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NORTH SHORE BRANCH

NEWSLETTER Volume 20, Issue 5, June 2015

MEETINGS are held at Marlborough Park Hall, Chartwell Ave. Glenfield.
Day Meetings: 1pm – 3pm: First Monday of the month,
February to December
Night Meetings: 7-30pm– 9.30pm: Third Tuesday of the month
February to November

North Shore Branch Resource Room at Marlborough Park Hall
is open on Wednesday from 1pm – 3pm
On Monday Meeting Days it will open at 12-30 pm

Convenor's June 2015 Report

There was a good turnout to our AGM held at the May day meeting. I must thank the members for re-electing me as Convenor. Graham Clark helped convene the AGM and then gave an interesting and informative talk of the changing boundaries of European countries in the 19th/20th centuries.

I am sorry to report the committee has lost the services of Colleen Petricevich (Treasurer for many years), Sharron Peters and Bronwyn Johnson who all stepped down at this election. We appreciate all they have done and will miss them. Our new Treasurer is Ian Winkel. The committee is now two members short at a time when we have important work to do. If you are able we would welcome anyone with some time to spare to help us plot our future at this difficult time. I would also like to thank Pam Hamlyn for her long and invaluable service at the afternoon tea table at day meetings. Her place has now been taken by Sharron Peters.

At the May Tuesday evening meeting 21 people attended and a very informative evening on 'Getting the best out of Archway' was held. Many thanks to our webmaster Paul Ashton for leading the discussion and Sharron Peters for lending the all important dongle so the internet could be accessed.

Members will know we have been told we must move out to allow total refurbishment of the hall and the reason nothing had been done about curtains and heaters was because they were not doing anything till then. Well, in the last few weeks new heaters have been installed! So we should be warm in future until we leave. The search for a new home continues. We have not seen the premises at the old barracks in Devonport yet as the building has still not been certified by the Council and we can't go in until it is. One possibility we had been hopeful of was ruled out by the conditions in the master lease which prohibited sub-leasing. Further ideas are being explored.

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Arising from the possibility that we will not be successful or will have very limited space the committee and helpers have embarked on an analysis of what is in the Resource Room and classifying items as 'must keep', may be wanted by NZSG FRC Library or other Branches, may be wanted by Auckland Library or need to be disposed off. A first step has been to cull our magazine collection – early copies we are disposing of will be available at the June meetings – a small donation would be appreciated. We were unable to book Vivienne Parker to speak to us on English Parish Records, a presentation she did earlier this year for the Auckland Library but you can enjoy the videoed version of it by logging on to <http://kintalkfamilyhistory.blogspot.co.nz/2015/05/motivation-monday-records-of-english.html> The video runs for nearly an hour. You can also listen to Geraldene O'Reilly's talk which will help you investigate Irish townlands and other place names.

Pam Ogier has very kindly edited this newsletter despite having 'retired' from this task. As no one has volunteered to be the editor the committee are looking for a 'compiler. Different people will be given the task of providing different sections of the content, I will provide my report, the programme organiser the upcoming meeting notes, education at FRC and Auckland Library, etc. We need someone to slot these pieces together into the newsletter format. Please contact the Secretary Linda Pinder 478-5201 or linda_pinder@yahoo.co.au if you can help. This is urgent!

I will be away overseas visiting my children and grandchildren from Tuesday 9th June to Friday 17th July. I am sorry to be away at such a critical time but I have every confidence that members will support the committee in my absence and our branch will overcome our difficulties.

Raewyn

MEETINGS CALENDAR

Monday 8th June 2015

1 pm

(in lieu of Queen's Birthday)

Speaker: David Verran

Subject: "Why can't I find where my ancestor is buried?"

The 1882 Cemeteries Act and burial details.

Tuesday 16th June 2015

7.30 pm

What was your ancestor doing in 1881?

Monday 6th July 2015

1 pm

To be advised

Tuesday 21st July 2015

7.30 pm

Speaker: Brian Potter

Subject: " From Birkenhead to Battlefield"

National Library of Ireland

The entire collection of Catholic parish register microfilms held by the National Library of Ireland (NLI) will be made available online – for free – from 8th July 2015 onwards. On that date, a dedicated website will go live, with over 390,000 digital images of the microfilm reels on which the parish registers are recorded.

Dating from the 1740s to the 1880s, they cover 1,091 parishes throughout the island of Ireland, and consist primarily of baptismal and marriage records.

Typically, the parish registers include information such as the dates of baptisms and marriages, and the names of the key people involved, including godparents or witnesses. The digital images of the registers will be searchable by parish location only, and will not be transcribed or indexed by the NLI.

<http://www.nli.ie/>

NEW AT THE BRANCH RESOURCE ROOM

Hutt Valley Branch NZSG

May 2015 Newsletter

Anzac Poem by A J Faulkner from NZ Freelance Weekly 25th April 1923.

How to find NZ WW1 Service Records.

From Christchurch – The Press goes to Press 25th May 1861

Dunedin Branch NZSG

May – June 2015 Newsletter

PITTUCK Photo Album

Many photos of old buildings and people of Dunedin from an old album

Wellington Branch NZSG

May 2015 Newsletter

Samoa Newspapers now on Papers Past.

