



Kapiti Branch

Kapiti Branch, New Zealand Society of Genealogists

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www.rootsweb.com/~nzlsgkb/

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January 2009 Newsletter

Coming up:

**Tuesday 27 January, 7pm for 7.30 start
Kapiti Branch meeting**

Research evening with experienced helpers. Bring your queries and use branch resources to tackle your brickwalls.

**Monday 9 February 7.30pm
Computer-Friendly Genealogy
How to produce a book on a budget**

Looking ahead:

**Tuesday 24 February 2009 7pm for 7.30pm
Kapiti Branch meeting
Military records and how to decipher them (to be confirmed)**

**Monday 9 March 7.30pm
Computer-Friendly Genealogy
Make your own website (part 1 of 2)**

The complete 2009 programme will be available soon on our branch website.

Meeting venues

All meetings are held in the Kapiti Community Centre, Ngahina Street, Paraparaumu unless stated otherwise.

Need a ride to Branch or Computer-Friendly Genealogy meetings? Jackie Holland will co-ordinate car pools. Ring her on 293-2296 if you would like to be picked up or if you can offer a seat in your vehicle.

For your calendar:

Family History month -- March 2009

It'll be all go at the National Library in March as it is the venue for a host of activities during Family History month. The programme

includes these **keynote speakers** on **Wednesdays** (6pm to 7pm) in the National Library auditorium:
Week 1: Jan Gow, of Beehive Books and NetGuide,
Week 2: historian and author Jock Phillips,
Week 3: a panel on doing overseas research from New Zealand,
Week 4: writing and publishing your family history.

Workshops in the conference room on **Mondays** at lunchtime (12.10pm - 2pm) and **Saturday** mornings (10 am - 12 pm) will have a different theme each week.
Week 1: Introducing Family history
Week 2: New Zealand, Australia, Maori and Pacific Islands research
Week 3: England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland Research.
Week 4: Topics to be confirmed.

Tuesday through Saturday, 10am - 4pm, a team of family historians will be available in the 'back room' in the Reference Section to assist in a 'Meet the Expert' role.

Tours of the National Library reference section, Alexander Turnbull Library and Newspaper Room will be held on **Tuesdays and Thursdays** at 10 am, and on **Wednesdays** at 1.30pm.

Fridays will be for visits to local repositories and libraries.

Convenor's comment

Welcome to 2009. Our programme for the year is in train and we hope to circulate details shortly. Monthly evening meetings will continue to be a mix of sessions devoted to facilitated research and guest presentations, commencing at 7pm with some research facilities and help available during supper. We

are trying to improve our Help /Information Desk facility at all meetings.

During the autumn and winter months, daytime meetings will be held at our Alison Proctor Family History Centre at Paraparaumu Public Library, focusing on how to use our facilities and helping you with your research. And don't forget the wide range of facilities available there for you to use in your own time seven days a week during library opening hours.

Visits to family history repositories in Wellington will also feature in 2009 and we plan a Starters' Course mid year. The newsletter will appear monthly and we welcome your contributions. The website is another important access to genealogy information and is updated frequently. For those who would like help with a brickwall, pick up a KapitGenForum form at monthly meetings or from the website and forward to our Research Officer.

Secretary Derek Griffis had major heart

surgery before Christmas and, while remaining on the Committee, has resigned from that portfolio. We are pleased that Derek is making steady progress in recovery and we will continue to benefit from his considerable skill and enthusiasm. I know members will join me in wishing him a continuation of this recovery. A number of consequent portfolio changes have been made to your Committee and these are listed on the last page of this newsletter. We also welcome Liz Matthews, Bev Chappell and Dave Muirhead as co-opted committee members.

The nanny state strikes again. From 25 January there are draconian restrictions to the use of New Zealand BMD data and if you are naughty the bank account could suffer to the tune of \$50,000!! A brief summary appears elsewhere but we advise caution until we have some more detailed reaction and guidelines.

□ Clive Palmer

Computer-Friendly Genealogy

Happy New Year to everyone. The programme for 2009 is almost complete. If members have any suggestions about what they would like to see at the genealogy/computer meetings, please let me know.

Our first meeting for 2009 is 9 February. Do you have family diaries or letters? Perhaps you

want to make a start on writing up your family history to put into print. I recently completed a WWI diary for a friend who is on a budget. I will go through what programme I used, what margins to use, creating an index, adding photos, etc, and show the completed diary.

Important notice. As Easter falls on the second Monday of April we have changed the computer-friendly genealogy meeting night to the Tuesday night. Please mark the date on your calendars now so you don't forget. The date is **Tuesday April 14** Kapiti Community Centre, 7.30pm.

Who do you think you are?

The fifth season of this popular television show started screening in the UK last August, and with any luck it will turn up on New Zealand screens soon. Meanwhile, repeats of earlier series can be seen here on Prime tv on Friday nights at 8.30pm.

The series now screening in the UK features London mayor Boris Johnson, Jerry Springer and actor David Suchet, among others. The BBC website gives an outline of their stories (as well as those from previous series) and includes for the latest shows a section called "how we did it", giving the steps the researchers took to locate the information presented on the programme. See what we have to look forward to at www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00d2mdj

Branch notes

Big Brother is watching you

Restrictions come into force on 25 January 2009 on the use of NZ Birth, Death and Marriage information.

