



## Kapiti Branch

### Kapiti Branch, New Zealand Society of Genealogists

P O Box 703, Paraparaumu [kapiti\(at\)genealogy.org.nz](mailto:kapiti@genealogy.org.nz)

[www.rootsweb.com/~nzlsgkb/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~nzlsgkb/)

Registered charity no. CC33988

### May 2009 Newsletter

#### Meetings coming up

**Tuesday 26 May, 7pm for 7.30pm**

Kapiti Branch meeting

**25th anniversary and YURU**

Kapiti Community Centre

**Wednesday 3 June, 1pm to 3pm**

Help with your research

Alison Procter Family History Centre

**Monday 8 June, 7.30pm**

Computer-friendly genealogy

Kapiti Community Centre

Navigating Ancestry.com: printing census pages and searching with wild cards

#### Looking ahead

**Tuesday 23 June**

Kapiti branch meeting

**Ordering LDS films at National Library**

Kapiti Community Centre

**Saturday 4 July, 10am to midday**

Help with your research

Alison Procter Family History Centre

**Monday 13 July, 7.30pm**

Computer-friendly genealogy

Kapiti Community Centre

### Celebrating 25 years of Kapiti Branch

What a lot of family history research has been done in Kapiti in the last 25 years! Back in May 1984, June Pritchett chaired a meeting of 22 enthusiastic family historians and the result was the formation of a steering committee for a local genealogy society. Kapiti Branch now has ten times that number, at 220 members.

Members are invited to a special celebration at the time and place of our usual monthly branch meeting – Tuesday 26 May at the Kapiti Community Centre, starting with drinks and nibbles at 7pm.

The highlight of the evening will be the *Why You Are You (YURU)* presentation of the family history of Raumati author, journalist and radio producer, Anna Kenna. Some members saw a preview of this at the Find Your Family expo at Coastlands last Labour Weekend, but research never stops, and this presentation will include the latest findings. Volunteers from Kapiti Branch provided the expert research knowhow Anna needed to find out about her family in Ireland.

In honour of the occasion, we have invited some official guests, including Kapiti District Council mayor Jenny Rowan and the president of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists, David Bryant.

Join us for an entertaining evening and a slice of anniversary cake. Visitors are welcome, but there will be a door charge of \$5 for non-members.

## **National Library renovation**

The government has decided to scale back the proposed revamp of the National Library building, but collections will still need to be relocated during renovations. Details of the relocation and access will be confirmed soon.

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## **Branch notes**

### **We still need a convenor!**

No nominations were received for the positions of convenor or secretary at April's AGM. Since then, committee member Dave Muirhead has volunteered to take on the secretary's role, but we are still looking for a convenor.

It's an ideal time to take on this role, as the branch is in good shape financially and in terms of research resources, and there's a good-sized, experienced committee. The main task is to keep an overview of the branch activities and to help coordinate them.

The committee meets the first Wednesday evening of each month. For more information please contact Derek Griffis or Sue Greene.

### **Computer-Friendly Genealogy meetings**

The aim of this group is to help and encourage members with genealogy on computers. We are usually online on meeting nights with practical demonstrations.

Our meetings include the use of web sites for genealogy, using genealogy programmes, and much more. We also offer some help with computer problems, but major problems should be referred to a technician.

These meetings are held for all members of the branch. See the branch programme for more details. It's on the branch website at [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nzlsgkb/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nzlsgkb/)

### **Family history starters course coming to Kapiti**

Know anyone who's just beginning their research? Looking for some new ideas for rearranging those brick walls? We're planning a starters course in Kapiti on 19-20 September, so make a note on your calendar now.

### **New members**

Welcome to Diane HARRIS, Sallie PEARSON and Joanna NICOL, who have joined the branch since the last newsletter.

### **Branch meeting report – April**

Welcome to the branch committee, Bill McKeich! Bill joins returning committee members who were re-elected at the AGM at the April meeting. The full list of elected committee members can be seen on page 4. Responsibilities of members will be confirmed at the June committee meeting.

After the AGM, we heard about the resources now available at the Alison Procter Family History Centre, located upstairs at Paraparaumu Library. Resources are accessible to members any time the library is open, by presenting your branch membership card and Kapiti Coast library card at the information desk.

Bev Chappell showed some samples from the book collection, including:

- *For Your Tomorrow* (volume 3), a collection of brief biographical notes on New

Zealand airforce casualties

- a selection of family histories, including some written by Kapiti branch members
- Phillimore's atlas and index, which shows boundaries of English parishes
- genealogy magazines, such as *Ancestors*. You can join a round robin to read the newest issues of these. See details on our branch website [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nzlsgkb](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nzlsgkb).

Derek Griffis gave a rundown on the branch collection of 10,000 microfiche, which includes New Zealand electoral rolls and monumental inscriptions, as well as indexes to births, deaths and marriages from New Zealand, New South Wales and Victoria.

New Zealand births, deaths and marriages can now be searched online at [www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz), but by searching the fiche you can overcome the problem of variations in spelling and mistakes in transcription. Any anticipated entry "not" found on the website may yet be found on the microfiche. Registration district codes listed on the fiche (not those on the website) can be checked against the district key books to establish where in New Zealand the event took place.

