



# NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 315

September 2017

**Branch Library:** Open free to members. A small charge to visitors.  
**Opening Hours:** Monday: 10 am to 12:30 pm  
 Wednesday: 12 noon to 3 pm  
 Saturday: 10 am to 12 noon

## Christmas Raffle

The branch is running the popular Christmas hamper raffle again this year. Members are asked to bring along a donation of non-perishable goods to the next monthly branch meeting.

Raffle tickets are \$1 each and will be on sale at the branch meetings. The raffle will be drawn at the Christmas lunch.



Next meeting: 7:30 pm Tuesday 5 Sep 2017

## NZ Police Gazette

At our September meeting, Annette Larsen will demonstrate how to use the New Zealand Police Gazettes as an aid in research.

The newspaper articles on Paperspast can be great, but sometimes it is not clear whether it is talking about the person whom you are researching. Annette will use some examples to show how the extra information on a person in these Gazettes may help to better identify someone with a common name.



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

**Committee:** Lorraine Austin  
 Judy Berntsen  
 Jill Jackson  
 Annette Larsen  
 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)

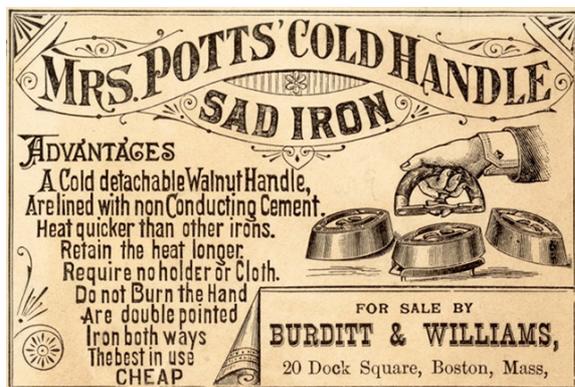
**Website:** [www.genealogynp.com](http://www.genealogynp.com)

## Last Event: Genealogy workshop

The August branch meeting was a general workshop, looking at various genealogy topics and questions.

We looked at an example of inconsistency between church record and Bishop's transcript. Both are hand-written and appear original, so how should the researcher handle it if they say different things? In this example, it was possible to identify clues that indicate which was the original church record and which was the transcribed copy.

The use of irons for pressing clothes has a long history. We looked at some examples that our ancestors would have used. These include sad irons, goose irons, and even Mrs Pott's sad irons!



During the meeting, we also discussed some brickwall issues, including a person born in England around 1905, but not appearing where expected on records. We also looked at info on the Canterbury Constabulary who were part of the 1881 Parihaka invasion.

## Christmas Lunch

Date: Sunday 3 December 2017.

Time: From Midday.

Place: Our Branch Rooms, Moturoa.

Cost: \$35 per person.

Tea & coffee provided. You are welcome to provide drinks of your own choice.

A catered Christmas meal will be delivered to our rooms, similar to the one delivered to the Golf Club last year.

If you would like to attend this event, please put your name down on the registration form that will be at our next meeting.

## Convenor's Report

Our Branch efforts to celebrate Family History Month are complete and it is pleasing to note that we had a good turnout for our events. Annette has described our first event for the month, the DNA presentation given by Michelle Patient, elsewhere in this newsletter.

Our second event was the Branch Open Day aimed at helping beginners with their research. We had a good turnout of Branch members eager and ready to help the eight people who turned up. Six of them indicated they would like to attend a Beginner's Class, so Annette and I will be working on arranging a series of Beginner's Classes to be run in the not too distant future.

We had a small group of members attend our "NZSG 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon" held at our rooms to watch the live streaming of the main event in Auckland. Vivienne Parker opened the event, congratulating NZSG on reaching the milestone and giving details of the history of the NZSG. During the luncheon our group were pleasantly surprised to see the 40 or so slides of past New Plymouth Branch events, not only once but repeated three times! It appears that our slides were the only ones to be shown on the day. The guest speaker followed lunch and gave an interesting account of how her archaeology studies complemented family research. Our group then enjoyed our Birthday Cake following the official cutting of the cake ceremony.

Bruce Bellini  
Branch Convenor



Cutting of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary cake



## An Introduction to DNA

This seminar was presented by Michelle Patient, 10am-4pm on Wednesday, 9 August 2017 at the New Plymouth branch rooms.

