

Horowhenua Family History Group Inc

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Location: Te Takere Heritage Room 10 Bath Street Levin

SUBSCRIPTIONS are now due. \$30.

HFHG bank account.38-9008-0466762-00.

Name as reference or cash to Treasurer.



Levin Post-office 1903

**Thompson House
4 Kent Street, Levin
Monday 29 June 2026
1.30pm**

**Heather Thomson:
“Tell your stories”
followed by Lorraine’s story:
Cousin Brydon’s South Island
Bike trip c.1946/47**

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COMMITTEE

Kevin Miles 021 1364 075 President

Brian Bernon 027 286 4186 Secretary

Prue Theobald 021 234 5621 Treasurer

Ian Meyer 06 368 0602

Cathy Holmes 021 338 227

Lynn Williams Librarian

Next meeting

**Monday 27 July 2026
1.30pm**

**Members stories from their
School Days**

President’s message

Although some days in the Heritage Room are quiet, it is good to see a steady flow of enquiries. I seem to have one on the go most weeks.

I finally managed to get an article written for The Genealogist which was published in the latest June issue. I was pleased to get two responses, one from the Heritage Librarian in Hastings who would like some of my family photos for the Recollect site.

The second was from someone who went to school with my sister and her father worked at Baillie Motors with my father. To cap off the coincidences, her brother ran the bookshop in Seatoun where I grew up. She shared some great photos which I can show my sister.

I must confess to being a little unsure about sharing the family information but am now convinced it was very worthwhile.

Kevin Miles

Unveiling of Headstone

On Saturday June 27 the New Zealand Remembrance Army with the Levin RSA will be unveiling the updated headstone of Sister Ethel Maud Thomas who, as Sister Dement was awarded an MiD (Mentioned in Dispatches) and the ARRC (Associate Royal Red Cross) Medal for her service as a nurse in World War I.

Her husband Bill Thomas, who also served in World War I and is buried beside her, was the first Principal of Horowhenua College.

The new headstone will be unveiled on Saturday June 27, at 2pm at Tiro Tiro Road Cemetery, Levin followed by light refreshments at Levin RSA, Bristol Street, Levin. All are welcome to attend.

For catering purposes please contact Linda Fletcher
linda.fletcher@xtra.co.nz phone 0210 2309 605 by 24 June.

Anne Jackman: Growing an archivist: serendipity, mysteries, and endless rabbit holes

Our May meeting, guest speaker Anne Jackman, a retired archivist and genealogist, spoke about her journey into archives, the role genealogy has played in her professional and personal life, and her current work helping to preserve vulnerable local newspapers and community history. Her talk combined family story, archival practice, and a strong message about the importance of saving records before they disappear.

Anne is a fourth-generation Southerner, with family connections across Dunedin cemeteries and DNA reflecting the familiar southern mix of Scottish, Irish, English, and some Scandinavian ancestry.

Although she did not set out to become an archivist, her history degree, library training, and experience in academic and public libraries eventually led her to the Hocken Collections in Dunedin, where she managed research services. She later worked with the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand library and archive, and then with Archives New Zealand as Southern Regional Manager.

A common thread across these roles was the importance of genealogy. Family historians were major users of archives, and demand for genealogical records grew rapidly as more material became available online.

When Anne began teaching and assisting others with family history research, she realised the best way to learn was to investigate her own family. That research drew her into the story of Rose Lee Hood, later Rose Jackman, her great-great-grandmother on her father's side.

Anne's research began with family stories. One suggested that the Jackman surname may once have been Stewart or Stuart. Another claimed the family was descended from sheep stealers.



Both stories contained hints of truth, but neither could be accepted without evidence. Anne's search involved false starts, mistranscriptions, copied family trees, incomplete records and details that did not quite fit. It was a useful reminder that family history research rewards patience and careful checking.

Working backwards through the records, Anne found that Rose Lee Hood had arrived in Tasmania, Australia from Edinburgh, Scotland in 1857 as a bonded servant. She was pregnant when she arrived and gave birth later that year to a son, John Stewart Hood, who later used the Jackman name.

In 1859 Rose married Thomas Jackman at Campbell Town, Tasmania. Thomas had been transported from Surrey, England, in 1846 for sheep stealing, as reported in the *Kentish Mercury*. He received a 10-year sentence.

The Jackman line raised many questions. Thomas appears to have had a wife and child in England, and there is uncertainty about whether he returned there after serving his sentence before coming back to Tasmania. His first wife later appeared in English census records as a widow and remarried in 1862.

Anne Jackman (continued)

Anne also found examples of misleading records, including Hood being transcribed as Flood and a birth record that incorrectly placed John Stewart Jackman's birth in Sydney rather than Tasmania.

