

Hutt Valley Branch of the New Zealand
Society of Genealogists



News & Views

June 2020

Issue 389



Greetings Everyone,

The Hutt Valley Branch will continue to be closed during June.

However our Annual General Meeting will be held in July, notice on Page 2.

The 2019 AGM minutes are with this newsletter.

Our membership renewals due date has been extended until the end of June and the early payment discount will still apply. ***The membership renewal form is also with this newsletter.***

If possible, pay using on-line banking to ANZ 01 0530 0289489.00. Please put your name in the reference section.

If paying on-line is not an option, payment may be by cheque to the branch P O Box 31 024, Lower Hutt, 5040.

The Petone Library Heritage Volunteer Roster continues to be suspended for June and will be reviewed at the end of the month.

If you require assistance with your research please email the branch HuttValley@genealogy.org.nz and we will organise a member of the branch who can help you.

Regards *Helene*

Postal Address: PO Box 31-024, Lower Hutt 5040

Website: www.huttvalleygenealogy.org.nz

Convenor: Helene Philpott bhdk.philpott@gmail.com

Secretary: Anne Martin HuttValley@genealogy.org.nz

Editor: Helene Philpott bhdk.philpott@gmail.com

Notice of Annual General Meeting of the Hutt Valley Branch of the NZ Society of Genealogists inc

**To be held on Thursday 9 July at Naenae Bowling Club,
Function Room, 25 Vogel St, Naenae. Lower Hutt,
at 7.30pm, doors open at 7pm**

The function room at Naenae Bowling is a large room where members can be comfortably spaced out if needed. There is also lots of parking available.

The agenda for the annual general meeting is: -

1. The latest amendments to the society's rules to be adopted by branches
2. Receipt of the branch annual report and statement of accounts
2. Set the annual subscription for the 2021-2022 year
3. Election of Convenor, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee members
4. General Business

Our Guest Speaker will be Sarah Hewitt, Convenor, Kilbirnie Branch

**For those who would like to have a meal prior to our AGM,
Chrissy's Bistro at the Naenae Bowling Club is open 5pm to 8pm on
Thursdays, bookings essential- Ph 567 0561**

<http://naenaebowls.nz/chrissys-bistro/>



Looking towards the future of the Hutt Valley Branch.

We need new branch members to join the committee so that those who have given good service can retire.

We are a supportive committee with diverse interests, but it is time to add new faces.

Branch Newsletters Received during May:

May: Wellington; Otaki; Palmerston North; Nelson; Canterbury; South Waikato; New Plymouth.

June: Kilbirnie, South Waikato, New Plymouth.

If you would like to receive any of these newsletters please email Anne Martin, Secretary HuttValley@genealogy.org.nz



Welcome to New Members-

Kaye Marriott and Lyn Moulder

From the FamNet eNewsletter, June 2020:

https://www.famnet.org.nz/newsletters/FamNet/June_2020/Newsletter.htm

FamilySearch.org tips with Michael Higgins

A live Zoom Webinar 17 June 12pm-1pm

Join area manager Mike Higgins via live Zoom webinar, to hear about the origins of FamilySearch and how the organisation has adapted since its early beginnings in 1894.

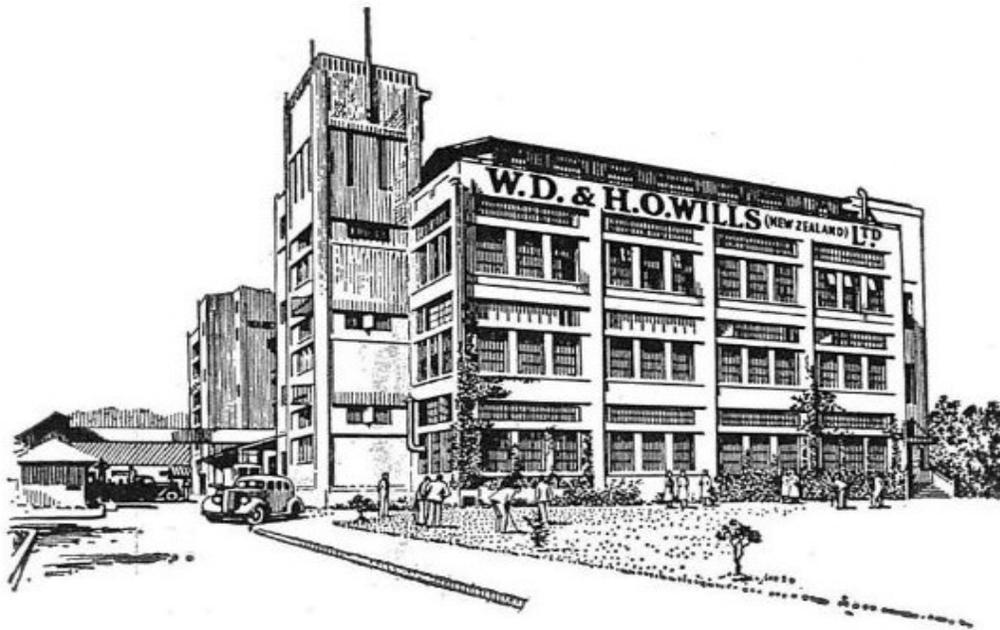
Learn tips and tricks of how to get the most out of the website. Hear about updates.

