

# Kapiti Branch



New Zealand Society of Genealogists

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

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Newsletter - November 2010

## Meetings coming up

**Tuesday 23 November** – Why You Are You (YURU) 2010 featuring Sue Scott  
2pm and 7pm, Lindale Lodge Motel Conference Centre

This event is **by ticket only** and the 7pm presentation is SOLD OUT.

To get tickets (\$5) for the 2pm session, contact Jackie Holland on 293-2296 or email [jtholland@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jtholland@xtra.co.nz). Tickets are also available from Unichem Pharmacy at Kapiti Lights and Fibre Flair, Main Road, Waikanae.

**Saturday 27 November** Legacy users group

Lindale Lodge Motel Conference Centre

9.30am to 8.30pm, three sessions of workshops with Jan Gow

Contact: Lindsay Olsen 298-8815

**Monday 13 December** Computer-friendly genealogy

7:30pm Kapiti Community Centre

Getting the most out of search engines

**Dates for 2011 meetings** will be on the branch website before the January meeting.

**\*Correction** – The dates given in last month's newsletter for the 2011 Family History Fair were incorrect. The 2011 event at Hamilton will be on Friday and Saturday, 26 and 27 August 2011.



## Why You Are You (YURU) 2010

As a former television weather presenter, Sue Scott's name is familiar to many New Zealanders. She came to New Zealand from England in 1954 with her parents and younger brother, and they settled in New Plymouth. This year's YURU presentation is about Sue Scott's ancestors.

If you haven't got a ticket to see Why You Are You (YURU) on our November branch meeting night, you may still be able to get one for the 2pm session the same day. Admission is by ticket only, and **the 7pm session has sold out**. Tickets are \$5 from Unichem pharmacy at Kapiti Lights or Fibre Flair, Main road, Waikanae.

Because of demand for tickets, we've moved to a larger venue for these presentations. They are at Lindale Lodge Motel

**Sue Scott** Conference Centre, on Ventnor Drive. Take the Lindale exit from State Highway 1 north of Paraparaumu. Parking is limited, so carpooling is encouraged.

### **About Sue Scott**

From the age of 12, when she took part in a school quiz team at the local radio station, Sue knew she wanted to be a radio broadcaster. Her interests have always been drama, literature and words.

Sue joined the then NZBC in 1965 and after two years in a cadet scheme where she learned the intricacies of many aspects of both radio and television, she underwent a six week training period to become an on-air presenter. Until 1975, announcers worked in commercial, non-commercial radio and television simultaneously.

Throughout her 45 year career in the media Sue has fulfilled many roles - as journalist, radio host, TV weather and current affairs presenter, writer and latterly as a trainer and mentor.

In 1986 Sue and her husband set up Scott Communications – a media training organisation which involved public relations, human resource and marketing roles. She attended Massey University as a mature student and later taught business communication, HR and professional service marketing at tertiary level. For the last 10 years she has been the communications and media manager at the Institute of Directors, maintaining contract newsreading roles with Radio NZ.

She is married to Garry and has three adult sons and five grandchildren.

### **About Jane Sowerby Hemmens**

Jane Sowerby was one of Sue Scott's great-great-grandmothers. Jane was born in 1850 at Great Ashby, in Yorkshire, England. She was the fifth child of Joseph and Elizabeth Sowerby. Joseph was an agricultural labourer (shown as Ag Lab on the census). This was another name for a farmer or farm worker.

In 1861, Jane was 11 years old. Her father, Joseph, had died and the family was destitute. Her mother, Elizabeth Sowerby, had no choice but to move herself and Jane into an almshouse.

Jane Sowerby married Thomas Hemmens in 1885. For most of his life, Thomas worked in Yorkshire factories as a gas stoker. Jane and Thomas had six children.

Jane is just one of the real-life characters in the story of Sue Scott's family. Come to YURU to hear more about the people and what it was like living in those times.



**Jane Sowerby Hemmens**

## About Sue Greene

Sue Greene is the Research Officer for Kapiti Branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists, and she researched the history of Sue Scott's family for the *Why You Are You* (YURU) 2010 presentation.

Sue Greene has been interested in family history for more than 20 years. She was convenor of the Otaki Genealogy branch for 19 years, and was at the same time a member of Kapiti Branch, where she has managed the computer special interest group (computer-friendly genealogy) for about ten years.

Sue was also on the New Zealand Society of Genealogists council for two years.

She can advise branch members who have hit a brick wall with their research, but needs information in writing about who you're looking for, when and where you think they were living, and what you've tried already.



**Sue Greene**

## Another brick wall crumbles

*This story comes from Kapiti branch member Hilary Cunningham, who is overseas for two years.*

I see that you are having a meeting of the Scottish interest group on 6 November, which just happens to be my birthday! I have often thought that the group might be interested in my story and I guess my birthday is as good a time as any to tell it.

