



Keeping in Touch

Newsletter for Branches, Interest Groups, Officers and Contact Persons

Issue Number: 69

November 2010

Greetings to all members.

NZSG Council met on the weekend of 6-7 November to address a very full agenda.

Updated Council meeting dates and venues for 2011

February 12/13 – FRC

March 26/27 - Christchurch

May 14/15 – FRC

August 6/7 – FRC

October 1/2 (note change of date) - Paraparaumu

November 26/27 – FRC

Membership Update

The figures supplied by the membership department indicate that the seasonal fluctuation of the renewal period has followed its usual pattern, and as of 30 September the membership stood at 8193. This healthy increase over the past three months stems from current members renewing belatedly, past members rejoining, as well as many new members coming into the Society.

In recent months Branches received a member's proposal for restructuring the membership subscription and making a special offer to encourage non-NZSG members of Branches to join the Society. At the request of Council, Treasurer Bob Matthews crunched the numbers and came to the conclusion the proposal was based on inaccurate assumptions about Branch membership numbers and therefore would not work. His full report is attached. When reading it, please bear in mind that the membership numbers quoted are as supplied for 31 March 2010, just before the beginning of the renewal period, and represent a "snapshot" only of membership at that point in time.

Overseas Magazine Circulation Service

Now that the excellent new library catalogue and ordering system is operational through our website, the need for this round robin service for magazines from overseas family history societies no longer exists and will be discontinued in the near future. Instead, members can now borrow the magazines of interest to them through the library at a similar cost to that of the round robin service, and will also be able to reserve all future issues of the journals they require. Current subscribers will be contacted to arrange a refund of the remaining parts of their subscriptions.

Constitution Review Committee

Council was delighted at both the response to the call for volunteers to take on the onerous work of reviewing the Constitution, and also the calibre of candidates volunteering for the task. We are in the process of contacting the selected members and will announce these when confirmed.

Suggestions for rule changes are welcome at any time, but as we are limited under our present constitution to one rule-change ballot per year, all suggestions being brought forward in the next few months will be referred to the committee to be dealt with as part of the review.

Publications

Our next publication will be Hugh and Lyn Hughes's much sought after "Discharged in New Zealand." This indispensable reference book, about the soldiers of the British Imperial Foot Regiments who took their discharge in New Zealand between 1840 and 1870, has previously been published in both hard copy and on microfiche, but will now appear for the first time on CD, priced at only \$25. Watch the website for news of its release date.

A limited number of CDs of the seminar presentations to New Zealand's Family History Fair 2010 is now available through the Sales Department, priced at \$45. The seminars, most of which are in the form of slide shows with voice-over accompanied by a hand-out file, cover a wide range of topics suitable for genealogists from beginners to more experienced researchers, and would be equally useful for individual or Branch use.

The former NZSG Index has been renamed the NZSG Kiwi Index and is now in the final stages of preparation for production in the New Year. Containing more than two million new records that are not on the NZSG Index v.5, the new CD will be strictly for members only. It will not be available to libraries.

NZSG Gift Vouchers

As Christmas approaches, members are reminded that NZSG Gift Vouchers are available from the Sales Department. Whether you'd like to give a fellow member a gift voucher towards the purchase of a publication, or you'd like an easy way to encourage your children to contribute towards the renewal of your NZSG subscription for 2011-2012, NZSG Gift Vouchers are the way to go. Branches and Interest Groups, remember NZSG Gift Vouchers also make very acceptable prizes for competitions or Christmas raffles.

NZSG AGM and Conference 2011



The conference organising committee in Dunedin is working very hard and has prepared an exciting programme for our Conference next year. Look out for the programme and registration form which will be published in the next issue of The New Zealand Genealogist.

On-line Forums to replace the Members' List

Council members are currently operating a trial of on-line forum software to assess its suitability as a replacement for the Members' List. The software offers the usual threaded conversations familiar to users of online forums for genealogy and many other subjects. It is hoped it will prove a more effective and useful form of communication between and among all our members, wherever they may live.

One big advantage of this means of communicating is that we will each be able to join in the discussions of subjects that are of particular interest to us without having to wade through postings about subjects that are not. We will be able to start new discussions or topics (threads) with individual members, as well as tapping into communications from our Branches and Interest Groups as they could also have their own areas in the forum.

