

Kapiti Branch NZSG Annual Report May 2017

It is with great pleasure that I present the Convenor's report for the year 2016 – 2017 year.

APFHC

Our facility at the Paraparaumu library continues to provide members with valuable resource material for the continuation of their family history research. We owe a great deal to Bev Chappell who remains the driving force behind the Wednesday morning Help Desk, so thank you Bev. We have introduced a 1 – 3 pm Help Desk on the first Saturday of each month. Please feel free to take your research along and ask for assistance with any of your queries.

This year we have added a subscription to the Genealogist to our computers and have recently replaced the printer.

There have been some on-going compatibility issues with our facilities and those on the library network. Fortunately, Ian Brooking and Lorna Henderson have been working hard to get these problems fixed and are doing everything they can to keep on top of things. Please keep in mind that Bev, Ian and Lorna are volunteers who give freely of their time and expertise. We don't want members taking their frustrations out on them just because something is not working as it should. Please be respectful, and maybe even grateful, to our volunteers when you see them at the library.

Member Survey

Towards the end of last year, we conducted a member's survey. I would like to thank Bernard McManus, for undertaking this task so professionally. Everything worked very smoothly, and the feedback from members was both positive and constructive. A special committee meeting was held to analyse the results and to look at ways we could act on the suggestions that were put forward. Some have been implemented and

others will be introduced in due course. Thank you again to all those who participated.

Programme of Activities

Ian Brooking is also the co-ordinator of our "Speakers' Programme". At the beginning of each year the committee has a brainstorming session to identify potentially interesting speakers, and Ian has done a great job of following up on these suggestions and has put an excellent programme together.

Special Interest Groups

Our Special Interest Groups continue to flourish thanks to the dedication of our group leaders. We have the Australian Group led by Deborah Shuker, as well as our two software groups; the Legacy Users Group led by Gerald Twiss and the Roots Magic group led by Lorna Henderson. Lorna also leads the DNA group which has an ever-growing membership!

Schools Records Project

John Glover and his team continue to make impressive progress with transcribing the admissions records of our local schools, so congratulations to you all.

General Acknowledgments

Thank you to Lindsey and Judy Olsen. Lyndsey helps with technical support and Judy manages the supper duties. Recently they had to attend to family matters overseas and they were sorely missed. Thank you to Ian, Bill McKeich and Brian Ross for stepping in to help with the technical issues, and to Bev and Denice for taking over supper duties. We also really appreciate those members who assist with the supper duties, and those who help set up the room and clear away at the end of the meeting.

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

We are no longer collecting used ink cartridges, but I'd like to thank Pat Keppel and Jill Craig for their support with this project.

Kathy Callaghan continues to run our “Out and about” events, however they have been curtailed somewhat by the earthquake damage to both the National Library and the National Archive buildings.

Stephen Sherring has taken the lead role in running the raffle, although as back up, I might still be called on to relieve you of your gold coins from time to time. The raffle continues to run well and contributes to the costs of holding our meetings, so thank you to everyone for your support.

Donna Bridgeman has taken over as meeting registrar and is doing a great job, so thank you Donna for being so reliable and enthusiastic in this very important role.

As I will be standing down as Convenor I would like to offer a sincere thank you to all committee members I have worked with for their support, but especially to the sitting committee: Lorna as Treasurer, Denice as Secretary, Sheila as Editor, Bev, Ian, Bill and Bernard. Due to personal time constraints, there have been many times when I have relied on them to undertake tasks for me, and I have really appreciated this support. I wish the committee all the best for the year ahead.

And finally, Thank you!” to you the members, especially to those who support us by turning up to special events, and monthly meetings, and who help in lots of small way to run and promote the Kapiti Branch of the NZ Society of Genealogist.

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