

Kapiti Branch

New Zealand Society of Genealogists
www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nzlsgkb



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Registered charity no. CC33988

Newsletter June, 2011

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Why You Are You (YURU 2011). THE ANCESTRAL DANCE

Tickets \$10 each, are on sale for the 2011 production of "Why You Are You" with Sir Jon Trimmer, Leading Artist, Royal New Zealand Ballet, Thursday 18 August at 4pm and 7.30pm, Southwards, Otaihanga, Paraparaumu. **FULL DETAILS ON OUR WEBSITE.** In short - a stamped addressed return envelope to Jackie Holland, 95 Greenhill Rd, R.D.1, Waikanae, indicating number of tickets and session - cheques to "Kapiti Genealogy"; on sale at our monthly Branch meetings; or from Fibre Flair, Main Rd, Waikanae; Unichem Pharmacy, Kapiti Lights, Paraparaumu; Furnishing Affair, Margaret Rd, Raumati Beach; Genevieve Flowers, Beach Road, Paekakariki. The sessions include a display of his career highlights and family records. Cafeteria open for a range of drinks, refreshments and light snacks.

Book early and avoid disappointment to hear this local and national identity talk about his family history and 50 year dancing and acting career.

Editors Corner.

The branch held its first Thursday evening workshops in May at the APFHC. It was good to see so many members there. If you have any items to submit to the newsletter email Sue Greene at sueg-97@xtra.co.nz or tel: 063648196. Copy closes the 2nd Wed each month.

Meetings

Alison Proctor Family History Centre. Upstairs in the library. APFHC
Kapiti Community Centre 15 Ngahina Street (near the Paraparaumu Library.
KCC. For full details go to the branch web site at
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nzlsgkb/> Click on programmes.

Meetings coming up:

Tues Jun 28 Branch Meeting Wills and Probates Bev Chappell APFHC
Librarian and committee member at KCC 7.00 p.m.

Sale time The meeting will include book and genealogy items for sale. If you have items you would like to donate please contact the Secretary. **NO** NZSG magazines please.

Thurs Jul 21 Research session Structured research session on NZ BMD records on line and microfiche 5pm-7.45pm APFHC.

Tues Jul 26 Branch Meeting Emerson Vandy on National Library redevelopment, Papers Past and NZ Research, at KCC 7.00pm.

Interest Groups.

June.

Sat Jun 25 Family Tree Maker 9.30am to 12.30pm KCC
Sat Jun 25 Legacy User Group 12.30pm to 4.30pm KCC

July.

Sat July 9 Irish Interest Group 9.30-12.00noon APFHC
Mon Jul 11 Computer Friendly Group 7.30pm KCC Using Rootsweb,
message boards and Rootschat
Tues Jul 19 Australian Interest Group 10am to 12noon APFHC

Branch Notes

New members. We welcome the following new members. Ann CHERRINGTON, Cheryl GRIFFIN, Trianne BASSANT and Evelyn PIPER

Guilty on the Gallows

At the May meeting, Sherwood Young M.B.E and retired NZ Police Commissioner spoke to us about his book 'Guilty on the Gallows'. He shared details of specific cases and gave a fascinating insight to the complex issue of capital punishment. The branch will purchase his book.

Buddy system

All new members will be assigned a 'buddy' for a few months to get them started and familiar with what the Branch has to offer. Initially the Committee will be in action as

helpers but other members may wish to assist newcomers. If so contact Treasurer and Membership Secretary, Lorna Henderson. (See P6 for contact details)

Family History Fair

The 2011 New Zealand Family History Fair will be held at the Claudelands Events Centre, Hamilton, 26-27 August. A full on 2 days of exhibitors including findmypast.com and ancestry.com, NZBDM, FamilySearch, seminars, help desks and lookups. Our YURU production with Sir Jon Trimmer will also be there. Full details on www.nzfamilyhistoryfair.org.nz

Tea makers at June branch meeting. G-L.