One mystery remains at the heart of the story: who was the father of Rose's first child, John Stewart Hood/Jackman? The middle name Stewart may connect with the old family story, but Anne has not yet been able to prove the link. DNA may one day help answer the question, but for now it remains one of those intriguing gaps familiar to many researchers.

Rose became the most compelling figure in Anne's research. She and Thomas arrived in Dunedin in 1863 with their children. By the 1880s Rose was appearing regularly in court and police records for theft, drunkenness, vagrancy, and related offences.

Her name can be traced through the *Otago Police Gazette*, later *Police Gazette* entries, Papers Past court reports, and the Otago Benevolent Society's outdoor relief casebooks. These records are often blunt, and sometimes judgemental, but they also reveal the hardship behind the offences.

Rose had eight children, one of whom died in infancy. She was abandoned by her husband, who publicly disowned her, and later by her children.

With little formal support available in the nineteenth century, Anne suggested that some of Rose's behaviour may have begun as an attempt to provide for her family.

Thomas was taken to court for failing to support them, and several of the younger children were sent to the Dunedin Industrial School. Rose also sought help from the Otago Benevolent Institution, but unsuccessfully.



Anne's talk offered many practical lessons for family history researchers.

Newspapers are invaluable, and sometimes the key evidence appears where we least expect it.

Passenger records into Otago in the early 1860s are patchy, but Anne found evidence of Rose and Thomas leaving Tasmania through a Tasmanian newspaper. Court reports, police notices, hospital registers, benevolent society records, cemetery records, and institutional files all helped build a fuller picture.

Anne also reminded us to treat every source with care. Certificates depend on what the informant knew or chose to say. Indexes and transcripts can contain mistakes.

Official records reflect the language and attitudes of their time, and a legally accurate record may still give an incomplete social picture.

The researcher's task is to compare sources, understand context, and avoid judging ancestors too quickly through modern eyes.

Continued on page 4

Anne Jackman (continued)

In retirement, Anne continues to work for the preservation of records. She is now a trustee of the Preserving Local History and Education Trust, operating under the banner "Your Stories". The Trust focuses on preserving cultural heritage, improving access, and offering affordable preservation options for community history. Its particular concern is local and community newspapers that are unlikely to be included in the National Library of New Zealand's digitisation programme.

These newspapers matter deeply to genealogists. They record family notices, court cases, school events, businesses, sports, accidents, social occasions, and the small everyday details that place our ancestors in their communities. Many titles were never microfilmed, are stored in poor conditions, or survive only in scattered issues held by local repositories or private individuals. People may even have the only surviving copies of a newspaper without realising their importance.

The scale of the challenge is large. Anne noted that an estimated two million pages are unlikely to be covered by the National Library's programme, while the Trust has already digitised around 300,000 pages. Its work includes locating missing titles and stray issues, building as complete a run as possible, digitising to preservation standards, and making material available through platforms such as Recollect, with the aim of eventual access through Papers Past where possible.

Partnerships are essential to this work. The Trust works with the National Library, NZ Micrographics, libraries, archives, museums, local groups, rights holders, funders, and community organisations. Permissions, funding, and public awareness all matter. For family historians, the message is clear: preserving local newspapers is not just about saving paper; it is about protecting the evidence future researchers will need.

CORRECTION May issue of the newsletter: some information about Heather Rutherford's family connections to the WW2 and the Vietnam War was incorrect. Apologies to Heather for this error.

Your Committee Profiles: Brian Bernon



Brian came out to New Zealand from the UK as a one-year-old. He spent most of his formative years and first marriage at Titahi Bay, and with his first wife, raising three children, one daughter and two sons.

Brian and Felicity moved up to the Horowhenua in 2014.

Brian joined the Horowhenua Family History Group around 2022, and at the same time joined the New Zealand Society of Genealogists.

In 2025, Brian accepted the role of secretary for the HFHG group.

In 2024, Brian was appointed to the board of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists. Brian's special interest is in DNA and story writing.

In joining the New Zealand Society of Genealogists, Brian has tapped into the many New Zealand and overseas resources that NZSG has at their fingertips.

Brian also, whilst being on the board, and because of his special interest in DNA and story writing, was nominated as liaison person with the online DNA interest group and the writers special interest group. He has taken over his father's genealogy research related to his family. The resources at NZSG and the internet are currently providing him with more information to further populate the family tree and family stories.

If you have any interest in NZSG, just grab hold of Brian at any of the meetings or at the contact number that is at the front of the newsletter. All the best with your own research, whether it be local or international.

Heritage Room News

by Kevin Miles

It has been difficult to find a lot of time to make progress with the Archive and complete some of the things that I had hoped to achieve.

