Events

12 October – Porirua NZSG
7:25 pm
Location: Helen Smith room Pataka Museum Porirua
Jan Bonnett, Public Trust: Finding living relatives
Short talk – Gill Knox: Looking behind the Curtain: Intentions to Marry

12 October – National Library
10:30 am to 12 noon
Location: gather at the Alexander Turnbull Library, Level 1 foyer, National Library, corner Molesworth and Aitken Streets.
Introduction to family history resources
An introduction to family history resources at the National Library of New Zealand. The Library’s family history specialists will introduce the many resources the Library holds that support family history research. Learn more about the different parts of the Library’s collections that can help you to research your family history - on the web and at the Library.

28 October - Victoria University of Wellington Scottish Interest Group
7.30pm
Location: VUW Law Faculty, Old Government Buildings, Lambton Quay.
The Paisley Shawl - for years a popular garment - now the pattern is in fashion again.
How and why did Paisley become the centre of production so that its name was associated with the garment? What happened that it fell out of favour? Kathleen Major will share what she has learnt about an intriguing history.
Convenor’s Comment

Hello again everyone

Family History Month has come and gone again this year. It was successfully hosted by Wellington branch and there was a good turnout for each of the weekly meetings. Thanks to everyone who went along.

Our last meeting was another goodie. Gill Knox gave the short talk “Look Behind the Curtain” about Intentions to Marry. Intentions to Marry were registered prior to a marriage. Archives New Zealand holds Notices of Intention to Marry records for the whole of New Zealand from 1856 to 1956. Only the years 1856–1881 are indexed. ITMs can be found on a card index at National Archives and you can order the register to have a look at. The register is the better option because the information found is often much more comprehensive than you’ll get from a marriage certificate. You will find such information as name changes or whether a marriage did, in fact, take place.

Our main speaker was also really interesting. Sue Dinsdale from Kilbirnie Branch, spoke on the topic of “Reading Old Documents” and came armed with copies of really old documents for us all to have a crack at reading and transcribing. Everyone seemed to have a great time trying to read and understand the writing.

Sue’s helpful pointers included:

- Make sure you have a clear copy of the document
- Make sure you read it in good light
- Transcribe, don’t translate
- Write exactly what is written, what you read
- Don’t change spelling
- Don’t add comments
- Put a question mark if you can’t understand something, then read on. Often you’ll find the question mark will make sense in the context of the rest of the document
- Read the document aloud. It’s amazing how much this really does help.

It’s one of those things, I think, that once you “get your eye in” it becomes easier. A bit like remembering and speaking a foreign language.

Two places (amongst many) to go for further help in reading and transcribing old documents are:

- The National Archives (TNA) website: http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/reading-old-documents/ and Nottingham University:
http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/manuscriptsandspecialcollections/researchguidance/medievaldocuments/introduction.aspx. Both of these sites are excellent with tutorials and interactive exercises.

On the subject of transcribing, is anyone interested in helping out with transcribing school records (APWs)? We have made a start on this project but it has been in abeyance for a while. It would be nice to make a restart on this project so we can add our contribution to the Kiwi Collection as so many other branches have. Gill Knox will give a short talk about APWs at a future meeting, but maybe you can have a think about helping out, in the meantime.

Have your registered for RealMe yet? RealMe® is free for consumers. Use it in two ways: to prove who you are when you’re online and to log into lots of New Zealand sites and services. Remember you need to do this to use National Library and Alexander Turnbull Library now, see https://www.realme.govt.nz/.

If you’d like to give a short talk (10 minutes-ish, about any aspect of genealogy and family history) and need help with pictures or documents to display, members of our committee are happy to help out and even to run a slide show for you, if you wish. Please let Mary Beckett know (mcbeckett16@gmail.com or phone her on 04 233-1655) and she will let the relevant helpers know.

If you have any birth, marriage and/or death certificates you’d like to share, we’d be happy to add them to our library collection. I am aware that NZSG holds such documents and I encourage you to join so you can access them. However, some of our branch members haven’t joined, so adding to our local collection makes sense to me. If you feel shy about standing in front of our group to talk, maybe you’d like to write an article for our newsletter about someone you’ve found? It needn’t be long, say 500 words, give or take. If you are feeling brave, you are welcome to write more.

