



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Hibiscus Coast Branch

August 2019



From the Convenor ...

I have recently had several of our members stop and chat about writing their family histories down and it seemed that a little encouragement here was needed. Over all the years I have been researching I have seen such big changes in technology and how easy it would be to not be able to pass on what we have learnt. Commodore computers came and went, putting things onto floppy discs soon became a thing of the past, and the same fate with CD's to name just a few examples of what is now, 'old-technology'. The one thing that has continued to keep our information for us so that we can still open and read it whenever we want and do not need another password, that might be lost over time, is books. Books now-days with digital technology make them so easy to produce and share with others and to be available to the generations to come.

As genealogists we know that genealogy is the skeleton or the pedigree of a family and consists of names, dates and places- a family tree. Whereas, a Family History puts the flesh on that skeleton, and that is the interesting part. With all this in mind I have booked **the Pohutukawa Room at the Whangaparaoa Library for August 21 from 10-12** for those interested in coming along to get motivated to put the 'flesh on the bones.'

We have had some good people get us started writing in the past, but this does not always seem to have been sustained so this time we thought we might have a get together in a months-time to see how things are going. So, a prod to get started and a jog to keep going!

Many of us have good intentions of writing our own life stories and need to take the plunge but this type of writing in the first person will not be the focus for this session. Instead it would be better to select someone like a great grandparent from your family tree and see how you could make an interesting story from their life for future family members. (Even if you only have 'Ag Labs' to choose from!)

I have done several of these histories for my grandchildren in case they ever become interested and they have already been used when they are asked at school to do an assignment. One was to write about someone famous and my grandson wrote about his great aunt, Alice, not that her story is to be found in history books, but she was famous to him and greatly admired by all the family. No doubt his story was a refreshing change for the teacher from reading about Sir Edmund Hillary over and over! Perhaps he even got some marks for originality. Family History month and 'Let's get writing'



Wendy Inskeep NZSG4698

**Next Branch Meeting at St Chads Church,
117 Centreway Road on
Tuesday 20 August 2019
2 – 4 pm**

Speaker for August

DNA with Veronica Storey will give the audience an insight into the complex and often confusing world of DNA. As interest in genealogy and family history grows world-wide, many people are using DNA to find missing ancestors. Veronica, a librarian at the Orewa Library, has been hosting DNA courses for beginners and more advanced parties at the Orewa Library. These classes have been held on the 4th Sunday.

If you are keen to attend the DNA sessions Veronica holds at the Orewa Library let her know which session you are attending by emailing her at veronica.storey@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



Last Month's Branch Speaker

Graeme Wake is a retired Professor of Mathematics. With a name like Wake he was keen to meet Nancy Wake, the renowned secret agent working with the French Resistance in WWII and known as "The White Mouse" by the Gestapo. The opportunity came when Graeme was working in Oxford in 1990. Peter Gordon was writing a book, and invited Graeme to a function where Nancy was present. As soon as Nancy realised that Graeme was not only a Wake, but came from New Zealand, she was delighted, saying "take me back to New Zealand".



Nancy was born in Wellington in 1912, before moving to Australia at the age of two. She is recognised and decorated by many countries, but strangely not New Zealand. Graeme set out to change that, but without success.

Nancy's wartime exploits and courage became an inspiration for the New Zealand Black Ferns. Graeme had some old film of Nancy and approached film maker David Blyth to make a film "Remembering Nancy Wake". In the film, Black Ferns flanker Charmaine McMenamin, who is a distant relative of Graeme, said that Nancy was the perfect role model. After winning the 2017 Women's Rugby World Cup, the Black Ferns named the Cup "Nancy". There were some clips of war time Nancy and some in her later Years.

David Blyth has made over 80 films interviewing WWII veterans. Following on from Graeme, he showed us his latest one, "Father's Footsteps". Lt Col Lawrence Morris (Curly) Blyth served in France during the First WW. Born in 1896 Leeston, Canterbury, he joined the fourth battalion of the New Zealand Rifle Brigade. Sent first to Egypt, he was posted to the Somme in 1916, to be followed by Messines, and Le Quesnoy. Curly was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and then made Lieutenant Colonel in the home forces during the Second World War. In addition to his Military Medal he was awarded France's Cross of Lorraine and in 1998 the French Legion of Honour.

David's excellent film with footage of the fighting interspersed with interviews

with his grandfather, left us all very quiet and sombre, realising what a debt we owe to these gallant men and women. *Reviewed by David Knell*

Last Month's Additional Speaker

We were privileged to have a second speaker in July. Michelle Patient gave a very informative talk on "Breaking Down the Brick Walls, Re-viewing your Re-Search". This is something we all eventually come up against.

Michelle spoke to three headings:

* *Re-read what you have*

e.g. marriage certificates. Fresh eyes may pick up something you missed at first glance. Check witnesses for clues.

