

Remember to
check our
website
[http://
KapitiGen.org](http://KapitiGen.org)
for additional
information on
events, Branch,
Interest & User
Groups, and
any late
changes.

Editorial



MARCH 17th

So what's new this month?

> A reminder about the tour to the Supreme Court on **May 9th**. See page 2 for details and contact Kathy as soon as possible if you're interested in going on this exciting tour.

> A request for "War Stories" for the April meeting on ANZAC Day. It could be anything along with the usual bravery and /or war conditions to The Home Guard, engineers making aircraft, or rescues at sea. Please contact Ian on Programme "at" KapitiGen.org if you have slides etc. See page 2.

> A reminder about taking care to return the APFHC cupboard key to the desk in the library. It would be very frustrating if you arrived all geared up to do some exciting research and the key to unlock the cupboard had not been returned.

> If you are an NZSG member, don't forget to vote before April 17th. See page 5 for update.

> Another change to note is the date of the next DNA meeting to **April 15th** to avoid Easter. See page 6.

Did anyone get anything useful from RootsTech? I wasn't registered but received an email listing four people who were trying to add to my Family Tree. They were all after the skeleton-in-the-cupboard, my great grandmother for whom no parents could be found. Which of her grandfather's unmarried sons was responsible? Watch this space!

I was interested to read Maureen's contribution on page 3 having been brought up in Edgeware, home to largest synagogue in London after the war. Our dentist escaped from Austria. We called him Mr O-pen Vide!

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Meetings this month:
Tuesday Evening
March 28th

Helen Hawkins -
The Jillet family's Kapiti
whaling connections

Daytime Meeting
Wednesday afternoon
March 29th

March Branch Meetings

Evening meeting.

When: Tuesday March 28th 7pm - meet and greet. Refreshments
7.30 - 9pm, main session.

Where: Coast Community Church 57, Hinemoa Street, Paraparaumu

**What: The Jillet family of Island Bay and their
Kapiti Island whaling connections**

Speaker: Helen Hawkins

Supperr roster: U – Z

Convenor: Ian Brooking



Daytime meeting

When: Wednesday March 29th 1.30 – 4pm
2 - 4pm meeting

Where: Waikanae Baptist Church Café , 286, Te Moana Rd, Waikanae

What: Another chance to hear Helen Hawkins speaking about the Jillet family and whaling connections with Kapiti Island.

Co-ordinator: Denice McCarten

Branch notices

Don't miss the Tour of the Supreme Court.

A tour of the Supreme Court and Old Court has been organised for **Tuesday May 9 at 10.30**. This is a fascinating tour covering the history of the Old Court and the building of the new building. If the court is sitting on the day we can't go into the main chamber, but it is still a great tour. Learn about the development of the legal system in NZ. Contact Kathy to register by email kathycallaghan@gmail.com or ph 297 0733 or 0210452925

Welcome to new members Lesley Dalziel, Liz Monk, Fiona Duckworth. Welcome back to Sandra White, Mick McKelvie and Trish McCardie. We look forward to meeting you and hearing your interests.

April Branch meeting

As our meeting in April falls on Anzac Day, we thought it appropriate to have a "War Stories" theme. Bring along your stories to share about your ancestor's involvement in any war (Crimean, Boer, WWI, WW2 etc - your choice). And it doesn't have to be military - nursing or land girls, ship builders etc. are amongst the diverse possibilities for you to elaborate on.

A reminder please about the procedure to return the key of the library cupboard to the library

Welcome desk when you leave the library.

It was briefly misplaced recently locking some researchers out (key since found and more spares on the way).

When you sign in at the library desk to get the key **you are responsible for returning it**, even if someone else is still there when you leave. Please take the remaining person to the desk and ask that they be assigned as the person responsible for returning the key when they have finished.

A little bit Jewish

A short story and photo of my grandfather
EMANUEL MYERS 1878 - 1942

who, sadly, I never knew.

He resided at 96 Wardour St, Westminster, London.

I grew up with the knowledge that my family was considered Jewish. My mother never failed to remind my father of this 'Jewishness' when she thought he was being too tight with the money.

What is a Jew?

I read that it comes in several forms: religion, ethnicity, beliefs, and ancestry, just to name some examples.

My father's side of the family had always fascinated me, but until I retired I had no time to delve deeper. Sadly, by then, my father had passed away.

My 'Jewish' family were centred in and around London. My grandmother and her two siblings married Jews, but both my great grandfather and grandfather married gentiles.

It is difficult to research Jewish names since many were anglicized, so we may have several different names to consider for the same person, plus a family pet for example my g.g.grandmother was identifiable as PHOEBE, FRADEL OR FANNY, my g.g.grandfather as MOSHE, MOSES OR MORRIS, and the family surnames could be spelt MYERS, MIRES OR MEYERS.

