



NZSG New Plymouth Branch
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NZSG
New Plymouth
Branch

NUMBER 199

March 2007

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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, Michael Butler.
EDITOR: Janice Goldsworthy email janjon@infoegenet.nz

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

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.

Please note: The library will be closed on Monday 12th March, Anniversary Day.

Next meeting: Tuesday 6th March: 7.30pm: *UK Trips and Research*
 John Pickering & Michael Butler will talk about their recent trips to the UK which naturally involved lots of research and interesting experiences.



Coming up:

March Saturday 24th: 2 - 4.30pm: Research Day - *Peter Nash* bringing the NZ Gazette again on his laptop - a good opportunity for people who didn't attend his meeting in 2006. He will also bring assorted CD Roms, microfiche etc from the NZSG resources.
 If members want anything specific brought by Peter, let Annette know in plenty of time.
 \$2 door charge

Sunday 25th: NZSG Regional Meeting 11a.m. There will be the usual shared lunch.
 Both meetings will happen at our Branch rooms in Moturoa.

April No monthly meeting.
 Saturday 28th: Scottish Interest Group of the NZSG with resources for Scottish research.

May Tuesday 1st: Ancestry.com

June Sunday 10th: Post conference speaker, Else Churchill, from the Society of Genealogists in London.

News: The course for beginners in genealogy which began on 26th February is going well, thanks to the hard work of Michael Butler and committee members. About 30 people are attending, so the course is being held on two nights a week.

The good attendance at this course is mainly a result of the work put in by our members at the Family exhibition at Puke Ariki. The exhibition runs until mid March.

February meeting: Historic Walk around New Plymouth.

Walkers gathered outside Puke Ariki on a beautiful evening on Waitangi Day. The first keen party was soon off following their guide.

The walk covers the time period of 1850 to 1870 and looks mainly at the settlement of New Plymouth town. Beginning by the river at Puke Ariki, we learnt about the basin formed by the river mouth there and how the early settlers had to be brought ashore in small boats from the ships they arrived on.



Then we walked around the inner city seeing the remains of the forts that once defended the town and the flour mills that helped feed the people. Our guide added stories about pickets who died of the cold on sentry duty and Maori who sneaked in through the defences to ‘borrow’ flour from the mills.

She also pointed out the buildings designed by such well known architects as Bates and Messenger as we wended our way around the streets. We heard about New Plymouth’s highwayman and the mud that early settlers had to cope with in Devon St.

St Mary’s church and graveyard was on the route and then we climbed Marsland Hill to hear about the military settlers. By the time we were making our way down Redcoat Lane, it was easy to imagine what life was like in those days in New Plymouth. You could picture soldiers coming down into town; officers on horses with the men marching in their red uniforms and the people crowding into town when war threatened.

Something different for our monthly meeting, which was very much enjoyed by the people who took part.

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



HAVE YOU PAID YOUR SUBS YET?

Download the renewal form from our website at <http://www.genealogynp.com>

NZSG news



The NZSG has recently formalised some reciprocal agreements with a number of the major Australian genealogical societies.

This means that our members in New Zealand can now visit these societies and are able to use their facilities in almost the same way as their members do.

The societies this applies to are:

- Tasmanian Family History Society
- The Genealogical society of Victoria
- The Heraldry & Genealogical Society of Canberra
- South Australian Genealogical & Heraldry Society
- West Australian Genealogical Society
- Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies
- Genealogical Society of the Northern Territory

(See the latest magazine for details of how to make use of this service.)

(Adapted from *The New Zealand Genealogist*, January/February 2007)



FAMILY HISTORY CENTRE
322 Mangorei Rd, Phone 06 758 9646

Anyone wanting to order films from the Family History Centre is asked to ring Joy Okey on 7534831 to arrange a time, so that she can open up for you. At present the Family History Centre is not open, but when films come in you will be rung and then you can arrange a time to read them.

Any queries please ring Judy Berntsen on 7539188

HELP SOUGHT ON SETTLER LIST.



The Nelson 2000 Trust is asking for public help in checking the names and details of the European settlers who arrived in Nelson on the first ships from 1841 – 1850.

The Nelson Mail has recently published a supplement which included passenger manifests containing names, ages and occupations of those who arrived on those 58 ships. The supplement was a chance for descendants to check the information before it was carved on a memorial at Wakefield Quay.

The Trust hopes relatives will be able to help fill in some of the gaps in the list.

“Some of the most valuable feedback on these early settlers is descendants giving us accurate spelling of names, adding names that were missing and filling in the names from initials”, said the Trust’s chairman, Kent Robertson. *Contributed by Felicity Edwards*

‘Government out to counter identity fraudsters’

The Government is clamping down on access to birth, death and marriage certificates to try to make identity fraud more difficult. The Births, Deaths, Marriages and Relationships Amendment Bill tabled in Parliament yesterday restricts public access to certificates.

At the moment any member of the public can obtain the registered information of virtually anyone else and the Government is anticipating that family historians and genealogists will be unhappy with the proposals.

Under the bill's provisions a person would be able to access his or her own birth records, those of an immediate family member, or someone born more than 100 years ago. But for anyone else's details, authorization would be needed from the person concerned.

Special provisions allow the police, the Security Intelligence Service and other officials to access the records.

The proposed tighter controls follow concerns about the ease of access to official records and how that might aid identity fraud. The bill's commentary notes that the changes would enhance privacy and make it more difficult for certain types of identity fraud to be committed.

People would no longer be able to order certificates over the telephone, and the price of the documents is likely to be increased. The bill's notes say that the restrictions "will impact on family historians and genealogists, and are likely to be contentious". At present these groups buy most of the printouts obtained from the registers.

Provisions to protect the identities of police officers, witnesses, and people associated with the SIS are also contained in the bill.

It allows the Registrar-General, with ministerial approval, to create completely new identity information.

The bill also proposes an information-matching programme to help record the 6000 or so births that are not registered each year. The Registrar-General would be able to obtain address information for a child's mother from the Ministry of Social Development.

Penalties for offences will also be increased.

from New Zealand Herald, Thursday February 22, 2007 (contributed by Peter Hewitt)

Reminder!! NZSG CONFERENCE Wellington - Queens Birthday Weekend 2007.

If you are not yet an NZSG member you can still attend the conference.
Download the conference registration form on the website at www.genealogy.org.nz

Contributions from members are always welcome for this newsletter.
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