



**NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF  
GENEALOGISTS**

## **SOUTH WAIKATO BRANCH**

Contact [southwaikato@genealogy.org.nz](mailto:southwaikato@genealogy.org.nz)

### **NEWSLETTER MARCH 2020**

**Meetings are 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of month.** 1 pm at Tulloch House (TCOSS) - back entrance. Tokoroa Hospital grounds - Unless otherwise advertised.

**Convenor** Judith Gardiner:021 801 507  
**Treasurer**-Lorna Kay -886 7335; **Secretary**-Elsie Monahan 886 5353 **Committee Members**-Denise Fargher 8869381; Sue Turnbull 886 4243; Sandra Mentjox 8838135; Raewyn Alderton 886 8334

### **Family Research Centre Library**

The FRC Library holds resources in a variety of formats - books, CD-ROMs, maps, microfiche, microfilms, tapes and family history magazines.

- In excess of 400 metres of shelving containing books relating to family history and genealogy
- A facility for borrowing films on Interloan from the National Library of New Zealand including AJCP and Newspaper Films.
- 16 Computers in the Library available for free Internet research on Ancestry.com
- Free access to Ancestry, Findmypast, The Genealogist and Family Relatives websites
- 8 drawers of microfilms of some early NZ newspapers and Australian & New Zealand Shipping Passenger Records.
- 28 drawers of microfiche including the IGI (International Genealogical Index) & other assorted records for New Zealand, Australia, England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Channel Islands, Isle of Man.
- Large collection of laminated historical maps for England, Ireland & Scotland. All may be photocopied
- Maps for New Zealand, Australia & other countries.

### **BRANCH TRIP**

We are organising a trip to the Centre on a Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May. They will have on hand great volunteer helpers to assist us. It will start with an orientation of what is there at **10.00am**. We plan to leave circa 3 pm. This allows those that want to go up/ home in the day to do so.

There are a great range of things one can do with the computers as there are specialised programmes that one can link into there. It is not only for NZ research. (SEE ARTICLE ABOVE)

Branch Members can either make own way there – or ask for inclusion in transport from- to Sth Waikato. – so we can co-ordinate by e mail. ( In header)

Please indicate if you are likely to be part of this. We need to give advance indication so there are people on hand. I will also be able to give advance formation to those going.

### **19<sup>th</sup> MARCH DNA**

Elsie will present what she does with the results-

- Overview - Her Table to record on.
- How you can link to your genealogy and extend your trees.
- Further DNA information and discussion.

**28 March Putaruru Cemetery Walk**  
10 April Good Friday  
**16 Apr, Show & Tell eg Photos, memorabilia etc**  
28 April Back to School  
**9<sup>th</sup> May – BRANCH trip** to Family History Centre Panmure \*\* see later  
**21 May - AGM** - Data projector - presentation- Possibly a "Getting it Right"

### **Other events**

**Regional meeting – for committee** (usually the officers) 14 March, Saturday Whakatane.

### **NZSG MEMBERS \_ HAVE YOU POSTED YOUR BALLOT PAPER?**

### **NEW COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER MEMBER?/- or tales out of -----**

Our committee meetings are in a home. In the hot weather we naturally have doors open. Our guest new member was a beautiful black spaniel puppy. Feeling quite at home. I was just ready to nominate him as Branch mascot & publicity officer – when someone sent him outside & shut doors !! SHAME on you - --- Turns out puppy was a visitor to the neighbours house.

## RealMe:

RealMe is an initiative from the **New Zealand** government and **New Zealand Post** to make doing things online easier and more secure.

It is recommended to genealogists because it allows one to go to [www.bdmonline.dia.govt.nz](http://www.bdmonline.dia.govt.nz)

which is Births, Deaths & Marriages Online

Using real me Non-historical **records** that can be ordered through this website are: Births that occurred less than 100 years ago. Stillbirths that occurred less than 50 years ago.

## WHAT IS WHAKAPAPA? - GENEALOGY?

I recently heard a speaker from Waikato Uni talking on the radio about the "Pah Project" which is a Maori & Archaeology combined project in the Waikato. The speaker spoke of Whakapapa needing context and history to enrich the background.

I agree. We as genealogists need to put the people in their place and times;

Example Gr Grandma Isabella. Born in Markinch, Fife, Scotland. She was the only child born there. WHY – her Father was working on the laying of the first railway line through this area in 1847. Now that gives background. She later married very young - (before the elder sister) and had 16 children in less than 20 years of marriage. Her husband was a very close friend of her eldest brother - James- What bonds were forged between the child Isabella and James in the Camps while the railway was being built? Her will written as a widow had James as the Executor. Trust had built up and endured throughout her life. I am collecting and interpreting a lot more about Isabella's life. To really get a handle on your family background one needs to link to more than the statistical info we get through statistical records. Find out more about. Occupations, places, relationships (can be tricky) .

By enriching your people this way one starts to learn more about history, geography, science and human nature etc. YOU then enrich yourself.