In 2009, I made a visit to the UK where I was born. When I was about five, my parents separated and I and my three sisters were placed in a children's home. The short version of the next 15 years is that we children were sent away to various places so I had no contact with my family until I was a teenager. I met my father once when I was 13 and then he passed away when I was 18. My mother, who I was then in contact with, refused to discuss him in any way. She passed away in 1991.

Anyway, last year while in the UK, I got in touch with RAF Cranwell, as I knew that my father was in the RAF during the war. I was able to obtain a copy of his administration file which gave me his date of birth. When I returned to NZ I joined the Kapiti genealogy group and using the computers at the library I was able to find information about my mother's side of the family but was unable to make any progress regarding my father as he was born in Scotland.

You can imagine how excited I was when it was suggested that a Scottish interest group be formed, and I was there at the first meeting. When Clive and Lorna asked for a name to demonstrate how to use Scotland's People, I unashamedly jumped at the chance to search for my dad. Lorna was able to find the entry, and after the meeting I asked Clive if he would mind ordering my father's birth certificate on my behalf, which he kindly did.

It arrived on Christmas Eve and for the first time, I knew the names of my paternal grandparents. Over the Christmas break, knowing that the library was going to be closed, I decided to subscribe to ancestry.co.uk to see if I could learn more. I started a tree and put my father's and grandparents names into it. Of course, because everything to do with his family was based in Scotland I didn't get much further with my research, but within a couple of days I got an email from what turned out to be a cousin on my father's side. There were several very emotional emails back and forth over the following weeks during which time I learned that I had two aunts who were still alive and – would you believe it – 26 cousins!!!

My husband and I returned to the UK in May and came here via Canada, where I met one aunt

and three cousins, and upon arrival in the UK, I met my other aunt and several more cousins. It is my hope to get around the UK to meet some more cousins as time permits.

I can't help but be amazed and incredibly grateful for the impact the Scottish interest group has had on my life and I thought the members might like to know how things worked out for me.

By the way, I now have over 500 people in my family tree – not bad for someone who spent most of her life living as an orphan. - *Hilary Cunningham*

**If you have a story to share** about how you broke down a brick wall, contact the newsletter editor. Your experience may give other members useful ideas to try in their own demolition attempts.

## All aboard for Nelson!

You don't have to go to Nelson to get the story behind the exhibition, „Port Nelson, Haven Ahoy!“ which is at the Nelson Provincial Museum until mid-April.

You can read about the voyage at the museum website, which is adding diary entries day by day for the 151-day voyage. It also tells how the exhibition was put together.

Two record sources used are from the voyage of the ship *Clifford*, which sailed from Gravesend, England to Nelson in 1842. One was a diary kept by the Gapper family, who farmed at Appleby, Nelson, while the other is the log of the ship's surgeon, Dr Thomas Hughes. He names passengers who were under medical supervision, and the treatment given. He comments: "[The passengers] complain of the dirt which is unavoidably mixed with their potatoes and actually weigh it, desiring the amount to be made good to them." Map co-ordinates show where the ship was on each date.

<http://www.nelsonmuseum.co.nz/havenahoy/>

You can read surgeons' logs from other ships at the Archives New Zealand reading room.

## GST and New Zealand certificates

Birth, death and marriage records have gone up in price with the increase in GST. For a printout of the image of a registration, which is useful for research purposes, the new prices are: \$20.40 for registrations after 1874, and \$26.50 for registrations before 1875. For a legal official document (a standard certificate which has less information than the printout of the registration) the price is \$26.50.

## Genealogy Roadshow

**23 November 2010, Westpac Stadium, Wellington, midday to 9.30pm**

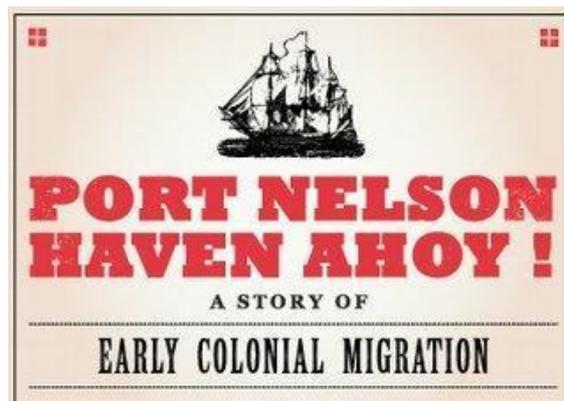
Details of the speakers and exhibits at this roadshow are on their website below. As it is Australia-based, admission fees are listed in Australian dollars, with „approximate“ New Zealand dollar values. (Is that an invitation to bargain?)

Admission charges: Evening only (6pm onwards) – AU\$25 (approximately NZ\$34)

Day only (until 6pm) – AU\$35 (approximately \$45)

All day and evening – AU\$45 (approximately NZ\$59)

<http://www.unlockthepast.com.au>



## Branch notes

### Members' survey

Branch members have been sent a survey to fill in to help the committee plan next year's meetings and activities. Please return yours by 29 November. You can email it to [\\_kapiti@genealogy.org.nz](mailto:kapiti@genealogy.org.nz), with the word „Survey“ in the subject line, or post it to Survey, Kapiti Branch NZSG, P O Box 703, Paraparaumu 5254. We need your input and ideas, please.

