

# Gore Branch of New Zealand of Genealogists

## April 2012

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**Next Meeting**  
 3 April 2012 - 8 pm  
 Hokonui Heritage Center  
 Speaker – Dr Don McKay  
 World Wars

### Open Day 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2012

This was very successful with many members of the public coming into the Hokonui Heritage Center (hereafter called HHC) with some very interesting queries. Sincere thanks go to Branch members who assisted in all ways with queries, notices, and welcoming people to HHC. We are so very fortunate with the large number of District and family histories, the electoral rolls, and birth, death and marriage scrapbooks.

Heather Bray's presentation was excellent, concise, educational, colourful, and had everyone amazed with the number of ancestors she had located. She recommended finding living people, even cousins 4 times removed who could have photographs and information that they are willing to share. She has created a method of identifying relatives: are they left or right handed, eye colour, hair colour, what was the cause of death. .

Look for surnames in telephone books in NZ and overseas, phone or write asking if they are connected to your family, but **'Keep it simple'**

Be aware overseas phone directories are not all free, and some countries have private phone companies. Write to newspapers, but keep it simple. Use electoral rolls, (Gore or Invercargill Libraries) then use birth, death and marriage fiche. Locate their parents, death notices from newspapers. **Southland Times death notices 1976 – 2011 are all indexed in scrapbooks in HHC.**

Births & deaths microfiche (1836 -1990) have folio numbers which enable you to find the registration place.- **not necessarily** the birth or death place Join the local Genealogical society in the area where your family were born or lived. Put in an entry with all your family, and revise the membership each year. Join Genes Reunited, Rootsweb, Family societies for a year where your ancestors lived, Oldfriends.co.nz, Facebook. Use the websites in the HHC on Sunday afternoon.

School APW (Admission, progress withdrawal) are invaluable to trace where your ancestors moved to, and apart from Electoral rolls, which only list adults. Otago school records are held in Hocken Library, Southland records are at Invercargill library.

**March Meeting:** Pam Courtney spoke of her visit to the Shetland Isles, which is closer to Norway than it is to Scotland mainland, and halfway between London and the Arctic circle, 400 miles from Edinburgh. She went to Yell, and Unst which is the most northerly island in British Isles and has an amazing bus shelter with sofa, TV etc. In Scalloway there is memorial to the Shetland fisherman who lost their lives transporting British citizens in their boats from German occupied Norway during the 1940-1945 war. Orkney, Harris, North Uist, South Uist and Barra Isles were all visited. lovely supper concluded a delightful evening.



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### History of ANZAC Day

April 25<sup>th</sup> marks the anniversary of the landing of the New Zealand and Australian Army Corps (ANZACs) at Gallipoli in 1915 over 7000 New Zealand soldiers were wounded at Gallipoli 2721 were killed.

The Australian army also suffered heavy casualties; 26,111 were injured and 8,141 were killed. The first Anzac Day took place on 25th April 1916. As time went on the ceremony of remembrance was extended to the soldiers of the Second World War.

It now honours all New Zealand and Australians who have served in all military campaigns. The red poppy – or Flanders poppy – is an international symbol of remembrance for those killed on the battlefield. Its association with WW1 and WW11 is mainly due to the poem "In Flanders Fields", written by Canadian medical officer Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae during WW11:

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
 Between the crosses row on row  
 That mark our place; and in the sky  
 The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
 Scarce heard amid the guns below*

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**AGM in 5 June**– please consider Meeting being on the committee. We are a friendly lot and YOU are most welcome.



## Migrants on the Move to New Zealand Australia, USA and Canada

**For some unknown reason the name of the ship our ancestors came on is very important.**

Most migration records are kept in the country of destination, but there are shipping records for them departing from England, Scotland and Ireland, and these are worth searching. The distance from our country is such, that we are fortunate millions of records are on Ancestry.com. Unfortunately not all records of immigrants are listed, and crew members are seldom found. You can also scan 140 years worth of New Zealand naturalization to find those who moved here. The New York passenger lists at Ancestry.co.uk contains millions who entered USA through Ellis Island. Further north are lists of those who settled in Canada, or simply used the country as a stepping stone to USA. Border crossings 1895 – 1956 [www.ancestrycouk./immigration](http://www.ancestrycouk./immigration)  
[www.ancestry.co.uk/worldwide](http://www.ancestry.co.uk/worldwide)



### British Child Migrants and

**Evacuees** during World War II.

Millions of people including 1.5 children from South East England were evacuated from the cities by the

Government. 2 million were privately

evacuated.

