



## Kapiti Branch

**January 2004**

### **PROGRAMME 2004**

January 22nd Derek Griffis with tips on publishing your family history, and how to handle all those files, charts, notes and records. Derek completed his book last year, so is well up with the play

February 29th Garden Party at noon. Details in the Convenor's Comments. Note that this is instead of our normal meeting night. Members of the Kapiti Computer Group are also invited.

### **CONVENOR'S COMMENTS**

My thanks to those who have responded to the Membership Survey - 30% at the time of writing, so please keep them rolling in. It is providing invaluable information on how we should be structuring our activities, with new postal and electronic addresses and telephone numbers to update our records. The message from the majority who have responded thus far, is to focus on improved communication between members, better sharing of our collective in-house research experience and more hands-on activities. Your Committee is reacting immediately, with several initiatives announced in this Newsletter and others in the pipeline.

It is clear that our aim of providing a platform for your genealogical quests goes beyond organising a monthly meeting for members. It has to be ongoing. For starters we are introducing a "Kapiti Gen-Forum" of information exchange based on your questions and answers, a process, by which you can at any time, be it monthly meetings, by post or e-mail, or independent groups, seek help in breaching that brick wall and using collective expertise to assist you. We may, through this process, set up a number of interactive groups based on country/county/family, who can work in their own space and time to search for those elusive past generations. As far as monthly meetings and associated activities are concerned, we are looking at several options so watch this space!

Our website is up and running and many thanks to Barry Thomson, who has agreed to be Webmaster, supported by Gerald Twiss and Valerie Gilgrist. Part of this process has been to develop our own unique logo and trademark. Early days yet and the "roadworks ahead" sign will be out for a while as the site is developed. One of the policy initiatives we will follow, is to incorporate in the website,

information and activities of other local and regional genealogical and historical groups. We are all too small to go it alone and sharing our collective resources is important. We have also set up a generic e-mail address as a one-stop facility for keeping in touch. Addresses for these new activities can be found above under our logo.

The Newsletter is another major means of communication and we will continue to improve layout and form, available in hard copy and online. It will also be on the website. Your contributions to the Newsletter are very welcome.

Since moving into the Paraparaumu Public Library in late 2002, our printed, fiche and other resources - as you have reminded us - need re-sorting and cataloguing. A group of members headed by Jack Burton, has completed security tagging of our books and other printed resources and will shortly commence the process of sorting and classifying for cataloguing. This latter process will allow us to be incorporated into the KCDC Library system. The fiche collection will also receive attention. You will find an earlier catalogue on our website and a hard copy will be available at monthly meetings and on display in the Local History Room. To get the Genealogical New Year off to an appropriate start, my wife Merrilee and I invite you to a Garden Party at our place on Sunday, 29th February (note change in date from earlier announcement). This will replace our normal meeting on 22nd February. Do come and enjoy the surroundings of our lifestyle block, for a chat and exchanging ideas. Please bring a plate, your favourite tippie and \$2, we'll have some on-site research facilities to pander to the enthusiasts. Clive Palmer

**NOTICES WELCOME** to New Member(s) Shirley Dixon and Graham Petterson

**SUBS ARE NOW DUE**, If you are financial you should have a purple membership card, otherwise your next (February) newsletter will be your last!!

**MEMBERSHIP SURVEY** Have you filled your form in yet? Your Committee wants YOUR ideas for meetings, outings, interests etc. so please return your form as soon as possible.

**NZSG MEMBERS** reminder:- Have you filled in your Postal Vote regarding their Constitution changes yet? This is your chance to express your opinion. It must be returned to Auckland before 30th January.

**LIBRARY** Action at last... All of our books have had security strips attached, thanks to Jack Burton and his team, so the next step is cataloguing them. Brian Mountjoy and Deborah Schuker will be working with Librarian Barbara Witten on this. We thank them both. Once this is done our library books will be available for Branch members to take out, but will be Reference only for the general public.

**WEBMASTER** We would like to thank Barry Thomson for accepting this role

**NEWSLETTER** We are going to trial a new way of sending newsletters to members over the next 3 months. Those of you who are on e-mail will get it through this medium, while the rest of you will have your newsletter posted.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Seniornet Waikanae/Otaki Inc. have introduced a course on Genealogy? They are currently looking for suitable courses or programmes they can use for instruction on Genealogy and and Digital Photography.If you can help phone 04 293 4265

**WHO AM I?** Derek Griffis, our new Secretary, gives his profile this month. "I was born in London in 1934 and came to New Zealand in 1956. Apart from 4 years in Sydney (1959-1962) I have lived here ever since. My wife is Australian and our three children and seven grandchildren all live in the Wellington and Wairarapa areas. Most of my working life was spent in Life Assurance administration. My interest in genealogy began in the mid-1970s. My father had deserted my mother at the brink of World War II and I began to wonder a) if he was still alive, b) if I could trace him and c) if I could meet him again. The answer to all three was to be 'Yes' - but that is another story.

