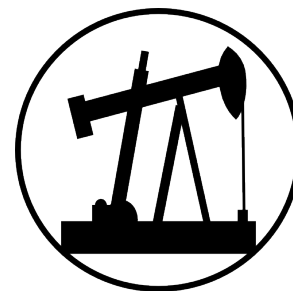




# NZSG

## New Plymouth

### Branch Newsletter



Number 257

June 2012

**Branch Library:** Open free to members. A small charge to visitors.  
**Opening Hours:** Monday: 10am to 3pm  
 Wednesday: 12 noon to 3pm  
 Saturday: 10am to 12 noon  
**Computer Group:** every third Sunday every 2nd month at 1:30pm at the Branch Rooms  
 Open to everyone - \$2 door charge. Convenor – Bruce Bellini

### Kiwi Index CD

This index has been published by NZSG, and covers a wide range of New Zealand historical records, including school admissions, probate records, cemetery & headstone indexes, undertaker's records and many more.

Our branch has a copy of the Institutional edition, with over 5 million records.

New Zealand Society of Genealogists Inc.  
 FAMILY HISTORY - PRESERVING OUR PAST FOR THE FUTURE   
 NZSG Kiwi Index v1.0



The full members edition has over 8 million records and is only available to NZSG members. It can be purchased from NZSG.

Next meeting: 7:30 pm Tuesday 5 June 2012

### Bring & Tell

Our June branch meeting is a bring and tell evening. Please bring along something of interest to show others. Anything really; old photos, books, ornaments, special items, nik naks, etc.

If you would like, you can explain a bit about your item, or tell it's story. Alternatively, you can prepare a little note describing the item and it's history, and put it on a display table.



**Convenor:**  
**Secretary:** Fay Eaton 751 1045  
**Treasurer:** John Berntsen 753 9188

**Committee:** Judy Berntsen  
 Anne Brophy  
 Margaret Gregory  
 Charles Le Breton  
 Ailsa McCrone  
 Bev Mulqueen

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)

## From the caretaker Convenor

Hi all,

well, winter is nearly upon us and the AGM is behind us. I'm still the caretaker convenor. We have a new committee member Margaret Gregory.

The committee is;

John Berntsen	Convenor caretaker
	Treasurer
	Assets Inventory
Fay Eaton	Secretary
Charles Le Breton	Library liason Officer
Bev Mulqueen	Librarian
Ailsa McCrone	newspaper cuttings
Margaret Gregory	Raffles, Suppers
Judy Berntsen	Research
	Membership

Anne Brophy

Outside committee

Bruce Bellini	TBI upkeep
Peter Hewett	newsletter & web site
Marilyn Reid	Projects

Now when I go away they should be able to get a quorum to run a meeting.

Since last month the branch has purchased the KIWI index which is available on the first computer, disc not needed.

The branch is going to join the Computer Group on the 28 October (Saturday) and we propose to put on a research day. We will have talks by Jan Gow OBE and Sharyn Guthrie, and we may try and get Ancestry and Find My Past on our computers for the day, that's if what we have heard we can get these two programs for the day when combined with a research day.

The membership secretary would like you to advise her if you are not renewing your subscription. Also subscriptions are now due, please pay as soon as possible. Subscriptions are what keeps the branch running.

John Berntsen

## Last Meeting: One Named Studies

At our May branch meeting, Charles Le Breton presented a talk about one name studies.

As Charles told us about his Le Bretons, famous and infamous, I felt a little jealous. I don't have any famous people on my family tree. My branches are full of poor agricultural labourers for the most part. Very dull!

Charles has studied in depth Le Bretons with connection to the Channel Islands. The name means someone from Brittany, (Bretagne). His subject family is an old family from Jersey. Going back to William the Conqueror and the Battle of Hastings of 1066, Charles found through the Domesday Book that Le Bretons were granted considerable assets by the king. Twenty two lordships to be exact.

Charles even boasts royal connections on the Le Breton tree. One was a second cousin to William the Conqueror.

To make research even more interesting for Charles, the Le Bretons spread out throughout the world including Canada, USA, Australia, New Zealand, parts of the UK. A Le Breton was even the Argentine ambassador to France during WW1.

One Le Breton served in the household of Henry 2nd's brother and was involved in the assassination of Thomas a Beckett in 1170.

The land Buckingham palace now stands on was once lived on by a Le Breton, who had connections with James 1st and the silk industry.

As if it isn't enough to boast a number of connections to royalty, Charles has documented Le Bretons involved in high positions in the church in Jersey. Also some in government positions, the armed forces and the theatre. A number went from Jersey to England to do university study. One Le Breton was knighted by Queen Victoria.

A John Le Breton, born circa 1779, ended up in Newfoundland. A lieutenant in the royal Newfoundland regiment, John served in the Quebec war of 1812 and had a distinguished career, including being at one time a magistrate for the Montreal district.

For good measure there were some Le Bretons involved in scandals. Charles spoke of adultery, duels, illegitimate children, and a womanising



clergyman dubbed the "Dirty Dean."

