

Kapiti Branch NZSG Annual Report April 2016

It is with great pleasure, as Convenor of the Kapiti Branch, to present to you this report for the year ended 31 March 2016.

The year started on a rather unsettled note with the move from our upstairs location in the library to downstairs along the western wall. Naturally there were several teething problems but, by and large, these have now been resolved. One final outstanding issue is installing the Alison Procter plaque in our new location. The plaque went missing for a while, until it was discovered that the builders had actually built over it. I am happy to report that a replacement plaque will be organised for us by the library. Thank you to the committee and library staff for working so hard to make the transition as smooth as possible. And thank you, to you the members, for your patience while we got things up and running again.

Programme of Activities

Our gratitude goes to Ian Brooking for co-ordinating our excellent "Speakers' Programme", which I am sure is the reason why we have such good membership attendance at our monthly meetings. Ian tells me that a lot of planning had already been done by Kathy and Frances from the previous year so thank you ladies, and thank you Kathy for continuing to organise our outdoor trips to the National Archives and National Library.

In the past year we have been fortunate to have had a wonderfully diverse range of speakers, with a mix of members and visitors generously sharing their knowledge of their chosen topic. We extend our thanks to them and to all those who provided us with valuable "How to" sessions each month.

I would also like to say a special thank you to the members for their generous support of our raffle each month, the proceeds of which contribute towards our running costs. If any member has an idea on additional resources that would be of value to the Branch, that could be purchased with the raffle proceeds, could you please put your idea forward to the committee.

Special Interest User Groups

Our Special Interest User Groups are in good health thanks to the dedication of our group leaders; the Australian Interest Group led by Deborah Shuker, and the Legacy Users Group led by Gerald Twiss.

I am pleased to say that we will also be adding a Roots Magic User Group led by Lorna Henderson, and this will be starting on Sunday 15 May from 2 – 4 pm here at the Community Centre.

Schools Records Project

John Glover and his team continue to make impressive progress with transcribing the admissions records of our local schools, with Paraparaumu Beach School being the latest school to be recruited by Bill McKeich. John, we extend our thanks to you and your team.

YURU

For many years Clive Palmer and Sue Greene have successfully researched and presented the YURU programme, and there is no doubt that they have achieved great results. However, due to the demands this programme was placing on the committee, and following discussion with Clive and Sue, it was with regret that the committee came to the decision to relinquish the Agency for this programme. Despite this decision, our heartfelt thanks go to Clive and Sue for their dedication and energy towards the YURU programme.

Clive is continuing his work on the "30 Year History of Kapiti Genealogy" and has recently assisted a member of the public to compile a family history booklet. He has generously extended an offer of assistance to Branch members who may wish to do the same thing.

Brick walls

We have had some small measure of success in helping members to break down some of those stubborn brick walls. Sometimes all it takes is a set of fresh eyes, so members are invited to send in their brick wall, and also to let us know if they are willing to review someone else's brick wall.

Acknowledgments

At our end-of-year November 2015 meeting we took the opportunity to say a special thank you to Beverly Chappell and Lorna Henderson by awarding them both a Kapiti Branch life membership. They make an outstanding contribution to the Branch, Bev as our Librarian and at the Wednesday morning public help-desk sessions, and Lorna as our Treasurer, and a multitude of other tasks. Their commitment to the Branch is highly valued by us all.

To Dianne Sleeman, who is stepping down from committee this year, thank you for your time, energy and good humour while on the committee. Dianne has taken on the role of Meeting Registrar, and will continue in this role, but would like someone to take over from her.

To Meryl Opie, thank you for continuing to run the Round Robins for "Family Tree" and "Who do you think you are?" magazines.

Thanks also go to our willing helpers at the Branch meetings: Lindsay Olsen for technical support, Judy Olsen for supper duties, ably assisted this year by Nina O'Flynn, and all those who help to set up the room prior to the meeting and stay to clear things away at the end. Thank you also for contributing material and ideas for discussion and training, and to those who have provided our wonderful Editor, Sheila Jolley, with information for the newsletter. Sheila has done a wonderful job and is so polite when chasing me for my report! Thank you Sheila.

I would like to say a personal "Thank you" to all of our committee members, particularly Denice and Frances who have shared the more difficult duties of Secretary. It has been a real pleasure working with such a marvellous group of people.

Looking to the future.

We have a positive and vibrant Branch that is led by an equally positive and vibrant committee and we would very much like it to stay this way. In order to do this, we need to have a healthy succession plan. Many of our volunteers are at the time of their lives when they would like to pursue other interests, such as travel and other hobbies. We would like to be in the position to say to all our volunteers that we have the resources to cover their duties, so that they can take time off without causing disruption to the running of the Branch. I would therefore request that all members consider ways in which they may be able to "deputise" any of the numerous, but generally simple duties within the Branch. We would appreciate any offer of help, no matter how small.

Hilary Cunningham

NZSG No. 26242

Convenor