



**New  
Zealand  
Society of  
Genealogists**

# BLLENHEIM BRANCH

Newsletter  
No 277  
August 2011



**Branch meetings**  
3rd Tuesday of each  
month - February  
through to November  
at 7.30pm.  
**Venue: Beavertown  
Hall, Brayshaw  
Heritage Park**  
Arthur Baker Place  
(off New Renwick  
Road)  
at 7.30pm

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Alan Harris, 34 Gilbert Street,  
Blenheim. Phone (03) 578 7061  
Email akharris@clear.net.nz

CONVENOR: Don Henry, 27a Wither Road, Blenheim.  
Phone (03) 579 1987 Email don.henry@xtra.co.nz  
Website: <http://www.henry.gen.nz/BBNZSG/>  
[http://www.henry.gen.nz/Henry\\_Family/BBNZSG.html](http://www.henry.gen.nz/Henry_Family/BBNZSG.html)

## TONIGHT

Our Convenor will be speaking about the genealogy research resources available on the internet. There will also be a presentation made on the microfilm material we have in our research room.



## NEXT MONTH'S MEETING RESEARCH METHODS

There are many different methods of filing our genealogy research. We would like you to bring/tell/ show the rest of us the method(s) you use.



## POST-FAMILY HISTORY FAIR 2011 TOUR

by Judy Jones

**Thursday Sept 1st, 7.00pm  
Nelson LDS Church**

119 Nayland Rd, Stoke, Nelson

Judy has been an employee of FamilySearch at the Family History Library, Salt Lake City for the past 14 years and is presently a Senior British Research Consultant there. After the Family History Fair she will be touring New Zealand and speaking in Nelson. Her subject will be "Hidden Treasures in FamilySearch". Members are warmly invited to attend this meeting—

**CONTACT Barbara Wells** of the Nelson Branch for further details Phone (03) 540 2741

## From your Convenor

**August 2011**



Dear Members,

### Convenor's Report August 2011

I spend four hours each month as a volunteer in our Branch Library assisting a variety of people with their family history research. Several years ago our Branch purchased a computer and started a collection of data disks as a new resource for our members.

We have purchased a number of disks since then but the two that get the most use both came from the NZSG.

Those disks are "New Zealand Marriages 1836 to 1956" and "New Zealand Burial Locator Version 2".

I commend the NZSG for compiling these most useful disks and making them available.

Well done!

Kind regards,

Don Henry  
Convenor

*Genealogy... will I ever find time to mow  
the lawn again?*



Stories and information in this publication are sourced from various publications and the Internet. While every care is taken, their accuracy can only be as good as the information supplied/available—Editor



## LIBRARY NOTES

Terry Gardiner,  
Librarian



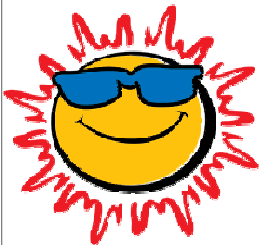
Suddenly the Library has sprung into life—being spring and spring-cleaning time.

Thank you to Esther Mallett for the donation of two copies of the book “The First Hundred” - the story of the Borough of Blenheim 1869 - 1969. (See next column).

She has also given us her old genealogy magazines.

Marie Chandler has given us two banana boxes of genealogy books from her late father in law’s book collection. The nearly 80 books cover a wide range— e.g. Genealogical Atlas of England and Wales, Genealogical Atlas of Scotland and the Genealogical Atlas of Ireland. Guide to Genealogical Sources - Australia & New Zealand. It is going to take quite a while to get these on to the shelves and at the end having quite a box of double up books. I will also have to re-arrange the shelves to house them. The collection also includes quite a selection of old maps to be housed somewhere. Our thanks to Marie for this wonderful collection.

I will also have to have a spring clean of the library.



It is nice the weather is warming up and that the days are getting longer. Unfortunately this weather ‘kills’ my research as I prefer to be out in the sun rather than inside writing!

### RESEARCH DAY RICcarton

The Canterbury Branch invites you to a Research day on Saturday, August 20, from 10am to 4pm.

VENUE: St Ninian’s Church Hall, Puriri Street, Riccarton, Christchurch. Experienced researchers available to assist you.

