

Kapiti Branch



New Zealand Society of Genealogists

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nzlsgkb

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Registered charity no. CC33988

Newsletter - January 2011

Meetings coming up

Tuesday 25 January - Kapiti branch meeting

7pm for 7.30pm start, Kapiti Community Centre, Ngahina St, Paraparaumu
Speaker: Adrian Holland, "memories to memoirs" - writing family history

Saturday 12 February – Irish Interest Group

9.30am – 12pm, Alison Procter Family History Centre (APFHC), upstairs Paraparaumu library

Saturday 12 February - Kapiti Scottish Interest Group hosts the Lower North Island Scottish Interest Group meeting

1pm – 4pm, Kapiti Community Centre, Ngahina St, Paraparaumu

You are welcome to bring along your own carefully labelled Scottish resources to supplement those of the LNI group and the reference material from our own library collection.

Come along with your Scottish research queries. Who knows what you might learn!

Door charge of \$3 to cover costs

Monday 14 February – Computer-friendly genealogy

7.30pm, Kapiti Community Centre, Ngahina Street, Paraparaumu
Topic: FamNet

Tuesday 15 February - Australian Interest Group

10am – 12pm, Alison Procter Family History Centre (upstairs Paraparaumu library)

Saturday 19 February - Family Tree Maker user

group 9.30am – 12.30pm, Kapiti Community Centre

Saturday 19 February – Legacy user group

12.30pm – 4.00pm, Kapiti Community Centre

Tuesday 22 February – Kapiti branch meeting

7pm for 7.30pm start, Kapiti Community Centre, Ngahina St, Paraparaumu
Speaker: to be confirmed

Dates for 2011 meetings are now on the branch website. Note: speakers and topics will be updated during the year as required.

Welcome to the new family history year –2011

As your convenor, it is my hope that you get value for money from your membership of New Zealand's second largest branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists (NZSG). There are a lot of exciting things happening each year and Kapiti for the first time is hosting an NZSG council meeting on 30 September-2 October.

If you have taken an interest in its “political volatility” in the past, come along and have your say. Every member is welcome. We have an exciting challenge for Clive Palmer who has been selected to be part of the society’s constitution review committee.

There is going to be another Family History Fair in Hamilton on Friday and Saturday, 26-27 August. Book yourself a B&B, and experience a very lively event of talks, research and fair stalls.

On the home front, we have a very good programme of guest speakers lined up for branch meetings. This year we are also going to trial replacing our Wednesday afternoon and Saturday morning winter sessions at the library with monthly evening sessions on a Thursday, when the library is open until 8pm. The first one of these will be in May.

Consult our website <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nzlsgkb> for our full programme. If you don’t have internet access, ask me or one of the committee for a paper copy of the programme. Some speakers have yet to be confirmed, so there may be changes to the programme during the year. The website will be updated with the current version.

Our interest groups have a full programme and there is something there for everyone. Our Wednesday morning help sessions have resumed at the Alison Proctor Family History Centre upstairs in the library, and as a member of the branch you have access to the facility seven days a week. You need to sign in at reception, with your membership card, but that gives you access to the world of research via the internet, our local collection of CDs, microfiche, books and periodicals. What more can we provide?

I look forward to seeing you at our monthly meetings. These are a great opportunity to learn new ways to find out about your family history, to meet others researching in the same area, to refine your skills and make family history more exciting.

Play the Genealogy Game

Come to the Kapiti Community Centre on Saturday 2 April to learn about research by playing “The Genealogy Game”. This research exercise was designed by Aileen Wood of Tawa, and refined by members of the Kilbirnie Branch, and it’s probably the best “getting started” tool you can find. Each team of four has a mix of new and experienced members working together. The aim is to find your way through a real family tree, using real certificates. It is somewhat competitive, as each team is scored on their result. The real benefit is learning the short cuts to those elusive family members.

Winter book sale

We are planning a sale of research material at our June branch meeting, and are now calling for donations of suitable saleable items. Although books are the main focus of the sale, we also welcome contributions of magazines, microfiche, CDs, maps, etc. The subject matter of donated items should be somehow related to genealogical research, but anything with a good potential for re-sale could be included. [Note: We definitely **do not want** NZ Society of Genealogists magazines, as there is no demand for these.]

Bring donated items to any branch meeting meetings before June, and hand them to Derek Griffis, who is coordinating this event. You can also contact him on 293-1092 or at griffisnz@@ihug.co.nz to have items collected. This is your opportunity to have a clear out of items that have outlived their usefulness to you.

