

Kapiti Branch



New Zealand Society of Genealogists

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nzlsgkb

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Registered charity no. CC33988

Newsletter - March 2011

Meetings coming up

Tuesday 22 March – Kapiti branch meeting

7pm for 7.30pm start, Kapiti Community Centre, Ngahina St, Paraparaumu
Speaker: Kathy Callaghan on "Uncovering Grandfather's secrets"

Saturday 9 April – Irish interest group

9.30am to 12 midday, Alison Procter Family History Centre (APFHC),
upstairs Paraparaumu library.

Monday 11 April – Computer-friendly
genealogy 7.30pm, Kapiti Community Centre
Topic: World War 1 records online

Saturday 16 April – Family Tree Maker
9.30am to 12.30pm, Kapiti Community Centre

Saturday 16 April – Legacy User Group
12.30 to 4pm, Kapiti Community Centre

Tuesday 19 April – Australian interest group
10 am to 12 midday, Alison Procter Family History Centre (APFHC)

Tuesday 26 April – Kapiti branch meeting and **AGM**

7pm for 7.30pm start, Kapiti Community Centre, Ngahina Street, Paraparaumu
Speaker: Kerry Lee on family military history and research

Dates for 2011 meetings are now on the branch website. Note: speakers and topics
will be updated during the year as required.

Family secrets

Kathy Callaghan's discoveries about her Norwegian grandfather made the cover of the *New Zealand Genealogist* magazine – twice! Come to the branch meeting on Tuesday 22 March and hear what she discovered, and how she uncovered her grandfather's secrets.

Play the Genealogy Game

Come to the Kapiti Community Centre on **Saturday 2 April** (9.30am to 12.30pm) to learn more about research by playing "The Genealogy Game". This research exercise was designed by Aileen Wood of Tawa and refined by members of the Kilbirnie Branch. It's probably the best "getting started" tool you can find, but it's not just for beginners. Each team of four has a mix of new and experienced members working together. The aim is to find your way through a real family tree, using real certificates. It is somewhat competitive, as each team is scored on their result. The real benefit is learning the short cuts to those elusive family members. Pay \$5 at the door, tea and coffee provided.

Genealogy activities around and about

It seems like everybody's got some sort of genealogy day on at this time of year. Here are a few happening down our end of the North Island.

Spotlight on England and Wales – Research day in Wanganui

Saturday 26 March 2011, 10 am to 4pm, no registration, free

Alexander Heritage & Research Library, Queens Park, Wanganui

(opposite St Mary's Church – corner of Campbell St and Cameron Terrace)

For more information email: heritage@@wanganuilibrary.com or ring 06-349-1000.

There will be a varied selection of books/fiche on England and Wales. The NZSG Greater London Interest Group will be present with their resources. Also note that there will be other UK and New Zealand records available, mainly via the Library computers with Ancestry Library Edition and findmypast UK and Australia. There will be a charge for any printouts from the computer.

Anzac Commemoration Weekend – Masterton

Saturday 26 March, 10 am to 4pm

Speakers include: Howard Chamberlain, expert on medals
Neil Francis, Featherston Military Camp

Sunday 27 March 1.30pm to 4pm

Speakers include: Jack Hayes, NZ Defence Force policy adviser, medals
Peter Cooke, Military historian and author

This is the weekend to find out about those War Medals - bring them and get the answers to your questions. Also access to military records for Australia, England and America on ancestry.com

Venue: Wairarapa Branch, 79 Queen Street, Masterton (next door to Wairarapa Archives) Entry by gold coin donation

For more information contact: Bev Towgood (06) 378-6926 or John Mudgway (06) 378-8055.

Family history research day – get started and keep going - Petone

Saturday 2 April, 10am to 4pm

Heritage Centre, Petone Public Library, 7-11 Britannia Street, Petone

\$5 entry charge (free to Hutt Branch members)

Tea, coffee and milo provided

Bring your own lunch and stay for the day

Scottish Research – Wellington

Sunday 3rd April 2011, 1-4 pm

St Giles Church Lounge

Corner Vallance St and Kilbirnie Crescent, Kilbirnie, Wellington

Wee door charge \$4, a brief AGM at 1:30 pm. All welcome

We will have a selection of Scottish family history magazines and our own folder resources, for Scottish family history research. If you have some useful Scottish material to share with others, do bring this along. Do label with your name. Photocopier and microfiche readers available.