The following is gleaned from a letter from the Registrar General, Births, Deaths and Marriages, Department of Internal Affairs. From that date it will be an offence for any person to publish BMD index information unless the information relates to the person publishing it, or if the person to whom it relates has given permission for it to be published, or the information is "historical information" or could not reasonably be expected to identify any particular person, due to its form.

These restrictions also apply to any information published on "member-only" websites or "intranet" sites. Index information

that is currently published on the Internet and does not comply with the above requirements must be removed within 14 days of the Act coming into force (woe betide those sinners out there who do not remove such offensive material by Sunday – yes, the Sabbath - 7 February 2009. Indecent publication??)

And there is more.... "historical information" is defined as "births that occurred at least 100 years ago; still births that occurred at least 50 years ago; marriage and civil unions that occurred at least 80 years ago; changes of name for overseas-born people – if they were born at least 100 years ago; deaths of people who died at least 50 years ago or who were born at least 80 years ago".

Many of us access UK BMD information from major international websites up to 2005, so why does NZ once again have to be the odd one out? Oh, for some test cases – we will be watching this development with an eagle eye and plan to devote a session at one of our meetings to find out the nitty gritty.

The good news: "historical information may be made available via the internet . . . as close to 25 January as possible". Watch this space. At least have a look at the Department of Internal Affairs website, as permission for *non-historical* information is bound by signed permission via a lawyer, JP, or other pillars of society. We are allowed to keep our New Zealand BMD microfiche, provided we comply with the new regulations, but no new sales of microfiche data will be sold or maintained.

Microfiche readers

We have nine microfiche readers currently at the Convenor's and Assistant Secretary's homes. These are held as backup and spares for research evenings and at the Family Research Centre. For reasons beyond our control, these readers MUST be found a new resting place (other than the dump) very urgently.

We appeal to any member who has a spare shed, sleepout or space that could be utilised. Please contact Clive or Derek – your help would be much appreciated as these old technology units are hard to come by!

Raffle – "Explorer" sub to Findmypast

The branch has been given three 12-month Explorer subscriptions to the UK website www.findmypast.com.

This is a great website, which includes military, census, births, deaths, marriages, parish burial records and the very useful passenger lists of ships leaving UK shores for anywhere in the world from 1890 to 1960. You can also submit your family tree to share with others. Check it out online to see the range offered.

The first of these subscriptions was raffled at the monthly meeting in November, and the others will be raffled at the January and February meetings. Each subscription is worth \$240 and gives access to the full range of records. Raffle tickets are \$5 each, or three for \$10. Each raffle will be drawn after a minimum of 25 tickets have been sold.

Tickets will be available at the entry desk on meeting nights or direct from Sandy White (see page 4 for contact details) or you can send a cheque payable to **Kapiti Genealogy** to:

Kapiti Genealogy Raffle
P O Box 703
Paraparaumu

Findmypast.com

The UK website findmypast.com is now available at our family history centre at Paraparaumu Library. Access directions will be found in the PC help booklet located in the cupboards. Go into Internet Explorer on PC2 and you will find the access logo in the address box at the top of the screen.

But wait, there's more!

The data from the 1911 England and Wales census is now becoming available on www.1911census.co.uk, which uses the same login as your findmypast.com registration (if you have one) but is not included in findmypast.com subscriptions at this time.

Indexes can be searched but all transcripts or images need credits to view. The records for some places (such as Jersey and most, if not all, of Wales) have yet to be completed. The site lists counties available now.

Branch meeting report - November

Our end-of-year get together was a show and tell evening, with members talking about the origins and significance of family mementos they'd brought along. These covered a wide range and each had a fascinating tale to tell.

New members

Welcome to the following members who have joined Kapiti Branch since our last newsletter: Ann LAMB, Russell TETHER and Paddy MCCANN.

Look up and research service

No members have used our research service for 12 months! Possibly a good thing because no one needs help – or is it that newer members are not aware of this service?

Kapiti GenForum is a service which if you are REALLY stuck might just provide that breakthrough. Fill in the form that's on our website or collect one from the help table at monthly meetings. Hand it in, post it or email it to our Branch Research Officer, Sue Greene, and she will try to give you some leads.

Indexing intentions to marry

Heidi Kuglin at Archives New Zealand is putting together a project team to index intentions to marry dating from 1881. If you'd like to volunteer, she can be contacted on 04 894-6041 or by email [heidi.kuglin\(at\)archives.govt.nz](mailto:heidi.kuglin(at)archives.govt.nz).

On the web

UK Electoral Rolls

The 2009 Electoral Roll is now live on www.192.com. You can now search and preview 22 million names and addresses that have just been added. Of these, 3.5 million are for people that registered at a new address last year. Another three million records will be added soon. Initial search is free, then pay per view for details.

You can now search the **London, Edinburgh and Belfast Gazettes** for the last 300 years, on-line. Go to <http://www.gazettes-online.co.uk/>

Cyndi's List is a site which gathers together a huge number of genealogy links. Find it at www.cyndislist.com/internet.htm

You may have looked at **White Wings** (available in one or two volumes) at Kapiti libraries. The books detail information about the early ships that brought immigrants to New Zealand. This information is now online at www.nzetc.org/tm/scholarly/name-418779.html

Committee to April 2009

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