



NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 323

June 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
 Saturday: 10 am to 12 noon

2018 Branch AGM

The branch AGM was held on 1 May 2018. Here are the main outcomes:

Convenor: Bruce Bellini

Secretary: Jackie Sewell

Treasurer: Lea Bellini

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

Librarian: Marilyn Armitstead

Newsletter: Peter Hewett

Projects: Lorraine Austin, Pat George

Branch subscriptions and door charge remain the same for the 2018/19 year.

AGM

Next meeting: 7:30 pm Tuesday 5 Jun 2018

Newspaper Finds

Our focus for the June meeting is historical newspapers. These are a great resource for family history research, and many are available on line, including:

- [PapersPast](#) (New Zealand)
- [Trove](#) (Australia)
- [British newspaper archive](#)

What are your best finds in old newspapers? What have you found that is useful, interesting, amusing, weird?

Get together any examples that you have come across in your research, and bring this to the June meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Annette (or any committee member).

Taranaki



Herald.

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: Te Henui Headstone Project

At our May meeting our guest speaker was Pat George, an early member of our group and a past president. Pat does a lot of work behind the scenes and so it was good to hear about her latest project.

Pat started helping with the archives work around 1980, when she led a group to transcribe cemeteries for the whole of Taranaki. With the advent of the Hawera branch, the region was divided up and Pat's team covered the area as far as Stratford, inland to Whangamomona, and Rahotu on the coast and up to Mokau.

Under the government PEP scheme, six unemployed people were provided for three years on this work. They also indexed the New Plymouth Court House Births, Deaths and Marriages to 1980. This work was all done before computers, so it was slow and tedious!

Pat started the recording project for Primary School records but this work was handed over to Jill Harvey and Noreen Potts. The NZSG did not allow for recording past 1930 due to people being alive and the privacy issue. The records were recorded from 1930 to 1980 but these were not available for the public to look at.

Pat has recently returned to our New Plymouth branch of the NZSG after more than 20 years break. Not long after that, Pat volunteered to photograph and transcribe the headstones at New Plymouth's Te Henui cemetery. (The first burial recorded at Te Henui was dated 1 April, 1861.) Pat ended up with a team of 4 other volunteers from our branch. The project started in December 2016 and has taken 14 months! There are 14,500 photos, all have been transcribed and are being made available for people to use.

Pat described the huge amount of work involved. The team first cleaned each headstone before transcribing, clearing plant growth when necessary. The transcriptions done years ago also had to be checked and matched up. Over 4,000 adjustments had to be made.

The team are now working on other cemeteries like Lepperton, Hurdon, Waireka, Omata, Okato, to name a few. Pat told us there were 176 cemeteries in Taranaki!

Pat showed us how to access the transcriptions and photos on the branch computers.

Thank you, Pat and your team, for a job well done! We genealogists reap the benefit of thousands of hours of work by a small dedicated team.

Annette Larsen

Convenor's Report

Our Taranaki Biographical Index has just been updated with the addition of just over 50,000 new records which cover 7,000 newspaper birth, death and marriage notices, over 1500 new items in the envelope collection, a book index, family trees and over 42,000 birth, death and marriage records pre 1980.

This significant update is the result of the many hours of fine work that our indexers and checkers have put in over several months. On behalf of our members who use this index, I would like to record our sincere thanks to all those who have helped produce this update, for their time and commitment.

Many Thanks

Bruce Bellini
Branch Convenor

Next Meeting: – 3 July 2018

“The Fascinating Adventures of being a Family History Detective” is the title of the presentation of our guest speaker Dame Ann Hercus for our July Meeting. She will outline ten years of research into her Hercus surname, sharing the fascinating stories of discovery encountered on the journey and explain how DNA testing helped answer key questions. She will also have copies of the book resulting from her research *One Family, Six Names*, for sale, which has been deliberately written as a resource book to help others explore the origins of their own family name. Ann will be offering the book for sale to people attending the meeting at the discounted price of \$20, the normal price being \$28.

I am sure many of you will recognise Dame Ann Hercus, who was a Member of Parliament from 1978 to 1987 and was the first Minister of Woman's Affairs. She was also Ambassador to the United Nations and Head of Peacekeeping in Cyprus.

So mark your calendar now! - You will not want to miss this exciting evening!



Computer Group Meeting

The genealogy computer group held a meeting on Sunday 20 May 2018.

Murray played some podcasts by Leo Notenboom. On his website askleo.com he has lots of useful information and tips about computers. At the meeting, we heard about:



- hibernate and suspend
- backup techniques
- managing passwords.

Latest Additions to PapersPast

The folk at NZ National Library have continued their great work of digitising old newspapers and making them available online at PapersPast.

Latest additions to newspapers (May 2018):

- Golden Bay Argus (1883-May 1911)
- Lyttelton Times (1908-1914)
- Matamata Record (1918-1924)
- Motueka Star (assorted 1901-1938)
- North Canterbury Gazette (Aug 1932 – Nov 1939)
- Otaki Mail (1919-1943)
- Southern Cross (1909-1920)
- Waikato Independent (1921-1949)

Legacy Users Group

The next meeting will be on Sunday 10 June 2018 at the Branch Rooms from 1.30pm.

These sessions are hosted by Marilyn Armitstead and are aimed at helping you to better use the Legacy genealogy software.

