



Kapiti Branch

Kapiti Branch, New Zealand Society of Genealogists

P O Box 703, Paraparaumu [kapiti\(at\)genealogy.org.nz](mailto:kapiti(at)genealogy.org.nz)

www.rootsweb.com/~nzlsgkb/

Registered charity no. CC33988

March 2009 Newsletter

Coming up:

Tuesday 24 March, 7pm for 7.30 start

Kapiti Branch meeting

Writing up family histories

Speaker: Hanley Hoffmann

***Tuesday 14 April 7.30pm**

[Note change of day due to Easter]

Computer-Friendly Genealogy

Make your own website (part 2 of 2)

Looking ahead:

Tuesday 28 April 7pm for 7.30pm

Kapiti Branch meeting

Annual General Meeting

[see notice on page 3]

Monday 11 May 7.30pm

Computer-Friendly Genealogy

Using findmypast.com

The 2009 programme is available on our branch website.

Meeting venues

All meetings are held in the Kapiti Community Centre, Ngahina Street, Paraparaumu unless stated otherwise.

Need a ride to Branch or Computer-Friendly Genealogy meetings? Jackie Holland will co-ordinate car pools. Ring her on 293-2296 if you would like to be picked up or if you can offer a seat in your vehicle.

For your calendar:

Family History month -- March 2009

It's been all go at the National Library in March during Family History Month, and it's not over yet. Here's a list of events still to come.

Wednesday 18 March at 1.30pm

[also Thursday 19 March, 10 am]

Tour the Family History Section of the National

Library relating to England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland

Wednesday 18 March, 6pm to 7pm

Panel discussion: How to do your overseas research from New Zealand

National Library auditorium (\$5 entry)

Friday 20 March at 10 am

Tour Wellington City Council Archives
28 Barker Street

(bookings required: ring 04 474 3048)

Saturday 21 March, 10am to midday

Displays on England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland research, and expert advice

Lower Ground floor conference room, National Library

Monday 23 March 12pm to 2pm

[also Saturday 28 March 10am to midday]

Displays on special topics (Military, Adoptions, Shipping, Publishing) and expert advice
Lower Ground floor conference room, National Library

Tuesday 24 March at 10am

[also Wednesday 25 March 1.30pm
and Thursday 26 March at 10am]

Tour of the Family History Section of the National Library relating to military, adoption, shipping and publishing

Wednesday 25 March, 6pm to 7pm

Writing and publishing your family history

Speaker: Writer and publisher John MacGibbon
National Library Auditorium (\$5 entry)

Friday 27 March 10 am

Tour of Wellington Central Library Family History Floor

65 Victoria Street

(bookings required: ring 04 474 3048)

Bookings for all tours are through the NZSG Microfilm Service Desk in the National Library, ring 04 474 3048 or email [nzsg\(at\)natlib.govt.nz](mailto:nzsg(at)natlib.govt.nz).

Palmerston North Research Day

Saturday 28 March

Kilwinning Lodge, Church Street

Palmerston North

9.30am to 4pm

\$8 entry, bring your own lunch

Speakers: Mervyn Dykes on Writing your family stories, gathering information to produce your own book and tips on how to get started – 10.30am

Graham Langton on Finding military records in Archives New Zealand - 1.30pm.

Contact Anne Carian 06 358 5293 or email

Marlene Smith [g.e.smith\(at\)clear.net.nz](mailto:g.e.smith(at)clear.net.nz)

Convenor's comment

It's that time of year again! The first part of our branch get together in April is our Annual General Meeting. The formal notice appears in this newsletter. I know our annual call for committee nominations causes an audible groan, but again I must appeal to your better sense of duty well in advance of that date, as by the time the next newsletter gets your attention, the AGM will be a matter of a few days away.

The NZSG rules mean that we have to call for nominations for all positions every year. While we normally have some carry over, Derek Griffis and I will not be standing for Secretary and Convenor positions, and some other committee members have decided to step down. We indicated our plan to step down at the SGM last October, when all present committee members agreed to carry over their duties for an additional six months to take into account the new financial year dates.

Derek and I came into our positions at the 2003 AGM. We have been privileged to be part of a major upgrade of resources, assisting with the development of new activities and facilities, improving accountability and administrative systems and we have seen an increase in membership which makes Kapiti

one of the largest and most active branches in New Zealand. After five and a half years, it is time for fresh blood and new ideas to take the branch forward.

The committee is a team of very involved members, but inevitably the Convenor and

Secretary take a fair slice of the leadership required to keep things running. Without these two positions filled, the branch is legally moribund.

Our present Treasurer and Membership Secretary has indicated she will stand again, so it is some relief that this important position retains an experienced incumbent and some existing committee members will continue giving of their experience.

Please actively promote and encourage nominations for the two officer positions and committee places. There is no limit on committee members; five is the minimum but the more we get, the better we can spread the workload.

If you would like more information, please call me and we can discuss options. Derek and I are happy to assist the incoming committee so that our experience is not lost, but this will be very much in a backbencher role. We need a break!!

- Clive Palmer

Births, deaths and marriages online

You can now search New Zealand births, deaths and marriages and order certificates from the Department of Internal Affairs online. What's more, when you search (free) for births, the results show the names of the child's parents, making it easier to identify the right family.

The historic data available is limited so that information relating to people who might still be alive can be protected.

You can find:

- Births from at least 100 years ago
- Stillbirths from at least 50 years ago
- Marriages from at least 80 years ago
- Deaths from at least 50 years ago or the deceased's date of birth was at least 80 years ago.

