



Kapiti Branch, New Zealand Society of Genealogists

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www.rootsweb.com/~nzlsgkb/

July 2006 Newsletter

Next Meetings:-

Kapiti Branch:- Tuesday 25th July 7.30pm.
Talking to the old people getting information on past history. Speaker:- Bill Carter. Kapiti Community Centre.

Winter Meeting:- Saturday 5th August
10am. Help with your research –Research Room, Paraparaumu Library

Computer SIG:- Monday 14th August 7.30pm.
LDS web site and how to use the Rootsweb lists. Speaker:-Sue Greene. Paraparaumu Library Meeting Room.

CONVENERS COMMENT:-

Our July 25 Branch session has changed from that advertised. Member Bill Carter will give us a presentation on “Talking to the Olds” covering the techniques, do’s and don’ts of asking those awkward questions to your elders, about the family. I’ve heard this presentation before and can strongly recommend it.

Those who joined NZSG EO, Peter Nash, at our June meeting, will have heard a refreshing, no nonsense resume of the Society and its future. Questions were lively throughout and I believe cleared the air on many issues. The key point was that the Society was evolving from an ‘around the kitchen table’ operation and where records were kept ‘under a bed’, to a professional, accountable and marketable organization.

Access to the Internet for example, had changed radically the way people conducted their genealogy research and provided a huge range of competitive free and user-pays international products. Meeting these challenges required a range of initiatives and included the establishment of the Family Research Centre and outreach programmes and road shows to districts.

Volunteers however would always be the principal delivery mode of activities, so there

were limits to the resource capital. Improvements to the website to provide more interactive access to resources were about to be launched. Subscriptions would never cover financial requirements and so greater emphasis was being placed on saleable products such as publications, CDs of research data and others. This had seen a dramatic improvement in cash flow in the previous financial year.

The Constitution was under continuing review to meet the times. The structure of Branches remained in the hard basket but would be addressed eventually. The magazine remained the biggest challenge on the Society’s finances and would need some lateral thinking to cope with a variety of demands from members. Council now acted more like a Board of Directors concerned with policy and not with the cover colour of the next publication. Daily management was in the hands of the EO. Watch this space!

We are well through our financial year and it’s time to start thinking ahead. Several Committee members have indicated they would like a well-earned break and so here is my annual plea for you to offer your help on the next committee. I guess a sign of the times is that even with a membership of 220 we have difficulty getting active support to continue with our plans to expand our resources and activities. Please give it some thought. The AGM in October is only three months away.

Clive Palmer

COMPSIG:- Computer SIG

Using RootsWeb:

Demystifying Mailing Lists and Message Boards

Every RootsWeb user, at one time or another, probably has made use of two of RootsWeb’s most popular features -- the free mailing lists and message boards. However, some are confused by

the need to have both resources. Frequently asked questions are: Why do we need both lists and boards? What are the differences between the two? Which should I use?

Lists and boards are resources for posting genealogical queries and awaiting possible answers to your research questions. Both can serve as repositories for genealogical data. But there are differences in their usage and there are instances in which one would be better than the other for posting your queries and data.

Message boards are generally the best place for transcriptions of data/documents. You can even add a graphic copy of the original document as an attachment. Documents such as deeds, wills, military pension papers, family Bible records, and public domain biographies are all easily copied to the boards for archiving purposes so that they can be accessed by future researchers who browse or search the message boards. Queries posted to message boards can represent anything from an attempt to knock down a long-standing brick wall by a serious researcher to a casual query about a collateral line or the spouse of a distant cousin.

Since a researcher doesn't have to subscribe to a message board in order to post a query on it, he can post queries that are only of passing interest as well as important research questions.

When posting to a message board, patience is the keyword. Message board posts might be found weeks, months, or even years later by another researcher with the answer to your question or by someone who possesses the puzzle piece you need to solve a mystery. It is important to keep e-mail contact addresses current on old message board posts for this very reason. It is quite easy to do so through the use of registration and keeping your account data up-to-date.

Mailing lists are an e-mail forum for discussion among a group of researchers who subscribe to a list. Those on a mailing list receive all messages posted to a list by others. Since you must subscribe to (join) a list in order to post or receive messages from it, lists are relatively immune to spam and other undesirable content. Mailing lists function more "in the moment" than message boards do. The "real-time" discussion on a list often includes queries and responses on a specific thread until all aspects of the initial query have been thoroughly answered or covered. You will

often find resident experts on a list who are well-informed and helpful.

If you subscribe to mailing lists, remember that it is not possible to update your e-mail contact address should it change on old posts already housed in the mailing list archives. So, if your address changes, it is wise to re-post old queries in cases where you are still looking for the information.