I found my ancestors had lived in the East End of London and later moved to the West End. Like many Jews of the time several were fruiterers and clothiers. My grandfather owned a fruit stall in London, which was later inherited by my Dad's brother and was still operating in 1957 when we visited the UK.

On a useful website – JEWSHGEN.ORG – I was able to post some of my findings and make contact with other researchers. I recall the thrill when I connected with a living person who proved to have the same g.g.grandparents, but this was a long time ago. So I was really surprised when I was tracked down recently by another person belonging to the same family.

The exchange of new information has been enormously valuable and very exciting.

The exhilaration of the chase grabs one like a disease and is difficult to put down until the last fact has been analyzed and filed.

Maureen Robb



Family search uses the future to discover the past

(<https://www.deseret.com/2023/3/18/23622262/ai-family-history-familysearch>)

With the development of new artificial intelligence technology, there's more hope of getting billions of records to families looking for information about their relatives in as little as five years. And it's already being tested and used. "In just a couple of hours, the computer can index more than you or I could do in a whole lifetime if we did nothing besides indexing," says John Alexander, product manager. "So in terms of efficiency, it's very fast."

Hokitika in the time of the 'Luminaries'

At the February Branch meeting, Martyn Wright illuminated the life of his great-grandparents who lived in an early and thriving Hokitika between 1864 and 1884 – a time period popularised in Eleanor Catton's novel, "The Luminaries".

Although the family was not directly involved in the West Coast gold rush, it was probably lured by the rapid growth of the town, which reached its peak population of about 10,000 at this time.

Martyn used extensive research from sources including Papers Past, Land Information New Zealand, Archives New Zealand, Hokitika Museum and other family researchers to tease out the lives of Robert WRIGHT (1836-1883) and Lydia Esther BRITTON (1840-1916) during their time in Hokitika. It was surely a busy time for Lydia, as 11 of her 12 children were born during this period, the last-born being Martyn's grandfather, Hercules Richard WRIGHT (1883-1963).

Meanwhile, Robert was variously a storekeeper, news agent, dairyman, and a tramway proprietor, finding ways to support his family during the boom and decline of the gold rush period.

The Wrights initially lived in Revell Street, moving to Hampden Street by 1870, and adding some farmland in Arahura to their property portfolio in 1875. They eventually moved to Arahura in 1878, but continued to run their news agent business in Hokitika. After Robert's death in 1883, Lydia sold up and moved the family to Wellington.

Thank you Martyn for bringing both early Hokitika and the Wright family's time in Hokitika to life for us.

Gold miners' database. For those who do have gold miners in their family, Dr. Kae Lewis has created a very useful database, Goldrush Online, at <https://www.kaelewis.com/>

This database indexes over 85,000 records of goldminers from the Otago, West Coast and Thames gold rushes of New Zealand, spanning the years 1861 to 1872. Kae provides a detailed background to the database and its sources at <https://www.kaelewis.com/database.htm>, and will shortly be adding data from Ohinemuri.

Kae welcomes queries about gold miners, and can be contacted at kaelewis1@atgmail.com

Monthly on-line session

Held on the first Monday of the month, ie on **3rd April at 8pm**, the session a maximum of 1 hour long.
Topic: **WikiTree Sourcer**

How many of you using WikiTree* know about this browser extension for adding profiles to WikiTree easily, with very nicely formatted sources – and also being able to research appropriate sites?

<https://www.wikitree.com/g2g/1310541/wikitree-sourcer-browser-extension-finding-citing-sources> was the introductory post about it, with a link to the documentation.

* WikiTree is a free, collaborative tree, one "profile" per person with many additional features. **The link to register for this session is in the accompanying email to this newsletter.**



Should you wish to explore a particular topic, in future sessions - request it!

Lorna

NZSG update

Those of you who are NZSG members should by now have received an email about the proposed rule changes regarding the relationship between branches and our parent body, the New Zealand Society of Genealogists (NZSG)

Please go to the link provided in the email, sign in, make the time to read the two, short, explanatory documents, and vote - **before 5pm April 17th**.

Your committee supports these changes as being a sensible adjustment to reflect the working relationships between the bodies concerned.

If voted in, there will be subsequent administrative processes for us to follow as a Branch.

Further information is available on our website to logged-in Kapiti Genealogy members under the Members Only content, NZSG page <http://www.kapitigen.org/membership/members-only/nzsg/>

Round Robins

Most of you will know that the two magazines for Round Robin circulation are 'Family Tree' and 'Who Do You Think You Are?'