While this is still in the experimental stage at present it should not be too long before you see an outcome. Watch the website for developments.

NZSG Raffle

Always concerned to ensure our income streams are kept flowing, Council has decided to run a raffle in 2011 to raise funds specifically for supporting our educational and research services. This will be organized and administered by our Office Manager, Marianne Cummins. Please give this venture your support when you are approached to assist with distribution and selling.

Theme for 2011

As 2011 is the International Year of Forests, Council has decided that the theme for 2011, Family History Month (August) and the 2011 Family History Fair will be "Growing Your Family Tree," a theme which should provide a ready stimulus to the creative minds of our members.

Family History Fair

In 2011 it is planned to take the Family History Fair to another level by holding it on 26 - 27 August at the new Claudelands Events Centre in Hamilton and selling tickets via Ticketek. Using Ticketek allows us to take advantage of marketing opportunities in promoting the event widely to the general public. Six of the eight charitable objectives of the Society are about educating the public in the area of family history. By ending Family History Month with the Family History Fair, the NZSG is hoping to maximise exposure, allowing us to more actively promote the Society as the educational charity we say we are.

Family History Month branch activities in August 2011, followed by the Family History Fair, are ideal opportunities for our membership to serve the public in a way we haven't been able to do before. What better way to finish off Family History Month 2011 with a fun event and members working together, encouraging and fostering an interest in family history and our heritage!

As 2011 is the International Year of Forests, the theme for the Fair seminars will be "Growing and Conserving your Tree".

Council Resignation

It is with great regret that I have to announce the resignation of Barbara Wyley from the council. On behalf of council I'd like to thank Barbara for all her hard work over her terms and wish her well with her own genealogical research.

Contacting Council

If you have any concerns or issues you want to raise with Council it is essential that you write to or email Council. Letters should be addressed to NZSG Council, PO Box 14036 Panmure, Auckland 1741 and emails addressed to NZSG Council and sent to Office Manager at: office.manager@genealogy.org.nz. Your communication will then be discussed at the next Council Meeting and you will receive a reply as soon as practical after that.

The next meeting's details are below. Council Meeting dates for 2011 are included above. You should aim to get your letter or email to Council three weeks before it meets to ensure your correspondence is included on the agenda.

Next Council Meeting

The next meeting will be held over the weekend of 12/13 February 2011. Councillors are happy to meet and chat with members informally at the FRC on Friday February 11 from 5pm. Just contact the Office Manager if you would like to attend.

Keeping In Touch

Please ensure all your members see Keeping In Touch. It is one of the most effective ways for members to stay informed about what is happening in our Society.

Best wishes to all members

Fiona

Distribution of Keeping In Touch

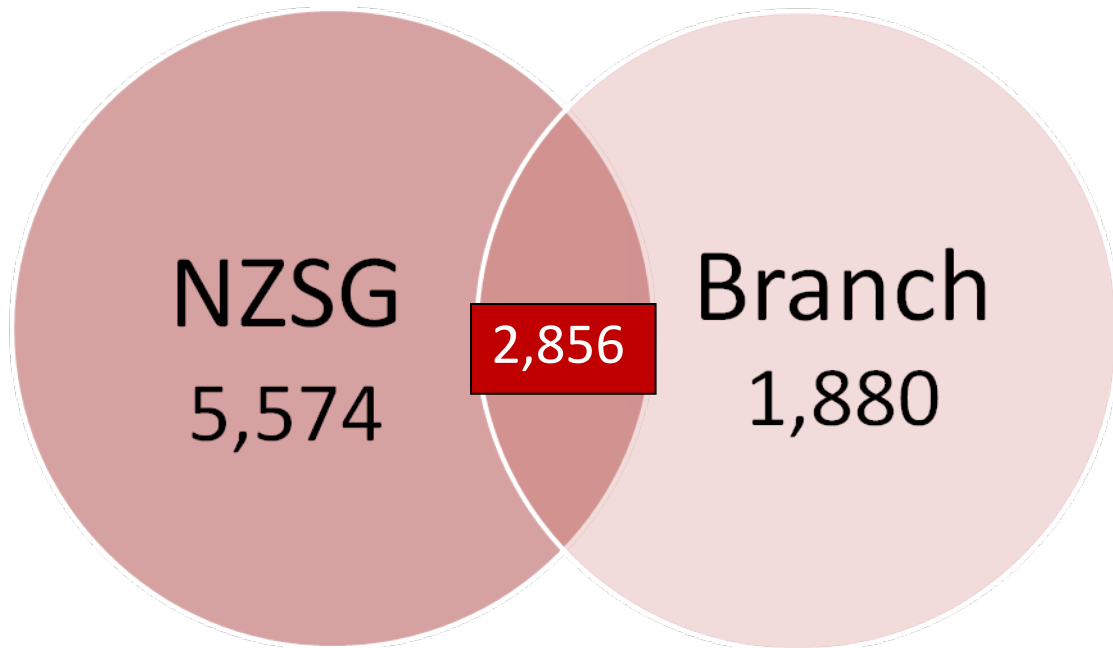
KIT is usually published following each NZSG Council meeting and electronically distributed from the NZSG office. If you have any queries about delivery please contact the Office Manager at office.manager@genealogy.org.nz. Current and back issues of KIT can be accessed through the NZSG website.

