

Remember to check our website <http://KapitiGen.org> for additional information on events, Branch, Interest & User Groups, and any late changes.

Editorial



Burns Night - Jan. 25th

This year's programme got off to a great start with Catherine and Eric Ruth giving us an update on FamilySearch.

Read Ian's summary on page 3.

Has anyone registered for RootsTech? Don't forget it begins on March 7th, 6am NZ time.

The conference has grown so big, it's not always easy to find the sessions you want, but it's a good opportunity to hear speakers from all over the world.

Do send me your impressions of any talks you hear.

DNA matches are fascinating.

Further to my story last year about my husband's DNA match with the Jolley vet in Scotland, Edmund, who lived out of the boot of his car, he has now bought a house and is running an AirBandB.

On further investigation we have found the DNA link.

There were two brothers born 1797 and 1800 respectively, namely John and Christopher Jolley. Edmund, is of Christopher's line and my husband from John's line.

But John's eldest son had a daughter called Mary, who married Christopher's son. So they are both products of both lines. It's not a wonder that they are a DNA match!

I recently read an informative blog from Family Tree about the best sites for research into Dutch ancestors. Maybe we should have a splurge on European ancestors, starting with Bill Jorgensen next Tuesday?

Good hunting.

Sheila

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Meetings this month:
Tuesday evening
February 25th

Bill Jorgensen
My Italian Family

Wednesday afternoon
February 26th

Branch Meetings for February 2025

Evening meeting.

When: Tuesday February 25th 7pm - meet and greet. Refreshments
7.30 - 9pm, main session.

Where: Coast Community Church 57, Hinemoa Street, Paraparaumu

What: Bill Jorgensen
My Italian Family

Bill will describe the research that went into writing his family history
“letting in the Light.”.

Convenor: Graeme McVerry

Daytime meeting

When: Wednesday February 26th Doors open 1.30pm, Meeting 2 - 4pm

Where: Waikanae Baptist Church Café , 286, Te Moana Road, Waikanae

What: Review of the evening meeting.

Do you have any Italian ancestors? Followed by discussion and research.

Co-ordinator: Denice McCarten

Branch notices

Welcome to our new members: Sharyn Guthrie, Merlin McKenzie

Do make yourselves known to us and take advantage of the great facilities at the Alison Proctor Family History Centre in Paraparaumu Library.

See pages 6 and 7 for details or Interest Groups and research sessions.

Membership:

Our financial year ends **31st March**. To stagger the rush for renewals the membership secretary appreciates anyone who re-joins ahead of time.

Payment of your \$30 may be made to BNZ 02-0591-0040791-000 with your membership number and/or phone number in the payee fields. The new financial year cards will be processed in batches, so your new card may not arrive promptly. Rest assured your current card remains valid. See

<https://kapitigen.org/membership-2/> for the more membership details and the online form.

March 6-8th - RootsTech theme for this year is “Discover”.

Not the most original title, but all-encompassing! Have you registered yet? Free. Have a read of Roberta Estes helpful post about the conference:

<https://dna-explained.com/2025/01/16/register-for-rootstech-2025-now/>

It would be really good to have some real feedback this year. Do any of our members actually register?

Genealogy software workshop for SeniorNet

Late last year the Kapiti Genealogy committee accepted an invitation from SeniorNet Kapiti (<https://seniornetkapiti.nz/>) to present to their membership on the topic of 'Genealogy Software'.

On Thursday 13th February, Jenny Wilson, Lorna Henderson, Liz Matthews and Bernard McManus presented to six members of SeniorNet. The topics covered were: an introduction to genealogy, cloud subscription services, cloud free services, and PC / laptop software applications. The presentation was very well received by the workshop attendees.

January Branch Meeting - Familysearch

January 2025 started off with a bang, with Catherine and Eric Ruth giving us a whistle stop tour of the vast ecosystem that is FamilySearch.