**Bring your lunch. Tea & Coffee available**

### Blenheim Branch Committee

**Convener:** Don Henry  
**Secretary:** Katrina Harris  
**Treasurer:** Stuart Kennington  
**Committee:**  
**Librarian:** Terry Gardiner  
**Newsletter Editor:** Alan Harris  
**Door & Raffles:** Sue Gill



### The Blenheim Borough Council elected in 1968 and its chief executives.

Front row. Councillor G H Whimp, Cr L C Duckworth (Deputy Mayor), Mr S P Harling (Mayor), Crs H E McKinley and E S Young. Back row, Cr F L Smith, Mr K G Cloughly (Borough Engineer), Crs G E Marshall, A F Wagner and M W Wisheart, Mr M G Clarke (Town Clerk), Insert, Cr B Hundleby.

*Pictures of the members of the Blenheim Borough Council of 1969, taken from “The First Hundred” by A Beverley. Published by the Blenheim Borough Council and printed by the Express Printing Works. Two copies of this book have been donated to our library—see Library Notes*



### Branch Library & Rooms

Beavertown Hall, Brayshaw Heritage Park  
Arthur Baker Place (off New Renwick Road, Blenheim)

### Hours

Except for December & January our facilities at Beavertown are open to the public as below:

Day of month	Time period	Duty member	phone
1st Tuesday	3 to 5pm	Terry Gardiner	5785222
1st Sunday	2 to 4pm	Don Henry	5791987
2nd Tuesday	3 to 5pm	Terry Gardiner	5785222
2nd Wednesday	9 - 11.30 am	Ilona Alloway	5784658
3rd Tuesday	3 to 5pm	Terry Gardiner	5785222
3rd Thursday	2 to 4pm	Christine Koppert	5783408
3rd Sunday	2 to 4pm	Don Henry	5791987
4th Tuesday	3 to 5pm	Terry Gardiner	5785222

*The Library may be available by appointment outside these hours.*

### Inquiries to:

**Terry Gardiner** Librarian phone 578 5222  
**Lauri Ashwell** phone 578 8385 during daytime.



## DUTCH ANCESTORS?

Latitude of Netherlands:  
52°30' North of the Equator  
Longitude of Netherlands:  
5°45' East of Greenwich

### What is the official name of Netherlands?

Conventional long form: Kingdom of the Netherlands

Conventional short form: Netherlands

Local long form: Koninkrijk der

Nederlanden

Local short form: Nederland

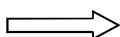
### If you have Dutch ancestors?

Then this is the site for you; [www.genlias.nl](http://www.genlias.nl)  
Remember to use the "English" button unless you do understand the Dutch language.

**There is a Quick Tour** which I recommend before you start, but looks pretty straightforward to search for names. I have not used it as I have no Dutch ancestry, so would be interested to know if anyone has used the site and if it was helpful in their research. I did a test search using a name from the Quick tour and found that in a marriage, it gives the date, the name of the bride and both the parents names. This means you can then look for the parents' marriage as well. Births and deaths are also quite detailed. You can also order the certificates as well.

### What is in Genlias?

The information in Genlias is taken directly from the Civil Register, the most important Dutch source for genealogical research. Since 1811 the most important events in the life of every person resident in the Netherlands – birth, marriage and death – have been systematically recorded.



## Marlborough Historical Society EVENTS and PRESENTATIONS



*Please note that seating for these events is limited—so if you are intending to be present please book your seat by ringing 578 1712*

**SUNDAY September 4—2pm. MHS visit to the Edwin Fox**

**SUNDAY October 2—2pm Founding Families of Marlborough—John Orchard, Megan Ross, Jenny Pierson**

**SUNDAY November 6—2pm Early Marlborough Churches and Hotels—Belinda Vavasour with Archives volunteers and John Orchard**

**WEDNESDAY November 16—12 noon Potluck Lunch for Members and Volunteers, Committee and staff**



### Pioneer Arrivals: 1840s to 1860

*Exhibition runs to Dec 2011*

A major exhibition that focuses on early immigrants to Marlborough. Including a re-creation of ship life, with replica cabins, delightful artefacts from the collection, photos of early Marlborough founders, and exquisite dresses. Don't miss seeing this great exhibition.

