

New Plymouth Genealogy Society Incorporated Newsletter



Number 45

December 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

Merry Christmas!

The society committee would like to wish all our members and their families a very Merry Christmas and all the very best for 2026!

The society rooms will be closed over the Christmas/ New Year period.

Last day for 2025 Monday 15 December

First day for 2026 Saturday 17 January



Next meeting: 7:30pm Tuesday 2 Dec 2025

Genealogy Quiz

The last society meeting for 2025 is a quiz evening.

We have a range of genealogy related questions lined up to challenge and entertain you. So come along and join in the fun.

In which year was the first national census conducted in England and Wales?

What unique records were kept during WWII to document individuals' roles and contributions, particularly for women?

What are military service records, and how can they be valuable for research in the UK?

Which noteworthy event in 1837 significantly changed how births, marriages, and deaths were registered in England?

Who kept records of births, deaths and marriages before the law requiring civil registration?

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: Tracing Jane Currie

At our November meeting, we saw a video of detailed genealogy research from the NZSG Online DNA Interest Group (ODIG).

Kaye Batchelor explained her journey spanning years of research in Scotland and New Zealand, trying to find her ancestor Jane Currie. She showed how she used genealogy and then later DNA to work through this process.



DNA Interest Group

We held our last meeting for the year a couple of weeks ago and I demonstrated using WATO plus. This is the helpful tool we can use with our DNA matches to help us identify the potential place an ancestor may fit in our family tree. It was great that so many gave it a shot, using me and my family as a guide, and I hope it will encourage them to go on and try it using their own mysteries. It didn't say definitively this was my father, but he was the only 'possible' person in the tree I had – and guess what – he is! Proven genetically as well as documentary evidence, just like we want!

Wato plus is found on Jonny Perl's helpful website dnapainter.com. Jonny has many tools on there to help us all in our genetic genealogy journey.

Next year I will start again in February, and the date will be advertised on our website as well as the February newsletter.

Sharyn Guthrie

Chairperson's Report

Christmas is almost here again, and after that another new year to contend with. 2026! How fast time seems to moving. It's a year since Sharyn & Hamish and I, and many other genealogists were packing our bags for the Australian Genealogy Cruise. It just seems like yesterday.

You may have noticed that we have had a wee bit of plumbing and electrics done recently. We have installed a small hot water cylinder, and got warm water to the dish sink, and also to the small handwashing sink at the end of the bench. I'm not sure where we are up to with everything, but as soon as we can, we will let everyone know what to do and how to do it.

For the research assistants and librarians – we have had two flags made, one to put up at the entrance to the rooms, and the other to go on a bracket on the sign at the Whitely Street entrance. If you put the flags out, please don't forget to get them back in again. Especially the one near the road. The other thing to remember is to make sure everything is turned off before you leave. The heater is very important to turn off! We had a week a wee while ago, where it was left on for four days – our power bill went through the roof, so PLEASE REMEMBER TO TURN OFF THE HEATER! Along with all the other switches.

We're all another year older and hopefully wiser, so we keep on keeping on, doing our genealogy, and what ever other hobbies you have to pass the time away.

We will be holding more day classes over the next year, so look out for more information about them. And if there is a particular subject you would like to learn about let me, or any one on the committee know. We can only teach it if we know what it is that you want to learn.

Our Christmas celebration is coming up on Saturday 13 December – everyone is welcome, just bring something pot luck along to share. We will also be drawing the Christmas raffle then too. Oh and you can still drop things in to go in the raffle.

And don't forget we have our yearly cemetery visit on the evening of Tuesday 3 February. This year we are visiting Okato Cemetery, so hopefully the weather will cooperate and make it a lovely day for us to wander around and see who we can find.

Happy Christmas!

Gail Tanner
Society Chairperson

Citing Scotland's People



Documenting the sources of the information you gather for your research is an important part of genealogy. But it can be difficult to cite website sources, as these can change in naming and structure over time. The Scotland's People website is no exception.

For example, a search result from Scotland's People may look like this:

Scotland's People OPR Baptism: Margaret Irving
Parents Robert Irving and Margaret Graham
(FR148) F Date 25/09/1768 Parish No 814, Ref
20/4 Parish Canonbie.

The correct source citation for this is:

Scotland's People, Old Parish Registers, Baptisms, Canonbie parish, Dumfriesshire, 25 September 1768, Margaret Irving, daughter of Robert Irving and Margaret Graham; Parish no. 814, reference 20/4, frame FR148; digital image, General Register Office for Scotland, Edinburgh.