See you at our next meeting!

Jan
Branch News

Plimmerton Heritage Trail opens

On Saturday, 24 September, the new heritage trail was launched. Two members of our branch, Mary Beckett and Deirdre Dale, together with Andrew Deller, have worked for over a year researching and writing about 35 historic sites here. Each site now has a distinctive identification plaque and is shown on the map in the village centre. Stories from their research about these sites can be found on www.plimmerton.nz.

Masonic Donation

26th September - Wellington Masonic Donation

The Wellington Masonic Club Inc has donated $4000 to the NZSG to create four DVDs on basic “how to” genealogy topics. NZSG’s Mary Shadbolt (education portfolio) and Peter Gibson (treasurer) are seen here accepting the cheque from NZSG councillor Gill Knox, who negotiated the deal.

Production is expected to get underway later this year for release later next year.
Sue Dinsdale’s presentation

**Palaeography – the study and deciphering of historical handwriting**

Helpful Hints to Reading Old Documents:

- Reading old documents is like cracking a code
- Obtain a clean, clear copy of the document
- Sit in a place with good light and a magnifying glass
- Think about the age and type of document you wish to decipher
- If a Will or Deed it will contain legal jargon
- If a letter it will contain five parts
- Start at the beginning and transcribe the document word for word
- Read it out aloud as you write down what you are transcribing
- Remember to always transcribe – don’t translate
Members working on an old document provided by Sue as an exercise.
Family History Month

Several members of the Porirua branch attended the weekly talks during August. At left, a lovely spread was provided by Porirua who were hosting that evening.
NZSG Member Benefits
The Society will be 50 years old next year and it is easy to forget that nearly everything is done by a volunteer somewhere. As everyone’s research needs are different, here is a list of the key ones, in case you are missing one of these great benefits.

The Library: The NZSG is one of the few genealogy society libraries in the world that allows postal borrowing to those living within NZ because those who have made such decisions in the past were well aware that we can't all get to the physical library (even lots of Auckland members can’t).

FREE research service: Volunteers who are regulars at the Family Research Centre (FRC) offer to look up ALL the resources held by the NZSG on behalf of any member, at no cost. They also offer research advice when you are stuck. When commercially available genealogists charge at least $50 per hour - it doesn't take much to recover your $87 sub.

Database access: Your subscription contributes to the Society being able to pay for online database access to the Gale Newspapers (UK, USA) and the National Archives (UK) Discovery service - so to individual members there is no cost to view and download these resources (and wills cost 3pounds 50p each normally).

http://www.genealogy.org.nz/discovery_593

The Certificates Collection: - Volunteers offer this service from their Northland homes - you don’t need to order too many copies to pay for your subscription each year as it only costs you the return postage.


The Digital Family History Archive: - An online backup service.


The remote film reader: You can order microfilm and have them delivered to the FRC where a volunteer will load it into the internet connected film reader and you can view the film from the comfort of your home/office/study/couch/bed/holiday house.


NZ Genealogist Magazine: 6 a year - the only genealogy based magazine produced in New Zealand.


Lookups at Archives NZ: Members in this mailing list will do this for those who ask.
Land Research Service: Again run out of a member’s home in the Far North.  

Free Genealogy Guides online:  

Members Interest: Worldwide, free promotion of your research interests via the Members Interest Section of the website.  
http://www.genealogy.org.nz/members_interests_23

Source: Michelle Patient (former NZSG President)

JOIN NOW!

Joining the NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

At the February Porirua branch committee meeting it was decided “That with immediate effect, any existing or new member of the Porirua Branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists who wishes to join the national body of the Society will have their joining fee of $15 paid by the Porirua Branch. For existing Branch members this offer will continue until 31 December 2016.”

We are hoping still more will choose to join the national body to enjoy the many benefits of so doing. After they do we will refund the $15.

