

## Genealogical Computing Group, Special Interest Group of NZSG

### Chairman's Report, July 2020

I am pleased to present my fifth annual report. The E-magazine remains our main communication and in its email form is warmly received by all members. We have continued to provide a cheap "round-robin" service for "Family Tree" and "Internet Genealogy" magazines. I recommend you look to join the round robin.

GCG is again busy collaborating with the Auckland Library to present another Auckland Family History Expo on weekend of 8, 9 August at the Fickling Centre, Three Kings. Because of restrictions we have arranged for webinar addresses by overseas and some of the local speakers covering a full range of genealogical subjects. Some members have already kindly offered to assist with the weekend. You must attend with your family, friends and again the Expo is free!

Our website at [www.gencom.org.nz](http://www.gencom.org.nz) is maintained with relevant information on new and updated software, links to sub-groups and useful URLs.

Wendy Shaw reports from Southland: Regretfully, the number of attendees were gradually dropping despite concerted efforts to provide the group with teaching sessions, speakers and a good many power point presentations. The numbers became unsustainable and at the final meeting last year it was agreed to merge with the regular monthly meetings of the Southland branch NZSG with a recommendation to the committee to allow for more computing related topics when planning the program for the year. All former computing group attendees have been provided with the GCG details should they wish to continue subscription on an individual basis. Unfortunately the ramifications of the recent lockdown will have effects throughout the whole community including NZSG and allied groups. We will have to rethink how to reach out to the members and be quite creative in encouraging attendance.

Personally I have worked hard at keeping the group going but as I am actively involved at local branch level one must also rationalise one's time.

Apologies I could not be the bearer of good news,

Kay O'Brien reports from Feilding: Once again it is that time of year when the Feilding Branch Computer Group of NZSG holds its AGM and looks forward to another year with all our members.

We have had some great meetings over this last year starting in June 2019 with lots of finds for members and visits also such as travelling for a member back to find her childhood home when she was just three. July the Feilding Public Library introduced us to Chrome Books to use when we are doing our research. August and September our usual round the table catch up and then researching. October Always keep checking your information as it can change and be updated quite often on websites. example 4th Great Grandfather, thought he was in the 1841 census but found he had died in 1823. Our meetings finished for the year in November and restarted in February 2020.

2020 started off with our 34th Birthday for the Feilding Branch with a lovely night out at local restaurant with 30 members attending.

We were back at the Feilding Library for our first meeting of the year which at the

time was to be our last for a while.

We had our branch meeting on the 17th March 2020, not knowing that the computer group meeting on the 24th March did not happen due to Covid 19.

We were in lockdown for the Computer Group meeting on the 24th March 2000 and life as we had known it was no more.

Due to the help of a member John Gisbone and our Feilding Branch Convenor Ian Wightman they set up Zoom meetings for the Branch and Computer Group so we were still able to keep in touch, this was a great working curve for some of us.

We were not able to hold our AGM's for the Branch or the Computer Group as the Feilding Public Library was closed for night meetings until July so another venue was found and we are combining with the Feilding Branch to hold our AGM with them on Tuesday 16th June 2020.

Hopefully the Feilding Library will welcome us back for our July Meeting.

Thanks must go to everyone in our Branch and Computer Group for all their help they give to me as Convenor of the Feilding Branch Computer Group and I am sure we can overcome anything thrown at us in the next year.

Thank you Wendy for looking after the Southland Group, and Kay for looking after the Feilding Group, and the Committee members for their contributions during the year to the GCG and the Expo also Penny King and Kevin Crowe. All of the GCG Committee are offering themselves for re-election. One or two more people would bring new ideas to the Committee as John has done. It's not onerous as our meetings are few, held after the monthly meeting, and lasting only one hour.

Don Gallagher  
Chairman

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