 probate records from Hampshire covering the years 1398 to 1858.

FindmyPast www.findmypast.co.uk has added about 129,000 Royal Navy records.

A very useful article noting the *WDYTYA* editor’s most useful tips for researching one’s family.

A ‘*Best Websites*’ article on the best online resources to research the history of a house.

A ‘*Focus On*’ article on Nursing Records in England and Wales.

A ‘*Record Masterclass*’ article on nonconformist marriage records.

A ‘*Tech Tips*’ article on getting the most out of your searches of the 1921 Scottish census.

A feature on the family history resources in Yorkshire. An interesting article about the Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Archives. In the Victorian era the city authorities were quite concerned about the number of juvenile offenders. Hhmm . . interesting!

For other items of interest in this and future issues it is worthwhile joining the Wellington Branch *Round Robin* magazine list. For details contact Ann Ball at 027-641 0646 or ball@xtra.co.nz

COMING SOON

FAMILY HISTORY MONTH: AUGUST 2023

For Family History Month August 2023 the Wellington branches of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists have partnered with the National Library to bring you a series of four talks. Whether you are experienced or just beginning your family history journey, there will be something in the programme to help you on your family history journey.

Tuesday 1 August

Starting your Genealogical Journey with the NZSG

Sarah Hewitt will take you through how to get started on your family history.

Tuesday 8 August

What to do when you've done your DNA?

Ann Ball and Kaye Batchelor will help you take the next steps after your DNA test.

Tuesday 15 August

'A quick pivot': family history resources at Wellington City Libraries

Gabor Toth, will talk about family history resources pre-and-post the closure of the Central Library.

Tuesday 22 August

Family history research using Papers Past and DigitalNZ

Learn how these online resources can help you to enrich and share family history stories, with Kelly Dix (DigitalNZ) and Jason Murphy (Papers Past).

5:30pm for 6:00pm start at the Taiwhanga Kaihau – Auditorium, National Library of New Zealand, Aitken Street entrance or online

WELLINGTON BRANCH
AUGUST MEETING



Every August is Family History Month, and the meeting schedule is different. This year the four Wellington Branches (Kilbirnie, Porirua, Wellington, and Hutt Valley) are hosting a series of talks on **Tuesdays**.

Wellington Branch's August meeting will be on TUESDAY 15 AUGUST at the National Library Auditorium, at 5:30 for 6:00. Our monthly meetings will return to their normal day, time, and venue in September.

We will be asking for volunteers to look after the tea, coffee, and nibbles table and to sell raffle tickets for the **Tuesday 15 August** meeting. We hope as many members as possible will attend this and indeed all four sessions. Non-members are warmly invited to attend. There is no charge.

For more information, join Wellington Family History Month | Facebook.

All four talks will be available to watch on Zoom. Check the Facebook page or <https://natlib.govt.nz/events> nearer the time for the Zoom links.

MY BEST RESEARCH TIPS, #1: DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU'RE TOLD

I think the first time I actively sought out information about my father's family was when I was 16, shortly after my mother died. My father was the fifth of nine children, and his siblings all came to Detroit from New Jersey for her funeral. We didn't see all that much of them normally, maybe once every 2 or 3 years, and not all of them at once. They were unmistakably Italian. They all talked very loudly at the same time. The four sisters feuded. Everyone had very strong opinions about everything. When we did go 'out East' to visit them, we stayed with Aunt Sara, the eldest sister and matriarch. A cousin about my age would come and stay when I was there, and we would share a double bed. She asked me once (when we were about 8) why I wasn't saying my prayers, and I said I didn't say prayers. 'Why not?' 'I'm not Catholic.' She got up and found Aunt Sara. My cousin was refusing to sleep with me because I was not Catholic. My aunt was not going to tolerate this, but probably secretly agreed with her. 'Christine's mother is a saint even if she isn't a Catholic and I love her more than my own sisters. Get back in bed.' My cousin did so. About 20 years later she became a Mormon and did all the family history.

Seeing them *en masse* over a couple of days for the funeral made my sister and me wonder where the Franzen family was from and why they had come to America. Once everyone had left, we asked my father. He said they were a wealthy aristocratic family from Alsace-Lorraine (the name, Franzen, is German). Depending on who had won the last war, they identified as either French or German. At the point my grandfather was deciding on a career, it must have been the French, because he went to Paris to study to be a high-fashion couturier. He went on a holiday to Naples and met a poor orphan peasant girl and fell in love. He told his parents he wanted to marry her and they said if he did, they would disown him. He did and they did. And that was how he ended up in America, a poor tailor. It was a very sad story, but explained why they were Italian with a



Aunt Sara (1900—90)

German surname. There wasn't much else German about them, though.



