

Remember to
check our
website
[http://
KapitiGen.org](http://KapitiGen.org)
for additional
information on
events, Branch,
Interest & User
Groups, and
any late
changes.

Editorial



Sláinte!

Spare a thought for poor Ireland in level 5 lockdown. I don't think there'll be too many St Patrick's Day parades this year.

If you didn't make the February evening meeting you can read Sonia Coom's excellent summary of Irena Lowe's presentation about Polish immigration after WW2 on pages 4 and 5.

Online Trees seem to be in vogue at the moment. In addition to Lorna speaking at the March evening meeting and hosting the Zoom pop-up session on April 3rd, there is the two-monthly 'Online trees and their companion software' Interest Group session on April 14th.

Also, the Family Tree magazine has a very comprehensive *masterclass* in its January 2021 issue on creating an online tree using Ancestry. This article goes through the building blocks, showing you exactly how to build a tree from scratch, giving hints on what to avoid, how to upload photos and how to use the many tools and tags that are available on the programme.

Another useful article in the same issue of Family Tree is entitled 'The importance of having a good research strategy', with an interesting case study. Good reading. Are you on our Round Robin for this magazine? Contact Bev Chappell at RoundRobin@KapitiGen.org if you wish to be on the circulation list.

Our evening meetings for the rest of the year will be in the same venue, the Coast Community Church in Hinemoa Street.

Don't forget that membership is due to be renewed on 31st March. Bank detail are on page 8 or you can bring cash to one of the meetings, but please put it in an envelope with your name and membership number.

Keep well and safe.

Sheila

This months meetings:
Tuesday evening
March 23rd
The Pro and Cons of
Online trees

Wednesday afternoon
March 24th

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March Branch Meetings

Evening meeting.

When: Tuesday March 23rd 7pm - meet, greet and refreshments.
7.30 - 9pm, main session.

Where: Coast Community Church 57, Hinemoa Street, Paraparaumu
NB. Same location as last month

What: The Pros and Cons of Online trees:
speaker Lorna Henderson
Lorna will discuss using online trees to assist your research.

Convenor: Ian Barber
Supper roster: Q – U

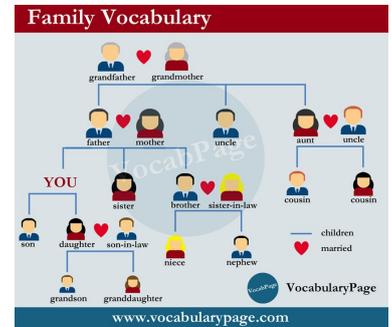
Daytime meeting

When: Wednesday March 24th 1.30 – 4pm
2 - 4pm - meeting

Where: Waikanae Baptist Church Cafe, 286, Te Moana Rd, Waikanae

What: News and update from the evening meeting. Have you any experience with online trees?
Come and join our discussion and research session.

Co-ordinator: Denice McCarten



Branch news

NB. Have you noted the change of venues for the rest of the year?

Our **Branch evening meetings** will be at the Coast Community Church, 57, Hinemoa Street. Roots magic (this Saturday **20th March**) is in the Paraparaumu library meeting room.

Welcome to returning member Val Read. For up-to-date information on the APFHC, see page 6.

Kapiti Branch History. Do you have memories, stories, facts or photos that could contribute towards the Kapiti Branch History? Please contact Clive Palmer on c-mpalmer@xtra.co.nz

Membership. Our financial year finishes 31 March 2021. <http://www.kapitigen.org/2021/01/renewals-membership-for-the-202122-year/> has details on how to join or renew.

If you used to pay by cheque and do not do internet banking, cash is accepted but please only in an envelope with details of name / address / membership number.

Cindy's List was launched 25 years ago. Today it is one of the most valuable free resources for genealogical research with hundreds of website suggestions.

Do check it out: <https://www.cyndislist.com>

We are sad to have to record the death of Joyce Hitchlock in December 2020. Joyce was a long term member and regular meeting attendee. Our thoughts are with her husband, Malcom, and family.

Also Maureen McCrea, member since 2014, passed away recently.

Our sympathies go to her son in Perth.

How to: Monthly pop up session

These Zoom sessions allow you to share your screen for help / demonstration of techniques you've found useful, in the comfort of your own home, using your own computer.

Members only: Free. Max 40 minutes. **Next session:** Saturday 3rd April 2pm, via Zoom.

