



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

November 2008 Newsletter

Coming up:

Tuesday 25 November 7pm for 7.30 start

Kapiti Branch meeting

End of year function. Bring a "small" plate. Bring family mementos to show.

Monday 8 December 7.30pm

Computer-Friendly Genealogy

DNA with Lorna Henderson

Looking ahead:

Tuesday 27 January 2009 7pm for 7.30pm

Kapiti Branch meeting

Research night

Bring your notes and use the branch resources to make some progress on your research. If you get stuck, ask around. Someone may have a suggestion to put you on the right track.

2009 Programme suggestions

Have you got a suggestion for a speaker or activity for a branch meeting? Is there a daytrip you think would interest Kapiti Branch members? The 2009 programme is being put together now, and all suggestions are welcome. Email/phone ideas to Jackie Holland.

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:

Australasian Federation of Family History

Organisations congress (AFFHO)

16-20 January 2009

Kings College, Auckland

The New Zealand Society of Genealogists is hosting this congress, which is held every three years. It replaces the Queen's Birthday conference in 2009.

The theme is **Preserving the past for the future**, and there are four streams: Migration, History, Technology and Preservation. Over four days there will be 14 lectures in each stream, as well as eight plenary lectures and a number of two-hour workshops.

You can register online, making programme choices and booking accommodation with a credit card at

www.affhocongress2009.org. You can also go to that website to download a registration form and pay by cheque. Post the form to Secretary, AFFHO Congress, P O Box 14188, Panmure, 1741.

Write to the secretary if you would like a registration form to be mailed to you. A list of speakers can be found in the latest issue of *The New Zealand Genealogist*.

Convenor's comment

We have been registered as a charitable organisation by the Charities Commission, a necessary condition in the changing world of tax-free status. Part of this new regime was the approval by our SGM in October of the new financial year of 1 April to 31 March, commencing in 2009. That meeting also approved the continuation of our annual subscription of \$20 per member with a pro rata arrangement of \$30 to take into account the six month gap between old and new. Also approved was the carry over of the current committee until the next AGM, which will be at our April 2009 monthly meeting.

The Labour Weekend event, **Find Your Family (at) Coastlands** has been and gone and my thanks to all those who volunteered over the holiday period to help. It was a modest success with a last minute change to the promotion package by the commercial sponsor.

Fortunately we had done a fair bit of our own promotion among regional branches and our own members. Steady foot traffic through the mall with up to 50 genuine enquiries at the help desk on both the Saturday and Sunday was positive.

The research area and workshops could have handled more people but we know of researchers who came from Auckland, Taranaki, Hawkes Bay, Wanganui, Manawatu, Wairarapa and Wellington regions as well as from the Kapiti Coast.

Why you are you presentations by Kevin Milne and Anna Kenna were very well received and we will be continuing to work with these two presenters with a view to holding further sessions in the future.

Our last meeting of the year on **Tuesday 25 November** will be an opportunity for you to bring along mementos that have a significant place in your family. Join us for a light supper and drink, circulate around the room and share experiences.

A selection of our research facilities will be available including CDs, online access to several sites and the NZ Gazette, so bring along your research notes too. And dig out great-grandma's bonnet, grandad's gold fob watch and bring them along to share your stories.

As this is the last newsletter of the year, may I convey to all our members seasons greetings. I look forward to introducing our new programme in 2009. Please let us have your ideas for next year's programme for both branch and computer group meetings, visits and other activities you think we should be undertaking. Let the programme manager or secretary know before mid-December.

□ Clive Palmer

Computer Corner with Sue Greene

The last meeting for 2008 will be on **Monday 8 December**. Lorna Henderson will be

demonstrating the finer points of DNA. This is a follow up to the demonstration she did at the branch meeting.

It's time to think about meetings for next year. If you have any suggestions or if there is something in particular you would like explained, please let me know. You can email me at [sueg-97\(at\)xtra.co.nz](mailto:sueg-97(at)xtra.co.nz).

I have created a step-by-step guide on how to use the New Zealand Government Gazettes. The guide will be in the cupboards. This guide is for members who are not used to using the computers and need some extra help. Take your time to read through the guide first, then give it a go. It does take time for the Gazettes to load. Please be patient.

