

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

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Editorial



I thought it was time we visited Australia. I just love koala bears!

Thanks to all those that shared their family letters or diaries at the last Branch meetings. We enjoyed some great presentations and appreciate the trouble that members took to put them together.

Check out the interesting letter sent to Leonie Harris on page 4 and the article about confiscated love letters from French sailors on the Cambridge University website, details on page 3. Put the title in the search box at the top of the screen.

There are some exciting events coming up. The Lower North island Irish Group is hosting two eminent speakers from Northern Ireland on March 1st and 2nd, who are available for individual consultations. But be sure to book as soon as possible.

[https://www.trybooking.com/nz/
events/landing/10974](https://www.trybooking.com/nz/events/landing/10974)

Then there is Rootstech! It seems to get bigger and more comprehensive every year. If you are taken part in any shape or form, I'd be delighted to hear of your experience.

Rootstech covers every interest and aspect, whether you are a beginner or a seasoned researcher. It's an exciting event.

Do investigate the link from Lindsay Olsen on page 5. It's a great reference listing many of the websites needed for New Zealand research.

The cooler weather reactivates my energy. There are so many avenues to explore. Even a technophobe like me is tempted to have a go at Rootstech. I'm afraid of missing out!

Go on. Have a go. You've got nothing to lose and much to gain.

Cheers. Sheila

Meetings this month:
Tuesday Evening
February 27th

"FamilySearch - a
collaborative tree"

Day Meeting
Wednesday afternoon
February 28th

February Branch Meetings

Evening meeting.

When: Tuesday February 27th 7pm - meet and greet. Refreshments
7.30 - 9pm, main session.

Where: Coast Community Church 57, Hinemoa Street, Paraparaumu

What: “FamilySearch - a collaborative tree”
Tips and tricks about the FamilySearch ecosystem
and why you too should be using it.

Convenor: Ian Brooking



Daytime meeting

When: Wednesday February 28th 1.30 – 4pm
2 - 4pm meeting

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

What: FamilySearch. - A summary of the evening talk, followed by research and discussion.

Co-ordinator: Denice McCarten

Branch notices

Welcome to new members Jennifer Jarden, Lorraine Stoneman and Ian Henshaw.
Welcome back to Liz Matthews.

We look forward to meeting you all and hearing of your research interests.

Membership renewal prompt:

Our financial year begins 1st April 2024. As usual at this time of year we are accepting both new members, who receive the remaining period to 31st March 2023 for free, and early renewals from existing members.

The Membership Secretary really appreciates being able to spread out her workload around this time of year!

♦ Research alert

Follow-up to last month's article on page 3 about 'Using Electoral Roles'

This information comes from the NZSG B.I.G. Picture - no. 57 - 9th February 2024.

The Independent Electoral Review final report in January has amongst its recommendations to the Government, that all main and supplementary electoral roles be removed from public inspection for a period of 50 years.

The Government has yet to make a decision on whether to accept the recommendation.

It is suggested that, if you have access to the more recent electoral roles in either electronic or paper formats, you might like to prioritise searching them for known family members, just in case.....

Letters and Diaries

Sincere thanks to those members who shared a wide range of interesting letters and other documents, from the very personal to farming records, at one or other of our January Branch meetings.

We were reminded that in the days when paper was expensive and a scarce commodity, letters were written left to right, then to save paper, the page was turned 90 degrees and written across the lines already there, rendering them almost unreadable.

New member Jennifer Jarden described a treasure trove of letters from the Hocken Library relating to her g.g. grandparents; whereas Julie Mansfield had letters that were exchanged between her early-settled family in Upper Hutt and family in Paisley desperate to join them and escape their dreadful living conditions.

Diary contributions included war diaries from Gerald Twiss, and Marilyn King, who read from her grandfather's diary, describing the life of a visiting teacher/school inspector around Gisborne.

Correspondence about old houses in the UK, postcards between the USA and Denmark and a 1848 letter discovered through a Wikitree connection, added to the diverse and interesting set of sources.

John Miller's example took the cake though. An enterprising young lass, was told by her mother to write to her beau and tell him "never to darken their doorstep again", which the lass did.