Eric started by running through a few statistics of just how vast the database really is, especially now that AI is speeding up the process of making records available. A population of 1.69 billion people in the Family Tree is impressive, along with over 3.4 billion sources attached to them. Meanwhile, over 5 million records are indexed each day by a mixture of people and AI.

Catherine then proceeded to take us on a tour of some of the features of FamilySearch that are easily missed if you are busy building your tree. The Blog is one of these, <https://www.familysearch.org/en/blog/>, with a range of stories on events, new features in FamilySearch etc, so well worth a browse. Next was FSLabs <https://www.familysearch.org/en/labs/>, where new features are either being beta-tested, or have been released into the FamilySearch system.

One such feature under test is User-owned Trees, which is effectively an editable version of the old static Genealogies.

Another is Family Group Trees, which has been released, where you can gather a group of your family together to view and edit living persons within the tree.

Another that is in beta testing and deserves your attention is the Full-Text Search <https://www.familysearch.org/search/full-text>, which effectively trawls through all available searchable text in FamilySearch whether it has been indexed or not. Give it a try, you will probably be surprised with what turns up!

Catherine also touched on the Research Wiki https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Main_Page, a great source of information on specific locations, and links to record collections pertaining to that location; the importance of attaching Sources to records, along with the recent addition of a “Quality Score” feature on records; and the usefulness of Memories for permanently attaching photos, documents or even audio to a record.

Finally, Catherine pointed out the Get Involved tab <https://www.familysearch.org/getinvolved/opportunities>, which gives you the opportunity to help others through various activities such as indexing, or simply doing Quick Name Reviews while you’re putting the kettle on!

Ian Brooking

NZSG News

Remember that the **NZSG Kiwi Collection** is not static. Previously restricted records are now available with the calendar year rollover.

<https://genealogy.org.nz/Kiwi-Collection/11197/>

plus of course additions from the busy beaver indexers.

Online DNA Interest Group, free NZSG Members benefit.

For those NZSG Members also registered with, the Online DNA Interest Group (ODIG) the next presentation is on Feb 26th at 7:30pm. Topic: “WikiTree and DNA” by Alan Cobcroft. Members of ODIG will receive reminders with the link to attend. Can’t watch live? Log into Google and watch later from the Google Classroom under Classwork > recorded monthly meetings.

Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/NZSGOnlineDNAInterestGroup/>

'How to' Monthly Zoom session for Members

Our Members Only, one-hour, Zoom session for March is on **Monday 3rd March, 8-9pm.**

Topic: Wiki Tree

Whatever aspect of WikiTree you want to explore, just ask. For starters, we'll look at linking profiles (ie people) to their family, already there. Then merging profiles, but there's plenty to explore and learn how to do.

Come and share your tips.

Remember there's only an hour though!

Pre-registration required.

The link to register and get the join meeting information is sent in the covering email to members with their copy of the latest newsletter.

Lorna

WikiTree
Where genealogists collaborate

First Name Walker

Name on Watchlist

Edit mother of Agnes (Walker) Taylor ID#< ◭

- b. 1835-00-00 Clitheroe, Yorkshire, England

Create a new profile for her mother
or ...

Connect an existing profile as her mother

CONTINUE

Kapiti Irish Interest Group

The February 2025 meeting of the Kapiti Genealogy Irish Interest Group discussed Lewis's *Topographical Dictionary of Ireland* published in 1837.

This provides descriptions of Ireland about a decade before the Famine. It is easily accessible at <https://www.libraryireland.com/topog/>. The descriptions of counties, larger towns and civil parishes are given in alphabetical order. They can be read online by clicking on an alphabetical bar, without needing to download the two large volumes. There are descriptions for most parishes, but some rural ones with no sizeable villages are omitted.

The county entries are a series of long essays on many aspects of county life, such as history and antiquities, geography, civil administration, main towns and population, geography and geology, agriculture and manufacturing and industry. These county entries provide a good introductory description of the part of Ireland where your ancestors lived. The entries for the market towns near their parishes provide similar information at a more localised level. The parish entries are often less interesting to read but include important information such as the names of the resident landowners, which are useful for identifying estate records, and name all the places of worship of all denominations within the civil parish, essential information for searching church birth, marriage and death records.