Were your ancestors Hawkers or Pedlars?

This month in history – devastating landslide at Lake Taupo 7th May 1846

Kilbirnie Branch NZSG

June 2015 Newsletter

Gravestone symbols and visit to Bolton Street Memorial Park.

Report on talk by Gill Knox about New Zealand Society of Genealogists

Dunedin Family History Group

June 2015 Newsletter

Southland icon turns 100

Lest we forget - Alexander Whiting

Common nicknames

Nightcaps - its history and war memorial

Old Macraes Cemetery

The frustration of researching names on your family tree

Latest additions to Paperspast

Wendonside War Memorial

Now and Then

Websites of use to Genealogists

Otama War Memorial

Getting organised - Pedigree charts.

Family history talks online

Watch video recordings of some family history talks at Auckland Libraries.

<http://www.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz/EN/heritage/familyhistory/talks/Pages/talks.aspx>

Auckland Central Library

Family history lunchtime series

When: Generally fortnightly on Wednesdays from February to November, 12pm - 1pm unless otherwise stated

Where: [Central City Library, Whare Wānanga, Level 2](#)

Cost: Free

Booking: To secure your place, please contact the [Central Auckland Research Centre](#) on 09 307 7771, or complete our [online booking form](#)

Family Search with Lyn McOnie

Wednesday 10 June, 12pm - 1pm

Hear Lyn McOnie speak about the many wonderful features of Family Search. This talk is a must for those wanting to learn how to navigate this free website.

Lyn McOnie is a professional genealogist with more than 40 years family history research and teaching experience, including time spent as a volunteer at Family History Centres in South

Auckland. www.familysearch.org

Hillsborough Cemetery with Peter Nash

Wednesday 24 June, 12pm – 1pm

Learn about Hillsborough Cemetery's history, inhabitants and user-friendly database.

Since opening in 1916, there has been 17,500 burials at Hillsborough Cemetery. After some research, Peter Nash decided to centralise the sexton's records, Monumental Inscriptions and burial records on one database.

You are invited to come along for a guided tour of this beautifully situated cemetery and meet some of the characters buried there. Perhaps Peter can convince you to carry out the same exercise on other cemeteries.

Peter Nash is a well-known genealogist and historian who has held senior positions within the NZ Society of Genealogists, and has become immersed in the story of Hillsborough cemetery and its inhabitants.

Waikato Immigration Scheme with Sarah Mathieson

Wednesday 8 July, 12pm - 1pm

It has been 150 years since ships arrived in New Zealand bringing immigrants for the Waikato Immigration Scheme; a government scheme to populate the North Island with immigrants recruited in Britain, Ireland and South Africa.

Many of these records have survived, detailing the occupations of the immigrants, the ships that brought them to New Zealand and the land grants they received, offering some insight into the hardships they faced.

RESOURCE ROOM

Our friendly librarians know all the answers and they are just waiting for your questions so please make them happy.

Shirley McIntyre advises:-

We have had thirty nine (39) new CD's added to our CD's list. These have come from "Who do you think you are magazine"

Besides what has been put in the index they have other items such as where repositories are, what they have and some links to their websites (which cannot be used at this time as we do not have an internet connection to our computer) also there are photos from some of these repositories.

Some of the items in the index need to be downloaded onto the Hard Drive I have put a folder on the desk top called "Who do you think you are" into which you can put the item. If not sure how to do this, ask one of the Librarians.

Our death notices from the NZ Herald are our Crown Jewels. They bring in a steady income thanks to Denise Cook who answers queries from all over the world.

These notices are put together by a hard working team who meet most weeks to "paste" then into a form for printing and binding into books. We cannot thank them enough.

Contributed by Lyn Winkel

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Are your ancestors Polish? You too could benefit from Poland's generous laws on EU citizenship

Thanks to Poland's liberal citizenship laws, thousands of people of Polish descent born in the UK, US, Canada, Australia, Argentina, Israel, South Africa and many other countries hold dual nationality and an EU passport. Polish citizenship is their birthright and without it, doors to living, studying and working in Europe would normally be closed to most of them.

There is much confusion about Polish citizenship. So firstly, let's look at the difference between "becoming" a Polish citizen and "confirming" your Polish citizenship. To become a citizen without having Polish ancestry, you need to reside in Poland, speak the language and meet other eligibility criteria. If you are of Polish origins, however, it means that technically you are already a Polish citizen and you can apply to have it "confirmed" by proving your heritage. It doesn't matter where you were born; what matters is who your ancestors were. You don't even have to speak Polish.

As the first step, people applying to the Polish authorities to have their citizenship confirmed need to establish whether their parents, grandparents or great-grand parents were Polish citizens. Normally, you only need one of your ancestors to have had Polish citizenship for you to qualify. To do that, they need to provide evidence, which can be problematic due to the passage of time, lack of documents or other events that make it difficult to prove the blood ties between applicants and their ancestors. Whilst the Polish authorities may assist with some research, the burden of proof lies with the applicants themselves and without proper documentation, cases can drag on for years.

Part of article from Australian Times 30th March 2015