

# **Kapiti Branch NZSG Annual Report, April 2013**

## ***Introduction***

It gives me much pleasure as Convenor to present to you this report for the year ended 31 March 2013.

The 2012/13 year has been again one of continuing growth for the Kapiti Branch. Membership continues to grow and in many ways this can be attributed to the success of the public sessions held regularly throughout the year. It is still disappointing to record that only a small increase of 1% has been made in the number of Branch Members belonging to NZSG. This is difficult to understand when Branch officers have repeatedly reported at Branch meetings and in the Newsletter the services available to members through NZSG membership. Branch membership was 281 as at 31 March with NZSG Membership at 100 or 35.5%. This means that only 35.5% of our Branch membership is eligible to hold office in the Branch.

## ***Programme of Activities***

The Special Interest Groups continue to show a downward turn in attendances and due to increases in fees for the use of the rooms at KCC in particular, a question mark hangs over the viability of some of the groups. However the decrease in attendance at these group meetings has more than been offset by the increase in attendance at the public sessions held on Wednesday mornings between 10 a.m. and 12 noon. Also the two new initiatives introduced by Kathy Callaghan and Frances Braddick, namely B2B and MOPS have been outstanding successes and there are plans to extend these into next year's programme. B2B or Back to Basics which teaches the beginning genealogist basic research skills and even caters for the more experienced genealogist in reminding them of the fundamentals in genealogical research. MOPS or Members Only Personal Session is an opportunity for members of the Branch to have their own time exploring the resources at the APFHC with experienced researchers on hand to help.

Our monthly Branch Meetings have been well attended and the high calibre of the speakers and excellent advertising are no doubt responsible for this. This will continue into the New Year and our Programming Committee has already planned activities up until the end of 2013.

## ***Alison Proctor Family History Centre (APFHC)***

The Branch continues to have an excellent relationship with the management of the Paraparaumu Library and meetings have been held between members of the committee and the manager, Leann Morgan.

During the year the Branch purchased two new computers bringing to six the number of computers able to be used by members for research at the APFHC. A new printer was also purchased and after initial teething problems all the problems associated with the new equipment seem to be ironed out. The Library Management also assisted by removing the Newspaper Reading section to another area downstairs thus allowing us more table space for our equipment.

## ***Kapiti Branch Incorporation***

At last year's AGM, members gave approval for your Committee to draft rules for the option of the branch becoming an Incorporated Society. This has been put on hold until our parent body, the New Zealand Society of Genealogists Inc., has its position clarified in the wake of government reviews of the legislation affecting the acts relating to the incorporation and conduct of charitable organisations. Nothing is likely to happen in the near future and in the meantime the status quo prevails. NZSG Councilor, Clive Palmer has kept us apprised of the situation and his sound advice is appreciated.

## ***Why You Are You (YURU)***

This project has become the Flagship of the Kapiti Branch. To put it simply we are in demand to show this programme throughout the country. As I mentioned last year it began with our trip to the Family History Fair in Hamilton with Sir Jon Trimmer. This current financial year has seen the team take our production of "Virtues from the Past" with Dame Kate Harcourt to not only Southwards Theatre Paraparaumu and Circa Theatre in Wellington but also to the Cue Theatre in Inglewood and the Harlequin Theatre in Masterton. A shortened version will also be presented to the NZSG AGM weekend at Pukekohe in Auckland.

The production team of Clive Palmer and Sue Greene are currently working on the research and script for our next production which will feature Rodger Fox of Wellington Big Band fame. A tribute must be paid to our Research Officer Sue Greene who spends many hours researching the family history of our subjects each year.

## ***Awards***

At our November 2012 meeting Life Membership Awards were presented to Derek Griffis and Sue Greene. Certificate of Appreciation awards were presented to Barry Thomson, Meryl Opie, Gerald Twiss and Deborah Shuker. These awards were presented to recognize the invaluable service the recipients had given to the Branch over many years.

## ***Acknowledgements***

I wish to place on record my thanks to all members of the committee for the many hours of voluntary time they have put into the smooth running of Kapiti Genealogy. They have worked together as a team and it is a measure of their success that all are willing to stand for a further term of office as your committee. They would welcome others to join them in their work on your behalf. Remember that to be a member of the committee you must be a paid up member of NZSG.

Thanks must also go to all those Branch members outside the committee who contribute to the smooth running of the Branch. They know who they are and you see many of them working away behind the scenes at Branch Meetings, at the research sessions in the APFHC and at the Kapiti Community Centre when the Special Interest Groups meet. Their efforts are appreciated.

Bill McKeich  
#18567  
Convenor