



## Hutt Valley Branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists Inc.

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Evening Meeting	7.30pm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday, February to December
Day Meeting:	9.30am, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday, February to November
Venue:	Petone Community Centre, 7-11 Britannia Street
Postal Address:	PO Box 31-024, Lower Hutt
Website:	<a href="http://www.huttvalleygenealogy.org.nz">www.huttvalleygenealogy.org.nz</a>
Convenor:	Janice Price
Secretary:	Deb Beban <a href="mailto:HuttValley@genealogy.org.nz">HuttValley@genealogy.org.nz</a>
Editor:	Suzanne Sutton-Cummings <a href="mailto:sjsc@clear.net.nz">sjsc@clear.net.nz</a>

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### COMING EVENTS

09 Apr: What do I do with all this stuff - Ken Scadden

16 Apr: Photographs of you & your ancestors - Show & Tell session - Branch Members

14 May: AGM followed by Breaking down one of my many brick walls - Deborah Beban

21 May: Whakapapa - Accessing records to use in Maori FH research - Brenda Joyce

11 Jun: Paper Past - Clarke STILES from Alexander Turnbull Library

18 Jun: Morning Bus trip to NZ Film Archive where we will be welcomed by Steve Russell and Archive staff

09 Jul: Warwick Johnston - Local Historian

16 Jul: Hands on research using the resources of the Hutt Branch at Petone Library

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Evening meeting doors open 7 pm notices begin 7.30 pm speakers begin about 8 pm  
(approx 1 hour)

Day meeting doors open 9.30 am notices begin 10 am speaker begin about 10.30 am  
(approx 1 hour)

NOTE: Please remember the **Petone Library does not open until 10.00 am** on Thursday mornings. We meet in the meeting room in the foyer.

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Beginning of each meeting Petone Mayor research project (5-10 minutes)

### WHAT DO I DO WITH ALL THIS STUFF - KEN SCADDEN

Ken Scadden is a Wellington Historian who previously worked for the Wellington Maritime Museum. He gave the paper "What do I do with all this Stuff" at the AFFHO Conference in Auckland earlier this year. Come and listen and learn about "**what to do with your stuff**".

### PHOTOGRAPHS OF YOU & YOUR ANCESTOR - A SHOW AND TELL - BRANCH MEMBERS

Many of you over the years have collected photographs of your family and your ancestors.

- Some of your photographs may show remarkable similarities through the generations
- Some of you may have photographs going back many generations
- Some of you may have a great way of displaying or storing your photographs
- Some of you may have managed to identify unnamed photographs

**Come and share your photographs and research skills with other Branch Members.**

PETONE MAYOR STUDY

Object - To promote the study of family history, genealogy and kindred subjects

By now you all know about the Petone Mayor Study project and how Deb began her research on Annie HUGGAN. This month you will hear more about the research by another committee member. Hopefully some of you would have learnt a new research skill or perhaps you may like to share your knowledge regarding the Petone Mayor Study.

Come to the April meetings and listen to the next chapter of research into the genealogy of Annie HUGGAN.

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MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL DUE FOR 1 APRIL 2009 TO 31 MARCH 2010

By now you should have received your membership renewal form. The annual subscription is due on 31 March 2009. The usual discount is available for prompt payers (if paid by 30 April 09).

Please make cheques payable to: Hutt Valley Branch of New Zealand Society of Genealogists. It is also possible to pay by direct credit. To get bank account details, please contact Carol Ann Mason or the editor.

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NEW MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Nobody can borrow from our resources without the membership card which will be available for collection at our meeting on Thursday. Membership cards must be shown to the Petone Library staff if members wish to borrow our own branch resources outside branch meeting hours!

Research can be undertaken 7 days a week at the Petone Library during their opening hours. Opening hours are 10:00 am to 5:30pm. The Petone library have plenty of long-term parking. The NZSG Hutt branch library books will only be able to be taken out by branch members.

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2009 SPEAKERS PROGRAMME - WE WELCOME BRANCH MEMBERS IDEAS

Please let Lynly or your committee know if you or any members of the Hutt Branch would like to give a presentation and/or if anyone has a particular speaker they would like us to invite to talk at our branch meetings.

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MARCH FAMILY HISTORY MONTH

Family history month in March, after several months of planning by the 4 local genealogy branches, Hutt Valley, Kilbirnie, Porirua & Wellington in collaboration with the National Library started slowly but interest increased as the month went by.

Jan Gow was the opening speaker and was very impressed with what had been planned for the month. She had the opportunity to spread the word while being interviewed on TV1 & TV3. Jan is very interesting to listen to and genealogists can always learn plenty of helpful guidelines and advice from her presentations.

Jock Phillips the editor of Te Ara the online encyclopaedia was keynote speaker for week 2. His topic was 'Genealogists versus Historians', which showed research skills needed are similar, if not the same for both people.

For week 3, a panel of 4 local genealogists presented ways to research overseas interests from New Zealand. Each panellist's presentation demonstrated the use of local repositories and the Internet to aid their research.

The month wound up with a presentation from John MacGibbon a publisher and family historian, on 'Writing and Publishing your Family History'. John's presentation was full of very useful tips and advice for when we come to write that book!

