

Hutt Valley Branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists



News & Views

May 2015

Issue 333



Evening Meeting: 7.30pm 2nd Thursday, February to December
Day Meeting: 10.00am 3rd Thursday, February to November
Venue: Petone Community Centre, 7-11 Britannia Street
Postal Address: PO Box 31-024, Lower Hutt 5040
Website: www.huttvalleygenealogy.org.nz
Convenor: Anita West
Secretary: Terry Stock HuttValley@genealogy.org.nz
Editor: Helene Philpott bhdk.philpott@gmail.com

Evening Meeting: Doors open 7pm. Notices begin 7.30pm. Speakers begin about 8pm (approx. 1 hour)

Day Meeting: Doors open 9.30am. Notices begin 10am. Speaker begins about 10.30am (approx. 1 hour). Please note the library does not open until 10am

Genealogy/Family History Helpers Available At Petone Library 10am -12pm

On duty for: May, June & July

- Wednesday 20 May – Diane Stinson & Susan Wilson
- Wednesday 3 June – Ian Fyffe & Philippa Woolf
- Saturday 6 June – Janet Ketchell
- Wednesday 17 June – Cheryl Dreaver & Avril Roberts
- Wednesday 1 July – Marie Perham & Lynly Yates
- Saturday 4 July – Dawn Chambers & Lynly Yates
- Wednesday 15 July – Deb Beban & Lois Bartlett

For those new to genealogy and/or who want help knocking down those brick walls, this is an excellent time and place to have our experts help you. Our helpers can show you what is available in the library and how to go about finding what you are looking for.

Branch Meeting Programme

Thursday 14 May Evening Meeting: Annual General Meeting followed by; Guest Speakers NZSG Councillors Peter Gibson & Gill Knox who will talk about the benefits of belonging to the NZSG, a possible update on the rules review and answer questions.

Thursday 21 May Morning Meeting: Tricia Meehan (Librarian) *A Tour through the Petone Library Heritage Centre*. Tricia will give an introductory talk followed by a tour through some of the resources.

Note: The *Genealogy Road Trip* presentation by Lynly Yates and Dawn Chambers has been deferred to the day meeting on 20 August.

Thursday 11 June Evening Meeting: Rodney King, *Bridging the Gap – Family Tree and Family History* as presented to the Kilbirnie Branch earlier this year

Thursday 18 June Morning Meeting: To be confirmed



Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Hutt Valley Branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists will be on Thursday 14 May 2015 at 7.30pm at the Community Centre, 7-11 Britannia Street, Petone.

The agenda for the annual general meeting is:

1. Receipt of the branch annual report and statement of accounts;
2. Set the annual subscription for the 2016-2017 year;
3. Election of convenor, secretary, treasurer and committee members;
Nominations can be taken from the floor as long as both the proposer and seconder are present.

4. General Business

Note: for election as Convenor, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee Member, you need to be a member of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists (not just the branch).

However branch only members are also very welcome to participate in the work of the committee.

Annual Accounts now available on-line until after the AGM.

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nzlhvrsg/agm-reports.html>

Wellington Family History Month - August 2015



This year it is Hutt Valley Branch's turn to take the lead for NZSG Family History Month in the Wellington area. It's going to be great, but there is quite a bit to be done!

The flagship event for the month will be *Wellington Family History Open Day*, to be held on Saturday 22 August, 10am to 4pm, at the Hutt Bowling Club in Myrtle Street, Lower Hutt. The Open Day will include a programme of speakers, and a research hall with help desks and other exhibits.

Many hands make light work, as they say – we would love your help to make this a real success. In fact, need it!

People are needed between now and the end of August to assist in areas such as:

- Organising the raffle – Ancestry.com has donated us a fantastic prize
- Publicity and Promotion – if you've got experience in this area (even a little bit), we'd love to hear from you
- With practical tasks, e.g. making sandwich boards for outside the venue, helping with IT, other things?
- General help planning and organising for the Open Day
- Hands-on help on the day so that things run smoothly.

Why not get involved? It's a chance to get to know other Branch members better, share your skills and experience, contribute to your local genealogy community, and maybe even have some fun along the way

If you can help, please let Anita know. If you'd like to talk about what's involved before committing, please don't hesitate to call or email.

Thank you!

Thanks to: - Anita West and Christine Edney for their presentations at both the evening and morning meetings in April.

Notes and Christine's poem included in this newsletter.



