



# NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 312

June 2017

**Branch Library:** Open free to members. A small charge to visitors.  
**Opening Hours:** Monday: 10 am to 12:30 pm (but closed 5 June, Queen's Birthday)  
 Wednesday: 12 noon to 3 pm  
 Saturday: 10 am to 12 noon

## 2017 Branch AGM

The branch AGM was held on 2 May 2017. Here are the main outcomes.

Convenor: Bruce Bellini

Secretary: Jackie Sewell

Treasurer: Lea Bellini

Committee: Lorraine Austin, Judy Berntsen, Jill Jackson, Annette Larsen, Charles Le Breton, Bev Mulqueen, Neville Richards

Newsletter: Peter Hewett

Projects: Lorraine Austin, Pat George

Branch subscriptions remain the same for the 2017/18 year.

Revised NZSG rules were adopted as branch rules.

Next meeting: 7:30 pm Tuesday 6 June 2017

## Branch Library

Our branch library has an extensive range of books and other records relating to Taranaki history. This year, a major project is under way to reorganise the library resources and update our catalogue.

This project is being led by Marilyn Armitstead. At our June meeting, she will explain what is happening with our branch library and how you can get the most benefit out of it for your genealogy research.



**Convenor:** Bruce Bellini 758 0130  
**Secretary:** Jackie Sewell  
**Treasurer:** Lea Bellini 758 0130

**Committee:** Lorraine Austin  
 Judy Berntsen  
 Jill Jackson  
 Annette Larsen  
 Charles Le Breton  
 Bev Mulqueen  
 Neville Richards

New Plymouth Branch  
 c/- Bruce Bellini  
 98a Queens Road  
 New Plymouth 4312

**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)

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### Last Event: Families of Historic Omata

At our May meeting our guest speaker was Len Jury, speaking about early Omata and its settlers in the 1840s, 1850s and 1860s. Some of the surnames mentioned were: Schnackenberg, Whiteley, Hursthouse, Newman, Berridge, Gilbert, Lethbridge and Brown.

I have no Taranaki background but found many fascinating snippets. In particular I was interested to see the stamped envelopes sent via Marseilles to England in those early days. One was rare as it was postmarked with the number for the early White Cliffs post office out at the Pukearuhe redoubt. Also Len commented on several of the letters, eg. an 1868 letter from John Berridge to his sister in England written after the Land Wars. He mentioned how a plague of caterpillars had eaten all the grass on 50 acres of land. (A lot of the early Omata farms were about 50 acres.) Thistles on his property were also a problem.

I was also interested to hear of the 1848 earthquake which flattened a lot of buildings, the after-shocks of which were felt for 8 days.

Len mentioned the book *NZ Settlers and Soldiers; or, the War in Taranaki, being incidents in the life of a settler* by Rev Thomas Gilbert. This book is [available free online](#) or as a printed book on the Amazon site.

Other books mentioned were *An 1858 Journey into the Interior* by Stephenson Percy Smith, an early surveyor ([also online](#)). Smith and several of his young friends journeyed for two months from Taranaki to Taupo and the Rotorua area and back to New Plymouth. Quite a feat in those days. After negotiation the lads ended up paying 10 pounds, a tidy sum in those days, to be transported across the Mokau River!

Stephenson Smith took painting lessons from the painter John Gully who lived in early Omata. I found the Gully connection interesting as I have a much-loved Gully print on my lounge wall.

Len did mention at one point how so many Taranaki families are interrelated.

In conclusion: It was nice to see the number of visitors with Omata connections attending this meeting to hear Len speak.

Annette Larsen.

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### Convenor's Report

I would like to welcome Judy Berntsen and Lea Bellini to our committee following the A.G.M. Lea was elected to the treasurers position, returning to the position she held some years ago.

John Berntsen has retired from the Committee, and on behalf of our members I wish to convey our thanks for all the time that he has given to our Branch since 2006 when he joined the committee, becoming Treasurer in 2010, and then Convenor in 2014.

At the Committee's first meeting, we looked at each member's responsibility and shuffled a few around, Jill Jackson will take over suppers, Annette Larsen picks up library liaison, Neville Richards will continue organising and running the raffles, and Judy Berntsen will continue as Research Officer.

I am sure that your committee are looking forward to another interesting and successful year.