Click on the link below to register in advance for this meeting.

<https://www.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz/pages/event.aspx?eventid=9836>

Other Upcoming Events

<https://www.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz/Pages/Events-search.aspx?type=6>



**The fine modern factory of
W. D. & H. O. WILLS (NEW ZEALAND) LIMITED, PETONE.**

For over half a century the tobaccos and cigarettes of W. D. & H. O. Wills of Bristol, have been in the forefront of popularity with New Zealand smokers. Twenty-two years ago W. D. & H. O. Wills (New Zealand) Limited commenced manufacturing in Wellington and twelve years later, the growing need for larger and more adequate premises caused them to transfer the manufacturing business to Petone, where they have been established for over ten years in the commodious and up-to-date factory they now occupy.

The modern factory and surrounding buildings stand in five and a-half acres of spacious grounds. The main building is fronted by broad lawns, and elsewhere playing fields cater for many sports. Attractive gardens complete the pleasant surroundings.

Messrs. W. D. & H. O. Wills (New Zealand) Limited provide employment for over six hundred persons at Petone. All girls are engaged by the Staff Matron and their health and welfare are her special consideration. In addition a trained Sports Mistress looks after the playing and physical activities of the Staff. During the lunch hour, many of them practice the various games in which they take part, and many a fine team is out to represent "Wills" each Saturday.

From the flat roof of the factory, there is a magnificent view of the Hutt Valley and harbour, and here are several Deck Tennis Courts—crowded whenever the opportunity offers.

In addition, the management have built and equipped a large cafeteria and centrally heated lunch-room, from which a magnificent view adds to the cheerful lunch-hour atmosphere.

In surroundings and conditions such as these, the Staff of W. D. & H. O. Wills (New Zealand) Limited find pleasurable employment in carrying out the many and varied processes involved in the transformation of dried leaf into Cigarettes, Cigarette and Pipe Tobaccos—products ranking with the world's best.

W. D. & H. O. Wills' factory is one of which Petone is justly proud.

The Ashburton Guardian.

Papers Past <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers>

Available Online 1879 -1950

The 1870s and 1880s saw a flurry of newspaper publishing in Ashburton. First there was the Ashburton Mail, established in 1877 by Joseph Ives, a prolific publisher of country newspapers. This was followed by the Evening Echo in 1878. The next year Ives published the Evening News to help him in his bid for the Ashburton mayoralty. Charles Dixon and Horace Weeks, the owners of the Echo, now called the Ashburton Herald, started the Ashburton Guardian to oppose Ives's ambitions. Ives narrowly lost the election although it is not clear what, if any, effect the Guardian had on this.

The town could not support four newspapers so in 1880 Edward George Wright and Hugo Friedlander, the new owners of the Herald and Guardian, merged their two papers under the title of the Ashburton Guardian. In 1884 the Mail was sold to William Jules Steward. Steward had worked on various papers in Canterbury and Otago and represented the area in local and national politics. In 1885 Steward acquired the Guardian as well.

Steward's political commitments (he was a Member of the House of Representatives from 1881 to 1911), made it difficult for him to devote enough time to his papers and in the 1890s he leased them to Henry Willis, eventually selling them to Robert Bell in 1900.

Robert Bell had worked on newspapers in Australia and Timaru before coming to Ashburton. He would become Managing Director of the Lyttelton Times in 1917 and Chairman of the Timaru Post in 1922. Bell closed the Mail in 1932 and died in 1937. His son W.B. Bell succeeded him as manager.

The Guardian is still published by the Bell family, making it one of the few independently owned daily newspapers left in New Zealand.

The Ashburton Guardian Index:

<https://www.ashburtondc.govt.nz/our-services/library/Pages/catalogue%20and%20databases.aspx>

The Ashburton Library holds the Ashburton Guardian from 1878 to the present day, mostly on microfilm. The newspaper archive is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 2.00p.m. - 5.00p.m.

