

Kapiti Branch

New Zealand Society of Genealogists
www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nzlsgkb



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Newsletter May, 2011

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Editors Corner.

This is your new editor Sue Greene calling. One of the challenges of such a large membership is keeping in touch with a corresponding wide range of family history interests and experience.

Genealogy is all about sharing. In addition to the research services listed below and our other activities, the newsletter provides another source of contact.

I would like to hear from you directly and use some of the space in the newsletter so your views and interest can be shared. So please send me your ideas about how we might improve our services to members. If you have a particular research interest, family name, town, county, country that requires a bit of TLC we can also publish the basics and there may be others in the Branch who can respond with similar interests and experiences. Email items to sueg-97@@xtra.co.nz or tel. 063648196.

Copy closes the **2nd Wed each month**

From the Convenor.

Welcome to all our new members and those who have renewed this year. We have a new Committee and I hope that you will all find something in this year’s programme to help you along the way to finalising some of the branches of your tree. Look to our programme on the website because there are enough interest group meetings and monthly meetings to whet your appetite for more research. What I would suggest is that if you are a new member with little expertise; pay an unscheduled visit to any one or more of the group meetings to see if there is anything there for you. You will be welcomed at all of these and this is best way to find out what is on offer. I also look forward to meeting you at one of our monthly meetings. Hanley Hoffmann, Convenor.

Meetings

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

Meetings coming up:

Branch – Tuesday May 24, Kapiti Community Centre (KCC), Ngahina Street, Paraparaumu 7pm for 7.30pm start. Sherwood Young "Guilty on the Gallows" (Note see the FamNet newsletter for more details about this book)

Special Interest Groups for June

All members of the Kapiti branch are welcome to join these groups.

Sat June 11 Irish 9.30-12.00noon Alison Procter Family History Centre (APFHC)

Mon Jun 13th. Computer Friendly Group 7.30pm KCC Writing your Family History. Members to bring along published book articles to show

Tues Jun 14 Australian 10am to 12noon APFHC

Sat Jun 25 Family Tree Maker 9.30am to 12.30pm KCC

Sat Jun 25 Legacy Users Group 12.30pm to 4.30pm KCC

Sale time The June monthly meeting will include book and genealogy items for sale. If you have items you would like to donate please contact the Secretary. **NO** NZSG magazines please.

Buddy All new members will be allocated to a Committee member as a point of contact for help with learning about branch facilities and getting you started with your research.

Branch Committee

The following members have been elected to the branch committee for 2011/2012. Convenor, Hanley Hoffmann; Secretary, Lyn Lee; Treasurer, Loma Henderson; Committee: Clive Palmer, Beverley Chappell, Bill McKeich, Kathy Callaghan, Frances Braddick.

We welcome new members Kathy and Frances. Kathy's family history was the subject of her presentation to the Branch in March and featured in the March/April 2010 and Sept/Oct 2010 issues of the "New Zealand Genealogist". We will be twisting Francis's arm to tell us her story in a future newsletter.

Specialist assistance required urgently.

Vacancies exist to keep the branch activities running smoothly. First: Members with experience in publicity and marketing are required to help us promote the branch with the media; prepare fliers and brochures of branch activities; assist with preparing display material at the library and other venues and help with the marketing campaign in the upcoming "Why You Are You" presentation (August).

Second: Is to join the computer backup team which assists use and maintenance of our computers at branch activities and the research centre. Both are interesting and rewarding tasks and reflect the demands of a large branch with 250 members.

"They can be either on-committee or off-committee positions, but on-committee positions can only be held by financial members of the NZ Society of Genealogists".

.If you can help, please contact: Re publicity & marketing - Clive Palmer cpalmer@xtra.co.nz tel 04 2937631; Re computer help: Hanley Hoffmann hdhoffmann@paradise.net.nz tel 04 9043276

Branch Notes

New members. We welcome the following new members. Linda and Brian PENDER, Pat BROWN, Janet HUNT, Olive MacDONALD, Diana LEWIS and Heather ELLEN.

Subs. Your 2011/2012 subscriptions of \$20 per person is now due. If you have not yet paid your 2011/2012 subscription, this will be your last newsletter.

It would be appreciated that if you no longer wish to belong to the branch that you let the Treasurer know officially by return email.

Payment may be made by internet banking or by cheque to our Westpac Account 03 0732 0263025 00. Please put your surname in the Particulars field.

If you are a member of the national society (NZSG), please put your NZSG number in the reference field.

Tea makers at May branch meeting. A-F.

User-pays. Our costs are going up too! All special interest groups who use hired premises (usually KCC), are based on a small door charge to cover costs. From June this will include the Computer Friendly Group (\$2 per person). This is a fairer way of spreading the costs than a blanket membership fee increase.

Lost property Jacket left at April meeting, if anybody is looking for it I have it at my place. Very light weight, hooded, black, thigh length jacket - brand is Ella. Contact Lyn Lee, Secretary kapiti@genealogy.org.nz tel 293-1610

Alison Procter Family History Centre – what's on

Open 7 days a week, Paraparaumu Public Library, Mezzanine Floor during Library hours. See our website for details of the extensive book, microfiche and CD collection plus access to 4 PCs and several microfiche readers. This is the core of our services to members. Access is by presenting your membership and library card at the Information Desk on the Ground Floor. Check out the User Guide in the drawer unit for computer access codes and other information. FREE access to ancestry.com, findmypast.com, New Zealand Gazette Archive and heaps of other web based sites.

Help Sessions.

