

# Gore Branch of New Zealand Society of Genealogists September 2013

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Rhonda, Avis, Vicki  
Elaine and Judy

**Next Meeting**  
**3 September 2013**  
**Tuesday 8pm**  
**Rhonda, Elaine, Vicki, Judy**  
**and Avis will talk briefly on**  
**seminars they attended at**  
**the Family History Fair**  
*More photos will be on display*

## August Meeting Report

This meeting was postponed one week until the members who attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Family History Fair in Auckland were back home.

Members Elaine Scott and Alan Ritchie who are both very well organized people in all fields, demonstrated their methods of filing all the information they have collected over the years on their families. As we all have boxes and files it was wonderful to see the different methods.

Elaine has a clear file for each family into which she slots any new information she finds. Anyone who have seen Elaine researching knows she is very precise and methodical, and nothing is lost.

Alan has a large number of photographs; and huge amount of information which he writes out in longhand. He then has these sheets bound into a book. As he gains more photos and information he writes it out in longhand and slots it into the appropriate place in each family book, and then has it rebound.

Members were very impressed with the demonstrations and material.

*Sincere thanks to Elaine and Alan for their excellent presentations.* (I was disappointed I was not able to attend)  
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### Novel way to display the Ancestors

Check out this Ancestral Wall (<http://goo.gl/FoVvg>)- a pedigree chart with a difference. *(with thanks to Dick Eastman's Genealogy newsletter and Kapati Branch.)*



Births, marriages & deaths reported in the "Times of India" newspaper which includes Ceylon and India. 1918, 1919, 1920 have been

uploaded to FIBIS database [www.fibis.org](http://www.fibis.org)

*'The answers to most people's problems are in their notes'*

## Family History Fair

Everyone, who had anything to do with organizing the Family History Fair is to be congratulated. There were a few glitches but that can happen when organizing any large event and I am sure these will be ironed out before the next F.H.F. Overall, it was a great affair.



Family History Fair.

I was very fortunate to be one of a group of six who travelled from the South to attend. Thank you Rhonda, for planting this seed and also a big thank you to Margaret for bringing it to fruition; arranging all our travel and accommodation and making it so easy for us to get around; restaurants, the event centre and shopping were all only a five or ten minute walk away. At the last minute Margaret was unfortunately unable to attend the Fair herself. *Next time Margaret.* In her place we welcomed Judith Hayward, Convenor of the Mosgiel Genealogy NZSG branch who thoroughly enjoyed the Fair and our company.

How privileged we were to have had overseas speakers who travelled 'down under' to present their Seminars. They came from the U.S.A., England and Australia to share their knowledge with us. Each one of them presented their subjects with expertise.

I was amazed by Jo Appleby – Who would have imagined that through the research of an area and mapping out where it was thought the building had been where Richard 111 had been killed; that by digging up a car park, a

skeleton was found; by looking at the skeleton, the injuries and spinal defect (scoliosis) and finally the DNA and it was confirmed that this skeleton was actually Richard 111.

Are we ever going to be able to again think that our secrets are safely buried in the grave?

Our National Seminar presenters were certainly up with the overseas lot and also had full houses attend their Seminars. I certainly learned from each seminar I attended. Mini seminars were held during the day in the main hall and also gave a lot of tips and helpful information and a chance to sit and rest the feet and focus the mind. The days were pretty full-on. The stall holders went out of their way to answer questions and point one to the appropriate places to research and to tempt with their sales tables of 'everything a genealogist needs'.

NZSG members went out of their way for us, and very kindly ferried us to the Research Centre in Panmure on the Monday where we spent the day. It was a first time visit for most of us and we were gob-smacked at the many resources there were for us to fossick amongst. It gave me a better understanding of the resources held there and I feel I can now go to the NZSG Website, log into the library and order articles for my research, or ask for a look-up.

We came home armed with pamphlets and give-aways. We came home our minds filled with must do's and new 'plans of attack'. We came home fulfilled and happy that we had had, that great experience and full of talk of saving for the next Family History Fair.

Yes, we do feel we miss out away down in the South with the resources available, but would we become blasé if we had them on our doorstep. Much better, I think to plan another trip to Auckland.

I hope that you all are feeling a bit tempted and will join us next time.

*Many thanks to Judy Pulley for this comprehensive report*  
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### **Family History Fair**

There were at least 42 different booths /stalls in the large Vodaphone centre. Rhonda won a raffle of \$350 worth of books from 'Unlock the Past' booth. She is very generously is willing to loan these to branch members.