Thanks.

Bruce Bellini  
Branch Convenor

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### Computer Group Meeting

The next meeting of the genealogy computer group will be held in the branch rooms at 1:30 pm on Sunday 18 June. The topic is anything to do with genealogy or computers.



Everyone is welcome. For any enquiries, please contact Peter Hewett or Bruce Bellini.

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### Legacy Help

The next in Marilyn's series of Legacy sessions will be on Sunday 9 July 2017 at 1:30pm in the Branch Rooms. Future meetings are planned for every second month; 10 September and 12 November.

Please note that there is a \$2 door charge.

Please contact Marilyn Armitstead for further information or if you have any questions. Phone: 757 2599 or email [g.armitstead@xtra.co.nz](mailto:g.armitstead@xtra.co.nz)



## Branch Subscriptions

Your branch 2017/2018 subscription is now due. Thank you very much to those who have already paid.

If you have not already paid, you are welcome to bring your sub, along with the completed subscription form to our meeting on Tuesday. This form was forwarded to all members by email. It is also available for download from the branch website, or you can get one at our rooms. The methods for payment are explained on the form, which includes internet banking, cheque or cash at the rooms.

The subscription rates for 2017/2018 have stayed the same as last year.

- \$35 Single membership
- \$45 Joint membership
- \$25 living outside Taranaki

## NZ BDM Fees Change

The NZ Department of Internal Affairs has announced new fees that came into effect on 22 May 2017.

The changes include electronic printout of any document Birth / Death / Marriage:

- 1848 - 1874 was \$26.50 new fee \$25
- After 1874 was \$20.40 new fee \$25

More details are available from the [fee changes pdf](#) and prices are shown on the DIA website.

[www.bdmhistoricalrecords.dia.govt.nz](http://www.bdmhistoricalrecords.dia.govt.nz)

Births, Deaths  
& Marriages Online



## Funny Epitaphs

Some epitaphs reportedly found in various cemeteries.

On the grave of Ezekial Aikle in East Dalhousie Cemetery, Nova Scotia:

Here lies  
Ezekial Aikle  
Age 102  
The Good  
Die Young.

In a London, England cemetery:

Ann Mann  
Here lies Ann Mann,  
Who lived an old maid  
But died an old Mann.  
Dec. 8, 1767

In a Ribbesford, England, cemetery:

Anna Wallace  
The children of Israel wanted bread  
And the Lord sent them manna,  
Old clerk Wallace wanted a wife,  
And the Devil sent him Anna.

Playing with names in a Ruidoso, New Mexico, cemetery:

Here lies  
Johnny Yeast  
Pardon me  
For not rising.

Memory of an accident in a Uniontown, Pennsylvania cemetery:

Here lies the body  
of Jonathan Blake  
Stepped on the gas  
Instead of the brake.

In a Silver City, Nevada, cemetery:

Here lays Butch,  
We planted him raw.  
He was quick on the trigger,  
But slow on the draw.

Contributed by Lea Bellini



### Library Roster: June

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

Sat 3 Karen Crowe  
Mon 5 Public Holiday - Closed  
Tues 6 Branch meeting – 7:30pm  
Wed 7 Jill Jackson  
Sat 10 Mike Merrick  
Mon 12 Charles Le Breton  
Wed 14 Judy Berntsen  
Sat 17 Elly Harrison  
Mon 19 Lorraine Austin  
Wed 21 Neville Richards  
Sat 24 Lea/Bruce Bellini  
Mon 26 Annette Larsen  
Tues 27 Committee meeting  
Wed 28 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.

### 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.



### A4 Envelopes Please

If you have any used A4 envelopes, please consider donating these to the branch library. They are used for filing library materials.

### Library News

Magazines received;  
Who do you think you are  
Genealogist



Newsletters received;

Dunedin, Feilding, Hutt Valley, Kapiti, Nelson, Otaki, Palmerston North, Papakura, Papamoa, Riccarton, South Waikato, Stratford, Wairarapa, Wellington

If you would like an email copy of newsletters from another branch, please contact Peter Hewett. Many of the newsletters are also available from the NZSG website.

[www.genealogy.org.nz/branches--area-contacts\\_55](http://www.genealogy.org.nz/branches--area-contacts_55)

### 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).

