

Hutt Valley Branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists



News & Views

March 2015

Issue 331



Evening Meeting: 7.30pm 2nd Thursday, February to December
Day Meeting: 10.00am 3rd Thursday, February to November
Venue: Petone Community Centre, 7-11 Britannia Street
Postal Address: PO Box 31-024, Lower Hutt 5040
Website: www.huttvalleygenealogy.org.nz
Convenor: Anita West
Secretary: Terry Stock HuttValley@genealogy.org.nz
Editor: Helene Philpott bhdk.philpott@gmail.com

Evening Meeting: Doors open 7pm. Notices begin 7.30pm. Speakers begin about 8pm (approx. 1 hour)

Day Meeting: Doors open 9.30am. Notices begin 10am. Speaker begins about 10.30am (approx. 1 hour). Please note the library does not open until 10am

Branch Meeting Programme

12th March Evening Meeting: A technology themed meeting:

Anita West on how to use your smartphone, tablet and 'the cloud' to make genealogy research trips easier.

Bob Vine on extending your research networks through blogging and internet dashboards.

19th March Morning Meeting: Visit to National Library

This visit has now been confirmed and replaces the usual morning meeting.

The numbers have to be restricted to 20, but if you weren't at the meeting on Thursday morning, 19 February, but would like to put your name on a waiting list in case there are cancellations, please let me know.

Also, if you have to cancel, please let me know so that another member can be included.

Diane Stinson

April's Meetings

9th April evening meeting: & 16th April Morning meeting

The theme for these meetings is Gallipoli. We are looking for members to talk about their ancestor or ancestors who went to Gallipoli. I'm sure there are many of you who have interesting stories to tell.

Please contact Graeme McVerry by email: HuttValley@genealogy.org.nz

GENEALOGY/FAMILY HISTORY HELPERS AVAILABLE AT PETONE LIBRARY 10am -12pm

On duty for: March, April & May

- Wednesday 18 March – Ian Fyfe & Philippa Woolf
- Wednesday 1 April – Cheryl Dreaver & Avril Roberts
- Saturday 4 April – Janet Ketchell & Anita West
- Wednesday 15 April – Marie Perham & Lynly Yates
- Saturday 2 May – Dawn Chambers & Lynly Yates
- Wednesday 6 May – Deb Beban & Lois Bartlett
- Wednesday 20 May – Diane Stinson & Susan Wilson

For those new to genealogy and/or who want help knocking down those brick walls, this is an excellent time and place to have our experts help you. Our helpers can show you what is available in the library and how to go about finding what you are looking for.

Hutt Valley NZSG Website: profiling branch members' initiatives

We are keen to offer a place on our website, www.huttvalleygenealogy.org.nz, for Branch members to profile their genealogy initiatives. We are a creative bunch! A number of members have their own websites, where they offer amongst other things: transcribed records and indexes, blogs, family history stories, and tips for researching. And one of our members regularly publishes local history books. No doubt there are other things happening that we are not aware of.

If you are one of these members and would like a short description and a link to your website and/or your contact details included on this page, please email Anita with your text, any pictures etc.: HuttValley@genealogy.org.nz

Wellington Archives:

Presentation by Suzanne Sutton-Cummings at both February Meetings

If you are doing any Wellington research, it is worth perusing this website before booking a session at the Wellington Archives.

<http://wellington.govt.nz/your-council/archives/whats-in-the-archives>

Thomas Ward Maps

<http://wellington.govt.nz/your-council/archives/whats-in-the-archives/historic-thomas-ward-maps#>

Over three years (1889-1892) Thomas Ward a licensed surveyor and civil engineer, constructed map tiles showing legal boundaries of property and streets buildings and what they were constructed of, street lamp and fire plug locations. These maps provide much information about early Wellington. Where building records are incomplete, the map is useful for discovering whether present day buildings were in existence before 1892. The maps can be viewed online overlaid with shadows showing the buildings that are there now.

Property Records (a little harder to find)

www.wellington.govt.nz

click on the links below in the following order:

"property"

"building plan service search"

"search the archives"

You can search an address and see when permits were issued for extensions etc, and/or when a house was demolished. You can also search using the name of an owner or a builder who applied for a permit on the owner's behalf.

Mary O'Keefe – Consultant Archaeologist:

'What Lies Beneath' – Looking at Wellington's Archaeology

A very interactive presentation at both February's meetings enjoyed by us all.



Polynesian Settlement



Artefacts

“It's not all trowels and camel hair brushes, more likely a 40 ton digger”
“Small things can tell big stories”

Examples of area of work:

Maritime Archaeology: 'Inconstant' (Plimmers Ark) pre 1855 earthquake buried hull found in 1997. Bow still there. Under the Bank on New Zealand

Urban: Mount View Lunatic Asylum on the site where Government house is now. Convict Wall, Government House built by the prisoners from Mt Cook Jail.