I had been talking with Ross Kerr about contributing to the Archive and joining the Historical Society. As a former Solicitor he was keen to write up a document about the legal profession in the Horowhenua. In his usual efficient and organised manner he came into the Archive, in the middle of May, with it nearly completed and said he would get more involved.

Tragically within a short time, he passed away, very suddenly on 26 May.

I had the privilege of saying a few words at his funeral. It was his inspiration which encouraged me to set up the “*100 Years of Tramping in the Tararuas*” Exhibition. I will greatly miss his humour, knowledge and friendship.



Heritage Room days and hours:

Volunteer researchers are on duty to help with your family history research inquiries:

Tuesday to Friday 10am to 12.30pm.

If you would like to volunteer in the Heritage Room – as a researcher or with the scrapbook project, please contact Kevin Miles 021 1364 075 for further information.



Horowhenua Family History Group Committee members meeting in the Heritage Room, Levin Library.

From left: Prue Theobald (Treasurer/Membership/Publicity); Brian Bernon (Secretary), Ian Meyer, Kevin Miles (President), Lynn Williams (Librarian), Cathy Holmes (Newsletter/Publicity)

Book Review

Struggle Muster by Peter Newton by Prue Theobald (Nee Hutchison)

One Tuesday morning when I did my volunteer hours in the Heritage Room at the Levin Library I wandered down one of the rows of books and came across this book by Peter Newton.

I was attracted to the author due to Peter Newton had been to war with my dad Ernie Hutchison in the 23rd Battalion and prior to the war they both had worked as musterers on High Country farms in Canterbury, one being Mt White Station.

This caught my attention, so I picked it up and sat down at the table to read through it.

I first browsed and came upon chapter 32 The Musterers' Packie, as I knew my dad had been a musterer's packie on Mt White. Then I found it on page 158 the name **Ernie Hutchison**.

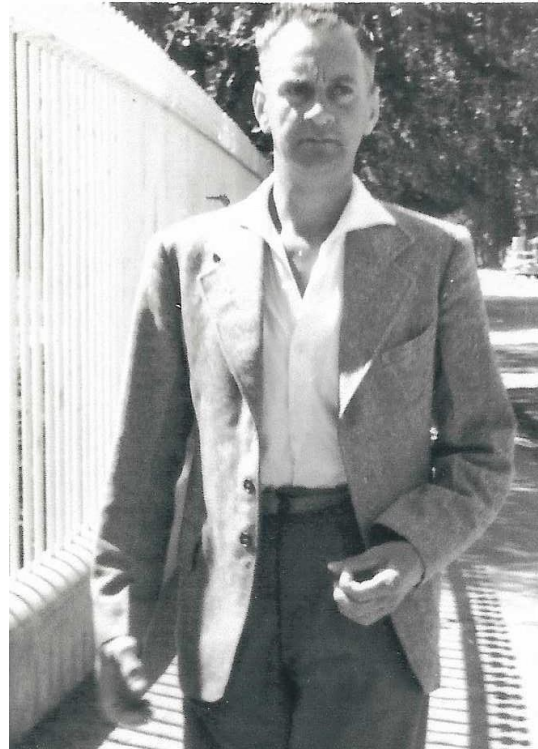
I learnt something new about my dad there. When he arrived at Mt White "he was still in his 'teens and was a bit of a featherweight" as Peter Newton describes him.

He then went on to describe how my dad loaded up the horses, with no help from the musterers as it was expected that they would help.

I liked this paragraph "Ernie was one of those efficiency experts. If it was possible to perform a certain job by taking an absolute minimum of 52,874 steps in the course of the day Ernie would have it worked out do it in 52873. There was no wasted effort with that bloke."

I agree with the above sentiment, which sounds like my dad!

And the next paragraph I like, it's about how he could cook a mutton chop, hockey sticks.



Pictured above: Ernie Hutchison in his younger days.

"Yet Ernie could make the leanest, most repulsive-looking hockey stick taste like chicken. That takes some doing too."

Peter goes on to describe how he had tried to cook the same meat and for him it needed a lot of sauce to even look palatable to eat.

In my teenage years, our Dad would cook a mutton stew, and it tasted the best. I think he did doughboys on top as well.

Peter Newton in his later years lived in Rangiora as well as our family so my Dad would often visit Peter for a cuppa and chew the fat as the saying goes.

I have another book at home by Peter Newton called "The World of Peter Newton The Best Of His High Country Writing."

And in there it also mentions my dad, Ernie Hutchison.

HOROWHENUA HISTORICAL SOCIETY update from Linda Fletcher

The committee have sorted a programme for the next few months so you might like to put these dates in your diary.