Pre-registration required. Please reply to your newsletter email, or use the Contact Us form on our website, http://www.kapitigen.org/contact_us/

'How to' topics of interest may be requested via the Contact Us form on our website, **but**, be warned that if no one requests anything, I'll pick a topic that I THINK some of you will find interesting, at the time of newsletter publication.

The April 'How to' is building a tree on FindMyPast.

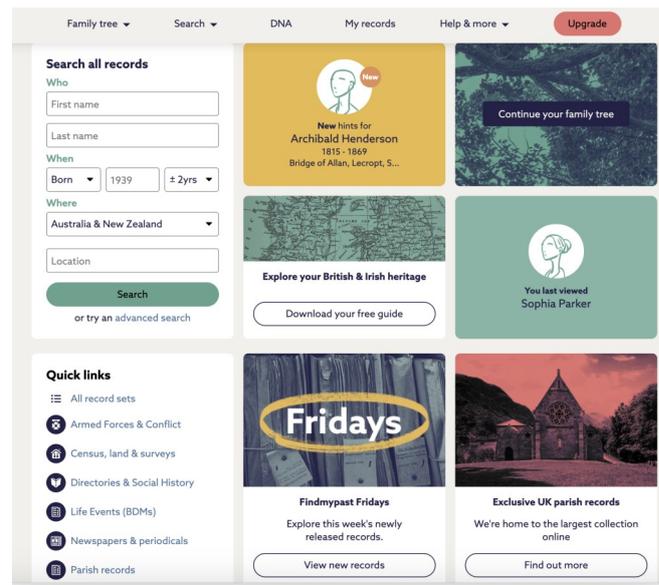
<https://www.findmypast.com.au/blog/family-tree>

Trees on FindMyPast are free and private, but can be shared with family members.

They will have to log in to FindMyPast to view

[https://help.findmypast.co.uk/hc/en-us/articles/360009037118-Is-my-Findmypast-family-tree-](https://help.findmypast.co.uk/hc/en-us/articles/360009037118-Is-my-Findmypast-family-tree-public-or-private-)

[public-or-private-](https://help.findmypast.co.uk/hc/en-us/articles/360009037118-Is-my-Findmypast-family-tree-public-or-private-)



The Wilson Collection

Check out the new kid on the block for a free index to assorted NZ records:

The Wilson Collection (<https://wilsoncollection.co.nz/>)

Co-ordinated by Diane Wilson over many years (many of us even contributed) and now available online for free for personal use.

Thank you to both FamNet's free monthly newsletter (<https://famnet.org.nz/FamNet/Community.aspx?Group=FamNet>) and for the TalkingFamilyHistory crew fortnightly "news and chat"

(<https://talkingfamilyhistory.com/>) for bringing this to our attention.

Rootstech Connect

Whether or not you registered for Rootstech Connect 2021, you can read all about it.

The main website has a handy Explore Sessions section ([Sessions • RootsTech Connect 2021 • FamilySearch](#)) with a search by topic, title, speaker, along with the main headings of: Keynotes ;

Connecting with family; Finding Ancestors; DNA; Places, Records and Research ; Memories - Stories, photos, video; Traditions and Heritage ; Website, tools and apps; and one on the Latter Day Saints.

Something for everyone can be found in here at all levels - from developing research skills through to advanced topics on practically anything genealogically related.

*** I'd be delighted to receive feedback from anyone who took part.

Was it useful/interesting? Who did you find? *Ed.*

Researching Polish Immigrants to New Zealand

Our speaker at the February evening meeting, Irena Lowe, is the Administrator for the 'Kresy-Siberia Virtual Museum' and Vice-president of the Polish Association in New Zealand Inc.

I would like to thank and acknowledge Irena in sharing the following information with our members.

Irena's interesting fact-filled presentation kept us all spellbound, whether or not we have Polish ancestry. With the aid of various maps, she gave us an understanding of how the borders of Poland have constantly changed throughout history and how this affected her family's life during WW2 in particular.

