

**Join us for our next meeting, which will be held on Tuesday 6 March 2018**

**at St Ninian's, Newcombe Crescent, Karori at 7.45 pm.**

**Members and friends welcome!**

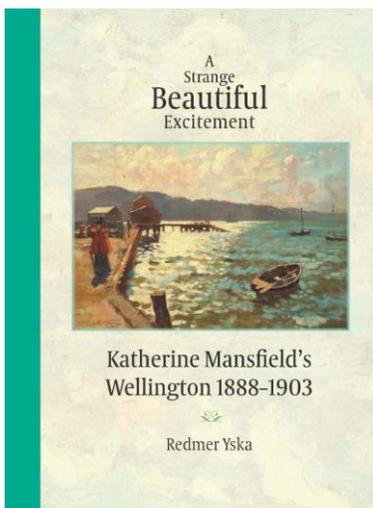
*George Vernon Hudson, scientist and former Karori resident*

Dr George Gibbs will be talking about George Vernon Hudson, who lived in Karori and was an eminent amateur scientist specialising in the study of insects. His grandson George Gibbs followed in his footsteps and has now "retired" from Victoria University.

His book "Ghosts of Gondwana", now in its second edition, reveals the history of life in New Zealand and explains why many of our plants and animals are very different from those elsewhere. He has also found out much more about his grandfather's life and work since the previous time he spoke to us 19 years ago.

If you would like to know a little more about George Vernon Hudson in advance, you can read his entry in the Dictionary of New Zealand Biography [here](#).

Supper will be provided after the talk.



### ***December Meeting***

Our December meeting featured a talk by Redmer Yska, who grew up in Karori, and has undertaken extensive research into the life of Katherine Mansfield and recently published the book "A Strange Beautiful Excitement, Katherine Mansfield's Wellington 1888-1903".

Redmer spoke to his book about the life of Katherine Mansfield's upbringing in Wellington including the time she spent in Karori.

Her childhood memories are recalled especially those of her family and how they fitted into the social fabric of the Capital at that time.

One especially exciting find by the author was the discovery of a poem written by the budding Katherine that hitherto had not been seen before.

### ***Trip to Government House***

Ten members of the Society toured Government House on Friday 16 February. Our guide Heather was from Karori and knew several of the group which made for a very congenial morning.

We started off at The Taupaepae, the official entry, which has information and portraits of all the Governors and Governors-General. Heather gave us some background information about them which added to the interest.



We then went to see the squash court, built especially for one of the early Governors. It was the first squash court in New Zealand. Then we visited the house - a treasure-trove with rooms all beautifully furnished, where possible, with New Zealand made carpets, pictures and glass ware by New Zealand artists. There were also cabinets full of gifts from visiting dignitaries.

Our last call was to see the remains of The Wellington Lunatic Asylum: Mt View which was where the Karori asylum was moved after its closure. A large brick wall with some of the bricks with arrows indicating they had been made by prisoners had been preserved. It was very moving to see with some drawings by the patients still visible.

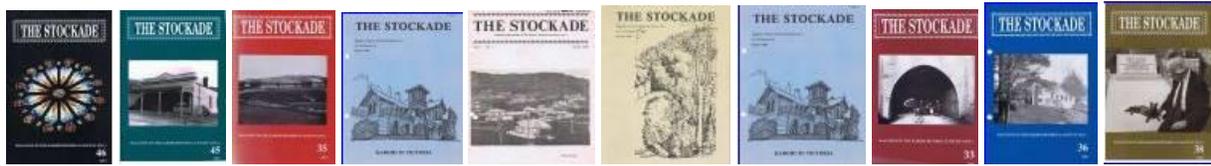
Heather was an excellent guide - she had a depth of knowledge about New Zealand history and of course about the house and its past and present incumbents and she delivered her information in a lively way. She was concerned that not many New Zealanders visit Government House and urged us to promote it - as it belongs to all of us.

Remember also to let the committee know if you are keen on further trips throughout the year, and any suggestions of places to visit are always warmly welcomed!

### ***Stockade will be with you soon!***

Stockade 49 is back from the printers and we are just arranging getting it distributed out to our members, which should be in the next week or so. We do have a small number of members

who have not paid their subs, and would hate for you to miss out on a copy of the Stockade, so if you think it may be unpaid please let me know.



Remember also you can browse copies of earlier [Stockades online](#), and we are always interested in contributions, so if you have an photos or would like to write an article, please contact Jo Elworthy our editor; [jo.elworthy101@gmail.com](mailto:jo.elworthy101@gmail.com).

### ***Confirming email addresses***

I also noticed sending this email that we still have a lot of @paradise and @clear email addresses in our membership records. While emails should still be forwarding from these addresses they are no longer active, and we don't want anyone missing notices or our newsletter. If you have changed to a new email address could you please reply to this email so I can update our database with your current email address.

### ***New Zealand's Most Unsuccessful Gold Rush***

In case you didn't see the link on our Facebook page, Dr Grant Morris, Senior Lecturer in Law at Victoria University, was recently on Radio New Zealand talking about the 1869 goldrush in Karori. A link to is below, Grant has also intimated he would be happy to write his research up for Stockade, or present at one of our meetings. Let me know if this would be of interest!

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/afternoons/audio/2018630280/nz-s-most-unsuccessful-gold-rush>

See you all on 6 March!

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