Anzac Day

I dreamt I saw them marching
No sound of drums I heard
I saw no banners waving,
And no man spoke a word.

No sound of martial music
As I watched them passing by,
But the spirit of the Anzac
Shone clear in every eye.

I dreamt I saw them marching,
Those sturdy stalwart men;
The tramp, tramp, tramp of freedom
That night I heard again.

They were the deathless heroes,
Who feel that we be free,
Who shed their blood on a foreign soil
For the cause of liberty.

Along the path of glory
They passed beyond recall,
The flowers of New Zealand's manhood,
Who gladly gave their all.

I awoke, and the sun was shining
On a glorious Anzac Day,
And my heart was thrilled with the vision
Of the boys who passed away.

A J Faulkener

Published in the New Zealand Free lance

Wednesday April 25, 1923

The Dominion's Popular Illustrated Weekly

Thanks to Christine Edney, who read this poem at the April meetings (NZSG Hutt Valley Branch)

How to Find a New Zealand World War One Service Record

By [Anita West](http://familyhistorymatters.co.nz/blog/) <http://familyhistorymatters.co.nz/blog/>

Have you ever wondered if someone in your family was an ANZAC? Or maybe you've heard that a great-uncle or other relative fought in World War One and you'd love to know where they served and what medals they were awarded. You can find all this out, and much more, from their New Zealand World War One service record (their military personnel record).

Here are **five easy website searches** you can do to find that record. All will eventually lead you to the Archives New Zealand website, where military personnel files can be downloaded for FREE.

Once you get there, make sure you read the last section of this blog [How to Download a Military Personnel Record from Archives New Zealand](#) to make this task as easy as possible.

Option 1: Archives New Zealand's World War One Search



Click on the image above to go to the purpose-built [Archives New Zealand World War One search page](#). Enter the name of the person you are looking for in the search field, in any order, e.g. "Christina Gibbon" or "Gibbon, Christina".

As you move through the search process, simply click on each matching result as it pops up and you will be guided in three clicks to a digital copy of your family member's military personnel record.

This option is straightforward and efficient because it only searches World War One service records. You will not be distracted with other interesting leads along the way. These tips may also help:

- If your search shows that there are two records for your family member, have a look at them both. It is not uncommon for there to be more than one file for the same person. Some information is repeated in both files, but some of it will be different.

- Multiple records may also mean that there was more than one soldier with the same name. If you know your family member's service number, this will help you to identify the right record. However you may need to open each file and look for other clues, like next of kin details.
- If, on the other hand, you are not getting enough results, try using a [fuzzy search](#) by putting a tilde (~) after the name. Fuzzy searching will find a word even if it is misspelled. I tested this with a search for "David Johnson~", and got results for 18 servicemen named David, with the surnames Johnson, Johnston, Johnstone and Johansen.
- You can also use [wildcards](#) (*). A search for "David Johns*on*" produced a slightly different set of results to the one above.

Option 2: DigitalNZ

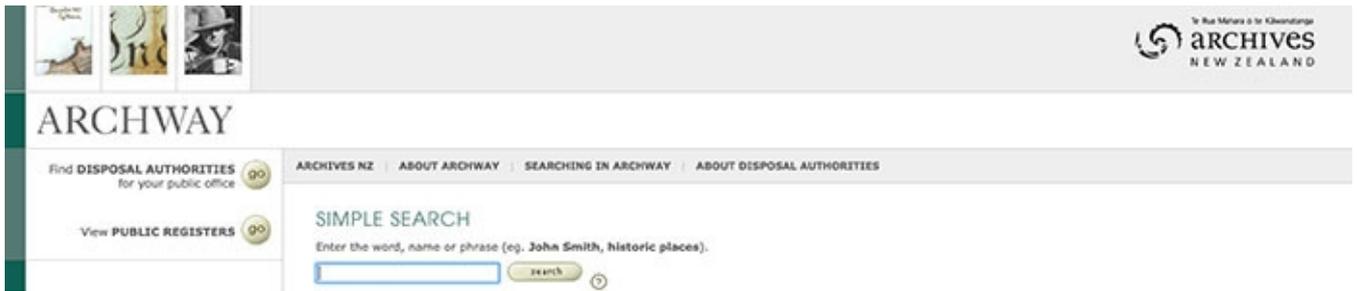


If you start your search on [DigitalNZ](#), you will still get to your family member's military personnel record in three clicks. Option 1's search tips will work for this site, and you can also use [Filters](#) to narrow your search.