### Cont'd from left column...

⇒ Death records from the Civil Register enter the public domain after 50 years, marriage records after 75 years and birth records after 100 years. All records are released in 10-year blocks. At present, the following records are in the public domain:

- \* records of births prior to 1903
- \* records of marriages prior to 1923
- \* records of deaths prior to 1953

It is information from these records in the public domain which is recorded in Genlias.

More recent records of births, marriages and deaths are held by local authorities and may be inspected upon request to them.

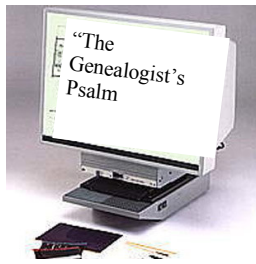
*(Includes material from the South Canterbury Newsletter - July/August 2010)*



## The Genealogist's Psalm

Genealogy is my pastime, I shall not stray  
 It makes me to lie down and examine  
 half-buried tombstones  
 It leads me into courthouses  
 It restores my ancestral knowledge  
 It leads me into the paths of census records  
 and ships' passenger lists for my surnames' sake.  
 Yea, though I wade through the shadows of  
 research libraries and microfilm readers,  
 I shall fear no discouragement,

for a strong urge is with me.  
 It demands preparation of  
 storage space for  
 The acquisition of  
 countless documents  
 It anoints my head with  
 burning midnight oil,  
 my family groups sheets run  
 over.



Surely birth, marriage and death dates shall  
 follow me all the days of my life  
 And I shall dwell in the house of a family history  
 seeker for ever.

*(From Wellington Branch Newsletter, July 2011)*  
*Illustrations from the internet*

## Birth Certificates

The birth of a child is a major event in any family's life. Celebrate this by turning their official record of birth into a treasured keepsake. To record this special event we offer a choice of two decorative birth certificates, each uniquely New Zealand. Buy separately or as a package with a standard birth certificate.



### Forest decorative (as illustrated above)

New life unfolds from the koru and brings richness and abundance to the great forests. The harakeke (flax) reflects the strength and endurance of the whanau (family) as each new leaf grows from the mother and is supported by the father.

### Beach decorative

A mother nurtures her new baby as the warmth of the day provides nourishment and strength for life's wonderful journey ahead.

- Information taken from: Services > Births Deaths and Marriages via the internet.



## Old-Time Dances: Havelock Town Hall

In the 1950s local dances were always a highlight. The notices would go up around the village and the organising committee would spring into action. Saturday morning, the village, fair hummed with excitement.

Several fathers collected Pongas for decoration, while others risked falling from a great height as they strung fishing nets (filled with balloons) across the ceiling. Powder was then sprinkled over the massive floor. What joy it was to be sitting on one of the many sacks and be dragged around at a fast pace.

Mothers in their best pinnies would be bustling in the kitchen (adjacent to the supper room) as the yummy aroma of sausage rolls permeated the air. Long trestles covered in plain printers paper groaned with home baking.

The cloakrooms would be given a final sweep and the pathetically small mirrors a final buff. Then every one departed.

By 7.30 pm Doug Heinz and his band from Blenheim would be set up on stage. The villagers would start arriving - the men (in their best get-ups: shoes polished and hair, brylcreamed to perfection) would congregate by the main door - while the women (often in new dresses) sat opposite and waited excitedly to be asked for the first dance.

The Gay-Gordons brought everybody together and the banter would almost drown out the band. Several nimble-footed men would show off by swirling their partners around and around inside the circle. The variety of dances kept the crowd on their feet.



Supper time was a feast not to be missed: lamingtons and sponges filled with *real* cream. But all too soon the bewitching hour of midnight and the last dance would see a flurry of dancers take to the floor to the tune of - *Now Is The Hour*. Then finally, everybody would join arms in a large circle and sing (with great gusto) *Auld Lang Syne*.

### Contributed by Pauleen Wilkinson

*Pauleen now lives in Rotorua but as a true Marlburian is a member of our Branch and enjoys receiving our newsletter. She plans to be here at Labour Weekend for the Havelock Primary School's 150th celebration - on October 28th-30. We look forward to meeting you Pauleen.*