**Congratulations Rhonda** – we are all delighted for you.

## **NZSG – Services Available to Members**

The Society's website [www.genealogy.org.nz](http://www.genealogy.org.nz) is a must for members to keep updated in what is going on, events, products and services.

Current membership of the Society is just short of 7000, with approximately 30% belonging to a branch in one of the eight regional areas. In addition there are 13 Interest Groups covering geographical and generic areas of interest.

Communication with membership at large is focused through The New Zealand Genealogist magazine published 6 times a year, while digital formats are e-KIT, a monthly e-mail news sheet; a website based chat on-line forum facility; and an e-mail mailing list for member discussions.

Facebook is another means of reaching the wider community.

### **Member services are extensive and include:**

- the remote film reader which allowed access at home to LDS films
- Discovery, a digitized item access of items available from UK National Archives
- Gale Searchable Newspapers which included the Times Digital archive
- NZSG Digital Archive provides preservation for posterity facility of family histories, with backup and retrieval, access and sharing with designated individuals.
- The Family Research Centre in Panmure houses the HQ of the organisation and its central library, research and sales facilities. The Auckland based team of volunteers provide lookup services for members. Other member only data services cover:
  - First Families, information on partners married in NZ before 1931 or emigrated before 1931
  - a Certificates Collection, a repository of documents such as BDM's, baptisms, wills, probates, coroner's reports, war records provided by members
  - the Pre-1856 NZ Marriage Records Collection, data of marriages which took place before civil registration
  - Pedigree Collection of information on families submitted by members
  - NZ School information
  - other lookup services cover Huguenot research, North America.

The library catalogue of 50,000 items is searchable and members can borrow by mail order from wherever they are located. The on-line shop has a wealth of items available and often specials were being promoted.

Clive reminded all branch members to join NZSG so they do not miss out on a wealth of data and research help. You can recoup your membership fee easily by using the Certificates Collection and Discovery alone.

*Thanks to NZSG Councillor Clive Palmer and Kapiti Branch for this excellent article*

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### **Documentsonline**

*With sincere thanks to Kapiti Branch*

For NZSG members, remote access to the National Archives (UK) **Documentsonline**, is now possible. You no longer need to access this service through the Research Services team, but can do it yourself from home.

**As before, it is FREE as part of your NZSG subscription.**

Now renamed **DISCOVERY** the service gives unlimited access to millions of digital images including wills, military records and much more, from your own computer.

**This is a members—only service and you must be logged on to the NZSG website to access it.**

Instructions:

- Log on to the NZSG website
- Hover over the —Members‘ Area|| Menu
- Click on —Discovery|| in the drop-down menu
- Click on —Connect to Discovery||. This will open a new window.
- Enter your membership number in the —Barcode Number|| field and click the —Validate barcode|| button.

*(Some combinations of browsers and computers may have a problem signing in, but clearing your browser cache for the site seems to overcome that.)*

On the —Discover our Collections|| page, select the —Online Collections|| tab and search by keyword in the search bar or in any of the collection options below it.

Completed headstones for 13 burial sites throughout East Scotland

39,000 names & records back to 1753 – includes photos of headstones and memorials with digitized transcribed inscriptions

Digitization of burial records for Bolton Councils and cemeteries.

Further instructions are available on the NZSG website Discovery page and are included in the August issue of *The New Zealand Genealogist*.

FreeBDM joins Mocavo. Movaco members can search 300 million FreeBDM Trust websites. Information will be automatically matched to members’ family trees. Movaco is similar to GenesReunited.



### **Scottish Research**

Alex Wood demonstrates the importance of checking the entries in the Register of Corrected Entries in the Scottish statutory records for births, marriages and deaths.

Don’t neglect these corrected entries.

### **Research**

Researching post-1855 births, marriages and deaths in Scotland is relatively straightforward, whether done on-line through Scotland’s People

[www.scotlandspeople.co.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.co.uk), or in person at Edinburgh’s New Register House. The certificates are much more informative than their English equivalents. *Time of births and deaths are recorded.*

One additional source of information however, is often overlooked. Scottish birth, marriage and death certificates occasionally contain a marginal note, often along the lines, ‘See RCE’, followed by a volume and page number reference with a date.

The RCE is the Register of Corrected Entries.