The main difference is that DigitalNZ searches across more than 28 million digital images from the collections of nearly 200 partners, including New Zealand museums, libraries, government agencies and other institutions. So your search results will not be confined to your family member's military personnel record; you may well find other interesting material too.

As an example, a DigitalNZ search for my great-aunt, Christina Gibbon, returned her military record as expected. However I also found a photograph held by the Alexander Turnbull Library of Christina leaving New Zealand as one of our first 50 nurses (exciting!), and several newspaper clippings in PapersPast about "Nurses for the Front", "Our Gallant Women" etc.

Option 3: Archives New Zealand Archway Simple Search



Anyone who has been searching for New Zealand military personnel records for a while will be most familiar with this option.

Enter your family member's name in the [Archway Simple Search](#) field. The Simple Search does not support wildcards or tildes but it will pick up some minor name variations, e.g a search for Johnston also picks up Johnstone. You may need to search manually if you know that the name you are looking for can be spelled (or misspelled) a number of ways.

Your search results will first appear sorted into four categories. Click "Go" next to the top result for "individual records". This is where you hope to find your family member's name under the sub-title "Military Personnel Files". Follow the links to "View or download digital files". I counted 4 clicks to get to the downloadable record.

The main drawback of this search method is that it will find ALL Archives New Zealand's holdings for the name you have searched. This means the results list can be long, especially if the name is common. On the other hand, you may find other items of interest, such as a photograph or a probate. Archives New Zealand provides lots of [guidance on how to search their site](#), including the advanced search option.

Option 4: Discovering ANZACs



The National Archives of Australia and Archives New Zealand have developed the [Discovering ANZACS](#) website in partnership "as a gift to both nations for the centenary of World War I".

There is a name search on the front page, and five clicks will take you through to the downloadable military personnel record at Archives New Zealand. The Discovering ANZACS team advise that you start with a broad search, for instance by surname, and narrow your results from there. The site has a comprehensive [Help](#) page. I didn't find this option as intuitive as some of the others, but I like the site for other reasons.

Discovering ANZACS is an interactive site where you can post your own photos, stories and details about your family member and their service. And, of course, you can find information about Australian service men and women here as well.

Option 5: Online Cenotaph – Auckland War Memorial Museum



The new [Online Cenotaph](#) has been developed by Auckland War Memorial Museum in association with the Ministry for Culture and Heritage. Like Discovering ANZACS, it is an interactive site. Families can add their own information to the Museum's database compiled over the last 18 years.

Three clicks from the Person Search field takes you to Archives New Zealand, although you have to scroll right to the bottom of the person's profile page to find the link. Then it's a couple more clicks within Archives New Zealand's website to get to where your family member's record can be downloaded. The site provides [research help here](#).

On the way, there is an option to view and download the relevant page of the Nominal Roll. And if you are lucky, someone else will have been to the Online Cenotaph and provided lots of fabulous family information, photographs, and stories about your ancestor! Another great interactive option.

