“Irish Interest Group.”

Lower North Island.

Newsletter No: 8.
December 2007

Dia Dhuit (Hello)

“Seasons Greetings” to you all.
This comes with a big apology for the lack of newsletters this year. Conference took up all my spare time and things have been pretty hectic since. Next year things will get back to normal. I promise. We have some exciting things happening for you all, so watch this space.

Irish Rovers Competition

The Irish Rovers toured New Zealand in October.

Thank you to all those who participated in the quiz. Congratulations to our three winners who all said they enjoyed the show.

The three winners were:
Tom Hayes…Ohau
Robin Morgan…Palmerston North
Maureen West…Wellington.

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Irish President visit to NZ

Mary McAleese
30th October 2007

Mary McAleese is the eighth, and current, President of Ireland. She is Ireland's second female president and the world's first woman to succeed another woman as an elected head of state. She was first elected president in 1997 and then re-elected, without contest, to another seven year term in 2004. Born in Belfast in Northern Ireland, prior to becoming president she was a barrister, journalist and academic. She is a very warm and approachable person. Myself, and Annette Gazley had the pleasure of meeting Mary after receiving an invitation from the Irish Consulate in Auckland. This was held at Te Papa with Irish musicians and dancers to entertain, plus wine and nibbles to follow. I was most impressed as Mary took the time to meet all of the 100 – 150 who attended and gave a speech as well as thanks to all those who have done and are promoting Ireland. For more information on her achievements put her name into google and read up on her achievements.

Jenny Martin

Top10 Tips for Genealogy”

4. Divide up your research into manageable chunks. In general decide which question you wish to answer, then work out the records you will need to solve the problem. Always work from known facts and move backward. Never assume anything or make links without having appropriate evidence. If you cannot find positive proof Then, look for three things that point to this being the person you are looking for.

Look out for Number 5 tip next time.

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NZSG charitable status application

As everyone will have heard about this via branches, your committee has made a decision on your behalf, to go with the NZSG in this. The group could not operate, due to our geographical placement or without their help so it makes sense to support them. We all get a lot of support from NZSG so let’s give a little in return by supporting them in this quest.

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Stop Press…..

The 1911 Irish Census is now on line. The free-to-access website which contains the digital equivalent of more than 4,000 reels of microfilm and 3.5 million images, allows users to search for individuals by name, with each household form giving records of a person’s education, religion, profession, literacy, Irish-Language proficiency and place of birth. The website contains records for Dublin only at present, but those for the rest of the country will be available next year.

www.census.nationalarchives.ie

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Obituary:
It is with great sadness that I inform you of the passing in August 2007 of Claire Corrigan from Hawera who will be missed. We extend our condolences to Claire’s family and close friends.

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Wellington Branch Library Hours
‘extra opening hours’
Venue: St Giles Church House
Cnr Kilbirnie Cres and Vallance Street
Kilbirnie.

Friday. December 28th 1-5pm
Sunday. December 30th 1-5pm

Sunday. January 13th 1-5pm
Sunday. January 20th 1-5pm
Sunday. January 27th 1-5pm

Everyone is welcome to come and use the data.

Hawera Open day
We assisted Hawera this year for Family History Week on Saturday 29th September. There were workshops put on by Kilbirnie members, the NZ Gazettes, New Plymouth, and Stratford all attended with local data. Hawera are moving into a new venue, which is having a make over. They are a very friendly group in Hawera so drop in for a visit sometime. They have a lot of good research data and everyone is most welcome.

The winner of the Raffle:
Genealogy Book…Ancestral Trails 2nd Edition by Mark Herber
Was Angela Finnerty – Palmerston North

Naming Patterns
First Son - After the father's father
First Daughter - After the mother's mother
2nd. Son - After the mother's father
2nd. Daughter - After father's mother
3rd. Son - After the father
3rd. Daughter - After the mother
4th. Son - After the father's eldest or closest brother
4th. Daughter - After the mother's oldest or closest sister. Remember there are always the exceptions!

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Message from the Irish Consulate General
‘The NZ International Arts Festival’ will be held in Wellington from 22nd February – 16th March 2008.

There are four outstanding Irish participants, all Internationally recognized.

Giselle: by Fabulous Beast Dance Theatre from Co Leitrim.
Five performances. From Sat 8th – Wed 12th March.
Venue: Shed 6 Waterfront, Wellington.

Green Fire Islands: Music Tour.
A unique collaboration celebrating time-honored Irish and Maori music, inspired by Dónal Lunny who performed for the Irish President Mary McAleese, during her recent New Zealand visit. A unique combination of two cultures. Performances in three venues.
Wellington - Michael Fowler centre, Tue 11th March
Taranaki – WOMAD Festival 14th March
Auckland – Town Hall St Patrick’s Day 17th March.

Martyn Hayes: Six times all-Ireland fiddle champion and Denis Cahill Internationally acclaimed traditional Irish musicians.
Two nights playing the Pacific Blue Club in Wellington 1st and 3rd March, and Porirua at Pataka Museum 2nd March

Paul Muldoon: One of the worlds great living Poets from Co Armagh, will be reading his poetry on 11th and 13th March during the NZ Arts Festival in Wellington.

