



⇐ **BRANCH LINES** ⇒

Newsletter of the Southland Branch
New Zealand Society of Genealogists

Special Issue No. 65 - June 2017



Annual General Meetings 2017 Special Issue

(Compiled by Roger Washbourn)

This is a special issue to record the results of 3 annual general meetings held in the last 2 months - 2 in Invercargill in May, and the parent body's meeting in Auckland during Queens Birthday weekend. Summaries of each of these meetings follow.



Southland Branch - NZ Society of Genealogists Inc.
Invercargill, New Zealand.

Annual General Meeting – 17 May 2017

The Southland Branch of the Society held its AGM on Wednesday evening 17 May in the Invercargill Public Library's meeting room. There was a better turnout than in 2016, but even so a disappointing 14 members were present. (The Rules do not specify a quorum, so the meeting proceeded.) Copies of reports are available on the branch's website on the 'Newsletters & Archives' page.

Accounts: The branch's accumulated funds stood at \$10,659.30 – a slight improvement on the \$10,916.30 posted in 2016. The Income and Expenditure account showed a deficit of **(\$257.00)** - i.e. the branch spent more money than it received as income. Branch member Geoff Ladbrook reviewed the accounts, and will remain the reviewer for the coming year.

The election of officers resulted in :

Convenor	Lesley Instone
Secretary	Wendy Shaw
Treasurer	John MacManus
Committee	Pam Jones
	Mary Murray (Librarian)
	Mary Stuart
	Yvonne Service
	Roger Washbourn.

The committee has the power to co-opt others to assist whenever needed. Subscriptions for Local Members remain at \$25 single/\$35 joint.



About Branch Lines

Branch Lines is a periodic magazine, issued for the members of the Southland Branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists.

The views expressed are those of the contributors, and do not necessarily represent the views of the Branch of the Society.

The position of Newsletter Editor is currently held by Wendy Shaw. She is always grateful for contributed articles, reviews, or opinion pieces. Send copy for publication to Wendy at hutchshaw@yahoo.co.nz



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Genealogical Computing Group

Special Interest Group of the
New Zealand Society of Genealogists
INVERCARGILL Sub-Group



Annual General Meeting - 25 May 2017

The Invercargill sub-group of the Genealogical Computing Group was the second local meeting, on Thursday 25 May 2017. A modest turnout of 11 members under the chairmanship of outgoing Convenor Wendy Smith were given a short report of the year's activities, noting the good support from members; the passing of Elizabeth Beer; problem solving at the normal meetings; the Christmas function; and the meeting at the Awarua Radio Museum. The accounts were in good shape, with a year-end balance of \$164. Thanks were expressed to Wendy Shaw for secretarial support.

Election of officers: Convenor ; No Nominations.
Secretary: Wendy Shaw.

In subsequent discussion, it was decided, in the absence of a Convenor, that members would take it in turn to act as Convenor for each evening; possibly in alphabetic order. The \$2 door charge per person would remain unchanged.



New Zealand Society of Genealogists

FAMILY HISTORY - PRESERVING OUR PAST FOR THE FUTURE

Annual General Meeting - 4 June 2017 Alexandra Park, Auckland.

The Society's annual general meeting was held on a Sunday morning as part of the conference celebrating the 50th anniversary of NZSG. There were 119 members present (a quorum is 100), so the meeting was able to proceed. Mary Stuart and Roger Washbourn from the Southland Branch were among those present.

Much of the meeting was standard AGM stuff - confirmation of previous minutes; financial report; appointment of an auditor; presentation of awards and honouring members; general business. However the main topic of interest was election to the Board of Directors.

There were NO nominations for the 3 vacancies, thus the Board remains with 6 directors, which is only just a quorum for conducting business. It is a dire situation for any organisation to be in. (There are also no Directors from the South Island.) The Directors are able to co-opt members to fill the vacancies, but the will to serve seems missing.

As the Returning Officer (Heather Maloney) has written : "Time to reflect what we want from our organisation and even if we want an organisation." It is a dire situation. The Board needs members' strong support for their commitment to the role, and not to continually attack those

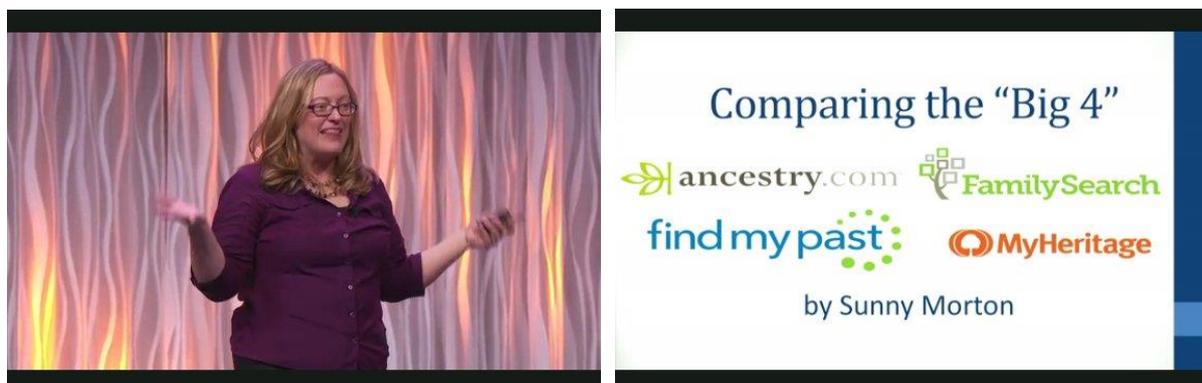
who are giving their time for the Society's benefit.

