

# South Canterbury Genealogy

March/April 2025



## From the editor

*Carol Bell*



We've been working on improving access to BMD microfiche. New Zealand births, marriages and death indexes from 1847 are available online - Birth of a living person who was born 100 years ago or more, birth of a deceased person who died 50 years ago or more or who was born 80 years ago or more, stillbirth that occurred 50 years ago or more, deaths that occurred at least 50 years ago, or the deceased's date of birth was at least 80 years ago, marriages that occurred 75 years ago or more.

However group-owned microfiche indexes 1850-1990 are available in the research room at the museum and these have the added aid of district locator books. 1850-1980 and locator books are also available at the LDS Family History Library in Pages Rd on Tuesdays. These allow for access to a much wider time frame.

We have just made a microfiche reader once again permanently available for research Wednesday-Friday 1.30pm - 4.30pm and on Sunday afternoons. If you wish to use these fiche please book with Tony at the museum at least 24 hours before the required time so he can make sure they're brought out from safe storage [tony.rippin@timdc.govt.nz](mailto:tony.rippin@timdc.govt.nz)

# Chair's report



*from Liz Shea*



South Canterbury genealogical resources [timaru.gen.nz](http://timaru.gen.nz)

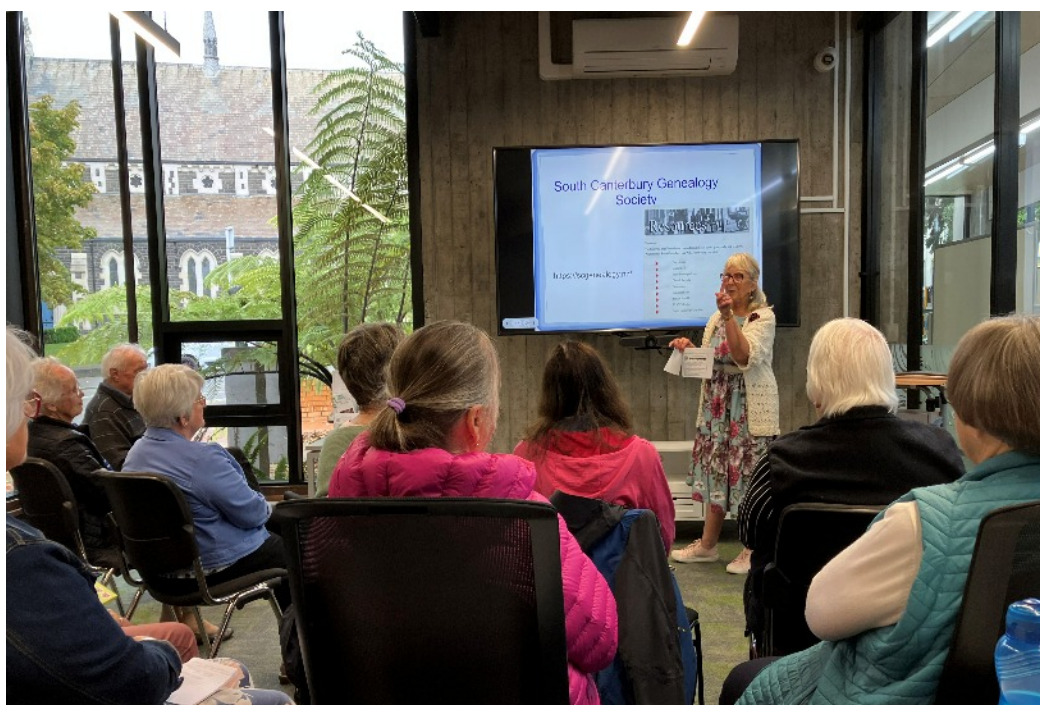
This report is coming to you from Sydney. I am en route to see family in Perth. Looking forward to a catch-up with everyone and an opportunity to extend the family tree with the in laws.

Sydney is just full of history but I don't have any family connections here, so just checking out general history. We're on the 49th floor of our hotel and have a great view of the city and look out over Botany Bay where this city's history started. Hard to fathom how Captain Cook missed the harbour entrance to such a beautiful harbour. There are statues galore, Queen Victoria, Albert the prince consort, Edward VII, Captain Cook and finally Arthur Phillips the first governor.

I wonder how those first convict immigrants felt to land in the middle of bare land compared to what they left behind and also what Aboriginal peoples felt to have their land invaded. Australia is still living with the consequences.