How to Download a Military Personnel File from Archives New Zealand

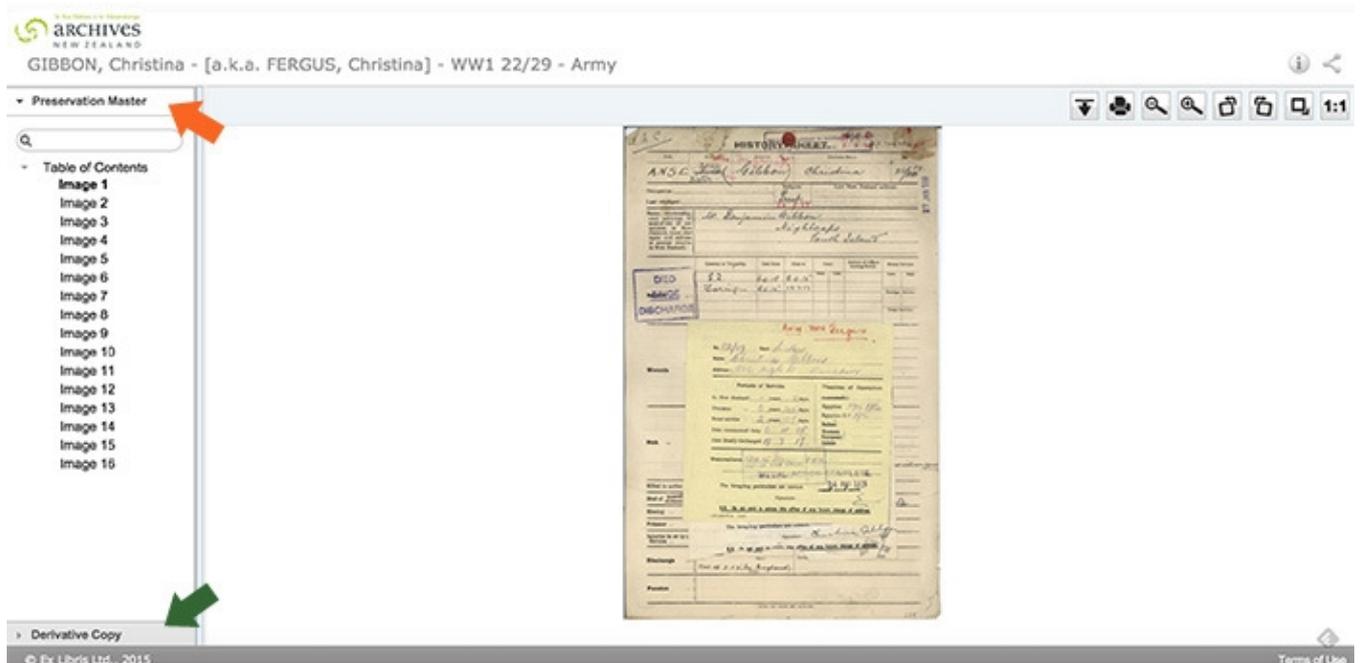
Once you have found your family member's military personnel record on the Archives New Zealand website, you will probably want to print it or download and save it to your computer.

If the record was one of the first tranche to be digitised, then you will be able to open, print and download a PDF version of the full file.

If the record you are after was scanned more recently, however, you will need to print or download it page by page. Each page is an image file rather than a PDF.

Archives New Zealand switched digitisation formats in order to speed up the process and make sure all World War One records were online for the centenary celebrations. It's great that the job is complete, but the records that missed out on being PDFed are definitely more cumbersome to work with. Many military personnel records are 20 pages or less, but some can extend into the hundreds depending on the person's length of service and correspondence they may have entered into with the Defence Force.

Here's how you find the PDF of the full file, if it is available.



You should have reached a screen that looks something like this. If there are two headings, 'Preservation Master' (orange arrow) and 'Derivative Copy' (green arrow), in the left hand panel of the viewer then you are in luck. To access the PDF, click 'Derivative Copy' and select 'Table of Contents'. An icon will appear on the right hand side, and clicking the caption 'image 1' will display the PDF. You can then print or save it in the normal way.

If there is only one heading, 'Derivative_Copy;View', in the left hand panel (in the vicinity of the orange arrow) then you will need to select each page and print or save it individually.

In conclusion... all of the search options I have talked about in this blog will get you to your family member's military personnel record, which you can download for FREE from Archives New Zealand. Some of the options are slightly quicker and more straightforward than others but there isn't much in it. Speed isn't everything, and most of these websites can provide leads along the way to other great material about your family member's world war one experience.

Visits to WW1 Exhibitions

With the various exhibitions at the Dominion Museum, Te Papa and the Film Archives featuring WW1, I plan to organise morning visits during the next 6 months and early next year and this notice is just to find out whether there would be any interest in such visits.

I have yet to get more information about the exhibitions but if you are interested I will collect names at the evening and morning meetings, or you can contact me and I will add your name to the list.

In the meantime I will find out more about times, number restrictions etc., and if there is sufficient interest I will go ahead and make the necessary arrangements.

Diane Stinson

Kumara Times Project

The Kumara Times Project is seeking donations in support of digitising the *Kumara Times* and make it available on the *Papers Past* website.

The project is supported by the Hokitika Museum.

The cost of the project is \$21,000. National Library will pay half the costs.

For the project to go ahead \$10,500 needs to be raised.

There is more information, including how to make donations, here:

[https://www.westlanddc.govt.nz/sites/default/files/Kumara Times project brochure 2.pdf](https://www.westlanddc.govt.nz/sites/default/files/Kumara%20Times%20project%20brochure%202.pdf)

Visit to National Library Thursday 19 March

This is just a brief summary of what was a comprehensive and most interesting visit for branch members to the National Library and the Alexander Turnbull Library.

