

# Kapiti Branch

New Zealand Society of Genealogists  
www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nzlsgkb



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## Newsletter January, 2012

**Editors Corner.** – The obituary for Rex Roberts was supposed to be in the December newsletter. My apologies that it was not included. December was not a good time trying to get a newsletter out with a house full of people

**All SIG Convenor's** please note if you are going to cancel a meeting during the year PLEASE notify the newsletter editor. This will save advertising your meetings that may be other wise cancelled.

If you have any articles to submit to the newsletter for next year please send them through to Sue Greene email at [sueg-97@xtra.co.nz](mailto:sueg-97@xtra.co.nz)

**Acting Convenor's Comment.** – Welcome back to another year of research. I hope you have had a restful Festive Season. It is with regret that we must record the passing of Rex Roberts, a member of the Branch. A detailed Obituary is published below.

The Committee has been augmented with the co-option of Denice McCarten. Denice has had extensive experience in family history research and we welcome her to the committee.

The Programme Committee has as usual been making sure that we have a full and interesting programme not only at our monthly Branch Meetings but also in coordinating the activities of the various interest groups associated with the Branch. Please familiarize yourself with these activities.

Major concerns I have as Manager of the APFHC is that it was reported to us that children were seen exploring Facebook on our Branch computers. This could only have happened if a computer had been left on. Please turn off all computers after use and if you are using Find My Past follow the instructions for exiting this programme.

Did you have any successes with your research over the past month? I had quite a buzz the other day when I received a note from a visitor to New Zealand from the UK who saw a message my late wife had entered on a Message Board some ten years ago. The message concerned the TURLEY family which originated in Dudley, Birmingham. I've changed email addresses twice and postal address once since then but she tracked me down. It seems that she is the gg granddaughter of the sister of my gg grandfather. Quite easy to work out, but the exciting part is that I will now be able to add a whole new line to my family tree. This together with some interesting finds from a distant relation in Salt Lake City Utah, have kept me busy for the past few weeks.

I look forward to seeing you at our next Branch Meeting in the KCC on Tuesday 24 January.

Bill McKeich

Acting Convenor

**Obituary:** - Branch member **Rex McLaren Roberts** died on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2011 in Eldon Hospital, Paraparaumu after a three year battle with prostate cancer. His firm wish since he had such a long reprieve was to see the World Rugby Cup and then the elections result. He did not make the second goal as he passed away on Election Day.

He was born 2 May 1934 and is survived by two sons, and one daughter.

Rex's banking career started in the National Bank in Christchurch. He held some very important posts in New Zealand as well as overseas, the most prominent of those being in Japan, where as a merchant banker he was the National Bank's first representative in Tokyo in 1969. Rex was a firm but very fair leader in the banking industry, and was responsible for the Bank adopting a staff uniform for its frontline staff especially the tellers; in his words he wasn't having tellers fronting up to customers in any old mufti.

He was very proactive in bringing business into "his bank". On one occasion he was scheduled to meet some prominent overseas future clients of the bank but was not leaving things to chance. He had cheque books printed and at the meeting presented them with the fait accompli – the National Bank was the best bank on the face of the globe and Rex wasn't about to have these people leave the meeting, with them thinking and knowing otherwise. Staff respected him and all felt at ease in having to approach him, no matter what level they were at in his bank.

Rex was a lover of art and held a formidable collection, as well as being a collector of Moorcroft. His one pastime, sport was trout fishing and he had the best of fishing gear. Probably one reason for him retiring for a time in Taupo.

Rex was a prolific family historian. His family tree programme (Legacy of course) contained in excess of 4000 family connections, and every connection he found was proved by the purchase of either a certificate or a transcription, the majority of which were Australian – it was a measure of the exactitude, the meticulous nature of Rex that everything had to be proven and correct. He was generous with his help whether you had met him or not, he willingly shared his history and his expertise.

He joined NZSG in 1999 and ceased membership in 2010. Rex joined Taupo Branch in 2000, was elected to the committee in 2001, then treasurer in 2002 until his departure to Kapiti in 2003. He was very active in branch and national activities, attending NZSG Conferences 2001 in New Plymouth and 2002 in Oamaru. He undertook Index work at Waiouru Army Museum from 2000/2001 and was awarded the NZSG Certificate of Appreciation for schools index work August 2002. Joan Shepherd of Taupo comments "Quite a lot achieved in the three short years with Taupo".