Introducing . . . Kay Carter

How I wish I could talk to my mother again! The older family members have the stories! A cousin told me my mother's GALLAHER family was too complicated. I talked to more cousins and slowly began to piece the story together. Then it all got too hard and I tackled the much easier story of my father's FISHER family. Those great-grandparents had six children, only three of whom had married.

My first book, *Fishers of Pukerimu*, was launched in 1997 at a family reunion and is now referred to as the family bible. I took family history from what I knew, and researched. I was helped greatly by local historians and began to find my way around genealogical resources and references. I made a trip to Scotland to complete the work. But I also encouraged family members to contribute their own stories.

It was time to get back to the GALLAHER story. My great-grandparents James and Maria had 14 children. It was James' second marriage and he was 35 years older than Maria. They settled in Katikati with six surviving Irish-born children, and had a further four sons. Maria, a teacher and the bread-winner, died aged 42. As they grew older, some went to Australia in search of gold.

How did I find them? I rang all the Gallahers in the Perth and Melbourne phone books with great success. I filled in the gaps by free advertising in the local main papers. I am now in touch with descendants of all 10 children.

Branch notes

Subscription renewals now due

Subscriptions for the current period fell due on 1 October. If you haven't sent in your payment, please do so at your earliest convenience. Please make your **\$30** cheque payable to **Kapiti Genealogy**, and post to:

Membership renewal
Kapiti Branch Treasurer
P O Box 703
Paraparaumu

This membership period lasts until April 2010. If you are also a member of New Zealand Society of Genealogists, please quote your NZSG membership number on the back of your cheque.

Raffle – “Explorer” Sub to Findmypast

The branch has been given three 12-month Explorer subscriptions to the UK website www.findmypast.com. This is a great website, which includes military, census, births, deaths, marriages, parish burial records and the very useful passenger lists of ships leaving UK shores for anywhere in the world from 1890 to 1960. You can also submit your family tree to share with others. Check it out online to see the range offered.

We plan to raffle one of these prizes at each of the next three monthly meetings, starting in November. Each subscription is worth \$240 and gives access to the full range of records. Raffle tickets will sell at \$5 each, or three for \$10. Each raffle will be drawn after a minimum of 25 tickets have been sold.

Tickets will be available at the entry desk on meeting nights or direct from Sandy White (see page 4 for contact details) or you can send a cheque payable to **Kapiti Genealogy** to:

Kapiti Genealogy Raffle
P O Box 703
Paraparaumu

We have a number of capital expenditure items coming up, including additional cupboard units at the Alison Procter Family History Centre, so your support would be appreciated.

Branch meeting reports

How my research affected others

In October, Kay Carter told about going to Donegal, Ireland, the birthplace of a relation, Dave Gallaher, who happened to have been

the captain of the famous 1905 Originals All Black team.

The discovery by the local Donegal rugby club that their area had produced this sporting hero inspired them to invite the current All Black team to dedicate their new sports ground in 2005, in an attempt to increase local interest in the game.

Kay supplied the club with photos and information about Dave Gallaher, which was used to publicise his birthplace. She showed a DVD at the meeting which documented the rugby club's story, including the huge media interest generated by All Blacks' visit to Donegal.

Adding science to genealogy

At the September branch meeting, Lorna Henderson told how DNA test results had changed the focus of her family history research. Before, she was looking for dead ancestors, but now she's looking for living relations, and she's found a few of them this way. The DNA test results can't say how you are related to the person, only that you have a common ancestor.

Lorna compared the cost and services of different companies offering DNA testing for genealogy, and suggested some things to check in choosing a company: security provisions, database size, scientific background, additional services, and whether samples are retained for upgraded tests. It sounds a bit complicated, but basic information on how it works is available on www.wikipedia.com [search keyword: DNA].

New members

Welcome to Matthew BURGESS, Maria FRASER, Neil GREAVES, Valerie JACOBS, Mary BRADDOCK, Michelle COTTER, Dianne SLEEMAN, Dorothy BROUGH, Marianne THOMAS and Sally LYNCH, who have become members since our last newsletter.

