

**KAPITI BRANCH, NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF
GENEALOGISTS INC.
HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 1 2007 TO 30
SEPTEMBER 2008**

Introduction

Due to recent changes to the Constitution and Rules of our parent body, our Branch Financial Year will from 2009, fall between the dates of April 1 to March 31 in the year following. Our next Annual General Meeting will therefore take place sometime after March 31 2009. This change is to bring the Society and its Branches in line with the IRD tax year and the Charities Act, the latter of which allows organisations to seek charity status and tax exemptions. There is thus a transition period between old and new financial years.

This report is an interim statement of highlights over the past 12 months. A full report for the period October 1 2007 to March 31 2009 will be presented at the next AGM.

Membership

Our membership continues to grow as the following figures show. (Previous year in parenthesis). Public promotions, EXPO style events, media coverage and word of mouth see a steady stream of newcomers. Your Committee emphasises the community role of the Branch on the Coast, with publicity and marketing an important portfolio.

Branch only (Associates)	121	(130)
Full members (NZSG)	110	(92)
TOTAL	231	(222)

Programme of Activities

We continue to offer a wide range of activities. A large membership has an equally large range of interests and commitments. Monthly meetings continue to be well attended and after a membership survey we have tried to make them more user friendly by cutting down on administrative detail, opening evenings with supper and having extra facilitators on hand to greet newcomers and help with enquiries. Wednesday morning sessions at our research facility continue and for the second year running we supplemented these with additional help sessions on some Wednesday afternoons and Saturday mornings. Visits to ArchivesNZ and the National Library proved popular. On the education front we ran a well attended Starters Course and a special interest day for Celtic researchers on Ireland and Scotland. The newsletter is an important source of information and positive feedback includes those unable to participate in activities.

The renamed Computer Friendly Genealogy Group (formerly COMSIG), continues to hold interest, together with the Australian and Family Tree Maker groups.

Research facilities

Our research facility at Paraparaumu Public Library gets steady use and we continue to enjoy an excellent working relationship with KCDC Library staff. This includes agreement for their IT manager to look after our electronics and referrals of people seeking advice on family history. At a special ceremony in April, the facility was dedicated as the “Alison Procter Family History Centre” in memory of a long standing NZSG/Branch member and librarian, who died last year.

We continue to add resources as funding permits. A major boost to the facility was a grant of \$11000 from Pub Charity to purchase the NZ Gazette Archive. The archive is a huge historical resource dating back to the 1840s. In an agreement with KCDC Libraries, we have made the Archive available for public use on the PCs in all 3 district libraries. Kapiti Branch retains ownership of the resource and the library has agreed to fund annual updates.

Charities registration

In line with advice from NZSG, Kapiti joined many other branches in applying for registration as a charity and thus tax exemption from earnings, donations and grants, which will come into force next year. Charities Commission is bogged down in applications and we have been advised that our case is some months off any final decision.

Finance

Our finances remain in a healthy state and an unaudited summary of the balance at 30 Sept 2008 is available for this AGM. These should be judged with caution until a full and audited statement of accounts are presented to the next AGM. A small increase in subs approved at the 2007 AGM has helped meet inflation costs. Adjusted subs for the 18 month period ahead are coming in steadily. We will have to look at how best to fund some capital items in the next few months, which include extra storage space at the APFHC and Kapiti Community Centre, and additional computer equipment.

Conclusion

Another busy period has passed and again I am very grateful to the small core of volunteers without whom we could not operate. Likewise our Committee members and Appointed Officers do sterling work to keep the Branch as active as it is. Special thanks to Lindsay Olsen who manages our portable computer equipment, which in this day and age is required at all meetings and research sessions. Several Officers and Committee members have indicated they wish to stand down next year, so again I give members notice that the future of the Branch is in your hands. We need new faces now. Ideally, we should use the next few months to have some understudies on board to ease any transition.

Clive Palmer
Convenor