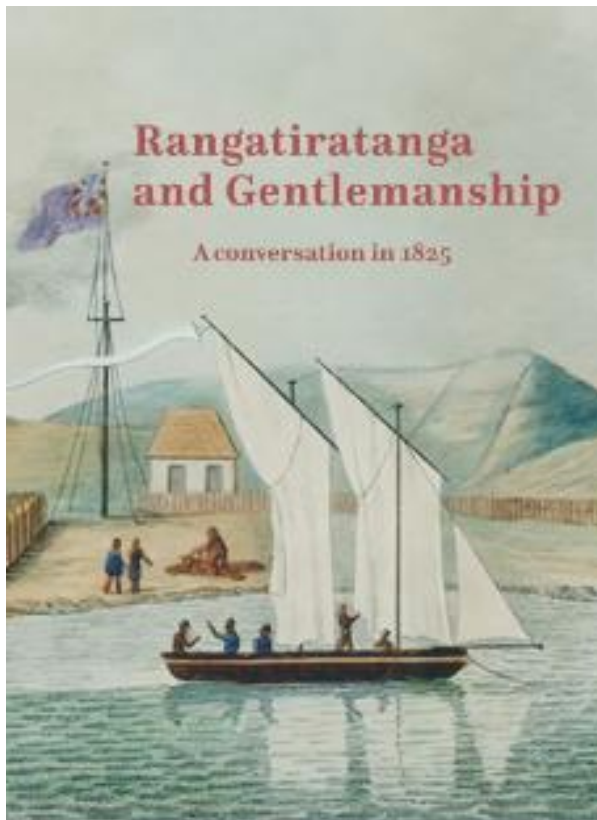


**Our next public meeting and AGM will be held on
Tuesday 2 June 2026
at St Ninian's, Newcombe Crescent, Karori at 7.30 pm.**

The business of the meeting and the election of office holders for the forthcoming year will be followed by our guest speaker Grant Hodgson:



GRANT HODGSON

Rangatiratanga and Gentlemanship

On 15 November 1825, Richard Davis, a missionary in the Bay of Islands, recorded a conversation at Kerikeri between a group of CMS missionaries, and a group of Ngāpuhi rangatira.

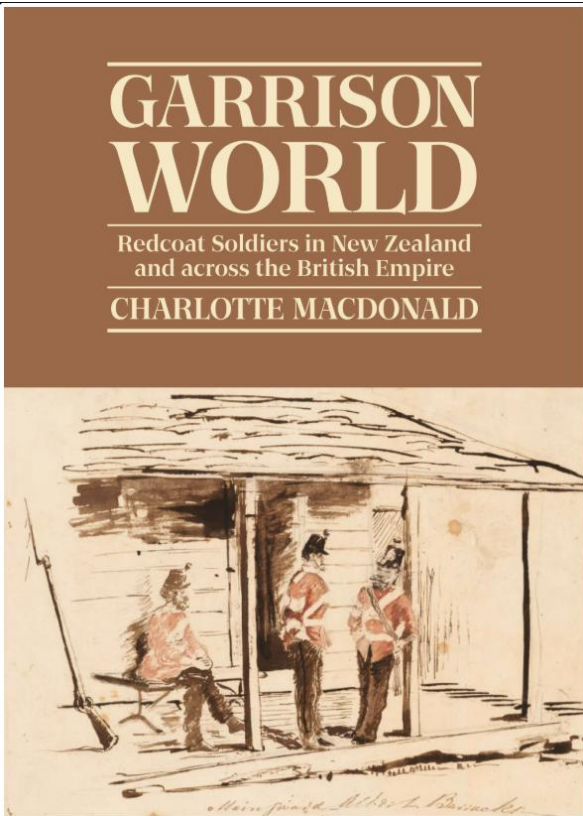
Grant's talk will discuss

- the participants in the conversation,
- the content and translation of the conversation, and
- The consequences of the conversation.

Grant Hodgson, a descendant of Richard Davis, had a multi-faceted career in counselling, education, and consulting, that involved him in Public Sector change projects in New Zealand and around the world. He is now a happily retired grandfather with eight mokopuna, living in Pito-one, Wellington.

**Friends and family are welcome
We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 2 June**

March meeting - Garrison World



In March we were joined by Victoria University history professor Charlotte Macdonald, who talked about her book *Garrison World*. The book examines the impact of the British soldiers and sailors stationed in New Zealand between 1840 and 1870, looking at the social history of these "redcoats" and their families.

The talk gave examples of the everyday lives, experiences, and cultural impact of the army on both Māori and settler society. She highlighted how many soldiers took their discharge in New Zealand, becoming key participants in transforming the nation from a Rangatira state to a settler colony.

If you were unable to attend but would like to know more about the book, you can find out [more here](#).

Updated rules

Following an update to our society rules, Karori Historical Society has been successfully reregistered under the new 2022 Incorporated Society's Act. For those who are interested a copy of the updated rules is attached to the email this newsletter came with.