Willis St house, old brick wells, once the municipal water supply came on, wells were used for disposing of in-organic rubbish (6metres deep).

House in Chelmsford Rd Ngaio early wallpaper, and matching tiles found when renovating

Industrial: Karori Dam and surrounds.

Terawhiti gold mining sites, 1880's, left behind 'junk' after mining proved to be too expensive and failed.

Sources of Information: Historical maps, Thomas Ward Maps, Surveyor's notebooks, Previous sites already recorded.

Currently: Kapiti Coast by-pass, re-writing history of the coast, no evidence of gardening, (Kumera/Taro), sand too hard to garden, no Pa sites therefore no pre-European settlement. However there are shells everywhere, indicating shell fish on the coast was very plentiful.

Research Day 2015: How can we help you?

Saturday 28 March

10am to 2pm

**Heritage Centre, Petone Public Library,
7 - 11 Britannia St, Petone
(Use the Peel Place Car Park)**

- * Free entry to all financial members of the Hutt Branch
 - * \$5 charge for non- members
 - * Tea, coffee and milo provided free
 - * Bring your lunch and stay the day
 - * We will have branch members on hand to help you
 - * There will be internet access and look ups via the branch's computer
 - * There will be help desks for New Zealand, Australian, English, Irish, Scottish, American and Military Research.
 - * Interest group resources will be available.
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It's Time to Renew Your Hutt Valley Branch Membership for 2015

Our branch membership year runs from 1 April to 31 March, so it's approaching that time again when fees fall due.

If you pay before 30 April, as usual there is a \$5 discount!

If you prefer, you can pay via internet banking. Instructions for this are on the form. If you use the internet banking option, don't forget to include your name in the payment details and do drop us an email to let us know that you have paid and update your contact details as required.

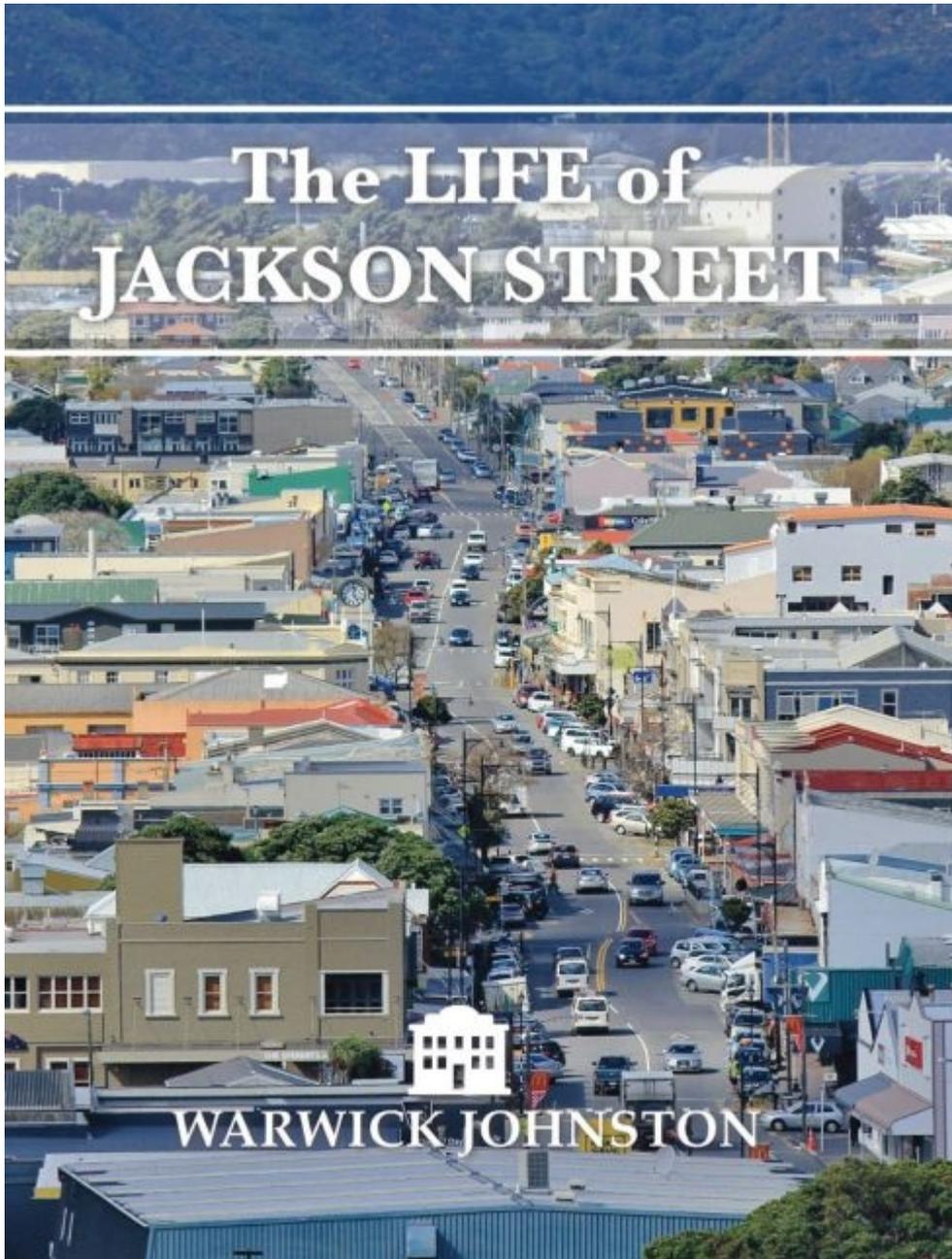
Latest additions to Papers Past (February 2015)

