

NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 240

November 2010

Convenor: Annette Larsen 758 3320
Secretary: Fay Eaton 751 1045
Treasurer: John Berntsen 753 9188

New Plymouth Branch
PO Box 429
New Plymouth 4340

Committee: Judy Berntsen
Bev Mulqueen
Charles Le Breton

Meetings: 7:30 pm, first Tuesday each month
at branch rooms, Moturoa Shopping Centre
access off Whiteley Street carpark

Email: newplymouth@genealogy.org.nz
Website: www.genealogynp.com

Branch Library: Open free to members. A small charge to visitors.

Opening Hours: Monday: 10am to 3pm:
Wednesday: 12 noon to 3pm
Friday & Saturday: 10am to 12 noon

Computer Group: every third Sunday every 2nd month at 1:30pm at the Branch Rooms
Open to anyone - \$2 door charge. Convenor – Bruce Bellini

Christmas 2010



This year, our branch Christmas celebrations will be a pot luck dinner at the branch rooms.

BYO plates, cutlery, drinks.
Also bring your spouse / partner!

Date: Sunday 5 December 2010

Time: 6:00 for 6:30 pm.

Next Meeting: 7:30pm Tuesday 2 Nov 2010

Researching in England

The next branch meeting is the last one for 2010, and we have two branch members talking about interesting genealogy aspects of their recent trips to the UK.

Cela Beale will explain her experiences with county registry offices in Devon.

John Pickering will talk about his time in the public records office at Kew and the Train Museum. John also has a few gems from PapersPast.



Last Meeting – Tuesday 5 October 2010

Australian Research

.At the October meeting I gave a talk on using newspapers in genealogy, in particular the old Australian newspapers (1803 – 1954) found at

www.newspapers.nla.gov.au

All States are represented, with NSW, Victoria and West Australia having particularly good coverage. The latest year available on this site is 1954. Like New Zealand's Paperspast, site it is a work in progress, with more newspaper copy being digitised regularly. Always go back to sites you have not looked at for a while as there may be new additions.

The Sydney Morning Herald and the Argus (Melbourne) go to about 1954. The West Australian (Perth) goes to about 1936 and the Western Mail (Perth) about 1940.

The site is searchable by TITLE, STATE, or DATE. The advanced search works really well for eliminating some of the unwanted hits you may get.

These Australian newspapers online have helped me add the next generation to some of the family lines and to find names of spouses, find pet-names that people have gone under, and generally put flesh on the bones of these ancestors.

Ancestry.com.au The other resource I found invaluable was Ancestry with its Australian birth, death and marriage indexes, electoral rolls and cemetery index. We are lucky in New Plymouth to be able to use this resource for free at the Puke Ariki Research Centre.

Once you have put the name into the SEARCH box, it will tell you what hits there are in all the databases. This can be very useful. Use REFINE SEARCH. You may need to spend some time finding your way round the Ancestry site.

Birth Index (1788-1922): patchy. No West Australian births. May contain: Reg. or birth year; Parents names (mainly NSW that has parents' names); Reg. or birth location.

Marriage Index (1788-1949): Year and place but not always spouse. NSW –spouses given. Other states not.

Death Index (1787- 1985) May contain: Age, Death place, Father's name, Mother's name,

Registration year and place, Registration number.

Cemetery Index (1808-2007) Patchy. No West Australian or Nthn Territory records. But NSW, Qnsland, Sth Australia, Tasmania and Victoria are represented. Sometimes you find the birth date as well as the death date. Get the cemetery location and age of deceased.

Other Online indexes I used

1) www.coraweb.com.au/index.htm - an Australian Gateway Site for Tracing your Family. Very useful site!

2) West Australia online indexes – www.dotag.wa.gov.au A free online index. Births (1841 – 1932); deaths (1841 – 1965); marriages (1841 – 1936)

3) Perth cemeteries online –Metropolitan Cemeteries Board - www.mcb.wa.gov.au Generally get age at death, year of death, suburb, grave location,(or whether cremated), religion. Also the grantee. This is often a close relative and this info is helpful for verifying you have the right person. It may also help locate another link for your tree.

4) NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages - Historical Indexes www.nsw.gov.au Births (1788 – 1909); Deaths (1788 – 1979); Marriages (1788 -1959)

5) NSW State Records www.records.nsw.gov.au A huge number of searchable online indexes and well worth a look. Some of the indexes are being updated progressively. I enjoyed having a look at the Divorce Index which is searchable from 1873 to 1923.

6) Coburg cemetery database – www.fcmp.com.au

7) Public Record Office of Victoria (PROV)– some online indexes; www.prov.vic.gov.au

GENERAL TIPS FROM MY TALK

1. Go that extra bit further –Google for extra info.
2. Try and have several sources (3 is good) to support each fact where possible before advancing. Test out theories, family stories and inferences thoroughly, before accepting!!
3. Value of my NZSG index, Version 5.
4. Use charts and time-lines. I find they help



me see things more clearly as well as clearly showing where my gaps are.

