

NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 246

June 2011

Convenor:

Secretary: Fay Eaton 751 1045
Treasurer: John Berntsen 753 9188

Committee: Judy Berntsen
Anne Brophy
Charles Le Breton
Ailsa McCrone
Bev Mulqueen

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
Saturday: 10am to 12 noon

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

2011 Branch AGM

The branch Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday 3 May 2011, at the branch rooms. The AGM kept the branch subscription and door charge rates at the same rates as last year.

Fay Eaton was re-elected as secretary and John Berntsen as treasurer. Committee members are Judy Berntsen, Charles Le Breton, Anne Brophy, Ailsa McCrone and Bev Mulqueen. There were no nominations for convenor.

Next meeting: 7:30pm Tues 7 June 2011

Hospice biography team

Mike Merrick will be speaking about the biography service offered by the Taranaki Hospice.

This is a free service provided by volunteers to help hospice patients to record their life memories.



Last Meeting – Tuesday 3 May 2011

At the May branch meeting, Mike Merrick gave an interesting talk about his experiences in researching the War Service Files of a number of his family members. When he read these files initially, he had found them confusing and frustrating because they were written in military jargon, had many puzzling abbreviations and were often not in chronological order.

In desperation, he googled **army files** and fortuitously came across the website www.decode.co.nz run by a former freelance journalist and research assistant at the Waiouru Army Museum; Briar Corson. She provides a service specialising in the interpretation of army files and the presentation of these in a form which can be easily read. The service normally takes six to eight weeks.

The report Mike received back was typed so that the information was legible, abbreviations were explained and events had been put in chronological order. Mike gave an example of how helpful this was. He had been puzzled by a record which had said 'Marched into Sling'. Briar Corson's report explained that 'Sling' was a Camp on the Salisbury Plains in the UK where further and very exhaustive training was given soldiers (many from Kiwi units) during the War.

The report also contained a section outlining the daily life of the common soldier and another with maps of battles his relatives had been involved in. A list of websites and books was provided for further research.

A pleasing feature was that Briar Corson gave citations for all her sources. Costs for her service are available on her website.

Mike cautioned anyone intending to use the service to send in the originals not photocopies of files to Briar Corson.

New Member

Welcome to Jill Clegg, who has recently joined our branch.

2010/11 AGM report

At the May branch meeting, Annette Larsen, retiring Branch Convenor, welcomed members to the Annual General Meeting of the Branch.

Annette commented on how quickly the 2010 year had passed and how much had been achieved by a small Branch Committee.

The Genealogy Fair in Hamilton had been attended by eleven members who had spent much effort and time in presenting the Branch display – particularly Lea and Bruce Bellini who operated the Taranaki Biographical Index over the whole weekend.

There had been a full and varied programme at Branch meetings during the year and Annette thanked speakers for their efforts.

Branch membership stood at 122 and of these 57 were also members of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists.

Annette thanked Fay Eaton for her work as branch secretary and Peter Hewett for his work as editor of the branch newsletter; Judith and John Berntsen for their handling of research enquiries; Bev Mulqueen and Charles Le Breton as members of the library support team. She also thanked those in ex officio roles who helped the branch function so well, including Marilyn Armitstead for her great contribution to the branch library over nine years; Michael Butler for the running of two introductory courses in genealogy which attracted a large response and new members; Sharyn Guthrie for running Legacy workshops; Lea and Bruce Bellini for their continuing development of the Taranaki Biographical Index; Marilyn Reid and Cela Beale for their work on the now finished NPGHS records; Syd Beale for all his work on projects; Raewyn Evans for her work indexing the Photo News.

Annette said that she had enjoyed her six and a half years on the Branch Committee and her years as Convenor. Her passion for genealogy had helped and although she was pleased to now be leaving all the responsibility behind, she was very prepared to assist in the future.

Annette concluded by offering her good wishes to the incoming Committee.



New Plymouth Branch Committee

Committee members;

John Berntsen (caretaker convenor and treasurer)

Judy Berntsen (membership and research queries officer)

Anne Brophy

Fay Eaton (secretary)

Charles Le Breton (library liaison)

Ailsa McCrone

Beverly Mulqueen (librarian & meeting hostess)

Branch office holders outside committee

TBI and CD sales; Lea Bellini

newsletter editor; Peter Hewett

project & research coordinator; Marilyn Read

Branch Subs are now due!

