



Coming up at Porirua Branch

Wednesday, 12 August

Brick Walls session.

Panellists Brian Turner, Paul Alpe, Ruth Ward, Jan Powell will attempt to knock down the brick walls members have sent in.

Wednesday, 9 September

Gerald Twiss:

45th Battalion, Battle Hill; and Pat Brocklebank:

Dating old Photos

Wednesday, 14 October

Research Evening at Porirua Library Genealogy Section

Using Porirua Library's genealogy resources. Expert advice on researching online. Expert advice on using genealogical programs on your computer.

Bring your laptop and your research queries.

Wednesday, 11 November

Christmas Meeting

Exciting finds over Lockdown and Family Treasures.

Convenor's Comments



Hello - my name is Pat Liddell and I have the pleasure of being Convenor for the coming year.

Thanks to everyone who ventured out to our delayed AGM - it was great to be back together again after Covid-19 and to be back in our old home - the Helen Smith room at Pataka. I hope you liked the new seating, arranged to overcome the lighting/projector difficulty.

There has been a couple of changes in the committee line up - Helen Swiney and Ruth Ward have stepped down, as has our Convenor Mary Beckett. Thanks to all three, especially Mary for her guidance in my new role, and all for helping to make our meetings so vibrant and interesting. The raffle survey brought to the forefront two volunteers to be on the committee: Darryl Taylor and Jeremy Naylor. Welcome Darryl and Jeremy. There is more about each committee member later in the newsletter. I'm sure our new committee will continue to bring you interesting speakers.

Highlight of the AGM was the celebration of four members who were awarded Life Membership: Pip Piper, Diane Fraser, Joan Conroy and Heather Mountjoy, who have given many years of service to the branch - Pip has been a member since 1994 and has volunteered on the Porirua library genealogical desk for 27 years! Joan has volunteered for 16 years, and Heather for 19 years as well as being newsletter editor for many years. Diane has been a member since 1995 and has been a committee member and an informative speaker at many of our meetings. Congratulations to all.

August is family history month and Richard has put together a programme for our August meeting where we will explore the processes our detectives used hopefully break down some brick-walls. Further information about other FHM events around Wellington is included at the end of the newsletter and in the sidebar.

Other Local Branches

Kilbirnie Branch

6 August 2020

Matairangi Room, ASB Sports Centre, 72 Kemp Street, Kilbirnie

10:00 - 11:30

"If I knew then what I know now!" Mistakes I've Made - Sarah Hewitt

Kapiti Branch

25 August 2020, 19:00 - 21:00

Kapiti Community Centre, 15 Ngahina St, Paraparaumu

Peter Cooke, Defence of NZ Study Group, describing the work behind the recently published "Roll of New Zealand's Second World War Dead."

Wairarapa Branch

Sunday 16th August 2020

79 Queen St. Masterton

13:30 - 15:00

"Give me enough medals and I'll win you any war"

is the title of Mike Goodall's talk about Military Medals.

Wellington Branch

26 August, 18:00 for 18:30 start, Connolly Hall, Guildford Terrace, Thorndon, Wellington City

The Family Historian with 20/20 Vision

It's good to be back to normal and we all look forward to a productive year.

Pat

Convenor

Life Members Recognised

It was with great pleasure that outgoing Convenor, Mary Beckett, along with incoming Convenor, Pat Liddell, awarded four of our members Life Membership in recognition of the marvellous efforts they have made on behalf of NZSG Porirua Branch.



Pip Piper

has been a member since 1994 and has volunteered on the Porirua library genealogical desk for 27 years



Heather Mountjoy (seen here with Convenor Pat Liddell)

has volunteered for 19 years as well as being newsletter editor for many years.



Joan Conroy

(seen here on duty at Porirua Library in the genealogy section) has volunteered for 16 years.

Hutt Valley Branch

13 August, 19:00 for a 19:30 start,
Petone Library, 7 Britannia Street,
Petone

Resources Available at Upper Hutt Library

National Library of New Zealand

22 August, 10:00 to 13:00
National Library, Molesworth
Street, Thorndon, Wellington City

Resources at the National Library and the Alexander Turnbull Library

Coming up Elsewhere

Christchurch

Friday 14 and Saturday 15 August

CHRISTCHURCH FAMILY HISTORY
EXPO

(Covid allowing)

To be held at Tūranga,
Central City Library, Cathedral
Square, Christchurch.

Free Entry.

