



NZSG IRISH INTEREST GROUP

AUCKLAND PRESENTATION 8 AUGUST 2025

The NZSG Irish Interest Group are hosting Seán Brosnahan to present a talk on Friday 8 August 2025.

This event will be held at the NZSG FRC 159 Queens Road, Panmure, doors open 4.30pm and closing time by 8.00pm. Seán's presentation will commence 6.00pm.

Event fee \$20.00 per person. A light supper will be served during the evening.

Booking requests can be made to Irish.genealogy@xtra.co.nz

To reserve a seat please make pre-payment to: Irish Group N.Z. Society of Genealogists ASB Bank Mt. Albert branch 12-3029-0232300-00. Ref: AUG TALK and your name. A confirmed booking number will e-mailed on receipt of payment. Limited seating available.

PRESENTATION:

Michael O'Connor: Auckland's most infamous Fenian?

Michael O'Connor was from Dingle in County Kerry and came to the Australasian colonies as a young man.

After decades as a digger on various goldfields, he became a respected publican, first at the Pacific Hotel on Queen Street, next at Aratapu in Wairoa, and then at the Queen's Hotel in Symonds Street. He also married the Auckland Police Commissioner's daughter and had two children.

Yet in the 1860s he had been notorious as "Fenian O'Connor" at the Thames goldfield, accused of gun-running to rebel Māori and offering hundreds of armed Fenians to support King Tāwhiao against the government.

So who was Michael O'Connor and was there ever really a Fenian threat to New Zealand's peace and security?

SPEAKER:

Seán Brosnahan

Seán Brosnahan is a curator at Toitu Otago Settlers Museum, New Zealand's oldest history museum, and an adjunct member of the University of Otago's Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies.



If you have an inquiry please direct it to Irish.genealogy@xtra.co.nz

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