

Christchurch Family History Expo Programme Tūranga – 2025

Saturday 2 August

Time	Tautoru / TSB Space Hapori Community, Level 1	Auaha Hihī / Spark Place He Hononga Connection, Ground level	Expo Hall and other locations
10.10- 11.00am	Welcome <i>Keynote: Chris Paton: Discover your Scottish Ancestors "Here's tae us. Wha's like us? Damn few, an' they're a' deid!"</i>		Expo Hall on He Hononga Connection Ground level all day <i>Ask about the PastPort to Family History on Tuakiri Identity, Level 2. Explore the resources, answer the questions, and enter the prize draw</i>
11.10- 12.00pm	Jason Reeve: <i>Using Ancestry.com and an Introduction to AncestryDNA</i>	Sian Smith and Arapata Reuben: <i>Whakapapa Ngāi Tahu – Whānau connections across place and time</i>	
12.10- 1.00pm	Seonaid Harvey: <i>Playing "Hide and Seek" with My Grandmother – A Case Study in Research Methodology, Evaluation, and Patience</i>	See event in Waruwarutū on Tuakiri Identity, Level 2	Waruwarutū on Tuakiri Identity, Level 2 Ngapiu Tainui-Maclure (Ngāi Tahu and Te Rarawa) and Julia Keogh-Cope (Ngāti Porou and Ngāti Kahungunu): <i>Pou Kohikohinga Māori – First Steps to Whakapapa</i>
1.00- 2.00pm	LUNCH BREAK Ngā Purapura / Activity Room, Hapori Community, Level 1 Seating available; tea and coffee		
2.00- 2.50pm	Sophie Kay: <i>Just a Job? Revitalise Your Family History with Occupational Research</i> Recorded talk	Amy Ryan and Amy Duff: <i>Caring for your family records (physical and digital)</i>	Visit the Expo Hall on He Hononga Connection, Ground level
3.00- 3.50pm	Fiona Brooker: <i>The 5 DNA Research Steps</i>	Sarah Hewitt: <i>New Zealand Society of Genealogists</i>	
4.00- 4.50pm	Chris Paton: <i>What is Ireland? Understanding the lay of the land</i>	Valerie Anderson: <i>Using FamilySearch.org at home...and when to come to the Family Search Centre.</i>	
ALL DAY	Expo Hall on He Hononga Connection, Ground level	Tuakiri Identity, Level 2 <i>Drop-in: all day help with your family history research</i>	Tuakiri Identity, Level 2 PastPort to Family History - great prizes

NB: All sessions are free. Bookings are not required. Please arrive early to secure a seat.

Sunday 3 August

Time	Session: TSB Hapori Community, Level 1	Session: Spark Place He Hononga Connection, Ground level	Expo Hall and other locations
10.10-11.00am	Duff Wilson: <i>Family Tree Maker's New Tools for Collaborative Family History</i>	Annette Williams: <i>Reading the Cards: finding the hidden stories in the church register transcriptions</i>	Expo Hall on He Hononga Connection, Ground level all day <i>Ask about the Past Port to Family History on Tuakiri Identity, Level 2. Explore the resources, answer the questions, and enter the prize draw.</i>
11.10-12.00pm	Sonia Gray <i>Making My Family Mystery: stories, insights and moments of discovery (via ZOOM)</i>	Trudy Heney: <i>Getting it together</i>	
12.10-1.00pm	Andrew Redfern and Fiona Brooker: <i>Challenges of AI in family history</i>	Annabel Ahuriri-Driscoll: <i>Paradoxes of Closed Adoption</i>	
1.00-2.00pm	LUNCH BREAK Ngā Purapura / Activity Room Hapori Community, Level 1. Seating available; tea and coffee Prize draw		
2.00 – 2.50pm	Chris Paton: <i>Scottish resources before 1800</i>	Natasha Wells: <i>Think Like A Detective: the power of a focused research question</i>	Visit the Expo Hall on He Hononga Connection, Ground level
3.00-3.50pm	Ian James: <i>How FamilySearch is using AI to make more records findable</i> Recorded talk	Fiona Lees: <i>What happens in the dash between the dates?</i>	
4.00pm	Expo finishes		
ALL DAY	Expo Hall on He Hononga Connection, Ground level	Tuakiri Identity, Level 2 <i>Drop-in: all day help with your family history research</i>	Tuakiri Identity, Level 2 PastPort to Family History – <i>Enter before the draw at 1pm, great prizes</i>

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IN THE EXHIBITION HALL (He Hononga | Connection, Ground Floor)

Ancestry
Canterbury Genealogy Society
Christchurch City Libraries
CCC Archives
Family Search Centre

Family History Society of New Zealand
Family Tree Maker
Mentis
Kowhai Historical Society

Memories In Time
Whakapapa Ngai Tahu
NZ Micrographic Services
NZ Society of Genealogists
Selwyn District Libraries

Thank you to Sponsors:

The Expo is supported by Christchurch City Libraries, Ancestry, Family Tree Maker and The New Zealand Society of Genealogists.

Thank you to those who have donated prizes: Find My Past, New Zealand Micrographics, New Zealand Society of Genealogists, Memories in Time, and Canterbury Genealogy.

TOPIC SUMMARIES

For full Speaker and Programme information go to

[Family History Expo | Christchurch City Libraries Ngā Kete Wānanga o Ōtautahi](#)

KEYNOTE: Discover Your Scottish Ancestors: *Chris Paton*

In this session, family historian Chris Paton outlines some of the many records that can help you to explore your Scottish ancestry online. He'll discuss church records, civil registration records, censuses, land records, inheritances processes, and along the way flag up some of Scotland's more interesting historic traditions.