Clive Palmer and Sue Greene talked about websites and databases available on the branch computers. Using these computers, members can get free access to [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com) and [findmypast.com](http://findmypast.com), two databases of overseas genealogy records, which are extensive (and expensive if you have to subscribe yourself).

They provide British census records for 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891 and 1901, selected ship's passenger lists, some military records, and much more. Instructions for using the computer (including the password) are in a booklet kept in the locked cupboard. Sign out the key at the library information desk.

#### **Tea makers for May meeting**

Take a turn with the tea urn. If your surname begins with the letters **G to M**, please be at the May branch meeting by 7pm to help prepare the hot drinks. In June it will be someone else's turn.

#### **Library news**

Items of interest from other branch newsletters (available at APFHC).  
Dunedin Family History Group: Dunedin Post Offices & history; How to hold family reunions; History lists of Lowburn, Queensbury, Luggate, Nevis Valley.  
Balclutha (April): Amy Bock reenactment complete with photos of participants in costume.

#### **Free to a good home**

Dell computer monitor bought November 2005. Not flatscreen, but good viewing. Surplus to requirements. Contact Deborah Shuker on [Shuker\(at\)xtra.co.nz](mailto:Shuker(at)xtra.co.nz).

#### **Used ink cartridges**

The branch collects empty computer ink cartridges to sell for recycling as one of our fundraising activities. When your ink runs out, please pass on the old cartridge instead of throwing it in the bin. They can be handed to Derek at any branch meeting, placed in the labelled box in the locked cabinets at the Alison Procter Family History Centre upstairs at Paraparaumu Library, or left in Derek's letterbox at 94 Ngaio Road, Waikanae. We can recycle Canon, Lexmark, Hewlett Packard, Epson, and Brother cartridges.

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## On the web

### Blue Books 1840-1855

All 24 of these early New Zealand public records are now available online at [www.archives.govt.nz](http://www.archives.govt.nz). The Blue Books were produced in all British colonies to provide information to officials in England. They include statistics on population, trade, churches, schools, prisons and all manner of things, as well as records about individuals who worked for the including government, their date of appointment and salary.

### Crew List Index Project

Findmypast.com now has indexes to lists of crew members working on British merchant ships between 1860 and 1913. Over 270,000 merchant seafarers are included in the crew list indexes, which were completed by ships every six months, from captains to able seamen to engine room staff and stewardesses.

### Scotland's Old Parish Registers online

It's homecoming year in Scotland. Find out more at [ancestralscotland.com](http://ancestralscotland.com), where you can sign up for an e-newsletter and receive free credits to use on Scotlandspeople, the official source of records for Scotland. Old Parish Registers are now available online at [www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk).

### UK certificates now available on line

Public information about births, marriages and deaths in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland has moved from the GRO (General Register Office) website and is now available on the government's supersite, Directgov. Certificates can be ordered online at a cost of £7.00 each.

[www.direct.gov.uk/en/Governmentcitizensandrights/Registeringlifeevents/Familyhistoryandresearch/index.htm](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Governmentcitizensandrights/Registeringlifeevents/Familyhistoryandresearch/index.htm)

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## Committee as at May 2009

Convenor	Vacant			
Secretary	Dave Muirhead	<a href="mailto:kapiti(at)genealogy.org.nz">kapiti(at)genealogy.org.nz</a>	905-3170	
Treasurer and Membership	Lorna Henderson	<a href="mailto:lornamoa(at)gmail.com">lornamoa(at)gmail.com</a>	293-7771	
Committee members	Derek Griffis	<a href="mailto:griffisnz(at)ihug.co.nz">griffisnz(at)ihug.co.nz</a>	293-1092	
	Sue Greene	<a href="mailto:sueg-97(at)xtra.co.nz">sueg-97(at)xtra.co.nz</a>	06 364-8196	
	Jackie Holland	<a href="mailto:jtholland(at)xtra.co.nz">jtholland(at)xtra.co.nz</a>	293-2296	
	Judy Olsen	<a href="mailto:cuppatea(at)paradise.net.nz">cuppatea(at)paradise.net.nz</a>		
			<a href="mailto:z">z</a>	
	Bev Chappell	<a href="mailto:chappell(at)paradise.net.nz">chappell(at)paradise.net.nz</a>		904 1860
	Liz Matthews	<a href="mailto:liz.matthews(at)xtra.co.nz">liz.matthews(at)xtra.co.nz</a>		293-8553
	Sandy White	<a href="mailto:tersan(at)xtra.co.nz">tersan(at)xtra.co.nz</a>	293-6975	
	Clive Palmer	<a href="mailto:c-mpalmer(at)xtra.co.nz">c-mpalmer(at)xtra.co.nz</a>	293-7631	
	Bill McKeich	<a href="mailto:yanakie(at)clear.net.nz">yanakie(at)clear.net.nz</a>	905-6932	

See you at the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration meeting – Tuesday 26 May from 7pm.