Annual subscriptions for 2026-2027

Subscriptions for 2026-2027 are due at the AGM. They are set at the same amount as the previous year, which is \$20 for individual membership and \$25 for family membership. You can pay for your subs at our AGM, after which a reminder will be sent out. Subs can be paid via online banking; our account is below. Please note with confirmation of payee our account name is The Karori Historical Society. Please enter your Name and phone number in the 3-panel payer space.

Bank account: 06 0501 0208280 00

If you have any questions or want to check when your subs are paid up to, please contact our Treasurer Liz via infokarorihistory@gmail.com.

Stockade content is always appreciated!

As always articles and contributions are welcome, so if you have a story about Karori you would like to share, please contact Jo Elworthy, our editor via infokarorihistory@gmail.com. If you'd like to browse back through older issues, [you can do that here](#).

Donation to our archives

Recently we received a donation to our archives of family papers relating to the McNicoll family. The papers include photographs, family letters and significant family press clippings, a photo album relating to Joy McNicoll, and several brochures of school or University Centenaries that members of the family attended. They date back to the 1930s. Peter Anderson, who looks after our archives held in the Karori Library, will be spending some time going through and arranging these records so they are accessible for research.

City Libraries Heritage Collection – new records

Gábor Tóth, the Local and NZ History Specialist for the Wellington City Libraries, has recently finished digitising records relating to the Wellington Provincial Council, which can now be found and accessed on [Wellington Recollect](#). The Provincial Council (1853–1876) originally administered a vast area covering the southern half of the North Island, stretching from the Wellington region up to Whanganui on the west coast and Wairoa on the east, which included what is now Karori, but was originally made up of several Road Boards.



Gábor has digitised Acts passed by the Council, the minutes or proceedings of the Council, as well as the Wellington Gazettes. All these records can be keyword searched, there is more detail about the contents and how to access them in Wellington Recollect.

Found in the Council archives

As you may be aware, now that the central library, Te Matapihi ki te Ao Nui, has reopened, there is a new heritage service provided by both Libraries and Wellington City Archives. Staff can help with your research enquiries, and you can access both the Council's archives as well as the Library heritage collections from the special reading room on that level.

City Archives are also busy moving the collection from their current home in Barker Street to a new purpose-built collection store in the new Wellington City Council premises on Harris Street. Once this move takes place at the end of this year, all the Council archives will be safely stored and accessible at Te Matapihi.

Part of the move has involved delving into the large backlog of material that has been inaccessible to the public, to find the archives that need to be moved, and dispose of material that should never have been sent to Archives. As part of this exercise a couple of portraits of long serving Karori residents have been found, which are shared here.



Henry Cook (1844-1925)

We do not know who drew this rather charming portrait of Henry Cook, which at some point was gifted to the Council and made its way into our collection.

Henry was on Lambton Quay and spent more than thirty years farming at Makara. He retired in the late 1890s and settled with his adopted son, Mr W H Wallace, in Beauchamp Street, Karori. His son's house was named 'Rangimarie'.

He took an active interest in public affairs, serving at various times on the Wellington Harbour Board, Hospital Board, Makara and Hutt County Councils, and was a Karori Borough Councillor from 1897 to 1907. A keen bowler he was one of the founders of the Karori Bowling Club.

Archives also holds a photograph of [Henry and his wife Jane](#). Jane Cook (nee Gordon) had come out to New Zealand with her family in 1860. She was a keen croquet player and was one of the founders of the Karori Croquet Club. She passed away in October 1929, aged 83.

The other portrait uncovered is **Stephen Lancaster (1833-1899)**, who was Mayor of Karori from 1892 to 1904. He arrived in Wellington on the "*Indian Queen*" on 31 January 1857. Initially working as a foreman on road works at Ngahauranga, in 1859 he purchased 100 acres (Section 40) at Karori. He married Sarah Eagle (from another well-known Karori family) and they had eleven children.

Like Henry, Stephen was very involved in public affairs. He was instrumental in forming the Karori-Makara Highway Road Board in the 1860s; Chairman of Karori School committee 1873-74; Hutt County Council member (Chairman in 1880 and 1892), and a member of the Hospital Board and the Benevolent Institution Trust. He was an original member of Wellington Harbour Board when it was established in 1880. He was heavily involved in the petition to form the Karori Borough, and was elected as the first Mayor in September 1891, holding that role until the end of 1904.

He built several houses in Karori, which he leased or sold. Three of these houses survive; 378 Karori Road (known as *The Nook*), 385 Karori Road (*Hillside* or *Wangara*), and the most well-known, 372 Karori Road. Built in 1859 and famous in New Zealand literature as the childhood home of Katherine Mansfield. It was named *Chesney Wold*, from the novel *Bleak House* by Charles Dickens. In addition to his building and land-dealing, Lancaster farmed the land between the modern Eagle Street and the Park, supplying milk to Wellington. He was a member of the syndicate which was responsible for subdividing Section 34 (the Messines Road, Duthie Street, Braithwaite Street area) in 1888-90.

One of his greatest interests was the Church, and the earliest Anglican services were held in his house. He was a leading member of the congregation of St Mary's (built 1866) and served on the vestry for many years. On his death in 1899 he was buried in St Mary's churchyard.

