

New Plymouth Genealogy Society Incorporated

Newsletter



Number 44

November 2025

Society Library: Open free to members. A small charge to visitors.

Opening Hours: Every Monday and Saturday: 10 am to 12 noon
Other times available by appointment

Our Upgrades

The kitchen facilities are being upgraded with the installation of an under-sink hot water cylinder. This will provide more convenient hot water for the kitchen.

And we have a new flag for outside to advertise when the rooms are open.

Thank you to everyone who helped make these upgrades happen.



Next meeting: 7:30pm Tuesday 4 Nov 2025

Tracing Jane Curie

We are showing a video from the NZSG Online DNA Interest Group (ODIG), where our Sharyn is on the committee. Normally this video is only available to members of ODIG, but Sharyn has gained permission for this one off showing at our November meeting.

Kaye Batchelor takes us on a journey from Scotland to New Zealand showing her years of trying to find her ancestor Jane Currie. She shows how she used genealogy and then later DNA to work through this process. It's a great watch and is worth coming along to our meeting to see.



Chairperson: Gail Tanner 027 376 0630
Secretary: Sally Morch
Treasurer: Sharyn Guthrie
Committee: Lorraine Austin
Jeff Grange
Peter Hewett
Glenys Krutz
Lois Lovell
Russell Smith

New Plymouth Genealogy Society Inc
c/- Gail Tanner
122 Wairau Road
New Plymouth 4314

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

Email: newplymouthgenealogy@gmail.com

Website: www.genealogynp.com

Last month: Using old wills

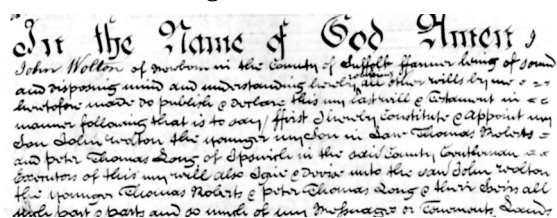
At our October meeting, Gail showed us how old wills can provide a lot of information about your ancestors.

These wills can confirm relationships, or identify relatives you didn't know about. They can also have information about where people lived and what their occupations were.

You can access New Zealand wills through Archives NZ and these can also be searched using [FamilySearch](#) or the [Ancestor Search Helper](#).

Family Search also has wills from other countries. Online genealogy services like Ancestry and FindMyPast can also find old wills as part of their subscription based services.

Gail also showed us the [Cornwall OPC database](#) which has a great lot of historical resources for the Cornwall area in England.



DNA Interest Group

Next meeting: Sunday 16 Nov 1:30pm at the rooms

Last meeting we had a great interactive session. We covered the new Ancestry Origins results and then moved onto the Shared cM project. We went over how it works including the individual probabilities as seen on sites like Ancestry then looking at the differences on the Shared cM project. We also looked at how to check out the hypothesis and see how many people made up each combination of statistics.

I've not had anyone ask for anything particular so this next meeting I wondered about covering how use Wato Plus – the tool on www.dnapainter.com that helps you to work out where in a tree your person might fit according to their DNA matches. Could you let me know if you would like that?



Thanks

Sharyn Guthrie

Chairperson's Report

Another month has just passed and now we are looking down the barrel of Christmas already.

I've been keeping busy going through hundreds of old photos – looking for some to put in a photobook for my husband John's 70th birthday in December. We inherited all the photos his mother had after she passed, and there are so many of them. I think she kept every photo ever taken. It is a big task.

Our subject for this coming meeting is a wee bit different. Sharyn is organised to show us a case study from the Online DNA Interest Group (ODIG). This group is part of the New Zealand Genealogy Society and Sharyn has obtained permission to show us the case study. It is called *Finding Jane Curry*. It should be very interesting, so come along and see what you can learn or just enjoy something new to hear and see.

Just a reminder to anyone who borrows books or magazines from our library. They are only to be held for a month or less, as other people would like to read them also. When you return them, please place them in the basket on the left as you enter the library area. The borrowable books all have cards, which you should put your name and the date on, so we know who has the book/books and when they were taken. There is also now a limit of three books allowed to be borrowed at once.

Our December monthly meeting on the 2nd will be a quiz night, then on Sat 13 December we will be having a potluck Christmas Lunch – everyone is welcome.

We don't have any meetings during January, but we are having our usual cemetery visit at the beginning of February. We will be going out to the Okato Cemetery, where Karen Chard will give us a bit of a talk and then we can wander around and see who we can find. It has also been suggested that we could also spend a bit of time at the Tataraimaka Cemetery. Hopefully the weather plays ball and doesn't soak us.

