



# Kapiti Branch Newsletter

## Kapiti Branch Contacts

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## Tonight's Meeting

Many early New Zealand settlers came from "the old country" via the Victorian goldfields. Tonight Chris Hurley from New Zealand National Archives (ex Victoria PRO) will introduce us to the record treasures held in the Public Records Office in Victoria.

Tonight is also the time for the Kapiti NZSG Branch AGM. Thankyou to retiring Committee members for their services to the Branch in the past years, and thankyou also to those who have allowed themselves to be nominated for office for the next twelve months.



**Supper Duties:** To assist our small & rather busy Committee, we are asking members to please assist with suppers, particularly the serving & washing up.

Supper duty for September E, F, G

Supper duty for November, H, J, K.

As a thankyou for your help, we ask that you bring a problem, a query, etc., to share for help at the start of the meeting.

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## Review - September Meeting

On 24 September we learned about "New Zealand Police Records", with Inspector Sherwood Young of NZ Police Headquarters. Inspector Young brought with him copies of books on the history of policing in NZ from the earliest times of European settlement along with many intriguing anecdotes and case histories.

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## November Meeting

This will be our final meeting for 1997, and will be a social meeting with a **Genealogy Quizz**. PLEASE BRING A PLATE.

## Wellington Maritime Museum

Among the material held by the Maritime Museum are records of New Zealand Shipping Co. vessels for all NZ ports for the years 1877 - 1893 and from 1904 - 1914. Wellington ports for the years 1880 to date are held, and also a list of all ships which have called at Wellington from 1839 to date, which has been compiled from newspapers.

From about 1970 it became the practice for a shipping reporter from the newspapers to go on board immigrant vessels and interview the captain. Accounts of the voyages are often published in greater detail than had been the case earlier.

From the beginning of the era of cables (about 1914) passenger lists were often published in local newspapers a few days before the vessel was due to arrive.

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## Liverpool Maritime Museum

Over the centuries nine million people left the Port of Liverpool for the New World. The Merseyside Maritime Museum houses a Records Section and an Emigrants Exhibition, as well as a hall of paintings of ships. The Exhibition aims at showing the lives of the people before and after emigration, and to assist people into commencing their own research into family history, although it does not hold family or passenger records.

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## Microfiche Officer

**BARBARA TUNLEY**

4 Chums Rd., Paraparaumu Beach

Phone 2986531

**\$2 per lot per WEEK  
for Branch Members**

**Have you searched the  
comprehensive  
International Genealogy Index  
for that elusive ancestor?  
You may even find a whole  
family!**

## Notice Board

### Future Meetings

- 22 Oct** - "Victorian PRO Records", Chris Hurley,  
National Archives  
Kapiti Branch AGM
- 26 Nov** - Social Evening, Genealogy Quizz, Bring a Plate
- 28 Jan** - First Meeting for 1998!!!

### Genealogy Magazines - Ireland, Scotland, England, Australia

Are you interested in being part of the round robin distribution for a nominal cost? Phone John Glover 29 84936

## Sussex

If your research includes Sussex in the mid 18th Century, then the "Diary of Thomas Turner, 1754 - 1768" edited by David VAISEY is essential reading.

Turner, a literate grocer and storekeeper in the villiage of East Loathly, paints a detailed picture of the daily activities of his friends and acquaintances. He tells of vestry meetings to strike a "Poor rate" for the parish, his activities as overseer of the poor and his business and domestic problems.

This book is available on interloan through Kapiti Library.

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## Biological Register of Central Taranaki

The Stratford Branch NZSG, 282 Broadway, Stratford, have established a Biological Register of residents of central Taranaki, and are endeavouring to locate as many descendants of those who lived in region as possible.

To date the Register contains just over 8700 names, is indexed and available for research. They have an extensive range of research material relating to Central Taranaki, including church, school, cemetery and local body records. There is an initial postal search fee of \$5 plus stamped self-addressed envelope.

The records are housed at the Stratford NZSG rooms, 282 Broadway, Stratford, open to the public 11am to 3pm Tuesdays and Fridays, and at other times by arrangement. Contact Carol SPRAGG, Research Officer, for further information.

Stratford NZSG Newsletter, May 1997

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## Welsh Research

A member of the Eltham Branch NZSG has collected material related to Welsh Research, particularly in South Wales. She has obtained Ordinance Survey maps of South Wales. If researchers can roughly identify the area required, she will photocopy the section for the cost of copying. Many Welsh people have Gloucestershire connections and she also has material on that area.

When researchers are seeking information it is requested that ALL SURNAMES BE WRITTEN IN CAPITALS, as similar names are used for both surnames and first names.

Contact: Janet OLD  
50 Stanners Street  
Eltham

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## Convicts in New Zealand

The Sunday Star Times of July 13 1997 carried an article by Iain MacDONALD which has been brought to our attention by Eileen O'Regan.

The article addresses the issue of two shiploads of young "boy convicts" off-loaded in "respectable" Auckland in 1842.

The barque "St. George" hove to off Rangitoto island with a cargo of 92 convicts, from 12 years of age, but mostly in mid teens who had been transported from Parkhurst Prison on the Isle of Wight. The crimes for which they were transported for seven years penal servitude were mostly the theft of, eg, a handkerchief worth a shilling, or minor "shop-lifting". In 1843 the regular Botany Bay convict transport, the barque "Mandarin" landed another 31 boys, after having deposited 59 convicts in Van Dieman's Land.

The boys became known in Auckland as the "Parkhurst Brats" by the indignant free settlers. Life was not easy with the boys being indentured to free settlers for a period and many worked as labourers with pick and shovel, or slaved underground in a new copper mine on Great Barrier island.

Many were treated harshly by employers and misbehaviour saw them dragged before the local police magistrate, Felton MATHEW, who ordered one 14 year old to be publicly flogged, which sentence was finally abandoned when no free settle could be found to volunteer as "public scourger".

The official Government Gazette of 1843 listed all the names, ages and "trades" (all were listed as tailors or shoemakers, although it is unlikely that they had ever been apprenticed). There after their records are scant.

Auckland civil engineer, Bryce HADFIELD of Mairangi Bay, has written a privately published historical novel, "A Wind From The North", based on the "Parkhurst Brats" of 155 years ago.

What became of the "Parkhurst Brats"? How many present day New Zealanders are descended from them? How was this transportation stopped by the colonial fathers of the day? Why was the issue hushed up so well?

Here is a wonderful area of research for the adventurous family historian.



**NZSG 1998 Conference**  
**Easter Weekend - 10-13 April**  
**DUNEDIN**

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