

Kapiti Branch NZSG Annual Report April 2012

Introduction

It gives me much pleasure as Acting Convenor to present to you this report for the year ended 31 March 2012.

The 2011/12 year has been one of continuing growth for the Kapiti Branch. Membership has continued to grow. In many ways this can be attributed to the increasing patronage of the Wednesday morning help sessions open to members of the public and branch members and also the enthusiasm of the convenor of the Wednesday morning sessions, Bev Chappell, who invariably sends visitors home with branch information and then arrives at a subsequent committee meeting with an application form for another paid up member. The final membership total for the year is 275. NZSG membership is 93 or 34% of the total membership. The committee is attempting to increase NZSG membership by holding bi-monthly information sessions on the services NZSG has to offer.

Programme of Activities

Special Interest Groups continue to hold regular meetings although there has been a downward trend in attendance at these sessions. An informative evening when leaders of the Irish, Scottish and Australian SIGS explained the services they can offer may see an improvement in attendance at these meetings. Statistical returns show a small increase in the numbers attending monthly Branch meetings. This is due to the excellent programming and advertising of forthcoming speakers. Also, features in 2011/12 included the early evening sessions on the use of the resources in the Alison Proctor Family History Centre, the "Genealogy Game" and the continuing YURU project. These are all being repeated in the 2012/13 year.

Alison Proctor Family History Centre (APFHC)

Our continued excellent relationship with the Kapiti Coast District Libraries continues and the Library Management has always endeavoured to make our use of the facilities most welcoming.

It was regrettable that the Manager, Leslie Clague retired from the position during the year. However her replacement, Leeann Morgan is just as enthusiastic and is keen to keep in touch with our activities. Minor problems have been experienced over the year with the hardware but these have been resolved in time. The "honesty box" for printing costs continues to be a small source of income for replacement paper and ink cartridges.

Kapiti Branch Incorporation

Changes are afoot on a national basis to bring branches in line with modern legal requirements. The Branch Committee is therefore recommending to members that an application be made for Registration as an Incorporated Society. The draft set of Rules and Bylaws will be forwarded to members for comment and put to a Special General Meeting for approval. The first step is to authorize the preparation of the set of Rules and Bylaws and a motion to this effect will be put to the Annual General Meeting.

YURU

Our 2011 production with Sir Jon Trimmer as our subject was an unqualified success. Our foray into taking the production out of Paraparaumu to the Family History Fair at Hamilton was a great learning experience for all who travelled there. We learnt much from the experience and this will greatly assist us in future productions. Sir Jon however rose above all the small problems which beset us and was in fine form keeping his audience enthralled.

During the current year Clive Palmer and Sue Greene have been holding regular meetings with Dame Kate Harcourt, the subject of our 2012 production of YURU. Agreement has been reached to hold two sessions at Southwards and a further session at Circa Theatre.

Acknowledgements

It is a measure of the success and unity within the committee that all current members are standing for re-election I wish to place on record my appreciation of the work they carry out on your behalf. Also included in this are all those other members who so willingly assist "behind the scenes". I refer to Judy Olsen who continues to help with supper; Lindsay Olsen who looks after and sets up our projector and lap top equipment; Mary Braddock who has all the name tags set out for us; Adele Smith who organises the raffle; Meryl Opie for the smooth running of the Round Robin system; Kerry Lee who knows how to assemble the connections for the sound system; Derek Griffis who walks for miles delivering APBs and Newsletters and sets out the help desk at Branch Meetings; Clive Palmer who is a member of the Constitution Review Committee and who together with Sue Greene our Research Officer are putting together this year's YURU presentation not to forget Ross Callaghan who will be preparing the Power Point presentation for this event. I also acknowledge the willing band of members who volunteer every Wednesday morning at the APFHC to assist members and others with their research. If I have missed out anyone my apologies. You all contribute to the smooth running of the Branch.

Bill McKeich
#18567
Acting Convenor