



# Nov 2024 NEWSLETTER

**UPCOMING MEETINGS: THE HUB, 33 JOHNSONVILLE RD, 7 FOR 7:30 PM**

WEDNESDAY 20 NOVEMBER	WEDNESDAY 19 FEBRUARY	WEDNESDAY 19 MARCH
<b>CHRISTMAS PARTY</b>	<i>Tracing a black sheep from Ireland to New Zealand</i>	<i>Looking Both Ways – Genealogy in the Past and the Future.</i>
	<b>Cathy Clarke</b>	<b>Max Kennedy</b>

**Reminder:** Pre-meeting discussion group meeting from 6:00pm to 7:15pm

**CONVENOR'S CORNER** by Geraldine Needham-Girven, Convenor, Wellington Branch



Greetings members

I am back from my month-long visit to Vancouver, Quebec, New Hampshire, Vermont, Boston and New York. I had a wonderful time – the weather was great (two days of showers in 28 days), cool nights but warm days. The people were friendly and hospitable, and the countryside was beautiful – my photos just don't do justice to the colours of the foliage, which draw visitors, called leaf-peepers by the locals, from all round the world. This is Mt Washington, world known as the worst weather in the world and look what we had! And it was like that from the top too!

I have been reflecting on our club and am very proud of our achievements. Today we changed over signatories at the bank from Barbara to Liz. Thank you both. Max is doing a great job with the newsletter. Our membership is back to what it was last year. We led a very successful Family History Month, and we have had some very interesting speakers this year. The pre-meeting group is proving a great hit with its members. We have our website and our new Facebook group up and running. Wow! I am looking forward to a fun enjoyable end of year meeting later in November, where we will be able to share some of our personal progress and challenges and get to know one another more.



Thank you to our wonderful core team for their amazing contributions to making this branch such a success – Ann, Barbara (leaving us), Kaye, Liz, Max, Mhairi, Prue, and Robin and everyone else who has helped at our events and contribute to our meetings.

## In this newsletter

p2 Adding Names to Family Photos, by Geraldine Needham-Girven

p4. Charlotte Macdonald's talk, "Calcutta to Auckland: Soldiers of Empire from India to New Zealand, and back", by Ann Ball

p6 Denis Fortesque Sullivan, soldier. (1836, County Kerry - 1880, Patea) - The Settler, by Paul Williams  
P9 150 years ago in Wellington by Martin Garcia

## Adding Names to Family Photos

By

Geraldine Needham-Girven

If you are like me, you have lots of photos of family groups, for which you want to record who is who in the photo. I have in the past used PowerPoint, as I don't have anything like Photoshop. Recently my son put me on to Microsoft Designer.

If you open a photo whilst in Windows, you will see this little symbol on the top right of the screen. Click on it and Microsoft Designer will open with your picture there. You can also go direct to [Microsoft Designer - Stunning designs in a flash](#) and upload the file you want to work on. Don't worry it doesn't have any impact on your original photo.