### Wednesday research help at the library

Our weekly Wednesday morning public research help sessions at Paraparaumu library are taking a break over summer. The last one is on 15 December and we start again on 12 January 2011. From 10am to midday, branch volunteers help people search for their ancestors. If you can help, now or next year, contact Bev Chappell or just come along. You don't need to be an expert, and you're sure to learn more about our resources.

### Death notice

It is with sadness that we report the death on Saturday 23 October, at age 79, of Ruth TURNBULL of Paraparaumu, one of our very long-standing Kapiti branch members, and also a long-time member of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists.

### New members

Welcome to Margaret and Ron WILSON, Stephen PERRY and Agnes (Nan) MORLEY, who have joined the branch since the last newsletter.

### Tea makers

If your surname begins with the letters **H to M** please be at the December branch meeting by 7pm to help prepare the hot drinks. Next meeting it will be someone else's turn.

### Volunteers wanted

With 254 members, Kapiti is one of the largest branches of the NZ Society of Genealogists. Volunteers run the many different activities we offer, and we're looking for some more people to lend a hand. It's a good way to meet other members and find out more about how things work.

If you can help with any of the tasks listed below, please contact any committee member. You don't have to be a committee member, and we can provide training.

- caterer for meetings - making sure there are enough biscuits, tea, sugar, coffee and milk
- assistant registrar for meetings - assisting Mary Braddock with name tags and visitors
- editor of the newsletter
- research helper on Wednesday mornings at Paraparaumu library, 10am to midday
- help desk person/s at monthly meetings
- assistant computer/projector person to help or stand in for Lindsay Olsen
- sound systems person to help Kerry Lee set up for meetings

Make a new year's resolution to give the branch a hand.

### October branch meeting report

*“How about that!”* was the theme, and members told about unexpected things they discovered in their family history research. It was clear how useful old newspapers are to get the juicy details that aren't in official records. In July, Evening Post issues from 1916 to 1945 were added to the Papers Past website, so it's worth another look if you had relatives living in the area then. [www.paperspast.natlib.govt.nz](http://www.paperspast.natlib.govt.nz)

## On the web

### Familysearch.org

Records from the pilot part of Familysearch.org, the LDS (Mormon) records website are being moved to their newer „beta“ website. If you go to [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org), there is a link to the beta site, which gives access to the whole record collection. A recent addition is New Zealand Immigration Passenger Lists, 1871-1915, complete with scanned images of original documents.

### Find my past

Deaths from the second Boer War 1899-1902, and details of more than 260,000 names of men and women who served the British empire forces in that conflict. Casualty list of 59,000 names, with background information.

### WW1 Soldier photos

This website offers free scanned photos of the WW1 soldiers who are listed on the site. <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~babz/ww1soldiers1.html>

### Using advanced Google searches

[http://www.genealogyintime.com/GenealogyResources/Articles/a\\_guide\\_to\\_advanced\\_genealogy\\_searches\\_page01.html](http://www.genealogyintime.com/GenealogyResources/Articles/a_guide_to_advanced_genealogy_searches_page01.html)

### Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year

The first Christmas card appeared in 1843, but it was the 1880s before the custom of sending them became widespread. The card on the right is shown actual size. It is a single piece of unfolded card, and the handwritten message on the back says: "H Price, compliments of the season".

Harriette Lydia PRICE was born in Ireland in 1857 of English parents. She married Thomas PALFREY in 1878 at Coleraine, Ireland. He was an excise officer (tax collector), born in Wales. Their six children were born in England. Whether the name on the back was the sender or the receiver of the card is unclear, but it suggests the card dates from 1877 or earlier.



Best wishes for your genealogy research in 2011!

### Committee for 2010-2011

Convenor	Hanley Hoffmann	<a href="mailto:hdhoffmann@@paradise.net.nz">hdhoffmann@@paradise.net.nz</a>	904-3276
Secretary	vacant	<a href="mailto:kapiti@genealogy.org.nz">kapiti@genealogy.org.nz</a>	
Treasurer	Lorna Henderson	<a href="mailto:lornamoa@@gmail.com">lornamoa@@gmail.com</a>	293-7771
	Clive Palmer	<a href="mailto:c-mpalmer@@xtra.co.nz">c-mpalmer@@xtra.co.nz</a>	293-7631
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	Bev Chappell	<a href="mailto:chappell@@paradise.net.nz">chappell@@paradise.net.nz</a>	904 1860
	Bill McKeich	<a href="mailto:yanakie@@clear.net.nz">yanakie@@clear.net.nz</a>	905-6952
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	Derek Griffis	<a href="mailto:griffisnz@@ihug.co.nz">griffisnz@@ihug.co.nz</a>	293-1092