Thank you to everyone who has already paid their subscriptions for the 2011/12 year.

Subscriptions are unchanged;

single \$30

household \$40

associate \$20 (living outside Taranaki)

Membership forms are available at the branch rooms or from our website.

Subs should be paid by 30 Juen 2011 and can be paid by cheque, cash or direct credit. Details are on the subscription form.

NZ Family History Fair 2011

The 2011 Family History Fair will be held on Friday 26 and Saturday 27 August 2011, at the Claudeland Events Centre at Hamilton.

Keynote speaker will be Judy Jones, an experienced genealogist and a senior British Research Consultant at the Family History Centre in Salt Lake City.

www.nzfamilyhistoryfair.org.nz

Taranaki LINZ Records

In 2001, records held by LINZ of Taranaki land transfers, deeds and similar documents were transferred to Hamilton. Before the New Plymouth office was closed, branch members indexed the records. The name index is available in the TBI.

Since then, some people have reported difficulty accessing the records held in Hamilton.

We now understand that the records have been moved to Archives New Zealand at Wellington. Search facilities are available on line.

www.archway.archives.govt.nz

NZSG Free Postage for August

August is Family History month, and to recognise this, NZSG will not be charging for postage on library books for the month.

The branch will order some that will be available at the rooms during that month, so if there is anything that members are interested in, please let us know in advance so we can order them.

Kiwi Index V1

Work on compiling the new index is well under way, and NZSG plan to issue it in August.

Pre-sales are intended to be available via the NZSG website, so watch the website for details.

www.genealogy.org.nz



Early Auckland Research

I have just had a trip to Auckland and while there I visited the Auckland Public Library's Research Centre to do some research. It is good that one no longer has to pay to use the resources at the Centre. While there I discovered the books with the Registration forms for the Roll of Honour for the Pioneer Women's and Ellen Melville Memorial Hall.

"The information desired by the Record's committee of the above for the Roll of Honour of all Pioneer Women who were born, or who arrived, in the Auckland Province in or prior to the year 1875."

Sure enough, there was a form for my great-great grandmother Sutherland who came to Auckland with her Fencible husband in 1847. The information was submitted by her granddaughter. Of course, the information is only as good as the informant, but it still is very worthwhile to check out this material. Some pioneer women had a lot of information attached to their forms, others not so much.

What information is found on these forms?

1. Full name of pioneer woman
 - a) Maiden name
 - b) Married name and date of marriage
2. Date of arrival, name of ship
3. Where first settled in Auckland Province
4. a) Date and place of birth
 - b) Maiden and married name of mother
5. If still living, present age and address
If deceased, date of and age at death
6. Items of interest re descendants and any outstanding incident or services rendered.
7. Name and address of person supplying this information.

The other area worth checking out is the Sir George Grey Collection situated on the same floor and just opposite the Research Centre. I was lead to go there after looking at the wonderful card index in the Research Centre. I had amazing help from the staff at the Grey Collection. I signed to have a look at two articles:

1. C. Little and Sons, Undertakers record books: I found details of my great-great grandmother's 1918 funeral. Very interesting. Particularly useful as I have found it difficult to find a

cemetery record for her.

2. St Peters Church and Old Onehunga Through the Years. Centenary souvenir. The Old and the New 1848 – 1948. Written and compiled by Edna Soar.

In this small booklet I found birth and baptism records for some of my Sutherland Fencible family. More importantly, I found a record for my Irish great-great grandmother Sutherland saying where and when she was born in Ireland. I found this most interesting as the date conflicts with the age she was said to have died at -104! I have a strong belief that this St Peters church record is the right date.

I have found so many conflicting dates and data for this particular Fencible family. I guess that is just part of the fun and mystery of our genealogy hobby.

Annette Larsen.

Library News

Magazines received;

Family Tree, May and June

Memories, June/July issue and 4 backdated magazines

Newsletters received;

Blenheim, Canterbury, Hutt Valley, Matamata, Stratford, Wairarapa, Waitara, Wanganui, Wellington



Computer Group

At the GCG meeting on 29 May, Michael Butler showed us the iPad tablet computer and how it can be used for genealogy. He also covered [Dropbox](#) and how it is useful for transferring files.



www.dropbox.com

The next computer group meeting is at 1:30 pm, Sunday 17 July 2011, at the branch rooms.

Newsletter

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