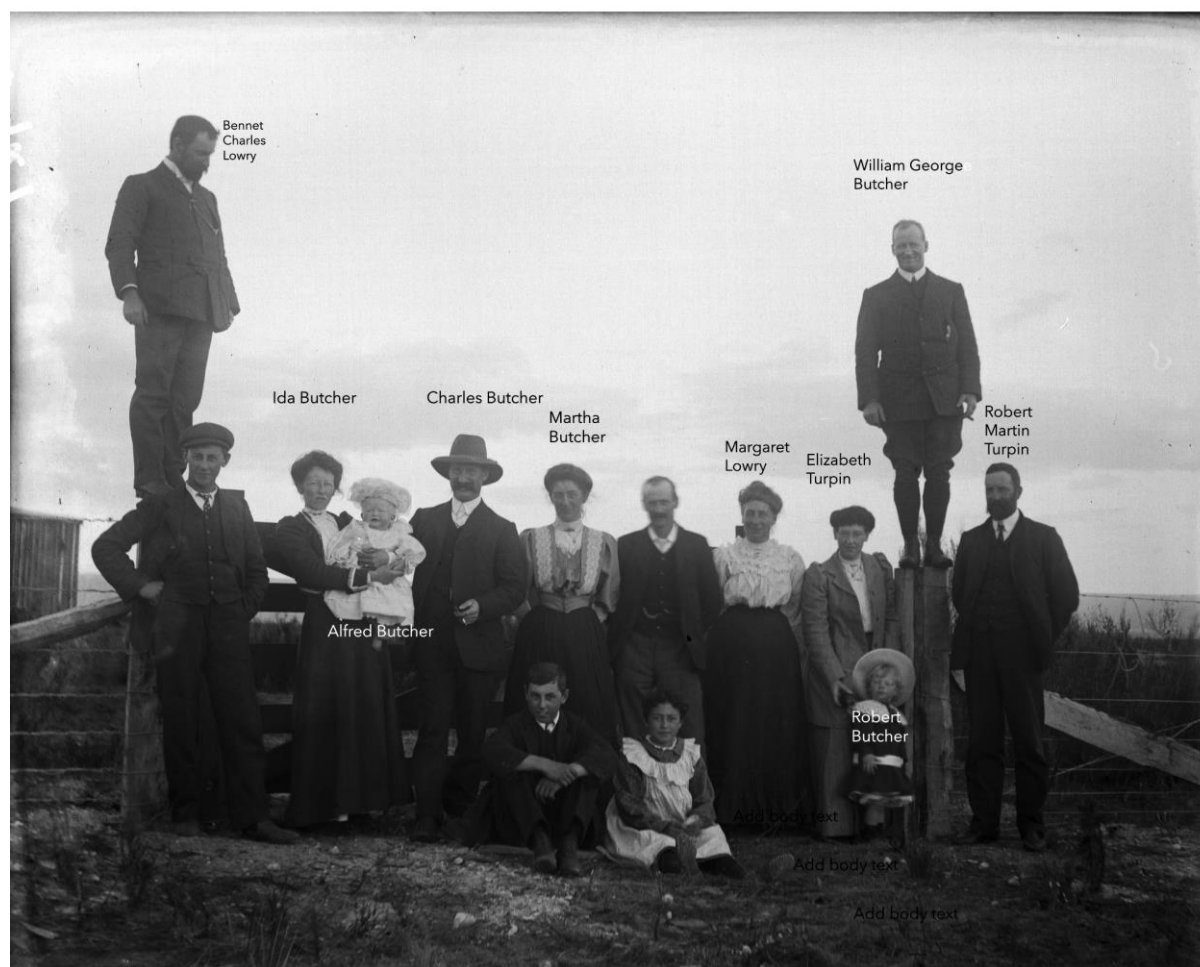
For my first try, I added numbers to the names and made a list in Word of the names and notes where there is uncertainty about who people are. This approach was useful for this photo as a number of people were emailing their views and it was getting confusing to know where we had consensus and where we didn't. (PS WE did agree on the bride and groom!)



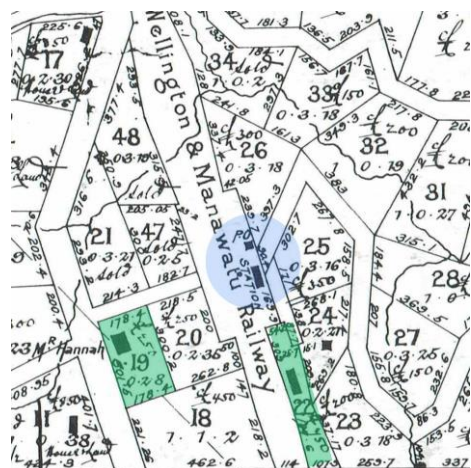
However, I have also tried adding the names where I am sure I know them. See the next photo, which by the way I found several years ago on the National Library website. William George Butcher (1876-1937) who is standing on the post on the right was my husband's great grandfather. The identity of the child in



front of him has always intrigued me, but again recently I found this photo and others taken the same day on the Kura Heritage Collection <https://kura.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz/digital/> They have decided this was William's son Robert William Rangi Butcher (1905-1981). I think they are right.



You can change the font, its size and its colour as suits. When you have finished editing the photo, you click download and a new file appears in your downloads folder on your computer as a png file. Then you can re-name it – I have used the same name as the original photo and just added “tagged”.



I have discovered that all my projects are kept in Microsoft Designer so I can go back and edit. This may be because I have a Microsoft 365 subscription which gives me OneDrive storage.

I have also used it for doing the following, for a local history project I am working on.

Don't forget you can use the Microsoft Snipping tool to make a png photo of anything you find on a website. The Snips are automatically filed in the Screenshot folder of your Pictures Folder. So you can then re-name and save them, including saving them as a jpeg file if your prefer. I use the Snipping tool all the time to collect and use

material.

