

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

Editorial



St David's Day - March 1st

St Patrick on March 17th is well known, but let's not forget St David.

St David's Cathedral, (see right) situated on a peninsular in Pembrokeshire, Wales, was established around 1180 on the site of an earlier 6th Century monastery built by St David.

St David's is the smallest city in Britain and its cathedral is still in daily use for worship. It attracts around 300,000 visitors a year.

Irish Interests are mentioned on pages 4, 5 and 7, so plenty to digest. The Education Day on March 30th, with a Zoom session to Dublin should be interesting. (page 4)

Did anyone link in to RootsTech 25? I have to admit that I did follow Mark Thompson's address on AI, partly because, having worked in the dairy industry where 'AI' has a very different meaning, I wanted to know what it was all about..

I found his approach using a formula

to get information, rather than just asking for the answer, was refreshing.

I'd be pleased to receive other impressions of this massive online event. I listened to part of one key address and have to say I found it repetitive, irrelevant and a bit OTT congratulatory, even if they were engaging characters.

Am I being too hard?

In the meantime, it's nearly Easter. Have you got this winter's research plan organised?

Cheers, Sheila



Meetings this month:
Tuesday evening
March 25th

Bill McKeich
James Mc Keich—Tunnel
Builder

Wednesday afternoon
March 26th

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Branch Meetings for March 2025

Evening meeting.

When: Tuesday March 25th

7pm - meet and greet. Refreshments
7.30 - 9pm, main session.

Where: Coast Community Church

57, Hinemoa Street, Paraparaumu

What:

Bill McKeich

James McKeich - Tunnel Builder

Bill will tell us about the interesting life and feats of his Great Uncle James who tunnelled his way through the Forgotten Highway

Convenor: To be confirmed.



Daytime meeting

When: Wednesday March 26th

Doors open 1.30pm, Meeting 2 - 4pm

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

What:

Review of the evening meeting.

Bill will repeat his evening talk, followed by discussion and research.

Co-ordinator: Denice McCarten

Branch notices

Welcome to our new members: Pamela Wainwright and Barn McDavitt

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

See pages 7 and 8 for details or Interest Groups and research sessions.

Membership:

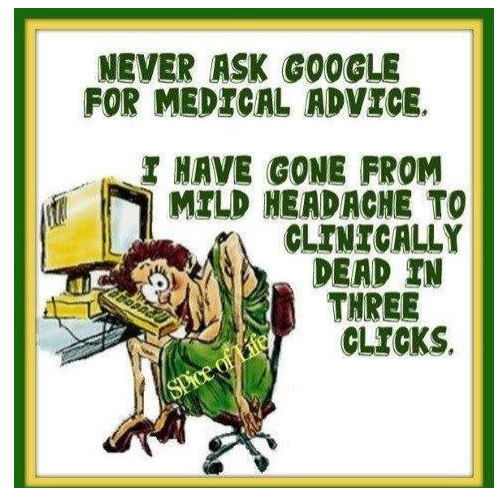
Our financial year ends **31st March**. See panel on page 9 for renewal information. Or go to <https://kapitigen.org/membership-2/> for the membership details and the online form to join.

Visitors free this month. As part of our involvement with **Age Concern**, visitors to both our March meetings will be free of charge, so do encourage anyone interested to come along.

Members are reminded that as part of our agreement with the library, our research help session on Wednesday mornings , 10-12am, is open to the public.

You can use our APFHC facilities any time the library is open on presentation of your card at the Issues desk to get the key for the cupboard, so if you could possibly avoid Wednesday mornings to allow space for visitors, it would be appreciated by those helping the public.

Of course, if you wish to volunteer to help the public, that too would be appreciated!



Members might be interested in what life was like for their ancestors before the mighty car.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1Bhgn8jgu/>

February Branch Meeting - Bill Jorgensen

What an inspiration Bill Jorgensen was.

He retired and a few months later decided he had to write a book on his family. The result was “Letting in the Light”

We learnt a lot of fascinating information about what it was like to have Italian heritage and the lives of his family, both back in Italy and in NZ, living through the times from 1904 to present.

