

# NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 243

March 2011

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

**Committee:** Judy Berntsen  
Bev Mulqueen  
Charles Le Breton

New Plymouth Branch  
PO Box 429  
New Plymouth 4340

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

**Email:** [newplymouth@genealogy.org.nz](mailto:newplymouth@genealogy.org.nz)  
**Website:** [www.genealogynp.com](http://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

## Christchurch Earthquake

The most important thing in life is family. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the people of Christchurch who have been so tragically affected by the recent earthquake. New Zealand is such a small country and it seems everyone I've talked to since the quake knows someone in Christchurch. This disaster has touched us all and we grieve with you.

And sincere thanks to everyone who has helped through volunteering, donating and contributing in other ways.

Next meeting: 7:30pm Tues 1 March 2011

**FamNet**

FamNet is a family history network made for New Zealand genealogists. With over 14 million people in its databases, it is the largest collection of New Zealand family trees available.

Sue Greene will explain more about FamNet and how it can really help your research.

[www.famnet.org.nz](http://www.famnet.org.nz)



## **Last Meeting** – Tuesday 1 February 2011

At our February meeting, Elly Harrison spoke on genealogy from published sources and gave us a small insight into the amazing chart she has produced of her pedigree, which comprises Dutch, French, English, Irish and German ancestry! Elly has charted 13 generations going back to around 1652 at the Cape, South Africa.

She spoke of the shortcut of using published genealogies, and cautioned about using other people's work, if sources don't seem reliable. Sources touched on were lists eg. of pioneers, family trees, heraldry / coats of arms, Who's who, dictionaries of National Biographies, street /place names, family histories. Elly noted the variety of family histories and their styles (some being fictional), but said they were worth looking at.

Also touched on were published pedigrees, surname studies eg. Ireland, the Armorial de France. Most countries have something. Around the Hitler era Germans were creating trees to show no Jewish ancestor. Elly also mentioned Burkes Peerage (UK) and Debretts, and The Genealogist's Guide (in our Branch library), Barrow, Whitmore and Marshall.

The subject of the Internet was covered. People often incorporate published material into their own. You need to know your source and how reliable it is likely to be.

### Elly's story –South Africa

It was interesting to hear about the amount of South African material available for genealogists and the books putting family stories together (now on CD). Elly showed us 2 of the 17 published volumes of South African Genealogies. The Genealogical Institute of South Africa has made it their project.

Elly also used De Villiers, Vol. 1 and 2 on the early Afrikaans Cape families.

Elly talked of the Dutch East India Company and the early slave trade. She has traced her ancestry back to a slave woman from Bengal.

There were interesting facts about various ancestors eg. the woman whose various husbands had tragic deaths, one of whom was eaten by a lion and one trampled by an elephant. There was the ancestor who was attributed to

have brought the disease, porphyria, to South Africa. Michael Butler told us sufferers from this disease were linked to the werewolf myth.

Thank you, Elly, for sharing your research with us.

Annette Larsen

## **From the Convenor's Desk**

At Christmas I was absolutely delighted to receive from my sister a book called "Point Chevalier Memories, 1930s – 1950s. Point Chevalier in Auckland is where I grew up in the 1950s and 1960s, so I really enjoyed reading this book, compiled by the Point Chevalier Historical Society. It is a collection of short essays, written by people who grew up in Point during those years. Some are short reminiscences, others much longer. In a book such as this there is inevitably a lot of repetition, but this doesn't matter. The pieces jogged my memory of my childhood and inspired me again to think about writing something down (for posterity!) on my own childhood. Have you written your story down yet? Or will you simply leave behind a family history comprising other family members and distant ancestors?

Our branch library has a number of helpful books to get you started on your own story. Also Puke Ariki is useful here. The beauty of computers is you can start to write and just add to the story from time to time as new memories come to mind. Just jump in anywhere on your reminiscences, and have some fun. You can organise them at a later date into some sort of order. Maybe you want to be a bit creative and scrapbook your childhood photos and memories. Happy writing!

Speaking of yesteryear, our big project for the year will be the big task of indexing of the Photo News. We have a full set in our library and it will be a huge benefit to genealogists, past and present, to have an index for them. Raewyn Evans has been working on this project for some time and Syd Beale hopes to help when he has finished the Spotswood College project. Thank you to you both for your effort and a thank you to all others involved in our projects. If anyone else would like to help with projects, please contact Marilyn Reid or a committee member.

On another note. The committee are seriously considering reducing soon the opening hours of



our library as we have not enough manpower for the roster and we feel the library is not being used sufficiently to warrant all the hours it is open. Suggestion is to drop the Friday hours. Contact a committee member if you have a concern about this. It has long been a cause of concern and the subject of much discussion.

Finally, have you thought about standing for committee at the upcoming AGM? Talk to any of our present committee about it. We would love to discuss it with you.

Annette Larsen

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### Troubles with Xtra

Some branch members have reported difficulties with Xtra.

Sometimes it appears that the branch web page hasn't been updated with the latest newsletter, even after receiving the email saying it has been issued. This might be fixed by clicking "refresh" or "reload" in your browser, but this often appears to not work with Xtra.