When you view an OPR record on Scotland's People, you'll often see codes like FR148 alongside the entry. This means:

- FR = Frame Reference
 - Scotland's People digitized the Old Parish Registers from microfilm.
 - FR148 means the entry for Margaret Irving's baptism is found on frame 148 of the Canonbie parish register film.
 - The minister in 1768 didn't write "FR148." That's purely a modern archival reference added during digitization.
- Why it matters:
 - If you want to double-check the original handwritten entry, the FR number helps you locate the exact image.
 - It's especially useful when multiple entries have similar names/ dates, since the FR number points to the precise page.
- Other codes in your record:
 - Parish 814: Canonbie parish in Dumfriesshire.
 - Ref 20/4: The register volume and page.
 - Date 25/09/1768: Baptism date.
 - Parents Robert Irving & Margaret Graham: the names recorded in the OPR.

Bill Irving

Christmas Raffle

1 ticket \$5.00 or 3 for \$7.00!

It's our big fundraiser for the year so please contribute and buy tickets!

Come along with more goodies for our Christmas raffle – tickets available for purchase at the rooms. Raffle still being added to as members bring along their donations.

There will be two draws – 1st and 2nd prize. This will be done at our Christmas luncheon on Saturday 13 December so come along then.

Donations to the raffle will be taken right up to the hour it will be won!!



Welcome to New Members

It is great to have even more people joining our society. Please watch out for our new members at the library or a meeting, and be sure that you make them feel welcome.



Those who have joined in the last few months are; Marion ADLAM, Karen FERGUSON, Philippa BERRY-SMITH, John and Elizabeth UTTING and Adrienne HICKEY.

NPDC Cemetery Search

The New Plymouth District Council provides an online database to search burial records in the district. This was recently changed to a new platform, with some changes to the search fields.

Initially the new system did not have the ability to search on plot number, but this has now been reinstated.

The new search page has only one field for name, whereas the previous search page had a field for first names and another field for surname. This is a problem if you are searching for a surname like FRANK or MARTIN, because the results are dominated by hits of first names.

Please let the council know if you think this should be restored to the functionality that was there previously.

Library Roster: Dec 2025 / Jan 2026

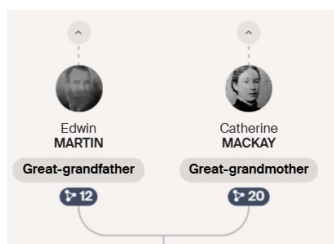
Monday 10 am to 12 noon
Saturday 10 am to 12 noon

Mon 1 Dec Charles Le Breton
Sat 6 Dec Karen Crowe
Mon 8 Dec Lorraine Austin
Sat 13 Dec Jeff Grange
Mon 15 Dec Annette Larsen
closed over Christmas / New Year
Sat 17 Jan Jeff Grange
Mon 19 Jan Graeme Jury
Sat 24 Jan Lea Bellini
Mon 26 Jan Sally Morch
Sat 31 Jan Liz & Grahame Bingham
Mon 2 Feb Charles Le Breton
Sat 7 Feb Karen Crowe

Facebook Group

Did you go and have a look for some other genealogy groups to join? Facebook can be incredibly helpful in guiding you with your genealogy research.

Many of the groups give out information related to areas of research or tools plus let us know of change to various genealogy websites. It was through Donna Rutherford that I learnt a day ago about the changes to Ancestry's ThruLines, and then today, it appeared for me when I logged in. Great to be able to hear about it and learn something from others.



Sharyn Guthrie

Christmas Lunch

Our final event for 2025 is Christmas lunch at the rooms on Saturday 13 December, 11:30 am for 12 noon.

It is bring your own / pot luck lunch.

The Christmas hamper raffle will be drawn at this lunch.

Internet Connection

The internet connection for our society rooms is generously sponsored by 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](https://www.primo.nz)

The Envelope Collection

Our library includes 5 drawers of newspaper articles and other information relating to local history. Typically these focus on a particular person, event or place from our history.

Check out this collection for any of your ancestors. Names are indexed in the TBI (which is on the research computers at our library).

Library News

Magazines received;

Who Do You Think You Are (Nov)

Newsletters received;

Balclutha, Canterbury, Dunedin, Feilding, Hawke's Bay, Hutt Valley, Kapiti, Matamata, Nelson, Otaki, Palmerston North, Papakura, Papamoa, Porirua, Riccarton, Wellington

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.