Eleven people attended, a convenient number for all to join in the discussion. For the time being, the group will continue to meet in the APFHC corner of the Paraparaumu Library, unless attendance grows when the outside weather makes indoor activities more attractive and puts pressure on the space and chairs available in the library.

Graeme McVerry

Do you still write letters?

When is the last time you physically wrote a letter? Can even still write legible notes?

Legible writing and I parted ways many, many years ago. My father despaired completely very, very early on in my youth about my inability to do the same beautiful cursive writing he did. It's all been downhill from there. Thankfully there are computers. The best value course I ever took in my life was a touch typing course the year after I finished Varsity. I doubt I can still find the certificate for my Junior Government.

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2025/jan/21/signature-moves-are-we-losing-the-ability-to-write-by-hand>

Lorna



DNA News

Checked out FTDNA lately?

It may be a smaller autosomal database, but even an upload of a kit from elsewhere will give you both different tools and, if male, a reasonable (but early) yDNA haplogroup. It also has many testers from longer ago, ie before Ancestry was available to us, whose kit managers may well have upgraded their tested relative to FamilyFinder (the name of their autosomal test). The autosomal Matrix has long shown us whether or not your selection of matches are actually triangulated, but it has now had a revamp to show you more details about those matches. Read about the latter in Roberta Estes latest blog post.

<https://dna-explained.com/2025/02/12/familytreednas-new-matrix-shows-how-your-matches-are-related-to-each-other/>

MyHeritage Ethnicity Estimate revision

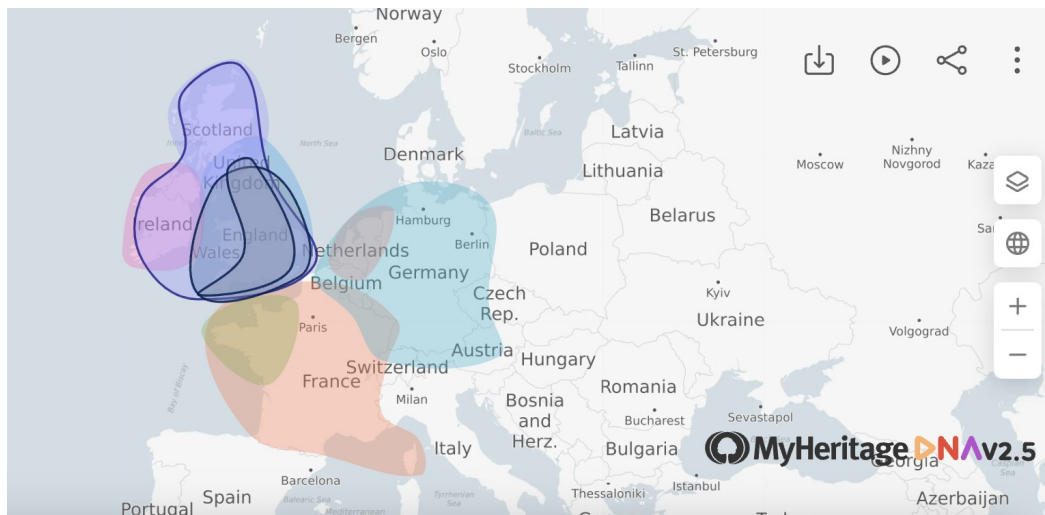
It's been a long time coming but has now been released to all. You need to select "Get the update" to see it. Your older version does not disappear.

Learn more in [their blog](https://blog.myheritage.com/2025/02/introducing-ethnicity-estimate-v2-5-improved-dna-ethnicity-model/) (<https://blog.myheritage.com/2025/02/introducing-ethnicity-estimate-v2-5-improved-dna-ethnicity-model/>) post about Ethnicity Estimate v2.5 which has a link to a YouTube video.

