



NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 211

April 2008

Convenor: Annette Larsen Ph 758 3320
Treasurer: Lea Bellini Ph 758 0130
Secretary: John Pickering Ph 758 4952

Committee: Marilyn Armitstead, Judy Berntsen,
 John Berntsen, Michael Butler,
 Karen Crowe, Elly Harrison,
 Marjorie McMahon, Mike Merrick,
 Marilyn Reid

Editor: Peter Wicky
 Email- wicky.family@ihug.co.nz

New Plymouth Branch
P.O. Box 429,
New Plymouth 4340

Meetings: 1st Tuesday each month
 at Branch Rooms, Moturoa
 Shopping Centre
 access off Whiteley St Carpark

Email:
newplymouth@genealogy.co.nz

Website:
<http://www.genealogynp.com>

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

Opening Hours: **Monday:** 10am to 3pm: **Wednesday:** 12noon to 3pm
Friday & Saturday: 10am to 12 noon

Computer Group: meets every 3rd Sunday at 1.30pm in Branch Rms except in December and January. All welcome- \$2 door charge. **Convenor-** Peter Hewett **Secretary/Treasurer-** John Bernsten

Branch News

March 5th Branch Meeting

The guest speaker the Reverend Philip Brown gave a very interesting talk on aspects of Militaria including uniforms, badges and medals. He had started collecting these at primary school and it developed into a life-long interest.

The origins of uniforms, badges and medals came from the need to distinguish between friend and foe in battle. Basic emblems such as the eagle, the dragon and bear on standards and flags developed first. With the coming of body armour and full helmets, coats of arms appeared on shields to aid recognition. The wearing of distinctive coloured scarves and jacket led to units of soldiers being given names such as 'The Blues' and 'The Greens'

In more recent times badges came to be worn on a large variety of field service hats and had the role of distinguishing units as well as an individual's trade, occupation and rank.

British military medals first issued in the Crimean War, became a means of recognising an individual's bravery and participation in various campaigns and different wars. New Zealand medals have derived from the British Military and cover our troops' involvement in the Boer, First and Second World Wars and subsequent wars.

Philip's extensive collection of beautifully displayed Badges, Medals, and items of uniforms were on display in the Branch Rooms and members were able to have their questions answered about old photos of soldiers and medals.

Philip gave this advice for members interesting in collecting militaria:

- Keep medals, pay books, leave passes, memorial plaques, together
- Keep photos away from the sun
- Collect personal stories from old soldiers and use a taper recorder sensitively when interviewing.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday 1st April: ANZAC theme- talk by Mike Merrick about John Gilroy Grant, VC Winner in World War 1

At the meeting there will be formal voting to ratify:

- Branch registration as a Charity
- Continuation of Annette Larsen as Convenor and John Bernsten deputising when Annette is absent.
- Branch member subscriptions to April 1st 2008 to March 31st 2009 – Individuals \$30; Couples \$40: Outside Taranaki -\$20

Programme 2008	to July – (later meetings to be arranged)
6th May	NP Base Hospital Archives (to be confirmed).
3rd June	Railway houses in Welbourn, New Plymouth. A talk by Janice Murdoch.
1st July	Report from Conference
5th Aug	Sharing Evening – Skeletons, Black Sheep and Heirlooms.
2nd Sep	Finale of 'This is Your Life'

NZSG Matters

AGM Remit from Council – Subscriptions for the year 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010

This proposes the following increases in subscriptions:

Ordinary members	\$4	Joint members	\$6
Institutions	\$9	Youth members	\$2

A rental increase of 50% for the FRC, increased costs of staff wages, postage and power are [pointed to in justifying the increases.

From our Branch Library

Things Military

If you are researching a family member who served in the Boer War, World Wars 1 or 2, our branch library has the following resources available:

Programmes on computer searchable by name

The Great War 1914-18 – NZ Expeditionary Force – Roll of Honour which gives a soldier's Regimental No, rank, full name, unit and particulars of casualty.

New Zealand World War 1 Service Personnel and Reserves Index. This contains 4 volumes of the Embarkation Rolls for the NZEF and covers men and women. It provides Name, Regimental No, Rank, details of next of kin and their address, occupation and references for the Roll and page number.

On the Shelves

New Zealanders with the Royal Air Force (WW2): Wing Commander H L Thompson Vols 1, 2, 3 –indexed.

The Great War (WW1); HM Wilson 13 Vols

Roll of Honour -25th Battalion (WW2)

Taranaki Odyssey 2001 (record of NZSG Conference in New Plymouth) contains the notes from an address by Lynly Yates entitled *The New Zealand Defence Force Archives*. This has information about the types of services personnel records available from NZDF Archives and has useful examples of these and the information they offer.

