

PORIRUA BRANCH



www.poriruagenealogy.org.nz

NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2015



Convenor's Comment

Here we are in to April, with one third of the calendar year gone!

Our first meeting for the year, in February, was well received with members telling us their stories of the ups and downs of research over the holiday period. In March we heard from Bill Jackson on good computer housekeeping. Our guest speaker for April was to be Paul Alpe, but unfortunately he is unable

to be with us as expected so will talk to us at our May meeting instead. In his place we welcome Dawn Chambers talking to us about 19th Century Government inwards correspondence records on Archway.

Your committee continues to seek interesting guest speakers covering a range of topics that are of benefit to our members. While not all speakers will appeal to all of our members we do hope overall to strike a successful balance between the needs of our experienced members and those new to research. We are always keen to hear your feedback and your suggestions. And we particularly appreciate our wonderful 5 minute speakers, thank you for sharing your expertise so generously.

May brings with it our branch Annual General Meeting and therefore my yearly invitation to consider becoming a committee member. Please carefully consider giving a little of your time to support the branch – many of our committee have been serving for several years and it's healthy to have fresh ideas and enthusiasm. Sadly increasing work commitments make it more difficult for me to continue as convenor, so it is very important that the branch appoints new committee members this May.

The election of new officers will be chaired by our branch founding convenor Russell Marshall – thank you Russell for your assistance – and the meeting itself will be led by our NZSG councillor Peter Gibson as unfortunately I cannot attend due to our son's wedding.

Planning is now underway for Family History Month in August, with more detail to come over the next few weeks.

Happy hunting everyone, we look forward to hearing about your finds and helping you with your brickwalls at Wednesday's meeting.

Helen

Welcome, New Members

A warm welcome to Bill Donovan, Robyn Klee, Margaret Rew, Liz Sharp, Prue Theobald and Jenny Whitehead, as new members to the branch since the issue of our last newsletter.

Branch Meeting Programme

- 8 April** **guest speaker**
Dawn Chambers - 19th Century Government inwards correspondence records on Archway
- 13 May** Branch Annual General Meeting
guest speaker
Paul Alpe - Introduction to NZSG Kiwi Collection
- 10 June** **guest speaker**
Liz Francis -

5 minute talk
to be announced



Notice of Annual General Meeting

Members are advised that the 2015 Annual General Meeting of the Porirua Branch of New Zealand Society of Genealogists will be held on 13 May 2015 at 7.25pm in the Helen Smith Community Meeting Room, Pataka with access off the Norrie Street car park. The AGM will be followed by our guest speaker.

Mary Beckett, Secretary

A thank you from the Treasurers

Thank you to those members who have already paid their branch annual subscription by internet banking.

Lesley and Peter



News from NZSG

I have decided to discontinue this regular column where councillor Gill and I report on news from NZSG. This is due to the fact that so much news is now passed on to NZSG members via 'Council News' in The Genealogist magazine, and 'e-KIT' and 'The BIG Picture' by email, on a regular basis in line with NZSG President Gay's wish to keep members informed of the Society's activities as quickly as possible.

If you are a NZSG member but are not receiving 'e-KIT' it will be because NZSG does not have your email address. Please contact NZSG Membership at membership@genealogy.org.nz to update your membership details.

Peter



Research Matters

Websites:

www.genealogylinks.net/newzealand/new-zealand-maori-genealogy

<https://probatesearch.service.gov.uk/#wills> the website to order Wills and Probate from 1858 for England and Wales. Payment is UK £10 by credit card. After ten days the Will ordered is available to be downloaded so no postal service is needed.

<http://familyhistorymatters.co.nz/2015/03/21/research-your-new-zealand-criminal-ancestors/>

Scotlands People website

The Valuation Rolls for 1865 have just been added to the ScotlandsPeople website. The new records, for which the Index is FREE to search until 19 April 2015, comprise 1.3 million indexed names and 76,512 digital images. The Rolls, which are searchable by both name and address, cover every owner, tenant and occupier of property in 1865, offering a fascinating window into the lives of mid-Victorian Scots.

Images can be viewed for 2 credits per page.

Seeking volunteers in the Porirua Library

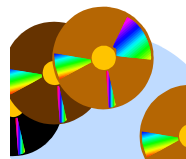
The Porirua Library is looking for more volunteers to be available in its Genealogy section.

The role of the volunteer is to welcome visitors to the section and to assist them with their genealogy and family history enquiries. They're not expected to be experts, but enthusiasm and a passion for the subject can be contagious! Some knowledge of using the internet for research is an advantage and there'll be opportunities to learn about other aspects of research.

Visitors to the Genealogy section often come in to use Ancestry, to which the library subscribes, but they may also want to use the microfiche, microfilm, CD-ROMs or books.