One valuable tool to aid mailing list subscribers in viewing message board posts is the "gateway," which makes board posts available on a corresponding list with a link to permit replying on the board. The boards that make use of the gateway option carry a yellow highlighted notation to that effect as well as a yellow envelope icon. For many researchers, list and board gatewaying provides the best of both worlds by playing to the strengths of both the message board and mailing list forums.

Don't just post once to a board or list and wait for answers. Keep your posts fresh and update them as you learn additional facts. Also, remember to give help as well as ask for it - that's what these forums are all about.

Find mailing lists here:

<http://lists.rootsweb.com/> Locate message boards here: <http://boards.rootsweb.com/>

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Sue Greene

Tracing your Scottish Ancestors", with the Kapiti Branch Saturday 30 September, 2006, 9:30 am to 4:00 pm

Morning presentations by Margaret Pool (Librarian NZSG Scottish Special Interest Group) and an afternoon of hands-on/Q&A researching activity, with something for everybody
Kapiti Community Centre, 15 Ngahina Street, Paraparaumu. \$20 for the day. Numbers limited so pre-registration necessary, and processing will be on a first-come first-served basis. All welcome

Enquiries: Derek Griffis 293-1092

kapiti@genealogy.org.nz

Registrations: Rex Roberts 9056570

rxroberts@paradise.net.nz

Early Subscription Renewals (2006/07)

Current Branch Membership numbers are approaching double those of only two years ago, and we are anxious to spread out the now substantial workload of processing all the annual renewals. Although the current Membership Year does not expire until 30th September, we would very much welcome receiving early renewal payments from those of our members who are willing to send in their remittances in advance of that expiry date.

The Committee will be recommending to the Branch Annual General Meeting in October that there be "No Change" to the current Subscription Fees (Single \$16, Double \$27), so those are renewal amounts required – please make cheques payable to "Kapiti Genealogy" and post to: Rex Roberts, Kapiti Branch Treasurer, 117 Weggery Drive, Waikanae. Your indulgence and co-operation would be greatly appreciated.

Visits:-

LDS Family History Centre

Saturday 8th July 11 members of the Kapiti group visited the LDS Family History Centre at Totara Park. Mavis Pakai gave an introduction to why the church collects the records. She showed a photograph of the enormous Granite Mountain Records Vault outside Salt Lake City in Utah where the original records are stored. All records are being digitised and will eventually go on line.

Copies of any of their two million rolls of microfilm can be ordered at \$5.50 per film and viewed at Family History Centres over a period of three weeks. Gene Pene talked about access to the material held in the Centre saying that all Centres do not hold the same material so that if visiting another city it would be worth visiting to see what is held. The Family History Centres are not lending libraries; all material must be viewed on site. Gene said it is important to understand the Family History Catalogue, searchable on www.familysearch.org. It is the window to the largest collection of material in the world. Volunteers run the Family History Centres. There is no charge to enter but costs for printing and copying are recovered. The phone number for Totara Park is 04 526 4259 and opening hours: Wednesday & Thursday, 10am - 2pm, 6-10pm Saturday, 8.30am to 12.30 pm.

The next visit will be to the Alexander Turnbull Library on Wednesday 13th September. Further details later.

Kay Carter

Notices:-

Wellington Maritime Genealogy Group

We are seeking expressions of interest in forming a core group/network for people in greater Wellington with particular interest in the maritime side of genealogy and the genealogical side of maritime history and records relevant to both. The starting point would be genealogy but there is also plenty of scope for ship interests in the overlap area. We envisage meetings and workshops about maritime records and sharing resources and experience. However, the form and focus would be tailored to the initial expressions of interest so the possible scope and approach are quite open. For further information contact Jeremy Lowe j_lowe@@ihug.co.nz phone (04) 972-4024 or Elizabeth Fisher fishpi10@@yahoo.com phone (04) 478-1443

New Members

Welcome to new members: Janice & George Burton who have joined us recently.

Beginner's Help-Line

Due to conflicting commitments, Valerie Freeman will not be available to run the usual "Help Desk" at our Monthly Meetings for the next few months. However, all is not lost, and those new to genealogy seeking advice and guidance with their Family History research are invited to ring her at home (298-7396) at any time – within reason!