**GET IN THE MOOD** If you are researching or writing about your forebears one needs to evoke the era. Music has always been part of the cultural background to human life. You can listen to the recordings at <http://cylinders.library.ucsb.edu/>. These are the old cylinder recordings before records.it will take you back to late Victorian era.

## SNIPPETT FROM A FACEBOOK SITE

**You never know where you get scraps of information to give you background - or find what is valuable!**

*"People used to use urine to tan animal skins, so families used to all pee in a pot & then once a day it was taken & Sold to the tannery.....if you had to do this to survive you were "Piss Poor"."*

A Branch of my family came from the village of Colyton in Devon. This village was really famous for its tanneries. The river became one of the most contaminated in England because of this. Over recent years the whole river and area has been restored .The conservation Society was very active in 1970s. Now there is great wild-life.

## Christchurch Family History Expo 2020

**Ōtautahi Huinga Tātai Kōrero**

**Friday 14 August - Saturday 15 August**

Tūranga Central Library, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch

DNA

See <https://dna-explained.com/2020/02/22/optimizing-your-tree-at-ancestry-for-more-hints-dna-thruines/?fbclid=I>

## Researching for Putaruru Cemetery Walk

I was given the gravestone of woman to research, which I have enjoyed doing but with some frustration as she seemed almost invisible.

I couldn't be sure of her birth date on Ancestry as the birth that could have been hers made no mention of parents.

In the New Zealand Herald marriages in Papers Past she was the daughter of Mr and Mrs R and in the New Zealand Electoral rolls she was married. So I went back to Ancestry, where it says 'to find other people researching the same person in Public Family Trees. I sent an email to a person from there and wasn't sure if I would get a response however after ten days this morning it arrived in my inbox.

It was a wonderful potted history of her parents in the words of her daughter. I couldn't have asked for anything better. Sandra M

## FIRST BRIDGE

"The first bridge ever built in N Z was an 18 m wooden structure to span the Waitang iRiver , constructed in 1830" from "Strange Facts & True about NZ" by Patrick Chapman.

## INTEREST GROUPS of NZSG.

There are a wide range of Interest Group that are part of NZSG. We regularly tell people of these when Pacific Is and Maori people ask us for help as these are outside our members normal research.

Most of the Interest Groups have their own libraries. Although more often now they are being absorbed into the main NZSG Library at the FRC.

If you have a ticklish problem there are people who have a deeper expertise in that specific area.

Many have a round robin of magazines.

Recently I received the latest "Who Do You Think You Are" magazine.

From it I will be looking up the UK Register of Duties Paid for Apprentice Indentures 1710- 1811 through [Ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/apprenticedutyir1](http://Ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/apprenticedutyir1)

There was an article about London and I will look up [londonlives.org](http://londonlives.org)

[Oldmapsonline.org](http://Oldmapsonline.org) has a zoom to area and a date slider which can help you get a map about the time your ancestors lived there

The membership of an Interest group is usually \$10 - \$15 a year. Magazines are extra with of course the postage – but certainly cheaper than the years subscription. By having to pass the magazine on within a required time it makes you "deal with it" quickly. It would be so easy to procrastinate!

## COMPUTER GRRRRRRS

I had this almost ready to go- and then I put in some bits copied ---- and then I could not save! Probably it was just one item that I could not work out what it was. Luckily I had saved up to that point. So only lost a couple of articles. Keep you saving well up to date !!

## THANKS.

It is great to see some members starting to help with varying tasks

Thanks Heather for the work you have been doing on Okoroire Sch.

Thanks Sandra for the work you & a friend are going to be doing checking Tokoroa ( East) School.

\We have other schools ready for work.

Judith is the contact for these projects.. Judith is the CONVENOR

Thanks Frances for the work you have done with the Library-we must get back to it!( sorry I am focussed elsewhere.

The Library is in Elsie's garage

The committee has assigned jobs. There is no sense in asking the wrong person - Lorna Kay is our Treasurer

## SURVEY

It was pleasing to see how many have had their DNA test done.

If you have a good break through because of your test it would be lovely to hear about this after Elsie has "done her thing"

We are all learning about this new resource to assist our genealogy path.

In the meantime keep working on the tree of yours as it is by knowing as much as you can in traditional research that DNA is going to help you make even bigger leaps.

Sandra is collating the information so thea t the committee on Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> can think of implications for the Branch going forward.

Thanks for your participation.

For those not at the last meeting if you wish to be part of this contact Sandra or Elsie.

## MY MONTH.

Since the beginning of Feb I have been really busy with trying to set up sales points for my second book "Hard Times and Hope – South Waikato 1920 - 1950"

I have then been busy with distribution, keeping tabs on stock, keeping tabs on sales etc.

I had the book launch and now and speaking to a few other groups coming up. I have more than ordinary number of appointments.

I have had many people ringing and visiting about the old days – some of which will be useful to Book Three.

I am also planning an event on 23 May – you are invited.

I still have "ordinary life as a widow (no partner to take the load).

In other words things are hectic and out of balance.

Please use other committee people to answer questions- and start thinking of how the Branch can operate in the future – with perhaps me just in an advisory role. Who is going to be Secretary? Change is needed

Elsie