Language difficulties, adapting, or not, to the Kiwi diet, being classified as enemy aliens during WWII, which included their NZ born wives

He began however with how he turned himself into a researcher, claiming that he is not a genealogist. A slide showed his research resource journey from interviewing family members to PapersPast, which provided a wealth of information for him, via Shipping lists to National Archives both digital and in person, to BDMs, family history websites, other researchers and the NZ Ancestor Search Helper (ash.howison.co.nz).

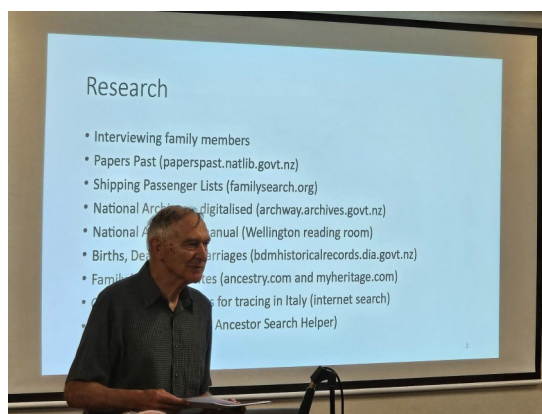
A mere two years later he had a very professional looking book full of pictures, family stories, trips to Italy, a small chart per family (bow tie charts for those interested) and most importantly, the results of family interviews. If you can wear out a digital website, Bill sounded like he might have, as much time was spent on PapersPast gleaning all sorts of gems.

If you weren't at either of our monthly meetings to see his slides you missed an entertaining and informative talk.

Stop procrastinating folks, just do it. You never will “finish your genealogy” first you know.

You can do it – even if you don't have a cartoonist friend on tap to do some of the wonderful illustrations.

Some stories are better not verified, his report of the Napier earthquake “when everyone remembers what they were doing” included the story of a woman in a bath on the first floor ending up in the street, resulting in this wonderful cartoon reproduced here with permission of both the cartoonist, Alan Bengé, and the author, our presenter for February, Bill Jorgensen.



Bill Jorgensen

Photo - Bernard McManus



WOMAN IN BATH TUB AFTER HAWKES BAY EARTHQUAKE.

PS The title of the book “Letting in the Light” came from a pruning technique used to make fruit trees more productive. He spoke very fondly of his orchard visits home over the years and the older varieties that you can no longer buy in supermarkets. As the product of orchardists myself I just had to go up afterwards to reminisce. He'd mentioned Sturmers, but not Cox's Oranges both of which I have in my little orchard, wonderful taste and keeping properties, and memories of childhood. Also agreeing that Pukekos are NOT to be encouraged near crops.

Lorna

NZSG News

Have you noticed that the NZSG web site: <https://genealogy.org.nz> now has a sitemap in the footer to help you find what you are looking for?
Why not have an explore? There is a lot there to help you, member or not.

Quick Links

- [Site Map](#)
- [The New Zealand Genealogist*](#)
- [Discovery*](#)
- [Gale Newspapers*](#)
- [Kiwi Collection](#)
- [DNA](#)
- [Overseas Resources](#)
- [Kiwi Resources](#)
- [Our](#)
- [Fam](#)
- [Rese](#)
- [Forr](#)

* Access only available to signed in members. [Join now!](#)

This month's NZSG Online DNA Interest Group (ODIG) presentation is by Catherine Clark, "Mystery Matches - Two Case Studies".

NZSG Members who have registered for ODIG receive the meeting link on the Mon and Wed immediately prior to the Wednesday presentation on the last Wednesday of the month, March 26th, 7:30pm Doors open 7:15.

Lower North Island Irish Interest Group

EDUCATION DAY

Sunday March 30th 2025

10.00am – 1.30pm

Collective Community Hub, 1/33 Johnsonville Road, Johnsonville

“Everything you wanted to know about Irish research but were afraid to ask”

Join us for a presentation from Dublin-based genealogist

Claire Bradley (via Zoom)

and an in-person workshop,

Building a research plan for your Irish ancestors, with Maggie Gaffney and committee members.

Library resources will be available.

Prebooking required:

<https://www.trybooking.com/nz/eventlist/irish>

In-person: \$10 members / \$15 non-members

Virtual by Zoom: \$10 (workshop is in-person only)

Contact: Irish.LowerNIsig@genealogy.org.nz



Wartime Secrets from my Family Home

Author Tom McGrath's book *Wartime Secrets from my family home* is the product of a chance discovery of hundreds of letters, photos, postcards and stuffed attaché cases from his father, Hugh McGrath's suburban house.

