



Kapiti Branch

Kapiti Branch, New Zealand Society of Genealogists

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www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nzlsgkb

Registered charity no. CC33988

October 2009 Newsletter

Meetings coming up

Tuesday 27 October 7pm for 7.30 pm

Kapiti branch meeting

Access to New Zealand Births, Deaths and Marriages – the new law

Speakers: Alison Ainsworth and Eileen Kennedy

Monday 9 November, 7.30pm

Computer-friendly genealogy Charting

Looking ahead

Tuesday 24 November, 7pm for 7.30

Kapiti branch meeting

End of year function

Speaker to be confirmed

Monday 14 December, 7.30pm

Computer-friendly genealogy

Branch meetings and Computer-friendly genealogy meetings are held at Kapiti Community Centre, Ngahina Street, Paraparaumu

NZSG Scottish Interest Group of Greater Wellington

Scottish Research at the **Porirua Library, Porirua**, Corner Norrie and Parumoana Streets

Sunday 8th November 2009, 1-4 pm. Wee door charge: \$2.

We will have our own folder resources for Scottish family history research, and all the genealogical resources of the Porirua Library will be available.

If you have some useful Scottish material to share with others, do bring this along. Do label with your name. *All welcome*

Contact: Pen Brown, ph 04 389 7211 or [penbrown\(at\)globe.net.nz](mailto:penbrown@globe.net.nz)

***Your Family's History: research, write and publish it* by John MacGibbon**

John MacGibbon spoke at the National Library during family history month, and this publication is based on detailed audience notes from those talks. He draws on his long experience in researching genealogy, as a writer and publisher, and also passes on useful advice he's been given. The 40-page A5 booklet has 11,000 words and 24 illustrations. More information can be found at www.ngaiopress.com. Orders can be made online or to Ngaio Press, P O Box 29-010, Wellington. The price is \$15 plus \$2 postage.

Branch notes

Branch meeting report – September '09

John Dods gave a dramatic description of the experiences of families evicted in the Scotland clearances, their homes destroyed by fire to ensure they didn't return. He pointed out that clearances happened not only in the highlands of Scotland, but also in the lowlands and borders regions and in other parts of Europe, as landowners tried to make their land more productive. Unfortunately, prices slumped about the same time, so the small blocks of land made available on the coast for migrants were not sufficient to allow them to earn a living.

Many people went south to work at railway building, or overseas. Recommended reading: *Clearance and Improvement: Land, Power and People in Scotland 1700-1900*, by T M Devine, John Donald Publishers Ltd (2006).

Convenor's corner

Is the branch meeting your needs? My philosophy in life is: *any good that I can do, let me do it now, because I may not pass this way again.* Having settled into this new job I am finding very few faces at our meetings when we have such a large membership.

As a genealogist I recognise that for some of us doing what we have to, to find reclusive relatives is a breeze. There are many more of you who are struggling, even agonising over your plight, and this was most evident to me at our "getting started" course recently. One lady made a heart-wrenching plea – which made me pull up and take stock. There are many more like her.

I want to reach out to all of you who feel despair, because I feel we have an obligation to take you in, get you motivated and moving in the right direction. We have had surveys, but then those who really needed to respond probably did not. Now we have had "getting started" we have to provide continuing support.

My invitation to you is to email me [hdhoffmann\(at\)paradise.net.nz](mailto:hdhoffmann(at)paradise.net.nz) or phone me on 904 3276. I will ply you with some searching questions, I will listen, and we will take action to provide as much support as our resources will allow (and our resources are considerable), and we have many friendly caring, sharing helpers.

- Hanley Hoffmann

Wanted: certificates

Since we launched our campaign several months ago (see June Newsletter) to collect and forward originals and/or photocopies of certificates to the NZSG Certificates Collection, many hundreds of documents have been collected. Next month these will be delivered to the NZSG Collection Officer in Whangarei. It's not too late to contribute. Derek Griffis will be pleased to receive further copies of certificates at this month's branch meeting on 27 October. On request, he can collect the documents from members' homes.

Computer users at the library

Please remember to turn off the computers when you leave. Recently two were left on and a power cut that night tripped a floor switch, which put them out of action until the problem could be traced and the floor switch reset. Remembering to turn them off will save frustration for other users.

Kapiti computer-friendly genealogy group

Janet Levy spoke at the October CFG meeting. She is the coordinator of the Intentions to Marry project at Archives NZ. She told how the indexing is taken from the card files held at the archives. Members are given a CD with JPEG files of the cards which are very easy to read and transcribe. They are provided with an Excel spreadsheet to enter the data into seven fields. A very good help file is also provided. Members do the indexing at their leisure, with no pressure to have it completed in record time.

Once the indexing is completed it will be put up on Archives NZ website for all to search. If you can spare as little as ten minutes a week and would like to be involved in this very worthy project contact: Janet Levy on (04) 499-5595 (Archives NZ) or (04) 589-6302 (home) or [janet.levy\(at\)archives.govt.nz](mailto:janet.levy(at)archives.govt.nz)

Our November meeting is on charts, both computer-generated and handwritten charts.