Mine have improved somewhat, no longer showing the western coast of South America as an ethnicity blob, but that pesky but persistent Irish remains :)

Remember that the ethnicities themselves are from much longer ago than your few known generations and based on their reference panel of testers from the regions shown.

The "genetic groups", the coloured areas outlined in black, are the groups from your DNA match lists and their trees.



Lorna

Interest Groups

Irish Interest Group

Next Meeting: Paraparaumu Library Tuesday 11th March 1:30-3:30

Discussion topic: Irish Censuses and their new website



The March meeting will discuss the new Irish Census website (at a new web address), following a revamp earlier this year. Although only the 1901 and 1911 censuses survive, don't think these aren't relevant to you because your ancestors left Ireland in the 19th century. With the popularity of DNA matches, these censuses are often important for establishing the lines back to a common ancestor for your matches whose ancestors remained in Ireland or emigrated in the twentieth century. Also, snippets remain from the 1841 and 1851 censuses, which still existed when census searches were conducted to establish age after the Old Age Pension was introduced in Ireland in 1909. The discussion will be followed by time for assistance with Irish family history research, using either the APFHC terminals linked to several subscription sites or your own laptop to access a range of free Irish sites.

All welcome, whether new to Irish research or experienced.

<http://www.kapitigen.org/programme/interest-groups/irish>

or contact IrishSIG@KapitiGen.org

Graeme McVerry



RootsMagic Users Group

Our meetings are for those interested in exploring how this genealogy software can help you keep track of your research.

The 2-monthly Zoom meetings for this year will begin again on the **15th of March, 2-4pm**
Theme for the meeting – reports - but questions, hints on all topics are welcome.

All welcome. Free to all.

New to Zoom? Get in touch beforehand and we'll get you started.

The pre-registration link for the session is sent to those on our mailing list nearer the time.
To be added to our mailing list please see our

[RootsMagic page](https://kapitigen.org/rootsmagic-special-interest-group/) at <https://kapitigen.org/rootsmagic-special-interest-group/>

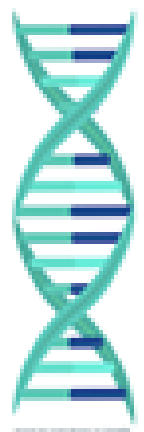
Lorna Henderson

DNA Interest Group

Notes from our first meeting for the year on 8th February have been sent to those attending, and those sending an apology.

Next meeting **April 12th** at the **Waikanae Baptist Church Cafeteria, 2 to 4pm**,
doors open 1:30pm.

Free for Kapiti Genealogy members. Visitors welcome, \$5.



Not a member, why not join? Those joining between now and 31 March receive two months free and become members for the 2025/2026 financial year. <https://kapitigen.org/membership-2/>

Reminders of all our DNA meetings are sent to those on our DNA mailing list.

If you wish to be added to our mailing list for the DNA group reminders, please check out our DNA interest group page: <https://kapitigen.org/dna-special-interest-group/>

Lorna Henderson

Branch information

Branch meetings:

Evening meeting is held on the fourth Tuesday of the month from January to November.

Daytime meeting is on the following day, usually the fourth Wednesday, from January to November. Attendance is free to members of the Branch, Visitors \$5 to help cover expenses.

Help with Research

Wednesday mornings 10-12am, at the Paraparaumu Library. Open to the public. Volunteers always needed, please.

If you can help, please go to the APFHC in Paraparaumu Library on a Wednesday morning and speak to the person volunteering.

First Saturday in the month 1-3pm.

To book an appointment for individual assistance phone Lorna on 04 293 7771 so you can be directed to the best person who can help you.

Next session **Saturday March 1st 2025**

'How to' Monthly short Zoom session

First Monday of the month for one hour.

Next meeting is **Monday March 3rd, 8-9pm.**

Members only. Free. See **page 4** for details.

Publicity

For flyers of our events, along with other local special events, check out our Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61558732100830>

Reminder about the procedure for returning the key to the Branch cupboard containing the keyboards.