It recounts first hand experiences from both world wars in which several family members served.

The book is available in the library or from the publisher writeshillpress.co.nz

Kapiti Irish Interest Group

The topic for the March meeting of the Kapiti Irish Interest Group was Irish censuses. The returns for the first eight Irish censuses from 1821 to 1891 were destroyed in various ways, with only the 1901 and 1911 census returns surviving for all of Ireland. No census was taken in 1921 because of the civil war, but the good news is that the 1926 census for the Irish Free State (as it was called then) is on track to be released on 18 April 2026. Northern Ireland also conducted a census in 1926, but (you guessed it) was destroyed during the Second World War.

A new site <https://nationalarchives.ie/collections/search-the-census/> was released in February this year. The previous site will be removed later this year, with no link of the url to that of the new site. All urls for transcriptions and images will change also, with again the National Archives providing no link to the new versions (however, see Claire Bradley's video below for a site that performs the conversions). There have been some improvements, particularly with the addition of Soundex for name searches. Irish genealogist Claire Bradley has provided a video about the new site and the main changes <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Goo-e4OUPjE>

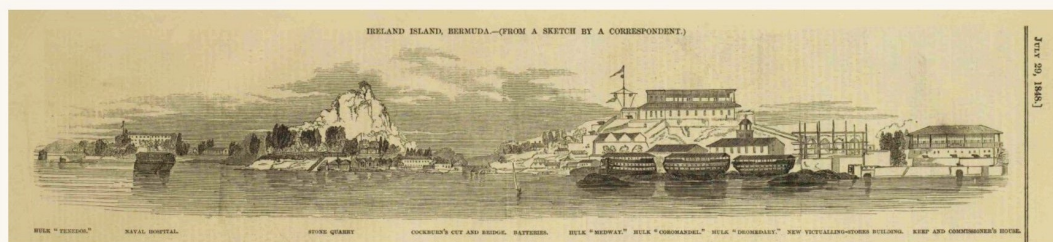
The discussion then turned to the various forms that made up the 1901 and 1911 censuses. Form A gave personal details of those in the household on census night. 1911 had three extra questions for married women that are useful for genealogists – number of years married to their current husband, number of children born alive, and number of children still alive. Form B1 House and Building Return provided information about the nature of the house and its outbuildings. Form B2 gave more detail about the outbuildings, with detail about the type of farming carried out. Form N was the Enumerator's Abstract, summarising the number of houses within the townland, the number of occupants of each household and their religious denominations. Different forms covered workhouses, hospitals, asylums, colleges and boarding schools, policemen living in barracks, and on ships in port on the census night. Their usefulness is limited by individuals often being identified by their initials rather than their names.

The new site retains the fragments of surviving 19th century censuses (very few) that were listed on the old site. It does not include the 1841 and 1851 census search forms used to determine eligibility for the Old Age Pension, which remain accessible at <https://genealogy.nationalarchives.ie/>

The attendance of only seven people was somewhat disappointing. Hopefully the numbers will increase in the winter months when the weather is more conducive to indoor activities.
Graeme McVerry

Heritage NZ excerpt from Deborah

www.heritage.org.nz/news/stories/images-of-ships-with-early-new-zealand-connections-found
"Heritage this Month" February 25, 2025 John O'Hare Northland | Te Tai Tokerau



The Medway, Coromandel and the Dromedary
An engraving from an 1848 copy of the Illustrated London Times/ National Museum of Bermuda clearly shows three ship hulks permanently anchored at Bermuda.

Monthly 'How to' on Zoom

The next monthly Members Only 1 hour Zoom session is on **Monday 7th April, 8-9pm.**

Topic; Time to take a look at **Press Reader**, a wonderful resource to access all sorts of newspapers and magazines for free, using your Kapiti Library card number.

Pre-registration required, The link has been sent with the covering email to the latest newsletter.

<https://kapitigen.org/online-how-to/>

DNA News

FamilyTreeDNA (FTDNA) have released the long awaited update of the tree of woman-kind, **mitoTree**.