Look up and research service

No members have used our research service for 12 months! Possibly a good thing because no one needs help – or is it that newer members are not aware of this service? Kapiti GenForum is a service which if you are REALLY stuck might just provide that breakthrough. Fill in the form that's on our website or collect one from the help table at monthly meetings. Hand it in, post it or email it to our Branch

Research Officer, Derek Griffis, and he will try to give you some leads.

Library news

We've received branch newsletters from Wairarapa, Wellington, Bishopsdale, Palmerston North, Kilbirnie, Canterbury, Dunedin, Balclutha and Porirua. Some highlights worth checking are:

Palmerston North (September): weather lore (October): Ryerson index, Rosco (PN) history; **Balclutha**: Amy Bock, excellent "how to" info re LDS website; **Dunedin Family History**: 7 pages packed with Irish info and dates, Halloween origin, Nasby full info and NZ Premiers; **Canterbury**: History, Opawa/Lyttelton, White Wings Vols 1 and 2 online; **Kilbirnie**: Problems of transcriptions, NZSG CD NZ marriages 1836-1956 version 2 'easy as' matching couples.

New year's resolutions

Is 2009 your year to:

- write down the names of people in family photos (in pencil)?
 - sort your family history bits of paper, at least into main family groups?
 - update family tree notes kept on computer, back up the file and print off a hard copy?
 - write about one of your research experiences for publication in *The New Zealand Genealogist*?
 - write up what you know already about your ancestry for future generations?
 - write about your own family memories?
 - give a talk about your research at a branch meeting?
 - Join the Kapiti Branch committee?
- Give it some thought.

On the web

If you've got broadband, have a look at <http://rootstelevision.com> for **video clips** on researching family history.

Found: two generations and background

www.rootschat.com is a free-to-use discussion board, where you can look for others researching your surname or location. Searching the TAYLOR surname message board, and using Somerset as a keyword, I found a distant cousin researching my family. He had records for two earlier generations, local knowledge of the area and had met people I'd only read about. Worth a try!

- Liz Matthews

Committee to April 2009

Convenor Clive Palmer

[c-palmer\(at\)xtra.co.nz](mailto:c-palmer@xtra.co.nz) phone 293-7631

Secretary & Branch Research

Derek Griffis [griffisnz\(at\)ihug.co.nz](mailto:griffisnz@ihug.co.nz)
phone 293-1092

Treasurer & Membership

Lorna Henderson
[lornah\(at\)paradise.net.nz](mailto:lornah@paradise.net.nz)
phone 293-7771

Computer-Friendly Genealogy and

Projects Sue Greene
[sueg-97\(at\)xtra.co.nz](mailto:sueg-97@xtra.co.nz)
phone 06 364-8196

Programme & Activities

Jackie Holland
[jtholland\(at\)xtra.co.nz](mailto:jtholland@xtra.co.nz) phone 293-2296

Hostess

Judy Olsen
[cuppatea\(at\)paradise.net.nz](mailto:cuppatea@paradise.net.nz)

Round Robins

Meryl Opie
[opiemb\(at\)xtra.co.nz](mailto:opiemb@xtra.co.nz)

Sales Sandy White [tersan\(at\)xtra.co.nz](mailto:tersan@xtra.co.nz)

Appointed off-committee:

Help Desk Valerie Freeman
phone 298-7396

Publicity/Marketing and Newsletter

Liz Matthews phone 293-8553
[liz.matthews\(at\)xtra.co.nz](mailto:liz.matthews@xtra.co.nz)

Webmaster

Barry Thomson
[thobar\(at\)clear.net.nz](mailto:thobar@clear.net.nz)

Computer Support

Lindsay Olsen

Library Support

Bev Chappell [chappell\(at\)paradise.net.nz](mailto:chappell@paradise.net.nz)
phone 904 1860 and Joy Lamb
[jrlamb\(at\)paradise.net.nz](mailto:jrlamb@paradise.net.nz) phone 904 2423

Meeting Registrar

Dave Muirhead

Programme Support

Kay and Bill Carter