Auckland

Saturday 8, Sunday 9 August

Auckland Family History Expo
2020,
Fickling Convention Centre, 548
Mt Albert Rd, Three Kings.



Dianne Fraser

has been a member since 1995
and has been a committee
member and an informative
speaker at many of our
meetings.

Meet the New Committee

Convenor

Pat Liddell

After retiring for the first time in 2004 I started serious study of my family name: RAND, and started a tree on Ancestry. The name is not common in NZ but it is in Kent UK which is where my father's family hail from. I joined the Kent Family History Society and in 2018 had my DNA test done through Family Tree DNA based in Texas, which gave me the result of being 95% UK and a mix of other minor ethnicities to make up the remaining 5%. My test gave me a match through my French grandmother to someone in Canada, however when I contacted that person they were adamant that we were not related as their family had been in Canada since early 1600s. Go figure! My brother has had his DNA done through Ancestry and this threw up a match in Virginia USA; we're still trying to join the dots!

I feel as though I have gone as far as I can with my side of the story and lately have been concentrating more on John's side - he's quite a mongrel with Scottish, Irish, German and English heritage. We recently discovered that the Campbells we thought were Scottish are in fact Irish and the plan was for this year to travel to Ireland to see if we could take the story back a generation or two. Next year maybe!

We've lived in the area since 1974 after spending the first few years of married life in the Wairarapa where our three daughters were born, we now have 10 grandchildren and 4 great

Did you know?

"Getting it Right" is a series of free learning resources, with a New Zealand focus, to help you with your family history research. There is a series of "How To" videos that are easy to watch and to learn from.

https://www.genealogy.org.nz/Getting-it-Right_1715.aspx

Branch Noticeboard

Branch Resources

Please remember to return promptly any branch resources that you have borrowed so that other members may have access to them. Mary Beckett is now the Branch Librarian.

Transport to Meetings

If anyone is having difficulty getting to branch meetings and would like a ride, please contact one of the committee who will endeavour to find a member in your area to transport you to and from the meeting.

Newsletter Contributions Welcome

If you have an interesting story or a handy hint or anything that you'd like to share with Branch members, please let the Newsletter Editor know, contributions are always welcome. Email them to jan@rellyseeker.nz

grandchildren and so far none of them have shown much interest in family history. We live in hope!

Secretary

Alison Lavin

I got involved in family history after retiring, thinking it would help occupy my time and I have now been actively researching my family for the past five years. Prior to this I had very little interest but while reading to my elderly mother about the area in which she lived as a child, she started relating family stories in which I became very interested but the real turning point was a story she told me about my father during WW2. As her memory was deteriorating, I decided to start researching to see if this story was true. It got me interested in the family history and I have not looked back since, not that I have yet proved that story was true or not.

My research has taken me far and wide, having travelled to see where my ancestors lived, and I have met many newly found cousins who are also interested in our ancestors. Meeting these relatives gives me great pleasure and we are now working together to uncover more little gems about our family.

Treasurer

Murray Foster

My interest in family history started in 1980 when my father helped arrange a celebration of the 100 years since my family came to Mangonui in the far north of New Zealand from Lincolnshire. As I was in Wellington, I was able to locate shipping lists and other documents from the National Archives and to attend the celebrations in Kaitaia.

I grew up on a farm in Fairburns near Kaitaia and returned there recently for celebrating 100 years for our local Methodist church. I was able to do some oral history audio taping with my father through the 1990s every time I ventured north to catch up with him now in Auckland. In 2012 I was able to visit Lincolnshire and track down the family home in Little Carlton.

I moved to Wellington in 1970 to become a computer programmer in the newly developing IT industry and stayed in IT in a range of jobs and companies for 47 years. I am now retired ... with more time for genealogy.

I married Barbara in 1975 and now working on family tree details with her family. I also made oral history recordings with her mother and father in their later years.

Programme

Richard Edwards

I developed my interest in family history listening to my aunt's stories of my grandfather and the life that he had led in New Zealand, England and California. Added to those stories were those of an older cousin of my father's and her stories of my great-grandmother and the life she led in London. My grandfather was one of 16 children so there was lots to tell about them all! My mother realised that the stories should not be lost so even though it was her husband's family she wrote down the stories and the information that could be gleaned

Picking up from that great beginning I started my research in the 1980's when it was very much paper and microfiche based. I did manage to run some relatives in the UK to earth whom I visited on my OE. More stories to record.