Every issue has some really interesting articles, so this is a really good way of keeping up with the latest news as well as learning some basic skills.

The annual fees is \$15 for each magazine. Contact Bev Chappell if you wish to join the circulation list. RoundRobin"at" KapitiGen.org

After they have done the rounds each issue is put into our folders in the APFHC and are available for members to read and/or borrow.

A couple of snippets from recent Round Robin magazines, which should now be available in our folders at the APFHC :

Who Do You Think You Are (Oct 2022) contains a reminder not to neglect Genealogical Journals from the past. These can give extracts from original sources, including monumental inscriptions from the time when headstones were actually legible, as well as pedigrees and family histories. Some even critique original family submissions ("No your ancestor did not come over with William the Conqueror")

Check out the Internet Archive, Google books for example "The Genealogist" published from 1877 to 1922, "The Ancestor" (1902-1950) and FamilySearch Digital Library at familysearch.org/library/books.

FamilyTree magazine, (Aug 2022) has an excellent article in it on Scottish Feudalism "*Our land-holding Scottish ancestors*" by Chris Paton. You do not have to have land holder ancestors to find the records fascinating and potentially useful!

Further details on our website under Resources > Round Robins

For those who would rather read magazines on the computer - if you have a library card, you can download the 'Libby' library app where you will find both *Family Tree UK* and *Who do you think you are?* in the magazine section. You can borrow them for 21 days and return them.

In Family Tree (April 1st 2023) there is a useful article by Helen Tovey on '*Tips and Tactics to prove your Family Tree is Correct*' covering a wide range of common sense activities that we are always advised to follow. One timely reminder, now online tree are becoming more popular, is that not everyone checks the accuracy of what they are adding to your tree!

Interest Groups

Irish

Next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday April 11th, 2-4pm**. APFHC, Paraparaumu Library.
Contact us at <http://www.kapitigen.org/programme/interest-groups/irish/>

DNA

Please note: The date of our next two-monthly DNA group meeting **has changed to Saturday April 15th** to avoid Easter.

Usual place, Waikanae Baptist Church cafeteria. Doors open 1:30 for 2-4pm session. \$5 entry please. Open to all. All experience levels welcome.

If you wish to be added to our mailing list for this group, use the contact form at

<http://www.kapitigen.org/programme/interest-groups/dna/>

DNA news

Unidentified Family Clusters:

Chances are that if you have been working your matches for a while you'll have one of these groups of matches that match each other, descend from the same couple and you simply cannot, YET, connect them to your family tree.

Blaine Bettinger's recent blogpost may give you some strategies towards solving these

<https://thegeneticgenealogist.com/2023/03/16/the-growing-phenomenon-of-the-unlinked-family-cluster/>
Lorna Henderson

Roots Magic

The two-monthly Roots Magic user group meetings, which resumed in March, **are now online**.

We had a successful meeting on March 18th which explained the upgrade process to the newly-released RootsMagic 9 and explored the new features.

The next meeting will be **15th July, ie third Saturday of the month**. All versions covered.

Those on our RootsMagic mailing list will be sent the registration link nearer the time. If you wish to be added to our mailing list for this group, use the contact form at

<http://www.kapitigen.org/programme/interest-groups/rootsmagic/>, which can also be used to request a particular topic to be covered at a meeting.

Irish Education Day. Saturday March 25th

Researching your Irish ancestors for free. 9.30am – 2.30pm

Collective Community Hub, 1/33 Johnsonville Road, Johnsonville

Free tea, coffee and wifi. BYO lunch, or visit one of the nearby cafes. \$10 members / \$15 non-members.

Book online: <https://www.trybooking.com/nz/eventlist/irish> or cash on the day

9.30am Registration and tea/coffee

10.00am Irishgenealogy.ie - Graeme McVerry, National Library of Ireland - Christine Edney,
Wills & Probate - Lindsay Campbell, Ireland Reaching Out - Margaret Riordan

11.15am Tea/coffee break

11.45am PRONI - Maggie Gaffney, Facebook - Donna Bridgeman,
Our Irish Research Guide - Cathy Clarke

12.45pm Lunch

1.30pm Irish research and DNA helpdesks



Branch information

Branch meetings:

Evening meeting is held on the fourth Tuesday of the month from January to November.

Daytime meeting is on the following day, usually the fourth Wednesday, from January to November.

Attendance is free to members of the Branch, Visitors \$5 to help cover expenses.

Committee meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of the month.

Help with Research

Wednesday mornings 10-12am, at the Paraparaumu Library. Open to the public.

The first Saturday of every month 1-3pm.

By appointment, for individual assistance.

To book, phone Lorna on 293 7771.

Next session **Saturday April 1st**

Monthly short online session

On the first Monday of the month.