My father (1903-85), about 15

About 10 years later, on my way to come to live in NZ, I went to New Jersey on my own to say good-bye to my German-Italian relations. As usual I stayed with Aunt Sara. I asked her if she could tell me more about her parents and the family, and Alsace-Lorraine, etc. 'What?' she said. 'Alsace-Lorraine,' I said. And I told her what my father had told us. 'That is a total cock and bull story,' she shouted! 'Your father is the biggest liar in the world! If you want to know anything about this family, you ask me, not your father! We're Sicilian and proud of it! Your father spoke Sicilian long before he spoke English.' It took quite a while for her to calm down, and I didn't feel like pressing her on the subject of family history any further.

In bits and pieces I found out more later: the 'German' name, Franzen, was just an anglicised version of the original name, Franzone. When the eldest son,

Francesco Franzone, went out to find work in New Jersey, he became Frank Franzen (first generation Americans wanted to be as American as possible), and the rest of the family followed. (A cousin has recently legally changed his name back to Franzone.) Now I understand the US census records better. My grandfather, Gaetano (Thomas) Franzone, arrived in the USA in 1896 speaking no English; his wife Grazia and the two eldest sons arrived in 1897.

The first census, in 1900, gave his wife's first name as Milfa, which was actually her maiden name. The second son

Fransone, Thomas	Head	M	Mar	1866	33	M	8		Italy
Milfa	Wife	W	Mar	Feb. 1875	25	M	8	3	Italy
Frank	Son	W	Mar	1894	6				Italy
Millie	Son	W	Mar	1895	5				Italy
Xaver	Son	W	Mar	1898	2				Italy

was listed as Millie, and the third as Xaver. I knew them as Uncle Emil and Uncle Arthur. Clearly my grandfather was having a lot of

trouble making himself understood to the census-taker. But it wasn't just that: Uncle Arthur had been christened Salvatore, which is closer to Xaver. I guess he didn't like Salvatore because he was Otto on all records from 1910 (aged 12) until 1930 when, age 32, he became Arthur. The second son, Millie, had been christened Carmelo in Sicily. By 1910 he was Emil. Carmelo was a family name, as was Salvatore. And Aunt Sara, born shortly after the 1900 census, was originally 'Rosaria', after her mother's mother. But they were all Italian names and had to go.

By Christine Franzen

To be continued next month: **MY BEST RESEARCH TIPS, #2: VISIT YOUR ANCESTRAL HOMELAND**

TALKING ABOUT BOOKS

Review of *Kiss Myself Goodbye: The Many Lives of Aunt Munca* by Ferdinand Mount (Bloomsbury Continuum: 2020). Available to borrow from four Wellington Branch libraries and Libby; available to buy on Amazon, etc. Review by Christine Franzen

This is a true story, although almost all of it seems unbelievable: family history crammed full of secrets and problems guaranteed to stymie researchers and fascinate readers, centred on a woman who ‘never told the truth about anything’ (p. 115). That isn’t really an exaggeration. She changed her name several times, made up a father, passed her son off as a brother or nephew, adopted a daughter and pretended she had given birth to her. I don’t want to give too much away because part of the immense pleasure of reading this book is discovering a new horrifying or amazing development on every page.



The author is the nephew by marriage (and also godson) of ‘Aunt Munca’, a nickname for Aunt Betty Mount. She married his father’s younger brother. The author (b. 1939) and his sister (b. 1941) spent almost all their childhood holidays in Surrey with their aunt and uncle. They were fun, rich, affectionate, generous, and had exciting friends, very unlike their parents. None of the ‘eccentricities’ of her life were known to them at the time. He did wonder how old she was and where all the money came from, but only rather idly.

Decades later, contact from an elderly distant cousin wanting to gossip and pass things on and from a cousin Lyn in NZ in 2006 set the author off trying to find out more about his mysterious and fascinating aunt by marriage. He undertook all the normal genealogical searches: BDMs, census records, GRO, National Archives, newspapers, court records, etc. Searches like these will only get you so far. And if the information you are searching on isn’t correct, that isn’t very far at all. His biggest breakthrough came completely by chance. Doing research on a different project, he misremembered what journal the article he was trying to find was in. Opening the wrong journal he found instead an article on Charters House in Berkshire, and sat down to read it because the house was very near the prep school he had attended. Charters House was finished in 1938, commissioned by the immensely wealthy Frank Parkinson, with a completely modernist exterior. The interior, however, was 18th century and, according to the article, had been done by ‘Mrs G R Mount’, that is, the author’s Aunt Betty. He had no idea she was ever an interior designer let alone involved in what would have been the biggest private commission in England of the decade. This eventually led him to a previously unknown sister Doris, who had married the immensely wealthy Frank Parkinson and wasn’t a compulsive liar. Through the sister’s records, the extraordinary story began to unfold.