I have always put the whole matter of DNA in the too-hard basket, not having any scientific bent. It was a pleasant experience however, attending Michelle's DNA day. It was most helpful and her various anecdotes brought the whole subject to life. It was a very successful and pleasant day for our New Plymouth branch with about 30 attending.

Michelle started by giving us an overview: what is DNA, the 3 main types of test available (and how to go about the process).

- 1) Direct paternal line (Y chromosome-male)
- 2) Direct maternal line – mitochondrial
- 3) Autosomal (for relationship possibilities). This can break down brick walls but you still need tree research. You do need a good paper-based tree with hopefully at least 6 generations.

She said that a majority of those people who are having the test are not genealogists and are young – the Face Book generation, on their mobile devices. They are wanting to know “where?” rather than “who?”. Genealogy groups need to work out how they can reach this group.

There are five main companies doing this testing: FamilyTreeDNA, Ancestry (global and the biggest player), Living DNA, My Heritage, 23andme. Living DNA and My Heritage are new and still small companies in the DNA testing field.

Results are web-site based. It was stressed how important it is when you get your results to first read the “Help” in order to understand the findings. Read everything on the page!

Michelle also talked about “ethical genealogy” and having sensitivity to others. Skeletons may be found as a result of your testing and you need to be prepared for the unexpected.

Take the closest matches first – i.e. look for the largest number of centimorgans, shared surnames and shared locations. Contact these first.

I found Michelle's tips as to contacting matches very helpful, not just in this DNA context but when approaching any new contact re your

family history. She suggested we write straight away when we get a match. Make it a brief note initially and ask a specific question to elicit hopefully a response. Do not put in too much family info at this early stage but be helpful and kind.

Thank you, Michelle, for taking some of the mystery out of this new tool available in the search for our family connections and our ethnic mix.

Annette Larsen

## Seeking Descendants of Gerald Adam PAUL

We have had an e-mail from Ian Martyn of Medals Reunited New Zealand who is endeavouring to place WWI medals for Sgt Gerald Adam PAUL with his descendants.

Gerald was the eldest son of James PAUL (1842 - 1906 Taranaki) and Alice PAUL nee Cunningham (1860 - 1931 New Plymouth). Alice was the daughter of Robert and Mary Ann CUNNINGHAM nee Loveridge

Ian advises that James and Alice PAUL had 4 children:

- Gerald Adam PAUL (whose medals Ian has) married Annie HARPER in New Plymouth but went to Canada (without her) and had no natural children of his own.
- Stanley Drynan PAUL was unmarried
- Ronald Cassells PAUL had 2 children who died childless
- Sydney Victor PAUL was unmarried and died in WWI

Ian would like to find any extended family (PAUL, CUNNINGHAM, HARPER) who are still in New Plymouth.

So if anyone is researching the above families and can shed some light on the descendants of this family, please contact me.

Lea Bellini  
06 7580130  
email <brucebellini@gmail.com>



## Library Roster: September

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

Sat 2 Lea Bellini  
Mon 4 Annette Larsen  
Tue 5 Branch meeting  
Wed 6 Ailsa McCrone  
Sat 9 Mike Merrick  
Mon 11 Charles Le Breton  
Wed 13 Neville Richards  
Sat 16 Karen Crowe  
Mon 18 Anne Brophy  
Wed 20 Judy Berntsen  
Sat 23 Ailsa McCrone  
Mon 25 Lorraine Austin  
Tue 26 Committee meeting  
Wed 27 Jill Jackson  
Sat 30 Elly Harrison

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 Help

The next in Marilyn's series of Legacy sessions will be on Sunday 10 September 2017 at 1:30pm in the Branch Rooms. This month, the session will look further into the latest version 9 of Legacy.

These meetings are planned for every second month, with the last one for 2017 on 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)

## 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.



## Computer Group Meeting

The genealogy computer group meeting was held on Sunday 20 August.

This meeting looked at some information on World War 1, with a video on life in the trenches. We also discussed some sources of information relating to military service.



## 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;

Family Tree ( )

Memories ( )

Who do you think you are ( )

Newsletters received;

Canterbury, Dunedin, Fielding, Gore, Hutt Valley, Kapiti, Nelson, Otaki, Palmerston North, Papamoa, Porirua, Riccarton, Southland, South Waikato, Stratford, 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).