From other Genealogy Group newsletters

Information about school records now available and school district reunions has been provided by Jack Fry, one of our members:

Dunedin family group Newsletter July 2016

Athol School Roll of Honour and school records 1883-1954  
Athol Cemetery records 1887-1977  
Macandrew School records 1916-1937  
Karitane Cemetery records 1842-1974

Feilding Branch newsletter August 2016

Labour weekend 2016 Wanganui girls College 125th Reunion  
Labour weekend 2016 Marton School and Marton District High School 150th Reunion  
18/20 November 2016 Tikotino School 150th Jubilee
New Plymouth Branch newsletter August 2016

10/11 March 2017 Hurleyville School and District 125th Jubilee

Useful Websites

The British Army in the Great war of 1914-1918:
http://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/
A site all about the soldiers, units, regiments, and battles of the British Army of the First World War, and how to research and understand them. This is paid website.

First World War Army Service records Commonly Used Abbreviations:

Pre-1846 NZ database:
Tony Christiansen has been building a database of early (pre-1846) European contacts with New Zealand and has around 30,000 names from a wide range of sources. If anyone has an interest in this period he is happy to do look-ups and would certainly appreciate contact to check any details to ensure the information in the database is as accurate as possible. You can email him at teecee@ihug.co.nz.  
(Thanks to Canterbury branch)

London Ancestors?
Check out this new website of over 250,000 images of London from the collections at London Metropolitan Archives and Guildhall Art Gallery
http://collage.cityoflondon.gov.uk/  
(Thanks to Papakura branch)

Family History Software
Reviews of the best software in 2016 are available at this website:
http://genealogy-software-review.toptenreviews.com  
(Thanks to Hawke’s Bay branch)

Family Tree ‘How to Guides’ at:
https://www.family-tree.co.uk/how-to-guides
Wherever you are in your family history research, there is always something to learn and discover. In this section of the Family Tree magazine website, you can read their bitesize guides to getting started in family history and how to take your research further. There are 19 guides covering a wide variety of subjects.  
(Thanks to Nelson branch)
Family Tree Magazine August Edition
Includes:

- Tracing your Ancestor’s Homes in the 1900s Part 1
- Seeking your Scottish Ancestry
- Websites for Old trades and Occupations
- Making Sense of Unusual Births, Marriages and Deaths
- How to work out Family Relationships
- 20 Essential Research Tips

(Family Tree is available in the Porirua Library)

What’s on at your Local Branches

Hutt Valley
7.30pm Thursday 13 October
Starting your family history research: using technology to get it right by Mary Shadbolt.
Venue: Petone Community Centre, 7-11 Britannia Street, Petone.

Kapiti:
7.30pm Tuesday 25 October
Brad and Kathryn Patterson will be talking about Irish soldiers in early Colonial New Zealand.
Venue: Kapiti Community Centre, 15 Ngahina Street, Paraparaumu.

Kilbirnie:
10.00am Wed 5 October
Papers Past Updates by Emerson Vandy, National Library.
Venue: The Park Bowling Club, Kilbirnie.

Wellington:
5.30pm Wednesday 26 October
Researching bankruptcy in 19th century England and in early 20th century New Zealand by Allison Diem.
Venue: Connolly Hall, Guilford Tce, Thorndon

Legacy
A reminder that the Kapiti Branch of NZSG holds sessions for Legacy users on the last Saturday of every second month from February to October. Everyone is welcome.
Meet at the Kapiti Community Centre. Cost $2, pay at the door. Doors open at 1 PM, meeting is 2-4 PM. Tea and coffee is available. You need to bring a laptop if you have one and a power cord if you need power.

The contact is Gerald Twiss - gero@ihug.co.nz

**Branch Noticeboard**

**Branch Resources**
Please remember to return promptly any branch resources (ie. CDs, DVDs, books, etc) that you have borrowed so that other members may have access to them.

**Transport**
If anyone is having difficulty getting to branch meetings and would like a ride, please contact one of the committee who will endeavour to find a member in your area to transport you to and from the meeting.

**Branch Meeting Venue**
Helen Smith community Meeting Room, Pataka Museum of Arts and Cultures, cnr Norrie and Parumoana Streets Porirua (after-hours entrance off Norrie St).
Meeting starts at 7:25 PM on the second Wednesday of the month, February to November.
Branch Committee

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