



NZSG New Plymouth Branch
P.O. Box 429, New Plymouth, New Zealand
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 Website <http://www.genealogynp.com>



NZSG
New Plymouth
Branch

NUMBER 197

December 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, Michael Butler.
EDITOR: Janice Goldsworthy email janjon@infozen.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.

Note: Library will close on Saturday 16th December & reopen Monday 15th January



Next meeting: Tuesday December 5th: 6.30pm Christmas Dinner
 at the RSA restaurant.



Coming up next year: An interesting and informative program is already planned
 beginning with:

- **February 5th:** Historic Walk around New Plymouth.
- **March:** UK trips and research - John Pickering & Michael Butler
 Peter Nash: NZSG resource and research meeting (replaces April meeting)
- **May:** Back to Basics

And lots more to come!

Subs are now due!!

Forms for payment are available from the branch website at <http://www.genealogynp.com>

November meeting: - Our **Annual General Meeting** was held on 7th November 2006 at the branch rooms. 29 members attended.

Our convenor, Annette Larsen read her report for the year. She thanked the committee for their support and encouragement in this her first year as convenor. One of her aims was to see membership increase and this had happened with an increase of 20 members.

Achievements during the year included a developing relationship with Puke Ariki, which will culminate in our branch's involvement in the Family Exhibition in December.

Annette expressed disappointment at the poor use of the branch library by members, especially as many new resources have been added during the year. The TBI now contains over 384,200 references and the website holds the catalogue for the library.

Indexing of various records continues with the NPBHS attendance records being started this year.

Two new computers, a laser and 3 in 1 printer and a digital projector have been purchased. The projector is jointly owned with the computer group.

An interesting programme on various topics had been arranged each month as well as two research evenings and the year will be rounded off with dinner at the RSA on December 5th.

Committee for 2007: Annette Larsen (Convenor), John Pickering (Secretary), Lea Bellini (Treasurer), Marilyn Armistead, Karen Crowe, John Berntsen, Judy Berntsen, Janice Goldsworthy, Marjorie Mc Mahon, Marilyn Reid, Peter Wicky, Michael Butler.



Our speaker for the evening was well known local historian *Ray Watembach* – his topic: 'Polish Settlers of Taranaki'.

Polish people first emigrated to New Zealand in groups in the 1870s. In Poland they were suffering from invasions, suppression of their culture and ethnic cleansing by the Germans. They had good reason to emigrate and others followed the first group of 56 who arrived in New Plymouth in 1876.

Coming from a forested area of Poland, they were tree fellers and farmers, so New Zealand could use their skills. These people were mainly illiterate but valued education, donating land for schools. Life was not always easy, especially during the depression.

Their culture was given a boost when 755 children arrived from Poland during WW2 and were settled with Polish families here. A revival of Polish music and dancing and an interest in the culture has stayed strong since then. The centennial celebrations were attended by 1000 people.

The Polish Genealogical society was founded in 1992.

Ray's talk covered much more that we all found fascinating, especially as most of us knew little about the history of these people who are such an important part of Taranaki's past and present.

Help! We need old NZSG magazines for the exhibition at Puke Ariki.
If you have some to donate, please contact Annette Larsen **Ph 758 3320**

PUKE ARIKI news:

The Taranaki Wiki is finally on line at <http://www.taranakiwiki.com>

In September, Bill MacNaught of Puke Ariki talked about this, and how it was intended to become a community built repository of Taranaki and its history.

It is a wiki, like wikipedia ... <http://en.wikipedia.org/>

If enough people contribute to it, the Taranaki wiki should become a great resource.

Contributed by Peter Hewett

Ancestry.com is back at the Research Centre – a great resource available free to use.

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



NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS INC.

Keeping in Touch

Newsletter for Branches, Interest Groups, Officers and Contact Persons



A new CD Rom will be available for sale in December. This is the *Burial Locator* and has over one million names on it. A successful search for Surname or Surname and Given names will give a year of Death/Burial, age and the source. Sources are NZSG Cemetery fiche, NZSG Cemetery Collection, funeral directors, newspaper death notices, indexes from Local Body websites and much more. Price \$40.

Branch Research Services

This is a reminder that those Branches that gave indexes to the Burial Locator and Version 5 (which is scheduled for release in June next year) should be prepared for a rush of enquiries. Branches should realise that these publications can generate funds for Branches and those that have not contributed should reconsider

FRC Opening Hours.

Over the coming festive season the Research Centre will be open every day except Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Years Eve. Opening hours are 10 am to 4 pm.

Postal Codes

We have completed putting the new postal codes into our membership database. If your suburb changes that is because the Postal Services have done the change. Please do not shoot the office staff, aim at the Post Office.

Peter Nash, Executive Officer, NZSG

Prezzy Cards. If you don't like using credit cards on internet, this could be the answer.

'Prezzy Card looks and works a bit like a credit card but unlike a credit card it has a prepaid balance.

- Prezzy Card can be used anywhere that Visa is accepted electronically, whether in a physical store or for online purchasing.
- The Prezzy Card costs \$5.00 and it can be loaded with any value between \$25 and \$500.'

Retrieved 30th November 2006 from <http://www.nzpost.co.nz/Cultures/en-NZ/Personal/prezzycard>

The popular TV genealogy program 'Who Do You Think You Are?' is coming to 'poor peoples' TV' ! It will be screened on TV2 from Sunday 7th January 2007 at 9.30pm.



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

Please note: FHC closes 13th December - reopens end of January

Contributions from members are always welcome for this newsletter.

Janice Goldsworthy, Editor; Email janjon@infofen.net.nz

Happy Holidays Everyone

