

**IRISH INTEREST GROUP
NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS INC**

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Irish Interest Group (IIG)
Held on Sunday 24 May 2026 at 12.30 pm at the Family Research Centre, Panmure, Auckland.

1. Attendance and Quorum

Present: Geraldene O'Reilly, Dorothy Dowgray, John Dowgray, Kathryn O'Neil, Sue Dunn, Maria Coyne, Robin Williams, Lynne Florence, Patricia Mainland, Martin Traill, Trish Kelly, Bob Butler, Mark McKinney, Brian Mackie, Donna Morgan, Mike Stone, Kathleen Ward, Anne King, Fredda Martin, Ross Rattray, Bryan Raill, Grant Crossen, Lea Bond, Bevan Donovan, Shirley Ellison, Steve Bovaird, Siobhan Scharvi, Maureen Hynes, Teresa Lilley, Tony Walker, Rosie Marks.

Apologies: Phillippa Kidd, Rosemary Haden, Rixanne Fergusson, Eric Walton, Earl O'Callaghan, Elizabeth Heaphy, Nigel Grice-Kerr, Dave Callaghan, Helen Clark, Brian Stephenson, Joy Todd, Kevin Sherlock, Bernard McManus, Clare Conway, Peter Rodgers, Anne Coury, Rose Clark, Val Gillanders, Leith Thomas, Graeme McVerry, Karen Stewart, Glennis Traill, Dorothy Granich, Heather Ballantyne.

Quorum: A quorum was present.

2. Call to Order and Opening

Maria Coyne (Secretary) called the meeting to order at 12.30pm, welcomed all present and acknowledged the apologies received.

3. Minutes of the previous AGM

Motion 1: That the minutes of the AGM held on 26 May 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Moved: Trish Kelly #27579; Seconded: Dorothy Dowgray #25146

Motion carried.

Matters arising from the previous AGM minutes:

It was noted that the dates in Motions 2, 3, 4, and 5 had been recorded incorrectly as "June 2024 to May 2025". The correct reporting period is 1 Apr 2024 to 31 Mar 2025.

4. Convenor's Report

(View copy at [NZSG > Interest Groups > IIG](#))

Motion 2: "That the annual report for 1 Apr 2025 to 31 Mar 2026 be accepted."

Moved: Maria Coyne #20853; Seconded: Patricia Mainland #12861

Motion carried.

Matters arising from the Convenor's Annual Report: Nil.

Motion 3: "That the annual report for 1 Apr 2025 to 31 Mar 2026 be adopted."

Moved: Maria Coyne #20853; Seconded: Trish Kelly #27578

Motion carried.

5. Treasurer's Financial Report

Motion 4: "That the financial report for 1 Apr 2025 to 31 Mar 2026 be accepted."

Moved: Kathryn O'Neil #24794; Seconded: Patricia Mainland #12861

Motion carried.

Matters arising from the Treasurer's Report: The report was opened for discussion.

A question was raised regarding the IIG's operating deficit over the previous two years and the current bank balance. The Treasurer advised that the balance was approximately \$2,000.00.

Motion 5: "That the financial report for 1 Apr 2025 to 31 Mar 2026 be adopted."

Moved: Maria Coyne #20853; Seconded: Patricia Mainland #12861

Motion carried.

6. Secretary's Report

The report covers IIG purchases for the year. It was presented as a slide show. A hard copy is available in the Family Research Library. The report will subsequently be added online at [NZSG > Interest Groups > IIG.](#)

Motion 6: "That the Secretary's resource report for 1 Apr 2025 to 31 Mar 2026 be accepted."

Moved: Maria Coyne #20853; Seconded: Kathryn O'Neil #24794

Motion carried.

Motion 7: "That the Secretary's resource report for 1 Apr 2025 to 31 Mar 2026 be adopted."

Moved: Maria Coyne #20853; Seconded: Martin Traill #18174

Motion carried.

7. Membership Fee

Motion 8: That the membership fee be \$5.00 (single) and \$7.00 (joint).

Moved: Maria Coyne #20853; Seconded: Kathryn O'Neil #24794

Motion carried.

8. Door Fee

Background:

- The Convenor outlined the current costs associated with running the IIG meeting, being \$160 in total, comprising room hire (\$40), library access (\$40), afternoon tea (\$30), and guest speaker costs (\$50).
- The meeting considered whether the door fee should be increased or whether library access should continue to be subsidised.

Discussion summary:

- **Q1:** A broader concern was raised about the ongoing deficit, including whether the membership fee should also be reviewed.
- The Convenor advised that the committee had considered options to support fairness and preferred to discontinue subsidising library access, allowing the door fee to remain at \$5.00.
- **Q2:** It was asked whether attendees choosing to use the library on meeting day would continue to receive assistance with their enquiries from the committee.
- Response: Yes.
- **Q3:** It was asked whether a person who was not a member of the NZSG could still access the library by attending the IIG meeting.
- Response: Yes, by courtesy.

Motion 9: "That the door fee be maintained at \$5.00 to cover the room hire cost."

Moved: Maria Coyne #20853; Seconded: Bryan Raill #25078

Motion carried.

9. Appointment of Financial Reviewer

Motion 10: That Ron Jackson be appointed Financial Reviewer for the coming year.

Moved: Maria Coyne #20853; Seconded: Geraldene O'Reilly #14240

Motion carried.

10. Election of Officers

The Chair stepped aside, and Robyn Williams took the chair for the election of officers. She acknowledged the list of nominees, each of whom had been nominated, seconded, and had provided consent.

Nominations:

- Convenor: Geraldene O'Reilly — 14240
- Secretary: Maria Coyne — 20853
- Treasurer: Kathryn O'Neil — 24794
- Committee: Phillippa Kidd — 14264
- Committee: Susan Dunn — 25198
- Committee: Rosemary Haden — 19088
- Committee: Rixanne Fergusson — 24350

The Chair then called for any further nominations for the respective offices.

- Convenor — no further nominations were received, and the nominee was elected.
- Secretary — no further nominations were received, and the nominee was elected.
- Treasurer — no further nominations were received, and the nominee was elected.
- Committee members — two further members were nominated, seconded, and elected.
- Trish Kelly — 27579
- Bryan Raill — 25078

11. General Business

1. John Dowgray raised an inquiry regarding the 1926 census.
2. A presentation was made to Dorothy Dowgray, who has stepped back from the committee after many years of service. She was warmly acknowledged for her commitment to the committee, her many presentations, and her generous provision of morning teas. Dorothy will continue to support the IIG by providing morning teas for committee meetings.

The AGM closed at 1.30 pm.

Following the AGM, members enjoyed a presentation by guest speaker Tessa Duder, titled "Journey Back to Auckland, 1840", which offered a fascinating glimpse into the background of her latest novel, "The Sparrow".