



⇐ **BRANCH LINES** ⇒

Newsletter of the Southland Branch
New Zealand Society of Genealogists

Special Issue No. 72 – June 2018



Annual General Meetings 2018

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 Christchurch during Queens Birthday weekend. Summaries of each of these meetings follow.



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

Annual General Meeting – 16 May 2018

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	Roger Washbourn
Secretary	Wendy Shaw
Treasurer	John MacManus
Committee	Lesley Instone
	Pam Jones
	Mary Murray
	Mary Stuart
	Isobell Paskell
	Yvonne Service



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.

It is intended to be produced bi monthly to keep you up to date with events. Wendy Shaw is currently filling the position of Editor.

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Lesley Instone stood down from the Convenor's position after an 8-year tenure (and 14 years as secretary prior to that), but has remained on the committee. We wish her well as she recovers her health. Her Convenor's report is included on page 4 of this newsletter.

It is pleasing to note that Isabell Paskell has decided to join the committee. Isabell is a relative newcomer to genealogy, and her ideas will be a welcome addition to the older hands.

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



Annual General Meeting - 26 April 2018

The Invercargill sub-group of the Genealogical Computing Group was the second local meeting, on Thursday 26 April 2017. A modest turnout of 8 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; problem solving at the normal meetings; and a the Christmas function;. 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.

NZSG - Adoption of Maori Name



A recent issue of e-KIT #89 advises that the NZSG logo now has the Maori name 'Te Rangapu Kaihikohiko o Aotearoa', as provided for in the Society's Rules, incorporated into it. The logo and a changed letterhead will gradually be replaced on published resources and documents as they are updated. The branch emblem (see at left) has also had the Maori name incorporated into it and is available for local use.

The June 2018 issue of *The New Zealand Genealogist* was the first issue to display the blue banner at the foot of the cover with the modified design which includes the Society's Maori name.



Annual General Meeting - 3 June 2018 Christchurch BHS Foundation Hall.

The Society's annual general meeting was held on a Sunday morning as part of the conference celebrating the 51st anniversary of NZSG. There were 141 members present and 184 proxy votes registered. A quorum is 100 members present, so the meeting was able to proceed. Only Roger Washbourn from the Southland Branch was among those present; there were several other Mainland South members from the Balclutha, Mosgiel and Dunedin branches also at the AGM and Conference.

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. The 5-page operations report to members for the year ending 31 March 2018 by the Board Chair (Robyn Williams) was fuller than usual and contained much of interest

However the main topic of interest was election to the Board of Directors which resulted from a postal ballot by the members. A total of 758 valid votes were received (which, at 14.6% is a disappointingly small proportion of the membership database of 5,169). The results of the ballot, where 7 candidates were vying for 6 positions, was :

Bruce Holm	(Canterbury)
Peter Gibson	(Porirua)
David Jack	(South Canterbury)
Anthony Mort	(Seconded to the Board)
Jillian Williams	(Hawera)
Gillian Knox	(Porirua)

Some detail of the voting results was given in NZSG e-KIT 090 of June 2018.

Robyn Williams remains as Board Chair, and Mary Shadbolt as the Vice Chairperson.

On the financial front, annual subscriptions are subject to small increases in line with the cost of living index. Ordinary Membership will rise to \$91 (up \$2); Joint Membership will be \$113 (up \$3), from 1 August 2018. Most members will not feel the effects of this until 2019 when most of the subscriptions are renewed.

The Statement of Financial Performance for the year to 31 March 2018 showed a deficit of **\$24,539** after non-cash depreciation of \$24,262 was debited. This follows deficits of **\$18,776** in 2017 and a surplus of \$8,353 in 2016.

There were 10 motions of amendments to the Society's 2016 rules proposed, all of which were approved by the 384 respondents to the postal voting process. Most were small 'tidy-ups'. One significant change now permits some relaxation for quorums at annual general meetings for branches and interest groups which had found the current 10% of membership threshold difficult to meet. There is now a testing step of 35 members or less which demands 6 for a quorum; over that, the minimum of 6 applies plus 1 extra member for each additional 10 members of the branch/interest group. The rule amendments do not become effective, however, until registered with the Charities Commission.

Full reports are available on the Society's website.

There was some intimation of the forthcoming Kiwi Collection #3 which is to be an online members-only resource, with access controlled by annual or monthly subscriptions which will

be separate from the normal Society subscription. Advantages of this protocol given included better data security, updates which can be scheduled regularly, security is more easily maintained, and regular maintenance can be carried out without interruption to users. New records in the Collection will be highlighted, as happens at present. Delivery was not anticipated until late in 2018.

The Society had not received any offers yet from branches to host the 2019 AGM. If nothing further was to become known in a few months, the Board would organise the AGM to be held in Auckland.



Convenor's Report to Southland Branch, New Zealand Society of Genealogists
Incorporated held on Wednesday 16 May 2018

This will be my last report to the Branch as convenor as I am standing down for health reasons. I wish to thank all those who have been on the committee during my time as convenor for all the work they have done.

This last year a number of us have attended Mainland South Regional Meetings in Mosgiel and Balclutha and usually, apart from the host branch, we have had the largest number there.

In August 2017 we again held a series of lunch time talks at the Library with assistance from the library. The feedback has been good and I think we have gained a few new members.

In February and March we also ran a series of evening as an Introduction to Genealogy at the WEA, again with good feedback from those attending and from the WEA. Roger Washbourn organised the series and WEA has indicated that they want to repeat this next year.

Our branch membership is slightly down this year and so is attendance at the monthly meetings.

Thank you to all who have given presentations at the meeting and those who have organised guest speakers.

I will still be a member of the branch but attendance at the meeting may not always be possible.

Best wishes for the coming year.

Lesley Instone
Convenor
NZSG Southland Branch
16 May 2018.

Southland Branch's 50th Anniversary - 2019



2019 is the 50th anniversary year of the Southland Branch, which initially began in May 1969 as the Invercargill Genealogists Club. Following approval by the New Zealand Society of Genealogists, the club was accepted as an official branch. The first meeting of the new branch (the 5th branch to be affiliated to the new Society) was held on 19 November 1969. The 'Newsletters and Archives' page on the branch's website contains some historical records.

The branch committee will be planning some events to mark the occasion which will be noticed on the branch's 'Events and Notices' web page in due course.

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
Meeting Room, Invercargill City Library at 7 p.m.
[Research facilities from 6 p.m.]

Meetings June – September will be held
on the third Saturday of the month starting at 1:30pm
The Resource Room will be open before and after the meeting

Branch website ~

<http://www.nzsgsouthland.com/>

NZSG website ~

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

Genealogical Computing Group website ~

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