I am conscious this might be a bit technical, so do come back with your questions. Other people may use other software to do the same thing; please share your experiences.

# Charlotte Macdonald's talk - "Calcutta to Auckland: Soldiers of Empire from India to New Zealand, and back".

By  
Ann Ball

At the October meeting Charlotte Macdonald, Emerita Professor of History at Victoria University of Wellington Te Herenga Waka, spoke about "Calcutta to Auckland: Soldiers of Empire from India to New Zealand, and back".

In the 1860s one third of the British Army was stationed in India and India's impact on the British Empire was colossal. Charlotte focused on four regiments that came to New Zealand from India. All of them went back to India at the end of their posting, all though some of them went via Britain.



Figure 1: 57th regiment, c.1864, Source: PAColl-4313, ATL

The first to arrive was the 57th West Middlesex Regiment, known as "The Diehards". They left Bombay (now Mumbai) in November 1860 and arrived in Auckland in 1861. They spent most of their time in New Zealand in Taranaki and Whanganui. Denis Sullivan was one of "The Diehards". Paul Williams, his great grandson, wrote about him in the April 2024 newsletter (page 7). They left NZ for England in 1867.

The next regiment to arrive was the 70th Regiment. They had an extra-long journey to get to Auckland. They travelled from Allahabad in Bengal to Calcutta (now Kolkata), mostly travelling at night on foot, and by bullock, river and train. Their terrible journey continued as they had to wait in the Hoghli River and 15 people died of cholera within two weeks of leaving Calcutta. They arrived in Auckland in May 1861 and had to winter over in Otahuhu where many spent their time getting drunk. Some of them were later sent to the Otago Gold fields to keep the peace. They left in January 1866.

The third regiment to arrive was the 50th Queen's Own Regiment, known as "the dirty half hundred". They sailed from Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) and arrived in Auckland in 1863. The regiment had also served in Crimea from 1854 to 1856. They left New Zealand for Australia in 1866.

The final regiment Charlotte talked about was the 68th Durham Light Regiment. They left Rangoon in Burma (now Myanmar) in October 1863 and arrived in Auckland in January 1864. They served in Tauranga and fought at Pukehinahine (Gate Pa). They departed for England in 1866 but were back in India by 1871. Transporting the regiments was an expensive business, costing approximately £20 per person. Each regiment consisted of over 800 men and officers.

Charlotte also talked about military beneficiaries and their records. She said that, as in other branches of history, it was useful to “follow the money” and the British army was good at keeping records. Military beneficiaries could have been the men themselves, as pensioners, but could also be wives and other dependents. We were surprised to hear how many wives and children came with the different regiments; 42 wives and 69 children with the 57th, 61 wives and 85 children with the 70th and 30 wives and 50 children with the 68th. She didn’t give us figures for the 50th. Records relating to these beneficiaries can be found at Archives NZ in the Treasury T9 series. A widow was typically given about £17 per quarter, which they could live on if they lived very frugally.

Charlotte also talked about two former soldiers who saw service in the British Army in India. The first was John Larkins Cheese Richardson who settled in South Otago in 1856 after buying 150 acres. He became an MP in the General Assembly. He was always known as “The Major” or the “Old Major”. The second was John Cracoft Wilson, known as “Nabob” Wilson. He arrived in 1854 and created the Cashmere Run in the Port Hills in Canterbury. He also became an MP and a member of the Provincial Council. He had a reputation for paying low wages but treating his employees well.

Charlotte also recommended the following books to those who want to explore the history of the British in India:

- William Dalrymple (2019) “The Anarchy: The Relentless Rise of the East India Company”
- Tristram Hunt (2014) “Ten Cities that Made an Empire”
- Sekhar Bandyopadhyay (2008 revised 2010) “From Plassey to partition: a history of modern India “

The first two books are available to borrow from Wellington City Library. The third book can be read in the Alexander Turnbull reading room (on application). Parts of it are available on Google books ([From Plassey to Partition: A History of Modern India - Śekhara Bandyopādhyāya - Google Books](#)) Internet accessed 24 October 2024.

# DENIS FORTESQUE SULLIVAN, soldier. (1836, County Kerry - 1880, Patea) - The Settler

by Paul Williams

In our April Newsletter I wrote about my great-grandfather, the soldier from Ireland. Attached to the 57<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot, he served in Aden, the Crimea and East India. In 1861 he and others of his regiment arrived in New Zealand and after five years and five months he completed his engagement of 12 years with the British Army. His discharge document, which I have, also notes he received “a gratuity of six months’ pay”. He chose to stay in New Zealand.

