



Editors Corner

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it.

Everybody thought that Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done

This position is vacant and unless filled this will be your last newsletter until we find a Somebody – email your interest to kapiti@genealogy.org.nz.

The committee would like to thank Sue Greene for her informative newsletters during her tenure, and look forward to welcoming “Somebody”, or SomeBodies, it could be a shared position.

Convenor's Comment

This is my first monthly comment as Convenor of your Genealogy Branch. Thanks for the vote of confidence in me and electing me to the position. I hope that I can adequately represent the Branch whenever this is necessary. Times when this happens include the Lower North Island (LNIR) meetings and more pressing the upcoming AGM of the NZSG in Taupo on Saturday 2nd June, at the Wairakei Hotel and Conference Centre. It is important that we have a presence at the AGM since we are nominating Clive Palmer as a Council Member. We wish Clive all the very best in his bid to gain a position on Council. I will be travelling up early in the morning and returning immediately after the meeting, if anyone else wishes to travel with me, please let me know.

Unfortunately or fortunately for me whichever way you look at it, I will not be around for the June, July and August meetings. I am heading for warmer weather in the Northern Hemisphere taking in Canada, USA, Scotland, England, a small portion of France and finally Hong Kong. Much of this trip will be taken up with visiting places and talking with people connected with many sides of my family. I am looking forward to the time away and will no doubt come back with many stories to tell.

I want to place on record my thanks again to Kathy and Frances for the great work they are doing with the programme. They have agreed to continue this into the next year. Please refer to the website for upcoming events. It is disappointing however to note that there has been no response to our plea for assistance in producing the monthly Newsletter and also our Marketing and Ticket Sales requirements for the YURU programme. I find it strange that out of a membership of over 230 persons, we cannot find anyone to do these vital jobs on a voluntary basis. You don't have to be a member of NZSG to carry out these functions and you would receive all the support possible from existing Committee members. Please give it your earnest consideration and if at all possible contact our Treasurer Lorna Henderson or Deputy Convenor, Clive Palmer or indeed any other member of the Committee.

That's all from me. Happy hunting. See you again in September.

Bill McKeich
Convenor

Coming Events

For full details go to the branch web site at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nzlsgkb/> Click on programmes.

Monthly Branch Meeting

7pm supper, 7.30pm meetings start. Guest speaker begins 7.45pm. Venue Kapiti Community Centre. (KCC)

Tuesday 22nd May Howard Chamberlain. WW1 NZ Tunnellers.

Tuesday 26th June Emerson Vandy. National Library upgrade update and information on what can be found at the National Library that is useful to genealogists

Wed. Morning Help Sessions at the Alison Proctor History Centre (APFHC) upstairs in the library. 10am-12pm. **May** 23, 30 **June** 6,13,20,27.

Interest Group meetings held at; Kapiti Community Centre 15 Ngahina Street (KCC) and at the Alison Proctor Family History Centre. (APFHC)

FTMUG (Family Tree Maker User Group KCC) Jun 30th Sat. 9.30am -12.30pm **LUG** (Legacy User Group KCC) Jun 30th Sat. 12.30pm – 4.30pm **IIG** (Irish Interest Group APFHC) Sat. 9 Jun 9.30am – 12pm, **AIG** (Australian Interest Group APFHC) Thurs. 14 Jun 10am – 12pm, **SIG** (Scottish Interest Group APFHC) no meeting in June **CFG:** (Computer Friendly Groups KCC) Mon. 11 Jun 7.30pm. Continuation of Producing Your Family History using MS Word.

Visit to the RNZE (Royal New Zealand Engineers Museum), Linton Army Base, Palmerston North

Date: Thursday **June 14th**, 10am - 2pm

Howard Chamberlain, (our speaker for our May meeting) will conduct a guided tour of the RNZE Museum. This is a wonderful opportunity to see what is held in the museum and to hear some of the history of the RNZE. There is also scheduled for that day a Military History talk (start time 12.05) which lasts approx one hour. The subject is "Coastal Steamships used during the New Zealand Wars - and where the remains can now be found".

Cost: Entry to the Museum is free. A donation of \$2-\$5 per person to cover costs of the presenters of the "Coastal Steamships" talk. Payable at the Museum.

Transport: We will travel by car pool. Each passenger to pay \$10 to the driver. We will coordinate transport for you.

Lunch: You will need to bring your own lunch. Tea/coffee provided.

Please email Kathy Callaghan [kathycallaghan \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:kathycallaghan@gmail.com) or phone 297 0733 if you would like to register for this.

We need the following details:

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Car pool: Driver or passenger?

If driver how many passengers can you take?

We need to know **by May 31st** in order to coordinate the transport. Cars will leave at 8.45am from either the driver's address or a designated place to suit.

