



## 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.ancestry.com/~nzlsgkb](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nzlsgkb)

Registered charity no. CC33988

### November 2009 Newsletter

#### Meetings coming up

**Tuesday 24 November, 7pm for 7.30**

Kapiti branch meeting

#### End of year function

Speaker: Bill Carter

**Saturday 28 November, 9 – 11.30am**

Scottish Interest Group

**First meeting – door charge \$5**

**Monday 14 December, 7.30pm**

Computer-friendly genealogy

Locating hard-to-find ancestors on census records

#### Looking ahead - 2010

**Tuesday, 26 January, 7pm for 7.30**

Kapiti branch meeting

#### Research evening

**Saturday 30 January, 9.30am to 12.30**

Family Tree Maker users group

**door charge \$5 to cover hall hire**

**Monday 8 February, 7.30pm**

Computer-friendly genealogy

Unless otherwise mentioned, all meetings are held at Kapiti Community Centre, Ngahina Street, Paraparaumu

#### End of year meeting - November

Come on along! Our end of year meeting will be on **Tuesday 24 November** at Kapiti Community Centre. A light supper will be provided, so go easy on the evening meal that night, enjoy a tippie or something softer, and listen to member Bill Carter tell more from his raft of tales about his Chatham Islands research. This one is: "There is a book for everyone in Papers Past".

We will have some research facilities available, the help desk will be operating, and supper commencing at 7pm, with announcements and the main presentation starting around 7.30pm.

#### National Library access

Extensive renovations will be starting soon at the National Library, so the Molesworth Street building will be closing at 5pm on Thursday 3 December for just over two years. Family history material (which is part of the general collections) and newspapers on microfilm will be available at a temporary reading room at 77 Thorndon Quay from Tuesday 8 December.

Some high-use materials from the Alexander Turnbull Library collection will be available at Archives NZ starting Thursday 25 February 2010. For details of the availability of specific material, see the National Library website [www.natlib.govt.nz](http://www.natlib.govt.nz).

#### Archives NZ opening hours

The reading room at Archives NZ opens at the later time of 10.30 am Monday to Friday until early January 2010.

## **Branch notes**

### **Branch meeting report – October '09**

Who knew that Identity Services did so many interesting things besides recording and maintaining the vital records of births, deaths and marriages? Two long-serving staff members of the Department of Internal Affairs, Eileen Kennedy and Alison Ainsworth, enlightened members at our October branch meeting about the extent of their work.

It was fascinating to hear just how many people search the New Zealand vital records online. Between 2000 to 3000 unique visitors go to the site every day, and altogether they account for about 80,000 page views per day. Since the database went online, it has experienced 10 million searches. About 30 percent of the searches are initiated by people overseas, which begs the question – are any of them looking for the same people we are?

The new, shorter URL for searching vital records is [www.bdmrecords.dia.govt.nz](http://www.bdmrecords.dia.govt.nz).

### **1911 Census**

The 1911 Census of England and Wales is now available free to members at the Alison Procter Family History Centre (APFHC). Access is from findmypast.com on PC2. Click on the findmypast.com logo on the desktop display and when the home page comes up, left click on the 'sign in' prompt top right. When the branch acknowledgement appears, click one of the tabs across the top of the screen – census, military, migration, etc. Ignore the pay-as-you-go columns as we have an Explorer subscription.

### **Computer-friendly genealogy rounp**

If you've ever struggled to find your ancestors on census records, come along to the meeting on Monday 14 December for some hints and tips. You can also get a demonstration of any other websites you'd like to know more about.

At our November computer group meeting, Sue Greene demonstrated some websites mentioned by members. Those used were:

Parish Locator (free download)

<http://www.parloc.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/>

Rootsweb

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/>

Australian Newspapers.

<http://www.nla.gov.au/ndp/index.html>

Ancestry.com now has London parish records online. Members can view these on the branch computers at the library.

The aim of this group is to help and encourage members with genealogy and genealogy on computers. We are usually on-line on meeting nights with practical demonstrations. Our meetings include the use of web sites for genealogy, using genealogy programmes, and much more. We also offer some help with computer problems, major problems should be referred to a technician.

### **Use of PCs**

Please turn off the computers and printers after you have finished using them at the Alison Procter Family History Centre. There have been several instances lately where members have not logged off and a power surge or cut has deactivated the system and tripped the fail-safe mechanism.

### **Wednesday morning schedule**

Our Wednesday morning help sessions at the APFHC will be taking a break over Christmas. The last one for 2009 will be on 16 December. The first one next year will be on 13 January. If you want some help before the silly season hits us, you have a few more Wednesday mornings

from 10am to 12 noon to join our facilitator on the first floor of Paraparaumu Library.

### **New group joins the branch**

We welcome the Kapiti Branch of the New Zealand Legacy Users Group. Legacy is a software programme for storing genealogy information. The 90 members from the Lower North Island region have been meeting regularly in Paraparaumu. They have so far operated as an independent group, but recently agreed to become part of the activities of our Kapiti Branch.