When you sign in at the issuing desk to get the key (see above in next column) **you are responsible for returning it**, even if someone else is still researching when you leave.

Please take the **remaining person** to the issuing desk to get them signed in as the person responsible for returning the key when they leave.

Facilities at the

Alison Proctor Family History Centre

The APFHC is located at Paraparaumu Library. Turn right inside the library entrance to the area containing six computers, microfiche and library. The cupboard on the right hand side of the area contains the red folders mentioned below.

Members need to get the cupboard key from the library Issuing Desk, when you will be asked to sign for the key and show your membership card for the current year.

Computer Password at the APFHC

The APFHC computer password changes regularly: check the red Computer Help folder in the top drawer.

Please sign the red signing-in book found in the top drawer.

Keyboards are in the lowest drawer.

Replace the cover on the computer when you leave and lock the keyboard in the cupboard.

All six computers have subscriptions to Ancestry, FindMyPast and access to The Genealogist and Roots Ireland as well as free sites like FamilySearch. (Use your own log-in to FamilySearch).

NB. Please do **NOT** sign out of RootsIreland, FindMyPast or TheGenealogist.

Please **do not switch off** the printer.

A microfiche reader is available and there are books on a variety of topics that can be borrowed. Boxes of copies of 'Who do you think you are' and 'Family Tree' are on the shelf.

You are encouraged to save the results of your searches on a USB memory stick or send them to your own email address.

We have a printer if you wish to print a hard copy. Please put 10c per copy in the honesty box on the cupboard door.



Kapiti Genealogy

PO Box 703
Paraparaumu 5452

A Branch of New Zealand Society of Genealogists



Branch Officers

Convener: On rotation
Convenor "at" KapitiGen.org
Secretary: Jenny Wilson
Secretary "at" KapitiGen.org
Treasurer : John Miller
Treasurer "at" KapitiGen.org

Branch responsibilities

Membership:

Lorna Henderson: Phone: 04 293 7771
Membership "at" KapitiGen.org

Programme & Activities:

Ian Brooking
 Denice Mc Carten
Programme "at" KapitiGen.org

Librarian: Beverley Chappell

Members: Bernard McManus
 Graeme McVerry

Daytime co-ordinator:

Denice McCarten
daygrp "at" KapitiGen.org

Meeting registrars: Evening: Judy Olsen
 Daytime: May Redmund

Audio/Visual Support:

Ian Brooking and Lindsay Olsen

Newsletter Editor: Sheila Jolley
editor "at" KapitiGen.org

Trip organiser: Kathy Callaghan

Publicity: Maureen Robb

Computer/Equipment Support: Ian Brooking

Catering: By roster

Raffle: Marion Fitchett

Interest Group Facilitators:

DNA: Lorna Henderson

Irish: Graeme McVerry
IrishSIG "at" KapitiGen.org

Roots Magic: Lorna Henderson

RootsMagic "at" KapitiGen.org

Website: <https://kapitigen.org>

Webmasters: Bernard McManus & Ian Brooking

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61558732100830>

Email links

Throughout the newsletter email links are clickable. Remove the extra @ symbol before sending.

Kapiti Genealogy Venues

APFHC: Alison Procter Family History Centre,
 Ground Floor, North West Corner,
 Paraparaumu Library

Coast Community Church, 57, Hinemoa Street,
 Paraparaumu

Waikanae Baptist Church Cafe,
 286, Te Moana Road, Waikanae

Membership -

\$30 for the year 1 April to 31st March. Use your membership card to access our resources at the APFHC in Paraparaumu Library.

New members joining January-March 2025 are automatically financial for the 2025/26 year.

For further details please visit our membership page <https://kapitigen.org/membership-2/>

Payment may be made to:

Kapiti Genealogy BNZ 02-0591-0040791-000.

Please put your phone number in a payee field.

March Branch Meetings

Evening Meeting
 Tuesday March 25th

Bill McKeich
 James Mc Keich -
 Tunnel Builder

Daytime Meeting
 Wednesday March 26th