Orientation and Information Evening Sessions:

6.00pm - 7.30pm at APFHC, Paraparaumu Library:, June, August, and October 2012.

There are three remaining evening sessions this year covering the resources the branch holds.

June 21st: BDM of New Zealand and overseas,(bdm NZ online and free bdm.uk).

Aug 9th: What's on the computers? Using Ancestry.com and Find My Past. Census records.

Oct 18th: Using Family Search - the LDS (Mormon) site.

August is Family History Month

NZSG national Family History Month in August will provide lots of opportunities for members to visit repositories in Wellington and hear some interesting speakers. Full details will be released in the June & July newsletters



VIRTUES FROM THE PAST with Dame Kate Harcourt, actor and broadcaster, will be Kapiti Branch contribution to Family History Month in August and our 5th *Why You Are You (YURU)* production.

Dame Kate was born in Amberley, Christchurch and has a rich Scottish heritage. And a twist of convicts from across the ditch. She will share a journey through time with stories of her ancestors, her family, her life.

Trained as a kindergarten teacher and later as a singer, she became involved in repertory, which led to many roles on the stage, in radio, film and television. She is New Zealand's oldest working actor.

Her daughter Miranda is also a well known actress and son Gordon currently front man for TVNZ *Fair Go*.

Tickets are limited and advanced ticket sales are available to branch members NOW. So avoid disappointment and get those tickets before they go on sale to the public at local outlets in early June. Details on our website or call a Committee member.

Tuesday August 21 Southwards complex, Otaihanga, Paraparaumu 4pm & 7.30pm (cafeteria open before and after each performance)

Monday August 27 Circa Theatre, Wellington 7.30pm (cash bar open)

Display of Dame Kate's family history and of her career at each venue.

Previous Meetings

The Genealogy Game: April 21st

A special thanks to Frances Braddick for her part in organising the Genealogy Game. Four Kilbirnie branch members ran the game. Twenty of our members played including four from Porirua branch. Most players were new to genealogy. A very worthwhile event. Feedback has been very positive. Kilbirnie branch is working towards a new game based on using resources. We expressed an interest in helping them trial the new game before it goes public.

April 19th Evening session at APFHC

Twenty two members plus 6 committee members attended this evening. This shows that there is an obvious need for such sessions. It was getting close to the maximum numbers for

comfort. 1 ½ half hours went very fast, but breaking into small groups meant that each person at least had a chance get close to whatever they were looking at. Thank you to all for getting involved and helping. Feedback has been very positive. Mark your calendar now for the next session 21 June, 6pm, on accessing our BDM resources.

April Branch Meeting

There was also a good turnout for our guest speaker Robert Barnes after the AGM on April 24. He brought us up to date with developments on his FamNet site. This included how to best use the 14 million records, viewing and working with your data by page views, timelines and family tree charts, loading video clips, sound bites and memorabilia images. The site is safe and secure and the user determines sharing and access. Joining the FamNet community means you can interact with others, read newsletters, post information and get help. There is a wealth of additional supportive information to assist you in your journey. The Branch's 2 year subscription to FamNet expires in July. Robert indicated he would welcome continuation of his association with Kapiti through a group scheme and he will give a substantial discount to those who wish to join or continue to use the site. The Committee is continuing its discussions with him and will keep you posted.

Branch & Committee News

We welcome the following new members: Carl & Rebecca ARMSTRONG, Ray FOSS, Jan KNUCKEY (Jan please get in touch with Lorna, we do not have any contact details for you).

Tea Makers. V - ??.

The current Branch Membership Year - ended on the 31st March 2012. For those who have not renewed, this will be your last newsletter. In addition the light blue membership card will be the only card accepted at the library from 1 June.

Rules

At our AGM on Tuesday 24 April, members authorised the Committee to prepare a set of Rules for the Branch, so that at an appropriate time we could register as an Incorporated Society. The draft Rules will be circulated to members for comment and then submitted to a Special General Meeting later in the year. The Branch has become a quite complex operation with a membership that currently ranges from 230 to 280. There are legal arrangements, control of assets, administration and management issues among others which need clarification in a set of Rules, together with a mixed membership profile which is at odds with the Rules of our parent body. Your Committee feels it is time to have our own rules and legal framework to protect our interests and enhance our role as a local community organisation. The Rules of the national Society are currently under review and we will continue to work with our national colleagues to find a route for those branches, of which there are several who have or who are contemplating independence, to retain networking and partnership with the Society. Our draft will be based on the requirements of The Incorporated Societies Act and the Charities Act.