Genealogy research is full of immigration and emigration, where and why did our ancestors move from the comfort of their birth place to countries unknown. There are so many stories to explore further.

I recently made a presentation at the library on the "Joys of genealogy". If you missed this session I will be repeating it at the Geraldine library in May.



Liz Shea presents Joys of Genealogy at the library.



# News



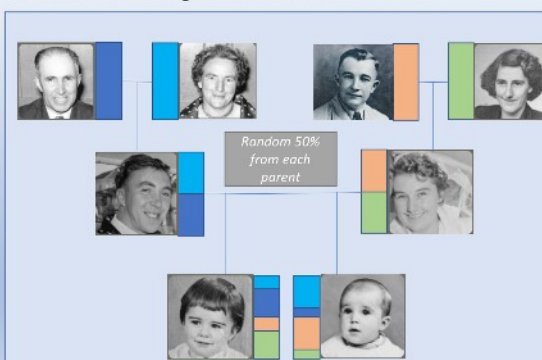
## What When How Why – FAQs for Genetic Genealogists

### 2025 Edition with Donna Rutherford

[http://donnarutherford.com/faq-what-where-how-when-2025/?fbclid=IwY2xjawld8JZleHRuA 2FlbQIxMQ ABHeOFrvp7cc8-ZOQnbcO7YVebkEDSTT2aiq7i8yWpcOfGqcWu5klYYdyXaQ\\_aem\\_Ysupbpyifetfz2hkhiosca](http://donnarutherford.com/faq-what-where-how-when-2025/?fbclid=IwY2xjawld8JZleHRuA 2FlbQIxMQ ABHeOFrvp7cc8-ZOQnbcO7YVebkEDSTT2aiq7i8yWpcOfGqcWu5klYYdyXaQ_aem_Ysupbpyifetfz2hkhiosca)

For those of you with DNA questions or uncertainties this website should help. Donna Rutherford provides clear no-nonsense explanations of what to do and what to do next. And a useful graphic to explain why everyone has different DNA - even our siblings. If you extended this graphic just a few more generations you can imagine how different we would be.

How does DNA get inherited?



Box 6 of 20

Notes

## Ancestry Networks

At RootsTech last month Ancestry launched Ancestry Networks, which offers the opportunity to find out more about your ancestors, their families, and the people they counted as friends – such as neighbours, co-workers, people who went to the same church or the same school. Ancestry says: Networks give you a private workspace and tools to explore a person's connections beyond their immediate family. By researching people around your ancestors, you could find more information and reveal new insights into your family history. This exploration can help you discover your ancestors' stories, offer a fuller picture of their lives, and assist you in breaking through research brick walls. Worth a try!

## Plans for the year

- 15 April:** WWII exhibition at the museum
- 13 May:** AGM
- 10 June:** AI - Dave Jack



# ***AI IN GENEALOGY***

There was a lot of discussion at Rootstech this year about AI and its applications in the field of genealogy. So I've asked AI to give me a piece on how it can benefit us. Who better to answer the question?

AI is increasingly used in genealogy to automate tasks, analyse data, and uncover connections, offering tools for transcription, image analysis, data matching, family tree construction, and even translation of historical records. Here's a breakdown of how AI is being used in genealogy:

## **1. Transcribing and Analysing Records:**

**Transcription:** AI can transcribe handwritten or difficult-to-read records, making them searchable and easier to analyse.

**Image Analysis:** AI helps identify faces in old photos, organise, colourise, repair, and label them.

**Data Matching:** AI can combine and search across datasets to find specific individuals and provide record suggestions.

**Natural Language Processing (NLP):** NLP enables machines to interpret and understand human language, allowing AI to extract data like names, dates, and locations from historical documents.

## **2. Building Family Trees and Finding Connections:**

**Family Tree Construction:** AI can suggest relatives to add to a family tree by identifying similar information and relationships.

**DNA Analysis:** AI helps find connections between individuals based on shared DNA data, as seen in platforms like MyHeritage.

**Predicting Relationships:** AI can predict relationships and fill in gaps in family trees based on data analysis and machine learning algorithms.

## **3. Enhancing Research and Storytelling:**

**Translation:** AI translation can help access records and journals in different languages.

**Storytelling:** AI can help breathe life into family history by creating narratives and biographies.

**Research Planning:** AI can assist with clarifying research objectives, analysing data, generating hypotheses, and creating research strategies.