Next meeting is **April 3rd at 8pm.**

For details, please see page 4.

For members only, registration is required.

The registration link will be sent with the email attached to the newsletter.

Reminder please about the procedure for the key to the library cupboard containing the keyboards.

When you sign in at the library desk to get the key (see above in next column) **you are responsible for returning it**, even if someone else is still researching when you leave.

Please take the **remaining person** to the desk to get them signed in as the person responsible for returning the key when they leave.

It was briefly misplaced recently locking some researchers out (key since found and more spares on the way), causing rather a kerfuffle! and an annoyed researcher.

Facilities at the

Alison Proctor Family History Centre

The APFHC is located at Paraparaumu Library. Turn right inside the library entrance to the area containing six computers, microfiche and library. The cupboard on the right hand side of the area contains the red folders mentioned below.

Members need to get the cupboard key from the library Welcome Desk, when you will be asked to sign for the key and show your membership card for the current year.

Computer Password at the APFHC

The APFHC computer password changes regularly: check the red Computer Help folder in the top drawer.

Please sign the red signing-in book found in the top drawer.

Keyboards are in the lowest drawer.

Replace the cover on the computer when you leave and lock the keyboard in the cupboard.

All six computers have subscriptions to Ancestry, FindMyPast and access to The Genealogist and Roots Ireland as well as free sites like FamilySearch. (Use your own log-in to FamilySearch).

NB. Please do **NOT** sign out of RootsIreland, FindMyPast or TheGenealogist.

A microfiche is available and there are books on a variety of topics which can be borrowed.

Boxes of copies of 'Who do you think you are' and 'Family Tree' are on the shelf. The Paraparaumu library also has copies of 'Family Tree' on their magazine shelves.

You are encouraged to save the results of your searches on a USB memory stick or send them to your own email address.

We have a printer if you wish to print a hard copy. Please put 10c per copy in the honesty box on the cupboard door.

Please **do not switch off** the printer.

All Kapiti Branch events are in the programme on our website, on the calendar.

Log in and explore, update your details and find information on our user groups.

<http://www.kapitigen.org/programme> gives full details of all meetings in the calendar and is easy to negotiate.



Branch Officers

Convener: On rotation
 Convenor "at" KapitiGen.org
Secretary: Contact
 Secretary "at" KapitiGen.org
Treasurer : John Miller
 Treasurer "at" KapitiGen.org

Branch responsibilities

Membership:
 Lorna Henderson: Phone: 293 7771
 Membership "at" KapitiGen.org

Programme & Activities:

Ian Brooking
 Programme "at" KapitiGen.org
 Denice Mc Carten

Librarian: Beverley Chappell

Members: Ian Barbour
 Jenny Wilson
 Bernard McManus

Daytime co-ordinator:

Denice McCarten
 daygrp "at" KapitiGen.org

Magazine Round Robins:

Bev Chappell
 RoundRobin "at" KapitiGen.org

Website: <http://www.kapitigen.org>

Webmasters:

Lorna Henderson & Ian Brooking

Meeting registrar: Evening: Donna Bridgeman
 Daytime: May Redmund

Sound System: Ian Brooking

Newsletter Editor: Sheila Jolley
 editor "at" KapitiGen.org

Trip organiser: Kathy Callaghan

Publicity: Donna Bridgeman

Equipment Support:

Lindsay Olsen. Backup; Ian Brooking

Catering: By roster

Raffle: Jenny Wilson

Interest Group Facilitators:

DNA: Lorna Henderson

Irish: IrishSIG "at" KapitiGen.org

Roots Magic: Lorna Henderson

RootsMagic "at" KapitiGen.org

Portfolio descriptions and current holders are listed on our web site - in the **Who Does What** section
<http://www.kapitigen.org/home/who-does-what/>

Email links

Throughout the newsletter email links are clickable. Remove the extra @ symbol before sending.

Kapiti Genealogy Venues

APFHC: Alison Procter Family History Centre,
 Ground Floor, North West Corner,
 Paraparaumu Library

Coastal Community Church, 57, Hinemoa Street,
 Paraparaumu

Waikanae Baptist Church Cafe,
 286, Te Moana Rd, Waikanae

Membership - New members always welcome.

Subs. remain at **\$30** for the year April 2023 to March 2024.

Bank account for internet banking payments: BNZ
 02-0591-0040791-000

To access our resources at the Paraparaumu Library use your current membership card.

Further details at
<http://www.kapitigen.org/2023/02/renewals-memberships-for-the-2023-24-year/>.

Next Evening Meeting
 Tuesday April 25th

ANZAC Day
 'War Stories'

Daytime Meeting
 Wednesday April 26th