



# NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 301

June 2016

**Branch Library:** Open free to members. A small charge to visitors.  
**Opening Hours:** Monday: 10 am to 12:30 pm (closed 6 June, Queens Birthday)  
 Wednesday: 12 noon to 3 pm  
 Saturday: 10 am to 12 noon

## 2016 Branch AGM

The 46<sup>th</sup> branch Annual General Meeting was held on 3 May 2016. Highlights from this AGM include;

- Bruce Bellini was elected as branch convenor, Charles Le Breton as secretary. Neville Richards was re-elected as treasurer.
- Branch committee elected: Lorraine Austin, Jill Jackson, Annette Larsen, Ailsa McCrone, Beverley Mulqueen, Jackie Sewell. John Berntsen is on committee as past convenor.
- Branch income exceeded expenses, a welcome improvement over previous years.
- Branch subscriptions remain \$35 single, \$45 double, \$25 outside Taranaki.

Next meeting: 7:30 pm Tuesday 7 June 2016

## Bees

Fiona Black brings Scottish humour and the story of the company she owns with her husband, Stephen. Bees R Us started as a hobby in 2001, Stephen asked if he could have two hives on their Uruti property, now they have 1000 hives dotted all around Taranaki. Fiona presents a fascinating description of the life of bees and the production of honey. She also provides an opportunity to taste the various flower flavours of honey and will have honey available to purchase.



**Convenor:** Bruce Bellini 758 0130  
**Secretary:** Charles Le Breton 751 2879  
**Treasurer:** Neville Richards 753 5051

**Committee:** Lorraine Austin  
 John Berntsen  
 Jill Jackson  
 Annette Larsen  
 Ailsa McCrone  
 Bev Mulqueen  
 Jackie Sewell

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](mailto:newplymouth@genealogy.org.nz)  
**Website:** [www.genealogynp.com](http://www.genealogynp.com)

---

### Last Event: Wills and Probates

At our May meeting, Lesley Instone explained wills and probates, and how these can be used for genealogy. She focused on New Zealand, but also covered aspects of wills in other countries.

Lesley is convenor of the Southland branch of NZSG. We are most grateful that she stepped in to talk at our meeting, as the arranged presenter had cancelled at short notice.

---

### Next Month: Old Illnesses

Ever come across a cause of death that you did not recognise? Death certificates and other historical documents sometimes record a disease or cause of death that goes by a different name today, or doesn't even happen much any more.

Make a note to be there for our branch meeting on Tuesday 5 July to hear about some of these diseases of yesteryear.

---

### DNA Testing for Genealogy

On 22 May, Gail Riddell presented a workshop introducing DNA testing for genealogy. Gail is administrator of [the New Zealand project](#) for Family Tree DNA. She has produced a major series of articles on DNA for the FamNet newsletter. She has also presented on DNA at several NZSG branches across New Zealand, and at events in Australia and USA.

The slides from Gail's presentation are available from our branch website. [Click here](#).

Some projects will fund DNA tests for people who will help provide information for their area of interest. For example, see the list at the ISOGG website.

[isogg.org/wiki/Free\\_DNA\\_tests](http://isogg.org/wiki/Free_DNA_tests)

There are three main companies providing DNA tests for genealogy; [Family Tree DNA](#), [23andMe](#) and [ancestry](#). Other links are [gedmatch](#), [glossary](#) and [genealogical DNA test](#).

This event was a joint session of the Taranaki branches of NZSG, including New Plymouth, Inglewood, Stratford and Hawera.

---

### Convenor's Report

I would like to thank those returning committee members following the A.G.M. for their continued support of the Branch. Welcome to new committee members Annette Larsen, a previous Convenor of this Branch, and Lorraine Austin who was involved with the Genealogy Computer Group for many years.

Welcome back to New Plymouth to Ann and Murray Evans, who have rejoined our Branch. Ann was our Branch Convenor from about 1994 until 2001, when they moved to Whangarei.

I think that the recent DNA workshop presented by Gail Riddell was a success with 38 attending. I certainly learnt a fair bit about this interesting subject and I hope those attending found it worthwhile. Thanks must go to the Hawera Branch for organising Gail's visit and to our branch members who assisted on the day.

Not having been involved at Branch Committee level for some years I am in catch up mode, but hope to have my head around most things by the time our June meeting comes around.

I am looking forward to meeting you all at the next meeting.

Bruce Bellini

---

### Daytime Meetings?

Would you attend a branch meeting held during the day? Some members have said that the Tuesday evening meetings don't suit for them.

So, the committee is proposing to hold some additional branch meetings on Sunday afternoons. The regular evening meetings would still be held. The daytime meetings might be the same topic, or might be something different.

If you have a view on this, please tell Bruce (758 0130) or reply to the email question that was sent out.

---

### Branch Projects

Our branch projects team can always do with some more members to help with transcribing and indexing of historical records. If you are able to help, please contact Loraine (751 1795) or Pat George (757 5434).



---

### Family History Information Standards

The Family History Information Standards Organisation was established in 2012 to develop open, international, technical standards to benefit genealogy and family history organisations.

GEDCOM is a commonly used file format for genealogy, but it is interpreted differently by different software, and does not cater well for some types of data (eg sources). As a result, GEDCOM is generally not a satisfactory solution for migration of genealogy data.

Genealogy software programmes each use their own file formats. These are typically contain more data types than GEDCOM, but usually the format is proprietary. This can prevent use by other programmes which seek to import data.

FHISO aims to develop international, public standards that all genealogy programmes can use for migration of data.