Alison Procter Family History Centre – what's on

Open 7 days a week, Paraparaumu Public Library, Mezzanine Floor during Library hours. See our website for details of the extensive book, microfiche and CD collection plus access to 4 PCs and several microfiche readers. This is the core of our services to members. Access is by presenting your membership and library card at the Information Desk on the Ground Floor. Check out the User Guide in the drawer unit for computer access codes and other information. FREE access to ancestry.com, findmypast.com, New Zealand Gazette Archive and heaps of other web based sites.

Help Sessions.

Every Wednesday 10am to 12noon – help with your research, volunteers on hand to give guidance. Dates for **June, Wed 1,8,15,22,29, July, Wed 6,13,20,27**

PC malfunctions

Our PCs are no different than your one at home - have a life of their own and pack up now and then. So please be patient when they do. We have a formal procedure for maintenance and we would appreciate your assistance in observing this. If you have a problem that cannot be resolved by the instructions contained in the red covered PC Help booklet in the drawer units, please make a note in the yellow covered faults report book. We have an authorised team who regularly check all systems in the centre and the faults book. If they are unable to fix the problem it will be processed through the library reporting system. The library does not have a dedicated IT person as those duties are centralised in the Council system. We take our turn and may not be high priority. Our presence in the library is a privilege not a right and we work hard to maintain what has become a very successful relationship. So please do not approach a library staff member or Council IT person directly. Report the fault in the book as above.

Microfiche reader care

Another call for a volunteer. The microfiche readers need some TLC from time to time, checking bulbs are working, cleaning the screens and reflectors and making sure they are in working order. Any serious fault can then be reported and we will have a technician in to fix it. Perhaps this would suit a regular user of the centre who is prepared to give a few minutes doing a microfiche reader check. Contact Hanley Hoffmann -see under Contacts.

Microfiche resources

It might be old technology and some of the information on microfiche has been digitised and now available online, but there remains a wealth of data in our collection. The full list of holdings is in a printout on top of the drawer unit or inside and also on our website. The NZ BDM records are a good example. While some of

these "historical" records are on line at www.dia.govt.nz, those outside the legal boundaries for public access are not. We have records going through to 1990 so this is a great check mechanism before you have to go through the rigours of getting access to more recent records. There are also some excellent cemetery records which are full transcriptions, whereas CDs and on-line records are usually only indexes. As ever with research, one should always check back to the originals, or the next best thing. At our evening session on July 21, we will cover these records in more detail.

Book review – By Frances Braddick

“Find your Family on the Internet” (A New Zealand Guide) by Ros Henry ISBN 1 877361 09 7

‘As a book publisher and a non-fiction editor, Ros Henry has spent nearly 30 years (in 2005) helping authors describe complex subjects in plain and accurate prose – skills she demonstrates in this practical guide.

She confesses to having spent hundreds of hours on the Internet pursuing her passion for ancestors – her own and those of anyone else who can tell her the names and family stories of their grandparents.’

Ros made a decision to talk about the search engines she has found worthwhile when researching family history and the book is set around this premise. Because the book was published in 2005, sites such as Find My Past and the New Zealand Historical BDM Index are not mentioned, but there is plenty to whet your appetite. There are many pages of New Zealand sites, Australian sites and a very full section on International sites, all of which are described clearly. There is a very detailed index at the back of the guide.

This book is an easily read guide to using the net for researching family history, both for new, but also for experienced researchers. I found this book interesting to read, and would dip into it again. I have no hesitation in recommending it to all who use the Internet, and especially those who find the idea of using the Internet a worrying thing to do.

The Branch has three copies of the book, which are housed in the glass bookcase upstairs in the Alison Proctor Family History Centre at Paraparaumu Library.

Research Services.

The branch offers a range of services -

Stuck at a brickwall – contact Research Officer Sue Greene at sueg-97@xtra.co.nz or download a research enquiry form from our website and follow the instructions. Attend Wed morning session at the APFHC – see above
The Help desk is open at every monthly meeting

Join one of the more specific user groups – Computer Friendly, Australian, Scottish, Irish, Family Tree maker, Legacy. These are smaller more intimate groups for learning and sharing. Details and programme on the website.

New members should carefully read the introductory material provided in the starter pack distributed to you on joining. It contains valuable information so suggest you retain it in a safe place.

FamNet.