In August Neil Atkinson, the Ministry of Heritage and Culture's historian, will be giving a talk in the Levin Library on the Wellington-Manawatu Railway history. August 8, time to be advised

The Guest Speaker at our October meeting, Sunday 18, is Bruce Batten who is writing a book about Ron Frost.

KAPITI GENEALOGY & IRISH INTEREST GROUP LNI

Kapiti Irish Education Day Saturday 18 July
2026 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

In conjunction with Kapiti Genealogy who have generously provided funding for the day, the Irish Interest Group Lower North Island invite you to: **"Somewhere in Ireland..." Finding Irish Ancestors through Maps and Records.**

There will be presentations from expert Irish researchers Maggie Gaffney, *"Finding your place in Ireland"*, Graeme McVerry *"Finding you ancestral lands in the maps on Ask About Ireland's Griffith's Valuation site"* and Geraldene O'Reilly *"The Tithes Applotment Survey Books c1825-c1838"*, followed by

hands-on workshops to help you locate the place and land records in Ireland, so bring your laptop.

Bookings can now be made online: <https://www.trybooking.com/nz/BDUO>
Tickets are limited to 40 people with a wait-list for those that miss out. Bookings are essential.

Cost: Kapiti Genealogy and IIG_LNI members \$8. Non-members \$10.

Venue

The venue is the Coast Community Church Hall at 56 Hinemoa Street, Paraparaumu.

Parking

The Church has its own off-road carpark that will be more than large enough to accommodate everyone.

Catering

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be supplied. Please bring your own lunch.

IrishSIG@KapitiGen.org
Irish.LowerNSIG@genealogy.org.nz

HUTT VALLEY NZSG

The Department of Internal Affairs has announced a fee increase for its Births, Deaths, Marriages and Relationships (BDM) services and products.

From 18 June 2026, the prices for most services will increase by approximately 5.6%. They will increase each year.

Births, Deaths, Marriages and Relationships Registration (Fees) Regulations 1995	\$ including GST			
	Current	Year 1 (from 18 June 2026)	Year 2 (from 16 June 2027)	Year 3 (from 16 June 2028)
Standard certificate	33	35	37	39
Decorative certificate	35	37	39	41
Standard and decorative birth certificate pack	55	58	61	65
Copy of any document (source document)	25	26	28	29
Printout copy of any record (electronic or paper)	25	26	28	29

KILBIRNIE NZSG Newsletter

18th AFFHO Congress on Family History - 11-14 February, Wellington



PALMERSTON NORTH NZSG

News Tips and Links

Using Chat GPT for Photo Restoration Lynne McKenzie, who is admin for The Blackball Line FB group, has worked out a useful command to use for photo restoration using Chat GPT: "Perform a conservative restoration: remove physical damage (scratches, tears, spots), reduce grain, and improve clarity. Strictly preserve the original faces, proportions, and identity of all people. Do not beautify, stylize, or re-interpret any part of the image. Keep it true to the original photograph."

Tale of two brothers: South Canterbury Genealogy Society have a project to preserve the stories of those from the area who served in WW2. The story at this link is about two brothers who died in separate flying incidents.

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=1378916484341303&set=a.447655397467421>

This story is a very helpful example of how to write up such a report, mainly using information from military records, and combining it with some local information.

The Cyclopedia of New Zealand, Online versions. There were six regional volumes of this published between 1897 and 1908. These were originally scanned for Victoria University and hosted on the New Zealand Electronic Text Collection and are now found via the National Library catalogue. Read more about them: <https://ndhadeliver.natlib.govt.nz/webarchive/20211210120815/http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholar/ly/tei-corpus-cyclopedia.html> This open-access resource offers fully searchable text and original page scans, (and you could for instance search by surname.)

Note that members of the public paid to be featured in it- but regardless of this it included information about localities. \ <https://ndhadeliver.natlib.govt.nz/webarchive/20211210215644/http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholar/ly/tei-Cyc03Cycl-t1-body1-d6-d26.html>

June webinar: the big GEDmatch reveal is another site where you can analyse your DNA results and find matches that have tested at other companies- <https://www.gedmatch.com/>

GEDmatch have an upcoming webinar- "The Next Generation of GEDmatch" which will be at 5am Saturday June 20th NZ time. A recording will be available later on their public YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/@gedmatch_official

Wildcard searches from 'The Ancestor Hunt' Kenneth Marks runs both a Facebook page and a website that has many useful resources, some of which are free, and some require a subscription. The Ancestor Hunt Recently on his Facebook page he shared a pdf that gave ideas for using wildcard searches in genealogy:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IHjmhIjzirRPIygVnZ5fb_GOtRxxt3XF/view?usp=sharing (Note that on individual websites, Help tabs will generally lead to details about which kind of searches work well on that site, as they are not the same on every site.