There's a link from the Department of Internal Affairs website: www.dia.govt.nz.

Since 25 January this year, people wanting access to more recent birth, death, marriage, civil union or name change records need to show evidence of their identity and apply by post, fax or in person at BDM offices in Christchurch, Wellington, Auckland and Manukau.

When applying for a certificate or related products for more recent records, people need to sign a written statement saying the information they are providing is true and correct. The statement must also be signed by "a person of standing in the community".

National Library Renovations

Major renovations are expected to start at the National Library in Wellington before mid-year. The library will be open during the two years of construction, but some sections will be moved temporarily to other buildings. The family history section will move to Thorndon Quay but research resources are likely to be limited due to shortage of space. Best to do as much research as possible within the next few months. More information at www.natlib.govt.nz.

Who do you think you are?

Prime tv is now screening series 5 on Fridays at 8.30pm. This is a new one for New Zealand.

UKTV shows series 4 on Mondays at 7.35pm, repeated on Tuesday at 11.45am and the following Sunday at 5.55pm.

Series 6 is currently screening in Britain, so we can look forward to more episodes.

Branch notes

Notice of 25th Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 25th Annual General Meeting of the Kapiti Branch of The New Zealand Society of Genealogists Inc. will be held at the Kapiti Community Centre, Pak'n' Save Room, 15 Ngahina Street, Paraparaumu, on **Tuesday, 28 April 2009** commencing at 7.30pm.

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Confirm 2007 AGM Minutes and 2008 SGM Minutes
3. Business arising from the Minutes
4. Branch Report for the period 1 October 2007 to 31 March 2009
5. Financial Report for the period 1 October 2007 to 31 March 2009
6. Appointment of Auditor for 2009/2010
7. Election of Officers and Committee*
8. General Business

*Nominations are called for the positions of Convenor, Secretary, Treasurer and (minimum five) Committee Members. Nominees,

Nominators, and Seconders, must all be members of NZSG, whilst Nominators and Seconders must all be members of Kapiti Branch. Nomination forms are available from the Acting Secretary. While nominations will be received at the AGM, members are encouraged to submit these beforehand so that credentials can be checked.

Sandra White
Acting Secretary
Kapiti Branch

New members

Welcome to John ANDERSON, Hillary SMITH and Valerie BENTLEY, who have joined Kapiti branch since the last newsletter.

More computers for APFHC

Pub Charity has granted the branch \$5568 to buy two Hewlett Packard Business PCs and accessories to complement our existing machines at the Alison Procter Family History Centre. Supplier AlphaNZ Ltd will be installing and networking the new equipment over the next few weeks.

In the last three years the branch has received over \$20,000 from Pub Charity grants. The previous one allowed us to buy the New Zealand Gazette Archive, now installed and accessible at all three district libraries

Branch meeting report – February

Military historian Howard Chamberlain talked about military records, explaining what they contained and where you can find them. New Zealand repositories include Archives NZ and the National Library, but information can also be found at the New Zealand Defence Force, regimental museums, district and local museums, public libraries and in newspapers. Ancestry.com has a link to the National Archives at Kew, in England, which holds the largest collection of British and Commonwealth military records.

Personal details to be found include a physical description, enlistment date, contact details for next of kin, wounds, promotions, awards, punishments and overseas appointments. Unfortunately, some New Zealand files are missing.

Library helpers wanted

More volunteers are needed on Wednesday mornings, 10am to midday, to assist the public with family history research at Paraparaumu Library. No great experience is needed as

you'll be on duty with someone else, and you're sure to learn something. Expect to be rostered on once a quarter. Ring Bev Chappell on 904 1860 or [chappell\(at\)paradise.net.nz](mailto:chappell(at)paradise.net.nz).

Videos for sale

A couple of videos about researching family history will be for sale at the March meeting. They are being culled from the branch resource collection. Low prices guaranteed.

Tea makers for branch meetings

Take a turn with the tea urn. If your surname begins with the letters A or B, please be at the March branch meeting by 7pm to help prepare the hot drinks. In April it will be someone else's turn.

Library news

Items of interest in newsletters received:

Palmerston North: Mystery of Mary and Margaret Montgomery

Wellington: Family History Month

Wanganui: Finding elusive ancestors

Motueka: The Shardlake Stories (book)

Also received: newsletters from **Levin, Balclutha, Bishopdale** and **Canterbury**.

Available for reading at the Alison Procter Family History Centre.

On the web

Non-parish records

Births, baptisms, marriages, deaths and burials from non-parish sources can be found at **BMD registers**. This site has records from the UK National Archives from 1534 to 1865. Searching is free but you need to register and buy credits to view details.

www.bmdregisters.co.uk

New Zealand newspaper death notices

You can search for individuals by name on this site, which has scanned death notices published in New Zealand since December 2006. www.amemorytree.co.nz

More of these, please

You'll wish your ancestors came from Newton Mearns in Renfrewshire, Scotland, when you look at www.mearnskirkyardproject.co.uk

This site not only has photos of graves and transcriptions of the inscriptions, it also gives a brief background of the family of each of the individuals buried there, with details such as dates of marriages, names of parents and occupations. Thanks to the Levin branch newsletter for this one.

Committee to April 2009

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Liz Matthews [liz.matthews\(at\)xttra.co.nz](mailto:liz.matthews(at)xttra.co.nz)
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Meeting Registrar Dave Muirhead

Appointed off-committee:

Help Desk Valerie Freeman
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Computer Support Lindsay Olsen

Programme Support Kay and Bill Carter