Family tree charts for sale

We have a range of NZSG charts available for sale at monthly branch meetings. They vary in the number of generations you can record on them. See Derek Griffis for more information. Prices: eight-generation chart - \$3.50, nine-generation (wheel) \$3.50, and 12-generation \$4. We are currently out of stock of seven-generation charts.

NZSG constitution review

Deputy Convenor Clive Palmer is a member of the constitution review committee appointed by NZSG Council. The committee, which reports to the president, has its first meeting in Wellington on 22 January. Other members are John Heard (Auckland), Mary Boekman (Inglewood), Colleen Main (Auckland), Margaret Brown (Paraparaumu), Lesley Instone (Invercargill) and Lindsay Holland (Ashburton). Two members are lawyers. The review is expected to involve wide consultation with members and branches and focus on updating the rules and by-laws to meet the future direction of the society.

2011 National conference



Pack your swag and be ready to join the Gold Rush to Otago, on Queen's Birthday Weekend 2011.

For more information on the NZSG national conference, see pages 166 and 175 of the July/August issue of *New Zealand Genealogist*.

Dunedin and Mosgiel branches are hosting the 2011 event.

Don't believe everything you read

Old documents that have been scanned by computer can throw up some entries that a human transcriber would surely look at twice. Lorna Henderson found a death notice from the National Library of Australia's newspaper collection that said: ". . . my wife Vera Fairbairn who derailed this life" The words in the original text were: "who departed this life". Unlike Papers Past, the site gives you the opportunity to make corrections to the entries, which may make it easier for other researchers to find what they are looking for.

The new address for this site is: <http://trove.nla.gov.au/>

Branch notes

Thanks, Joyce!

Thanks to Joyce Hitchlock for donating a copy of the *AA Greater London street atlas* to our resource library. While a lot of information is online these days, there are also gems of books in our resource library. Browse the shelves next time you're at APFHC. You can get the key to the book cupboards when you sign in at the library information desk.

Please be green

When you've finished using a computer at the Alison Procter Family History Centre (APFHC), please remember to turn off the computer, the printer and the monitor. The branch doesn't get directly billed for electricity the computers use, but you know it is going to be paid out of your rates in the end.

New members

Welcome to Kath HOLLAND, Stephen SHERRING, Wilson LATTEY and Penny KEIRLE, who have joined the branch since the last newsletter.

Tea makers

If your surname begins with the letters **H to M** please be at the January branch meeting by 7pm to help prepare the hot drinks. Next month it will be someone else's turn.

November branch meeting report

At our November meeting, members saw and heard the presentation of ***Why You Are You 2010 (YURU)***, featuring Sue Scott and her ancestors. The demand for tickets meant two sessions were held at Lindale Lodge Motel conference centre, and the event was very successful, thanks to months of research by Sue Greene and organisation by Clive Palmer and the committee and other helpers. Early talks are underway for a presentation of the family history of dancer Sir Jon Trimmer for ***Why You Are You 2011***, which is likely to take place Family History Month (August).

Research Services

The branch offers a range of services to help members with their research.

Research officer Sue Greene is available on (06) 364-8196 or by email at sueg-97@@xtra.co.nz.

Wednesday morning help sessions at our Alison Procter Family History Centre, 10am to 12noon have recommenced for the year. The centre is open for your personal use seven days a week during library opening hours.

If you would like an introductory session on using the facilities, call Clive Palmer on 04 293-7631, or email c-mpalmer@@xtra.co.nz to book a time.

Recommended reading – at Kapiti libraries

If you want to read about pioneer life in New Zealand, a well-documented history of a family is ***Born to New Zealand: A biography of Jane Maria Atkinson***, by historian Frances Porter. The Atkinsons and the Richmonds arrived in New Zealand as a large family group, and several went on to take important positions in public life. They were well-off compared to most settlers, but still had lots to contend with. Much of the detail of their lives in Taranaki and Nelson comes from personal letters and diaries. Reading this, you'll wish your ancestors left as big a paper trail behind them. The author was awarded the New Zealand Book Award for non-fiction for this book in 1990.

For a murder mystery with a pinch of genealogy, try Val McDermid's ***The Grave Tattoo***, which considers a theory that Fletcher Christian (who led the mutiny on HMS Bounty) later escaped from Pitcairn Island and returned secretly to England. McDermid's books are described as psychological thrillers, so they're not a good choice if you want to get to sleep early. She also created the stories for the tv series, *Wire in the Blood*.