Using Ancestry.com and an Introduction to AncestryDNA: *Jason Reeve*

Join Jason Reeve (Ancestry.com's Content Acquisition Manager for Australia and New Zealand), as he explains Ancestry and AncestryDNA tests.

Whakapapa Ngāi Tahu – Whānau connections across place and time: *Sian Smith and Arapata Reuben*

Whakapapa Ngāi Tahu support whānau to connect with their 1848 kaumātua and access information about their recent whānau history. We also look beyond the time of European colonisation, when our tīpuna embedded names in places that give us insight as to who we are and where we've come from.

Playing “Hide and Seek” with My Grandmother – A Case Study in Research Methodology, Evaluation, and Patience: *Seonaid Harvey*

Seonaid's paternal grandmother passed away from tuberculosis when her father was just four months old. Fostered out for much of his childhood, he grew up without the family stories many of us take for granted. This absence sparked Seonaid's determination to uncover her grandmother's story.

Pou Kohikohinga Māori – First Steps to Whakapapa: *Ngapiu Tainui-Maclure (Ngāi Tahu and Te Rarawa) and Julia Keogh-Cope (Ngāti Porou and Ngāti Kahungunu)*

As Pou Kohikohinga Māori – Māori Collection Specialists - we will take you through the resources that our Ngā Pounamu Māori Collection can offer you on your 'first steps to whakapapa'.

Just a Job: Revitalise Your Family History with Occupational Research: *Sophie Kay*

In this session, we'll harness the power of digital resources and physical archives to explore occupational stories from some familiar – and not-so-familiar – jobs to see how the demands and hazards of the workplace influenced workers' lives.

Caring for your family records (physical and digital): *Amy Ryan and Amy Duff*

A presentation from the Christchurch City Libraries archivists looking at caring for family records, both physical and digital, including photographs and original documents.

The 5 DNA Research Steps: *Fiona Brooker*

I've done a DNA test and the results have arrived...now what do I do? Learn the five steps to working with your DNA results to grow your family tree and to solve the mysteries that hide within it.

The New Zealand Society of Genealogists: *Sarah Hewitt*

A presentation on the benefits of joining New Zealand's national genealogical society, including the records and resources available to genealogists researching here in New Zealand and further afield.

KEYNOTE: What is Ireland? Understanding the lay of the land: *Chris Paton*

Looking for Irish ancestors may be one of your key priorities but understanding what Ireland actually is, may be quite another! In this talk, family historian Chris Paton provides a much-needed background primer to help provide context to your Irish research.

Using FamilySearch.org at home...and when to come to the Family Search Centre: *Valerie Anderson*

Learn how to find your ancestors' information, and add it to the world's biggest crowd sourced Family Tree. All for free.

Family Tree Maker's New Tools for Collaborative Family History: *Duff Wilson*

Join us for a look at the latest innovations in FTM 2024. While highlighting popular and lesser-known features of Family Tree Maker®, this presentation will also focus on the all-new Connect workspace and new Relative Hint™ feature that make it easier than ever to share your tree and collaborate with your family.

Reading the Cards: *Annette Williams*

Christchurch City Libraries holds a unique card index file of transcriptions of baptisms, marriages and burials from the registers of Canterbury churches. Find out how reading the clues contained in the records and a little judicious digging can reveal far more.

Making My Family Mystery: *Sonia Gray*

Join TV presenter Sonia Gray as she talks about her experience working on the television series *My Family Mystery* – the behind-the-scenes stories, research breakthroughs, insights, and those moments of discovery shared with a family.

Waking the Dead: Reflections on Death, Migration, and the Victorians: *Lyndon Fraser*

How did people cope with such losses? What forms of consolation were available to them? How did they handle death in cultural terms? In this talk, Lyndon will provide some tentative answers by focusing on nineteenth-century migrants and the revolution in 'deathways' that shaped their responses to mortality.

Challenges of AI in Family History: *Andrew Redfern and Fiona Brooker*

As artificial intelligence becomes increasingly part of our research tool kit, what are the hidden pitfalls, ethical dilemmas, and practical challenges facing family historians today? Join us as we explore the promises and perils of AI in genealogy, from transcription errors and historical bias to privacy concerns and creative storytelling.

The paradoxes of closed adoption in Aotearoa New Zealand – implications for family histories: *Associate Professor Annabel Ahuriri-Driscoll (Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Raukawa, Ngāti Kahungunu)*

Closed adoption was introduced in Aotearoa New Zealand with the Adoption Act 1955. This Act ensured the removal of many Māori children from their Māori families and communities, particularly as ex-nuptial births rose in the 1960s. The majority were adopted into New Zealand European families.

Scottish Research Resources before 1800: *Chris Paton*

From Kirk to state, a variety of records are available, but it's one thing to find them, and quite another to understand them, with different handwriting styles, language problems, and the feudal nature of Scottish society forming some of the many challenges that make earlier Scottish research fun but challenging.

How to think like a detective: *Natasha Wells*

Genealogy isn't just about collecting documents—it's about uncovering stories. Chasing every 'must-have' record can be tempting, but real progress comes from defining a clear research question. Where you go to seek answers depends on your question. What is it that you want to know?

How FamilySearch is using AI to make more records findable: *Ian James*

Come and learn how FamilySearch is using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to make more records findable than ever before and learn what changes to expect as genealogy moves into the AI augmented future.

What Happens in the Dash Between the Dates? *Fiona Lees*

Join Fiona for a step-by-step guide to family history research using freely available digital tools. Learn how to uncover and document the lives of your ancestors—filling in the "dash" between birth and death dates.