The other 2018 meetings are planned for 12 August and 7 October. There is no meeting in December. These dates alternate with the Computer Group Meetings.

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

Women's Suffrage 125

Further to our last newsletter, we are progressing with plans to celebrate Suffrage 125, so we encourage you to research your petition signing ancestors.

We will have a guest speaker at our September meeting who will be enlightening us on aspects of the petition and some of the women involved.



In addition, we plan to have an open day in September, with a focus on women. We plan to have a collection of biographies available of Suffrage signing women. Attached to this newsletter is a simple bio of the first woman to sign the petition. You could use this as a guide. If you have documents to attach to the bio, we would love to see them. This could be photos, newspaper articles, parish registers and so on. If you would like us to print your information, please send it to the branch email address newplymouth@genealogy.org.nz or bring a copy to us before 25 August 2018.

Visit this website for more information:

<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/politics/womens-suffrage/petition>

Internet Connection

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



**PRIMO
WIRELESS**

CONNECTING TARANAKI

Please consider Primowireless for your ISP. Ring them on 0800 123 774 or visit the website:

primowireless.co.nz

Branch Subscriptions now due

Thank you to everyone who has paid their branch subs for the 2018-19 year. This is our main way of meeting branch costs.

If you haven't paid yet, please do so. Use the form you can download from the [branch website](#).



Library Roster: June

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

Sat 2 Karen Crowe
Mon 4 closed on public holiday
Wed 6 Jill Jackson
Sat 12 Neville Richards
Mon 11 Ann Brophy
Wed 13 Ailsa McCrone
Sat 16 Lea & Bruce Bellini
Mon 18 Lorraine Austin
Wed 20 Fay Eaton
Sat 23 Marilyn Armitstead
Mon 25 Charles Le Breton
Wed 27 Ailsa McCrone
Sat 30 Annette Larsen

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.

Free to a good home

I have a collection of *This England* magazines spanning approximately 20 years up until last year. I am wanting to find another home for them. They are beautiful magazines with lovely photos. If anyone wants these magazines, please contact me on brucebellini@gmail.com

Lea Bellini

William Benner EAGAR

If anyone is researching the Eagar family of New Plymouth and Stratford, Maureen Reed of the Paeroa Branch is happy provide any information to you. She can be contacted at PO Box 236, Paeroa 3640.

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

The committee recently purchased two books from the NZSG book sale. They are *The History of the Chamberlain Family of Taranaki* and *The Loaded Dice: Family History of George Henry Herbert, a Settler in New Plymouth and Patrick Keegan of County Cork.*



Once these books have been indexed for the Taranaki Biographical Index, they will be available to peruse at our library. Two other New Zealand books we have been donated are:

Topless Tales 1875 – 1995. A local Taranaki family

Settlers – New Zealand Immigrants from England, Ireland and Scotland 1800 – 1945. These will be available once they have been catalogued.

Newsletters received;

Canterbury, Dunedin, Feilding, Hutt Valley, Nelson, Otaki, Palmerston North, Papamoa, Porirua, Riccarton, South Waikato, Wairarapa, Wellington, Whanganui

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.

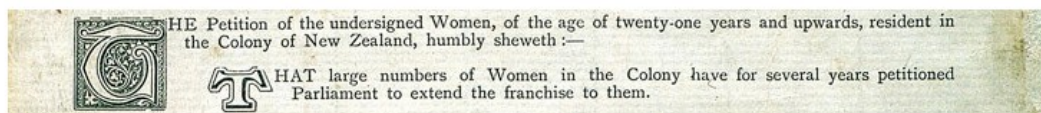
www.genealogy.org.nz/branches--area-contacts_55

Newsletter

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



Mary Jane Carpenter



Surname:	Carpenter	Sheet No:	1
Given Name:	Mary Jane	Town/Suburb:	Yaldhurst
Given Address:	Yaldhurst	City/Region:	Christchurch

Notes:

Biographical information provided by Canterbury Museum for the He Tohu exhibition:

Mary Jane Carpenter (nee Griffiths), the very first name on the main Petition, was born on 23 May 1850 in Worcestershire, England. Her parents were Mary (formerly Wyer, nee Harper) and John Griffiths, a boilermaker. Family traditions say that Mary was related to the first Anglican Bishop of Christchurch, Henry Harper.

The family later moved to Derbyshire where Mary's elder brother John was married in 1868. In 1870, Mary Jane travelled with her parents, brothers John and Samuel, sister Sarah, sister-in-law Hannah, and nephew John, to New Zealand aboard the Zealandia, arriving in Lyttelton on 23 December 1870. Mary Jane was listed as a domestic servant.

A year later, on 13 December 1871, Mary Jane married George Frederick Carpenter, a widower. They had a family of seven daughters and two sons; Harriet Frances (1872-195?), Margaret Alice (1873-1936), Ethel Mary (1875-1888), Edith Bessie (1877-1938), Emily (1879-1953), John Frederick (1881-1923), Daisy Sarah (1882), William James (1884-1947), and Evelyn Gladys (1887-?).

Mary Jane was very involved in family and church affairs, being an ardent supporter of the Methodist Church. After her husband died she lived with her daughter Emily at 415 Papanui Rd until her death from cancer on 8 October 1920, aged seventy. She is buried with her husband in Yaldhurst Cemetery.

Her mother, Mary Griffiths of Upper Riccarton, also signed the Petition.