On Friday 1 September 1939 the children gathered at their local schools at appointed times, where labels identifying their names, their school, & home addresses were attached to their clothing and they marched to the trains.



In Scotland 250,000 people were moved from Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunee, Clydebank, & Rosyth.

Newspaper coverage gave the impression that it would be a great

adventure, but it was total confusion. Children were placed on the wrong trains, siblings separated and some billets did not really want them. Search households in England & Wales

[www.ic.nhs.uk/services/1939-register-service](http://www.ic.nhs.uk/services/1939-register-service)

Search Scotland [gro-scotland.gov.uk/national-health-service-central-register/about-the-register/1939-naional-id-register.html](http://gro-scotland.gov.uk/national-health-service-central-register/about-the-register/1939-naional-id-register.html)

1,532 children were also evacuated Canada, 577 to Australia, 353 to South Africa, 202 to New Zealand.

[www.bbc.co.uk/2peopleswar/stories/38/a27/14438.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/2peopleswar/stories/38/a27/14438.shtml) - to read a young person's account of being evacuated from Chaltham, Kent to Wales. He returned in 1942

**Lost Touch** The Evacuees Association is a charity founded in 1995, which aims to preserve the stories, creates a newsletter, and arranges Reunions

[www.evacuees.org.uk](http://www.evacuees.org.uk)

**DNA**

analysis is becoming cheaper, faster and more precise. However families should be prepared for some unexpected results.

A scheme was trialed in Florida, where a full DNA was provided with every birth. But it had to stop after a few weeks, because it turned out that 25% of the fathers were "unofficial".  
Oops!

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## Websites

NZ gold discoveries

<http://k6.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/files/hsie/back09.pdf>

Ireland census 1901-1911

<http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie> early Otago settlers.

Otago Witness , Issue 2300, 31 March 1898, Page 11,

Biographical Notes of Settlers of the First Decade. With brief notices of a few prominent Colonists of later years.

<http://www.archives.presbyterian.org.nz/baptismdatabase.htm> Presbyterian baptisms

<http://www.nzobits.co.nz/obits>

Mariners and Ships in Australian Waters

<http://mariners.records.nsw.gov.au>

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/famrec/hlpsrch/list-of-parishes-registration-districts.html> Scotland parishes

<http://lists.rootsweb.ancestry.com/> very useful in that

you only need to post one word, a name or a place and brings up what there is, or specifically what you asked for. Searching a name brings up all the messages posted in pursuit of that name.

death notices: <http://www.amemorytree.co.nz/index.php>

The "V.C. Browne and Son NZ Aerial Photograph Collection" contains approx. 27,000 images.

<http://www.vcbrowne.com/VCBHome.aspx>

The collection spans a period of over 50 years, -1930s - 1970s.

Black and white aerial photographs of South Island and the Canterbury region, and most New Zealand cities and towns.

Bio.

<http://canterburyphotography.blogspot.com/2010/05/v-c-browne.html>

[www.coraweb.com.au/nzsites.htm](http://www.coraweb.com.au/nzsites.htm) shipping lists

FindMyPast (pay to view)

<http://www.findmypast.co.uk/help-and-advice/site-tour/migration>

and the Family Search site (free)

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/show#uri=http://hr-search-api:8080/searchapi/search/collection/1609792>

have good passenger lists. Can search by ship or by passenger name or by year.

Archives NZ holds records of many former Public Servants.

The 'Government Employment' resource guide

<http://archives.govt.nz/research/guides/government-employment> lists the Archives NZ holdings. As the guide

says, unless otherwise indicated, all records are held in the Wellington office. For privacy reasons, most of the files on Archway have restricted access for many years.