Rex joined Kapiti Branch 2003/4 and in 2004 came on the committee as treasurer until 2006. Transparency and accountability were his hallmarks for the branch finances and he put in place a more robust financial management system.

He was an early riser, could be found at his computer shortly after 4am in the mornings – doing family history and searching his favourite websites. He wasted no time in calling up a relative by phone and making at least voice contact with them, he knew in the last three years that travel to his beloved Australia was impossible. More recently he went to Skype which gave him visual contact with his relatives. His favourite site in Australia was the Ryerson Index.

Rex was noted for his hospitality, his culinary expertise was characterised by his regular supply of rich fruit Christmas cakes each year. Unless he was feeling really unwell he rarely refused visitors. A visitor would always be treated to muffins and coffee, but if you're bent was family history that was always on the agenda. If there was a problem you would ushered into his computer room and very quickly your problem would be solved.

A banker of extraordinary ability, charisma and charm, a magical family historian who could only be best described in his words as "... extravagant", edited because he quietly preceded that comment with an expletive although not given to such extremes of speech. A thorough gentleman, sadly missed  
*contributed by Hanley Hoffmann*

**Meetings Coming Up/ Events.** - For full details go to the branch web site at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nzlsgkb/> Click on programmes.

### **Monthly Branch Meeting**

7pm supper, 7.30pm meetings start. Guest speaker begins 7.45pm.

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January** Ross Callaghan: How to make a life video/slideshow and how to set up a free website to preserve memories for future generations.

### **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February**

Australian, Irish and Scottish Special Interest Group leaders will share about each group and resources they have.

**Wed.** Morning Help Sessions at the Alison Proctor History Centre (APFHC) upstairs in the library.

10am-12pm. Wednesday morning sessions recommence Jan 11<sup>th</sup>. And then the following dates 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Feb.** 1st, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Interest Group meetings held at;** Kapiti Community Centre 15 Ngahina Street (KCC) and at the Alison Proctor Family History Centre. (APFHC)

**FTMUG** (Family Tree Maker User Group), **LUG** (Legacy User Group), **IIG** (Irish Interest Group), **CFG** (Computer Friendly Group), **AIG** (Australian Interest Group), **SIG** (Scottish Interest Group).

**FTM:** Sat. Feb 25th 9.30am - 12.30pm KCC **LUG:** Sat. Feb 25th 12.00pm - 4.30pm KCC **SIG:** Sat. Feb 4th 9.30am - 12.30pm APFHC **IIG:** Sat. Feb 11th 9.30am - 12.00pm APFHC. **AIG:** Tue. Feb 21st 10am - 12 noon APFHC. NB: Deborah is canvassing members to try a different day/date. Members to contact Deborah 905 2238 to confirm date.

**Computer Friendly Group.** – The next meeting will be in February. A programme for 2012 has been set and is as follows. **Feb.** FamNet, Skype with Robert Barnes. As we are using Skype members are welcome to ask questions. **Mar.** How to fix damaged photos. **Apr.** Skype with Robert Barnes plus using military web sites. **May.** Producing your family history using MS Word. **Jun.** Continuation of producing your family history in other formats. **Jul.** An overall look at the different genealogy programmes available. **Aug.** what CDs the branch holds and how to use them. **Sep.** Scanning photos and documents. **Oct.** Ancestry and Findmypast, what's new. **Nov.** Using the LDS web site. **Dec.** Finding passenger lists online.

Members please note the CFG April meeting has been moved to the following Monday due to Easter falling on the second Monday.

Members are welcome to bring along their laptops which we can connect to the Internet using the router. If you wish to connect to the Internet please arrive early enough to setup your laptops.

### **YURU 2012**

Good progress is being made with research for our 2012 guest Dame Kate Harcourt. "*Flowers of My Family*" will show during Family History Month in August at venues in Paraparaumu and Wellington.

We will need volunteers in a few months time to help with a number of the marketing and production processes - details in next month's newsletter.

### **Branch Notes.**

**Death Notice.** - Bernard Jeremiah **CULLINANE** died 17 December 2011 at Wellington Hospital age 89. Bernard was a Kapiti Branch member and a member of the NZSG.

We welcome the following new members. Mike BOLAND

Tea Makers. A – E.