* *Re-visit repositories and sources*

Have you all the evidence? New records are being released weekly.

* *Re-educate – what – who – how - when*

How reliable is the information? Could somebody else have the same name around the same date? Have you drawn the correct conclusions?

Michelle went on to talk about all the resources available to us and the increasing use of DNA. She covered a great deal of ground; fortunately, a complete set of notes from the talk will be available on the society's web site in due course.

Review by David Knell



Updates from the Branch

FAMILY HISTORY MONTH – Whangaparaoa Library

***Writing session - Pohutukawa Room on Wednesday 21.**

In August's - Family History Month, Wendy Inskeep is running a Writing Session to encourage people to begin writing their own family histories. The twist is you won't be writing about yourself. Writing about an ancestor and filling in the blanks of their life can be incredibly productive. When your grandfather was a boy, what kind of clothes would he have worn where he lived? What did he do as he walked to school? What kind of hair cut did he have? All these additions to a family history can bring a story to life. (The following month there will be a catch-up session to see how everyone's writing is progressing). It doesn't matter if you are a beginner or an experienced writer just looking for motivation – come along. Bring a friend!! Wendy has written a number of articles and books and is supportive of those who want to leave a fuller legacy to their families.

School Holiday Program



Hibiscus Matters one of our local newspapers, have said they will have an article about the school holiday program that our branch held in the Whangaparaoa Library in their August 7 edition.

As you can see, the participants had a busy morning getting to grips with putting their genealogy together. Volunteers and family adults helped.

Some of the volunteers and participants in the School Holiday Program.



This holiday program was geared towards children who were a little older and could skilfully navigate technology. An adult to help fill in missing dates and names proved to be a bonus for everyone.

August is Family History Month

The Auckland Family History Expo 2019 will be held Friday 9 August to Sunday 11 August 2019 at the Fickling Convention Centre, 546 Mt Albert Rd, Three Kings.

<https://www.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz/Pages/family-history-expo.aspx>

Friday 9th 5pm–8.30pm Bookings are required \$15. No door sales.

Genealogy and the Internet – A Match Made in Heaven with Cyndi Ingle
The Future of Family History with Nick Barrett
Q&A session and interactive discussion.

Saturday 10th 9am-6pm

Exhibition hall - 25 industry exhibitors open all day.

Waikowhai Room – Cyndi Ingle, Jason Reeve, Russ Wilding, Raymon Naisbitt, Nick Barratt. (check for times and topics)

Senior Citizens Room – Fiona Brooker, Michelle Patient, Emerson Vandy, Gail Riddell, Raymon Naisbitt (check for times and topics)

Lynfield Room – Seonaid Lewis, Marie Hickey, Auckland Libraries, Jan Gow, Robyn Williams. (check for times and topics)

Mt Roskill Library (off site) – Seonaid Lewis, Russ Wilding.

(check for times and topics. Bookings for computers only on the day but you can bring your own laptop to these workshops.)

Sunday 11th 9am-5pm

Exhibition hall - 25 industry exhibitors open all day.

Waikowhai Room – Nick Barratt, Cyndi Ingle, Joan McCracken, Raymon Naisbitt, Jan Gow. (check for times and topics)

Senior Citizens Room – Russ Wilding, Michelle Patient, Fiona Brooker, Rowan Payne, Andy Fenton, Raymon Naisbitt. (check for times and topics)

Lynfield Room – Seonaid Lewis, Marie Hickey, Auckland Libraries, Joanne Graves, Fiona Brooker, Raymon Naisbitt. (check for times and topics)

Mt Roskill Library (off site) – Jan Gow, Marie Hickey.

(check for times and topics. Bookings for computers only on the day but you can bring your own laptop to these workshops.)

FHM – Australia - Join this webinar to discover the National Library's eResources an excellent collection of online Australia and overseas newspapers. Locate that article from 1990 or find reference to your ancestor in British newspapers from the 1800's.

<https://www.nla.gov.au/event/eresources-newspapers-for-family-history-webinar>

Branch Website: <https://sites.google.com/view/hbcgenealogy/home>

find my past Over 2.6 million new additions to the [United States Billion Graves Cemetery Index](#)

Over 214,000 new additions to the [Canada Billion Graves Cemetery Index](#)

Over 114,000 new additions to the [England Billion Graves Cemetery Index](#)

Over 2,000 new additions to the [Ireland Billion Graves Cemetery Index](#)

Over 80,000 new additions to the [Scotland Billion Graves Cemetery Index](#)

Over 42,000 new additions to the [Wales Billion Graves Cemetery Index](#)

Over 323,000 new additions to the [Australia Billion Graves Cemetery Index](#)

Over 71,000 new additions to the [New Zealand Billion Graves Cemetery Index](#)

Cemetery records are of great importance in discovering where and when your ancestor died. They can also provide you with information regarding their birth and marriage dates.

