



NZSG New Plymouth Branch
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Website <http://geocities.com/genealogynp/>



NZSG
New Plymouth
Branch

NUMBER 195

October 2006

CONVENOR: Annette Larsen Ph 758 3320
TREASURER: Lea Bellini Ph 758 0130
SECRETARY: John Pickering Ph 758 4952
COMMITTEE: Marilyn Armitstead, John Berntsen, Marilyn Reid, Marjorie McMahon,
Judy Berntsen, Peter Wicky, Karen Crowe
EDITOR: Janice Goldsworthy Ph 753 6923; email janjon@infofenet.net.nz

Meetings: 1st Tuesday each month at the branch rooms, *Moturoa Shopping Centre*.
Access from the Whiteley St car park.

Branch Library is open free to all members and to visitors for a small charge.

Library Hours: Monday 10am to 3pm; Wednesday 12 noon to 3pm;
Friday & Saturday 10am to 12 noon.

Next meeting:

- **October 3rd 7.30pm:** *Peter Nash*, Executive Officer NZSG, will visit to speak about the society's resources including the NZ Gazette searchable index, which he will bring with him. This fantastic source has the official Government newspapers 1840-2004 on laptop and is fully searchable by surname and /or place.

Here you may find records/references on: official notices, railway, nurses, post masters, JPs, teachers, doctors, electricians, church ministers, gold mining, naturalizations, WWI & II call-ups, some land records, bankruptcies, deceased states, etc.

As well as the NZ Gazette on his laptop, he is bringing some Australian Govt. and police gazettes, some UK microfiche and some publications for sale.

Our rooms will be open from 2pm- 4.00 on the Tuesday and from 6.45- 7.30 for people wanting to use the research material Peter is bringing. Supper provided.

Coming up:

- **November 7th:** A.G.M. & *Ray Watembach* 'Polish Settlers of Taranaki & European Research'

We are always looking for new committee members. This is your chance to put your own ideas forward or just to take a turn on the committee. The workload is pretty light and it's a friendly group. If you are interested, please let our convenor or a committee member know before the AGM.

- **December 5th:** Christmas Dinner at the RSA restaurant.

News: The branch has a **new look website**. Thank you, Bruce Bellini for all your work on it in the past. Thank you, Peter Hewitt for taking over this job. It is envisaged that the newsletters will be available on the website each month

It can be accessed at www.genealogynp.com

September Meeting: Our speaker was *Bill MacNaught*, the new Manager of Puke Ariki.



Bill grew up in Stirling, Scotland, a minister's son whose early life was full of books and his university studies led to him qualifying as a librarian. He has been for many years director of the innovative Gateshead Library and Arts Centre in Northern England.

A visit to New Zealand and a bit of a mid-life crisis brought Bill to New Plymouth to run Puke Ariki. He is now a converted Kiwi and enthusiastic resident of Taranaki.

Bill spoke to us about his ideas for Puke Ariki which include efforts to bring back the professionalism that some people have seen as missing from the new library. Qualified librarians will once again be freely available to assist and inform the public.

He has some ideas too about the physical layout of the Research Centre such as removing the wall at the entrance, which can be off putting to some people. The centre is very busy these days with enquiries so some reorganizing of staff will happen there. The curators can then be freed up to get on with working on collections.

Technology here is a weakness compared with the UK but not for long with proposed innovations like the new Taranaki Wiki website. This will be an internet site that all Taranaki people can contribute to. This will be a pilot scheme for New Zealand exploring the concept and usefulness of such a site.

Bill mentioned the possibility of more PCs to improve public access to Puke Ariki databases, and to extend the databases offered. This meant he was very interested and receptive to our requirements - and this has already seen movement with Ancestry.com available on a month-long trial.

2010 will be a milestone year for Taranaki, being 150 years since the first Land Wars began here. An on-going exhibition will begin with a Family History theme based on Taranaki today - multi cultural families, ordinary families with interesting stories, a rich variety of stories.

