



# NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 328

November 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

## Birthday!

The first meeting of the New Plymouth branch of NZSG was in November 1969. So that makes this year our 49<sup>th</sup> birthday!

To celebrate, we are holding a branch lunch on Sunday 18 November, from 12:30pm. This will be a catered lunch at the branch rooms.

The cost is \$29 a head. The branch will provide cutlery, crockery, and tea & coffee. You are welcome to bring drinks and glasses.

Book at the next meeting (6 Nov) or contact Bruce Bellini.

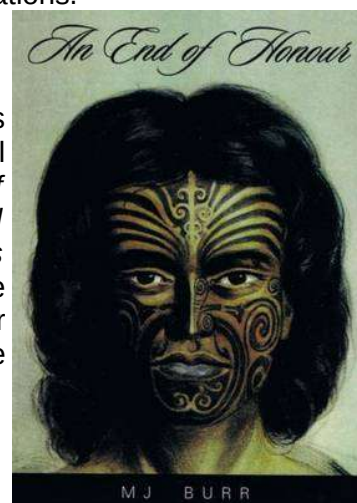


Next meeting: 7:30 pm Tuesday 6 Nov 2018

## The Captains and the Kings depart: ordinary people in history

Guest speaker for our November meeting is historian and author Mike Burr. He will present some details of early settler experience in New Plymouth, and contrast it with that of Riwia Titokowaru. Through this, Mike will explain how most of history is made by ordinary people who find themselves in quite extraordinary situations.

Copies of Mike's historical novel *An End of Honour: A novel of Titokowaru's War* will be available for purchase at the meeting.



**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: Adventures of Te Henui Cemetery**

Our speaker for October was Susan Oliver. Susan leads five volunteers who regularly garden in New Plymouth's old Te Henui cemetery. Susan's humorous and lively talk led to a standing ovation at its finish. Also this ovation was recognition of 10 years of labour, gardening in the cemetery – a labour of love. Susan said in the last month the volunteers have put in 430 hours of gardening work there.

Thanks to the wonderful work of this handful of volunteers, this cemetery is a particularly beautiful space to walk in. It has been voted 10<sup>th</sup> out of 66 things to do in New Plymouth on the NZ Tripadvisor site. And I believe it is included in this year's garden festival.

Susan began her talk by asking us why we visit a gravestone, and, if it matters, what should a cemetery look like? It is a place to grieve and feel connected.

Things may change as regards cemeteries in the future. There will be different attitudes about cemeteries. In some big cities where there is pressure on land, it may be considered a waste of space. People may just rent a plot for awhile. How often will you visit the cemetery? Who should maintain the plots? As a genealogy group we are in a position to make a difference.

Susan said that more people have been visiting Te Henui over the last few years.

She talked about the gravestones' artistic, historic, and cultural value, but said some modern gravestones can lack personality. How much information is on the stone? She said that sometimes dates on a stone can be "dodgy". The cemetery areas tend to be divided into the different denominations. Susan also deals with people in the cemetery who are looking for a relative's grave. She has found the old records put together by some of our genealogy group very useful for this.

Susan recommended a book called "Unearthly Landscapes". She talked about how our cemeteries evolved from the English tradition. At the Puke Ariki website, one can look at the Swainson Wood collection of photos and find early photos of the Te Henui. (Keyword "Henui cemetery") The Te Henui cemetery dates back to 1861. In the early days there was a fountain where the roundabout is now. Susan paid tribute to the contribution of Alan Jellyman, Director of parks in the 1970s. He had the foresight to tidy

up the Te Henui and see it as a park.

The Council supply some plants, but some of what is planted are gifts from the public. One of the jobs of the volunteers is the removal of big plants which after many years are causing obstructions and are a nuisance. The Council will only repair broken gravestones if they are dangerous, otherwise it is left to the families to take care of this.

"For a dead place, it is very alive," says Susan. This includes people walking their dogs, canoodling teenagers from the local high schools, beautiful birds including our native wood pigeon, people with their children, and generally a lot of through traffic. It is uniquely situated right in the town's centre, unlike a lot of cemeteries which are further out of town. Eagar's new chapel is a lovely addition to the cemetery too.

Susan ended by emphasising what a valuable area this cemetery is and that everyone buried there is important.

Annette Larsen

PS Worth having a look at the lovely Te Henui cemetery garden photos on the NZ tripadvisor website.

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## **Convenor's Report**

With November upon us, the end of the year is fast approaching! I would like to remind our members of our 49<sup>th</sup> birthday catered luncheon being arranged for the 18<sup>th</sup> of November of which you will find details in this newsletter. This event replaces the Christmas lunch which we have previously held in December. So this year we will have a normal December meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> December, which will be the last meeting of the year. It will be special, so if you like a good subject, supper, socialising and a special Christmas raffle, please put it in your diary and come along. You will find the subject of this meeting mentioned elsewhere in the newsletter.

Bruce Bellini  
Branch Convenor



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### Next Meeting: Who do you think you are?

At the branch meeting on Tuesday 4 December, we will be showing a video. Rebecca Gibney, well-known Australian actress, explores her family history here in NZ. Her search leads her to an emotional visit to Parihaka, Taranaki. Even if you have seen this programme before, it is well worth another look.

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### Annette's Ramblings: Transcription errors!

For years I visited my grandfather, William Scarborough's grave at Purewa Cemetery in Auckland. Never did I realise then that the year of his death was wrong on his gravestone! Reinforces the importance of having several sources for an event.

More recently, I have rediscovered correspondence between my mother and the Registrar General dating back to the 70s. The correspondence was to ascertain the date and place of birth of my grandfather, William, and to get his birth certificate. My mother was informed that her father was born at sea on 5 February 1875. He was actually born in Remuera, Auckland on 26 February 1875.

My mother's brother subsequently wrote to the Registrar General demanding that it look again at this matter. The birth of my grandfather, William Scarborough, was then located correctly. How was this error made? The government official who wrote back said: " I have noticed that the registration directly below (William Scarborough's entry)...was a William Aberdare Strong born 5 February 1875 at sea, on board the Baron Aberdare. Unfortunately it would appear that the information was transposed incorrectly when it was supplied to Mrs Baldwin. Please accept our apologies for this error....."

The correct certificate was then sent and recompense made! Don't believe everything you see in print!

Annette Larsen

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### 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.



# PRIMO WIRELESS

CONNECTING TARANAKI

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

[primowireless.co.nz](http://primowireless.co.nz)

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### Computer Group Meeting

The next branch genealogy computer group meeting will be at 1:30 pm on Sunday 25 November 2018.



As usual, this meeting will cover any questions or discoveries our members bring along. So if you have something troublesome or exciting with your computer, bring it along!

We will also be talking about online storage options, also known as cloud storage. There are lots of options like Dropbox, Google drive, iCloud and others.



## Library Roster: November

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 Neville Richards  
Wed 7 Ailsa McCrone  
Sat 10 Elly Harrison  
Mon 12 Charles Le Breton  
Wed 14 Fay Eaton  
Sat 17 Lea & Bruce Bellini  
Mon 19 Annette Larsen  
Wed 21 Judy Berntsen  
Sat 24 Pat Croad  
Mon 26 Lorraine Austin  
Wed 28 Jill Jackson

## 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 ( )

Genealogist ( )

Who do you think you are ( )

Newsletters received;

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

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).

