



NZSG

New Plymouth

Branch Newsletter



Number 289

May 2015

Branch Library: Open free to members. A small charge to visitors.
Opening Hours: Monday: 10am to 3pm (closed 1 June for Queens Birthday)
 Wednesday: 12 noon to 3pm
 Saturday: 10am to 12 noon

2015 Branch AGM

At the May monthly meeting, we will be holding our branch Annual General Meeting. The formal notice of the meeting was distributed to branch members with the April newsletter.

Nominations are open for committee and branch officer positions. Our branch runs on voluntary effort from a number of people. Any contribution you are able to make would be greatly appreciated by everyone.

Documents for the AGM are distributed with this newsletter.

- Convenor's report
- Treasurer's report
- minutes of the 2014 AGM

The AGM will be held at 7:30pm, followed by Robyn Wilton's talk on the FHC.

Next meeting: 7:30 pm Tuesday 5 May 2015

New Plymouth Family History Centre

At the branch meeting on 5 May, our guest speaker is Robyn Wilton, director of the New Plymouth Family History Centre.

The FHC is based at the LDS church in Mangorei Road. It has extensive resources for family history research, with access to British newspaper archives, ancestry.com, FindMyPast, World Vital Records and many others.

The LDS church has one of the greatest stores of genealogical information in the world. This includes the familysearch.org website and the vast records library at Salt Lake City.

The local FHC is a gateway to this marvellous collection of resources. Come along to hear how this can be useful to you.

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
 c/- John Berntsen
 31 Budleigh Street
 New Plymouth 4310

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: WW1 Ancestors

The topic for the April branch meeting was our World War 1 ancestors. Members brought along stories, heirlooms, documents and memories of their ancestors who fought in WW1.

WW1 had a massive impact on New Zealand due to the large number of people involved for the relatively small population of the country at the time. All families were affected in some way and many lost family members.

With the 100 year anniversary of WW1 events this year, there are many more resources available for family history research. Some of the websites used by our members are listed below.

ww100.govt.nz

[Commonwealth War Graves Commission](#)

[Auckland museum online cenotaph](#)

livesofthefirstworldwar.org

[Papers Past](#)

UK Military Identity Discs

One of the heirlooms brought along to our April branch meeting was a UK soldier's dog tag from WW1. UK soldiers had a pair of tags, a red one and a green one.

Most of the UK ID tags were made of a fibrous material - vulcanised asbestos fibre - a bit like bakelite. Others were made of aluminium or tin and others re-purposed coins or bracelets. The red & green ones were used in both WW1 and WW2 and tended to be useless in wet weather.

The identity disc was introduced in 1907. This was an aluminium disc showing the person's name, regiment, rank, religion and service number. A change in rank would require a new disc. At one stage, it was decided to drop the necessity for rank and religious denomination to be shown, but further consideration restored the information relating to religion quite quickly.

The massive increase in enlisted personnel at the outbreak of WW1 meant that the aluminium disk was too expensive, so from 1914 a new identity disk was introduced. This was the same size as previously but made of vulcanised asbestos fibre, reddish brown in colour and with a hole within the disc, giving name, number,

regiment and religion.



The changeover was gradual with aluminium discs still being issued into 1915 but finally all were replaced. However, a problem soon came to light with the first major casualties of the war. Regulations stated that the disc was to be removed from any dead body thus leaving the remains unidentifiable! So in 1916 it was decided to add a second disc. This was also of vulcanised asbestos fibre but in greenish brown. The green disc was 1 3/8 x 1 3/16 inches and rectangular with the corners cut off, and having two holes.

The discs were now officially called Disc Identity Number 1, green; and Disc Identity Number 2, red. This allowed the green disc to stay with a body while the red disc could be taken for administration purposes. Green for grave and red for records.

This simple but effective disc identification system was utilised throughout World War Two and beyond.

Contributed by Chris Macdonald,
(information supplied by Andrew Macdonald,
a WW1 military historian)

(Mostly) Before Our Time

At the June branch meeting, Bev Mulqueen will do a presentation on some of the old New Plymouth buildings and their history.



Library Roster: May

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

Sat 2 Ailsa McCrone
Mon 4 Annette Larsen / Charles Le Breton
Tues 5 Branch meeting 7:30pm AGM
Wed 6 Jill Harvey
Sat 9 Elly Harrison
Mon 11 Charles Le Breton / Neville Richards
Wed 13 Jill Jackson
Sat 16 Lea / Bruce Bellini
Mon 18 Lorraine Austin / Anne Brophy
Wed 20 John Berntsen
Sat 23 Mike Merrick
Mon 25 Peter Winter / Ailsa McCrone
Tue 26 Committee Meeting
Wed 27 Fay Eaton
Sat 30 Karen Crowe

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.

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.

17 May, adding photos to Legacy

19 July

13 September

22 November

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

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.



Branch Projects Coordinator

Nominations are open for our next branch projects coordinator.

Many of our members do lots of good work on various projects. Usually these involve indexing or transcribing a variety of archive documents and records. The projects coordinator's role is to coordinate this work.

Marilyn Reid has done a great job as projects coordinator 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, please just talk to a branch committee member.

Library News

Magazines received;

Genealogist (April)

Newsletters received;

Blenheim, Canterbury, Hawkes Bay, Hutt Valley, Nelson, Otaki, Palmerston North, Riccarton, South Canterbury, Wanganui, Wellington



Newsletter

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

