



Rotorua Newsletter

April 2025

Secretary
Ian Simpson
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Your committee

Chairman: Wayne Hall; Ph 345 3867

Secretary: Ian Simpson

Treasurer: Geoffrey Cleveland

Committee: Rob Grant (Life member of GSA), David Garraway, John Turner, Alan Lord

Annual General meeting – Friday 30 May 10am

The committee welcomes you to attend the Rotorua branch Annual General Meeting on Friday 30 May, commencing at 10am at Rotorua CT Club. There will be a brief AGM. Please consider if you would like to join the committee. The commitment is not large as there are only 4 meetings in a year and jobs are shared around the friendly committee members.

Guest speaker: Dr Peter Reed, DPhil (Oxon)

DNA testing for family history – fad or functional?

Peter Reed is an amateur family historian with a professional DNA science background. He is a committee member of the Rotorua branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists, and runs the Branch help-desk at Rotorua Library. He will give an overview of the use of DNA testing for family history research, and discuss with examples how useful, or not, it can be.

There will be a **Lucky draw**. Everyone that attends the meeting will get a **FREE** ticket in the Lucky draw.

Morning tea of tea, coffee and scones will be served (no charge) and there will be time to socialise.

Chair person's report 2023 - 24

Hello Branch Members

It is my pleasure to again briefly report on our Branch activities for the past year. We have achieved a full set of meetings, and the Branch's administration ran effectively, thanks to a very good committee and our Branch Secretary Ian Simpson. I would like to acknowledge all the work Ian does for us behind the scenes, as he is the first point of contact for our members.

Total New Zealand GSA membership as at 16 January 2025 was 19,797

A breakdown of the Rotorua Branch membership gives us:

Annuitants – 157
Annuitant spouses – 91
Surviving spouses – 41
Pre annuitants – 6
Pre annuitant spouses – 6
Total – 301

Our membership last year was 337, so we lost 36 members. Secretary Ian made an analysis of our members using the date of birth records from the Datacom database as follows:

Year of birth	Number of Rotorua GSA members
1920-29	8
1930-39	64
1940-49	75
1950-60	39

We have four Rotorua GSA members who are or will turn 100 years of age this year. Congratulations!

Our financial position remains strong and we were able to subsidise our meetings. Thank you Geoff Cleveland, our treasurer.

Michael Law retired off the Board and we have a new Liaison person – John Beckham from Southland, but more recently Dunedin. We look forward to working with John and welcome him today to our AGM. Ian and David Garraway represented us at the Council meeting in Wellington. Thank you for being our delegates.

Your committee consisted of:

Wayne Hall	Chair person
Ian Simpson	Secretary
Geoff Cleveland	Treasurer
Committee	Rob Grant (Life Member)
	John Turner
	Alan Lord
	David Garraway

Rob will be retiring off our committee and we thank him for all his contributions. We now have space for two new committee members, so don't be surprised if, as you are about to take that first bite out of a scone, a committee member approaches you.

A number of committee meetings were held at the CT Club, plus Branch meetings and the Christmas lunch in November. We had several very interesting guest speakers. Rhys Burns from Department of Conservation talked to us about Kokako recovery in our area at our last AGM. In August a team from ANZ Bank informed us about how to keep our dollars safe from scammers. In November Bob Christensen shared his Scandinavian family history books with us. Thank you to the CT Club's manager Nicole Stephens for all her assistance with our meetings.

Thank you to Ian, our Branch Secretary, for "keeping the show on the road". Committee meetings run smoothly because of his organisation and preparation. Wayne, Ian, Geoff, John, Alan and David are willing to carry on for another year on the committee. Thank you all. This is much appreciated.

Thank you all for attending our Annual General Meeting. Do take the opportunity to chat with John Beckham over morning tea / coffee.

Wayne Hall

Chair person.

Christmas function 2024

The Christmas function was held on 15 November. Our guest speaker was Bob Christensen, author of 'Danish Blood', 'The Cousins' and 'Karla, The Girl with the Red Hair'. Bob spoke about his research on his Danish origins and how they shaped his historical trilogy, set in both Denmark and NZ. If you missed getting a copy of one of Bob's books, McLeods Booksellers in Pukuatua street have copies of Bob's two most recent books.



The Christmas lunch was well appreciated by members. There was ham and turkey on the menu, with pavlova and Christmas pudding to follow. There were even Christmas crackers to celebrate the season.

