



## New Zealand Society of Genealogists Bay of Islands Branch October 2017

### Convenor's Corner

Hello everyone,

We are counting down to the end of another year that has flown by. Pam Jenkins who spoke at the September meeting was an interesting speaker who fleshed out the more personal details of her ancestors in a very enjoyable way. As I mentioned in the last newsletter there is not a speaker arranged for our meeting coming up, although Gaye Fletcher may be able to give us tips on photos if she is available. In any case bring along interesting or problematic photos that you may have and any other queries for an informal discussion which always goes down well.

For the last meeting of the year in November we have Barbara Wylie coming from Kaitaia to give a presentation. She is a life member of our group and has held positions at the executive level in the NZSG with a wealth of knowledge gained over many years genealogy research. This is one not to be missed! At that meeting we will have some raffles so if you have any items suitable for this they could be dropped off at Karen's in Orchard Estate number 36.

The Christmas lunch has been arranged so keep Saturday December 9<sup>th</sup> free. It will be held at the Orchard Estate in Cobham Rd with catering supplied by Neat Eats at a cost of \$17.50 per head and nearer the time we will need numbers for this always enjoyable social occasion. Our treasurer Gay Furse has been persuaded to loosen the purse strings and will provide some wine to add to the festivities!

Look forward to seeing you on October 28<sup>th</sup>,

Lynne Ford

Convenor

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### Raffle

We will be having a raffle at our November meeting – themes will be “Garden” and “Christmas” so if you have any suitable items for this raffle would you please drop off at Kareen Hall's place 36 Orchard Estate or bring to our October meeting. We do not want items brought on the day of the raffle as we need to put them together.

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Recently Robin Hodkinson visited Kaeo and she has written about her visit.

### *HISTORIC KAEO*

When travelling to the Far North we usually go through Kaeo without stopping. Recently I had the occasion to stop for a few hours and explore the village. I was very impressed by the improvements that have been made. I do have old connections to Kaeo, having lived

there some time ago and my father a carpenter spent time on the building of the hospital in the 1940s and ancestors are buried there and relatives still live there.

Having watched the programme "Heritage Rescue" on Choice TV about the refurbishment at the Kaeo Museum and the need to do some ancestral research, was the incentive to visit.

First stop was the Museum .I liked the new layout and displays and along with the others enjoyed watching the video about the "Boyd" tragedy. It was most informative. The volunteer at the counter was most helpful with my enquiries, re burials and cemeteries in the area. I also noticed old school records in one of the cabinets.

For me the most exciting discovery was a picture of my 3x great grandmother, that I had never seen before. Following the suggestion of the volunteer (also descended from the same lady) I was directed to go to the shop next door and speak to Olive who has the original and only known photo of our ancestress.

I was delightfully surprised to find what used to be a dull dreary second hand/antique shop was now a cheery, colourful, vibrant shop that sold old and new items. Olive proved to be a mine of information too. I am now looking forward to the day she writes up her family history.

Time to move on and shout some sustenance for the patience and endurance of the others I had dragged along with me. Donna's Mad Hatter's Café fitted the bill nicely. Good coffee for me, juice for the others and well filled sandwiches and panini and chocolate fudge slice all went down well. Good conversation with the proprietor as well. Local Manuka honey on sale as well, which I bought to replenish my supplies.

After a quick look at the lovely little dress shop next to the café and a chat to the hairdresser down the hallway, we then wended our way over the bridge, past the Four Square grocer, that hadn't changed much since I used to shop there, around the corner, to the end of the street and up a short driveway opposite the local pub.

Our destination, the Old Settlers Cemetery. It was a nice surprise to see the grass was no longer up to my knees as it had been on a previous occasion. It is still a bit dicey walking around as ground has subsided in places over the year. A few headstones are still legible but most have been broken or fallen over. It is a very peaceful spot overlooking the farmland, above the reach of the river and flooding.

Beside the cemetery is a building that was once the Masonic Hall. My 2x great grandfather had been a member of the Masonic Lodge and I can imagine him going to his meetings there. It is now an "Op shop". We popped into see what bargains might be had. Granddaughter bought a nice jacket for herself so she was well pleased. Alf who was minding the shop, had a few stories to tell as well. But time was moving on and so we needed to as well.

Kaeo will be getting another visit from us soon as we never got a chance to check out what has been happening on the other side of the street. Could see, fish and chips and Indian food advertised, - something to try next time. The 'new' cemetery in Turner Street warrants a visit as well.

If passing that way do take time to stop and explore. Never know what you might find out. Better still make it a destination and take your time to enjoy what Kaeo has to offer.

By Robin Hodkinson

Researchers can order birth and death for £6 each for the next three months



**The General Register Office (GRO) is again piloting a scheme where researchers can order birth and death records as a PDF.**

From today (12 October), the digital records will be available to order via the GRO website for £6 each for a period of three months.

The PDF scheme provides a cheaper alternative to ordering print certificates, which cost £9.25 each or £23.40 for priority certificates.

Sarah Williams, editor of *Who Do You Think You Are? Magazine* said, "This new pilot will be welcomed by family historians who will now be able to find out crucial details about births and deaths at a much more affordable price".

GRO, which has run three previous pilot PDF schemes, said the scheme would run for a minimum of three months to allow it to “assess the demand for this service over a prolonged period”.

The scheme applies to birth certificates from 1837 to 1916 and death certificates from 1837 to 1957.

## Upcoming Meetings

28 October                      Round Table Workshop  
25 November                  Barbara Wylie – “ about Time”  
9 December                     Christmas lunch – Orchard Estate -\$17.50 per head



A people without the knowledge of their past history,  
origin and culture is like a tree without roots.  
*Marcus Mosiah Garvey, Jr.*

## Committee

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