Note: You need to be aware that NZDF Archives is in the process of transferring personnel records to Archives New Zealand. All South African War personnel files are now at Archives NZ.(latest update 18/7/2007).It would be advisable to update Yates' information by visiting the NZDF website at: <http://www.nzdf.mil.nz/personnel-records/archives.htm>

New Computer Programme available.

Ever wonder how *Nobs Line* got its name? You can find out about the origin of this and other New Plymouth street names by using the programme *Origin of New Plymouth Street Names* now set up on Computer 1 in the library by Mike Merrick. The programme was made available to the Branch by the New Plymouth District Council. If any member comes across errors or has additional information about street names, please contact the Branch Librarian - Marilyn Armitstead.

Of Interest

New at Archives New Zealand

Archives had advised the public that the 1951 Waterfront Dispute Files will be available in the Reading Room of the Wellington Office of Archives New Zealand from the 27th March this year. Details of the records are available on Archway.

Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS)

The FFHS website <http://www.ffhs.org.uk> provides listings of Family History Societies in England, Ireland and Wales (as well as in the USA, Canada, Australia and NZ) for anyone interested in researching family origins in one of these countries. Each FHS group provides access to genealogy and history records of its own county through the publications and CD ROMs they have for sale. These may include transcripts of parish records for births, marriages and deaths before 1837. Often there are local surname, census and burial indexes available and research services provided for a fee. If you have an interest in a particular county in the UK it may be an advantage to become a member of the local FHS.

Two interesting sites to visit are:

- The Sussex Family History group whose website www.sfhg.org.uk gained the FFHS award for the Best FHS Website in 2007.
- The Devon Family History Society – www.devonfhs.org.uk . This website offers through its *WWWBoard*, the opportunity to leave a request for information about family connections in Devon as well as ask for a free Devon census look-up.

New Archives Building in Nelson

Anyone with family origins in Nelson may find it of use to know that St Mary's Catholic Parish in Nelson has opened its own archival building to house sacramental records, old photos, and school admission records dating back to 1844. Records for baptisms, confirmation and marriages relating to 24,000 parishioners over this period have been placed on computer. Contact details are: P O Box 37 Nelson 7040; email: nelson.stmarys@paradise.net.nz. Supplied by Marilyn Reid

Find Your Family Expo

The Kapiti Coast and Otaki Branches of the NZSG are running this Expo at the Coastlands Shopping Centre complex at Paraparaumu from the 24th to 29th October (Labour Weekend) this year. Further information will be made available through the media and at the Coastlands website: www.coastlands.co.nz

Useful Websites

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

This was established by Royal Charter in 1917 and has the aim of paying tribute to the 1,700,000 men and women in Commonwealth Forces who died in the two World Wars of last century.

On the CWGC website – <http://www.cwgc.org> a search can be made for a family member who was in the armed forces and a casualty in either war. The *Casualty Results* page gives the individual's name, rank, service number, date of death, age and Regiment /Service name, Grave/Memorial reference and Cemetery/Memorial Name.

Clicking on the individual's name (on this page) brings up *Casualty Details* with further information which includes Unit name and names and address of next of kin. Clicking on *Cemetery/Memorial* brings up a Certificate and photo of the Grave/Memorial for an individual and this can be printed.

For the Family Historian seeking background information, the site also offers *Histories* among which are accounts of the great offensives of World War 1 – those of the Somme in 1915 and Flanders in 1917.

Request for help

The Friends of Naumai Park Inc. Hawera is trying to trace descendants of Mr George Smeaton Watts and Mr G M Haggett who were among the founders of the Park in the early 1920s, and also Dr William Malcolm Thomson who joined the Park committee in 1926. Anyone able to help please contact the Secretary, PO Box 47 Hawera or M.Barton 2mjb@ihug.co.nz – supplied by Elly Harrison.

Research Tip

Don't forget the *A2A* website when you are searching for information about archives in the UK. *A2A* allows you to search and browse for information in around 400 repositories (beyond National Archives) in England and Wales from the 8th Century to the present. The website is <http://www.a2a.org.uk>

Correction

The site of the BDM Office, part of Internal Affairs Department, is in Boulcott Street, Wellington **not in Lower Hutt** as given in March Newsletter. The Office can be reached by 'phone at 0800 22 52 52 where certificates can be ordered using a credit card. The mail address is P O Box 10-526, Wellington 6143.

Your contributions for this newsletter are welcomed. Email to Peter Wicky Editor:
wicky.family@ihug.co.nz