



NZSG New Plymouth Branch
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 Website <http://geocities.com/genealogynp/>



NZSG
 New Plymouth
 Branch

NUMBER 194

September 2006

CONVENOR: Annette Larsen Ph 758 3320
TREASURER: Lea Bellini Ph 758 0130
SECRETARY: John Pickering Ph 758 4952
COMMITTEE: Marilyn Armitstead, John Berntsen, Marilyn Reid, Marjorie McMahon,
 Judy Berntsen, Peter Wicky, Karen Crowe
EDITOR: Janice Goldsworthy Ph 753 6923; email janjon@info.gen.net.nz

Meetings: 1st Tuesday each month at the branch rooms, *Moturoa Shopping Centre*.
 Access from the Whiteley St car park.

The Branch Library is open free to all members and to visitors for a small charge.

Library Hours: Monday 10am to 3pm; Wednesday 12 noon to 3pm;
 Friday & Saturday 10am to 12 noon.

Next meeting:

- **September 5th 7.30pm:** *Bill MacNaught*, the new Manager of Puke Ariki will speak about his vision for Puke Ariki, the up coming Family Exhibition (which we expect to take part in) and his Scots background.



Coming up:

- **October:** *Peter Nash*, Executive Officer NZSG, will visit to speak about the society's resources including the NZ Gazette searchable index, which he will bring with him. This fantastic source has the official Government newspapers 1840-2004 on laptop which is fully searchable by surname and /or place.

Here you may find records/references on: official notices, railway, nurses, post masters, JPs, teachers, doctors, electricians, church ministers, gold mining, naturalizations, WWI & II call-ups, some land records, bankruptcies, deceased states, etc...

- **November:** A.G.M. & *Ray Watembach* 'Polish Settlers of Taranaki & European Research'

We are always looking for new committee members. This is your chance to put your own ideas forward or just to take a turn on the committee. The workload is pretty light and it's a friendly group. If you are interested, please let our convenor or a committee member know before the AGM.

- **December 5th:** Christmas Dinner at the RSA restaurant.

News: Welcome to our new members: *Kim Ferens* and *Reg. Williams*

Watch out for our new sign at the rooms! Thanks to Peter Wicky, our publicity officer.

August meeting: As in the past, this turned out to be an enjoyable evening. The ‘Genealogical Gems’ presented were varied and interesting.

June Whitehead got the evening off to a good start with her fascinating find – A World War 1 souvenir handkerchief she found in a local secondhand shop. June has made some enterprising efforts to find the history of this handkerchief and in the process has found that it is a pretty special item.

John Pickering then told us the entertaining story of his Aunty Maire – an eccentric character who had a very interesting life from being a flapper in 1920s London, Women’s Auxillary driver in WW11 to living in New Zealand where she still managed to be different by doing things like playing tunes on the water pipes in her apartment to being visited by Robert Muldoon for tea. One of those special relatives we all love to have!

Other members had personal research stories which highlighted some useful sources and resources.

Janice Goldsworthy had been able to obtain some helpful records for one of her relatives who was admitted to Porirua Mental Hospital in 1934 by writing to the Capital Health Board in Wellington.

Dawn Bowen made an important breakthrough with her English research through finding out about records for marriage licences that required payment bonds.

Karen Crowe talked about a good resource for immigration and shipping information – the ‘Appendices to the Journal of the House of Representatives’ which contain reports on ships and voyages. These are available on-line and in libraries.

Marjorie McMahon had made an unexpected contact with family through the ‘information wanted’ pages of the NZSG magazine.

Lea Bellini had been able to complete her mother’s story thanks to shipping lists and information on immigration found on the internet.

Marilyn Armitstead added some variety by showing some beautiful cross stitch samplers which she has made to record special family events.

John Pickering rounded off the evening by explaining his family link to John Lennon. We were all impressed!

Computer Group

The Computer Group meets at the branch rooms on the **third Sunday of each month**, excluding December and January at 1.30pm. There is a \$2.00 door charge. All welcome.

Convenor: John Berntsen; **Secretary:** Bruce Bellini; **Treasurer:** Lorraine Austin



Library news

Our library is getting better every day thanks to the hard work put in by Marilyn and her helpers. The range of resources is growing all the time and everything is beautifully cataloged and organised.



If you haven't checked it out lately, take the time to do so. You'll be pleasantly surprised – and you don't have to have Taranaki family to find it useful.

Newsletters received this month from Stratford, Palmerston North, Matamata, Wanganui, Wairarapa, Wellington NZSG branches and North East England Interest Group, Southern England & East Anglia Interest Group of NZSG.

Internet sources.

Are members aware that in the Research Room upstairs at Puke Ariki the website for *Papers Past* is free for people to access on the library computer, which is on broadband?

Papers Past showcases selected 19th century New Zealand newspapers and periodicals. The site currently contains digital images of over one million pages from 41 publications.

www.paperspast.natlib.govt.nz

Without broadband at home, newspapers on *Papers Past* take ages to download, making it problematic. However, it's a good idea to check out the site at home to see what old newspapers are available online. Also there is a magnifying glass function which makes it much easier to read the pages.

Annette Larsen

FAMILY HISTORY CENTRE

322 Mangorei Rd
Phone 06 758 9646

Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 9am –12.pm; Wednesday 1pm – 3pm;
Saturday 1pm - 4pm *Except* when closed THIRD SATURDAY each month

Closed evenings



Hawera Branch is hosting the ***Irish Interest Group*** (Lower Nth Is.) for a Research Day on Saturday 16th September, 2006, 9.30 am till 4 pm at Methodist Church Hall, Regent St, Hawera.

- Entry - \$5
- Bring your lunch. Tea and coffee available.

Further information: contact Jill Williams; 06-278 4291 (day); 06- 278-4292 (nights)
peter.williams@xtra.co.nz



NEWS FROM NZSG



Digital Archive for Family History

The Ted Gilberd Literary Trust set up a committee to develop a Digital Archive for Family History in which researchers can archive their research. An index would be developed and through this access to the researcher and/or the research would be possible.

The committee has developed the framework and gave a presentation to Conference which was well received. It is at the stage of final fine tuning and the Ted Gilberd Literary Trust offered it to the Society. Council accepted the offer and this will become another of our Collections. An archivist will be appointed (a volunteer) and the fine tuning process completed. Another presentation will take place at Conference next year.

New Website

Council was given a presentation of the new website. The first stage is rearranging what we have and the provision of e-commerce which will allow members to pay subscriptions, purchase publications, pay for services etc on line. The committee is aiming for launch date in September.

from *Keeping in Touch*, August 2006

Found on Headstones

Henry Edsel Smith of Albany, New York
Born 1903 – Died 1942
Looked up the elevator shaft
to see if the car was on the way down
It was.

In a Silver City, Nevada cemetery
Here lays the Kid
We planted him raw
He was quick on the trigger
But slow on the draw.

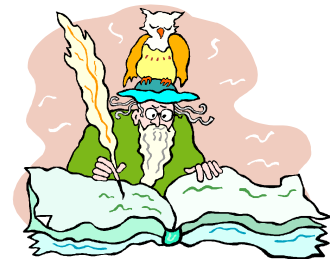
Contributed by Anne Houghton

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### **Projects**

Many thanks to those people helping with indexing, checking etc.  
There are still several projects in progress. Help is always needed.

Contact **Marilyn Reid** - Phone 758 6930, if you can help in any way.



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*Contributions from members are always welcome for this newsletter.*  
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