5. Follow up by writing to NZSG branches for more info and give a donation for their effort.
6. I printed out an Individual Report from my Family Tree Maker programme and find this again helps me see at a glance where I'm at. (Find keeping the info in chronological order helps.) If you have a computer programme for your genealogy, do check out what it can do as regards charts etc.

Happy hunting!

Annette Larsen.

From the Convenor's Desk

- I have had a very frustrating time with my genealogy lately. A member of "Genesreunited" sent me a message, saying I had a big mistake in the family tree I have on the "Genes" site. So, back to the drawing board I have gone, to check it. It's been a headache! Seems there were two John Baldwins born in Kent in 1813 and there seems to be a lot of confusion in various trees I have looked at.
- One of the things that has come out of this is a reminder that we all need to document our sources well, so that, further down the track, we are very clear where our facts came from. Interestingly, in the course of this rechecking of my facts, I checked the LDS church IGI microfiche we have in our Branch library and discovered entries that are not on their current website. So, do use these microfiche we have. Not everything is found on your home computer! We have recently been gifted with a huge number of LDS church microfiche for many countries. They are mostly now in the cabinet at the back of the library. Work is still being done on these to label them etc.
- Thank you, Bruce Mackay for the donation of a monitor for our recently donated computer. It is received with appreciation.

Annette Larsen

Lady Teviot is coming!

Put this date in your diaries: **12 Feb 2011**

As part of her speaking tour of the North Island, Lady Teviot, President of the UK Family History Societies, will be speaking at our New Plymouth Branch rooms on Saturday 12 February, 2011.

The topics of this accomplished speaker will be advised soon. She will give one talk in the morning and one in the afternoon, with a finger food pot luck luncheon in between.

Members of other Taranaki Branches are warmly invited to this special get-together.

Kapiti: Legacy Workshop

Saturday 27 November 2010

The Kapiti Legacy Users Group is holding a one day workshop with Jan Gow, one of the leaders of the genealogy business in NZ.

Places are limited, so please book by 9 November 2010.

Email: lindsay.olsen@xtra.co.nz

NZ Genealogy Blog

Auckland genealogist Lyn Dear has an active weblog on matters of interest to New Zealand genealogists. Check it out at

genealogy-new-zealand.blogspot.com

NZSG Family History Fair 2010

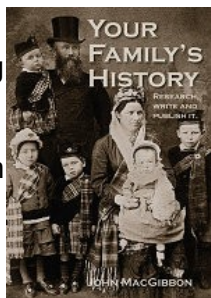
A CD has been prepared of recordings and slides of presentations at this year's family history fair in Hamilton. Annette has a copy of this CD, so please contact her if you wish to view these.



Book: Your Family's History

John MacGibbon has written a new book on researching, writing and publishing your family history. This is based on his lectures at the National Library in 2009.

The book costs NZ\$15 plus postage, and is available from the website.



www.ngaiopress.com/familyhistory.htm

UKBMD Indexes



[Cumbria](#) has recently joined the UKBMD group of family history and genealogy websites. There are about 40 family history societies compiling indexes of records in their areas. Records indexed to date are able to be searched online. You will still need to request copies of original certificates from the registering authorities.

www.ukbmd.org.uk

Also check out the parish clerks online site;

www.onlineparishclerks.org.uk

Gisborne Cemeteries Database

The Gisborne District Council has recently improved the online database with 23,000 burial records for the Taruheru Cemetery.

www.gdc.govt.nz/online-cemetery-record-search

You can also check out the CCC's list of NZ cemetery databases.

christchurchcitylibraries.com/Resources/NewZealand/History/FamilyHistory/Cemeteries

Boer War Records Online

Findmypast.co.uk has published over 260,000 records from the second Boer war, 1899-1902. This includes records for 59,000 casualties.

www.findmypast.co.uk

Manchester Records to go online

Manchester Archives has awarded a contract to findmypast.co.uk to digitise 8 million cemetery and institutional records over the next two years.

Records will be available at any City of Manchester library. An index search will be available on FamilySearch.org and image scans will be available through findmypast.co.uk.

TSB Trust Grant

The TSB Trust has generously granted \$350 to our branch to support branch costs. This grant is very much appreciated.



Library News

Recent magazines (with CD);
Practical Family History (Nov).



Newsletters received;
September: Waitara

October: Canterbury, Hutt Valley, Motueka

New book: *More Taranaki Talk*, a collection of stories edited by Alison Robinson 2007.

Computer Group

The next computer group meeting is at 1:30 pm, Sunday 21 November, at the branch rooms.



Newsletter

If you have any comments or suggestions for the newsletter, please contact Peter Hewett at peter.hewett@gmail.com.

