



NZSG New Plymouth Branch  
P.O. Box 429, New Plymouth, New Zealand  
Email [newplymouth@genealogy.org.nz](mailto:newplymouth@genealogy.org.nz)  
Website <http://www.genealogynp.com>



NZSG  
New Plymouth  
Branch

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NUMBER 204

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**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, Michael Butler.  
**EDITOR:** Janice Goldsworthy email [janjon@infofenet.net.nz](mailto:janjon@infofenet.net.nz)

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**Meetings:** 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

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**Next meeting:**

**August 7<sup>th</sup>** 7.30pm *Mike Nightingale* on 'Recording Oral History'.  
A very important topic for all genealogists.

Learn how to go about interviewing relatives and others who may have knowledge about your family that you would never learn otherwise.

**Coming up:**

**September 4<sup>th</sup>** 4<sup>th</sup> *Ocean Reeves* from Zenith Publishing.

**October 2<sup>nd</sup>** *Bill Irving:* DNA testing and *Des McMahon*.

**November 6<sup>th</sup>** AGM and Fun Quiz night

**December 4<sup>th</sup>** Xmas function at the RSA

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Contributions from members are always welcome for this newsletter.  
Janice Goldsworthy, Editor; email [janjon@infofenet.net.nz](mailto:janjon@infofenet.net.nz)

**News:** Welcome to our new members: *David Wilkinson* and *Terri Barker*.

**July meeting:** Ron Lambert from Puke Ariki spoke to us about dating old photos. He began by outlining the history of photography which began in the 1830s.



If you know about the different techniques which were used in different eras it becomes easier to date your photos. If, for instance, you have an Ambrotype the photo was probably taken around 1860.

Other clues come from clothing fashions, especially women's. Men's clothing can be more difficult to date. Backdrops reveal time periods too. Some photographers used distinctive furniture and props like plant stands.

Military uniforms can be easier to date. WW1 uniforms are easier to identify than those for WW2 which had fewer identifying marks.

Those present were able to show their own photos to Ron to have dated.

There are some good books available and the internet has some helpful sites including:

<http://www.cartes.freeuk.com/time/date.htm>

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### ***Projects***

Several projects are underway. BDM's are continuous and if anyone can help in any way with inputting or checking it would be much appreciated.

NP Girls High School Records are still being recorded - 3 Registers have been completed, Register 4 is currently being worked on and we have just collected Register 5 (the final register).



NP Boys High School Records are still being inputted and hopefully all records up to 1960 will be completed by the end of the year.

If anyone can help please contact: Marilyn Reid Ph: (06) 758 6930.

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### ***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



**Headstone inscription** found while searching in St Patrick's Catholic Cemetery, Parramatta, New South Wales (a sadly neglected historic cemetery from the early days of settlement).

A poignant message, with a strong sense of eternal "curse" .....

*Sacred to the Memory of Samuel Barley*

*Son of Samuel and Mary Barley*

*Who was Unfortunately Drowned in a Well on his Parents Premises the 25 Day of October 1834*

*Aged 3 Years and 7 months*

*The Well having been left uncovered By a careless Female servant who had Charge of the Unfortunate Infant who was a Beautiful Promising Child*

*Contributed by Robyn Woller*

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### **Reward your painstaking work by publishing it!**

. . . the New Plymouth Genealogy Branch, and anyone at all interested in books, is invited to a presentation in New Plymouth at 7pm, Thursday, Aug 16 at the Lecture Theatre, at WITT (Polytechnic), Hendrie St, off Hobson St. The presentation is part of **Zenith Publishing's** build-up to NZ Book Month in September and seeks to foster interest in the writing/publishing environment.

**Zenith Publishing Group Ltd**, well-established New Plymouth publishers and printers, have responded to difficulties being faced by writers by developing a website community to help writers through some of the hurdles in getting into print.

[www.publishme.co.nz](http://www.publishme.co.nz) offers a structured process to assist authors become self-publishers, from planning their writing through to selling their book. It provides the writer with skilled assistance along the way, with editors, proofreaders, designers, printers and other publishing expertise directly available. PublishMe is all about authors keeping control of the project and taking advantage of collaboration with experts when a specialist skill is required.

So do check out the website for [www.publishme.co.nz](http://www.publishme.co.nz). You can enrol for free right now . . . then come along to the WITT Lecture Theatre presentation on August 16 and hear how we can help make the publishing process a very satisfying and exciting experience.

Ocean Reeve, who will conduct the presentation, also coordinates the day-to-day operation of the website and is happy to answer questions that you might have regarding the publishing process. He is available on 0800 293 648.

**Note: Ocean Reeve will be speaking to our group in September.**

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***Genealogy is not fatal, but it is a grave disease***

## Aussie convict history register goes online

**Australian Prime Minister John Howard and opposition leader Kevin Rudd share something in common – both have a convict ancestry.**

As a federal election looms and the nation's political leaders attempt to differentiate themselves, an ancestry website revealed that the prime minister and the opposition leader both have ancestors who arrived on Australia's shores in chains.



Mr Howard and Mr Rudd are part of an estimated 22 per cent of the Australian population who have a distant relative with a criminal past. They and other Australians will now be able to trawl through the records of most of the 163,000 convicts who arrived in Australia from England, Ireland and Scotland thanks to a new collection of records which has been launched on the ancestry website [Ancestry.com.au](http://Ancestry.com.au).

The comprehensive collection of convict transportation records spans 80 years between 1788 and 1868.

Pre-census records have also been uploaded, including the NSW and Tasmania Convict Pardons and tickets of leave 1834-1859.

Managing director of [Ancestry.com.au](http://Ancestry.com.au), Josh Hanna, said the collection brought together parts of the convict transport list which had only been available in various state libraries and archives. "Murderers, pirates, money swindlers and handkerchief thieves are all listed in detail in this colourful and important collection which reveals as much about how meticulous the British were in their record keeping as it does about those sent to serve out their sentence in Australia," Mr Hanna said.

The collection contains four transport registers spanning 80 years of convict settlement and includes some of Australia's most well known convicts such as Red Kelly, Ned Kelly's father. Registers contain the convict's name, date, place of conviction, term of sentence, name of ship, departure date, colony to which they were sent and some include the person's occupation, physical description and religion.

The website says almost three quarters of the male and female convicts who arrived in Australia had no prior convictions. Seventy per cent of the convicts were English, 24 per cent were Irish, five per cent were Scottish and one per cent came from other parts of the Empire. Most of the convicts were illiterate and were convicted for crimes of poverty (theft).

**Contributed by Michael Butler**

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### ***FAMILY HISTORY CENTRE***

322 Mangorei Rd, New Plymouth

Phone 06 758 9646

Open **Tuesdays** 12.30 pm to 3pm and **Thursdays** 12.30pm to 3pm.

**Weekends:** ring Joy Okey on 7534831 to arrange a time, so that she can open up for you.

