

Kapiti Branch NZSG Annual Report April 2014

Introduction

It gives me much pleasure as Convenor of Kapiti Genealogy to present to you this report for the year ended 31 March 2014.

The 2013/14 year has seen the Branch consolidate its membership at just below the 250 mark. Whilst there have been a few resignations this has been offset by a steady stream of new members. These new members have in the main been recruited after they have attended the public sessions held at the Alison Proctor Family History Centre. Beverley Chappell ensures that each new person visiting the APFHC learns about the advantages of belonging to the Branch. It is still disappointing though that membership of NZSG is a low 40%. With the research services available from the NZSG a larger percentage would have been expected. Under the present rules of the NZSG only those NZSG members belonging to our branch can be appointed to the Branch committee. Obviously this limits the number of people we can call on to be committee members.

Programme of Activities

I do not intend listing all the activities we have enjoyed over the past year. These have been well documented in our Newsletter. Suffice to say that Kathy Callaghan and Frances Braddick have brought to the Branch some excellent speakers and organised instructional activities to cater for those members who wish to learn more about the resources we hold and how to use them. As I have previously indicated Beverley Chappell has continued to organise the Wednesday morning sessions open to the public and it is to her credit that our membership remains steady.

Alison Proctor Family History Centre

Good use is made of the bank of computers we have and the resources available. In addition there is the collection of books and magazines which are available for members to use. Beverley Chappell is constantly upgrading and caring for these resources and we are indebted to her enthusiasm. The Branch decided that the six computers required to be all standardised and to this end an IT specialist has been employed. Dirk has not only ironed out many of the problems we were experiencing but has also given us a standard interface on all six computers. Sessions have been held to familiarise members on the use of the computers.

Why You Are You (YURU)

We have continued to enjoy the popularity of this programme and this years choice of subject – Rodger Fox of Wellington Big Band fame was no exception. Roger took us on a trip down memory lane with his family's involvement in the Jazz world over successive generations. This would not have been possible without the research expertise of our

Research Officer Sue Greene ably supported by Clive Palmer. The production team have been hard at work again to produce the 2014 YURU presentation entitled "Soldiers Tales From the Trenches". This will be a tribute to five local servicemen who lost their lives in WWI.

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. It has been a great team effort. Special mention should be made of the three members of the committee who are not seeking re-election. They are Clive Palmer, Lyn Lee and Kathleen Gibson. Their input at the meetings will be sorely missed but I am sure that they will maintain contact with the branch and help wherever possible. For example Clive Palmer has agreed to continue his involvement with the YURU programme.

Thanks must also go to all those Branch members who contribute to the smooth running of the Branch. They know who they are, and you see them serving cups of coffee and tea at Branch meetings, running the raffle, setting up equipment at meetings, helping at the APFHC on Wednesday mornings, organising the special interest groups, delivering newsletters to those not on email and a host of other jobs. Their efforts are appreciated.

Bill McKeich

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Convenor