The letter was approved by her mother. What the mother did not see was the last minute addition to the letter telling her beau to read every second line, thus giving him a completely different message than the letter read as a whole

Yes reader, she married him.

Lorna & Ian

Letter to a Friend

I too have a tale about a letter. Make of it what you will.

An elderly friend in England asked for help to find the identity of his mother!

She was an actress and since he was in the Royal Navy from the age of 13 until after she died he rarely saw her and only ever knew her stage name.

However, he was told that she had an affair with a New Zealand soldier during WWI.

He gave me a packet of documents to search and amongst them was a letter from an elderly man in New Zealand. He wrote, wishing to explain before he died, that his own mother and my friend's mother were sisters. His mother had emigrated to NZ in the 1870s.

This old soldier, having been gassed in France was sent to recuperate in London. He stayed with his aunt and became friendly with her daughter.

She was an actress and took his surname as her stage name. *Ed.*

Love lost and found

Wellington Branch Newsletter details a discovery by Professor Renaud Morieux of over 100 letters to French sailors between 1757-8. They were confiscated by Britain's Royal Navy, held in the National Archives collection at Kew and only recently read for the first time.

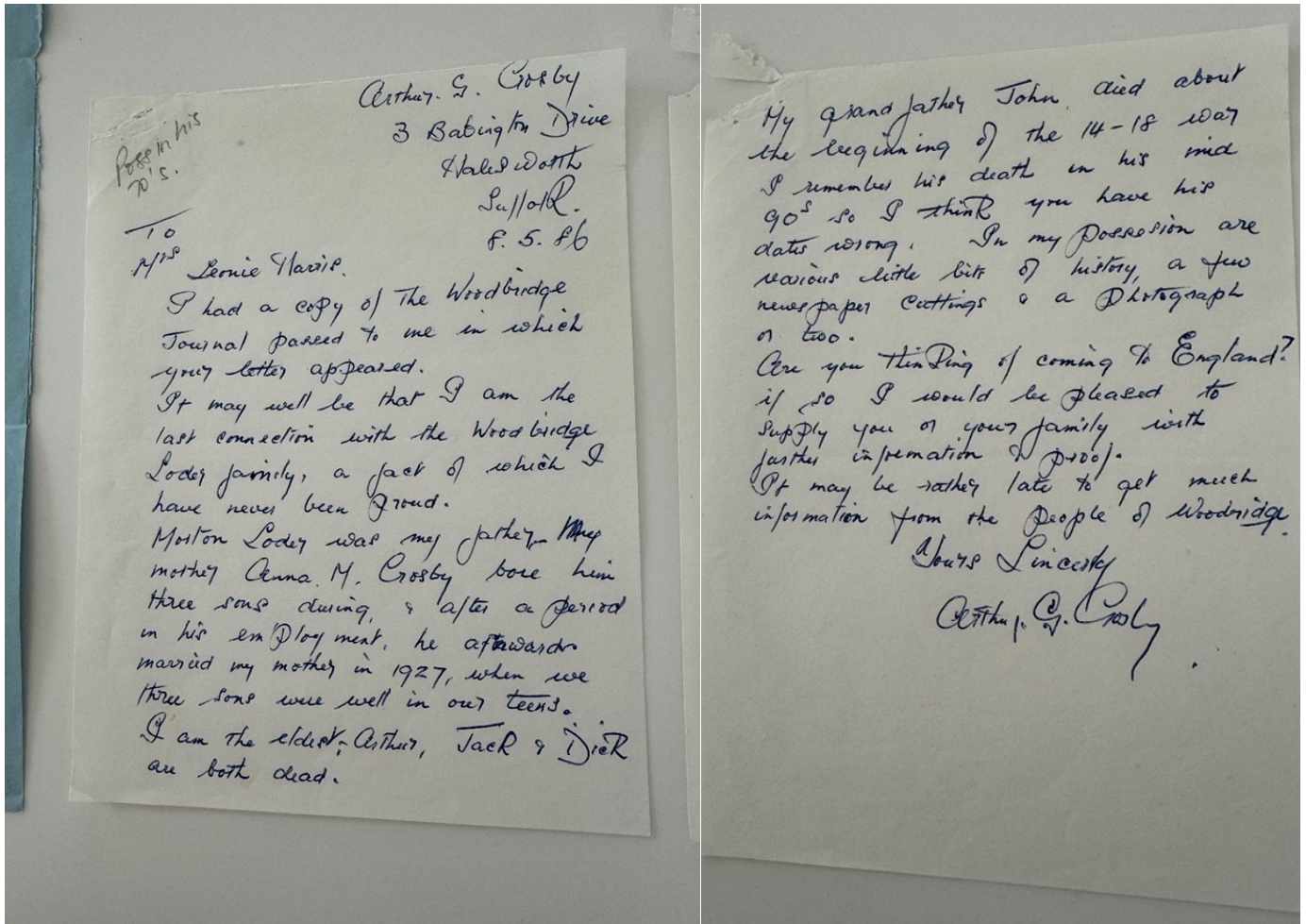
Read the article, 'Love Lost and Found', by Tom Almeroth-Williams on the Cambridge University Website. Its fascinating.