Read more in these two blog posts in particular:

Their blog post: <https://blog.familytreedna.com/updated-mtdna-tree-35000-new-branches/>

Roberta Estes' DNA-explained's post: <https://dna-explained.com/2025/02/25/mitotree-is-born/>

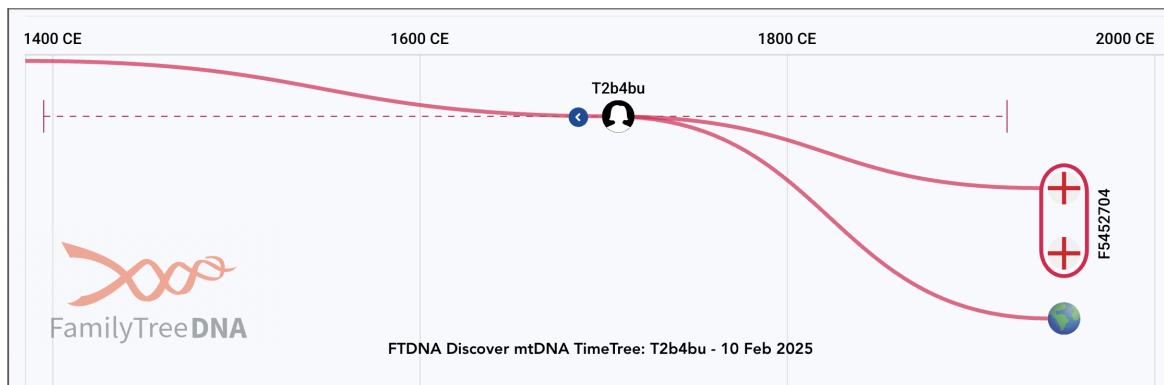
FTDNA's Discover tool, invaluable for exploring the his-tory of man-kind now also includes a wealth of information on the her-story of woman-kind.

I've only examined the results for one of the 5 lines for which I have direct maternal line DNA information - mine, and have been very pleasantly surprised.

I've had to revise my mantra to ignore matches more distant than exact (Genetic Distance of 0)! Yes mitochondrial DNA does mutate very slowly, and may therefore be of less immediate relevance in genealogy without a theory to test about A and B possibly being related. But you never know what will turn up if you don't test.

I now have a newer more recent, branch on the mitoTree of woman-kind as a result. Shared with a match who was a Genetic Distance of 1 to me.

My old haplogroup branch was estimated to have formed 1150 CE +/- 300 years. For my new branch, T2b4bu, the estimate is 1710 give or take 300 years. Lower confidence level estimates place the branch at between 1580 - 1840, which sounds rather precise. My earliest known direct maternal line ancestor was born in Essex around 1742.



RootsTech has brought its usual rash of company announcements, which I've yet to digest. Something for next month's DNA News

Lorna

Interest Groups

Irish Interest Group

Next Meeting: Paraparaumu Library Tuesday 8th April 1:30-3:30

Discussion topic: The Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland

Michael Gaffaney will lead a discussion about The Virtual Treasury, a project that has been underway for several years to replicate records that were lost in the fire in the Public Records Office in Dublin in during the Civil War in 1922.



Michael will cover what the site hopes to achieve, the background to its establishment, what information is presented, how he has used the site and what results have been achieved.

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. For information about the group see

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

or contact IrishSIG@KapitiGen.org before Sunday 6th April

Graeme McVerry

RootsMagic Users Group

Our first 2-monthly Zoom meeting for the year was on the 15th of March.

The overall theme was Reports where we explored the charts, narrative, list and diagnostic reports available. We all learnt something.

Next meeting: 3rd Saturday of May, 17th: 2-4pm, Zoom.

Theme: Watch this space!

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 February meeting were sent to those attending or putting in an apology.

The next in-person two-monthly DNA session is on **Saturday 12th Apr at the Waikanae Baptist Church Cafeteria, from 2 to 4pm**, doors open 1:30pm.

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

Not a member, why not join? For details, see our membership page

<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 April 5th**

'How to' Monthly short Zoom session

First Monday of the month for one hour.

Next meeting is **Monday April 7th, 8-9pm.**

Members only. Free. See **page 6** 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.



Kapiti Genealogy

PO Box 703
Paraparaumu 5452

A Branch of New Zealand Society of Genealogists

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.

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.





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: Beverly 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.

April Branch Meetings
Evening Meeting
Tuesday April 22nd

Dr Chris Pugsley
Le Quesnoy

Daytime Meeting
Wednesday April 23rd