

NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 320 March 2018

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

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

St Mary's





Next meeting: 7:30 pm Tuesday 6 Mar 2018

Puke Ariki

<u>Puke Ariki</u> is our great regional museum, right here in New Plymouth. It has an extensive store of local historical records and artefacts. Much of this is very valuable for genealogists researching history in the Taranaki area.

For our March meeting, Katherine Mercer from Puke Ariki will tell us about the resources that they hold and how these can be useful to genealogists like us.

Puke Ariki

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

Website: www.genealogynp.com

Last Event: Taranaki Cathedral Church

Last month, our group had the privilege and chance to take a tour of St. Mary's church graveyard. This graveyard and cathedral are a very important part of New Plymouth's heritage story, plus St Mary's is the oldest stone Where the writing on the graves is now very consecrated church in New Zealand. graveyard contains some of the city's significant people from its early settlement, so respect for the memorials is important. The burial grounds officially closed in 1861 but family had prescribed right to use their plot for 100 years.

Thirty six people turned up for the very informative tour led by one of our members, John Pickering. John has been instrumental in the restoration of the gravestones. I have huge admiration for John's work in repairing the gravestones and surrounds, researching its occupants and history of the plots, and contacting descendants of those that lie there. A labour of love, and a lot of hours spent.

The lych gate originally built by the Weston family in 1919 had recently started subsiding and cracking, requiring restoration in 2017 (and now provides shelter for the odd homeless person!) There is a policy for ongoing maintenance and floodlights have been installed. A new Garden of Remembrance has been added for the burial of ashes, and the damaged gravestones have all been repaired. In some cases this has meant backing the headstones with stainless steel to hold them together. A costly exercise.

Over the years, many crosses and headstones had been wilfully smashed by vandals. Robert Hughes' grave now sports a beautifully restored black railing around it. This railing was buried six inches below soil level and dug up and lovingly restored and painted. Small iron crosses were found under the church hall and these have been painted and head a row of previously unmarked soldiers' graves. There are currently 89 gravestone markers but subsurface sonic density imaging has shown 39 extra burial sites. There are also bodies buried under the church building.

The costs of restoration over \$30,000 have been met in various ways. John searched for, and contacted, many living descendants of the people in the churchyard and most families contributed to the repairs. New Plymouth District Council Heritage Trust has also given money. Donations from other sources have also helped.

The War Graves Commission also contributes on a yearly basis for upkeep of the soldiers' graves. Some soldiers' headstones have been erected by the NZ Govt. and others by shipmates.

hard to read, "recumbent desks" (plagues) bearing the original wording have been placed at the foot of the graves. Correction of spelling errors like reference to "Maoris" cannot be made.

What interesting stories John had to tell of the graveyard's occupants! Thank you, John, for all your time and effort. This historic churchyard will continue to tell its story for generations to come.

Annette Larsen

Convenor's Report

I wish to record my thanks to John Pickering for the wonderful evening we had last month at the St Mary's Churchyard. You will see a report on our visit elsewhere in this newsletter.

Those of you who are members of NZSG will have received your voting papers for election to the NZSG Board with the latest magazine. Jillian Williams, who is the convenor of our Hawera Branch, was originally co-opted onto the NZSG board, and is standing for election this year. Jillian is currently the Taranaki Regional Representative on the NZSG Board, having taken on this roll from Peter Gibson, I have worked with Jillian for several years and in my opinion she deserves our support. Please take the time to vote in this important election - the closing date is fast approaching!

> Bruce Bellini **Branch Convenor**

Taranaki Herald Staff Photographs

I have copies of the Taranaki Herald staff photographs from 1901, 1906, 1909 and 1927. Do you have forebears who worked there then?

I am happy to email copies to anyone who is interested.

> Bev Mulqueen mulgueen1@xtra.co.nz

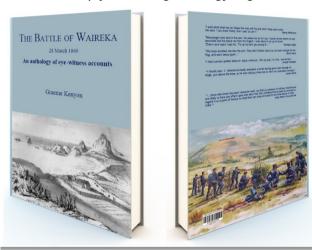


The Battle of Waireka - Book Launch

This 1860 battle just west of New Plymouth involved many of our ancestors. Last year, Graeme Kenyon presented a well attended talk to our branch on this topic. At that stage, the book was in draft form. However, some of our members still found some interesting new information about their ancestors.

The book is now complete, and will be officially launched in Puke Ariki at 5:30pm on Wednesday 28 March 2018. The price is \$49.50, and will be available with a discount at the launch.

If you would like to attend the launch, please RSVP to newplymouth@genealogy.org.nz .



NZSG Board Election

With the February magazine, NZSG members should have received voting papers for the postal ballot for election of Board members.

If you haven't received your voting papers, please contact NZSG and they can send a replacement set.

The democratic process is based on everyone having the right to vote. Have your say by posting your ballot paper before 4 April 2018.

Please read the voting instructions carefully as Please consider Primowireless for your ISP. failure to fill out the voting paper and envelope Ring them on 0800 123 774 or visit the website: correctly will make your vote null and void.

New book for our library

Peter Keegan has generously donated his latest book: Crossing Paths in a Land Beyond the Stars to our branch library. This is a substantial publication of 297 pages and a mine of information. Thank you Peter.

The book documents 16 families who migrated to New Zealand in the 19th century and their settlement in Taranaki. Surnames include:

Keegan, Connor, Sinnott, Wills, Herbert, Paul, Ward, Newell, Fredericksen, De Castro, de Sardinha. Holmes. Costerman. Kirkwood. Sutton, Barlow, Harrop, Morey, Main, Fowler.

Once this is catalogued it will be available for viewing at our rooms. Have a look, you may be surprised and find a connection. When showing this book at our Regional meeting on Saturday, two people found ancestors!

Lea Bellini

Internet Connection

The internet connection for our branch rooms is generously sponsored by Primowireless.

Based right here in Taranaki, Primowireless provides internet connections and ISP services for residential and business customers. As well as the usual ADSL and fibre connections, Primowireless also provides broadband internet over a wireless link for customers who are not in an area served by the other types of internet. This is just great for people who live outside the main centres.



primowireless.co.nz



Library Roster: March

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

| Sat 3 | Marilyn Armistead |
|--------|------------------------------|
| Mon 5 | Annette Larsen |
| Tue 6 | Branch meeting |
| Wed 7 | Elly Harrison |
| Sat 10 | Karen Crowe |
| Mon 12 | Closed: Taranaki Anniversary |
| Wed 14 | Mike Merrick |
| Sat 17 | Lea and Bruce Bellini |
| Mon 19 | Lorraine Austin |
| Wed 21 | Jill Jackson |

Sat 24 Neville Richards

Mon 26 Charles Le Breton

Tue 27 Committee meeting 7pm

Wed 28 Fay Eaton
Sat 31 Mike Merrick

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.

Computer Group Meeting

A meeting of the genealogy computer group will be held at 1:30pm on Sunday 18 March 2018.

We will be talking about images — the different formats like jpg, png, svg, gif and others. And we'll explain the differences between these, and when you should use which image format.

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 (Mar)
Genealogist (Feb)

Who do you think you are (Mar)

Newsletters received;

Balclutha, Canterbury, Dunedin, Feilding, Gore, Hawkes Bay, Hutt Valley, Kapiti, Nelson, Otaki, Palmerston North, Porirua, South Canterbury, South Waikato, 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

Newsletter

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