The card index to the Ashburton Guardian is being scanned to make it more widely accessible to researchers. The years 1878-1889 and 1920-1999 are currently available below. Users can select by years and letter of the alphabet. The index references items of Ashburton interest arranged under surnames, places, and subjects. These handwritten cards contain a lot of information. Samples below 1999 and 1955-1959

WILSON

(B)

Paul, photo, 22.7.99, p3 // Pauline, photo, 24.7.99 p4 // Rhonda, photo, 10.8.99, p.10 // Helen Manchester, D. 13.8.99 p2 // DITTO, 14.8.99, p2 // Emily, photo, 18.8.99, p18 // George, photo, 23.8.99 p1 // David Gordon, court, 24.8.99, p5 // Nick, photo, 26.8.99, p6 // Colin, photo, 28.8.99, p5 // Tod, photo, 31.8.99 p1 // Isaac, photo, 1.9.99 p15 // Ebony, photo, 2.9.99 p.15 //

Wachmoe:

Womens Fellowship, 19.3.1955, p.4 // Tennis Club, 5.4.1955, p.1 // Womens Division, 23.4.1955, p.2 // Youth Den, 21.9.1955, p.4 // Stopbanks Reopened, 18.8.1956, p.4 // Stopbank, 14.9.1956, p.8 // Stopbank, 22.9.1956, p.4 // Collision, 24.9.1956, p.4 // Youth Den Opened, 19.11.1956, p.6 // Diseases Delegates Visit Roseacch Station, 21.11.1956, p.9 // Sunday School Anniversary, 19.12.1956, p.6 // Colombo Alm Students 27.9.1957, p.6 // Drawing in Legislation, 4.9.1958, p.6 //

Updates to our Website, Thanks to Susan Wilson:

(1) Online Library Catalogue

A Spreadsheet Catalogue of our Branch Library Collection has been made accessible online from the "Branch Library" webpage.

<http://sites.rootsweb.com/~nzlhvrsg/library.html>

The catalogue also gets a mention on our Home page.

The Hutt City Libraries' online catalogue of HVNZSG items is now out-of-date because of the recent cull of our Branch material and then subsequent purchases of new books.

(2) Committee Nomination form; Membership Renewal form

Both of these have been "refreshed" to be latest version. See Membership Benefits & Fees webpage:

<http://sites.rootsweb.com/~nzlhvrsg/membership.html>

(3) Ian Fyfe's Obituary added to News webpage:

<http://sites.rootsweb.com/~nzlhvrsg/news.html>

(4) New Webpage: Matiu Somes Island Burials

Some time back Gail Rumble gave us a presentation about the burials on Matiu Somes Island. Using her PowerPoint notes as a basis, a new webpage has been added to our website.

To find this webpage:

Our Hutt Valley Branch website:

<http://sites.rootsweb.com/~nzlhvrsg/>

==> menu item: Research

==> menu item: Useful Links page

==> scroll to: Cemeteries subsection

==> click on link to "Matiu Somes Island Burials"

Alternatively, go direct via:

http://sites.rootsweb.com/~nzlhvrsg/matiu_somes_burials.html

Just in case you are not familiar with the layout used, it is called an "accordion" with "folds" within them. Where there are little triangles on the wide "buttons", click on the buttons to toggle between expand / collapse of the info.

The "List of Ships" and "List of People Buried" are both tables of alphabetic information, each having columns that can be sorted, so each table's data can provide more information, eg ships in arrival order, or ages of deceased (youngest to oldest, or vice versa), etc.

(5) A Yippee!! Search Result

While writing up the material for the Matiu Somes Island Burials webpage, I became interested in what Gail Rumble had found about the ship Oxford, and its voyage to NZ in 1883. The ship had been dismasted in a storm in the Bay of Biscay, and had barely survived, but the wrecked ship had been towed to Cardiff for repairs. The passengers had disembarked and faced a 4-6-week delay before their journey could resume. I wanted to know more about what happened to the passengers during this time.

I searched British Newspapers, but also NZ's papers in PapersPast.

First search in PapersPast had date restrictions of 1883. Then, later wanting to re-check something, I repeated my search, this time accidentally NOT having a date range.

We are always being reminded, "less is more" when doing searches. Well my search result was a "Yippee!!" It showed the previously found 1883 material, but now included articles from 1933, yes 1933. Intrigued and a bit puzzled, I investigated. These 1933 items were articles based on the **50-year-old memories of original passengers**. Wow!! And such fascinating stories, too.

If you are interested in what I uncovered, there is a link to the articles from the "**Oxford - 1883**" material on the Matiu Somes Island Burials webpage, alternatively go direct via:

http://sites.rootsweb.com/~nzlhvrsg/matiu_somes_1883_oxford.html

Auckland Family History Expo:

Friday, Saturday and Sunday 7th, 8th, and 9th of August 2020

Fickling Convention Centre, 546 Mt Albert Rd, Three Kings, Auckland

<https://www.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz/pages/event.aspx?eventid=9262>