## **4. Examples of AI Tools and Platforms:**

**Ancestry AI Assistant:** Ancestry's AI assistant can answer family history and DNA-related questions, offer suggestions, and guide users through research. **MyHeritage:** leverages AI for DNA matches and other features. **FamilySearch:** uses AI for various tasks, including suggesting potential records and research help. **Legacy Family Tree Webinars:** offers webinars on using AI in genealogy. **ChatGPT:** and other general-use AI platforms can be used for research and writing. **Gemini:** is another AI platform that can be used for genealogy research. **Perplexity:** presents a curated list of sources when answering user queries.

## **5. Considerations and Cautions:**

**Accuracy:** While AI can be helpful, it's important to verify information and use AI as a tool, not a replacement for critical thinking and thorough research. **Privacy:** Be mindful of the privacy implications of using AI, especially when sharing personal or sensitive information. **Ethical Use:** Use AI responsibly and avoid misrepresenting or misinterpreting information.





Back row from Left: Percy Green -South Cant, Jack Murphy- Southland, Ned Ivey - Timaru  
 Front row from Left: Bill (M) Smith - Auckland, Stan Hill - Auckland, Mark Ivey- Timaru

This photograph was taken in 1942 at Cairo, Egypt and included in the photo are two Timaru brothers Mark and Ned Ivey from Saltwater Creek, plus another South Canterbury soldier Percy Green.

Now that we are getting quite a collection of WW2 photographs it has been interesting to find that a few servicemen had the same photographs in their albums.

The first time I saw this photo it had only first names, but then another album had the same photograph with only first initial and surname, but also the home region of each soldier, So, we can just about account for everyone in the photograph.

Further researching on the Auckland Cenotaph Online provided us with service numbers and some background information on some of the soldiers.

The Auckland War Memorial Cenotaph Online is growing with many people now adding their own photographs and extra family information, which gives an extra dimension and makes you realise these soldiers were all once much-loved members of someone's family.

Don't forget if you use this site but can't find your service person, you can request to have them added. Just email the Auckland Museum with as much identifying information as you can, and they will find their service record and upload it for you.

<https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/war-memorial/online-cenotaph/search>

Also, if you want any service records for family members yourself, they are available from the NZ Defence Force. There is no cost for this and you will receive a folder with all the relevant information including postings, training, medals etc.

<https://www.nzdf.mil.nz/defence-and-whanau/service-records/>

Keep the photos and stories coming please. Our WW2 project is now well under way!

**Lois White**



# WW2 project

*from Lois White*

## **1<sup>st</sup> LIEUT RAYMOND MCLAUCHLAN, DFC, RNZAF 404391**

Raymond Richard Andrew McLauchlan was born in 1918 to Andrew and Annie McLauchlan of Waimate. His father Andrew was of Scottish descent having emigrated from Scotland with his parents. Andrew and Annie moved their family to Timaru and Ray attended Waimataitai School and Timaru Boys High School. When WW2 began he was living at home with his family at 31 Beverley Road and was working as a clerk at McClatchie Coal and Firewood in Timaru.

He joined air force training as a pilot and was seconded to the No.5 Fighter Squadron, based in India and flying over Burma.

In February 1945 he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. There was a presentation ceremony and a letter from Timaru Mayor AES Hannan: "You have not only brought honour to yourself and your family, but honour to this town ... and I know all Timaru joins me in saying 'Well done Raymond McLauchlan'."

In 1945 whilst on leave, Ray married Margaret (Peg) Waters and after the war they moved to Christchurch where they raised three children, and he resumed his studies as an accountant.

He worked in Christchurch for Welkut Garments Ltd and later for Brother Distributors as a company accountant.

In his later years he founded Kiwi Homestays, a business providing home-stay accommodation for Japanese students learning English in New Zealand.

With the assistance of his children Ray also wrote a book "Moon over Burma - Memories of an Airforce Pilot" (the National Library has a copy).

Raymond McLauchlan died in 2012 aged 94 and is buried in Christchurch.



**Ray McLauchlan and his Mohawk Pegusus**



**DFC ceremony for Ray McLauchlan**



# MEMORIES

I'm still spending the greater part of my time with this finding old photos and scanning them. So at least it's making me digitise photos that might otherwise not have made the grade. And the most unusual memories are popping up. Things I haven't thought about for years. Here are the questions for the next two months. Remember: it's never too late. You can start now. And it doesn't matter if you've missed the last month. Get back to it at any time. There are no rules.