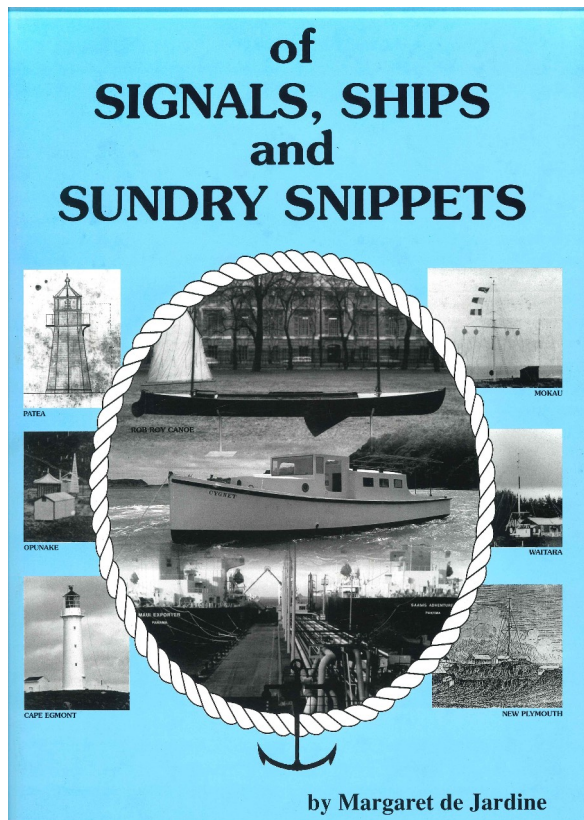
You may notice next time you are at our rooms, that something has changed. We have had plumbers and electricians working on getting hot water to our kitchen sink and also to the small sink for washing hands.

Happy family tree hunting.

Gail Tanner
Society Chairperson

Signals, Ships and Sundry Snippets

A new book in our library:



Foreword

This, the third and final, of Margaret de Jardine's volumes chronicling Taranaki's maritime history, is a miscellany of fascinating facts and fables gleaned from archives and newspapers during her assiduous researches over the past 20 years.

Our province's turbulent seas and rocky coasts have witnessed their share of the vicissitudes of maritime activity and, indeed, continue to do so to the present day. The Tasman Sea, which bounds our shores, remains one of the most changeable stretches of water in the world.

Here, then, are the often-intriguing tales of those most essential of marine aids, the province's navigational lights and signal stations. From Awakino in the north to Patea in the south, the bar entrances of our river ports have all required the erection of lights to ensure the safe passage of vessels. The stories associated with these important structures often mirror those of the ports themselves.

In the second section of this publication Margaret de Jardine together references on such diverse subjects as early homemade craft and of stranded German mines with a pot pourri of other intriguing records. She has also taken the opportunity to bring up to

date the chronology of vessels wrecked on our shores.

As usual, Miss de Jardine's scholarship is impeccable and the wealth of detail she relates will serve as an essential reference for local historians and students of the sea for many decades to come.

Ron Lambert

August 1997

This book is a new addition to our library and will be on the library shelf very soon.

This book is A4 size and contains 148 pages. Please note that although this book is new it is also 28 years old and shows signs of being in storage for this time.

As indicated in Rob Lambert's foreword above, there are two earlier books in this series by Margaret de Jardine. These are;

- Shipwrecks on and off the Taranaki Coast, published December 1983.
- The Little Ports of Taranaki, published February 1992.

As yet I have been unable to find copies of the above two little gems for our library.

Russell Smith

NPGS Committee

Early British and Irish Census

The Bingham Young University in USA is compiling a database of early British and Irish census. Check them out at ebic.byu.edu.



This project will bring various pre 1841 census into one searchable database. Census from 1801, 1811, 1821 and 1831 were not submitted to central government and are held in local archives across the UK. Records are being transcribed from digital images of the original records.

Library Roster: November 2025

Monday 10 am to 12 noon
Saturday 10 am to 12 noon

Sat 1 Nov Karen Crowe
Mon 3 Nov Charles Le Breton
Sat 8 Nov Graeme Jury
Mon 10 Nov Lorraine Austin
Sat 15 Nov Lea Bellini
Mon 17 Nov Russell Smith
Sat 22 Nov Jeff Grange
Mon 24 Nov Graeme Jury
Sat 29 Nov Annette Larsen
Mon 1 Dec Charles Le Breton
Sat 8 Dec Karen Crowe

Facebook Group

So many helpful Facebook groups for genealogy. One of my favourite personal ones is finding photos of Hamilton showing things from my childhood, then I save them for my own family history story. I also find DNA Help for Genealogy (UK) page so helpful for picking up hints and news of features on different websites.



Old Hamilton & Surrounding Districts



Na Bailtean (An-dè agus An-diugh)

The Na Bailtean group is a small Facebook group based in Ness from the Isle of Lewis. Lots of old photos and memories are shared there.

Have you had a look for your location or special interest to see if there is a group for you?

Sharyn Guthrie

Internet Connection

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



PRIMO

Primo has supported us with internet connectivity since 2017. Please consider Primo for your internet service and for mobile phone plans. Ring them on 0800 123 774 or visit their website:

primo.nz

Library News

Magazines received;

Family Tree (Oct)

Newsletters received;

Canterbury, Feilding, Hutt Valley, Kapiti, Matamata, Nelson, Otaki, Palmerston North, Papakura, Papamoa, South Waikato, Wellington, Whanganui

If you would like an email copy of newsletters from another genealogy society or branch, please contact Peter Hewett.



Newsletter

If you have any comments or suggestions for the newsletter, please contact the editor (Peter Hewett) at newplymouthgenealogy@gmail.com.