This is where we come in. We will help by taking part in the exhibition offering genealogical help to those who become inspired to find out about their own family history.

Bill concluded by summing up his vision for Puke Ariki as being for all families who live in Taranaki, who will be able to contribute through the Taranaki Wiki site so that all will be working closer together.

Reminder! The trial of *Ancestry.com* at Puke Ariki finishes October 10th so keep using it - otherwise it may disappear, seeing the cost is about \$3500.00 per year.

The magazine *Memories* - the committee is thinking of taking out a subscription to have it for the library. Has anyone got old copies at home that they would like to donate to the library?
Annette Larsen

Computer Group

The Computer Group meets at the branch rooms on the **third Sunday of each month**, excluding December and January at 1.30pm. There is a \$2.00 door charge. All welcome.

Convenor: John Berntsen; **Secretary:** Bruce Bellini; **Treasurer:** Lorraine Austin



Library news

Family History News and Digest - Apr 2006

We have just received the final issue of this publication from the Federation of Family History Societies. I think technology has overtaken it. However all copies of this publication contain book reviews, indexes to journals and a wealth of information. Do check past issues for information on your county.



Taranaki Stories by Rhonda Bartle & Sorrel Hoskin

Bill McNaught spoke of this publication at our last meeting. Our library has purchased a copy of this book which tells little-known tales of our region.

Marilyn Armitstead – Librarian

Internet sources.

You may have seen in the Daily News recently a news item about old phone books going online.

Here's what British Telecom have to say on their website.

Historical phone books

BT holds a near complete set of phone books for the whole country produced not only by BT, but also by its predecessors including Post Office Telecommunications, the National Telephone Company and other private companies. Dating back to 1880, the year after the public telephone service was introduced into Great Britain, they are of particular interest to family historians.



BT Archives has entered into a partnership with the UK's leading genealogy web site [Ancestry.co.uk](http://ancestry.co.uk) to make BT's historical phone books 1880-1984 available online. The phone books have been scanned and this information is now available for historical genealogical research purposes to anyone with Internet access anywhere in the world. Copies of the phone books from 1880 to the present day may also still be viewed in person at BT Archives.

Look for '**British phone books data 1880-1984**' on <http://content.ancestry.co.uk/>

FAMILY HISTORY CENTRE

322 Mangorei Rd

Phone 06 758 9646

Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 9am –12.pm; Wednesday 1pm – 3pm;
Saturday 1pm - 4pm *Except* when closed THIRD SATURDAY each month

Closed evenings



Power of Words weekend organised for the 14/15 of October.

POW or *Power of Words* is a small local group who promote writers and people who use words powerfully to present their works and skills in Taranaki.

This year our focus has an historical theme. We have four nationally acclaimed writers presenting in New Plymouth on Saturday 14th.

- Coral Atkinson's latest novel, *The Paua Tower* is set in New Zealand's depression era.
- Graeme Lay writes about the lives of his paternal great-grandparents.
- Susette Goldsmith talks to Elizabeth Smither about her latest book, *The Potted History of Tea in New Zealand*.
- Dave Armstrong is the playwright whose play, *King and Country* deals with New Zealand soldiers in World War I. He is also the script writer for a number of TV comedies including *The Seven Periods of Mr Gormsby*. He promises to be an entertaining speaker.

However, the Sunday programme is the one which I think will most interest genealogists. Graeme Lay and Coral Atkinson form a panel sharing their knowledge of how to go about getting published. Following this, Susette Goldsmith will facilitate a workshop which will focus on the complexities of writing from research. This will be a tailored workshop limited to twelve participants.

Contact: *Kaddy Smale*

Ph: 753 3025 New Plymouth

Projects

Many thanks to those people helping with indexing, checking etc.
There are still several projects in progress. Help is always needed.

Contact **Marilyn Reid** - Phone 758 6930, if you can help in any way.



Contributions from members are always welcome for this newsletter.
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