For a gentler read, learn about the real-life stories of 21 people who were born in 1900 and interviewed at age 97, in ***Born 1900***. Hunter Davies (biographer of the Beatles, and husband of social historian Margaret Forster) talked with 97-year-olds from a variety of backgrounds to write their stories. Many of them started work at age 14, and more than one of the men served in both world wars. Davies also gives the history of a number of British institutions that started in 1900, including West Ham football club, the Labour party and the *Daily Express* newspaper.

On the web

Norway 1910 census online

Some information in English on the site should help you understand the Norwegian records. _
<http://www.digitalarkivet.no/cgiwin/WebFront.exe?slag=vis&tekst=meldingar&spraak=e>

Family search.org

If you've tried the new "beta" version of the family search site but prefer the earlier version, you can still access it. There's a link to the previous site at the bottom right hand corner of the new home page. When you go to "search records", an advanced search on the earlier site gives access to 1880/1881 census records for Britain, Canada and the United States, where you can see who was living together in household groups. The advanced search also lets you search the International Genealogical Index (IGI) and other records.

www.familysearch.org

Census and parish records

You may be familiar with www.freebmd.org.uk, an index of births, marriages and deaths for England and Wales from 1837 through to the twentieth century. Have you tried the companion sites for census records and parish registers? The census site, www.freecen.org.uk, has transcriptions of census records from 1841 to 1891, although they are not complete for all areas. The parish register site, www.freereg.org.uk, is a work in progress for parish records, which go further back than 1837, when civil registration began. They are always looking for volunteer indexers, so here's your chance if you have time on your hands.

Irish newspaper online

You can search digitised copies of Cork's Southern Star newspaper (1892-2010) at no charge. www.irishnewsarchive.com/Default/Skins/SST/Client.asp?Skin=SST&enter=true&AppName=2&AW=1291161225601

Irish wills

The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) has digitised 93,388 images of entries from the copy will books covering the period 1858-1900. www.proni.gov.uk/index/search_the_archives/will_calendars.htm

Children's hospital admission records

The Historic Hospital Admission Records Project (HHARP) contains records of 19th century children's hospital admission records for various hospitals in Britain. You can search by a child's name without registering, but free registration gives you access to more detailed information. _
www.hharp.org

Can't get to the library?

The January issue of Lost Cousins newsletter (lostcousins.com) explains how you can use the freebmd website in association with the free search function on findmypast.co.uk to get the best results, all from your home computer, no subscription required. _
<http://lostcousins.com/newsletters/jan11news.htm>

Looking for a grave?

Try searching this international directory of graves. It contains free images of headstones taken by volunteers. www.gravestonephotos.com

Check subscription sites again

Both ancestry.com and findmypast.co.uk add new records to their collections regularly. If it has been a while since you hit a brick wall with some ancestors, try their names again in these two subscription sites, available free to members at APFHC. They might have added the records you're looking for.

Findmypast.co.uk is on computers 3 and 4 at APFHC, with instructions beside the computers on how to use it and what to do if it is not working. Ancestry is also available at no charge on all internet computers at Kapiti libraries in Paraparaumu, Waikanae and Otaki.

Edinburgh directories

Addressing History is a website that combines data from historical Edinburgh Post Office directories with maps from the same period. You can search three directories: 1784-5, 1865 and 1905-6, and the results are plotted on a map. Scroll down below the maps to see the details. You can also read the original entry from the directory, which tells the full name, occupation and address of each result.

<http://addressinghistory.edina.ac.uk/>

Birth and Marriage Records

Searching for birth and marriage records in England and Wales has just been made so much easier by findmypast.co.uk. Gone are the days of searching through page after page of records.

Now it's simply a matter of entering your ancestor's name and other details and new software brings up options for you to explore further. With census details already available from 1841 to 1911, counterchecks against these records are an additional tool for names, ages, and places of birth. Death records are currently being transcribed and available later in the year.

Findmypast.co.uk is available to members at no charge in our research centre at Paraparaumu Public Library.

Committee for 2010-2011

Convenor	Hanley Hoffmann	hdhoffmann@@paradise.net.nz	904-3276
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You, too, can be a committee member! The AGM for Kapiti Branch is at the April branch meeting, and we will be looking for new faces to swell the ranks. Contact any committee member if you'd like to know more.