

**Kapiti Branch
New Zealand Society of Genealogists
May 2019**

CONVENORS ANNUAL REPORT

The Kapiti Branch of the NZSG has enjoyed another very successful year with membership peaking at 201 and the many Branch activities being well supported by members. The members who volunteer their time and energy are a key to this success.

The monthly evening meetings have included guest speakers and had an average attendance of 50 while the daytime group, which mainly focuses on research assistance, is growing with attendance currently around 20.

Your Committee meets monthly to plan, organize and monitor all activities of the Branch.

Branch Evening Monthly Meetings

External speakers have included.

David Dell, creator and curator of the Sheet Music Archive of NZ, told the story of the Music Archives and their relevance to genealogy. David very ably illustrated the talk by singing songs from our past, including rugby and World War One numbers.

Barbara Mulligan, organizer of the popular Karori Cemetery Tours, talked on the Karori Cemetery 1918 Influenza project that she leads. The project aims to identify and memorialize the 650 or so Wellington victims of that disastrous flu epidemic.

Jenny Martin is the coordinator of the Family Search Help Desk at the National library in Wellington and spoke on Family Search Affiliate Libraries and the role they can play in assisting you with your research. In particular, how they give much greater access to digital images of many of the documents in the Family Search databases.

Peter Farrell, Novelist and Historian talked about a book he published in 2013 "The Lie that Settles" which follows the journey Peter embarked on in finding his birth father, having lived a large part of his life being told his father had died when Peter was a child.

The balance of our meetings have covered topics including, Collaborative online family trees, using Facebook to help with your research, DNA to grow your family tree, breaking down brick walls, members' stories and woman's suffrage.

Our own members very ably lead these sessions.

The November evening monthly meeting was the traditional Christmas end of Year function, which was very well attended. Food, wine, chocolate and fun, as stories were shared amongst like-minded enthusiastic fellow genealogists. An annual event not to be missed!

Daytime Monthly Meetings

The Daytime group, led by Sonia Coom, has gone from strength to strength and focuses mainly on helping with your research, supplemented from time to time with guest speakers from our own membership.

The Daytime meetings are particularly suited for those who cannot make it out to the monthly evening meetings. However they are complimentary to the evening meetings making attendance at both really attractive option.

Bi Monthly and Monthly Special Interest Group Meetings

These special interest group meetings are enthusiastically attended and are a must for members who use, or have interest in, the specific topics.

These sessions are lead by experts in their field and I encourage members to make full use of these workshops.

The bi monthly workshops include.

Roots Magic and Legacy (genealogy computer programs) Lorna leads the Roots Magic sessions and Gerald Twiss the Legacy group.

DNA group, also lead by Lorna, is an absolute gem for those interested in DNA for helping trace their families. Lorna has outstanding knowledge in this area and the group is growing, again a must for active and prospective DNA researchers.

The monthly workshops include

An Australian interest group, run By Deborah Shuker, and an Irish group lead by Donna Bridgeman meet at the Library. Both these groups focus on helping you with your research in those countries including relevant emigration to New Zealand.

Graeme McKenzie Visit

Graham McKenzie, Scottish Historian and Genealogist from Scotland, gave a full day presentation on the Scotland Highlands and Clans in March, which was very well received by the ninety attendees.

Visits to Wellington National Library and Archives NZ

Kathy Callaghan leads these annual visits that have now become a regular great day out for members. The visits are very informative highlighting what historic genealogy information is available at these institutions and is a very good starting point for those wishing to access information from the National Library or Archives.

Local Schools Registers Project

Many volunteers, ably lead by John Glover, have now completed inputting school registers from Paekakariki, Raumati, Waikanae Primary, Paraparumu, St Patricks, Kapanui and Kenakena. All the inputted data is now being cross-checked.

Back to Basics

A second Back to Basics series of workshops was run in June for fifteen very keen members. A lot of learning and a fun afternoon out.

We recognize that genealogy research ranges from basics to very sophisticated research. We are aware that for many of our members workshops focusing on the basics are still needed and we will be seeking input on how we can best meet these needs.

Paraparaumu Library

A special area of the Paraparaumu Library, The Alison Proctor Family History Centre, APFHC, is a resource available to both our membership, at all times when the library is open, and prospective members on a Wednesday morning when the Centre is ably staffed by Beverley Chappell. The APFHC has various resources available including free access to subscription sites for research, Ancestry.com, thegenealogist.com and FindMyPast. A large collection of Branch owned books, compact discs, fiche and magazines and the very informative NZSG bi monthly magazine, the Genealogist, is also available. I would encourage members to make full use of this very well set up facility.

Newsletters and KapitiGen website

Our website KapitiGen.org and monthly newsletters are a great source of Branch information and how you can participate and draw from Branch activities. We also love to have membership contributions for our Newsletter so please take this opportunity to share your stories, along with research sources, hints and techniques.

The Year Ahead

Our focus is to meet the needs of our members as they in turn pursue their own passion in family genealogy.

We will seek to provide vibrant Branch activities in a welcoming fun environment.

Specifically in the areas of simple introductory genealogy activities, we seek you're input and suggestions.

Please do not hesitate to come forward with any ideas you may have on how we can better meet the needs of our Membership.

In Conclusion

In concluding my report I do want to make special mention of some very special people.

Lorna Henderson, a stalwart of our Branch that has world-class genealogy knowledge. Lorna has had mobility issues and not been able to attend activities in recent months but be assured her home has been a welcoming location for many meetings and fun times. We look forward to having Lorna, back on her wheels at our meetings soon!

Ian Brooking whom tirelessly, mainly behind the scenes, gives his time in almost every area of the Branches activities. Ian's background and knowledge is an immeasurable asset to our Branch.

Beverley Chappell, who is not only a very active committee member, spends Wednesday mornings at the APFHC Library Genealogy research sessions. This is a commitment on a very regular basis that we very much appreciate.

Judy and Lindsay Olsen who organize the monthly suppers and always there to set up and clean up, with a smile.

Stephen Sherring our raffle man who just gets on and does the raffles month after month.

Sheila Jolley for the hours spent as Editor of the Newsletter. It is no easy job bringing all our Branch information together in a monthly Newsletter and Sheila does an amazing job.

Sonia Coom, an active committee member who in January set up and runs the monthly Daytime meetings with her band of helpers, May Redmond, Rose Demenech, Gay Ruddlesden, Marilyn McMillan and Donna Bridgeman Sonia's energy levels are to be aspired too!

Kathy Callaghan for organizing our annual visit to the National Library. Kathy's knowledge of, and contacts she has at the National Library and her ongoing commitment to this annual activity is much appreciated.

Gerald Twiss, Deborah Shuker and Donna Bridgeman for their dedicated commitment and leadership of their respective interest groups

Fellow committee members, a special vote of thanks for your regular full attendance at our monthly meetings, your ideas and willingness to actively support our Branch activities.

Lorna is resigning from the Treasurer position but has groomed John Miller to assume this role upon election. Lorna will stand for re-election to the Committee and retain her membership officer role.

Denice McCarten is resigning from the role of Secretary and not standing for re-election to the Committee.

We thank both Denice and Lorna for the many years they have served in these roles.

And for those not mentioned by name a big thanks to you all and I look forward to another exciting and fulfilling year of genealogy activities.

Ian Barbour

Convener

Kapiti Branch NZSG