Details contained in these registers are often more illuminating than the original certificates. They note changes to the accuracy or add essential, omitted information and correct errors of fact

*Thanks to Blenheim Branch*

### **Truby King and the Seacliff Asylum**

*by Daphne Henderson*

The story reflects Dunedin’s own history. The hospital began in the Municipal Lane between the Council Chambers and the library. The first hospital to be constructed in 1863 was where Otago Boys High School is now situated, on Stuart St. above the city.

But by 1876 that building was too small, so 900 acres was purchased at Seacliff. Some units were re-used from the first Dunedin hospital, dismantled and taken by bullock to Seacliff. But the main part of the hospital was designed by architect was Robert Lawson, whose “Scottish baronial style” magnificent buildings were the pride of Dunedin’s early days.

Construction began in 1877, and took 5 years to build. By 1884 there were 500 patients and 50 staff. In 1889 Truby King was appointed Medical Superintendent. His work for patients in Seacliff, and for other aspects of health care is a major contribution to New Zealand. At Seacliff, for example, he built a library for use of patients and staff at his own expense; developed the 900 acres by establishing a 300 acre farm with 200 Friesian cows as well as many pigs, poultry and sheep; and 32 acres in garden tennis courts and sports fields.



Photo of Seacliff (ca.1910) accessed 30 July 2013 from: Seacliff psychiatric hospital, Dunedin. Ref: 1/2-002563-F. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, at <http://natlib.govt.nz/records/23242138>

Truby King is well known for his commitment to family health in general.

He also developed the Plunket Society for women and children, and named it after Lady Victoria Plunket, wife of the then Governor General (Lord Plunket).

Truby King was knighted in 1925, in recognition of his commitment to health care.

*Thanks to Mosgiel Branch for this interesting article*

**Editor's PS:** My mother Beulah Finlayson started training as a (Psychiatric) Mental Nurse at Seacliff in 1928. Her wages were 120 pounds 5 shillings per anum. (\$245) Her key was #192, and the rule book was number 327; both had to returned when sheresigned. She graduated in 1934. During her time on night duty she utilized her time and crocheted around two large table clothes for her 'glory box'. In later years Beulah often spoke of how difficult it was working in secure wards in Seacliff, where the first door was locked, before the next one was unlocked; where all the knives had to be counted out before a meal, and recounted afterwards, where the patients who did manage to escape had to be searched for, and found in the hilly scrub before they could go off duty.

In 1942 there was a disastrous fire which destroyed a wooden outbuilding, claiming 37 lives (39 in other sources), because the victims were trapped in a locked ward.

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### Websites

[www.nrm.org.uk/RailwayStories/worldwarone.aspx](http://www.nrm.org.uk/RailwayStories/worldwarone.aspx)

The National Railway Museum data base of more than 20,000 railway employees who died in WW1. Free access

FindMyPast 159,000 Imperial Yeomanry Boer War records of 26,680 men digitized & released Pension records & attestations of soldiers 1760- 1887, physical descriptions, medical complaints. = Kilmainham pension records.

FreeBDM joins Mocavo in a new partnership. Movaco members can now search nearly 300 million FreeBDM Trust records and information will be automatically matched to members family trees.

## Create your ultimate problem solving Strategy

Brick walls occur in all genealogy research. How often do we look at a certificate without taking note of the informant or witnesses. These can be the vital clues. By using methodology we have a better chance of a positive result.

Irrespective of whether you are successful or not, the information must be correctly sourced so others can follow, or pick up where you stopped.

Check your research and set yourself a goal.

Check the accuracy and ask yourself

- Who created the document
- What sort of document is it
- Why was it created
- When was it created or altered
- How was it created, reproduced or derived.

Handwritten transcriptions of headstones etc are subject to a myriad of mistakes, and this increases each time an original document is transcribed. Try to sight originals if possible.

The internet has allowed the rapid exponential duplication of such errors; it is not unusual for whole pedigree to be pasted for posterity onto another tree on the flimsiest evidence. Don't become a 'name collector'

### What is the Source

Is it an original, first recorded either written or oral, document or photograph.

Or is it transcribed, copied.

Analyze the evidence

### Create a research Plan

Genealogist love lists but we can lose focus of the goal. Mind mapping is an method of brainstorming and thinking outside the box.

Make a time line which will point to the missing dates, events.

Pin the list on the front of the frig with a black felt pen and add to it such as the following:

Date of birth – certificate

Christening

*to be continued*