The 'Friday Tours' to 4 local repositories, Archives NZ, NZ film Archives, Wellington City Council Archives and Wellington City Library were well patronised giving those who attended a great insight to what is available at each of the repositories. As well as the Friday tours the National Library staff had tours 3 times a week of National Library resources based on each weeks theme.

During Monday lunchtimes and again on Saturday mornings there were display tables of special interest, according to the week's theme, manned by people who were experts in their field of interest. The topics were wide ranging from "Getting Started; NZ, Australian and Maori research; England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland research; Adoption, military, shipping and publishing; something for every one.

A big thank you must go to those branch members who helped during Family History Month. Many thanks to, Annette, Catherine, Cheryle, Dawn (Gibson), Jan, Leanna, Lois, and Marie for helping man the 'Family History Help Desk'. This was slow to begin with but after being moved to the National Library foyer the numbers of people stopping by the desk asking for family history advice did increase. Special thanks to Carol Ann for door duty each Wednesday night and Lynly for assisting with 'bar duties'. We couldn't have done it without you.

March Family History month at the National Library was certainly a great way to bring Family History to the notice of the wider community. All the planning turned the month into a very successful month.

Janice & Deb

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### IDENTIFYING AN OLD WEDDING PHOTOGRAPH – by Lynly Yates

While sorting through my deceased Aunts home my cousin and I found a Wedding photograph but neither of us could identify the bride or groom so I took the photograph home and then the detective work began.

The image was taken in front of a house with some of the bridal party sitting down and it also included their guests, which made a total of around 50 people in the photograph.

I had a few photos of my ancestor's houses so I looked at these and soon identified the veranda, pitch of the roof and attic window of one. This was the home of my great grandparents house in Nelson.

I took a closer look at the photo and recognised my grandparents holding two young children. Next to my grandmother was an older lady holding a baby. I was lucky my father (then age 95) said it was his grandmother. A bonus was he also recognised his grandfather in the background and I only had one other photo of him.

I worked on these three children being my grandparent's first three children and from my records knew that the baby was born in 1904. I then began to search for the marriages around 1904 of my grandmother's siblings. She came from a family of 15 children but only 11 were still living in 1904.

My grandmother's sister married on 24 October 1904 at her father's residence in Nelson. Her younger sister was a witness at the wedding and on a closer look I recognised her from another photograph her family had given me.

From there I compared other photographs of not only my grandmother's siblings and their families but also her cousins and their families. The faces were slowly given names but the real treasure was when I contacted the descendants of the bride. They did not have a wedding photograph of Mary Ethel MANSSEN and her husband Albert Ernest COOK but they do now.

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### NOBODY'S CHILD (part 1) by Suzanne Cummings

#### The Foster Child

This is the story of my mother who was born in 1939 in Bethany Hospital in Napier. Bethany Hospital was a Salvation Army maternity home for unwed mothers. The Hospital did also take in private patients who were happy to pay not to have their babies in the public hospital. The building is still there but is now a rehabilitation centre for drug addicts (recent photo below).

Her mother was from Wellington and went up there for a 'holiday'. She was there for about 4 or 5 months and often walked along Marine Parade with other expectant unwed mothers.

She got to nurse her child for 8 days before putting her up for adoption. She then reluctantly handed her daughter over to what she later described as a 'horrible looking woman'. She was told that she would never see her daughter again.

Having recently bought her first camera, in those 8 days she took a photo which she kept tucked away for the next 42 years (below).



1939 was the year World War 2 broke out and times were tough. Child Welfare could not pick and choose like they can now when it came to finding adoptive parents. For one reason or another, my mother had quite a few 'mothers' before a childless couple in Napier finally took her in when she was a year or two old.

Word got back to Wellington that a couple wanted to adopt her but couldn't because the wife was not well. And so Ivy and Harry Harris brought her up as their only child. However, she was always acutely aware that she was only their foster child. She had to use the names her

mother had given her. She was known by both surnames and always wrote her name as Rhoda H ... you choose the surname Hooker or Harris. Her school mates, being typical children, used to tease her 'Are you Hooker or Harris?', they would say.

After her foster mother died when she was 16 years old, the state stepped in again and took her out of school. They sent her down to Wellington where she was trained as a tailoress. One of the places she lived in was a boarding house in Wadestown with other single women.

Harry Harris remarried a few years later and went on to have 3 children. He was good enough though, to pay for his 'daughter's' wedding, as fathers did back then, 5 years after his she left Napier. She did not have all that much to do with him after her foster mother died, even during the the 10 years of her married life spent living in Central Hawkes Bay.

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## ON THE INTERNET

- World Vital Records - [www.worldvitalrecords.com](http://www.worldvitalrecords.com)

Although this website contains predominately American records, there is a lot of other countries information as well but expanding UK, Australia and New Zealand database.