20 April: What was your favourite music or movie when you were younger?

27 April: Did you ever get into trouble as a teen? What was the saddest time of your teens?

4 May: When did you learn to drive? What was your first car like?

11 May: What would you do differently if you could go back in time? What was your greatest accomplishment?

## Career and Adult Life

18 May: What was your main job in your adult life? How did you decide on your career?

25 May: What was a typical workday like for you?

1 June: Did you face any challenges or obstacles in your career? What achievements in your work life are you most proud of?

8 June: Did you have a mentor or someone who influenced your career? What lessons did you learn from your work experiences?

15 June: Did you ever switch careers or take risks in your professional life? How did your career impact your personal life?



These might be useful with your memories. At left is Smithfield freezing works in 1951. I used that in the discussion about family meals. A side of mutton a week! And below, Main School and Timaru Technical High School - after Main School's new block was built in 1955 but before the old building was demolished in 1957 and the Tech Centennial Block was built in 1959. So probably 1956.



# Meeting reports



*with Lesley Tennent*



**February** at Timaru Museum. Present: 25 members. Apologies: Jill Welford, Carolyn Johnston, Clare Palliser, Dave Jack, Esme Jones, Christine Stewart, Annette Batchelor, Dave Batchelor, Robyn Davidson.

Our speaker Roselyn Fauth backgrounded her interest in genealogy and said she is interested in researching the buildings on Stafford street. The subject of her talk was the Turnbull family.

Richard Turnbull, b 1820 – d 1890, came to Timaru in 1864. Many of the earlier families (Rhodes, Yankie Sam, Woolcombe, Capt. Cain) had already been here for 10yrs. There were about 400 people living here on his arrival. Richard opened an importing store, with his partner, in the Oxford building. He also joined the Timaru Council. He had 14 children.

In 1868 Timaru fire the Turnbull business and his home were destroyed. Richard's partner went back to Christchurch, but Richard rebuilt on the corner of Stafford and George streets, now The Oxford. He was a successful merchant. He was also in the thick of forming the Timaru Harbour Board. This had 12 members. He realised South Canterbury needed a viable shipping hub and port. Commenced 1878. Wool, wheat, frozen meat were becoming important.

1878 he became a minister in the NZ Parliament. 1878 – 1883 Richard was on the Timaru Harbour Board. His 10 remaining children included DC Turnbull. DC purchased Miles & Archer & Co building in 1901, a three-storey building. Then his brother, an architect, built the office buildings that stand on the corner near the railway lines that are in front of the 1901 purchase.

Roselyn talked about the history of the buildings. This included the previous owners of 'Miles & Archer & Co'. She showed pics of large piles of sacks of grain, surrounding and engulfing the Custom House. These sacks were taken out to ships, by longboats. South Canterbury was known as the 'Food Bowl' for the country. She felt should be celebrated for what Richard, & then DC Turnbull achieved & contributed to South Canterbury.

Within the DC Turnbull building she noted there are lots of original photos and documents from the past. They are still retained in cupboards and drawers.

Raffle: Lois Shears.

**March** meeting was held 11 March at Timaru Museum. Present: 22 members. Apologies: Heather Fifield, Carolyn Johnston, Pat Smolenski, Esme Jones, Annette Batchelor.

Our RootsTech evening was upset by gremlins in the museum equipment, delaying the start and forcing a change in presentation. Roots Tech can be found in Family Search. Different presentations are available. Interesting speakers, including AI. Liz Shea showed how to search records. Start at search, then to records. Look for people by first and last names. Look under countries of interest. If NZ, can find wills and probates, cemetery records and transcripts, and passenger lists. Many aspects of Family Search were covered.

Raffle: Lesley Tennent.



Turnbull monument at Timaru Cemetery





scant.scgenealogy.nz

# Olwyn's South Canterbury website

Poets have left their mark on South Canterbury and in the past a man must know a place before he can faithfully write about it but now with a computer you can push out an AI (artificially generated) poem in a few minutes. Try the AI Poem Generator - Free Poem Maker for fun, write a poem about your family, your school, the community or a special event. You can always regenerate the poem if you don't like it. <https://www.editpad.org/tool/poem-generator>. Here is a medium size ode.

