

NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 237

August 2010

Convenor: Annette Larsen 758 3320
Secretary: Fay Eaton 751 1045
Treasurer: John Berntsen 753 9188

Committee: Judy Berntsen
Bev Mulqueen
Charles Le Breton

New Plymouth Branch
PO Box 429
New Plymouth 4340

Meetings: 7:30 pm, first Tuesday each month
at branch rooms, Moturoa Shopping Centre
access off Whiteley Street carpark

Email: newplymouth@genealogy.org.nz
Website: www.genealogynp.com

Branch Library: Open free to members. A small charge to visitors.

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

Computer Group: every third Sunday every 2nd month at 1:30pm at the Branch Rooms
Open to anyone - \$2 door charge. Convenor – Bruce Bellini

Legacy Training

Legacy is one of the most popular genealogy software programmes in use today. Local genealogist Sharyn Guthrie is starting a series of training sessions.

The first of these is to be on Sunday 22 August 13:30hrs and will be held at her home. Please email Sharyn if you are interested, - sharyng@xtra.co.nz .

Sharyn has received a list of names from Annette of some of those interested and will email these people with further details.

www.legacyfamilytree.com

Next Meeting: 7:30pm Tuesday 3 Aug 2010

Undertaker Records

At: Vospers, Devon St East, New Plymouth.

Bruce Hanrahan of Vospers will host this event.

Undertakers record key information about the deceased, and this can be a valuable source for genealogists.

Come prepared with questions, and note that the venue is different this month!



Last Meeting – Tuesday 6 July 2010

Thank you to those people who spoke at our July Branch meeting. What variety we had!

Annette Larsen spoke of her difficulties with Internal Affairs to get an early NZ pre-adoptive birth certificate.

Bruce Mackay spoke of finding through the Internet his extraordinarily rich relatives.

Then there was Robyn Woller and her two stories of tragic episodes in her Taranaki family's past. One concerned the accidental and fatal shooting of a young lad in Tariki. The second concerned the terrible house fire near Hawera in 1928 in which a father and five of his children were burnt to death. Robyn talked about the vivid, graphic newspaper reporting of these two events, which may seem almost cruel and over the top to us modern readers.

Bruce Bellini spoke of why, in an era before TV, newspapers were so graphic.

Michael Butler shocked us with his tale of the ancestor who was transported from England to Van Diemens Land for stealing chickens. This convict's repeated infringements while in custody brought down punishments on him that today seem far too harsh.

Annette Larsen

From the Convenor's Desk

I am just back from the Hamilton Family History Fair, tired but happy. It was the first time such an event has been organised in NZ and given the short time the organisers had to get it up and running, I must say that they deserve congratulations. I heard through one source that there were 900 registrations, and the venue certainly was abuzz with happy genealogists. (Except those I saw having problems with the computers available throughout the weekend with free access to all the main pay-to-view sites.) Free look-ups from the "Scotlands People" website was just one of the popular offerings for us genealogists.

Our Taranaki stand was busy, though more so on the Saturday. It was lovely to get some nice feedback on our efforts. The stand looked good and we were able to pass on a lot of information. We ran out of NP Branch pamphlets by the end

of Sunday. It was a disappointment that the Taranaki Biographical Index, wonderfully manned all weekend by Lea and Bruce Bellini, was in a separate part of the venue. However, there was constant coming and going between the TBI stand and the Taranaki stand. Lea and Bruce went through a massive amount of printing paper. A thank you to Bruce and Pam Mackay for donating a ream of paper to the Branch last meeting. Very timely!

On the Saturday, Carol Spragg and I were resplendent in Taranaki football jerseys. Did seem to create a bit of attention!

I just want to say thanks on your behalf to a number of people that helped make my job as coordinator of the Taranaki stand so much easier, especially those at the Fair who kept me sane and were such a support. (I hope I haven't left anyone's name off this list.)

Lea and Bruce Bellini, Marilyn Armitstead, John and Judy Berntsen, Sharon Guthrie, Robyn Woller, Karen Crowe, Janice Goldsworthy.

(Good to see the pretty face of an enthusiastic Sarah Knowles at the Fair too, and to catch up with Marjorie McMahan, who was helping on the Irish stand.)

Manning the stand with New Plymouth was Carol Spragg, Stratford's convenor, and Jillian Williams, Hawera convenor, ably assisted by Natalie Hunt. Waitara Branch and Inglewood Branch both gave me very worthwhile contributions to put on the stand. A thank you also in that regard to Venture Taranaki for the Taranaki "goodie bags"; to the New Plymouth Founders Society; and to Elinore Moorhead for letting me photocopy the wonderful water colour paintings of early New Plymouth, painted by her late husband, Murray. Also a thank you to John Pickering, Robyn Woller and Jackie Sewell for the pictures lent me for the display. In the end I had more material than I could use.

Annette Larsen



Kevin McAnulty Award

Congratulations go to Michael Butler who has won for a second time this prestigious NZSG award for a published family history with his book "The Luxford Saga". Well done, Michael.