NZSG Scottish Interest Group of Greater Wellington

Contact: Pen Brown, 04 389-7211 or email penbrown@@globe.net.nz

Official Kapiti branch A GM notice – 26 April 2011

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Confirm 2010 AGM Minutes
3. Business arising from the Minutes
4. Branch Report for the period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011
5. Financial Report for the period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011
6. Appointment of Auditor for 2011/2012
7. Election of Officers and Committee*
8. General Business

*Nominations are called for a **minimum** of five Committee Members, including the positions of Convenor, Secretary and Treasurer. Nominees, Nominators, and Seconders must all be members of both NZSG and Kapiti branch. Nomination forms are available from the Secretary. While nominations will be received at the AGM, members are encouraged to submit these beforehand so that credentials can be checked.

Lyn Lee
Secretary, Kapiti Branch

Doing your bit

How can you contribute to running the branch? The many activities we provide are all organised by volunteers, and this time of year we're looking for new faces to join in. You don't have to be a member of the committee to do some tasks, but new committee members are also wanted.

You don't have to be an expert on research either. The main requirement is having a bit of time to spare and being willing to work with others for the good of the branch. It's a great way to learn more about genealogy and how the branch operates, and also get to know others better. Contact anyone on the current committee list to find out more, or talk to a committee member at the branch meeting.

Time to renew

Our treasurer/membership secretary (Lorna) is delighted to report that more than half of our 250+ members have already renewed their branch membership subscriptions for the 2011-2012 financial year. If you haven't been one of the early birds, please send your \$20 by 1 April.

Ways to pay:

- by cheque – make it out to "Kapiti Genealogy". Deliver it to Lorna at a branch meeting, or post it. Address the envelope to: Membership Renewal, Kapiti Genealogy, P O Box 703, Paraparaumu 5254.
- by internet banking – pay into our Kapiti branch account 03 0732 0263025 00, and put your surname in the particulars field. If you are also an NZSG member, put your NZSG member number in the reference field. Email lornamoaa@gmail.com to advise you have paid by internet banking.

Sir Jon Trimmer is YURU 2011 guest

We are pleased to confirm that our "Why You Are You (YURU) 2011 guest is Sir Jon Trimmer. Ballet lovers will be familiar with this leading star who first joined the then New Zealand Ballet Company in 1958 before heading overseas to study and work at the Royal Ballet School, Sadler's Wells Ballet, Australian Ballet and Danish Ballet. Returning to New Zealand in 1970, he helped revive the New Zealand company and became its principal male dancer. He remains with the Royal New Zealand Ballet Company and tours in several productions this year. Recognised for his services to ballet with an MBE in 1974, Sir Jon was knighted in 1999. He lives in Paekakariki with his wife Jacqui.

Sir Jon, a fifth-generation Kiwi, will be touring on a different note as YURU guest, telling the story of his family history to audiences as part of Family History Month in August. His Kapiti presentation as part of the Wellington region's events will be at matinee and evening shows on Thursday 18 August at Southwards Car Museum and theatre complex, Otaihanga. He will also present it at the Family History Fair in Hamilton on Saturday 27 August, all this in between rehearsals for the RNZBC tour of *The Sleeping Beauty* in October. Sir Jon has a relative in the South Island who is an NZSG member and a sister in Hamilton who are helping the production team with the family story.

Constitution Review

As announced in an earlier newsletter, the New Zealand Society of Genealogists (NZSG) has appointed a team to review the current rules and by-Laws of the society. This review group has started work and seeks input from individual members and branches. Details will be sent directly to branch NZSG members very shortly.

Tweets from West Yorkshire

The West Yorkshire Archive Service is using new technology to tell people about WW2 bombing raids of seventy years ago. With information from the West Riding of Yorkshire Air Raid Precaution (ARP) logs, the archives is using Twitter to share the events of 1941, when that area suffered its heaviest bombing raids. Twitter is a website that lets people send and receive short messages ("tweets") of up to 140 characters on cellphones or using the internet.

The archives tweets include reports of air raid alerts, bombing incidents, unexploded bombs and aircraft crashes, as well as friendly advice about how to stay safe during the war. Each tweet goes out near the time of the real incident, giving a flavour of the time. They include links to historic photos of people wearing gas masks and other wartime images.
http://twitter.com/WR_ARP

New Zealand census cancelled for 2011

So much for this year's census! Much of the census administration was done from Christchurch, so with the Statistics New Zealand building badly damaged in the 22 February earthquake, and many people displaced from their usual homes, the head count for this year was cancelled. The people organising it probably wish it had been scheduled for a month earlier. Then they would have up-to-date information that would have made measuring the effects of the earthquake much easier.