## ADDING AN O’

Once out of the army Sullivan added O’ to his surname. Why he might have done this? The likely answer is explained in an Irish Times article:

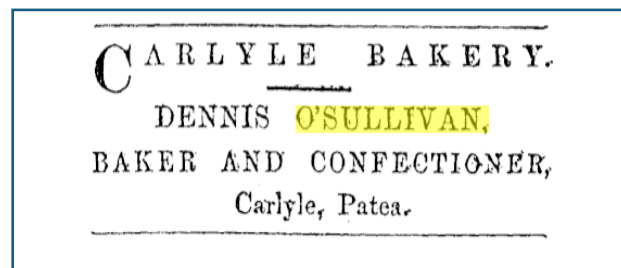
*Sullivan and O’Sullivan. In the 1600s, when English rule intensified, the prefixes O and Mac were widely dropped because it became extremely difficult to find work if you had an Irish sounding name. However, in the 1800s many families began reinstating the O and Mac prefixes. Source:*

<https://www.irishtimes.com/culture/books/a-dozen-things-you-might-not-know-about-irish-names-1.2842791>

## CIVILIAN LIFE

It seems O’Sullivan settled in Carlyle as his obituary in the Patea Mail says he has “been a resident of Carlyle for over 13 years”, and he died 13 years and 5 months after leaving the army.

He conceivably worked as a baker, his trade prior to enlistment, as in 1875 he bought *Carlyle Bakery - Bread & Confectionary* taking over the business from Henry Ussher, the first baker in Patea. O’Sullivan was a frequent advertiser in the Patea Mail during 1875-76 with this advertisement appearing many times (thanks, Papers Past):



Notable is the mis-spelling of his first name in all printings I have seen of this specific advertisement.

O’Sullivan was also on the Carlyle Town Board during the time it was establishing the new township. (Pātea was known as Carlyle from 1870-1881, then changed back to Pātea when the Borough Council was gazetted on 10 October 1881). (This, thanks to Jacq Dwyer, Hawera Historic Society.)

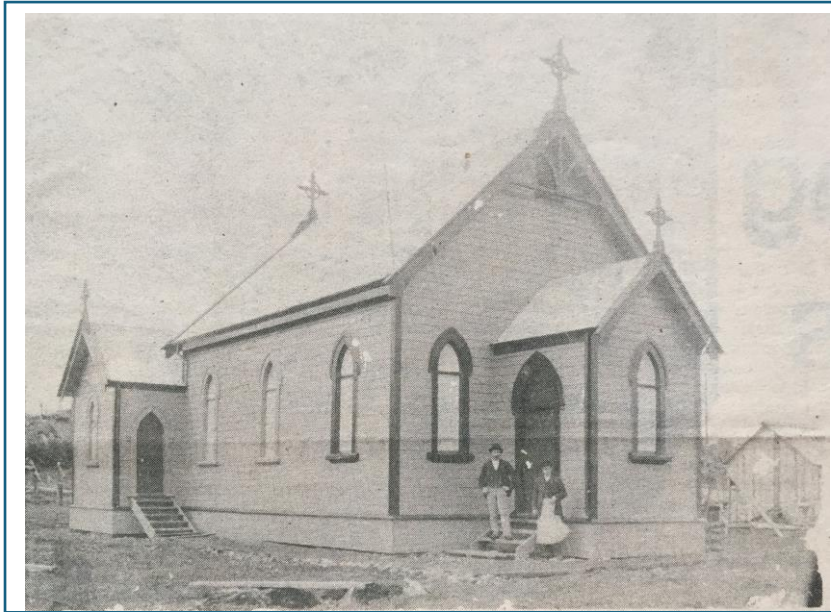


## MARRIAGE

### MARRIAGE.

**O'SULLIVAN**—HIORNS.—On the 13th April, at Carlyle, by the Rev. Father Lampila, Denis **O'Sullivan**, baker, of Carlyle, to Mary Jane, eldest daughter of the late Mr William Hiorns, of Lighthorne, Warwickshire, England.

*Patea Mail, 17 April 1875 (thanks Papers Past)*



2: The Patea Catholic Chapel. Source: Patea Historical Society.

They had three sons: Denis Fortesque b:1877 (my grandfather) Cornelius William b: 1876; Frederick Walter b:1880.