Go to <http://www.famnet.org.nz/> and log in.

This site is free to use to all Kapiti Branch members until 2012.

This is already the largest collection of New Zealand family trees available on the web, and a major repository of Australian trees. There are an increasing number of other databases: shipping, useful web sites, soldiers, etc. Plus there are articles and newsletters that will help you get started researching your family. Whether you are passionately interested in genealogy, or have only an occasional interest in family history, this is a great place to start looking for information about your ancestors. We hope that you will find what you are looking for here.

But don't just look! Tell your story! FamNet is a great place to share your family stories, before your precious memories are lost for ever.

Share the dream and submit your family tree! It's free.

On the Web This Month

FindmyPast (www.findmypast.co.uk) has completed the upgrade of its English and Welsh BMD databases with a new fully searchable death index search facility.

The following can now be searched in one go:

England & Wales deaths 1837-2006
British nationals died overseas 1818-2005
British nationals armed forces deaths 1796-2005
British nationals died at sea 1854-1890

Ireland's Archive Collections Go Online

Ireland's archive collections have found a new central home online at <http://www.iar.ie>. The web site launched today and allows the public to search a wide range of Irish archives online. Some of the collections featured include the Irish Film Archive, the Guinness family archives, archives from UCC's Boole Library and a large number of city and county council archives.
<http://www.iar.ie>

Family History Month August 2011

Planning for Wellington activities for Family History Month is well under way, with a planning group gathered and already organising a wide range of events for August 2011.

The group consists of representatives from Wellington, Porirua, Hutt, and Kilbirnie Branches, the LNI Irish Interest Group and the Maori Interest Group, and the National Library. Plus, Kapiti Branch will host Sir Jon Trimmer for YURU for two sessions at Southwards on 18 Aug.

The following events have been arranged.

The **Wednesday evening speaker series** will be held in Connolly Hall. Guilford Terrace Thorndon Wellington. Drinks and nibbles at 5pm and guest speaker at 6pm.

Wed 3rd A Grand Opening of FHM with special guests, then Warwick Johnston speaking on "Hutt Valley Early Settlers and Settlements".

Wed 10th Graham Langton on "Immigration to New Zealand".

Wed 17th Jan Gow on "Website resources"

(This session will be held at the **Loaves and Fishes** behind the Anglican Cathedral in Hill St)

Wed 24th (Back at Connolly Hall) A Panel on "Recording, organising, and presenting your data"

Wed 31st Judy Jones, visiting from FamilySearch Utah, "Can Archiving Save Space, Money, Your Mind and Your Marriage?" There will be a charge of \$5 per night (or \$20 for a five-trip ticket) to cover drinks and nibbles plus hire costs.

Repository Visits have been a popular feature of previous Family History Months and we are arranging Friday tours to the BNZ Archives, Archives NZ plus Turnbull Library, WCL family history floor, and WCC Archives. Bookings will be at the Microfilm Service desk from mid-July.

National Library

National Library will offer extended hours until 4pm on Saturdays August 6th and 20th, with family history help desks available as well.

Wellington Central Library

The Family History Section of WCC Central Library is planning a weekly series of Tuesday lunch-time Genealogy talks, to be advised.

And finally, the grand climax to Family History Month on 27th August:

EXPO at the Johnsonville Community Hall 3 Frankmoore Ave, from 10am to 5pm. The main hall will be filled with books, maps, files, fiches, film research material and other special interest resources. There will be people from all the local branches who will tell you what's coming up in their area for the rest of the year, people demonstrating the different genealogy computer programmes plus stalls from the local branches and Interest Groups, National Library, Archives NZ, and much more. Upstairs will be a coffee bar plus individual help desks where you and your friends can find help to get started or get that extra insight to take you further on your way. There will be an entry charge of \$5 per adult, children free.

All are invited to come along to everything, to just one thing or to as many as you like.

Contact details:

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Tel. 904-3276;

Lyn Lee, Secretary
kapiti@@genealogy.org.nz tel. 293-1610.
Lyn is also the branch contact for FamNet.

Lorna Henderson, Treasurer lornamo@@gmail.com
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Full details of other Committee members and their responsibilities can be found on our website

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