Work and family life intruded on the time I had to give to my family research but that was lessened when I cut back to 4 days a week about 9 years ago. The timing could hardly have been better as the internet and the records available through it and through providers such as Ancestry and FindmyPast gave my research a whole new life.

Now I only work 2 days a week it would seem as though I should be doing more research but I seem to be spending more time staying in contact with living relatives around the world and there is also the work that I do on our committee that compete for attention with my pushing back and out in my family tree and story. I still get a great buzz when I find out something that I have been looking for.

Library Liaison

Gillian Knox

Hi I am Gill (Gillian) Knox née McGregor. I have been searching the same question I started with some 35 years ago. I would like the answer to "who is my maternal grandmother". I knew her as a person but have no knowledge of who were her parents, she wrote her story and started by "I was born in the old country and brought to this country as an infant."

I was born in Auckland and have lived in England, Wales and Christchurch where I married Keith and have two children and four grandchildren all living in Whitby.

I didn't start looking into my life story until we shifted to Porirua when my husband was posted to the Police College as a tutor. You would think that as a past Policewoman and a Policeman for a husband I would find the answer quickly but, no, it has eluded me. I found the Porirua Branch of NZSG and joined about 2005 and got a lot of help from people who pointed me to the great resources in the Library.

I have just completed six years on the Board of NZSG and have seen the Society go forward with projects that will benefit our members.

Technology

Jeremy Naylor

I'm Jeremy, I'm 37 from Tawa, Wellington and I'm a gay Christian. My hobbies are computers, the Internet, NZ railways, gardening, politics, music and movies. I've been doing genealogy (with some help from my aunt Pam) for about 4 years.

Publicity

Darryl Taylor

I was born in Dunedin and lived there until graduating with a BSc in Computer Science from Otago University. It was while at High school I started my family history with visits to the Family History Centre to look through microfilms and discussions with my Gt Grandmother and the siblings I didn't know she had. Starting research as a child is awesome - there's 3 generations above you still alive. All branches of my tree arrived in Dunedin between 1849 and 1910 - so most of my NZ research is Otago based.

I lived and worked in Palmerston North after graduating and the last 30 years in Wellington. My Job as an IT manager at Datacom keeps me very busy and most of the last 30 years, genealogically speaking, has been about collecting information , photos and cemetery visits when possible, with the utmost hope that I can use retirement to collate everything I've collected into something useful.

I now live in Whitby, married to Anita (coming up 30 years) with 3 kids - a Physiotherapist , a Soldier, and a college student.

Newsletter, Website, Social Media

Jan Powell

I've been doing my family history for most of my life, it seems. It started with stories handed down over the years mostly from my mother, then progressed to visiting places in New Zealand where ancestors had supposedly lived, along with cemeteries. When Ray and I married in 1974, I started to include his family on my tree, to be met with comments such as, "That's just being nosey", "Why do you want to go digging up skeletons?". How times change. Now, I am the repository for all their records.

I was born and raised in Palmerston North, lived in New Plymouth for three years. Since we married we've lived in Hawera, Hamilton, Browns Bay, Greymouth, Nelson, Ballina in Co Tipperary, and now Wellington. Plenty of scope there for genealogical research. I left school the day after my 16th birthday, and worked in BNZ for 8 years. Gained provisional admission to University, then trained as a primary teacher, finished my degree extramurally, then fell into secondary teaching. Now, I'm a professional genealogist, having undertaken relevant studies whilst we lived in Ireland.

We have one daughter, a grandson, and granddaughter. Naomi, Grant, and the kiddies live just up the street from us (they chose the house while we were in Ireland). Grant is a software engineer, Naomi is doing her internship as a Psychologist, following in Ray's footsteps, Zach (8) and Xanthe (6) attend Paparangi School.

RESEARCHING NEW ZEALAND MILITARY RECORDS

Vince Kerr's Talk

Extracts from a talk by Vince Kerr to the NZSG Porirua Branch on 8 July 2020.

Introduction

I find the topic very intriguing. Many veterans don't talk about their war experiences and in researching their military records you may discover those never ever told facets of their past life in the forces. You never know what you will find.

Every person who enlisted in the NZ Armed Forces has a Service Record which would have been kept throughout their time in service. Anything major that happened to them would have been recorded.

Unfortunately, the records will not tell you which battles or actions they fought in - you have to do your own research on this. I will go further into this topic later.