The aim of this group is to help and encourage members with genealogy using computers. We are usually online on meeting nights with practical demonstrations. Our meetings include the use of web sites for genealogy, genealogy programmes and much more. We also offer some help with computer problems, although major problems should be referred to a technician. These meetings are open to all branch members. See the branch programme for more details.

Please don't!

Someone is constantly changing the settings on the PCs in our Family History Centre at Paraparaumu Library. It is not funny or smart so, whoever it is, please desist. Desktop icon settings have been changed and this is particularly upsetting to novice users who have been to our training courses and given confidence in using the icon sequence displayed. Please do not try to create your own shortcuts to CDs on the desktop. The CDs are accessible under the country icon on the desktop to avoid cluttering up the screen.

We also suspect someone has been trying to access the admin control settings on the computers. At worst we have to ask someone from KCDC IT staff to fix the problem or ask one of our volunteers to make a special trip. The air has been blue on several occasions recently. If in doubt about using the PCs or a particular item, please consult the help booklet in the drawer unit – it should be in drawer 5. The booklet is currently being rewritten and a fresh edition will be available in the near future. Our volunteers regularly check all systems and the faults booklet (in the drawer units) in which you can alert us to a problem between inspections.

1911 UK census

In late October, the complete 1911 UK census will be available on website findmypast.com. We are upgrading our subscription to allow access to the census on PC 2 at the Family History Centre.

CD collection

Details of the CD collection at the Family History Centre have been updated and can be viewed on our website. A hard copy is located in the CD drawer unit 5. You can also view what's available from any of the four PCs at APFHC. These are formatted under a country icon on the desktop. Simply left click on the icon and the available CDs in that category will come up. We have struck some formatting problems and not all CDs are available on all PCs. Please be patient and try another PC until you find the item you seek.

Family Tree Maker group

The Family Tree Maker (FTM) Special Interest Group is in action again. Thirteen people attended a three-hour session with demonstrations at the Kapiti Community Centre on 10 October, with Convenor Hanley Hoffmann assisted by Clive Palmer. The group went through the basics of this genealogy software programme, looked at older and more recent versions, compared experiences and asked lots of questions. Plans are to meet quarterly with the next date to be announced early in the New Year.

Members with queries about FTM can call Hanley for advice and help on older versions – up to 2006 (version 6). FTM was completely rewritten for the 2008 version with two subsequent releases. Help and advice on these recent versions can be directed to Clive. Contact details are on page 4. Members who have recently joined the branch may be unaware that there are a number of software programs on the market to help you store, sort and publish your family history data. FTM is one of these.

One-on-one help

We're introducing a new service for members who'd like a personal run through the facilities at our Alison Procter Family History Centre. This hour-long session can be tailored to suit the individual and could cover: using the computers, internet access, websites available, CD and microfiche collection, borrowing and browsing books. The service will suit those unable to attend the regular Wednesday morning and other day sessions or those who would prefer some one-on-one assistance. Sessions are weekdays only. Ring Clive Palmer on 293-7631 or email him on c-mpalmer@xtra.co.nz to make an appointment.

2010 Programme

Your committee is now working on the 2010 programme. We need your input now. If you have suggestions for monthly meeting topics, research days, visits or other activities, contact Jackie Holland before the end of the month.

New members

Welcome to the following new members who have joined the branch since the last newsletter: Lynn EVANS, Hilary CUNNINGHAM, Joe FRANKLIN, Lori MACKIE, Judith BARCLAY, Sue HARRIS and Jo SINCLAIR.

Tea makers

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

Still looking for a computer helper. Could it be you?

Are you mystified by computers? Would you like to be able to plug one in and connect it to a data projector? Free training is available in return for assisting our Computer Support Officer, Lindsay Olsen, in setting up and putting away computers at branch meetings and/or computer-friendly genealogy meetings. No experience required, and no payment given, but your extra pair of hands would be much appreciated. This could be a job-sharing position, if more than one person volunteers. No heavy lifting is required. Please contact any committee member if you can help out.

Ink cartridges

Collecting empty printer ink cartridges over the last few years has earned the branch \$2000 so far. Thank you everybody – well done. Please continue to pass on your old used **ink** cartridges. The dealer says she can also use old used **toner** cartridges so please let us have those as well. We can recycle these brands: Canon, Lexmark, Hewlett Packard, Epson, and Brother. Hand them to Derek Griffis at a monthly branch meeting, leave them in his letterbox at 94 Ngaio Road, Waikanae, or in the labelled box in the locked cabinets at the Alison Procter Family History Centre upstairs at the Paraparaumu Library.

On the web

1911 Ireland census

This free site for all of Ireland gives access to images of documents signed by the householder and information about neighbours and size and type of housing.

<http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/search/>

Lost cousins

This online newsletter is free to read at <http://lostcousins.com/pages/info/sep09news.htm>

New Zealand funerals

Forty-two funeral firms in New Zealand contribute to this website, which shows newspaper funeral notices for recent deaths.

www.tributes.co.nz/

Committee

Convenor	Hanley Hoffmann	hdhoffmann(at)paradise.net.nz	904-3276
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