2012-2013 Committee

The following have been returned to the Committee. Convenor, Bill McKeich; Secretary, Lyn Lee; Treasurer, Lorna Henderson; Committee members - Frances Braddick, Kathy Callaghan, Beverley Chappell, Denice McCarten, Clive Palmer. We will shortly be contacting those currently in Appointed Officer positions to see whether they are prepared to continue with their roles. We know of some changes so will keep you posted along with the portfolios allocated to Committee members.

Survey

Thank you to the 50 of you who responded. A quick web search elucidated that surveys of membership can result in survey responses of 5 to 40%, so I guess 25% (approximately) isn't too bad, albeit probably not making the results statistically significant.

Very broadly the results were:

50% of you expressed interest in a discounted subscription to FamNet

60% of you visited our website regularly

3 didn't use a program for your genealogy at all, 6 of you used more than one. 40% used Family Tree Maker, 6 more than those using Legacy, with Brother's Keeper counting 4 adherents, Reunion 3 and a wide ranging list of other programs also being used.

38 reported using online trees, with the majority using GenesReunited, and in decreasing order after than: Ancestry, FamNet, MyHeritage, equal billing for own web pages, WikiTree, and a slightly lesser equal billing for WeRelate, TribalPages, OneGreatFamily and Geni.

Your comments on any of the questions have been passed to the committee (anonymously) for future consideration.

Genealogy Thoughts & News

Why wait for us to tell you what's new?

For FindMyPast go to their blog at <http://blog.findmypast.co.uk/> and either remember to read it there online, or sign up for either their RSS feed or email notifications (see bottom left hand side at that page). Announcements include new Chester Wills, Birmingham burials and new Boer War records.

For FamilySearch's wonderfully expanding collection of scanned originals, go to <https://www.familysearch.org/blog/> and again, either browse, or subscribe to their RSS feed.

And of course there's Dick Eastman's newsletter for all sorts of interesting snippets, <http://blog.eogn.com/>, again with the option of email or RSS feed.

How many backups do you have?

We all spend oodles of time and effort acquiring and documenting our family history, but how much time do we spend ensuring that it is safe from disasters?

Disasters to your computer, your paper files, to your on site backup, to your off site backup – you DO have at least one off site backup don't you?

Friend or relative's computer? Cloud storage (well not Megaupload possibly)? Online family tree as well as a master on your computer?

You have tested that you can retrieve and restore from all of your backups haven't you?

Dick Eastman's newsletter recently ran an article entitled The Only Safe Storage is L.O.C.K.S.S., stating that L.O.C.K.S.S. will always preserve your data in any situation. "Lots Of Copies Keep Stuff Safe."

Do also make sure that you know which is your master copy though rather than tie yourself in knots by updating more than one copy of your tree!

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nzlsgkb/>

National Library premises progress

Keep an eye on the National Library website (<http://www.natlib.govt.nz/about-us/news/>) for news on the shift back into the refurbished premises.

An April 2nd post advises that the refurbished Alexander Turnbull Library (ATL) Reading Rooms will soon be reopening at the Molesworth Street building with the collections which have been housed at Archives New Zealand moving back to the refurbished building from 25 May until 6 August. These collections will be temporarily unavailable and the ATL services from Archives in Mulgrave Street will be closing.

Some of the collections that will be unavailable from 25 May until 6 August are:

- Manuscripts Collection - personal papers such as letters, journals and diaries, and organisational records
- Archive of New Zealand Music and manuscript microfilms
- Rare Books collection, including the Milton Collection
- Prints from the Evening Post, Whites Aviation, War History and War Effort photographic collections
- Oral history materials

Access to National Library General Collections will continue from the ATL Reading Room at 77 Thorndon Quay. This Reading Room will close on 25 July, and reopen in Molesworth St on 6 August.

Opening hours from 6 August at Molesworth Street will be 10am - 5pm, Monday - Saturday.

Become a GOON

If you've hit a brick wall in your research (who hasn't?), have you considered searching the Guild of One Name Studies to see if there's someone else interested in your surname who may be able to help?

Members have to commit to "respond to all enquiries made to them via email or reply-paid letters." Brown, Smith and Jones need not apply however.

Or if you are researching an unusual surname, and have collected a lot of data about the name, perhaps you could consider setting up a formal One Name Study and preserving your information for the future.

Check out the Guild of One Name Studies at <http://www.one-name.org/>. They have a wealth of information and resources available to members all over the world.

Inaccurate data

We've all met the issue of finding inaccurate data on the internet: either an incorrect index, census, or someone who has posted a version of your tree online with errors, either by omission, commission, or simply now obsolete ideas.

What do you do about it?

Fume and fulminate inwardly? Or try to leave the internet a better place?