When researching the Eastern Borderlands, it's important to understand the historical context -

- On 1st September 1939 Poland was invaded by Nazi Germany, then on 17th September Poland was invaded by the Soviet Union under what was known as "the secret Molotov-Ribbentrop pact".
- In Soviet occupied Poland (known as the Kresy region – Poland's Eastern Borderlands) arrests began, including those of 20,000+ Polish Officers returning from the German frontlines. They disappeared into mass graves, a tragedy now commonly known as the "Katyn massacre".
- On 10th February 1940, the first wave of deportations to Siberian slave labour camps, and prisons commenced. This was followed by three more, culminating in the deportation of approximately 1.5 million Polish citizens.

Searching for Family from Kresy (Eastern Borderlands), can be difficult because -

- many birth and death records were destroyed during the war against Russia and Germany
- remaining documents have been moved to Archives in Lviv, Minsk and Nowogrodno

Email queries may be sent in English, but are answered in Russian or Ukrainian (Russian Script), so you will need to use Google Translate.

Other research methods to consider are: -

- talk to those still living
- read similar personal histories
- join Facebook groups and ask questions
- join the Kresy-Siberia Group Facebook page
- Kresy-Siberia Family Research. Pdf
- search on the internet

Websites to visit:

- Kresy-Siberia.org
- New.Kresy – Siberia.org
- <https://polishhistorynewzealand.org/>
- <http://www.polandinexile.com/>
- <https://www.northwickparkpolishdpcamp.co.uk/>
- <https://genealogytour.com/>

Useful Facebook Groups

- Kresy-Siberia group
 - Polish Museum and Archives in Australian Kresy Family Group
 - Galicia Poland Ukraine Central and Eastern Europe Genealogy Group
 - Belarus Family Roots
- PRZODKOWIE z obecnej BIAŁORUSI, GENEALOGIA, POSZUKIWANIA (Ancestors from present-day Belarus Genealogy Search)



Military Service Records for Polish Forces in the West were under British Command and every soldier who was enrolled had their military records saved by the UK Ministry of Defence.

There are also unclaimed medals that can still be claimed by next-of-kin.

Continued on page 5

Researching Polish Immigrants, cont.

IPN Database (Memorial) –

- A database exists of many of the families deported to Siberia and Kazakhstan

Access on line in Polish <https://indeksrepresjonowanych.pl/int/wyszukiwanie/94,Wyszukiwanie.html>

Many names are missing, however many families are listed and details of where they resided or were moved to during their time in gulags

There is an evacuation list published in Polish newspapers in the West of those who were not enlisted in the military who arrived in Teheran (Persia) from USSR. - mostly women and their children, orphans and the elderly. It provides the name, birthplace and place registered in Persia/Iran.

For more information you can check out: -

Detailed maps from 1919 – 1939 go to [http://www.kami.net.pl/kresy/...](http://www.kami.net.pl/kresy/)

Hoover Institute of Archives located in Stanford, USA

The Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum.

Irena's story

Irena is the daughter of Polish parents who came to New Zealand as a direct consequence of World War 2. Her mother was living in Eastern Poland (now Belarus) and was deported by Stalin with her parents to Archangel, USSR in February 1940. Eventually she came to New Zealand in November 1944 as one of the 732 Polish Children settled in New Zealand.

Her father was born further south of Eastern Poland (now Ukraine) and as a young lad of 18 years was attacked by Ukrainian nationalists at the time of the invasion of Poland by USSR. He and a friend, being in the National Defence Volunteer Brigade of Stryj, spent an uneasy night hiding in cornfields before being picked up by the retreating Polish army and crossing the border to Hungary on 19th September 1939. Interned in Hungary in camps for 6 months, he was selected, along with other young men, and escaped Hungary via Yugoslavia and Greece to Syria where the Third Carpathian Independent Rifle Brigade was being formed.

The Brigade went on to fight at Tobruk and relieved the Australians during the battle. In gratitude to the Third Carpathian Independent Rifle brigade, the Australian government allowed these Polish soldiers to settle in Australia. In late 1947 her father found himself working on the dams in Tasmania.

After 2 years and gaining his Australian citizenship, he came to New Zealand to meet his pen pal friend, her mother. They married and he became a New Zealand citizen.

The two stories mentioned above were repeated (similar but different) by many Polish migrants to New Zealand and Australia and other western countries. Irena has spent her post-children years researching her parent's stories and early on, about 2010, came across the Kresy-Siberia Foundation who run a website "Kresy-Siberia.org". The website endeavours to collect information and stories about the men, women and children that found themselves shuffled around the globe.