[Hastings Standard \(1896-1920\)](#)

[Press \(1929-1935\)](#)

[Star \(1915-1917\)](#)

[Westport Times \(1868-1874, 1879-1884, 1886\)](#)

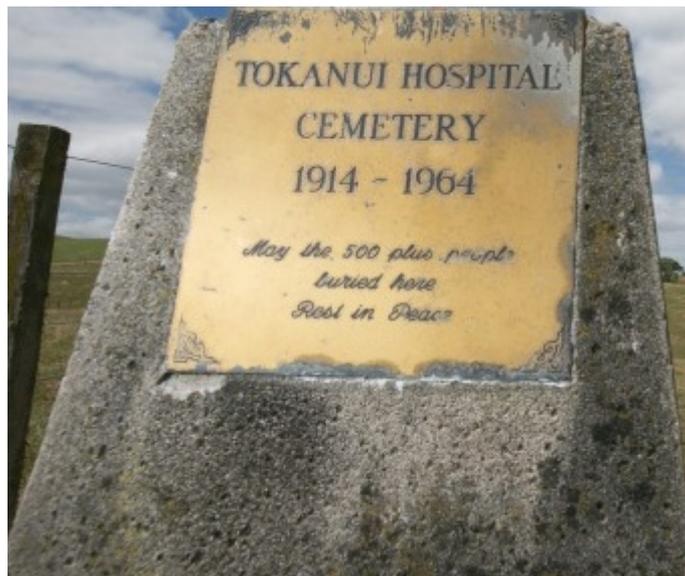


The book is an illustrated history of Jackson Street which covers the life, the people, the activities and the buildings of the street (1870s to the present day).

I look at as many parades, fairs and festivals as I could find (any more that anyone can find would be gratefully received, especially from the 19th Century (with pics of course)); the architectural history of the buildings and some of the former occupants, where possible. The last section is an illustrated journey along present day Jackson Street.

The book is 198 pages with over 200 images and 24 colour pics. You can purchase the book from me either by phoning me at 976 5936, 021 253 8873 or at warwick.johnston@clear.net.nz for the cost of \$45, signed of course.

Dignity for 'lost souls' of Tokanui Psychiatric Hospital



The only existing marker for the Cemetery

This small plaque is the only identifying marker in one corner of a 2- acre patch of land where 500+ individuals, are buried, who died at Tokanui Mental Hospital in the South Waikato from 1912 until the cemetery closure in 1964.

Bernice Smith and her cousin Maurie Zinsli, along with a team made up of the Department of Conservation as managers of Crown land, the farm management and a small group of family members, have been working to give these poor souls some dignity and the acknowledgement they deserve.

It is planned with the assistance of local funeral directors to erect a wall with as many names as possible placed on it.

If you can help with information, or are able to identify a family member buried at Tokanui Hospital Cemetery please contact Bernice Smith, 55 Hall Road, Tauranga 3110. Email: bernice.s@xtra.co.nz

Microfiche Readers

The branch has microfiche readers in storage. There is no need for this equipment at present. Other than retaining a couple for possible future use, the branch intends to dispose these readers.

If you would like to obtain a microfiche reader, please contact Terry Stock by email: HuttValley@genealogy.org.nz

Find My Past:

The New South Wales Will Books, 1800-1952, contain over 415,000 wills containing beautiful images of the original handwritten documents only available online at Findmypast. The records are copies of original Will Books held by the State Records Authority of New South Wales and include the wills of a number of individuals from other states and countries, typically in cases where the individual was a resident of New South Wales but their last place of residence was outside the state, or where they had originated from overseas and left legacies to family members back home.