Every Wednesday 10am to 12noon – help with your research, volunteers on hand to give guidance. Dates for **May, Wed 4,11,18,25 June, Wed 1,8,15,22,29**

Thursday May 19 - 5pm to 7.45pm –

Help with your research session at APFHC.

The first of 3 late afternoon sessions at the Alison Procter Family History Centre, Paraparaumu Public Library will be held **5pm to 7.45pm Thursday 19 May.**

This session will explain the book, microfiche and computer facilities available at the centre and how to use them. It should be particularly useful to members who have recently joined the branch. Details of the sessions on June 16 and July 21 will be found on our website.

Book review – By Bill McKeich.

A recent addition to the books held in the Alison Proctor Family History Centre is "Gabriel Read of Gabriel's Gully" by Ernie McCraw. ISBN 978-0-473-18513-8

This book was launched in March 2011 by the author at the 150th Celebrations of the discovery of gold in the gully behind Lawrence which became known as Gabriel's Gully.

For any genealogist interested in the discovery of gold in the Tuapeka District during the 1860's this book is a must read. Of particular interest are the letters which Gabriel Read wrote to members of the Otago Provincial Council and the replies he received back. The contents of these letters gives a good insight into the excitement and frustration miners endured in their quest for gold and in particular Gabriel Read's own involvement in the discovery of gold not only in Gabriel's Gully behind Lawrence in June 1861 but also in many other parts of Otago.

The author Ernie McCraw, has spent a lifetime living in the Tuapeka area and has drawn on the many resources available in Museums and Archives throughout the country. Many of the letters and photographs are published for a first time.

I would thoroughly recommend this book to all and who knows your family name may even be mentioned in the index.

Research Services.

The branch offers a range of services -

Stuck at a brickwall – contact Research Officer Sue Greene at sueg-97@xtra.co.nz or download a research enquiry form from our website and follow the instructions. Attend Wed morning session at the APFHC – see above
The Help desk is open at every monthly meeting

Join one of the more specific user groups – Computer Friendly, Australian, Scottish, Irish, Family Tree maker, Legacy. These are smaller more intimate groups for learning and sharing. Details and programme on the website.

New members should carefully read the introductory material provided in the starter pack distributed to you on joining. It contains valuable information so suggest you retain it in a safe place.

FamNet.

FamNet exists to support any individual, family, or group that has information to share with others over the Internet, or that wants to participate in the global on-line community of people with an interest in Family History. We do this

- By supporting project teams creating useful databases and other resources of interest to family historians
- By supporting others with useful on line databases, and as far as possible integrating them with other databases to simplify searches
- By operating web sites, and linking to many other web sites
- By continuing to develop more facilities to support the family history community.

FamNet offers some great facilities, and it gets better every month As a branch member you have free access to FamNet.

Go to <http://www.famnet.org.nz/> and log in.

YURU 2011.

The production team is making good progress with putting together this year's presentation – " *THE ANCESTRAL DANCE*, a trip down his ancestral lane with Sir Jon Trimmer the Royal New Zealand Ballet Leading Artist."

Make a mark in your diary –Thursday 18 August with two sessions at Southwards, Otaihanga, 4pm and 7.30pm. Preferential bookings for members and their families and friends will be in late June before opening to other branches and the public so watch this space for details.

On the Web This Month

Posted by Dick Eastman

Is It Time for the Digital Public Library of America?

A new project is underway with the stated goal to "make the cultural and scientific heritage of humanity available, free of charge, to all."

The project has the backing of some "heavy hitters," including David S. Ferriero, the archivist of the United States.

In an article in the New York Times, Miguel Helft describes the formation of a non commercial public digital library. The project is in its infancy. It has no formal structure other than a steering committee. It has formed six working groups to study the project's scope, financing, governance, legal hurdles, technical issues and audience.

"Everyone who is at the table has a different idea of audience, scope, content and governance," said David S. Ferriero, the archivist of the United States, who backs the project and attended the October meeting. "All those issues need to be worked through."

You can read more in the New York Times at <http://goo.gl/Qg9Rt>

Dragonfly TV

British Genealogical TV Programme is Looking For People with Long-Lost British Roots

Dragonfly TV is looking for people from around the world with British roots.

The following was written by Dragonfly TV:

Do you think your family tree might have British roots? Would you like to travel to Britain to discover your living relatives?

Dragonfly TV is making an exciting new game show featuring families, ancestors and long-lost relatives.

We're searching for people from all over the world, who think they may have British ancestry, who would like to take part.

Whether your Great, Great Grandfather was born in England or your Great Aunt lived in Scotland... If you think you, or anyone you know, may have any British ancestry, we want to hear from you!

Visit www.guesstherelative.tv **NOW** to find out more and apply to take part.

Alternatively phone: +44 207 033 2319

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/GuessTheRelative> www.dragonfly.tv

Australian War Memorial

A wide variety of units of the navy, army and air force have served Australia in times of conflict. Here, you will find profiles of some of these.

Each includes a short history of the unit, details of its casualties, decorations, battle honours, commanding officers, and, in the case of technical units, the specifications of the equipment it used.

Within each profile you are able to search the Memorial's collections for items relating to the unit: photographs, works of art, film and sound recordings, personal records, and relics.

<http://www.awm.gov.au/units/ww1.asp>

Contact details:

Hanley Hoffmann, Convenor hdhoffmann@@paradise.net.nz
Tel. 904-3276;

Lyn Lee, Secretary kapiti@genealogy.org.nz tel. 293-1610.
Lyn is also the branch contact for FamNet.

Lorna Henderson, Treasurer lornamo@gmail.com tel. 293 7771.

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

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