I joined the New Zealand Society of Genealogists (NZSG) over 20 years ago, later joining the Society of Genealogists in London, and the Family History Societies of Buckinghamshire, East of London and the Midlands. Over the years my interest ebbed and flowed, the way it does, but the accumulation of knowledge and skills was continuous, and was reinforced by numerous visits to the UK, with a couple of visits to Salt Lake City. As the learning process continued, from time to time specialist articles have been contributed to the NZSG magazine, often on topics quite unrelated to my own Family History, but topics that took my fancy. The culmination of my personal research was to be the publishing of my own book (the subject of this month's talk) summarising my findings of over a quarter of a century and including an autobiography

Since the mid-1950s I have been involved in Committees of one sort or another, and have held most of the usual positions. However, by design, this involvement had been restricted to non-genealogical organisations, with the sole exception of a 5-year term as Sales Officer for Wellington Branch ending about 10 years ago. With my book published last May, I went overseas in June, was involved in organising a School Reunion in the UK in September, to return to NZ to learn in the October that Kapiti Branch was looking for a new Secretary..... and here I am. The previous Secretary, Valerie Freeman, was stepping down after 8 years in the position, and I am most grateful to her for handing over such a tidy ship.

We all have our strengths and weaknesses, and like to put our own stamp on things. My interests lie in developing our local resources, organisation, and in stimulating the flow of information (in both directions) between our own Branch,

the NZSG and other Branches of the Society."

**NEW RESOURCES** We now have a copy of the CDs for the Second Edition of the British Isles Vital Records Index (England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales in our Branch Library.

**IRELAND** General registration of births, marriages and deaths began in Ireland in 1864, although non-Catholic registration began earlier in 1845. Nineteenth century census returns have mostly been destroyed; however returns for the census of 1901 and 1911 are available. Griffith's valuation c. 1846-65 provide a useful alternative to the census, listing all the landowners. The tithe applotment surveys c. 1828-37 are also a useful alternative, listing all occupiers of agricultural land. The "Return of Owners of land 1873" lists everyone who owned an acre or more of land. Ecclesiastical registers of births, marriages and deaths survive from the eighteenth century, although many church of Ireland (ie. Anglican) were lost- as were many other records - when the Irish Public Record Office was blown up in 1922. Amongst other records lost in 1922 were wills proved in ecclesiastical courts prior to 1858. District probate registries hold wills proved since that date.

Web Sites:-

Genuki Ireland [www.genuki.org.uk/big.irl](http://www.genuki.org.uk/big.irl)

Ireland genweb [www.irelandgenweb.com](http://www.irelandgenweb.com)

Fianna guide to Irish genealogy

[www.rootsweb.com/~fianna](http://www.rootsweb.com/~fianna)

(From "The Family Historian's Pocket Dictionary" S.A. Raymond. 2003) Thanks to Brian Mountjoy for giving us this.

### **REGISTERING BIRTHS IN 1873**

When looking through the Wellington Independent newspaper for November 1873 I came across the following item in the Local & General Column that may explain why we have problems finding the birth of an ancestor around that period. At this time there was a great increase in the number of immigrants arriving on our shores and a lot of them were apparently unaware of the legal requirements to register a birth, so the local paper decided to bring the matter to their attention.

(The Wellington Independent 6th November 1873 Page 2 Col C) "It has been ascertained that many persons who arrived from the old country during the past year have neglected to comply with the provisions of the law in regard to the registration of births. In some of the large towns in England it is the duty of an officer appointed for that purpose to visit the dwelling houses for the purpose of registering births, but it is as well that it should be clearly understood that there is no such functionary here, and that persons who fail to register the births of children within sixty-two days of birth are liable to a fine of 10s.6d. After the expiration of the sixty-two days they become liable to a penalty of £10, and at the end of six

months the registrar cannot legally enter the birth of any child, whose age must, as far as official record goes, for ever after remain in uncertainty. This then becomes a matter of no little importance, because in a colony where every person of industrious habits may acquire a considerable amount of property, the inability to produce the certificate of birth may interfere with the rights of heritage in a very unpleasant manner. The fine imposed under the Registration Act may be recovered upon the complaint of any person made before two Justices of the Peace"(Reprinted with the permission of the National Library) Thanks to Brian Mountjoy for sending this on to us.

### **FROM ELSEWHERE**

**CHRISTCHURCH** Anyone interested in buying a CD ROM of the three Christchurch Cemeteries - Ruru Lawn, Memorial Park and Waikairi - can purchase them from The Treasurer, Canterbury Branch NZSG, PO Box 21-180 Edgeward, Christchurch for the sum of \$20 (includes packaging). This Branch has transcribed them over 6 years under Alex Boyd's supervision.

### **WELLINGTON**

#### **WHEN, HOW, OR WHY MY ANCESTOR CAME TO NEW ZEALAND.**

Short articles, say up to 500 words.