But Charles saved the best story (to my mind anyway) till last. The famous/infamous Lillie Langtry (1853-1929) was a Le Breton! Lillie Langtry had the distinction of being the mistress of the Prince of Wales (Albert Edward known as "Bertie") as well as having a friendship with Prince Louis Battenberg and is reputed to have had 19 partners. She certainly did well for herself financially as she ended up a millionaire.

Thank you, Charles, for letting us in on your Le Breton tree. Are there any more famous Le Bretons for you to discover?

Annette Larsen

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### Māori Family Research Day

Wānanga @ the Alex

The NZSG Wanganui branch will be holding a Māori family research day at the Alexander Heritage and Research Library, Queens Park, Wanganui. This event is run in association with the Aotea Māori Land Court and with special guest speaker Turama Hawira.

Date: Saturday 23 June 2012

Time: 10am – 3pm

Tea and coffee will be available

Attendance is free but numbers are limited.

Contact: Jas or Sandy (06) 349 3207 or email [jasmin@wanganuilibrary.com](mailto:jasmin@wanganuilibrary.com)

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### NZSG KIT – Keep In Touch

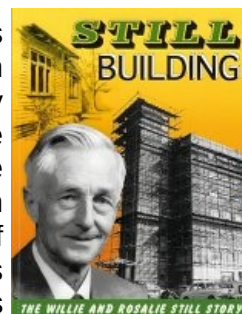
KIT is a monthly newsletter produced by NZSG, covering news, events, Council communication, notices and other genealogical goodies of interest.

This is now being sent by email to all NZSG members. If you are a member but haven't received your copy of KIT, please advise the NZSG office manager. Apparently they have had some email addresses bounce and they don't have alternative contact details for some members.

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### Book Review: Still Building

After reading Willie Still's book and also having been in the building industry all my life, I could only marvel at the meticulous records Willie must have kept while in business. To have records of every construction job his firm undertook was remarkable. I found this book hard to put down once I started as I could personally relate to much of his information.



As Willie served on many councils, boards, committees etc. around New Plymouth his knowledge of this area is immense and he details his knowledge in his book. We are indeed fortunate that Willie has published his book to pass on his knowledge to us. I am sure his book will be a valuable addition to our library.

Mel Hosking

PS.

Not to in anyway take away from Mel's excellent review above, but this book is much more than a history of Willie's building activity and work with many other organisations. The first six chapters in particular are a great template for anybody contemplating writing their own family history. The account of his various community and building activities provide some interesting insights into the social history of New Plymouth. I particularly liked the chapter "Willie the Philosopher" and the Epilogue. Some valuable insights for us all.

Charles Le Breton

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### GCG 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The New Plymouth Genealogy Computer Group will hold its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary on the weekend of 27 & 28 October 2012. A public open day will be held on the Saturday.

The anniversary will be held at the New Plymouth branch rooms, with a dinner on the Saturday evening. Our guest speaker is Jan Gow (the famous New Zealand genealogist).

For more information, please contact Bruce Bellini.



## NZ Genealogy Place Map

As the NZ Cemeteries web site now includes a wide range of places of interest to genealogists in NZ in addition to cemeteries, the time has come for a major facelift

It has now become "GeneaMap" and the site has moved to a new domain:

<http://geneamap.kiwicelts.com/>

As well as Cemeteries, it includes Churches, Crematoriums, Orphanages, Memorials and most recently Railways and Funeral Directors.

While most cemeteries are now included I keep coming across 'new' ones and the other types are far from complete so please feel free to add more!

I have taken the opportunity to fix a lot of things to make it more pleasant to use and have added some new / improved features including:

- the map now fits on one page so you don't need to scroll down to see it
- the search results can be hidden properly with the arrow button at the top left of the map
- all of the links to other web sites are now shown in the pop-up when you click the place's icon
- there is an entirely new Photo Viewer which doesn't download the full size photos, allows you to view the full size photo to see details and much more
- the old Regional Pages with links to council websites (which many of you liked so much I wasn't allowed to delete them!!!), have finally been replaced by the new "Councils" button. Please let me know what you think of this.

New types of places:

- Funeral Directors - most current FDs are listed but not many historic ones, please let me know of any missing
- Railways - there is only one place as I stumbled across a railway in Golden Bay

which I had never heard of before and felt compelled to add it - please send me more!

If you would like to add other places of any sort I am very happy to do so and to add links to your (or other) web pages with additional information.

The new site has been tested with the current versions of all major browsers. Older browsers, especially Internet Explorer V6 or older may not work or may look odd. It works best with a screen of 1024x768 or higher.

If you have any problems with the new site you may need to clear your cache of links to the old site - CTRL-F5 should fix this.

Please enjoy it - I hope that you like the changes! If there are any issues or you have suggestions for other changes, please let me know. I would love to hear your comments so please get in touch via the KiwiCelts website.

Murray

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## Library News

Magazines received;

Family Tree (May/June)

Tracing Family History (May/June)



Newsletters received;

Blenheim, