



NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 355

June 2021

Unite against COVID-19

Reduce risk – keep safe

New Zealand Government

Branch events have resumed at alert level 1
Branch rooms are open: Monday and Saturday

LEVEL 1 New Zealand is currently at Alert Level 1.

2021 Branch AGM

The branch Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday 4 May. The main outcomes are:

- Convenor: Gail Tanner
 - Treasurer: Sharyn Guthrie
 - Secretary: Jackie Sewell
 - Committee: Karen Crowe, Lea Bellini, Annette Larsen, Lorraine Austin, Graeme Jury
 - Librarian: Marilyn Armitstead
 - Newsletter: Peter Hewett
 - Cemeteries project: Pat George
- Branch subscription and door charge remain unchanged.

AGM

Next meeting: 7:30pm Tuesday 1 June 2021

Museum in a Suitcase

At our June meeting, Adrienne Nightingale from Puke Ariki will be visiting.

He will bring the museum in a suitcase, a sample of treasures from the large collection of heritage objects and stories that Puke Ariki holds in storage.

So, come along to hear some stories from Taranaki's past and see some of the interesting objects from the Puke Ariki collection.



Convenor: Gail Tanner 027 376 0630
Secretary: Jackie Sewell
Treasurer: Sharyn Guthrie

Committee: Lorraine Austin
 Lea Bellini
 Karen Crowe
 Graeme Jury
 Annette Larsen

New Plymouth Branch
 c/- Gail Tanner
 122 Wairau Road
 New Plymouth 4314

Meetings: 7:30 pm, first Tuesday each month
 at branch rooms, Moturoa Shopping Centre
 access is off the Whiteley Street car park

Email: newplymouth@genealogy.org.nz
Website: www.genealogynp.com

Last month: Pukekura Park

At the May branch meeting, Alan Metcalf told us about the history of Pukekura Park. This is a famous park and recreation area near the centre of New Plymouth, with a long and interesting history, involving many people who were prominent in New Plymouth about a century ago.

Pukekura was established as a recreational park in 1875, by an Act of Parliament. What is now the cricket oval was made by filling in a swamp, with the first cricket match in 1892. The Poet's bridge was built with funds donated by James Davis, who had won the money from betting on a horse called the Poet.

Alan covered several other stories from the early days of Pukekura Park. He has written a book on the history of the park, covering 1875 to 1908. This book is to be published by Pukeariki.

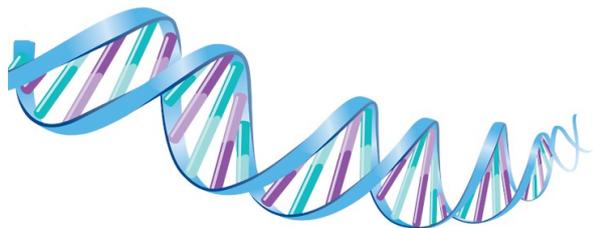


DNA Interest Group

The DNA group meeting was held on Sunday 23 May. This covered more on how to get useful results from your DNA matches. Sharyn explained some tips on how to handle matches when it isn't clear where they fit into your family tree. This session also included some time for everyone to work on their own results.

These meetings are held each month, and are intended to help you understand your DNA results, so you can make the most of using them for family history research.

Next month, the DNA group meeting is on Sunday 20 June. Please let Sharyn know if you are planning on attending. And bring along your laptop or tablet, or bring your login details to the site where you have your DNA records.



Convenor's Report

Hello everyone. Winter seems to have arrived today as I sit under my air-con, wrapped in my possum jersey and attempting to stay warm and dry. And it's just the perfect day for doing some genealogy research and or writing. I've had a busy few days, running my first beginner's class for Genealogy through the group U3A and giving a talk about Genealogy at Molly Ryan last Thursday.

This Tuesday night we have Adrienne Nightingale coming from Puke Ariki to show us "Museum in a Suitcase". They bring a case filled with some objects that belong to Puke Ariki's own personal collection and some objects that have been brought in by donations from various different people and groups. The suitcase contains heritage objects from the past 60+ years and photos of different scenes around Taranaki, some photographs dating back to 1884. I have no idea what we will actually be seeing, but it sounds like it will be interesting as it is concerned mainly with Taranaki History.

