

Kapiti Branch NZSG Annual Report April 2015

Introduction

It gives me much pleasure as Convenor of Kapiti Genealogy to present to you this report for the year ended 31 March 2015.

The 2014/15 year has seen the Branch consolidate its membership at just above the 230 mark. New members have in the main been recruited after they have attended the public sessions held at the Alison Proctor Family History Centre. The Research Helpers ensure that visitors to the APFHC learn about the advantages of belonging to the Branch. Members are also encouraged to explore the benefits of belonging to our national body, the NZ Society of Genealogists, as recently highlighted by NZSG Councillor Gill Knox at a Branch meeting.

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.

Alison Procter 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 microfiche, books and magazines which are available for members to use. As the Branch Librarian Beverley Chappell looks after these resources, together with scheduling the volunteers who help at our Wednesday morning public sessions, and we are indebted to her enthusiasm. Volunteers for the latter are always welcome, especially as our forthcoming shift to a more visible position in the library should result in an increase in demand for our services.

The six computers have been standardised and our IT specialist Dirk continues to ensure that they are maintained to a high standard. Sessions are regularly held to familiarise members on the use of the computers.

Why You Are You (YURU)

The 2014 production of YURU was entitled "Soldiers Tales from the Trenches". This was a tribute to local servicemen who lost their lives in WW1. The involvement of the Paraparaumu Library staff, Archives New Zealand, Waiouru Military Museum, WW1 historians and NZSG was appreciated. This production could not have happened without the wonderful efforts of Clive Palmer and Sue Greene. The results of their work will continue to be used in the future.

Schools' Records Project.

Following the disastrous fire at Paraparaumu School when all of their historical records were destroyed, the Branch was able to retrieve from NZSG records of Admittance and Withdrawal from the school's opening up to 1976. These were presented to the school at a small ceremony. The Branch then decided to take on the task of updating the records of all schools in the district. This received the approval of NZSG and our member John Glover agreed to be the co-ordinator. The project had the support of the local schools and began in earnest at the beginning of 2015. A small group of about 12 Branch Members are working on the project and making great progress.

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 two members of the committee who are not seeking re-election, Kathy Callaghan and Frances Braddick. Their input at the meetings and organising the year's programme will be sorely missed but I am sure that they will maintain contact with the branch and help wherever possible.

Mary Braddock is also reluctantly relinquishing her role as the Meeting Registrar due to ill health. For five years Mary has kept the monthly attendance register, provided name labels and ensured newcomers were welcomed warmly at the monthly meetings.

We are also losing the invaluable services of Derek Griffis who for many years has quietly and efficiently performed a number of functions, most particularly acting as our postman collecting the mail, and delivering membership cards at renewal time, and snail mail newsletters to those without computers. For some reason he thinks at his age he should think about retirement!

Thanks also go to Sheila Jolley for taking on the challenge of producing our monthly newsletter – Lorna is most appreciative her lightened workload.

Thanks must also go to all other members not already specifically named 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, setting up equipment at meetings, helping at the APFHC on Wednesday mornings, organising the special interest groups, collecting printer cartridges, and a host of other jobs. Their efforts are appreciated.

Bill McKeich

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Convenor