

Riccarton  
Branch

New Zealand Society of Genealogists

# NEWSLETTER



June 2019  
Vol. 34 No. 5

## NEXT MEETING

7.30pm on Wednesday 12 May 2019

This month's speaker is

**JO BAILEY**

whose topic is

**"NEVER FORGET"**  
( WWII stories)

Prior to the main talk a short Annual General Meeting will take place (postponed from May)

### NOTICES

- 1) Joanna Condon, manager of the Macmillan Brown Library has advised they are not running tours due to shortage of staff at present but members are welcome to visit individually Monday to Friday 8.30 to 5.
- 2) Additions to PapersPast in May were Franklin Times, Shannon News, King Country Chronicle, Waipa Post, Bay of Plenty Beacon, Feilding Star, Hutt News, Thames Star and the Western Star.

**Meetings:** 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of each month (Feb to Nov) at the Upper Riccarton Library, 71 Main South Road. Visitors are welcome.

**Postal Address:** Riccarton Branch NZSG Secretary, 32 Townshend Crescent, Halswell, Christchurch 8025.  
E-mail: riccartongenealogy@hotmail.com

**Riccarton Branch Committee:**

Convenor: Lance Kenyon 027 848 3112

Treasurer: Anne Davison 321 7338

Committee: Jean Sharfe 349 8366

Win Loach 338 4316

Kathy Hill 322 6183

David Lees 3499 431

Peter Hentschel 351 5638

Alan Tunnicliffe 358 4838

Barrie Greenwood 341 2122

Kate Trotter 343 4501

Bill Schoch 347 4202

Secretary: Judith Pay 322 6367

Magazine Circulation: Win Loach 338 4316

Librarian: Kathy Hill: 322 6183

[www.librarything.com/catalog/riccartonnzsg](http://www.librarything.com/catalog/riccartonnzsg)

Financial Reviewer: Keith Sharp

Archivist: Jan Sharp 351 5951

Editor: Alan Tunnicliffe [alant@snap.net.nz](mailto:alant@snap.net.nz)

Members Interests: Peter Hentschel

Projects Officer: Bill Schoch

Programme Organiser: Alan Tunnicliffe

Research Advisor: Alan Tunnicliffe

## FROM THE CONVENOR'S DESK

Well, I have had a genealogical filled month leading up to our AGM and it shows the value of belonging to a group of passionate, like-minded people searching for that elusive clue. A visit to the Catholic Diocese Archives was an amazing morning particularly getting to see a book that was 500 years old!!! David and Fiona hosted a group at the Canterbury branch rooms which yielded some great information and I wish I had had more time. Lastly, I took a chance on visiting Archives NZ Christchurch branch and was rewarded with viewing some of the original maps from the Nelson area - the staff were helpful and also had great advice on using Archway. Every week something new is being uploaded so I do recommend you take a lot at the Archway search engines....it may provide a new family clue.

Looking for something in Riccarton history for this month, I found a great letter to the Editor of *The Press* from "A Ratepayer" regarding the selling of all flax in the area for such a small amount and that it wasn't in the ratepayers best interest. Flax was "rapidly becoming a valuable industry". Sounds like a lot hasn't changed since 1869. Again, PapersPast is a great resource. Good hunting on your genealogical search and I look forward to seeing you at our AGM meeting.

Lance

---

## LIBRARY NOTES

This will be a new regular feature of our newsletter. Each month I will list the books that have been borrowed for over a month, hoping to encourage you all to return books promptly. Sometimes I will also try to include reviews, or your reactions to books we have bought.

The Blaine Pettinger book on DNA (RES 24) has been very popular and Winston Wealleans has found it available on Amazon in a Kindle edition for \$15.00. I'm not sure whether that is NZ or US dollars. Two recommendations for book purchases that I received at the May meeting were: *Rush for Gold*, about the Australian gold rushes and *Skippers*. Any further recommendations will be gratefully received – especially general books on Irish research.

This month I hope to go through some of our books and "toss out" some which are very old, or relate to specific regions, towns or villages in the UK rather than being of general research interest or skills-based. Most of them have never been borrowed and take up a lot of space on our shelves! These books will be available for anyone who would like to keep them.

When you return books could you please cross them out on the list as the system of writing dates has become a little confused.