This is a pay per view website and requires a subscription, The good new is that when a new database is added it can have free access for a short period of time. Check back regularly – I found a gem - a book '[Reminiscences of Dollar](#) - Dollar, Tillicoultry and other Districts adjoining the Ochils' published in 1883 Dollar is a small town in Clackmannan where my family of Dudgeon family lived. This was free for a few days. - Carol Ann

- I had not heard any reports about this new site, "soft launched" at the Who Do You Think You Are Show at Olympia at the end of February. So was interested to read about it on Dick Eastman's blog ([http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans\\_online\\_genealogy/2009/03/wrapup-report-from-london-wdytyal-day-3.html#more](http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2009/03/wrapup-report-from-london-wdytyal-day-3.html#more).)

Further information as follows: The site allows individuals to attach family history information on to the locations where the events took place using Google maps and the unique Ancestral Atlas data mapping applications. This information can be kept private or shared with other users of Ancestral Atlas. A sort of map based social networking site for dead people!

You will be able to search on name, date range, event type, location, location type and occupation or any and all mixed together! An example would be "All Smiths who died between 1810 and 1830, in hospital, in London who were accountants!" The alternative would just be dates and names in London. You are free to choose how refined your search is.

As a user contributor service the amount of family history data on the site is limited at the moment but as more and more people register the site will be both an excellent place to map your family tree (and begin learning about the context of their lives through the information on and added to the map) and a premium research tool.

To reflect this there is a great subscriber offer for those with the vision to see where Ancestral Atlas will be in the years to come. Instead of paying £15 a year, a single payment of £15 will give a lifetime subscription! You can register, add data and search on the data added by others without having to subscribe but the upgrade is well worth it for all the subscriber benefits you get.

Take a look ([www.ancestralatlas.com](http://www.ancestralatlas.com)) and if you like what you see - subscribe for a lifetime!

This is different - with maps being the main thrust - and it looks like good maps for Ireland. Here's a hint - select United Kingdom for your searches, rather than the countries - Scotland, Ireland etc. Works well.

Nick Francis, from Ancestral Atlas, has sent me this information, as I had watched a demo whilst at a Conference in the States. Interesting to see it now - Jan Gow

- RANDOM ACTS OF GENEALOGICAL KINDNESS - [www.raogk.org](http://www.raogk.org)

- A BRILLIANT SITE FOR LOOKING UP DEATH NOTICES  
<http://www.amemorytree.co.nz/>

- USING YOUTUBE.COM TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT GENEALOGY

YouTube is a [video sharing](#) website where users can upload, view and share [video clips](#) Unregistered users can watch the videos, while registered users are permitted to upload an unlimited number of videos. Accounts of registered users are called "channels".

Here is a link to youtube.com video which tells you have to research your family at State Records New South Wales.

- [http://www.youtube.com:80/watch?v=8j2nwT2A3gs&feature=channel\\_page](http://www.youtube.com:80/watch?v=8j2nwT2A3gs&feature=channel_page)

There is also another associated video about what the State Records New South Wales is about. Or by a young woman - How I organize my genealogy

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mrWf6VmKVCs&feature=related>

For a bit of fun check out - Genealogy Gems: Analysis of Ancestor's Handwriting

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R9B0jsvm4gg&feature=related>

Search and see what else you can find! - Carol Ann

- [www.gensoftreviews.com](http://www.gensoftreviews.com)

Launched in September 2008, it is a site that you can add your own review of genealogy software, as well as finding out what people think of other programs. Currently listing 422 different genealogy programs or add-ons.

- <http://www.exploreancestry.co.uk/using-family-photographs-trace-your-family.html>

This website has a small article on Using Family photographs to trace your family

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## INMATE INDEXING – from [www.feedblitz.com](http://www.feedblitz.com)

If your genealogy addiction leads to a life of crime, be sure to get locked up in Utah State Prison.

There are 4 family history centres in the prison, with about 600 inmates doing work on their own genealogies or performing extractions — the indexing of names of long-dead individuals from land records, census forms, birth, death and marriage certificates for a database run by the LDS Church's Family History Library.

Prison-wide, the inmates extract about 500,000 to 1 million names per year for genealogists worldwide to use.

Because they are in a prison, the family-history centers here are not like those on the outside run by the LDS Church. Internet access is very limited, and names for extraction work are those of people who have been dead for decades, to guard against identity theft.

"It does hamper the work a bit," Jepsen said. "It's hard for the men to do some of the research, but it's better than nothing. We work with what we've got."

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## SURNAMES ON THE DECREASE from [www.feedblitz.com](http://www.feedblitz.com)

Cock, Daft, Death, Smellie, not to mention Gotobed, Shufflebottom and Jelly: they are all surnames that would have caused their owners considerable embarrassment over the years. A new analysis of British surnames reveals how names with rude overtones have seen the sharpest decline over the past 120 years as their owners have changed them to something more innocuous.

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## EXTRACT FROM THE ESSEX FAMILY HISTORIAN NO.31, MARCH 2009

### Bizarre names taken from 1861 UK census

- Will Drinkwater
  - Julie Gotobed–Now
  - Patience Darling
  - Justin Case
  - Delivery Driver
  - Happy Harry
  - I.C. Death
  - Devine Worship
  - Honour Clear-Day
  - Willoughby Faithful
  - Messa Weeds
  - Ida Duck
  - Increased Sentence
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