Another problem is that the email advising of the newsletter can get caught by Xtra's spam filter. To fix this, log on to Xtra webmail and navigate to the spam folder.

It may be worth considering changing to another ISP. Surveys conducted by Consumer show Xtra as one of the worst rating ISPs. The ISPs that were given the top ratings by Consumer include Actrix, PlaNet and Inspire.

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### NZ Family History Fair 2011

The 2011 Family History Fair will be held on Friday 26 and Saturday 27 August 2011, at the Claudeland Events Centre at Hamilton.

<http://nzfhf2010.dnserver.net.nz/>

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### NZSG Conference and AGM 2011

A Golden Opportunity: Dunedin

The annual conference will be held on Queen's Birthday weekend from Friday 3 June to Monday 6 June. It will be at the John McGlashan College, Dunedin.

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### NZ Memories magazine

The branch library is making progress in completing our set of issues of this magazine, but are still missing these issues; 2-16, 22, 52, 54, 55, 58. Sincere thanks to Robyn Woller who donated several missing issues.

If anyone is able to contribute any of the missing issues to the branch, that would be most appreciated.

Please contact Charles Le Breton or Marilyn Armitstead.

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### Aberdeen Burial Records

[www.deceasedonline.com](http://www.deceasedonline.com) has added 105,000 burial records for St Peter's Cemetery and Churchyard in Aberdeen City, covering the period 1830 to 1951.

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### Historical NZ Records Online

Over 20 million NZ family history records are now available at [ancestry.com.au](http://ancestry.com.au). These include:

- Canterbury, New Zealand, Provincial Rolls, 1868-1874
- New Zealand, Electoral Rolls, 1853-1981
- New Zealand, Jury Lists, 1842-1862
- New Zealand, Maori Land Claims, 1858-1980
- New Zealand, Maori Voter and Electoral Rolls, 1908 & 1919
- New Zealand, Naturalisations, 1843-1981
- New Zealand, City & Area Directories, 1866-1955

[www.ancestry.com.au](http://www.ancestry.com.au)

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### NZ National Digital Heritage Archive

The National Library of New Zealand has a major project under way to record New Zealand's heritage in digital form. This collection is supported by legislation and includes online resources such as web pages.

Our branch newsletter is supplied to NDHA each month to be included in the archive.

[www.digitalpreservation.gov/edge/edge\\_nlnz.html](http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/edge/edge_nlnz.html)



## Ancestry.com.au

NZSG office advises that it is far cheaper for people in New Zealand to subscribe via [ancestry.com.au](http://ancestry.com.au) than through ancestry.co.uk.

## UK Census: 1911 to 2011

Next month, the UK will do its most thorough census yet. A century ago, a new expanded form was evidence of a government's thirst for knowledge in their efforts to help a population stricken by poverty, bad nutrition and high infant mortality.

Read more about the differences between the 1911 and 2011 census at the BBC magazine; [www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-12324970](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-12324970)

## UK Society of Genealogists Records Online

The Society of Genealogists in London and [findmypast.co.uk](http://findmypast.co.uk) have published a further five record sets from the Society's collection online.

Family historians will now be able to search for their ancestors in the Apprentices of Great Britain, Boyd's Inhabitants of London, Boyd's Family Units, Teachers' Registration Council Registers and Trinity House Calendars.

Anyone with a full subscription to [findmypast.co.uk](http://findmypast.co.uk) will be able to access all the records within their existing package. Otherwise they can be viewed with PayAsYouGo credits.

## 1911 Scotland Census

On April 5, 2011, the General Register Office for Scotland will release details collected from more than 4.7 million Scots – marking a century since the data was first gathered.

The records will include the name, address, age, occupation, birthplace and marital status of everyone counted in the 1911 census, as well as details about their children. For the first time, the census data will be presented in full colour rather than black and white.

[www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk)

## Monumental Inscriptions

Robert Trollop (architect of the Town Court in Newcastle, 1659), prepared his own tomb, a heavy square pile, the lower part brick, the upper part stone, sometime ornamented with golden texts beneath the cornice. On the north side, according to a faint tradition, stood the image of Robert Trollop, with his arm raised, pointing toward the Town Hall of Newcastle, and underneath;

Here lies Robert Trollop  
Who made yon stones roll up.  
When death took his soul up,  
His body fill'd this hole up."

Reference: An historical topographical description Durham Volume 1 page 86

## Library News

Recent magazines;

Family Tree Feb 2011 (with CD)

NZ Genealogist Jan/Feb 2011



Newsletters received;

Blenheim, Canterbury, Hawkes Bay, Hutt Valley, Matamata, Palmerston North, South Canterbury, Stratford, Wairarapa, Wanganui, Wellington, Whakatane

Brant County (Canada), Brighton Cemeterians (Australia)

## Computer Group

The next computer group meeting is at 1:30 pm, Sunday 20 March 2011, at the branch rooms. This will cover GEDCOM files, what these are and how to make them useful.



## Newsletter

If you have any comments or suggestions for the newsletter, please contact Peter Hewett at [peter.hewett@gmail.com](mailto:peter.hewett@gmail.com).