It goes without saying that our sympathies are with the people of Christchurch, who have more pressing concerns than genealogy just now. The latest newsletter from the Canterbury branch says all meetings are cancelled, and the branch library and family history centre are closed until further notice.

Have you got an earthquake story?

Members of the Canterbury branch are being urged to write about their own earthquake experiences, to pass on to future generations. Many of us on the North Island who didn't feel the tremor still have stories to tell about friends or relations caught up in the chaos, and our sometimes frantic attempts to get in touch with them. They're worth a mention when you write down your own family stories. We all live in the context of New Zealand's history.

This might be a good time to back up or copy your data, and share it with someone who lives in another place, so if a big one happens here and you have to leave home in a hurry, at least your records will be safe, somewhere.

Famnet is donating new subscription revenue from March and April to a Canterbury earthquake fund. Kapiti branch members are all members of Famnet through a bulk subscription. www.famnet.net.nz

New Zealand Society of Genealogists national conference – 3-6 June 2011



Pack your swag and be ready to join the Gold Rush to Otago, on Queen's Birthday Weekend 2011. The conference and AGM will be held at John McGlashan College, Dunedin.

For more information and registration form, see the latest issue of *New Zealand Genealogist*. You can also register through the society website: www.genealogy.org.nz.

Need something to read?

Anyone with an interest in Waverley, Taranaki who wants to read the book: *Harvey come Quick*, contact Deborah on 905-2238 or email shuker@@xtra.co.nz.

Branch notes

New members

Welcome to Denise LITTLE, Trish CARDIE, Hilary HUNTER, Ivor SANDERS, Dorreen VAN GORP and Moreen ISAACs, who have joined the branch since the last newsletter.

Tea makers

If your surname begins with the letters **Q to S** please be at the March branch meeting by 7pm to help prepare the hot drinks. Next month it will be someone else's turn.

February branch meeting report

The mystery family history speakers at the February branch meeting were probably familiar faces to regular branch meeting attendees. The idea was for each speaker to tell about something they'd learned through their genealogy research that was more about social history than about a particular ancestor or family group.

Bill McKeich started off, talking about housing conditions in the Kintyre Peninsula in Scotland when his great-great-great grandparents lived there, and showing photos of the wall and chimney arrangement of their original house which have been incorporated into a newer dwelling. **Liz Matthews** talked about the evolution of training and licensing of dentists. This became an interest after finding ten dentists in the family. **Bill Carter** showed photos of the changing land use on a Pitt Island farm that had been in his family for eight generations.

Deborah Shuker talked about researching in person in Denmark, and what she'd learned there about churches, farming, chimney cleaning and the reasons people migrated.

On the web

Wildcards for searching census data

Do you know how to use wildcards to improve your searches? This article from the *Lost Cousins* newsletter tells you how to improve your success rate.

<http://lostcousins.com/newsletters/latefeb11news.htm#Wildcards>

Old London maps

If London and environs are among your areas of interest, have a look at the collection of London maps over the centuries (190AD to 1925) to be found on Map and Plan Collection online (MapCo). It's interesting to see that many are maps drawn after assorted fires, not only 1666, but also 1748, and 1765. Some are drawn to show fortifications, turnpikes, the extent of 2d postage deliveries, along with others dealing with parish and ecclesiastical district boundaries, poor law divisions, and many more. Thanks to another *Lost Cousins* newsletter for pointing out this website.

<http://mapco.net/london.htm>

Early ancestors in Macclesfield

This new website is for family and local historians interested in the inhabitants of the Manor and Forest of Macclesfield (eastern Cheshire) around 1611. The survey was, in broad terms, the first census-type survey made in the district.

www.1611macclesfieldsurvey.info

Read all about it

Here's a site that collects press releases about genealogy news. You can bet that all the big companies with subscription sites will send their announcements about the new goodies they have for sale here. Remember, it's free advertising for them, so take the enthusiasm expressed with a grain of salt.

www.geneapress.com/

Have you got Scottish DNA?

For those interested in their Scottish ancestry, what better than the articles running in the Scotsman on Scottish DNA. Check out Alistair MOFFAT's articles at _

<http://heritage.scotsman.com/who-do-you-think-you-are>

Something to look forward to

Findmypast.co.uk is busy digitising 100 years' worth of UK electoral records (some five million pages), starting from 1832. They will start to become available in 2012. Records from the India Office are also in the works.

Committee for 2010-2011

Convenor	Hanley Hoffmann	hdhoffmann@@paradise.net.nz	904-3276
Secretary	Lyn Lee	kapiti@@genealogy.org.nz	293 1610
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