I really can’t recommend this book too highly. The author takes us through many aspects of British social culture in the early to mid-20th century in search of answers: petrolheads and car racing; Gloucestershire County cricket; architecture and interior design; Sheffield at its worst (coal mining and knife grinding) and best (textile magnates); privilege and poverty. Famous people wander through: Diana Dors, T S Eliot (writing *The Wasteland* in a flat above Aunt Betty), Prince Andrew and Fergie, The Duke and Duchess of Windsor, Cliff Richard, the illustrator of *1066 and All That* (one of her husbands). One reviewer called it a tragicomedy, and the emotional damage she caused to some of those she abandoned or smothered was considerable. But much of it is extremely funny, and it is a delightfully written and fascinating genealogical story, even recommended by Hilary Mantel (see photo).

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WHAT’S ON AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH?

<p>KILBIRNIE Thursday 6 July 19th Birthday meeting and Surnames Exercise ‘What’s in a Name?’ Matairangi Room, Ākau Tangi Sports Centre, 72 Kemp St 10 am</p>	<p>PORIRUA Wednesday 12 July Luke Howison <i>Ancestor Search Helper Website</i> (& Find a Grave) Helen Smith Room, Patata Art + Museum, Porirua 7 for 7:30 pm</p>	<p>HUTT VALLEY Thursday 15 June Lynly Yates <i>The Streets of Upper Hutt</i> The Masonic Centre, 65 Udy St Petone 7 for 7:30 pm</p>	<p>KAPITI Tuesday 27 June Maggie Gaffney <i>Tracing Property in England from Domesday to present day</i> Coast Community Church, 57 Hinemoa St, Paraparaumu 7 pm</p>
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WELLINGTON BRANCH NEWS



At our Annual General Meeting in April, our outgoing Branch Convenor, Prue Theobald, was presented with a 'Valued Service Award' for excellent service to the Branch from 2013 to 2023 (Left, with Ann Ball). Prue has been a member of the committee for all but one of those years, and convenor for the last five. She has dedicated much time and energy to that role, convening and attending meetings, writing reports, and helping organise Family History Month every August, along with many other tasks. Perhaps her most notable achievement was, with the help of others, organising the very successful 50th anniversary celebration of Wellington Branch in 2020. Prue is remaining on the committee until she moves to Levin later this year. Many thanks, Prue, for your service, and all the best for the future.

WELLINGTON BRANCH COMMITTEE 2023-24



Top from left:
Geraldine, Christine, Robin, Ann
Bottom from left:
Barbara, Prue, Kaye

Also at the AGM we elected a new Committee. We are very pleased to have seven committee members now instead of five and to have a Secretary after several years with that position vacant. Warmest welcome to our new Convenor, Geraldine, and new Secretary, Robin. We have had our first committee meeting and are grateful for their ideas, perspectives, and technological innovations. Already central storage has been set up for our branch documents, and these are being moved over and organised. Work on a constitution has begun. Out-of-date links and other inconsistencies in references have been identified and are being fixed. Publicity, both for our meetings and for our branch, is being given a higher priority in order to attract new members. We will also be promoting to current members existing services such as our branch library and name and special interests lists.

Despite a drop in total membership, the Wellington Branch is in a healthy state. Most of those who have not renewed their membership had attended few, if any, meetings in the last year. We retain a good-sized core of members who attend at least half the meetings. Our expenses are not high because our meeting venue is free. And we are very pleased to welcome three new members: Gerard Pratley, Rae Nicholl, and Jacqui Bridges.

Many thanks to those who have contributed to this newsletter: Geraldine and Robin from the committee, Doug Miller with 'Items of Interest from *WDYTYA*'. And special thanks to new members Rae Nicholl, Max Kennedy, and Gerard Pratley for telling us about themselves, their interests, their problems, and their family history goals. I very much like Max's comment about the '*handshake across time*'.

I am always looking for items for the newsletter: research tips, book reviews, family history stories or problems, short 'notes and queries', unusual names, interesting occupations, colourful characters, exotic lands.... You don't want to keep getting increasingly disreputable stories about my ancestors, or my husband's, do you?

Christine Franzen, Newsletter Editor (wellington@genealogy.org.nz)

DIRECTORY

Committee

Convenor	Geraldine Needham-Girven	021 180 5166
Secretary	Robin Mossman	021 1587848
Treasurer	Barbara Marriott	021 756 860
Minute Secretary	Kaye Batchelor	027 2276734
Membership Secretary	Robin Mossman	021 1587848
Speakers' Program	Ann Ball	027 6410646
Newsletter Editor	Christine Franzen	021 1129730
	Prue Theobald	04 232 0241
Library Liaison	Sallie Hill	04 232 4622



POSTAL ADDRESS

9 Cashmere Ave
Khandallah 6035

EVENING MEETINGS

Third Wednesday of the month
February through November
7:00 for 7:30 pm start
Collective Community Hub
33 Johnsonville Road

COMMITTEE CONTACT

wellington@genealogy.org.nz

BRANCH WEBSITE

genealogy.org.nz/Branch-
details/11084-s1100084/

FACEBOOK PAGE

Facebook.com/NZSGWellington