It is subscription time again. Don't forget to pay, and thank you if you already have paid. It's \$35.00 for single, \$45.00 for two people at the same address, and \$25.00 if you live out of Taranaki.

Remember very soon the banks will stop accepting cheques, so if possible please pay by direct credit to our bank account, or pay Sharyn at the meeting with cash.

It sounds like our DNA group is going from strength to strength and everyone is learning how to organise their DNA matches, and starting to make sense of the systems. Pretty soon we will have lots of DNA experts to ask for help.

Hopefully I'll see you at the meeting on Tuesday then on Thursday I'm off to Aussie to meet my 17 month old grandbabies, who, because of Covid I haven't met in person yet. I am so looking forward to that, but just hope that the latest Victorian outbreak doesn't get across to NSW or Queensland. Otherwise I may just be in for a longer stay than anticipated.

Gail Tanner
Branch Convenor



2021/22 Branch Subscriptions Now Due

The branch subscriptions for the 2021/22 year are now due. These funds are used for branch expenses, such as rent, power, and other costs. Please pay your subscription by 6 July 2021 (branch meeting night).

The banks are no longer accepting cheques, so please pay by bank transfer. Alternatively, you can pay by cash – please bring it along to a branch meeting.

Please complete the [subscription form](#). This form has the instructions for payment by bank transfer. Please be sure to email Sharyn that you have paid, and put your name in the bank transfer.

Branch subscriptions for 2021/22:

- \$35 single
- \$45 double
- \$25 living outside Taranaki

The Battle of Waireka

Len Jury has very generously donated a copy of Graeme Kenyon's book *The Battle of Waireka* for each branch member. These were distributed at the AGM. Please let us know if you weren't at the AGM, so that we can get your copy to you.

Sarah Lethbridge (nee Batten) 1828-1896

Sarah Batten came out to New Plymouth in 1841 and married Richard Lethbridge.

Descendant Carole Withey is looking for a photo of Sarah. If you are able to help, please contact any member of the branch committee.

New Members

Our branch would like to warmly welcome our recent new members:

- Maurice Le PROU
- Lois LOVELL

Our Facebook Page



Remember we now have a presence on Facebook. This is a good place to catch up with some genealogy news and to ask any questions you may have related to researching your family history. There are many helpful and knowledgeable people on there who would be happy to help you.

This is a Private Group so if you want to join, use the 'Join' icon. Please do not use the 'Invite' tab, even though it looks very colourful and easy to use!! This is a Facebook feature we cannot disable and it bypasses the questions we like to ask to make sure we prevent any scammers.

There are currently 72 members from all around the world who are interested or involved with Taranaki families.

www.facebook.com/groups/949196718907560

Next Month

At the July meeting, Graeme Jury will explain a system for organising family history files on your computer.

Working through family history research can generate lots of pieces of information, such as old photos, certificates, news clippings, etc. It is convenient to store all these in electronic format on the computer, but they need to be organised.

So be there for the July meeting, when Graeme will show how all these files can be neatly stored for easy retrieval.



Library Roster: June

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

Sat 5 Karen Crowe
Mon 7 Sharyn Guthrie
Sat 12 Sharyn Guthrie
Mon 14 Charles Le Breton
Sat 19 Lea Bellini / Graeme Jury
Mon 21 Annette Larsen
Sat 26 Annette Larsen
Mon 28 Jill Jackson
Sat 3 July Gail Tanner

Covid Alert Level 1

Please observe the COVID-19 rules at the branch rooms.

- Please don't come to the rooms if you have any symptoms (dry cough, short of breath, fever, loss of smell or taste, recent overseas travel).
- Wash your hands and any surfaces you touch.
- Bring your own pen, paper, laptop, etc.
- Use the COVID-19 app with the QR code.
- Record your name in the attendance book.



Internet Connection

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

Based right here in Taranaki, Primo provides internet connections and ISP services for residential and business customers. As well as the usual fibre and ADSL connections, Primo 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.



Please consider Primo for your internet service. Ring them on 0800 123 774 or visit their website:

primo.nz

Library News

Magazines received;

Who Do You Think You Are (April)



Newsletters received;

Gore, Hutt Valley, Kapiti, Nelson, Otaki, Palmerston North, Riccarton, 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.