[www.fhiso.org](http://www.fhiso.org)

---

### Need a lift?

If you would like a lift to a branch meeting, please contact Ailsa McCrone on 758 1009. She will arrange a lift for you with another member who is travelling from your area.

---

### Legacy Help

The next in the series of monthly informal Legacy sessions from Sunday 12 June 2016 at 1:30pm in the Branch Rooms. These are held regularly on the Sunday after the branch meeting. The June session will cover the Master Locations Database.

Please contact Marilyn Armitstead for further information or if you have any questions. Phone: 7572599 or email [g.armitstead@xtra.co.nz](mailto:g.armitstead@xtra.co.nz)

---

### Library Roster: June

Monday 10 am to 12:30 pm  
Wednesday 12 noon to 3 pm  
Saturday 10 am to 12 noon

Wed 1 Jill Jackson  
Sat 4 Karen Crowe  
Mon 6 Closed – Queen’s Birthday  
Tues 7 Branch meeting – 7:30pm  
Wed 8 Elly Harrison  
Sat 11 Mike Merrick  
Mon 13 Charles Le Breton  
Wed 15 Neville Richards  
Sat 18 Lea / Bruce Bellini  
Mon 20 Lorraine Austin  
Wed 22 Judy Berntsen  
Sat 25 Marilyn Armistead  
Mon 27 Annette Larsen  
Tues 28 Committee Meeting  
Wed 29 Ailsa McCrone

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.

---

### Taranaki Biographical Index

The TBI is a index of names mentioned in a wide variety of historical Taranaki records. It has been updated and now contains over 700,000 records.

The TBI is available for look up on the branch computers.



## 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;

Family Tree (June)

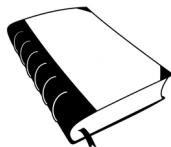
Memories (June/July)

Who Do You Think You Are (June)

Newsletters received;

Canterbury, Dunedin, Fielding, Gore, Hutt, Mosgiel, Nelson, Otaki, Palmerston North, Papamoa, Riccarton, Southland, Stratford, Tauranga, Te Awamutu, Tokoroa, Waimate, Wairarapa, Wellington

Canadian Gravemaker



### Newsletter

If you have any comments or suggestions for the newsletter, please contact Peter Hewett at [peter.hewett@gmail.com](mailto:peter.hewett@gmail.com).

## Interviewing elderly relatives

We all know it's a good idea, but once we arrange a time to interview our elderly relatives we need to be prepared. Don't fire questions at them - try to make a conversation out of your list and try to make your questions open-ended, rather than questions that allow yes or no answers, allowing room for reminiscences and deviations. Just use your list as an occasional prompt. Be patient and let the interview flow gently, making it a pleasant experience for both parties. Here's a compilation of suggestions, from the NZSG South Canterbury branch.

What is your full name? Why did your parents select this name for you? Did you have a nickname?

When and where were you born? How did your family come to live there? Were there other family members in the area? Who?

What was the house (or farm, etc) like? How many rooms? Bathrooms? Did it have electricity? Indoor plumbing? Telephones? Were there any special items in the house that you remember?

What is your earliest childhood memory? Describe the personalities of your family members.

How did your parents meet?

What kind of games did you play growing up? What was your favourite toy and why? What was your favourite thing to do for fun (movies, beach, etc)?

Did you have family chores? What were they? Which was your least favourite? Did you receive an allowance? How much? Did you save your money or spend it?

What was school like for you as a child? What were your best and worst subjects? Where did you attend grade school? High school? University? What school activities and sports did you participate in?

Do you remember any fads from your youth? Popular hairstyles? Clothes? Who were your childhood heroes?

What were your favourite songs and music?

Did you have any pets? If so, what kind and what were their names?

What was your religion growing up? What



church, if any, did you attend?

Were you ever mentioned in a newspaper?

Who were your friends when you were growing up?

What world or national events had the most impact on you while you were growing up? Did any of them personally affect your family?

Describe a typical family dinner. Did you all eat together as a family? Who did the cooking? What were your favourite foods?

How were holidays (birthdays, Christmas, etc) celebrated in your family? Did your family have special traditions?

How is the world today different from what it was like when you were a child?

Who was the oldest relative you remember as a child? What do you remember about them?

What do you know about your family surname? Is there a naming tradition in your family, such as always giving the firstborn son the name of his paternal grandfather?

What stories have come down to you about your parents? Grandparents? More distant ancestors? Are there any stories about famous or infamous relatives in your family?

Have any recipes been passed down to you from family members?

Are there any physical characteristics that run in your family?

Are there any special heirlooms, photos, bibles or other memorabilia that have been passed down in your family?

What was the full name of your spouse? Siblings? Parents?

When and how did you meet your spouse? What did you do on dates? What was it like when you proposed (or were proposed to)? Where and when did it happen? How did you feel?

Where and when did you get married? What memory stands out the most from your wedding day? How would you describe your spouse? What do (did) you admire most about them?

What do you believe is the key to a successful marriage?

How did you find out you were going to be a parent for the first time? Why did you choose your children's names? What was your proudest moment as a parent?

What did your family enjoy doing together?

Tell me about some of your favourite songs (also books, movies and television shows).

What was your profession and how did you choose it? If you could have had any other profession what would it have been? Why wasn't it your first choice? Describe your first job, and what did you do with your first pay?

Of all the things you learned from your parents, which do you feel was the most valuable?

What accomplishments were you the most proud of? What do you most want people to remember about you?

What haven't we talked about that you'd like to discuss in the time we have left? (This is a good way to begin wrapping up the interview.)