All data is subject to interpretation, all indexes have been filtered through at least one person's interpretation of the original, all censuses have already been filtered through several sets of interpretation: what the enumerator heard, wrote down, what a transcriber read the squiggle as.

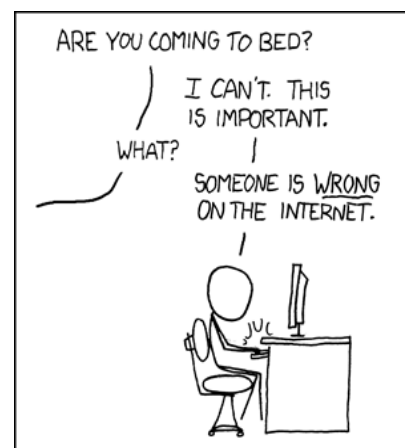
Let alone that the householder may already have filtered the data provided, and how you yourself interpret the interpretation.

Most sites providing data have a means of correction, either by submitting your interpretation, or alternative data, or by adding post-ems.

Or in the case of family trees, get your revenge by publishing yours. If you can't beat them, join them.

Leave your mark by contributing to better information for all. Leaving breadcrumbs all over the internet with little notes can also lead to interesting contacts, often many years later. It pays to advertise.

(Cartoon from <http://xkcd.com/386/>)



NZSG News

Why you should join NZSG

Those of you who belong to the Branch as Associates are not members of our parent body and are missing out on heaps of resources and research help. So why not consider an upgrade and particularly if you feel your confidence level has reached a point where wider access to resources could be useful.

Go to the Society's website at www.genealogy.org.nz and browse through the information on resources available and how to join. Application forms for membership are available online and at the APFHC and other district libraries.

If you have registered an e-mail address with the Society you will have received the first of a monthly e-KIT (Keeping in Touch), in recent weeks, bringing you up to date with recent developments. Check out your contact details by going online to the Society's website - www.genealogy.org.nz - log on as directed and update if necessary. This is in addition to *The New Zealand Genealogist*, the two monthly magazine.

Have you all completed and returned the "Genealogical Census" form enclosed with the magazine? This is a project run by the Far North Branch 2012 Genealogical Census Project to provide a time capsule of NZSG members' families, as at Anzac Day, for 100 years hence.

Branch meetings will continue to have regular slots on how to access the vast resources available.

AGM Taupo

The Society's AGM is at 2pm, Saturday 2 June at Bayview Wairakei Resort, Taupo. NZSG members should look at the latest magazine and Society website for details. Registration commences 1pm. Your Committee is organising car pool transport. As we explained in the April newsletter there is no proxy voting for the 2012-2014 Council because of a legal hitch and nominations will be called for and voted from the floor. This is a critical time for the Society and your support for our candidate Clive Palmer would be appreciated and if you are interested please contact Secretary Lyn Lee.

Regional meetings

Regional meetings of Branch representatives take place throughout New Zealand at regular intervals. These are usually attended by the Branch Convenor and one other Committee

member. A Council representative is normally present to update delegates on recent decisions of the parent body. Each Branch reports on their activities which are a useful source of sharing information on speakers and activities, and strengthening cooperation at regional and national level. The Lower North Island Regional group covers an area bounded by Wanganui in the West and Hawkes Bay in the East down to Wellington.

A snippet from the last meeting in Feilding, attended by Clive and Lorna, mentioned possible inclusion of New Zealand courses in the course offerings of the National Institute for Genealogical Studies (<http://www.genealogicalstudies.com/>)

Regional Coordinators

Council are in the process of appointing a range of regional coordinators to strengthen particularly education and project activities. Our Regional Education Officer is Pat Brocklebank of Porirua and we will be keeping in touch with her for our mutual benefit.

Gen-Guides

In the March/April issue of *The New Zealand Genealogist*, members will find the new release of the information series, Gen Guide 1, in the centre pages. This covers the basics of what is available and how to access services. A most valuable document.

Kapiti Branch Contact Details

Convenor Bill McKeich	Convenor (at) KapitiGen.org	Tel: 905 6952
Secretary Lyn Lee Lyn is also the branch contact for FamNet.	Secretary (at) KapitiGen.org	Tel. 293 1610
Treasurer/Membership Lorna Henderson	Treasurer (at) KapitiGen.org	Tel. 293 7771

Full details of other Committee members and their responsibilities can be found on our website.

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Daytime Interest Group (Sponsored by the VFO Trust, Corporate member of the Waikanae Chartered Club) Daytime Group of Waikanae Chartered Club, Elizabeth Street, Waikanae Next meeting 31st May. Contact Hanley Hoffmann - hdhoffmann@paradise.net.nz 04 9043276 (This is not affiliated with the Kapiti branch but we have agreed to advertise this activity in our newsletter)