The Turnbull Library part of the tour started at the collection of children's books such as *Alice in Wonderland* that were popular before and up to the 1940s and are still well read today.

Photographs are now mostly digitised although a card index is also available. If wanting to view any items from the collection, it is best to pre-order them from home so that they will be available at the library when required. This will avoid a 2-hour wait for items if ordered while at the library.

Two registration numbers are required when researching at the National Library - one for general items and another for Alexander Turnbull research.

Of particular interest was the display of old and rare books that had been handwritten and others, also handwritten that had the capital letters at the beginning of each section made up of small "pictures" in colour. The display also included old books that had been machine printed rather than handwritten.

The last part of our visit was the family history section of the National Library where we were shown the various records that were available for research. We were also given a detailed "tour" of the library's website and shown the best method of accessing the information.

More detailed information in next month's newsletter.

Diane Stinson

Victoria University of Wellington Scottish Interest Group

Meetings are held on the 28th of the month, at the V U W School of Architecture & Design, Vivian St. Entrance opposite the back of the Comfort Hotel. Time 7.15pm for 7.30pm start. Visitors welcome

Although based in Victoria University, no connection with it or any other tertiary institution is required to be a member. An interest in things Scottish is the only prerequisite. Enquires: Phone 388 8069 or 976 4525 or 478 7587

Email: wellyscots@gmail.com Website: <http://www.wellyscots.wordpress.com>

for details of the 2015 programme.

anzacsightsound.org

Sights & Sounds of the First World War was developed in partnership between Nga Taonga Sound & Vision (NTSV) and the National Film and Sound Archive of Australia (NFSA). The site has been built to commemorate the centenary of Australia and New Zealand's involvement in World War One by showcasing audio-visual material related to the war held by both archives.

Rather than replicating the many print and online histories already written, or due to be published during the centenary period, we seek to offer fresh approaches by showcasing film, sound and documents. It is not aiming to duplicate other resources and offer a comprehensive history of the war. Instead, with a modern design backed up by lively and engaging text, it is hoped that the site can deliver unique stories and perspectives about the war framed by the collections of the NFSA and NTSV. Updates of new content will occur throughout the centenary period up to 2019.

We are very interested in your feedback and would love to [hear from you](#)
Principle funding for the site was received from the Lottery World War One Commemorations, Environment and Heritage Committee (New Zealand). NTSV also acknowledges support from the Ministry for Culture and Heritage.

The *Press* goes to press

25 May 1861

The first edition, published from a cottage in Montreal Street, Christchurch, was a six-page tabloid which sold for sixpence (equivalent to about \$2.80 in 2013).

Founded by prominent early settler and politician James FitzGerald, the *Press* is the oldest surviving newspaper in the South Island. Its first edition stated that the publishers made 'no apology for the publication', which was set up in opposition to two established local newspapers. The people of Christchurch would decide,

If we shall be so fortunate as to command a remunerative circulation the result will justify our opinion. If not, failure will sufficiently punish our presumption. But whatever the issue to the proprietors, the public will be the gainers.

The *Press* building, constructed in 1909, was a prominent landmark in Christchurch's Cathedral Square for more than a century. Sadly, the building partially collapsed during the earthquake of 22 February 2011, killing one staff member. It was eventually demolished in August 2011.

The *Press*, first edition ([PapersPast](#))

<http://www.nzhistory.net.nz>



Eastern Hutt School is celebrating 100 Years
Labour Weekend 23 & 24 October 2015.

All past pupils, teachers and past Committee members are cordially invited to join us over this weekend when we can look back and celebrate our proud history of 100 years in schooling.

For information go to www.easternhutt.school.nz

Email: centenary@easternhutt.school.nz or contact the school on 04 566-0167.

Hutt News May 5 2015

Commemorating Scottish Heritage



Scots settlers played an important role in Wellington's early years and their descendants are planning to celebrate the richness of that heritage.

On 27 December 2015 it will be 175 years since the *Blenheim* arrived in Wellington with migrants of mainly Highland farmers and their families.

To mark the occasion, and to provide an opportunity for all the community to share in the commemoration, it is planned to hold a picnic day with suitably Scottish themes and events.

The passengers from the *Blenheim* disembarked at Kaiwharawhara, where they were welcomed and supported by Ngati Tama and their chief Taringakuri, so it is proposed to hold the family picnic at Kaiwharawhara Park on the 27th of December 2015. Events are likely to include Scottish sports and dancing, children's games, bagpipes and displays.