This year two other entrants also won first prize. One of these awards was posthumously presented to Mr Hall's family for the book, "One Coastline". The other award went to Robert Irwin for "From Ballygawley to Timaru."

Gore District Cemeteries

Local Government Online Limited now has the Gore District Cemeteries linked online. The cemeteries are: Otaruaia, Gore, Charlton Park, Matura, Waikaka and Pukerau.

Direct access may be made by clicking here

localgovt.co.nz/site/Resource_Library/activities_services/services/cemeteries/Cemeteries_Search_Models.aspx, or alternatively through the Cemeteries Search feature in the left panel on the LGOL homepage at www.localgovt.co.nz.

The other Bledisloe Cup

While indexing an issue of the 1966 Photo News recently, I came across a few photos of the Bledisloe Cup for best Maori farmer being presented to Mr Edward Tamati. This was the first time since its inception that the cup had been won by a Taranaki farmer. Not only did a local farmer win a major award but another Maori farmer Warwick Manu from Oeo won third place. I had never heard of a Bledisloe Cup for farming so I looked a bit further and googled it.

It was donated by Lord Charles Bathurst Bledislow in 1932 and it was to be awarded to the Maori farmer who had made the most progress each year. It is similar to its Rugby counterpart. For a number of years it was known as the Bledisloe Cup but has since had a name change and it now known as the Ahuwhenua Cup.

Raewyn Evans

English and Welsh Ancestors on line

The UK family history website, findmypast.co.uk has launched an easier way to find the births of English and Welsh ancestors online. The company has reindexed over 100 million birth records, as a first instalment of a completely new version of the England and Wales Birth, Marriage and Death (BMD) records on its website. Fully indexing these records involved rescanning 170 years of records and transcribing the quarter of a billion names within them. Over 1,000 people have worked on this two-year project.

The fully indexed births make finding ancestors much simpler as the revamped records will provide you with a number of new benefits;

- Your search results will be in the form of a list of individual names, so you won't have to check through pages of records to find your ancestors.
- You can search the complete 1837-2006 set of birth records in one go or by one or more counties at a time.
- The images of the index pages are completely new and very high quality.
- We've added smart search features including name variants.
- There are clever search results to get around the quirks of the records, including the GRO's procedure of initialising second names, and records of children unnamed at registration (very common in the Victorian period).
- You can now search by mother's and father's name at the same time to help find those elusive births.

Findmypast is a pay website, but it does offer a introductory free trial.

Australian BMD Indexes

In July, Ancestry.com launched the Australian Birth, Marriage and Death Indexes, featuring the records of almost 15 million Australians dating back more than 200 years to when modern Australia was settled in 1788.

<http://search.ancestry.co.uk/search/grouplist.aspx?group=AusBMD>



World War 1 Photos

This web page has an index of photos of soldiers from the Auckland Weekly News 1915 - 1918.



freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~babznl/ww1soldiers1.html

Find your soldier in the index and for a copy of the photo, send an email to Carol Spragg (email address on that website).

World War 2 soldiers

freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~sooty/

A very useful site. A good site for Taranaki references too.

More information on New Zealand military personnel is available on the Auckland museum website.

www.aucklandmuseum.com/130/cenotaph-database

A Computer Tip

How many Branch Members are like me and not completely computer savvy? How many know how to use the Prt Scr button? This is particularly useful on Papers Past when you do not want to print out screeds of paper and end up wasting most of it or cannot be bothered taking notes. I admit it took me a long time before I figured out where the Prt Scr button on the computer was (for those of you who do not know where it is, on the keyboard top right). I was given advice on how to use this:



1. Assuming you have Paint (All Programs, Accessories, Paint) – open that
2. Go Ctrl, Alt, Prt Scr to capture the area within the screen, then Ctrl V to copy to Paint
3. Then you can crop the area captured and copy and paste to a Word Document.

(Commands may vary, depending on the version of your computer software.)

Raewyn Evans

A Spare Clock?

Our branch rooms needs a clock. If anyone has a spare clock they can donate or lend, please contact Annette Larsen.

Library News

The Waitara branch has prepared a listing of the family trees and family history books that they hold. This is in a black folder in our library.



There are several projects currently in progress at our branch. Details of these are summarised in a green folder at the library. Be sure to check out what is happening. More volunteers are needed. Please contact Marilyn Reid at 758 6930 if you can assist.

Newsletters from many other NZSG branches are held in our library. Here are some we have recently received.

Blenheim	July
Motueka	July and August
Hutt Valley	July
Palmerston North	June and July
Canterbury	June
Wairarapa	July
Whakatane	June and July
Waitara	July
Stratford	July
Wellington	June and July

Computer Group

The next computer group meeting is at 1:30 pm, Sunday 19 September, at the branch rooms.



Newsletter

If you have any comments or suggestions for the newsletter, please contact Peter Hewett at peter.hewett@gmail.com.