Bereavements

Glen Smith: It is with sadness that we have to report that Glen Smith, local Branch Member and NZSG Member, died at home on Tuesday 11th July 2006. Hewasage78.[see "Dominion" Death Notice 13.7.2006]

Supper Helpers

We are continuing with the practice of calling for volunteers (by initial of surname) on the night to assist with supper at our Monthly Meetings at the Kapiti Community Centre. In particular this calls for assistance with serving and with tidying up afterwards. July:- N –R. Please make yourself known to Meryl, the Supper Organiser

KCDC Library Hours

Further to the item in an earlier Newsletter detailing the planned extension of Public Library hours, these new hours came into effect from Saturday 1st July. The introduction of Sunday opening (10am-2pm) at Paraparaumu is particularly welcome to those members wishing to access our Research Resources but who are otherwise committed during standard week-day working hours.

Family Tree Charts

Demand exceeded supply at last month's Meeting, and so we have sold out of all stocks (including all the shop-soiled items) that were on hand. Several people were left disappointed, and we have therefore ordered in a fresh batch, and there will be a full range of Charts available for sale at this month's Meeting. Each chart is 50 cents more than the asking price on the NZSG web to enable us to recoup the p&p costs: 7-generation (\$3.00), 8-generation (\$3.50), 9-generation (\$3.50), 12-generation (\$4.00)

Ink Cartridges

The collection of used printer ink cartridges (particularly Canon, Lexmark, Hewlett Packard, Epson) is a continuing fund-raising exercise, so please let me (Derek Griffis) have these on Monthly Meeting evenings, or by leaving them in the cardboard box in our steel cabinet upstairs at Paraparaumu Public Library. In the 18 months or so since we started the campaign we have received over \$500 from this source, so it is a valuable source of funds, as well as being an environmentally friendly activity

Trip to NZSG Family Research Centre at Panmure Auckland Cancelled

There has been negligible interest or support shown for the Trip as proposed in last month's Newsletter, and therefore the proposition has now been abandoned

Branch Resource Collection Paraparaumu Library (upstairs)

Members are reminded that after they have signed the Library Register and been issued with the keys at the Information Counter (downstairs), there is a second register in our cabinets (upstairs) that also needs to be completed. The purpose of the second register, a Kapiti Branch Register, is to give us a

fuller control over the use of our resources, and an overview of the Research Interests of those people using those resources.

When many researchers arrive at the Information Counter it is to find that the keys have already been issued and that the cabinets are open - without the completion of that second register we would be unlikely to have any record of those people who have been able to gain direct access

Lower North Island Irish Interest Group

The Feilding Branch of NZSG will be hosting the next meeting and research day on the 29th of July 9.30am to 4.00pm at the St Johns ambulance hall, Bowen Street, Feilding. Entry \$5.00 BYO lunch tea and coffee available. There will be raffles and giveaways throughout the day + sales table all welcome. Contact:

Bev Fryer 06 323 7122

Trish White 06 323 7764

feilding@genealogy.org.nz

[z](#)

Meeting Dates and Times

KBNZSG

Kapiti Branch:- 7.30pm, 4th Tuesday, Jan-Nov at Kapiti Community Centre 15 Ngahina Street (near Paraparaumu Library)

Computer SIG:- 7.30pm, 2nd Monday, Feb-Dec in the Paraparaumu Public Library (downstairs)

Kapiti Legacy Users SIG:

The next meeting will be on Saturday 26th August at the Masonic Hall, in Tararua St, Paraparaumu. (off Hinemoa St). Doors open 1pm, meeting starts at 2pm. Entry charge kept to a minimum and will cover halhire, tea and coffee and any presenter's costs. For further details: contact Gerald Twiss:

gero@ihug.co.nz or phone 021 151 6714. The Kapiti group is an "informal" one. Anyone with an interest in the Legacy programme can attend. The full years programme is on the [web site](#).

Library Report

Our thanks go to Deborah Shuker for donating a copy of "Women's History - A Short Guide to Researching and Writing Women's History in New Zealand"

George Watson had several maps, mainly of the Wellington region, to give to a good home. After some consideration we decided that we did not have the facilities to care for maps, and, with George's permission, have now passed them onto the Kapiti Historical Society

On Saturday 1st July the Kapiti Branch NZSG held its second research morning at the Paraparaumu Public Library. Not as many enquirers came, but we felt it was a productive time and our helpers were kept busy answering questions and looking up information. Mrs. Maryann Williams offered us some books on Hutt area that had belonged to her grandmother, Mrs. W. M. Buck. They were “The Journal of the Early Settlers & Historical Association of Wellington” of December 1912; “Petone – First 100 Years”; “Hands Across the Century 1848-1948” commemorating the century of the first known Wesleyan Methodist Church; and a booklet of photographs of the “City of Lower Hut”. Some of these will require repairs before they appear on our shelves.

We have purchased a set of 6 “Regional Repositories in New Zealand”. These are for the North Island only and will in due course appear on our “Reference Only” shelves.

Alison Procter

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Kapiti Branch photos from the last Irish Research day