Also Tasmanian BDMs, which, as for NZ, contain different degrees of detail depending on when the event was registered. At least some of these are images, not just transcriptions, but indexed. So whereas you can browse some of the images for free on FamilySearch, the indexes aren't necessarily available there.

Prisoners of War Records

For years the International committee of Red Cross has been digitizing these records. They have now launched a major collection at

<http://grandeguerre.icrc.org>

From 1914 -1919 8 million soldiers and 2 million civilians from many nations were imprisoned.

From 1914 warring states submitted lists of prisoners to the ICRC's International Prisoners of War Agency in Geneva. These were copied to index cards, of which 5 million survive, with details of around 2 million prisoners. It is a complex site to use; start with surname, unit or regiment.

What's on at Your Local Branches?

Kilbirnie

Wednesday 1 April – To be advised

Time/Venue: 10am The Park Bowling Club, Kilbirnie Crescent, Kilbirnie

Kapiti:

Tuesday 24 March – Sue Greene; *How to Trace your Military Ancestors*

Time/Venue: 7pm Kapiti Community Centre, 15 Ngahina St, Paraparaumu.

Wellington:

Wednesday 25 March – Anita West; *Your Irish Family: The Ultimate Jigsaw Puzzle*

Time/Venue: 7.30pm Connolly Hall, Guildford Tce, Thorndon.

Porirua:

Wednesday 8 April- Paul Alpe; Introduction to NZSG Kiwi Index

Time/Venue: 7.30pm Helen Smith Community Meeting Room, Pataka Cnr Norrie & Parumoana Sts, Porirua

Search Hutt City Council Archives Any time, Anywhere:

Until now, researching or viewing archives at the Hutt City Council Archives meant a visit to the reading room in Alicetown, or sending a request and waiting for a reply.

Now with the roll out of the Councils new online portal anyone can use the archives online search tool and view descriptions of the items.

Hutt City Council Archives houses over 80,000 archives from existing Hutt City Council and civic bodies, plus from Borough Councils and Town Boards and community organisations dating back to 1874.

If laid end to end the archives boxes would stretch the length from Matiu/Somes Island to Petone Foreshore. The treasure trove of material includes meeting papers, aerial photographs and bylaws.

The public can use the portal to search for material and send a request to Archives to have it ready for viewing when they visit.

An increasing number of archives are also available in digital form through the portal and as more archives are digitised they will be released online for public access.

Hutt City Council is one of the first councils in the country to put digitised archives online.

The portal also enables access to cemetery information and drainage plans.

<http://portal.huttcity.govt.nz>

Kopane School 90th Jubilee

27th & 28th March 2015

Did you attend Kopane School in the Manawatu, or do you know someone who did?

Sadly the school lost a lot of school records in the 2004 floods, so many names are unknown, if you attended or know someone who did, could you please pass this on to them. Any photos that you have would also be gratefully received.

More information is available on www.kopane.school.nz or the Facebook page (Kopane School 90th Jubilee).

Contact Diane Thomas, Registration Secretary

Kopaneschool90th@vodafone.co.nz for further details

Kiwi Index V.2

The new Kiwi Index will be released shortly and will be on a USB memory stick with approx. 9.5 million records and 250 different record types

Palmerston North Branch Genealogy Day

Saturday 21 March, Kilwinning Lodge, Church Street, Palmerston North

Speakers:

Howard Chamberlain - Military

Lily Baker - Hawkes Bay records and Earthquakes

Workshop:

Finding our families at Archives NZ – Records available, dates covered, research guides, how to register and order documents etc.

Tea and coffee provided. Bring your lunch or eat out.

For more information: Rose ph 06 359 1952

Email: palmerstonnorth@genealogy.org.nz

Cenotaph Database

Just recently the enhanced Cenotaph Database at the Auckland War Memorial Museum went live on

<http://www.aucklandmuseum.com/war-memorial/online-cenotaph>

Don't expect to see all the new records and the photos that have been submitted to be up there though – they have a massive queue to work through but the work is underway.

Take the opportunity to 'Leave a Poppy' at the name of your relative – you will find this at the bottom of the record.

Don't forget that Cenotaph II has the capability for you to load your own sourced information and photos. This is a huge step forward and gives everyone the opportunity to add their own information directly and not have to send it by email and wait for the Armoury staff and volunteers to process it.

Bereavement

Branch member Colleen Thorne died on 6 March. Colleen & Des have been regulars at the branch, especially the morning meetings.

Colleen's funeral will be at the church of St Martin de Porres, Park Avenue, Lower Hutt, at 10.30 am on Wednesday 11 March 2015.

Hutt Valley Branch Committee News

Ann Martin has been co-opted as a member of the committee. Thanks Ann.