For more information check out the website below.
www.nzfestival.nzpost.co.nz
Websites

1911 Census of Dublin
http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/
Griffiths, 1901 census, and many more databases Links
http://www.rootsweb.com/~nirfer/
1901 Census for Ballaghbog Townland Kilcoo CP
http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~meaneypj/index.htm
Ulster Ancestry …Free pages
http://www.ulsterancestry.com/ua-free-pages.php
Books Ireland
www.booksireland.org.uk
Celts to NZ
http://www.kiwicelts.co.nz/
Irish Research plus more
http://ireland.progenealogists.com/toc.htm
Townlands Database
http://www.seanruad.com/
The Wild Geese.
http://www.thewildgeese.org/
Something to keep you all occupied over the holiday break.

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Help Please!!!!

Gerard Horn from Victoria University (working with Brad Paterson from Stout Research centre) is doing a paper on early Irish settlers in Wellington, although their descendants now live throughout NZ.

To explain what I am doing and give my contact details if people thought they had information that would be interesting? I have almost completed doing the “number-crunching” side of things, and am looking forward to building up more of the personal and family stories after Christmas.”

If you can assist Gerard please email him with your details and he will explain what he needs.
Gerard.Horn@vuw.ac.nz

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Irish Education Day

This, the first of many hopefully, was held in Feilding as they are central to the area we cover. We were hoping for about 30 to attend we actually had 38, and all have given positive feed back of the day. Lily Baker (NZSG Education Officer) was our guest for the day and although Lily does not have any Irish family enjoyed her day with us and felt the trip over from the Hawkes Bay worth it. Feilding branch got behind us and put on a great morning/afternoon tea and a very nice lunch for those who ordered it. Geraldene O’Reilly (NZSG Lecturer at the FRC Ak) and Tom Hayes from Ohau gave very interesting and informative talks on ‘Portrait of a Parish’, ‘Townlands’ and ‘A Walk and a Talk through Co Cork’. These lectures explained unknown facts for those who attended and many went away with a new understanding of how Townlands, Griffiths valuations and Tythes all play a roll in how our Irish ancestors lived and existed.

Each person who registered was presented with a pack consisting of an A5 booklet on the three lectures and information on Ireland, plus giveaways to aid in research.

The National Library of NZ supplied some very useful papers on shipping, Papers Past and Turnbull Library.

Our next Education day will be an in depth explanation of how the Griffith Valuations can help us with our research. There is a lot more to these than just looking up an index to see if our ancestors owned or leased land. We are fortunate to have at The National Library of NZ, a full set of the Griffith valuations on Microfiche plus the Indexes that go with these. This education class will be held in Wellington with venue, date and time to be advertised once finalised. I will notify everyone when these have been organised.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL
Have a safe and enjoyable time and
Best Wishes for 2008

From your committee.

Till next time;

Erin go bragh

Elected Committee for 2008

Secretary:  Athena Gavriel
Treasurer:  Annette Gazley
Committee: Marie Perham
            Beverly Hamlin
Convenor:  Jenny Martin  Phone: 04 478 7621
Address:  46 Middleton Rd, Johnsonville,
          Wellington 6037
Email:  jenmartin@paradise.net.nz
Family Search Microfilm Services  
LDS, NZSG, National Library of NZ partnership  

Urgent Appeal for Helpers.

As many of you may know the NZSG has an agreement with the LDS and the National Library of NZ re handling and viewing the Films from the LDS. The National Library supplies the floor space and viewing machines/printers plus a computer for obtaining the appropriate film information, emailing people when films have arrived and researching Ancestry.com, Papers past, etc for free (for the lucky person on duty). All films are ordered via NZSG from Australia. When the films arrive we have them for three weeks to view. You are notified immediately your film arrives, so you can then book a machine to view it at your own convenience. This venture has proved to be an outstanding success and has surpassed all expectations of the organizers.

These have been available in the National Library of NZ since the week after Conference in June 2007. This department is manned by local genealogy volunteers from branches and Interest groups within the region. The hours of opening are, Monday - Friday from 10am - 4pm which is one hour after opening and one hour before closing of the Library. Saturday from 9am – 12.30pm finishing half an hour before the Library closes. The week, days are broken into two shifts, allowing an overlap for those choosing to do a full day to have the normal breaks. Full training on procedures is given to all volunteers (by the National Library) who are then put into the roster (with a helper till you are proficient).

We are looking for more volunteers to spread the load on those who have been doing this since its’ inception. You don’t have to live in Wellington, but if you do come into the City and would be willing to help please contact:
NZSG Regional Coordinator Marlene Sayers 04 970 7682  p.sayers@paradise.net.nz  or
Roster Coordinator Beverley Keall, 04 972 1508  bkeall@paradise.net.nz
And, please state you are volunteering on behalf of the Irish Interest group.

This is a good scheme to support and in doing so, secures the viewing availability of these films. This will not work without volunteers so if you can please consider offering some of your time it will be most graciously accepted and appreciated.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jenny Martin