

Kapiti Branch
New Zealand Society of Genealogists
July 2020

CONVENORS ANNUAL REPORT

The Kapiti Branch of the NZSG has enjoyed another successful year albeit that Covid-19, and the associated very necessary restrictions, did impact on some of our Branches activities in the last couple of months of our year. We are certainly very pleased to have the freedom, having dealt to Covid 19 in our country, to be able to meet and socialise together again.

Our membership remains steady at around the 200 mark and our financial position is quite healthy although as indicated over recent years there is coming a time when we will need to upgrade and modernise our computers at the Alison Procter Family History Centre at the Paraparaumu Library. In this respect we expect this upgrade to be progressed in the coming year.

Our monthly evening meetings continue to be well attended with a very good array of external speakers that has included Graham Langton "Not Just Mud and Blood WW2", Jonathan Newport from Archives NZ speaking on Land Deeds, Shona Riddell talking on her book Trial of Strength, Doug Miller on "Genealogy on the Cheap".

The internally resourced evenings have included, Brick Walls, Tell your Story, and Here is the News and Mistakes to be avoided in writing and publicising family history. Our calendar year was concluded with a fun end of year Christmas function where the quality of the chat...and food...can not be understated.

The monthly day group, very ably lead by Sonia Coom, have had an active year with one highlight being Sharon Burton from the Salvation Army Archives unit presenting to the group. Deborah Shuker also facilitated a session on Trans Tasman genealogy. Other sessions lead by Sonia have included Getting the best out of Family Search, writing your family history, getting started with writing memories, finding European ancestors and a beginners DNA session.

A very special, once in a year event, was the weekend DNA workshops run by Michelle Patient, assisted by our own Lorna, was a sell out and feedback was extremely positive.

Kathy Callaghan organised and lead visits to the National Library, Wellington City Archives and to the Salvation Army Archives in Lower Hut. Kathy's visits, as always, were well attended with participants having very enjoyable days out. Thanks Kathy.

Bev Chappell continues with her absolute dedication and commitment, along with some helpers, to lead our Wednesday open help sessions at the Alison Procter Family History Centre at the Paraparaumu Library. The number of those wanting help varies and those that do seek Bev's help come away very satisfied. I would encourage any of our members to make use of this very valuable service. Bev is always on the look out for more helpers and encourage members to volunteer a day or two to help Bev on a Wednesday.

The Schools project lead by John Glover is almost complete with all data inputted now being checked against registers. Schools included are Paekakariki, Raumati Beach, Waikanae Primary, Paraparaumu Beach, St Patricks, Kapanui and Kenakena. A special thanks to the team that has worked on this project, John Glover, Stephen Sherring, Brenda Harden, Esther Rudd, Elizabeth Lynch, Allison and Bev Chappell, Margaret Murton, Gay Ruddleston, Deborah Shuker, Frances Braddick, Meryl Opie, and Gerard Denton.

A full progress report can be found in the Nov 2019 Newsletter.

Our special interest groups, DNA, Irish, Australian, RootsMagic meet regularly either monthly or bi monthly and continue to be well supported.

The Legacy group that had been run by Gerald Twiss and Lindsay Olsen has gone into recesses after many years of activity within our Branch. Thanks to both Gerald and Lindsay for your many years of commitment to this special interest group.

While our website is visited on average 30 times a day I do draw to all our members attention what a great resource this site is and encourage you all to use it as a valuable source of information on your Branch.

Our monthly newsletters are outstanding and the source of information on all Branch activities as well as including many very interesting stories contributed by our members. This is your news letter and I encourage all members to contribute stories that our very capable Editor Sheila Jolley will very gratefully receive.

Worth a mention is our Round Robin magazine circulation system. This is where you can subscribe \$15 per specific magazine (Who do you Think you Are and Family Tree magazines) to receive a copy for reading and passing on. This gives you very low cost access to informative international genealogy magazines.

Negotiations with the Paraparaumu Library to be an Affiliate Library for the LDS Family History Centre only collections are ongoing. We are hoping to make some good progress over the next few months

Your very enthusiastic committee meet monthly and I am very grateful for their input and support in my role as Convenor. Committee members are Colin Cameron (Secretary) John Miller (Treasurer) Ian Brooking, Lorna Henderson, Donna Bridgeman, Gerard Denton, Sonia Coom and Bev Chappell.

I also make special mention of Stephen Sherring who quietly goes about organising and running our raffles and Judy Olsen who so ably attends to our suppers, a very special thanks. Ian Brooking who works tirelessly, mainly behind the scenes, in support of the committee and all our members. Ian has a finger on the pulse of most activities and we are very grateful and privileged to have him amongst us.

As most of you will know we are a Branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists. We are governed by the NZSG constitution. Of our 200 members only 60 are members of the NZSG and while there is no compulsion or requirement for our members to join the NZSG I do want to take this opportunity to encourage you all to look at what they can offer and maybe consider being a paid up member of the NZSG. At \$93 per annum it is not particularly cheap and even though, living in Kapiti, we do not have physical access to their library in Panmure there is a multitude of resources that you can access online via their website or indeed have their researchers at the NZSG dig out for you from their library. The best way to assess what is on offer is to visit their website and have a thorough look through what is available. Personally I find the bi-monthly magazine, the New Zealand Genealogist, very worthwhile and enjoyable.

Looking forward to the new year, in addition to our normal special interest groups and monthly meetings, we have commenced bi-monthly On line Tree workshops very well run by our very talented Lorna.

We will also be running a series of workshops on Genealogy for Beginners to meet the needs of new members and those within our membership that maybe from time to time are struggling with their research and recording. And as noted above it is likely we will be progressing with an upgrade to our computer facilities at the Alison Procter Family History Centre.

Our ethos remains

*“Our focus is to meet the needs of our members as they in turn pursue their own passion in family genealogy.
We will seek to provide vibrant Branch activities in a welcoming fun environment.”*

and it is our commitment as your committee to make this real for you, our valued membership. As a branch we are here to meet your needs in an informative enjoyable fun way.

Ian Barbour
Convenor

Kapiti Branch NZSG
11th July 2020