This is a win-win for both parties, strengthening the range of activities we can provide our members and giving the new group access to our facilities at the Kapiti Community Centre, our newsletter and website. They will meet in 2010 on the last Saturday of February, April, June, August, October and in early December) at Kapiti Community Centre, from 12.30pm to 4pm. Door charge of \$2 to cover hall hire. For more information, email Gerald Twiss on [gero\(at\)ihug.co.nz](mailto:gero(at)ihug.co.nz).

### **Family Tree Maker Users Group**

This group is also based around a software programme for storing genealogy information. If you use this software, the meetings can tell you how to get the most out of it. The group meets quarterly on Saturday mornings, 9.30 am to 12.30pm at Kapiti Community Centre. Dates for 2010: 30 January, 24 April, 31 July and 30 October. Door charge of \$5 to cover hall hire. Contact: Hanley Hoffmann.

### **Scottish Interest Group**

First meeting - **Saturday 28 November**, from 9am-11.30am, at Kapiti Community Centre. Everyone welcome. The meeting will decide future format and activities. Online access to key websites, including Scotland's People and ancestry.com. Door charge of \$5 to cover costs and morning tea. Contact Clive Palmer.

### **Interested in an Irish group?**

Contact Hanley Hoffmann to express your interest. A new group may be formed, with its first meeting before the end of the year. Meeting details will be sent by email and through the website. Suggestions about what the group might cover are welcome.

### **Australia Interest Group**

This group meets from 10 am to 12 noon, on the **third Tuesday** each month at the APFHC. Contact Deborah Shuker on 905 2238.

### **Interest and User Groups**

There may be some confusion out there about access to our expanding range of interest and user groups, including the computer-friendly genealogy group. They are part and parcel of your branch membership package. You don't have to 'join' separately, although alerting the convenor or facilitator of that group of your interests will help keep you in contact. (See page 4 for contact information for convenors who are committee members.) Just turn up to meetings. Meeting dates will soon be on our website in the 2010 programme of activities.

### **New member**

Welcome to Barbara VAN HAM, who has joined the branch since the last newsletter.

### **Tea makers**

If your surname begins with the letters **N to P** please be at the November branch meeting by 7pm to help prepare the hot drinks. In January it will be someone else's turn.

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### **On the web**

#### **Lost records**

When you think of the vast amount of genealogical information available on the internet and in repositories, it can be hard to believe that the bit of information about the particular ancestor

you're searching for just isn't there, somewhere. Surely, if you look long enough, you'll track it down. Won't you? Sorry, but maybe you won't. The bad news is that lots of records get lost or destroyed, one way or another. The dangers are many, ranging from seemingly benign light, heat, humidity, dust and acidified paper, to natural disasters such as fires and floods, and war.

It's a big concern to archivists, who have the task of preserving documents that are sometimes badly damaged. About 6000 of 6250 repositories surveyed by UNESCO in 1994 reported suffering losses to their collections. You can read about all the ways records can be lost or destroyed (accidentally and on purpose) in the 77-page report entitled, *Archives destroyed in the twentieth century*, found at the website below.

[www.unesco.org/webworld/mdm/administ/pdf/LOSTMEMO.PDF](http://www.unesco.org/webworld/mdm/administ/pdf/LOSTMEMO.PDF).

### Genealogy toolbar

Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society (MLFHS), based in the UK is pleased to announce the release of its genealogy toolbar which integrates seamlessly with your browser (IE, Firefox, Safari) to provide instant access to family history sites including online BMD, Archives, Societies, Pay to View and many more.

The toolbar is completely free to download and use and has been developed by Family Historians for use by Family Historians. Changes to the toolbar are made centrally and can be instantly reflected in each user's personal copy. We keep track of the links so that users do not have to. The range of links provided is especially strong for Great Britain and Irish research.

There are currently over 120 links and these will be expanded in response to user comments and suggestions. Users can turn individual menus ON AND OFF AND can also choose to add items from a selection of non-genealogy links. The toolbar can be downloaded via the MLFHS home page [www.mlfhs.org.uk](http://www.mlfhs.org.uk) or from <http://MLFHS.OurToolbar.com/>

- Ken Wogan MLFHS Toolbar Administrator

### Lost cousins

If anyone else out there is researching your ancestors, the Lost Cousins site may be able to put you in touch with them. It uses census reference numbers (mainly from the 1881 British and Canadian censuses and the 1880 US census) to find matches. You give the names and reference numbers for your ancestors who appear on the censuses and indicate your relationship with them, and the database does the checking. The site predicts a match after an average of 63 names entered.

Even if you don't get a match, the exercise of establishing the particular people on each branch of your family tree who were living at that time may give you some ideas about further lines to follow up. There's also a newsletter of genealogical tidbits you can read online.

<http://lostcousins.com>

Committee			
Convenor	Hanley Hoffmann	<a href="mailto:hdhoffmann@paradise.net.nz">hdhoffmann(at)paradise.net.nz</a>	904-3276
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***MERRY CHRISTMAS to all – and best wishes for research successes in 2010!***