Last Word from the Editor ... It is a good reminder to go back and look for old names on sites you have already checked as updates occur regularly. The log on my laptop showed where I had looked and when, so I just went back to the same site and re-entered the previous search details. Finding information on two sites was rewarding. Images were clean and sharp and the transcriptions were correct in all manner. Church records in NZ showed Brien while civil and govt records showed O'Brien. In Ireland they were under 'both' plus Brion? Taking phonetics into account is the only way to get a complete view of possibilities. I found 6 names!!



Maggie C

Our Branch Page at NZSG

<https://www.genealogy.org.nz/HibiscusCoast69.aspx>

Our website

<https://sites.google.com/view/hbcgenealogy/home>

Email: HibiscusCoast@genealogy.org.nz

Branch Information & Responsibilities

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of each month - Feb to Nov
2.00 pm at St Chad's Church, Orewa

Branch Convenor:	Wendy Inskip	wendyinskeep@hotmail.com
Meeting Convenor:	Wendy Fitzpatrick	wendyjoy@xtra.co.nz
Secretary:	Alison Wesley	alison@onewesley.co.nz
Treasurer:	Frank Shelmerdine	f.shell@xtra.co.nz
Library Volunteers:	Bob Howard	bc.howard@xtra.co.nz
Newsletter:	Maggie Chan	maggiezzmail@gmail.com
Branch Postal Address:	PO Box 27, Orewa.	

A big *THANK YOU* to our newest library volunteer Garry Phillips who will be joining Sandi Halling on the 4th Wednesday and covering our 5th Mondays. If you are interested in becoming a library volunteer contact Bob Howard on bc.howard@xtra.co.nz

Branch Website: <https://sites.google.com/view/hbcgenealogy/home>

August Library Calendar

Day	Date	Event	Location
Thu	1	Duty: Alan Jenner & Megan Thompson	Whangaparaoa Library 10 - Noon
Fri	2		
Sat	3	Duty: Wendy Inskeep & Ros Cunningham	Whangaparaoa Library 10 - Noon
Sun	4		
Mon	5	Duty: Greg Murphy & Norman Ashton	Whangaparaoa Library 10 - Noon
Tues	6		
Wed	7	Duty: Shirley Hunt, Eileen Revell & Alison Cairns	Whangaparaoa Library 10 - Noon
Thu	8	Duty: Peter Hill, Brenda & Mick Munford	Whangaparaoa Library 10 - Noon
Thu	8	Legacy Group	Pohutukawa Room 10 - Noon
Fri	9	Family History Expo	Fickling Centre 5-7 pm
Sat	10	Family History Expo	Fickling Centre 8.30-6 pm
Sun	11	Family History Expo	Fickling Centre 8.30-5 pm
Mon	12	Duty: Ann Viscoe, Sally Corbel & Judy Lilley	Whangaparaoa Library 10 - Noon
Tue	13		
Wed	14	Duty: Alison Wesley & Bob Howard	Whangaparaoa Library 10 - Noon
Thu	15	Duty: Kate Ellis & Dick Mogridge	Whangaparaoa Library 10 - Noon
Fri	16		
Sat	17	Duty: Wendy Fitzpatrick, Wendy Jenner & Jan Rawley	Whangaparaoa Library 10 - Noon
Sun	18		
Mon	19	Duty: Lyn & John Curtis	Whangaparaoa Library 10 - Noon
Tue	20	Branch Meeting - DNA with Veronica Storey	St Chads, Centreway Rd, Orewa 2pm
Wed	21	Wendy Inskeep Writing Session	Pohutukawa Room 10 - Noon
Thu	22	Duty: Paula Denison & Shirley Wills	Whangaparaoa Library 10 - Noon
Thu	22	Veronica Storey DNA Workshop	Orewa Lib, Intermed / Advanced 1-3 pm
Fri	23		
Sat	24	Duty: Margaret Pool	Whangaparaoa Library 10 - Noon
Sun	25	Veronica Storey - DNA Workshop	Orewa Library, Beginners 1-3 pm
Mon	26	Duty: David Knell, Brenda & Mick Munford	Whangaparaoa Library 10 - Noon
Tue	27	Sandra's Cottage Group	86 The Circle, Manly 9.30am
Wed	28	Duty: Sandi Halling & Garry Phillips	Whangaparaoa Library 10 - Noon
Thu	29	Duty: Paula Denison & Mary DeBoer	Whangaparaoa Library 10 - Noon
Fri	30		
Sat	31	Duty: Wendy Fitzpatrick	Whangaparaoa Library 10 - Noon

Please note – Saturday 10th and Wednesday 21st there will be no regular Library due to the Family History Expo and the Writing Session. Please support these Family History activities. Thank you.