**Programme for 2012** - Your committee is working very hard to put together another programme of interesting speakers for 2012. We are waiting on confirmation of from speakers at this stage but some of the ideas for next year are:

- Gravestones and Graveyards: History of graveyards in this area; How to look after gravestones, clean old gravestones, take rubbings of inscriptions etc. Protocol in a graveyard.
- Geographical Special Interest Groups in Kapiti Branch: Irish, Scottish, Australian
- Preserving Your Life for Future Generations: Making a Life Video or slide show. Setting up a free website.
- WW1 Tunnellers
- A report on a visit to Salt Lake City
- National Archives Representative
- National Library Representative
- The Salvation Army Archives: Missing people
- Message Boards

We'll be planning trips to Archives NZ and the National Library (once reopened mid July) and to the RNZE Corps Memorial Museum at Linton.

Do YOU have any ideas or names of speakers you want to hear? Is there somewhere you think would be interesting to tour or visit?

**Used Ink Cartridges:** - The Branch collects used ink and toner cartridges for recycling to raise funds. Please pass your old cartridges to Derek at a Branch Meeting, or put them in a box in the locked metal cabinets at the Alison Procter Family History Centre upstairs at Paraparaumu Library, or leave them in Derek's letter-box, 94 Ngaio Road, Waikanae. We can recycle Canon, Lexmark, Hewlett Packard, Epson, and Brother cartridges.

**Daytime Interest Group.** - (Sponsored by the VFO Trust, Corporate member of the Waikanae Chartered Club)

26th January - the meeting will commence at 10am with registration, tea coffee and biscuits from 9-9.30 onwards.

Door charge of \$1, everyone welcome, visitors will find plenty of parking in the Waikanae Chartered Club car park. Paraparaumu residents could travel by train, free on your goldcard, Club is just a couple of minutes walk from the Railway station.

Programme of help desks and short talks – help is always at hand.

The main subject of this meeting is "Documenting your Family History" – it's the getting it right that counts. Also a focus on special notebooks for making your research notes, NZSG about to produce one, a free trial A4 unit will be available as well. Contact Hanley Hoffmann 904 3276. Please note there is no club lunch scheduled to follow this meeting.

### ***NZSG News***

**Constitution review** - A reminder that the draft revised constitution of the Society is available in the members only section of the website [www.genealogy.org.nz](http://www.genealogy.org.nz). Full details of the timelines for the next step in this process are given. Comments are due by February 3 2012. See also our December newsletter for background.

**NZSG Services** - The November 2011 series of meetings of NZSG Council held in Paraparaumu were a timely reminder even for some of our old fans, of the huge range of data collections and services offered by our parent body. Commencing this month we will be covering these services in some detail. We will also be covering them at each monthly meeting and plan to get access to a DVD which describes NZSG services which will be made available to all our members. Remember the Help Desk is open at our monthly meetings for further information, together with the Wednesday morning sessions at APFHC. Please ASK.

**NZSG Certificate Collection** (check out full details on [www.genealogy.org.nz](http://www.genealogy.org.nz))

Members of the Society can contribute any certificates they have collected during their research and these are made available to be shared with other members on request. The majority of records are from NZ, but there are also many from UK and other countries. In addition to BMD certificates, these include, baptisms, parish records, marriage banns, intention to marry certificates, wills, probates, coroner's reports, war records, census records, shipping records, burial records and other miscellaneous documents.

The names shown on the documents are cross-indexed into the database. These include parents, spouses, other relatives, informants, and witnesses. Women are indexed under both married and maiden names. There are nearly 800,000 entries on this index from 85,000 records and the collection continues to grow steadily. Kapiti Branch has already supplied a significant number of certificates and will continue to do so.

Parts of the certificate collection index is also included in the NZSG Index available to Society members. The most recent update Kiwi V1, is available from the Society.

### ***Contact Details.***

Kapiti Branch Contact details:

Acting Convenor Bill McKeich <mailto:yanakie@clear.net.nz> Tel: 9056952

Lyn Lee, Secretary [kapiti@genealogy.org.nz](mailto:kapiti@genealogy.org.nz) Tel. 293-1610. Lyn is also the branch contact for FamNet.

Lorna Henderson, Treasurer/Membership Secretary [lornamoa@gmail.com](mailto:lornamoa@gmail.com) Tel. 293 7771.

Full details of other Committee members and their responsibilities can be found on our website.

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