Cam.ac.uk

A puzzle explained

After writing to the local paper, in this case the Deben Journal in Woodbridge Suffolk where my LODER ancestors are from, and enquiring about any remaining local ancestors or previously published material on them, I received 5 beautiful handwritten letters the following being one of them. As you can see it unravels a few puzzles for me.

Leonie Harris



NZSG News

NZSG Online DNA Group

A reminder that if you have NOT yet registered for this group, it's not too late for the first session for the year on Wednesday 28th February.

If you have been receiving meeting notifications before each meeting you are registered, and do not need to do so for each meeting.

Past recordings and a wealth of links to DNA resources are available to ODIG members (free NZSG member benefit) in the associated Google Classroom.

If you **have not yet** registered, pop along to <https://genealogy.org.nz/NZSG-Online-DNA-Interest-Group/11380/> to be added to the mailing list for meeting reminders and information on how to access the recordings and resources.

Online How-to Session for March

The next members only Zoom Session is **Monday 4th March at 8pm**

Topic: DNA Q & A

The only silly questions are the ones you don't ask. Someone will be wanting to know the answer.

Your host: Lorna Henderson

Pre-registration required, see link in newsletter covering email, or use Contact Us on website

<http://www.kapitigen.org/programme/online-how-to/> subject How-to

DNA News

For the DNA offerings at RootsTech at the beginning of the month, sign in to RootsTech with your Family Search log in, click on the search magnifying glass top right.

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/search>

Oddly enough DNA is first on the list of popular searches – and returns a mere 33 pages, some 327 results – I'm feeling tired already! It's just as well the recorded sessions will be there for quite some time. Mind you, as I explore, some of these are the older RootsTech recordings, from around page 19 down. There has to be something there for everyone.

Don't forget though – RootsTech isn't only about DNA, far from it, learn more about how to research, where to research, occupations, country specific research

If you aren't overwhelmed with the DNA offerings from RootsTech, check out this forthcoming FamilyTree UK DNA Discoveries online conference and its excellent speakers and topics.

<https://www.family-tree.co.uk/store/downloads/family-tree-magazine/dna-discoveries-2024-bundle>

Lorna

Research hints

Thanks to Lindsay Olsen for the following useful link. It contains dozens of websites that are used for New Zealand family history, as varied as shipping records, cemetery sites, immigrant groups and guides to research. If you can't find the relevant site - look here. Its well worth a browse.

<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/hands/links-genealogy/genealogy-links>

Snippet from Lorna

How much information do you share publicly?

It's an interesting balance as we explore our extended families. We want to find out about people and be found ourselves, but we do not want to expose too much information that allows the low-lifers who infest the web to access information that may allow us, or our friends, to be hacked.

Have a read, from top to bottom, of Roberta Estes post

<https://dna-explained.com/2024/01/26/stop-risking-your-information-facebook-games-public-posts-friend-lists-hackers/>

It is salutary reading!

Dates of Interest

Roots Magic User Group

Our 2-monthly Zoom meetings for the year restart **Saturday March 16th**, ie third Saturday of the month **2-4pm**. All versions covered. All welcome. Free to all.

Pre-registration link sent to those on our mailing list nearer the time.

If you wish to be added to our mailing list for these online meetings, please use the contact form at <http://www.kapitigen.org/programme/interest-groups/rootsmagic/>

This link can also be used to request a particular topic to be covered at a meetings.

