



NZSG New Plymouth Branch
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**NZSG
 New Plymouth
 Branch**

NUMBER 208

DECEMBER 2007

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,
 Mike Merrick, Elly Harrison
EDITOR: Peter Wicky; email, wicky.family@ihug.co.nz

Meetings: 1st Tuesday each month at the branch rooms, *Moturoa Shopping Centre*.
 Access is 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.

**Note: The Branch Library will close Friday December 14th & reopen
 Monday January 14th.**



Next meeting: Tuesday December 4th: Christmas Dinner at the RSA Restaurant Strandon.

A Reminder to all those who have registered with Annette for RSA Xmas dinner.
 Tuesday 4th December. Please try and be there by 6.45pm if possible.
 Price looks like \$22.50 per head for buffet dinner.

Coming up next year:

February 5th: Des McMahon will talk about compiling the history of his family's 100 year old villa in Westown.

March 4th Skeletons, Black Sheep and Heirlooms night.

Computer Group

The Computer Group is in recess during the holiday period. The next meeting will be on Sunday 17th February 2008 at 1.30pm in the branch rooms. There is a \$2.00 door charge. All welcome.

Convenor: John Berntsen; **Secretary:** Bruce Bellini



November Meeting: - The **38th Annual General Meeting** of the Branch was held on the 6th November 2007

Our Convenor, Annette Larsen gave her report for the 2007 year. She said that the year had been a busy one and she thanked the Committee and duty roster members for their contributions. She thanked Janice Goldsworthy for producing the monthly newsletter of the Branch over the past four years. Janice was not standing for re-election. Annette indicated that she would be stepping down as Convenor in 2008.

Membership had remained relatively stable during the year with a total of 115. There had been a gain of 17 new members but a net loss of 3.

A new lease of the Branch rooms until 2013 had been successfully negotiated with a minimal 5% increase in rent.

A feature of the year was the series of three training courses run by Michael Butler with the help of members of the Committee. These were very successful and generated new members. Annette expressed her thanks to Michael on behalf of the Branch.

The Branch's programme during the year had been varied and interesting. Two visiting speakers – Margaret Poole on Scottish Interests and Else Churchill on UK research had presented Research days which were well attended. In addition local speakers including Ron Lambert, Ocean Reeve, Bill Irving, Michael Butler and John Pickering gave talks during the year. On Waitangi Day a walk around New Plymouth's historic areas proved a highlight.

It was pleasing that the Branch members were able to take part so fully in the three month long Family History Exhibition run by Puke Ariki over the summer.

Members from the Branch had set up a promotional and information display at the Hawera Branch's Open Day in September.

It was gratifying to see that the indexing of the NP Boys' High School attendance records to 1959 had almost been completed with over 10,000 entries. Permission to index the records of Sacred Heart College had been received and indexing at NPGHS was continuing. The TBI continued to grow as does the Branch's collection of newspaper cuttings.

A number of concerns had arisen during the year including proposed legislation restricting access to BDM records, changes in NZSG's status as a charitable organization with effects on the start of the financial year and NZSG membership.

Annette finished by appealing for greater participation by members in helping the Committee and Branch projects.

Branch Committee for 2008

Annette Larsen, (Convenor), John Pickering, (Secretary & Fundraising Coordinator), Lea Bellini, (Treasurer), Marilyn Armitstead, (Librarian), John Berntsen, (Research Officer, Asset Inventory & Computers), Judy Berntsen, (Membership Secretary), Michael Butler (Education), Karen Crowe, (Speaker liaison & Meeting host), Elly Harrison, (Publicity), Marjorie McMahon, (Raffles Coordinator & Supper host), Mike Merrick, Marilyn Reid, (Projects & Research Coordinator), Peter Wicky, (Newsletter Editor)

Library News

. Did you know that we have a very good collection of maps? Some of them are very detailed. I would like to make these easier to access by adding records of these to the Library Computer Database (*Athenaeum*).



I also plan to add the Titles and Subject Headings for the magazines.

I would encourage all members to explore the Library Computer Database to discover these and other special items in our library collection.

Marilyn Armitstead, Librarian

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.



Use of Digital Cameras at Archives

Archives New Zealand is now permitting researchers to use personal cameras e.g. digital or video cameras or mobile phone cameras to take copies of archival records in Archives New Zealand's reading rooms in Wellington, Auckland, Christchurch and Dunedin.

You must register with Reading Room desk staff. You will need to sign a Request for Permission to use Personal Cameras form, agreeing to observe the conditions of your digital copying access permission. You will need to register separately at each of the Archives New Zealand offices where you wish to copy records Each office has documents available explaining the policy and there is also a link on the Archives New Zealand homepage www.archives.govt.nz. (from Canterbury NZSG Newsletter)

Projects

BDM's and other indexes are continuously being added to the TBI.

NP Boys High School records are nearing completion. Records up until 1960 so far total 11,322

NP Girls High School records are still being indexed.

Once again a big thank-you to the members that have been helping with projects during the year.

Marilyn Reid, Projects Officer

Welcome – to our latest new member Betty Naumann of New Plymouth.

For members with Scottish Interests



Ancestry.co.uk have announced the launch of their Perth and Fife newspaper indexes available now on line and enabling you to tap into 150 years of local history in these areas.

Key name and event information chosen from millions of pages of 22 local papers across Perthshire and Fife, allow family history researchers to delve into the history of the two areas on line.

Perth's collection dates from 1809 to 1909 and includes details from the Perthshire Advertiser, the Perthshire Courier and Strathearn Herald, all indexed by the AK Bell Library in Perth.

The Fife collection, indexed by the Cupar Library in Fife consists of 200,000 records taken from newspapers including the Dundee Courier and the Fife Herald News dating from 1833 to 1987.

The two collections contain a wealth of details of births, deaths, retrials, wedding anniversaries, personal achievements and personal tragedies, as well as information on historical events, probate and legal notices, business advertisements and local news.

The collections are searchable by a person's name, event type, event place and date of newspaper, including the page number. This information can be also used to order back copies of relevant papers from the libraries. (Thank you to Michael Butler who sourced the original article)

On the Shelves – Book review: Find Your Family on the Internet by Ros Henry, Longacre Press 2005.

Many of us are faced with the fact that at some time within the last 200 years our ancestors arrived here in New Zealand and if we wish to extend our knowledge of our family history we inevitably have to progress to research in other countries. The problem often is one of not knowing what resources are available and where.

Written from a New Zealand perspective Ros Henry's book provides a wealth of information about the 'what and where' of New Zealand and overseas resources which are available to the researcher including web sites and search engines. All the major international sites are covered including Family Search and Ancestry as well as others such as Rootschat.

Particularly good is the section on researching censuses. The author provides valuable guidance in extracting information and avoiding pitfalls such as assuming that ages and relationships stated are necessarily correct.

Websites and addresses for archives and repositories in England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, the United States and Canada are provided with useful information about accessing and costs.

Find Your Family on the Internet is written in an appealing way from the author's personal experiences – no dry dust here! Small snippets of information quotes and humour are contained in a side column on each page. This is a useful resource for all family historians and is available at our Branch library.

A few Chestnuts off the Web

Old genealogists never die, they just lose their census.

Genealogists live in the past lane

Only a genealogist regards a step backward as progress

**Contributions from members for the Newsletter are welcomed. Deadline - last Wednesday of each month; email contributions to wicky.family@ihug.co.nz
Peter Wicky, Editor.**