## Ode to Easter Monday in Fairlie

Ode to the morning bright, or draped in gentle rain,  
Where laughter fills the air and joy casts out all pain.  
The Mackenzie Highland Show, our rugged land's delight,  
In Fairlie's heart it blooms, a tapestry of light.

From dog trails swift as whispers to the show's grand leap,  
Wood chopping prowess sings, its rhythm strong and deep.  
Celtic dancers whirl with grace, a nod to days of yore,  
While the kennel club delights with tales of paws and lore.

Home industries display their crafts, with love in every thread,  
Sheep and wool on proud display, a story to be spread.

Farm machinery gleams and grins, a testament to toil,  
Each exhibit tells a tale born from our fertile soil.

The ferris wheel spins high above, a carousel spins round,  
A thrill that grips the hearts of all, in laughter we are bound.  
At two, a parade of stock, led by the pipes that soar,  
The melody of heritage, our spirits we restore.

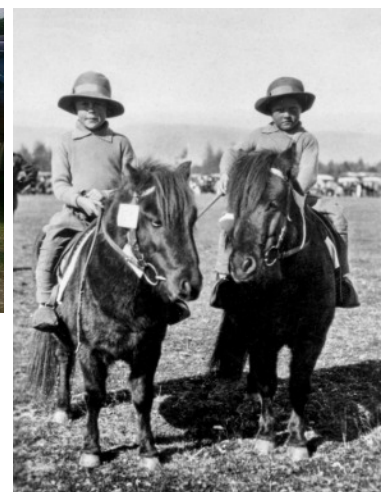
Committee members, hats off to you,  
A heartfelt thanks, to friends so true,  
To the countless hands that toil, volunteers so dear,  
With smiles and endless dedication, they bring the show each year.

Family and friends will gather next Easter,  
At Fairlie's show, our hearts complete.



My cousin Edward with friends as a lad and still attending yearly standing to the far right of a Holden.

At right, the Grant twins.





# Members' Interests



*from John Sutherland*

john-m-s@xtra.co.nz

|            |                |                           |           |
|------------|----------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| RETTER     | ENGLAND        | SurreyMalden              | 1750+     |
| RETTER     | NEW ZEALAND    | All                       |           |
| RIX        | ENGLAND        | Devon Iddesleigh          | 1600-1750 |
| ROE        | ENGLAND        | Warwickshire Birmingham   | 1850s     |
| ROSS       | NEW ZEALAND    | Sth Canterbury Glenavy    | 1870-1920 |
| ROSS       | SCOTLAND       | Aberdeenshire Keith       | pre1850   |
| ROSS       | SCOTLAND       | Rosshire                  | pre1880   |
| ROWLAND    | ENGLAND        | Devon Chulmleigh          | 1750      |
| SAKER      | ENGLAND        | SurreyHorley/Bletchingley | 1600-1800 |
| SALEK      | NEW ZEALAND    |                           | 1853+     |
| SALOMON    | NEW ZEALAND    | Central Otago Cromwell    | 1860-1880 |
| SALOMON    | NEW ZEALAND    | Sth Canterbury Timaru     | 1860-1880 |
| SARGENTE   | ALL            | All                       | abt 1650  |
| SAWYER     | ENGLAND        | Suffolk                   | 1800s     |
| SCARF      | ENGLAND        | Suffolk Raydon            | 1780+     |
| SCARF      | NEW ZEALAND    | Sth Canterbury Timaru     | 1856+     |
| SCARLET    | IRELAND        | Cavan                     | pre1880   |
| SCHERP     | GERMANY        | Hessen Kassel             | All       |
| SCHERP     | NEW ZEALAND    |                           | All       |
| SCOLLARD   | IRELAND        | Kerry Knocknagashel       | 1800-1875 |
| SCOLLARD   | NEW ZEALAND    | Sth Canterbury Kerrytown  | 1870-1875 |
| SCOTT      | NEW ZEALAND    | Otago                     | All       |
| SCOTT      | SCOTLAND       | Roxburghshire Ashkirk     | All       |
| SCOTT      | SCOTLAND       | Roxburghshire Hawick area | All       |
| SCOTT      | SCOTLAND       | Selkirkshire Roberton     | All       |
| SCULLY     | IRELAND Galway | Corrundulla, Annaghdown   | 1879+     |
| SEYB       | GERMANY        |                           | pre1900   |
| SHAPPERE   | NEW ZEALAND    |                           | 1870+     |
| SHAPPERE   | POLAND         | Shapperisky               |           |
| SHEARS     | ENGLAND        | Kent                      | pre1900   |
| SHERIDAN   | IRELAND        | Down Downpatrick          | 1800-1850 |
| SHILLAM    | ENGLAND        | Gloucestershire Woolaston | 1836+     |
| SHORTREED  | SCOTLAND       | Roxburghshire             | All       |
| SHORTREED  | SCOTLAND       | Selkirkshire              | All       |
| SHORTRIDGE | ENGLAND        | Cumberland Bewcastle      | All       |
| SHORTRIDGE | ENGLAND        | Cumberland Stapleton      | All       |
| SHRIMSKI   | NEW ZEALAND    | Auckland                  | 1900      |