**STRATFORD ANYONE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE TODAY?** Write to "Open Country", Radio Pacific, Private Bag, Ponsonby, Auckland. This programme is aired throughout NZ from 5 am. to 8 am. every Saturday and Sunday morning. Your letter will be read out - success rate - fantastic! This can also be telephoned 0800 309 3099. Quote as much detail as possible as someone somewhere may recognise a name. This station is also great for Family Reunions, but you are asked to write in with details of these rather than telephone

**"THE GENEALOGIST"** August 2003 issue, p. 224. **TRACING BIRTH FAMILIES JIGSAW**, the organisation dealing with attempts to reunite parties of adoptions where possible, has made a plea that, as these are very sensitive issues, any genealogists wanting to help please contact them first: Mary Francis, Jigsaw Committee member Jigsaw, PO Box 38681 Howick, Auckland  
nzjigsaw@yahoo.com

**NZ COURT RECORDS** Archive NZ and Courts have signed an agreement, so that more records will go to Archives from Supreme, High, Magistrates, District & Warden Courts. Some Courts established in the 19th century have not yet transferred any records. I think this includes Probates from Nelson, Marlborough and Masterton. although Nelson probates are indexed onto the NZSG CD-ROM, a copy of my great-grandmother's 1899 one page will cost \$30 some years ago. John Wilson - Wellington Genealogy Branch.

### **RESEARCH DAYS.**

1. In Auckland on Saturday 20th March 2004, there is a Southern England Research Day being held from 9 am. to 4 pm. at the Ronald Batson Ambulance Centre, 171 Manakau Road, Epsom. Door charge \$5. The Counties covered are:- Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Devon, Dorset, Gloucester, Hampshire, I o W, Kent, Oxfordshire, Somerset, Surrey, Sussex & Wiltshire.

2. North of England Research Day is being held at the Wesley Methodist Centre, 13th Avenue, Tauranga on 3rd April, 2004 10 am. to 4p.m. Again there will be a \$5. door charge. Anyone interested?

**THE NZ ROLL OF HONOUR** A member has been given a copy of "The NZ Roll of Honour" concerning New Zealanders who have served their country in Peace and War between 1845 and 1995. In it are thousands of names of people who have gained all sorts of awards and medals. She found information on many unexpected names. Some have the bare facts on the awards, but in others there is a lot of information such as dates of birth, names of spouses etc. She has offered to look up these records if anyone is interested. Please contact the Editor for further details.

**CHURCH BACK HOME** For almost sixty years St. Saviour's Church, built in 1900, stood at the top of Pirongia's Alexandra Redoubt. Then in 1959 the prison governor's wife bought it for twenty-five pounds for the new Waikeria Village 26 km. away. Three years ago the Pirongia Residents & Ratepayers Association bought it back for fifty dollars. Now it is located on land given to Tainui in the 1995 rautapu settlement and it is hoped to display both pre-European Maori material and colonial artefact in what is to be called the Pirongia Historic Visitor Centre (Te Whare Taonga o Nga Rohe o Arekahanara)  
Thanks to Deborah Shuker for this contribution researched from NZ Legacy Vol 15 #1 2003

**POSITIVE END FOR NEGATIVES** Thirty-three years ago a set of old glass plate negatives was rescued from a Hamilton demolition site. They were photographs taken by professional photographer George Jenkinson and his assistant Evelyn Scherer. The Waikato Museum of Art and History last year mounted an exhibition of 50 of the photographs, featuring local buildings, businesses and families. There are even pictures of Waikato farmers gathering for strike duty at the Auckland wharf in 1913 and of the October Labour Day Parade in the same year.

Thanks again to Deborah Shuker for sending this in. It is also from the above publication.

**LEGACY PROGRAMME INTEREST GROUP** Exciting news for those of you who are using the Legacy Computer Programme, an Interest Group is about to be

launched on the weekend of Friday, 30th January to Sunday 1st February 2004.  
Venue: Tom's Trash Pak's building, 39 Hinemoa Street, Paraparaumu (a little north of the Roman Catholic Church), in the Senior Net rooms, opposite the Aluminium Joinery. To cover costs a charge of \$15 for the full weekend, or \$10 for part. Tea or coffee is provided, but lunch is your own responsibility. Bring your own or buy in Coastlands.

Jan Gow has been invited is coming down from Auckland to lead this full and interesting weekend, covering all aspects of the Legacy Computer Programme and to discuss setting up the local Interest Group. Meet Friday night 7p.m; Saturday morning start 10a.m.; Saturday afternoon 2.30p.m.; Depending on time, this may continue, or members may prefer to come back that night. Sunday 10a.m. wind-up Here is your chance to learn more and meet others with the same interest. For further details please contact Eileen and Bill Allan at: [allan-be@paradise.net.nz](mailto:allan-be@paradise.net.nz) or Gerald Twiss at: [gero@ihug.co.nz](mailto:gero@ihug.co.nz)