

**KAPITI BRANCH N.Z.S.G.**  
**New Zealand Society of Genealogists**  
**P.O. Box 6, Paraparaumu**

Meetings held at Masonic Lodge Rooms,  
Tararua Street, Paraparaumu  
4th Wednesdays of months January to November at 7.30 p.m.  
**August 2001**

**PROGRAMME**

- Aug 22<sup>nd</sup>** Beginner's night Q & A
- Sept 26<sup>th</sup>** Charts and Recording systems - Gerald Twiss
- Oct 24<sup>th</sup>** A.G.M. speaker to be advised

**NOTICES**

**BEGINNERS RESEARCH DAY :** A disappointing day with attendance at 22 for the day. Many thanks to Bill Moore and John Haddock who helped set up on Friday evening, and John Weston who helped out all day Saturday.

**A.G.M.** Its that time again and we will be looking for new committee members, inparticular we will be looking for a new convenor for the group. Due to family commitments Rosalyn will be resigning as convenor in October. So if there is anyone out there keen to take on this role or to be a committee member, please see a current member for more information. Nomination forms will be on the Sales table at the next 3 meetings

**Can anyone Help:** A member is looking for a slide viewer to buy or borrow please contact Valerie Freeman if you can help.

**Supper Helpers**

To assist the Committee, will members please help with supper duties, particularly the serving and washing up.

**Aug E-G Sept H-J**

## Notices

**Newsletter by e-mail:** We are planning to send some newsletter out by e-mail in the near future. If you wish to receive your newsletter in this way please check that Shirley West has your e-mail address. By checking the membership list at the meeting ,or email Shirley.jasmwest@xtra.co.nz

**Video's for hire:** Are member aware that there are 3 very good video's in our Library on How to Start your research by Janette reakes. See Debbie or Merrel at the Library on Wednesday evening

**Kapiti Branch Day Time meetings** As there has been no interest shown in these meeting to date it has been decide to cancel any further meeting.

### **JUST HOPE THAT GOD DOESN'T GO HIGH-TECH**

If he does, then you can expect something like these recordings.

- "I'm sorry, all our angels are busy helping other saints right now. However your prayer is important to us and it will be answered in the order it was received, so please stay on the line"
  - If you would like to speak to:
    - Gabriel, Press 1.
    - Michael, Press2.
    - For a directory of other angels, Press3.
    - If you'd like to hear King David sing a psalm while you are holding, please Press 4.
    - To find out if a loved one has been assigned to Heaven, Press5, enter his or her social security number, then press the pound key.  
(If you get a negative response, try area code 666)
  - For reservations at "My Father's House", please enter J-O-H-N, followed by 3-1-6.
  - For answers to nagging questions about dinosaurs, the age of the earth and where Noah's Ark is, please wait until you arrive here.
  - Our computers show that you have already prayed once today. Please hang up and try again tomorrow so that others may have a chance to get through.
  - This office is closed for the weekend to observe a religious holiday. Please pray again on Monday after 9.30am.
- If you need emergency assistance while this office is closed, contact your local clergy!

**THE RISING PHOENIX** A landmark in the history of Oamaru took place last year when the then Governor-General, Sir Michael Hardie Boys, opened the new Oamaru Hospital on Severn Street, for in the heart of it is one of Oamaru's historic buildings. This was built 128 years ago, originally as the Oamaru Grammar school, but was known most of its life as Oamaru Middle School and it served educational needs for nearly 125 years. It now enters a new era away from education and into health.

It is interesting to note that in 1874 the population of Oamaru was 2,819 which grew to 4,927 within the next four years. Of this number children under fourteen comprised 42.7%, while more than half were under 21 and 82.7% were under the age of forty. So pressure put on the Provincial Government of the day to build the Grammar School was great. It was one of the last schools built by the Provincial Government. The style was described as "classical in inspiration" and "Italianate in style": it was built in an H with the rooms remarkable for their height and light. The number, grouping and size of the recessed windows are a significant feature.

The opening took place on 4th October 1875 under threat of rain, so the public and pupils crowded into two classrooms. The media found it impossible to take notes in the crush and three-quarters of the speeches could not be heard. These speeches were interspersed with singing. After the formal part of the ceremony, each of the six hundred pupils received a bag containing a bun, a cake, a fig and sweets. Then came the races on the cricket ground and a scramble for apples and lollies.

It was an important part of the educational establishment of Oamaru, later becoming an intermediate school when the Waitaki Boys' and Waitaki Girls' Schools were built, and was also used for temporary classrooms and also for night classes, New Zealand Educational Institute meetings and in-service classes for teachers and Dunedin College of Education students. For a time in the 1970s it housed the Meldrum Special School for Intellectually Handicapped Children. Some of these ancillary educational used continued until the early 1990s.

In recognising the building's historic and architectural qualities a class C classification was awarded under the 1980 Historic Places Act. It is the oldest stone school building and the second oldest school building on the

Trust's register of historic buildings.

The Waitake District Council became the owner in 1990 and it stood empty, unused, and vandalised in the 1990s. Various proposals for its use were put forward, becoming a heated debate in the community. Should it become a new aquatic centre? Should it become the new hospital? Should it be demolished? The North Otago Branch of the Historic Places Trust strongly advocated the re-use of the building and ultimately this was done. On the 5th November 1998 the Government announced a \$5 million suspensory loan to fund a new thirty-bed plus 5 maternity bed hospital, supplying a wide range of services, including out-patient clinics. The application to demolish the building was withdrawn. On June 10th, 2000 a commemorative Historic Places Trust plaque was unveiled by His Worship the Mayor of the Waitaki District, Mr. D.W. Taylow, in the presence of George Barry, the Chairman of the Waitaki District Health Services and Rodney Grater as Chairman of the North Otago Branch of the Historic Places Trust. The Governor-General, Sir Michael Hardie Boys, opened the new hospital on 26th June and patients and staff finally moved into it on 5th August 2000.

*Taken from an article in "Historic Places" February 2001 by Rodney Grater*

#### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

CONVENOR	Rosalyn Smaill ..... 299-7395
SECRETARY	Valerie Freeman..... 298-7396
TREASURER	Shirley West..... 293-4438
MINUTES	John Glover..... 902-2486
LIBRARIANS	Debbie Benton..... 902-4940
	Meryl Opie ..... 298-8737
PROGRAMMES & GRANTS	Angela Milsted..... 299-0338
HELP DESK	Valerie Freeman..... 298-7396
SALES	Barbara Humpage... 902-4979
MICROFICHE	Barbara Tunley..... 298-6531
HOSTESS / SUPPER	Doreen Heron..... 902-1918
PUBLICITY	Gerald Twiss ..... 902-0926
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Alison Procter ..... 904-3229
COMMITTEE	Marydell Haddock.. 298-7254