

Convenors Report to NZGCG AGM 18 June 2022

I am presenting this Convenors Report as your Acting Convenor.

On 25th April 2022 our Convenor, Don Gallagher passed away, leaving us shocked and without a convenor. Don joined the NZSG in 1988 and joined the GCG in 2000. He became Convenor in 2017.

Don led us well in all our activities and helped make the Auckland Family History Expos a great success. He made a positive impact on our activities.

In the past year since July 2021, Don has presided over the last AGM, and three GCG events by Zoom. Also a couple of committee meetings by Zoom.

I volunteered to take the role of Convenor and was accepted as Acting Convenor at our Committee meeting on 17th May. I am happy to carry on if I am elected at our AGM.

My background - I joined the NZSG in 1990 and shortly after joined the GCG when it was run by Keith Vautier. I had a break for some years from late 2001 while I lived in Queensland and rejoined the GCG in 2017. I became a committee member in 2018.

As you know, our activities have been much disrupted by the covid pandemic. We have managed to get together for committee meetings and some general meetings by Zoom. As things are now settling down, we are hoping to get back to normal. Not only being disrupted by covid, the Auckland Council closed our new meeting place at Mt Albert Senior Citizens for repairs. We should be back to Mt Albert in October.

At this time the GCG is still heavily involved in producing the Auckland Family History Expo at the Fickling Centre. Planning is well underway and 'touch wood' the event will not be disrupted. We were very lucky to be able to hold it last year and it went well.

This year the number of speakers, International and Local, are as previous except that the International speakers will be presenting by Zoom. It worked well last year, and we expect it to be the same this year. We will have about the same number of display tables as last year.

As life goes on, we are all faced with changes. Rex Wood is moving home and wants to become less active. He has submitted his retirement from the GCG committee and will not be re-elected at this meeting. He has been a member for 23 years.

Rex has been a stalwart in providing much assistance to GCG events and managing the AV systems, both for our meetings and the Expo.

He also held the role of Membership Secretary where he managed subscriptions, and our contact list. His departure leaves us with a gap in the committee that we will have to fill or reorganize.

We all wish Rex the very best for the future and hope he will continue to be a member.

John Soppet
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