On the financial front, annual subscriptions are subject to small increases in line with the cost of living index. Ordinary Membership will rise to \$89 (up \$2); Joint Membership will be \$110 (up \$3), from 1 August 2017. Most members will not feel the effects of this until 2018 when most of the subscriptions are renewed.

The Statement of Financial Performance for the year to 31 March 2017 showed a deficit of **\$18,776** after non-cash depreciation of \$32,524 was debited. This follows a surplus of \$8,353 in 2016 and a deficit of **\$65,517** in 2015.

Full reports are available on the Society's website.

Big 4: Comparing Ancestry, findmypast, FamilySearch and MyHeritage



If you've ever wondered which of the 'Big Four' genealogical datasites you should consult, then this Rootstech video presentation should be compulsory viewing. Presenter Sunny Morton (a contributing editor to Family Tree Magazine in the USA) looks at each of the four in turn and assesses their strengths and weaknesses/differences.

Her thesis is that they may all need to be consulted at different times by conscientious genealogists. There is no "one size fits all" - the sites compliment one another. In the 1-hour long video, she covers and compares historical records, geographic records strength, user-submitted family trees, DNA profiles, and comparative costs, all with good information shown on slides.

In the second half, Sunny looks at each in turn and lists site highlights, favourite collections, and a 'you should know' checklist. She finishes with a question : *if somebody asks me where to* - then suggests the best site to satisfy the question.

Her presentation is supported by more than 30 slides projected onto a giant screen. She is a personable presenter; her delivery is clear. It is excellent and well-recommended viewing.

The link is : <https://www.rootstech.org/videos/sunny-morton> Time – 1 hour 5 mins.

The video is to be shown at the branch's July meeting in Invercargill.

TECHNOLOGY QUESTIONNAIRE

For NZSG members

In the June 2017 issue of *The New Zealand Genealogist*, there is a removable centrefold containing a 'Technology Questionnaire' for NZSG Members. This has been compiled so that the Society can gain some insight into the computer connectivity and ability of its members, and as a base from which to develop a resource delivery strategy for the future.

The general demand seems to be for more online access to resources, however this presents some problems for the Society because little is known of members' online ability. Only 65% of members have an email address. 28% of members belong to a branch. There is therefore a large number of members about whom little is known when it comes to computer connectivity.

The survey is anonymous. It is easy to complete, 12 questions, and for most questions it requires a simple tick. It can be responded to in either of two ways :

1. Complete the form in the magazine, then remove it, place a stamp on it and mail it.
2. Log in as a member on the website; look for the big button on the opening page, and complete the survey online.

All members are urged to complete the survey. The close-off date is 30 June 2017.

Branch Contacts			GCG Contacts	
Branch Committee Contacts			Genealogical Computing Group	
Convenor	Lesley Instone	217-8825	Convenor - Members	-
Treasurer	John MacManus	217-4200	Secretary-Treasurer -	
Secretary	Wendy Shaw	(withheld)	Wendy Shaw	(withheld)
Librarian	Mary Murray	217-6181	Committee - members.	
Committee	Mary Stuart	217-4560		
	Pam Jones	213-1089		
	Yvonne Service	213-0254		
	Roger Washbourn	213-0968		
Postal address : P.O. Box 1329, Invercargill 9840.				
E-mail : Southland@genealogy.org.nz				

Southland Branch's Website



The Branch has a website which covers the activities of the Southland Branch, and of the Invercargill Genealogical Computing Special Interest Group. The site is updated on a regular basis, and is provided in part so that members of both groups can keep up to date with future meetings.

There is a meetings programme, information for new members, a section devoted to other genealogical resources, and links to a selection of genealogical and Southland-oriented pages. Newsletters can be accessed, and some historical information provided. A copy of the current information brochure can be downloaded from the 'Welcome' page.

The URL or address for the site is

<http://www.nzsgsouthland.com>

The site has been live since May 2001. A counter on the page shows that it receives around 120 visits per month.

The Last Page

Genealogy (WGF Millar (1970))

I notice genealogists
Have held a meeting here;
The seekers of the family trees
They make the past look clear ---
(Not all of us, alas, are of
the caste of Vere de Vere.)

For some of us have secrets of
The past we love to keep'
'Twere better far to let still lie
Ancestral dogs asleep ----
For many Scottish forebears stole
The neighbour farmers' sheep.

Australians have an edge on us
(Though some perhaps are bludgers)
For they have come of super-stock
With few, if any, smudges

They should be good, their ancestors
Were sent out by good judges.

Genealogy, I see
In Southland is the vogue;
They'll search for you your family tree
(Great-grandad was a rogue) ----
Another forbear stole the sheep,
One was an unfrocked minister,

And somewhere on the 'scutcheon is
What's known as the bar sinister ----
So when they talk of family trees,
My eagerness is dampened;
(My present coat-of-arms consists
Of two taxpayers rampant).

Directory

Southland Branch, NZ Society of Genealogists Inc.

Postal address
P.O. Box 1329
Invercargill 9840.

E-mail: Southland@genealogy.org.nz

Meetings
Third Wednesday of each month, 7pm
Invercargill Public Library, Dee Steet.,
[Research facilities from 6 p.m.]
(Winter months June-August: 3rd Saturday, 1.30pm)
[Research facilities from 12.30 p.m.]

Branch website ~

http://www.geocities.com/nzsg_southland/

NZSG website ~

<http://www.genealogy.org.nz/>

Genealogical Computing Group website ~

<http://www.gencom.org.nz/>



Roger Washbourn.
Compiler.
June 2017.