Irish

Meetings of the Irish Interest Group are now two-monthly. The next meeting is scheduled for **9th April 2024, 2-4pm**. APFHC, Paraparaumu Library.

Contact us at <http://www.kapitigen.org/programme/interest-groups/irish/>

DNA Interest Group

We began our DNA meetings on February 10th. Quick notes of some of the things we covered have been sent to those who attended, or proffered an apology for the meeting.

The next 2-monthly meeting is scheduled for Saturday April 13th
(second Saturday of the month)

Waikanae Baptist Church cafeteria 2-4. Doors open 1:30pm.

All welcome. Visitors \$5 entry please.

If you're not a member of Kapiti Genealogy, why not join? Go to <http://www.kapitigen.org/membership/>

If you are interested in joining this DNA Group, please use the contact instructions at

<http://www.kapitigen.org/programme/interest-groups/dna/> and ask to be added to our mailing list.

Reminders are sent to those on our mailing list.

Roots Tech 2024

February 29–March 2, 2024 (their time, we are currently 20 hours ahead of them).

Register here: <https://www.familysearch.org/en/blog/rootstech-2024-registration>

Coming very soon to a computer near you!

Roberta Estes, as always, has a useful post about navigating the sessions, this one does include more information on her own sessions, but also a useful section on signing up and navigating the site.

<https://dna-explained.com/2024/02/14/rootstech-session-signup-and-my-sessions/>

Ulster Historical Foundation Tour - March 1st-2nd

See January newsletter for programme - Researching your Irish and Scots-Irish Family History.

<https://www.trybooking.com/nz/events/landing/10974>

There is still time to book for individual consultations and for the research days.

Bookings: <https://ulsterhistoricalfoundation.com/events-courses/wellington>

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. Volunteers required, please. Contact Bev on [RoundRobin "at" KapitiGen.org](mailto:RoundRobin@KapitiGen.org) if you are able to help.

First Saturday in the month 1-3pm.

To book an appointment for individual assistance phone Lorna on 04 293 7771 to advise of your research interest, so you can be redirected to someone able to help you.

Next session **Saturday March 2nd**

Monthly short online session

On the first Monday of the month.

Next meeting is

Monday March 4th at 8pm.

Details on page 5

For members only. Registration will be required. The link will be sent with the email attached to the February 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.

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 reader is available and there are books on a variety of topics that 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.

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: Jenny Wilson
Secretary "at" KapitiGen.org
Treasurer : John Miller
Treasurer "at" KapitiGen.org

Branch responsibilities

Membership:
 Lorna Henderson: Phone: 04 293 7771
Membership "at" KapitiGen.org

Programme & Activities:

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

Librarian: Beverley Chappell

Members: Ian Barbour
 Bernard McManus
 Graeme McVerry

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

Membership - New members always welcome.
 \$30 for the year 1 April to 31st March. Joining in
 Jan - Mar automatically includes you for the
 forthcoming financial year.
 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 are on our website under Membership and in
 this renewals post [http://](http://www.kapitigen.org/2024/01/renewals-memberships-for-the-2024-25-year/)
[www.kapitigen.org/2024/01/renewals-memberships-](http://www.kapitigen.org/2024/01/renewals-memberships-for-the-2024-25-year/)
[for-the-2024-25-year/](http://www.kapitigen.org/2024/01/renewals-memberships-for-the-2024-25-year/)

Meeting registrar: Evening: Judy Olsen
 Daytime: May Redmund

Audio/Visual Support:

Ian Brooking and Lindsay Olsen

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

Trip organiser: Kathy Callaghan

Publicity: Donna Bridgeman

Computer/Equipment Support: Ian Brooking

Catering: By roster

Raffle: Jenny Wilson

Interest Group Facilitators:

DNA: Lorna Henderson

Irish: [IrishSIG"at"KapitiGen.org](mailto:IrishSIG@KapitiGen.org)

Roots Magic: Lorna Henderson

[RootsMagic "at" KapitiGen.org](mailto:RootsMagic@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

Next Evening Meeting
 Tuesday March 26th

Martyn Wright
 'The enigma of Mavis Higgins'

Daytime Meeting
 Wednesday March 27th