In her talk she provided direction on how people can search for information about these families that were broken up by World War 2. Through records that are available, it is possible to delve a bit further back to discover information about families of the past.

Sonia Coom

Polish National costume



Branch information

Kapiti Genealogy Venues

APFHC: Alison Procter Family History Centre,
Ground Floor, North West Corner,
Paraparaumu Library
Coastal Community Church, 57, Hinemoa Street,
Paraparaumu
Waikanae Baptist Church Cafe, 286, Te Moana Rd,
Waikanae

Branch meetings:

Evening meeting is held on the fourth Tuesday of the month from January to November.

Daytime meeting is on the following day, usually the fourth Wednesday, from January to November.

Details of this month's Branch meetings are on page 2. Attendance is free to members of the Branch, Visitors \$3 to help cover expenses.

Committee meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of the month.

Evening meeting supper roster:

If your surname starts with the letters **Q - U** Judy Olsen would appreciate your assistance at the next evening meeting.

Help with Research

Our help sessions on Wednesday mornings at the Paraparaumu Library 10-12am and on the first Saturday of every month, 1-3pm, will assist you to make the most of our facilities.

The Wednesday sessions are open to the public, so if you have a friend interested in joining the Branch, do bring them along.

Saturday's are by appointment only. If you need individual assistance phone Lorna on 293 7771 to book a session with someone who will be able help. Next session **Saturday 3rd April**.

Monthly pop up 'How to' session.

These zoom sessions are on the first Saturday of the month.

The next one is **Saturday 3rd April**. See page 3 for details of topic and how to register.

Facilities at the Alison Procter Family History Centre

The APFHC is located at Paraparaumu Library . Turn right inside the library entrance to the area containing six computers, microfiche and library. The cupboard on the right hand side of the area contains the red folders mentioned below.

Members need to get the cupboard key from the library Welcome Desk, when you will be asked to sign for the key and show your membership card for the current year.

Computer Password at the APFHC

The APFHC computer password changes regularly: check the red Computer Help folder in the top drawer.

Please sign the red signing-in book found in the top drawer.

Keyboards are in the lowest drawer.

Replace the cover on the computer when you leave and lock the keyboard in the cupboard.

All six computers have subscriptions to Ancestry, FindMyPast and access to The Genealogist and Roots Ireland as well as free sites like FamilySearch. (Use your own log-in to FamilySearch).

NB. Please do **NOT** sign out of RootsIreland, FindMyPast or TheGenealogist.

A microfiche is available and there are books on a variety of topics which can be borrowed. Boxes of copies of 'Who do you think you are' and 'Family Tree' are on the shelf. The Paraparaumu library also has copies of 'Family Tree' on their magazine shelves.

You are encouraged to save the results of your searches on a USB memory stick or send them to your own email address.

We have a printer if you wish to print a hard copy. Please put 10c per copy in the honesty box on the cupboard door.

Please **do not switch off** the printer.

All Kapiti Branch events are in the programme on our website, on the calendar.

Log in and explore, update your details and find information on our user groups.

<http://www.kapitigen.org/programme> gives full details of all meetings in the calendar and is easy to negotiate.

Interest Groups

Roots Magic

For those using RootsMagic to keep track of their research and record family history.

Two-monthly sessions on 3rd Saturday of the month.

Saturday March 20th, Paraparaumu Library Meeting Room, 9 Ivor Trask Place, Paraparaumu.

Doors open **1 pm for 1:30 - 3:30pm**. \$3 entry fee. All welcome. Usual Q & A section where you can share hints and tips and ask questions.

Sneak preview of the (slowly) forthcoming version 8.

For last minute changes go to: <http://www.kapitigen.org/programme/interest-groups/rootsmagic>

DNA

Two-monthly meetings, on the 2nd Saturday of the month, February to October, for those interested in exploring how DNA testing can help their genealogy. **Next meeting Saturday April 10th.**

Waikanae Baptist Church cafeteria. Doors open 1.30 for 2-4pm session, \$3 entry please.

If you wish to be added to the DNA group mailing list, please use the Contact link on our web page

<http://www.kapitigen.org/programme/interest-groups/dna/>. Keep an eye on that page for any updates.

Notes from each session are usually sent out to those who attended.

DNA News:

Lots of excellent DNA related talks were available at the free, completely online RootsTech conference held recently. I hope you registered as the pre-recorded ones will be available to view for a while yet.