**Are your genealogical interests reflected in this list? If not, contact John Sutherland to be included. Take the opportunity to make contact with family members.**



# Library report

*from Teresa Scott*

South Canterbury Genealogy Society Inc - recent accessions include:

*Newsletters 2024, 2025:*

Ashburton District Family History Group – February 2025  
Cambridge – March; April  
Canterbury Genealogy Society – February 2025; March  
Dunedin – March-April 2025  
Feilding – February 2025; March  
Hawke's Bay – April  
Hibiscus Coast – February; March  
Hutt Valley – March; April  
Kapiti – February; March  
Kilbirnie – March; April  
Matamata – March; April  
Mosgiel – February 2025; March  
Nelson – February 2025; March  
New Plymouth Genealogy – April  
Waitaki (Oamaru) – February 2025; March  
Otaki Family History Society – February 2025; March  
Palmerston North – February 2025; March  
Papakura – February 2025; March  
Porirua – March; April  
Riccarton – February 2025; March  
Rotorua – March 2025  
South Canterbury Genealogy Society – January-February 2025  
South Waikato – March 2025; April  
Southland – February 2025  
Wellington – February 2025; March  
Whanganui – February 2025; March



***Please send request for forwarding to Teresa.***

The Gazette: Journal of the Toowoomba and Darling Downs Family History Society Inc –  
March 2025

*"If you don't believe in ghosts, you've  
never been to a family reunion."  
- Ashleigh Brilliant*



# Local contacts

## SC Genealogy - Office bearers

Convener: Liz Shea 03 684 7790 Group Contact [sheafamily@farmside.co.nz](mailto:sheafamily@farmside.co.nz)

Minute secretary: Lesley Tennent 03 612 6759

Treasurer: Carolyn Johnston 03 684 5709

Committee: Teresa Scott 03 688 9034 Library

Lois Shears 03 688 1655 School Rolls

Clare Palliser 03 688 0896

Hilary Coles 03 615 7195

Lois White 03 684 4173

Dave Jack 021 770 000

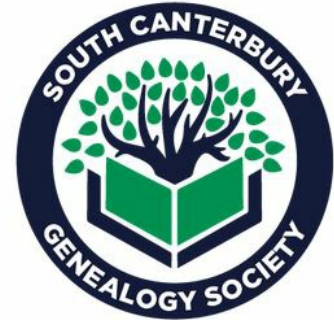
Carol Bell 027 3399447 Newsletter [carolbel49@gmail.com](mailto:carolbel49@gmail.com)

Off committee: John Sutherland Members Interests [john-m-s@xtra.co.nz](mailto:john-m-s@xtra.co.nz)

Janette Clarke Museum roster [jansuscar@gmail.com](mailto:jansuscar@gmail.com)

Branch email and research inquiries: [SouthCanterbury@genealogy.org.nz](mailto:SouthCanterbury@genealogy.org.nz)

Website [timaru.gen.nz](http://timaru.gen.nz)



Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm at SC Museum.

Research help is also available at the Library on Wednesdays 9am - 12pm and at the museum every Sunday 1.30pm - 4pm. The group library is available at the museum whenever the research room is open - Wednesday to Friday and Sunday 1.30pm to 4pm. Books can be borrowed on Sundays but must be signed out by the librarian or a Sunday volunteer.

A working group meets on Wednesday mornings at the Library and Friday mornings at the museum to transcribe various historical documents. Can you help? Contact Lois on 688-1655

"Writing up your Family History" help is available. If you would like help getting your research to the final stage contact Carol at [carolbel49@gmail.com](mailto:carolbel49@gmail.com) or 027 3399447.