The information Service Records contain include:

- Dates of enlistment, length of service, date of discharge and time spent overseas.
- Next of kin information
- Address of the person at the time of enlistment
- Occupation and Employer
- Physical information at the time of enlistment, height, weight, colour of hair, complexion etc.
- Embarkation. Disembarkation, often the name of the ship.
- Locations and dates
- Dates in the field
- Dates of wounding/sickness incl hospitals
- Medical and personal details.
- Medals and decorations awarded.

The downside is that the military survives on abbreviations and acronyms which can be difficult to interpret for the average person.

Starting:

You may have Kiwi ancestors who actually joined the service of other countries such as the United Kingdom or Australia. This often happened if they were living say in the UK before the war and enlisted directly into the British forces. Their information will held by that country, not New Zealand.

Over the next few paragraphs I will cover those who served in the NZ Forces overseas.

Do you know much about the person's service details?

If not, I suggest that you initially look at the Auckland Museum cenotaph website:

www.aucklandmuseum.com/war-memorial/online-cenotaph/search

Looking at this site can help you make certain that you have the correct person and give you the Service Number, Rank, next of kin and other information which will be useful when obtaining information from NZ Archives or NZ Defence Force (NZDF). You don't really want to lodge a request, wait for a while and then find you have the wrong person.

The bonus about New Zealand Service Records are that records for all 3 Services are either kept at Archives NZ for Boer War and WW1 personnel or NZDF at Trentham for those who served after 31 December 1920.

Boer War and WW1 Personnel who completed their service by 31 December 1920

As there are no living WW1 Veterans, access to their records readily available.

The complete records are held by NZ Archives and are fully accessible from their website and printable:

www.archway.archives.govt.nz

"Simple Search" or "Advanced Search" if needed.

Always use **Archway**. I suggest you don't try to search using "World War 1 prompts"

The records for those veterans who served beyond 1 January 1921 or who re-enlisted in World War 2 are probably held by NZDF.

WW2 and subsequent Service

The personal records for all three NZ armed services from 1 January 1921 are held by NZ Defence Force Archives at Trentham Military Camp. All these records held by NZDF are protected under the Privacy Act 1993.

As there are still many WW2 veterans and beyond still living, access to their records depends on whether they are still with us or have passed on to greener pastures.

Personnel Still Living

Information can only be disclosed if you have written and signed authorisation from that person.

Deceased persons

You may have to prove that the person has died and may need to enclose a copy of the death certificate, newspaper notice, funeral service sheet or a photo of the grave. You may also need to have the Next-of-Kin permission in some circumstances.

All enquiries must be in writing on the correct form and you must include your full name and postal address.

The procedures and forms required for requesting information on medals and personal history can be found on the NZDF website:

www.nzdf.mil.nz/personnel-records/records

The form to be used is the **MD 1050** Application/Declaration Form for NZ Military Personnel Records and/or Medal Entitlements

Completed forms are to be sent to:

NZDF Personnel Archives and Medals
Trentham Military Camp
Private Bag 905
UPPER HUTT 5140

Australian Records

Each of the 3 Services have differing systems to obtain personal records.

For example: The personal records of discharged members of the Air Force up to the end of 1972 are held in the National Archives of Australia (NAA). For the Army and the Navy the NAA only hold them up to the end of 1946. From 1947 on records are held at Defence Archives.

Similar to NZ, requests have to be on their written form.

If you are looking for information please look at the following website: www.defence.gov.au/Records/ExService.asp

British Records

Again, this is a form filling exercise and differs for each individual service. You need to send 2 forms, one an application for general enquiries and another for the specific service.

Without going into lengthy detail I suggest you look at the UK Defence:

www.gov.uk/get-copy-military-service-records/print

Interpreting the Information and Researching

I find the best way to examine and research a person's service history is to do a timeline.

Service Records are not presented in any narrative form nor are they easy to read.

Reiterating what I said earlier:

The downside is that the military survives on abbreviations which can be difficult to interpret for the average person.

Good websites to help with this are:

www.nzdf.mil.nz/personnel-records/nzdf-archives/whats-in-the-files.htm

www.nzhistory.govt.nz/war/ww1-abbreviations-acronyms

Getting down to the crux. My suggestions are:

1. List all the dates shown on the person's record in chronological order. Date joined, specific postings to units and locations, embarkment details, hospitalisations etc etc. This can take considerable time as there are often many documents to scrutinise and collate.
2. Then start your major search. Hopefully you will be able to find Unit or Event histories to find out what the Unit was doing at a specific time. This could be from the internet or from the many books held in libraries. And we are lucky here in Wellington to have (normally) good libraries and have access to NZ Archives, the National Library and the Defence Library. The museums of the three services are also extremely helpful. Hocken Library in Dunedin has great collections.