<http://RootsTech.org>

Roberta Estes has provided a list of the DNA Sessions that may be of interest.

<https://dna-explained.com/2021/03/02/rootstech-connect-2021-comprehensive-dna-session-list>

Irish

Next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday April 13th, 2-4pm**. APFHC, Paraparaumu Library.

Contact us at <http://www.kapitigen.org/programme/interest-groups/irish/>

Online Trees/software.

Our two-monthly sessions on the main online tree sites will run on the last Saturday of months February through October. Paraparaumu Library meeting room, 9 Ivor Trask Place.

Next meeting **Saturday April 24th** 1.45 - 3.45pm Doors open 1:30pm. \$3 to cover expenses.

In April session we will focus on **My Heritage**.

The companion software, completely free and with useful features, is their FamilyTreeBuilder package which runs on both Windows and Mac and can be used in standalone mode on your desktop or linked to your tree(s) there. The snag however is that the free trees are limited to 250 people.

Like Ancestry (and FamilySearch) there's also an app for your tablet/ipad which is fully integrated with your online tree.

For those who have never explored or heard of MyHeritage it is an equivalent to Ancestry, with records, trees, and DNA. Why you might want to consider the companion software FamilyTreeMaker.

Any other questions? - Someone will be able to help. All welcome. For more information go to

<http://www.kapitigen.org/programme/interest-groups/online-trees-their-companion-software-programs/>

Australian

For help with Australian research. Check <http://www.kapitigen.org/programme> for changes.

The Australian SIG meets on the second Thursday of every second month from February to November.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday May 13th, 10-12noon** at APFHC.



Branch Officers

Convener: Ian Barbour
 Convenor "at" KapitiGen.org

Secretary: Colin Cameron
 Phone: 022 674 9165
 Secretary "at" KapitiGen.org

Treasurer : John Miller
 Treasurer "at" KapitiGen.org

Branch responsibilities

Membership:
 Lorna Henderson: Phone: 293 7771
 Membership "at" KapitiGen.org

Programme & Activities:

Ian Brooking
 Programme "at" KapitiGen.org
 Denice Mc Carten

Librarian: Beverley Chappell

Daytime co-ordinator:

Denice McCarten
[daygrp"at"KapitiGen.org](mailto:daygrp@KapitiGen.org)

Magazine Round Robins:

Bev Chappell
[RoundRobin "at" KapitiGen.org](mailto:RoundRobin@KapitiGen.org)

Webmasters:

Lorna Henderson & Ian Brooking

Meeting registrar: Donna Bridgeman

Sound System: Ian Brooking

Publicity: Donna Bridgeman

Member: Gerard Denton

Membership

Renewals, and new memberships, for the 2021/22 year are due on 31st March. Please be kind to the Membership Secretary and spread the workload.

Still a bargain at \$25 for the year April to March.
 Bank account for internet banking payments: BNZ
 02-0591-0040791-000

Further details at
<http://www.kapitigen.org/2021/01/renewals-membership-for-the-202122-year/>

Newsletter Editor: Sheila Jolley
 editor "at" KapitiGen.org

Computer Liaison: Frances Braddick

Trip organiser: Kathy Callaghan

Equipment Support:

Lindsay Olsen. Backup; Ian Brooking

Catering: Judy Olsen

Schools project: John Glover

Schools liaison: Bill McKeich

Raffle: Stephen Sherring

Interest Group Facilitators:

Australian: Deborah Shuker

[OzSIG "at" KapitiGen.org](mailto:OzSIG@KapitiGen.org)

DNA: Lorna Henderson

Irish: [IrishSIG"at"KapitiGen.org](mailto:IrishSIG@KapitiGen.org)

Online Trees: Lorna Henderson

Roots Magic: Lorna Henderson

[RootsMagic "at" KapitiGen.org](mailto:RootsMagic@KapitiGen.org)

School Admission records project:

[pamandjohnglo "at" gmail.com](mailto:pamandjohnglo@gmail.com)

Website: <http://www.kapitigen.org>

Portfolio descriptions and current holders are listed on our web site - in the **Who Does What** section
<http://www.kapitigen.org/home/who-does-what/>

Email links

Throughout the newsletter email links are clickable. Remove the extra @ symbol before sending.

Next Evening meeting
 April 27th
 NZ Deaths in WW2
 Peter Cooke

Daytime meeting
 April 28th