Other functions will be held in Auckland and in Wanganui to commemorate the departure of the "Blenheim" on the 25th of August 1840.

Many of the settlers eventually moved to the Wanganui, Turakina and Wairarapa districts to take up land.

For more information: <https://blenheim175.wordpress.com>

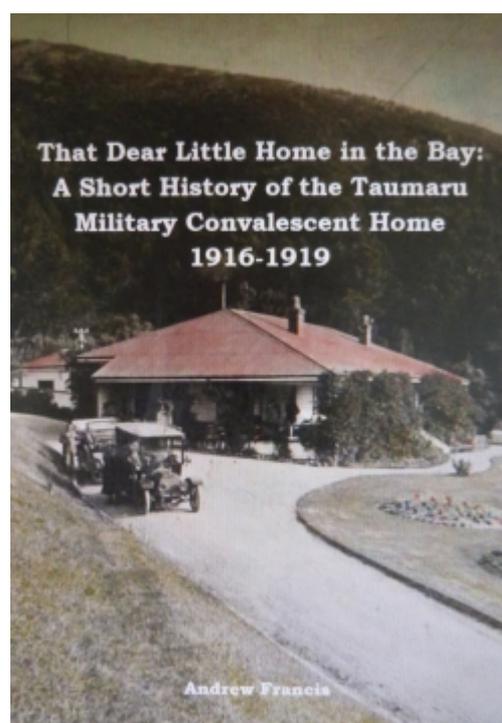
Hutt News May 5 2015

That Dear Little Home in the Bay:

With funding from the Lottery Grants Board, Hutt City Libraries has published a fascinating history of the Taumaru Military Convalescent Home in Eastbourne.

In 1916 well known lawyer and politician Francis Henry Dillon Bell offered his house at Lowry Bay to the New Zealand government as a convalescent home for wounded soldiers.

Around 500 soldiers passed through its doors before it closed in 1919.



'That Dear Little Home on the Bay' is the story of that house which for many is now long forgotten, if known at all.

There are 2 sites to read the book:

[http://issuu.com/huttcitylibraries/docs/taumaru_book - 21-04-2015](http://issuu.com/huttcitylibraries/docs/taumaru_book_-_21-04-2015)

<http://library.huttcity.govt.nz/docs/OPAC/PDFs/Taumaru-Book-21-04-2015.pdf>

What's On at Your Local Branches?

Kilbirnie:

Wednesday 3 June – Allan Penney, *Masters and Mates – Sailing the Ocean Deep*.
Time/Venue: 10am The Park Bowling Club, Kilbirnie Crescent, Kilbirnie

Kapiti:

Tuesday 23 June - Emerson Vandy, National Library. *Digital NZ and latest from Papers Past*.
Time/Venue: 7pm Kapiti Community Centre, 15 Ngahina St, Paraparaumu.

Wellington:

Wednesday 27 May – AGM followed by Paul Alpe *Introduction to NZSG Kiwi Collection*
Time/Venue: 7.30pm Connolly Hall, Guildford Tce, Thorndon

Porirua:

Wednesday 10 June – Guest Speaker: *Liz Francis*
Time/Venue: 7.30pm Helen Smith Community Meeting Room, Pataka
Cnr Norrie & Parumoana Sts, Porirua



**IRISH INTEREST GROUP
LOWER NORTH ISLAND**



IT IS OUR 10th BIRTHDAY

AGM & RESEARCH DAY



Come and celebrate with us

Everyone Welcome

- Date:** 23rd May 2015 (Saturday)
- Programme:** 10am Morning tea and Research
 Film of "Irish Marriages and Folk law"
 Presentation on "Irish BMDs" by Anita West
 12pm – 12.30pm AGM and cutting of the cake
 12.30pm - 3pm Research
- Venue:** Johnsonville Community Centre HALL
Address: 3 Frankmoore Ave, Johnsonville
Parking: 2 hour parking at the back of the Mall, entrance to Hall from Moorefield Road, opposite mall Countdown.
- Entry:** Visitors: \$5.00 per person

*Complimentary Tea and Coffee supplied
 Please bring your own lunch or eat at one of the local cafés!*



*Microfiche, Books Computer & Personal Assistance
 Ancestry & Findmypast available free
 Please bring your own laptop and internet USB stick if you have one.*

Raffle & Sales / Prizes and Giveaways

Contact: Jenny Martin
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