Books currently borrowed:

**February:**

NZ 107 Local Lives, Addington

**March:**

RES23 Digital Imaging Essential

UK4 Basic Sources for Family History

Atlas of World War 2

UK97 Tracing London Ancestors

UK49 Tracing Pre-Victorian Ancestors

UK 96 Tracing Servant Ancestors

UK40 List of parishes – Marriage Indexes

**April:**

NZ89 and 90 We Will Remember Them 2 Vols

NZ22 Avonhead Public Cemetery

RES33 Tracing Your Ancestors Parish Records

Kathy Hill

---

## REPORT OF MAY MEETING

Margaret Lovell-Smith gave a very interesting presentation about Canterbury's objectors to World War One. People mentioned included Charles Mackie, Bob Semple, Hubert Thomas (Tim) Armstrong, Morgan Williams, Paddy Webb, Ada Wells. Organisations involved were the National Peace Council and the Passive Resisters Union. Only members of three churches, the Quakers, 7th Day Adventists and Christadelphians (if they had been in the church for 2 years) could successfully object but still had to perform non-combatant work during the war.

ARTHUR GREENWOOD  
MOTOR MECHANIC 6TH NZ DIVISION ORDNANCE WORKSHOPS  
WESTERN DESERT CAMPAIGN



My father Arthur Greenwood was born in Timaru on 9 May 1917 to Albert and Eva Greenwood (nee Howe). He was 24 and working as an apprentice motor mechanic in Dunedin for J and AP Scott, a motor engineering company, when he enlisted in the NZ Army on 20 May 1941, Army No 47725. His record shows he as 5'11" tall with blue eyes, dark hair, dark complexion and was a Methodist.

He married Helen Davie in Dunedin on 31 May 1941, eleven days after joining the Army.

Arthur entered Trentham Army Camp on 22 July 1941 for training with New Zealand Division Ordnance Corps.

Papers Past (*Otago Daily Times* 18 July 1941) noted "A draft of eight men, all specialists, will leave Dunedin on Monday 21 July for Trentham Camp, where they will undergo a special course of training before being despatched overseas".

He embarked for Egypt, on Troop Ship HMT31 via Fremantle, on 13 September 1941. He disembarked in Egypt 19 October 1941, joining NZ Engineering and Ordnance Corps, Depot Middle East.

He was posted to 12th NZ L A D (Light Aid Detachment) Middle East, on the 2 January 1942. He spent the next 10 months in the war theatre repairing Bren Gun Carriers, other desert motorised army vehicles, motor cycles and other equipment. They were often on the move, working in and out of bomb craters. At one time they used a VW car that they had repaired having been abandoned by the Germans. Conditions were never easy, with constant threat of stray enemy fighter planes looking for a target to attack. During his time in the field, he received extra duty pay of 1 shilling a day on three occasions for exceptional work as a mechanic.



A repair line-up

## WORLD WAR TWO ANNIVERSARY: PART 4 continued

From time to time he had recreational time out of the field in Cairo, where they were always welcomed by the local Egyptian families.

Arthur injured his back in the field, while avoiding an aerial fighter attack, and had time in a field hospital and a base hospital in Egypt. Finally, he had to return home to NZ.

He embarked for New Zealand on Hospital Ship *Mauretania* on 16 November 1942, and disembarked in Wellington on 15 December. He was discharged in Dunedin, 'medically unfit,' on 20 January 1943.



Arthur spent many weeks in Dunedin Hospital after well-known surgeon Mr White repaired his back with bone grafts from his left leg. He returned to J and AP Scott's and completed his apprenticeship. He was well known around Otago for repairing farm machines along with tractors and other mechanical equipment.

Arthur resigned from Scott's in December 1946 and together with his brother Laurie, who had been an RAF fighter pilot, they purchased a Motor Garage, along with a mail car and three school buses, at Pleasant Point near Timaru. Arthur and Laurie built up a substantial operation known as Greenwood Motors. As a mechanic Arthur loved V8 engines, and imported new ex war surplus V8 engines. He re-powered many of the district's farm trucks and school buses.

They sold up 1961 and Arthur moved to Christchurch and was South Island Transport Manager at BP NZ Ltd until he retired in 1975.

In retirement he lived in Rangiora. Arthur died in December 1999 and is buried in the Rangiora RSA Lawn Cemetery.

---

## 2019 ANNIVERSARIES

- 24 May: 200 years since Queen Victoria was born
- 6 June: 75 years since the D-Day landings
- 28 June: 100 years since signing of the Peace Treaty at Versailles