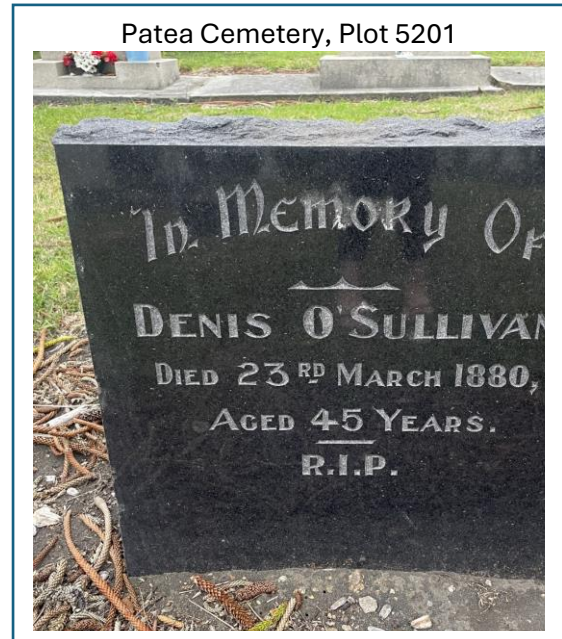
After O'Sullivan's death Mary Jane married James Oliver McCoy in 1883. They had a son also named James Oliver McCoy a half-brother to the O'Sullivan three.

## O'SULLIVAN'S DEATH

Several times each week O'Sullivan would travel by cart and horse to deliver bread.

The Coroner's Report was given at the Hotel Albion, Patea, 24 March 1880 following the death of Denis O'Sullivan on 13 March: "... being in a certain cart drawn by a certain horse it happened that the said Denis O'Sullivan was then and there casually and accidentally and by misfortune overturned and violently thrown out of the said carriage by means of which the said Denis O'Sullivan did then receive a mortal fracture of the neck of which mortal fracture the said Denis O'Sullivan did there and then die." Excerpt from the Coroner's Report of which I have a photocopy.

Here is the obituary from the Patea Mail, 27th March 1880 (thanks papers Past).



This gravestone, according to Jacq Dwyer, Hawera Historical Society, is not the original, but was installed sometime after the 1920s. Perhaps a son returned to see that his father's last resting place was marked?

**Carlyle Bakery.**

**M.** J. O'SULLIVAN begs to inform the public of Patea and surrounding districts that she has disposed of the above Bakery to Messrs BUCKLEY and HEAPHY, and takes this opportunity of thanking customers for the support accorded to her while in business, and solicits a continuance for her successors.

**M**ESSRS BUCKLEY & HEAPHY having taken over the above Business, will endeavour to merit a continuance of the support accorded to their predecessor.

When he died O'Sullivan left three young sons and of course his widow. He also had an apparently successful business. 15 months after his death Mrs M J O'Sullivan advertised the business for sale in the Patea Mail and soon after, on the 7<sup>th</sup> July published the announcement of its new ownership.



# 150 Years Ago in Wellington

By

Martin Garcia

Selected snippets from The Evening Post in November and December 1874 reveal some familiar themes.

## The Council was criticised for poor governance

On the approaching election for Mayor, the New Zealand Times reportedly professed “indifference as to who is elected, so long as the affairs of the city are managed in an economical and intelligent manner, adding that this cannot be expected of the existing Council, as no other city in the Colony is worse governed than Wellington.”

William Sefton Moorhouse won the mayoralty and “his name is perpetuated in Moorhouse and Sefton streets, Wadestown.”<sup>1</sup>

## Guy Fawkes celebrations caused the usual problems

“Last night there were the usual senseless bonfires and pyrotechnic displays in honor of Guido Fawkes — better known to the Protestant public as “Guy Fox.” The youth of Wellington indulged “themselves in setting every combustible substance alight all round the city, including all the scrub and furze on the surrounding hills, and in several instances neighboring houses only escaped destruction by “the skin of their teeth.””

## Fire appliances were only as fast as their horses



Figure 3: Wellington Fire Brigade on a moving horse drawn cart. Credit: Wellington Fire Brigade. Taylor, J N fl 1900s: Photographs of Wellington. Ref: 1/2-104840-F. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. <https://natlib.govt.nz/records/22653355>

weekend. “[E]very available conveyance on railway, road, or sea was crowded. The railway carried multitudes to the Hutt, the s.s. Stormbird took other swarms to Somes’ Island, and the country roads were alive with vehicles all day.”

