This year [2011] the Convenor’s and Secretary’s AGM Reports have been combined – this was made necessary at the meeting to accommodate the limited time available to us during the FHF.

Māori Interest Group
New Zealand Society of Genealogists Inc

New Zealand Family History Fair Claudelands
Events Centre,
Te Papanui te whenua, Ngati Parekirangi te hapu no Ngati Wairere.
Hamilton 26\textsuperscript{th}, 27\textsuperscript{th} August 2011.

Convenor’s Report

Greetings to you, the land trembles and the sea stirs when the sheltering totara of the forest fall; then calm returns as the kaka cease their chatter, for the dead have gone into the night. Leave them to lie there, while we remain here to continue their work as passed on and we, the living remain Greetings to us all.
Again this has been a busy year for us and our membership comes and goes like the changing tides. Communication between us of the committee has gone through changes within NZSG to changes in community, relationships, and local government and still we remain committed to whakapapa, genealogy, tangata whenua and European research and the linking together of families.

November 6th 2010  Brenda gave a power point presentation at a hui held at Massey University Wellington Marae by the Haemophilia Foundation of New Zealand. Maori are highly susceptible to this disease so they are interested in their whakapapa as a means of tracing incidents of haemophilia through the generations.

November 14th, Saturday
The Māori Interest Group facilitated by myself and Lorraine hosted members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints from Pukekohe at the Auckland Library Research of Genealogy. An excellent morning from a mihi whakatau to updates of heritage with a guest speaker on European migration and settlement in NZ, to a tour of the research centres resources, Lorraine and I facilitated a very productive morning.

April 9th, Saturday
Lorraine and I met at FRC Library to catch up on our work with the Māori Interest Group. Our main point was to go through the resources applicable to the Maori Interest Group and our membership base.

May 5th, Thursday
Another meeting with me and Lorraine at the Papatoetoe Branch in looking at a way forward for the best way to promote the Māori Interest Group to reach its full potential in support of our people nga hau e wha.

June 9th, Thursday
Brenda spoke at Porirua Library on the subject of whakapapa research. This was part of the library’s celebration of Matariki.

June 25th, Saturday
Brenda attended a seminar in Whanganui presented by the Maori Land Court Te Kooti Whenua Maori. This was an introduction to their new website and how to search it to find the extensive information available on line.

June 30th, Wednesday
Lorraine and I accepted an invitation to attend the AGM of The Pukekohe East Church, a Presbyterian church that featured in the
Land Wars with musket holes through its walls. We had a good evening followed by excellent refreshments and interest in genealogical research.

We would like to show support to this group as they are in the process of finding out the names of Māori dead who are buried under a rock as their tombstone within the cemetery. By finding these names we could assist in the reunification of families linking the colonial past to the families of the present who are endeavouring to not only to find their past but also to link their families together.

*From a drawing by A. H. Messenger*

The Attack on the Pukekohe East Church Stockade. (14th September, 1863)

August 16th, Tuesday
Family History Month at Wellington Public Library hosted a weekly series of public seminars on genealogy. Brenda spoke on Whakapapa research.

August 27th, Saturday
Celia Geary ran the whakapapa research table at the Wellington Genealogy Expo.

August 26th & 27th
Friday & Saturday
Owen, Lorraine and Brenda ran a whakapapa research stand at the NZSG Family History Fair in Hamilton.
Throughout the year Lorraine, Brenda and Celia and I have been actively engaged in supporting other areas and NZSG branches in assistance with Māori research in whakapapa and between Brenda and me we have been actively supporting whakapapa enquiries of individuals.

Some strange, wild and bizarre and yet all relevant for such is the nature of the human beast with ancestors elusive, peculiar and indifferent on one hand and on the other hand gentle and loving souls, those who want to be found to those who may not.

On behalf of our members, your committee has been actively engaged with Bruce Mathers keeping us on our toes for material, enquiries and of course those elusive photographs that he so dearly loves.

The New Zealand Society of Genealogists is a proactive society that supports its Māori Interest Group in the first instance and is also mindful of the bicultural partnerships of the Treaty of Waitangi that brings two groups together.

And therefore this Family History Fair in the heart of Tainui waka and tangata whenua Māori has a pivotal role to play with the Māori Interest Group in supporting and encouraging Māori participation.

Waiho i te toipoto, kaua i te toiroa  
Let us join together and not fall apart

Waikato, Tainui whanau no Ngati Whawhakia, Ngati Wairere and Ngati Koura,  
He whakatauki o Potatau

“Kotahi te kohao o te ngira, e kuhuna ai te miro mā, te miro pango, te miro whero” There is but one eye of the needle through which the white, black and red threads pass

Unity and love between all people, we are all one before the eyes of God.

As your convenor I would like to see where we can be on the Council of NZSG in order to further promote Tangata whenua o Aotearoa on a collective front with our Treaty partner.

It is timely that we become more actively engaged on a national level as we have a responsibility for and to Māori, Māori/European, and European/Māori as well as to hāpu and iwi. An extremely large portion of the population and society of New Zealand that I do not believe the NZSG Council is fully aware of with the Māori Interest Group.

Before closing, I wish to acknowledge the hard work and commitment of our Secretary/Treasurer Brenda Joyce, Brenda holds together the Māori Interest Group and continues to be there for us. I feel comfortable in speaking for my colleagues of the
committee in that knowing Brenda is there for us, which is heart warming for Brenda is a delight to work with. Tena koe Brenda, thank you for being you.

To Bruce, Lorraine, Celia and Brenda, nga mihi nui ki a koutou it is indeed a pleasure to be part of a witty and engaging team.

May this Family History Fair be one of adventure, exciting research and engaging speakers that we will go a way with our kete full and over flowing with genealogy and whakapapa.

Ka nui tēnei

Nāku noa, na

Owen Ormsby
Convenor