In return, the library offers volunteers the following benefits:

- sole use of an internet-connected pc
- access to Ancestry.co. (library edition)
- no charges for DVDs and audiobooks
- free interloan requests (within reason)
- free black & white photocopying
- free library membership (if they live outside the rate-paying area)
- access to staff area for tea and coffee.



Volunteers usually staff the desk for half a day every week, or fortnightly. Shifts can be 10am - 1pm and 1pm - 5pm but these times are very flexible. New volunteers can "try it out" for 1 to 3 months before making a commitment.

Sound interesting? Contact Sylvia Carlyle at the library. Sylvia works part-time so it is best to email her at scarlyle@pcc.govt.nz

Pat Brocklebank

Porirua Branch: Burial Ground Ramble to mark the release of the NZ Cemeteries records by Ancestry.com

On a cool Waitangi Day twelve people gathered for a tour of the Pauatahanui Burial Ground. This, the oldest settler cemetery in the Porirua area, was established in 1856. Our guide Sharon Evans, NZSG and branch member and local historian, gave us a short history of the site. Set on a strategic hillside next to the Pauatahanui Inlet the site was probably occupied by various Maori tribes from early times. In 1845 the Ngati Toa chief Te Rangihaeata established a pa here. Shortly afterwards he retreated north and British Imperial regiments used the area as a base in the second half of the decade. By the 1850s settlers were arriving to farm the area. In 1856 Thomas Hollis Stace donated one acre of land for a burial ground and the establishment of the first chapel (Protestant).

Our tour took us to visit the first grave, the grave of the first white woman to come ashore at Petone in 1840 and those with unusual epitaphs. Given the significance of 2015, we saw several of the five WWI returned soldiers' graves with their little poppies. Many of the surnames on the early graves are still found among those living in the area today.

We had a fascinating tour of this beautiful and peaceful spot and came away with a knowledge and appreciation of our Porirua heritage. One interesting point is the difference between a burial ground and a cemetery. A burial ground is only open to a defined group, in this case Protestants, and in the early days only to those who attended the chapel. Cemeteries are open to everyone.

As an aside, roses were planted in this burial ground from the earliest days. Since 1991 they have been tended by local volunteers in keeping with the history of the site. The burial ground won a NZ Heritage Rose award in 2014.

We are very grateful to Sharon for sharing her extensive knowledge of the burial ground and the surrounding area.

Mary Beckett



ANZAC Week Programme of Commemorative Events

A spectacular series of commemorative events will take place on our own doorstep during Anzac Week in April, as New Zealanders mark the centenary of the Gallipoli landings during the First World War.



The programme outlined below is courtesy of the Ministry of Culture and History, and further details can be obtained at www.mch.govt.nz/anzacweek

The events run from 18 - 25 April, rain or shine.

• 18 April

- o Formal opening ceremony for Pukeahu National War Memorial Park (11am)
- o WW1 Remembered: A Light & Sound show to be staged nightly concluding on Anzac Day (7pm-10pm)
- o Great War Exhibition opens to public at Dominion Museum
- o Gallipoli – The Scale of our War exhibition opens at Te Papa

• 20 April

- o Dedication of Australian Memorial (10am)
- o WW1 Remembered continues

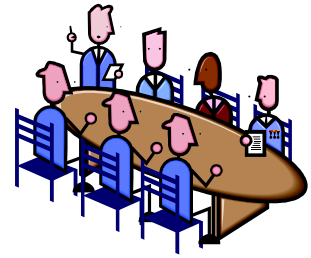
• 24 April

- o WCC Street Parade (12.30pm-2pm)
- o Anzac Eve Vigil Service, Wellington Cathedral (6pm)
- o WW1 Remembered continues

• 25 April

- o Dawn Service at Pukeahu National War Memorial Park (5.30am)
- o Wellington Citizens Wreath Laying Service at Cenotaph (9am)
- o National Anzac Day Service at Pukeahu National War Memorial Park (11am)
- o Atatürk Service at Strathmore (2pm)
- o Dawn Service from Gallipoli live on big screens at Pukeahu National War Memorial Park (2.30pm)
- o Ceremony of Beat Retreat (6pm)
- o WW1 Remembered screened for the final time.

Branch Committee



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Branch Noticeboard

Members' Interests List

The branch members' interests list, maintained by Lorraine & Cliff Matthews, can be viewed at meetings. If you have not listed your own interests, please do so by contacting Lorraine or Cliff on (04) 234 7241.

Transport

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.

Branch Meeting Venue

Helen Smith Community Meeting Room, Pataka Museum of Arts and Cultures, cnr Norrie and Parumoana Streets, Porirua.
 (after-hours entrance off Norrie Street)

7.25pm on the second Wednesday of the month, February to November inclusive.

Not sure where to find things at branch meetings? Perhaps this floor plan will assist? →