Good websites for historic research are:

www.nzetc.org for Official Histories (Victoria University's NZ Electronic Text Collection)

www.nzhistory.net.nz

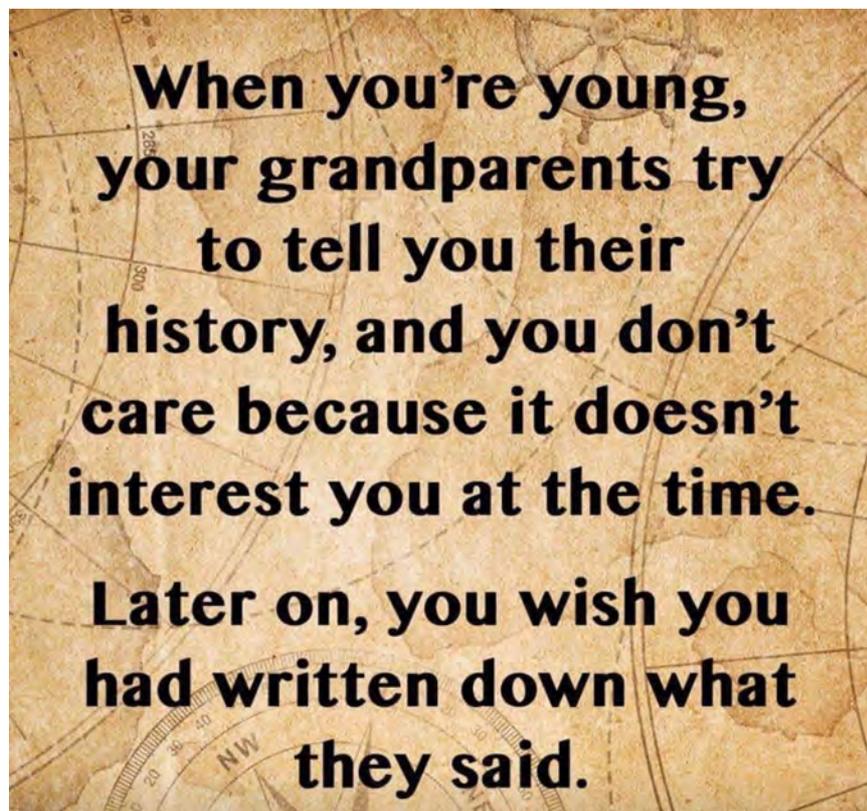
www.teara.govt.nz/history

www.firstworldwar.govt.nz

<https://ww100.govt.nz/new-zealand-at-war-timeline>

www.cwgc.org/find/find-war-dead-and-cemeteries/how-to-search (Commonwealth War Graves Commission)

Happy hunting. I know you will enjoy it.





FAMILY HISTORY MONTH AUGUST 2020

Five free events in the Wellington area

Thursday 06 August 2020 9:00am for a 10:00am start
Kilbirnie Branch presents

Mistakes I have made

Venue: Matairangi Room, ASB Sports Centre, 72 Kemp Street, Kilbirnie

Wednesday 12 August 2020 7:00pm for a 7:30pm start
Porirua Branch presents

Breaking down brick walls – Helping you to find those elusive family relations

Venue: Helen Smith Community Room, Pataka, Norrie Place, Porirua

Thursday 13 August 2020 7:00pm for a 7:30pm start
Hutt Valley Branch presents

Resources Available at Upper Hutt Library

Venue: Petone Library, 7 Britannia Street, Petone

Saturday 22 August 2020 10am to 1pm
The National Library presents

Resources at the National Library and the Alexander Turnbull Library

Venue: National Library, Molesworth St, Thorndon, Wellington City

Wednesday 26 August 2020 6:00pm for a 6:30pm start
Wellington Branch presents

The Family Historian with 20/20 hindsight

Venue: Connolly Hall, Guildford Terrace, Thorndon, Wellington City

All Welcome

For more details see [Facebook](#) Wellington Family History Month
or contact: wqtnbranch@gmail.com

 **ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY**
NATIONAL LIBRARY OF NEW ZEALAND
Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa