



NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 287

March 2015

Branch Library: Open free to members. A small charge to visitors.
Opening Hours: Monday: 10am to 3pm (closed on 9 March Taranaki Day, and 6 April Easter)
 Wednesday: 12 noon to 3pm
 Saturday: 10am to 12 noon

WW1 Ancestors

At the branch meeting on 7 April, the topic is ancestors from World War 1.

Can members please bring along stories and heirlooms of their WW1 ancestors?

Also bring along your questions and brickwalls relating to WW1 research.



Next meeting: 6:00 pm Tuesday 3 Mar 2015

Te Henui Cemetery

This month, the branch is visiting the Te Henui Cemetery. This is the original New Plymouth public cemetery and it opened in 1861.

Stuart Scarle from NPDC will host our visit.

Please meet at 6:00 pm at the main gates, corner of Watson and Lemon Streets.

We need to advise NPDC of numbers attending, so please RSVP to Judy Berntsen, judy.berntsen@clear.net.nz



Convenor: John Berntsen 753 9188
Secretary: Fay Eaton 751 1045
Treasurer: Neville Richards

Committee: Judy Berntsen
 Margaret Gregory
 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

Last Event: The Wanganui Maxwells

At our February meeting, David Harrop gave a most interesting talk about the book he wrote called *The Wanganui Maxwells*. He described how years of meticulous research finally came to fruition with its publication in 2013 and for which he gained the NZSG Kevin McAnulty award.

The narrative began in 1852, when the brothers John and James Maxwell and their families arrived in New Zealand from Stirling, Scotland. John settled in Westmere, near Wanganui and James at Waikouiti, near Dunedin.

John ultimately bought a farm of 188 acres, located where the present Strawberry Farm on the outskirts of Wanganui is located today. John's son George, also farmed but was killed in 1869 in the New Zealand wars. His death is depicted in the dramatic painting which graces the front cover of the book.

In 1955, David returned to New Zealand and looking for farm work, so was more than a little surprised to learn he had inherited what was left of George Maxwell's farm at Manutahi, South Taranaki. And with the inheritance came priceless family diaries and other memorabilia. So with the help of these diaries, a 12 page will, and many other resources such as *Papers Past*, *Scotland's People*, and land records to name a few, he was able to piece together the Maxwell story - a story of bankruptcy, violent assault, scandal, a court case and the disinheritance of the North Island Maxwells.

The township of Maxwell, South Taranaki, is situated 20 km W of Wanganui and dates back to 1869 when Robert Pharazyn bought a large block of land with a view to establishing a town there. And in honour of George Maxwell he named the area Maxwellton. The large town never eventuated, and eventually Maxwellton was shortened to Maxwell.

Ailsa McCrone

Genealogy and DNA

[Famnet](#) has recently published a series of informative articles on using DNA for genealogy research. Click on this link to go to their website newsletters page.

www.famnet.org.nz

Convenor's Report

Well nearly another month over, where has the time gone.

By now you will all know about the Te Henui Cemetery walk. If you have said you are not going, there is still time to change your mind.

To NZSG members, please fill out your voting forms for the changes to the rules and send them in. The forms were in the last NZSG magazine.

I have just received book on Hurworth & Carrington Rd areas. It was donated to us by Miss Mava Woods who lives in Wellington. She was brought up on Carrington Rd. It was only through my First Families that she got in touch with me and told me about the book and who had our copy. I was very shocked to find out a person none of us know bought us a copy of this book.

Our AGM is coming up fast. We need at least 4 new members, so that we can lessen the load on our returning committee members. Also Marilyn Reid is standing down as our indexing co-ordinator, so we have to fill that post. Do we have any volunteers?? Committee jobs do not entail very much. Please give this your serious consideration.

Well that's all for this month. I hope you all have a good time researching those elusive ancestors.

John Berntsen
Convenor

Projects Coordinator

Nominations are open for our next branch projects coordinator.

There is lots of good work done by many branch members on various projects. Usually these involve indexing a variety of archive documents and records. The branch coordinator role is to coordinate this work.

Marilyn Reid has done a great job for many years. She is stepping down this year, so the role is coming available.

If you are interested or would like to know more, just talk for a branch committee member.



Society's Revised Rules – Voting By Postal Ballot

Society members will have received documentation relating to the postal vote for new rules for the Society. Please read the draft rules and the supporting documents carefully to gain a full understanding.



As advised in the covering message from NZSG President Gay Williams, the drafting of new rules has been broken down in to two stages:

- stage one being those rules that relate to the running of the Society and the move from a hands-on management style of Council, to a Board of Directors with an emphasis on governance;
- stage two that will cover branch and interest group structures and membership, and will involve input by branches and interest groups

It is appreciated that the stage one draft is complex, and the detail surrounding the running of a modern organisation is not necessarily a high priority for those who simply want to get on with their family history research. But updating the rules is a critical part of the strategic changes Council has approved for the future of the Society.

Many of the by-laws contained in the existing rules were considered better placed in the rules themselves, and many other by-laws that were more policies and procedures in nature will be transferred to the Council's Policies and Procedures Manual. This has resulted in the proposed by-laws now covering branches and interest groups only. To comply with the existing rules and by-laws, the changes to the by-laws will need to be voted upon separately, and will be done at the Society's annual general meeting to be held in Auckland on the afternoon of Saturday, 27 June 2015.

Unfortunately, immediately following receipt of the draft rules many members made ill-informed comments on Memlist about the absence of attention to branches, thus showing a complete misunderstanding of what this stage one is all about. I emphasise that branches will be

addressed in stage two.

Meantime, I urge all members of the Society to cast their vote (relating to stage 1) using the ballot paper provided and return it to the Society before the deadline of 17 April.

Peter Gibson
NZSG Councillor
(Lower North Island & Taranaki regions)
February 2015

Legacy Meetings

The 2015 dates for workshops on the Legacy family tree software are scheduled. These are hosted by Sharyn Guthrie at 1532 Carrington Road. They are on Sunday afternoons, from 13:30 to 15:30.

- 22 March
- 17 May
- 19 July
- 20 September
- 22 November

If you wish to attend, please let Sharyn know at 06 753 6311 or 027 447 7530.

Family History Centre – New Plymouth

The family history centre is a great local resource for genealogy research. It is in Mangorei Road, run by the LDS church.

Hours are Tuesday 6:30 – 8:30pm. Ring 7573542 or 0223514617 and speak to Robyn Wilton who is the new director of the FHC. She would like you to ring first and make an appointment.

Holdings include: free access to to 19th century British newspaper archives, ancestry.com, Find My Past, World Vital Records and a few other resources that are primarily American. They also are trying to install a programme that will give you free access to Scottish OPRs so that will be coming shortly. Any visitors are most welcome.

Robyn has also had quite extensive experience doing Australian research. This could be helpful if you have ancestors on the other side of the Tasman.



Library Roster: December / January

Monday 10 am to 3 pm
Wednesday 12 noon to 3 pm
Saturday 10 am to 12 noon

Mon 2 Neville Richards/Bev Mulqueen
Tues 3 6pm Te Henui Cemetery
Wed 4 Jill Jackson
Sat 7 Lea / Bruce Bellini
Mon 9 Closed – Taranaki Anniversary Day
Wed 11 Jill Harvey
Sat 14 Ailsa McCrone
Mon 16 Charles Le Breton / Annette Larsen
Wed 18 Margaret Gregory
Sat 21 Karen Crowe
Mon 23 Lorraine Austin / Anne Brophy
Tues 24 Committee meeting 7pm
Wed 25 Judy Berntsen
Sat 28 Elly Harrison
Mon 30 Peter Winter / Syd Beale

For those new to genealogy and/or want help knocking down those brick walls, this is an excellent time and place to have our experts help you. Our helpers can show you what is available in the library and how to go about finding what you are looking for.

Lost Cousins

Lost Cousins is an online website that helps you get in touch with people who share your ancestors.

It is free to register and this gives you the newsletter. With a paid subscription (about £10 a year), you can contact other members.

Alternatively, use the free registration and wait for others to contact you. Sometimes, they run promotional periods which enable you to contact others for free.

www.lostcousins.com

Beginning Genealogy

Unfortunately, Marilyn is unable to run sessions for a while. She is trying to contact everyone who came to the February session.

We'll let you know when these sessions are going to resume.

Donations

The branch gratefully acknowledges two recent donations to our library.

Memories of Hurworth District, by Vicki Price 2014, has been donated by Mava Wood.

The Stags Progress – 60 years of Central Districts Cricket, by Brian Bellringer 2014, has been donated by Marilyn Reid.

Empty Printer Cartridges

Please bring your empty printer cartridges in to the branch rooms. These can be either ink jet or laser cartridges, but **we can only use HP or Canon types of cartridges.**

These will be recycled to generate some income for the branch.



Library News

Magazines received;

Genealogist (Feb)

Family Tree (Feb)

Who do you think you are (Mar)

Newsletters received;

Blenheim, Canterbury, Hamilton, Hawkes Bay, Hutt Valley, Nelson, Otaki, Palmerston North, South Canterbury, Tauranga, Wairarapa, Wellington



Newsletter

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

