

# KAPITI BRANCH N.Z.S.G.

New Zealand Society of Genealogists 53  
Donovan Road, Paraparaumu Beach 6010

Meetings now held in the New Library Meeting Room on  
the 4th Thursdays of months January to November at 7.30  
p.m.

## JANUARY 2003 – A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!

### PROGRAMME

**23rd Jan. 2003** Neil Curgenvin from the Heritage Trust and Kapiti Historical Society will speak on "Heritage and History are Today" **27th Feb 2003** To be arranged.

### NOTICES

**WELCOME** to New Members:- Louise Eberly, Tom Nunan, Beverley Smith, Jane Corbin, Jean Macallan, Brian & Robyn Marter, Joy Meredith

**NEW PREMISES.** Well... the new Public Library in Paraparaumu is open and we held our Christmas meeting there in November, one day later. We were the first club to make use of the committee room. Hopefully it will not take long for us to settle in, but there will be a few changes to our former procedures. As the kitchen facilities are so limited, there is now no need for Supper Helpers. Then, with the Library open on Thursday nights, members will be able to visit our section upstairs before meetings. However, members will also be able to use our library books, microfiches etc. during Library hours **provided** they hold both our membership card and a K.C.D.C. library card, they can get the key from the help desk upstairs (or the staff workroom nearby) on signing our genealogy branch register. All our books still have to be processed through the library system first, so it may be a little time before they are all available. Any books borrowed will then be taken to the issuing desk downstairs,

### OPEN DAY IN WELLINGTON

On the 17th November 2002, there was a triple event in Wellington when Archives New Zealand combined with the Parliamentary Library and the National Library of New Zealand to hold an Open Day for the public. Passports were issued, to be stamped at each venue - well, I was given my passport at the Parliamentary Library, but, alas, it was not stamped there although the other two venues did so. I started at the top (Parliamentary Library) and worked downhill. Parliamentary Library I was met at the door and given a sheaf of papers listing the various items on show and where. In the Main Foyer, which was completely rebuilt after the 1992 fire, items from the 1899 capsule were on display, then, in the Administration Corridor books gifted to Rt Hon Helen Clark and Maori books from the Library's collection. Next came the Lift Foyer where early legislative material in Maori and also the Act of Parliament clock which dates back to 1720!. The Reading Room and the Reference Room were enormous, they would have to have a good reference system to track anything down... The Meeting Room held a display from the Nash collection, it was a beautiful sunny spot. Upstairs was the International Documents-Public Reading Room where staff specialise in international official publications and inter-governmental agencies. This collection is the oldest and most comprehensive collection of its type in New Zealand and is available both to Parliament and the public. School classes are sometimes visitors here. Various stained-glass windows, one of which was discovered after the 1992 repairs having been hidden behind bookshelves in a locked room. There were many staff members scattered around the building, willing to answer questions, otherwise the public was free to wander around. A quiz form for children was also issued. National Library All bags & coats were taken in the foyer. There were many activities going on during the day: story-telling, juggling, music, videos and also genealogy was well represented, NZSG with Sue Greene on computer, Marsha Donaldson on shipping, Jan Bonnett for Irish Research, someone on Scottish Research and someone else on English Research. There were also behind-the-scenes tours running every half hour. I was joined by Shirley West for this, First we went to the music room downstairs where we were given a talk about what they had stored and how their system works. I had never given a thought to taking out music scores/discs, but apparently various theatrical companies use them quite a bit. A visit to their storage area in the basement, an enormous space filled with cabinets. Our guide took a soft toy leopard and put it into one of their mobile units, she pressed a button and off it went shunting back and forth over the rails until it finally disappeared. When we went upstairs to the postal section, there it was waiting for us! Another section was the Alexander Turnbull Library, where the public normally goes, but several early books were laid out for our inspection and the staff member on duty told us something about them. They are always looking for new material, as budding authors come in to look up their reference section. (I have been in there looking at my grandfather's farm diaries). However, I was more interested in the Alexander Turnbull Print Room, where they have early paintings, photos and maps, as my father did quite a bit of mapping in the Tararua, Ruahine and Kaimanawa Ranges. It looks as though the Turnbull Library is the place to put