NZSG Membership

As at March 31, 2010 (the end of financial year) we have the following statistics:-

NZSG membership	8,430
NZSG Branch membership	4,736 (as reported in 2010 branch annual returns)
of whom	2,856 hold dual membership

i.e. **5,574** individuals belong to the NZSG but do NOT belong to an NZSG Branch
1,880 individuals belong to an NZSG Branch but do NOT belong to the NZSG
and **2,856** individuals belong to both the NZSG and an NZSG Branch.



Source: NZSG membership figures as at 31 March 2010
NZSG Branch Returns as at 31 March 2010 [three returns outstanding]

It has been suggested in a submission to Council and circulated to all branches, that the 1,880 individuals who belong to an NZSG Branch but do NOT belong to the NZSG should be offered the opportunity to join the NZSG and become financial members for the remainder of the 2010/2011 financial year by paying a reduced subscription rate of \$20 with the understanding that the 2011/2012 NZSG subscription rate would be say \$30.

As a result of these actions it is stated that :-

In the 2010/2011 financial year subscriptions would be boosted by an additional \$200,000 and in the following year (2011/2012) income from subscriptions would be \$549,000.

Unfortunately these figures are based on erroneous numbers.

If we offered the 1,880 individuals a reduced subscription rate of \$20 for the remainder of the 2010/11 financial year, subscriptions would be boosted by \$37,600 [not \$200,000] and in the following year subscription income would be \$252,540 [not \$549,000].

In addition, this premise is based on all 1,880 individuals taking up the offer which is highly unlikely. A 50% take-up may be closer to reality. This would mean an \$18,800 boost this year and subscription income of \$224,340 for the following year.

Given that the 2011/2012 financial year should yield a subscription income in excess of \$400,000 the above suggested scenario seems a poor substitution to the current status.

Year	Currently	Suggested	Proposal
		100% take-up	50% take-up
2010/2011	\$400,000+	additional \$37,600	Additional \$18,800
2011/2012	\$400,000+	\$252,540	\$224,340

Bob Matthews

NZSG Treasurer 2010/2012



Conference & Annual General Meeting 2011 John McGlashan College, Dunedin



GOLD IN OTAGO:

- Waipori goldfields
- The Making of a City
- Gold on the Arrow
- The Miners
- Scottish and Irish Migration

GENEALOGICAL TREASURES:

- Conservation of text and images
- Textiles
- Cemeteries

REPOSITORIES:

- Archives New Zealand
- Hocken Collections
- Dunedin City Archives
- Settlers Museum
- Presbyterian Archives
- Catholic Archives
- Heritage Room
- Dunedin Public Library



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Pack your swag and join the Early Bird rush for renowned Southern Hospitality at Queen's Birthday weekend, 2011. See centre pages of the November/December issue of *The New Zealand Genealogist* for Registration Form or register online.

ancestry.com.au

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