Two new carriages were built for the Wellington Volunteer Fire Brigade. “The carriages have been constructed By Mr. R. W. Watson, coachbuilder, Te Aro, and are beautifully finished in every respect. ... and the whole thing is always ready for an instantaneous start, so soon, that is, as the horses can be harnessed and attached.”

## Wellingtonians crowded out of town for a long weekend

The Prince of Wales’s birthday was honoured on Monday 9 November, resulting in a steady exodus for the long



Figure 4: Thorndon Quay, Thorndon, Wellington, in 1866, with the harbour and Munn’s Wharf in the foreground, Ref: 10x8-2086-G. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. [/records/23053289](https://natlib.govt.nz/records/23053289)

<sup>1</sup> <https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/1m53/moorhouse-william-sefton>

### The Thorndon public baths were being built for summer

“[A]n admirable site off Pipitea Point” was secured and also “the required number of jarrah piles, so that the work can be commenced at once and the baths made available for the present season.”

### Older buildings were being replaced

“One of the old familiar landmarks of the city is about to be swept away— the old Royal Hotel on Thorndon Quay, a building of antiquity almost coeval with the foundation of the city.” Plans had been prepared for a “large, comfortable, and imposing looking hotel” to replace the dilapidated Royal Hotel.

Objections to a licence for the Terminus Hotel on Thorndon Quay were made “on the ground that the necessary plans and specifications of the new hotel had not been submitted. The present building was a mere shanty, and there was no proof that it would be improved. It was a lollypop shop, facing the beach, and formerly was a house of ill-fame.”



Figure 5: Group of Māori men, women and children .... Possibly taken in Rotorua or outside Ropiha Moturoa’s weather-board house at Pipitea, Wellington. Ref: 1/2-113796-F. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. [/records/22891113](https://records/22891113)

### A signatory of the Treaty of Waitangi was mourned

“There died at the Te Aro Pa yesterday morning an old chief of the Te Ati Awa, named [Te] Ropiha Moturoa. The deceased was a man of considerable importance amongst the natives ....” There was no mention in the newspaper article that Te Ropiha “signed Te Tiriti on the 29th of April 1840 for Te Ati Awa.” Originally from Taranaki, Te Ropiha “became a senior chief at Pipitea Pā. He held land off Tinakori Road, Aro Street, section two of Pipitea Pā. Moturoa Street was his main residency where he lived in a ‘neat’ weatherboard house and grew a commendable crop of potatoes.”<sup>2</sup>

Primary source: *The Evening Post*, Volume X, Issues 219-266, 1 November to 31 December 1874

<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/evening-post/1874> Text quoted includes spelling, punctuation and grammar as it appeared at the time.

<sup>2</sup> <https://wellington.govt.nz/news-and-events/news-and-information/our-wellington/2021/11/friday-five-bolton-street>

## 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](mailto:wellington@genealogy.org.nz)

## BRANCH WEBSITE

[wellingtongenealogy.org](http://wellingtongenealogy.org)

## FACEBOOK PAGE

[Facebook.com/NZSGWellington](https://www.facebook.com/NZSGWellington)

## DIRECTORY Committee



Convenor	Geraldine Needham-Girven	021 180 5166
Secretary/Membership Secretary	Robin Mossman	021 1587848
Minute Secretary	Kaye Batchelor	027 2276734
Speakers' Program	Ann Ball	027 6410646
Member	Prue Theobald	021 2345621
Treasurer	Liz Newport	021 815 846
Newsletter Editor	Max Kennedy	021 46 5483

KILBIRNIE Thu, 7 Nov 2024, 10:00 AM	PORIRUA Wednesday 13 Oct, 7:30 pm	HUTT VALLEY Thursday 21 Nov, 7:30 pm	KAPITI Tuesday 26 Nov, 7:30 pm
<i>Simon Nathan on photographer Joseph Divis</i>	<i>Dean Broughton: Skinning Out: Ship jumping in New Zealand 1945 -1980</i>	<i>Simon Strombom, Remembrance Army</i>	<i>End-of-Year Celebration Quiz &amp; Show and Tell</i>
Matairangi Room, Ākau Tangi Sports Centre, 72 Kemp St	Hapori Room Pataka Art + Museum, Porirua	Senior Citizens' Rooms 45 Knights Road Lower Hutt	Coast Community Church, 57 Hinemoa St, Paraparaumu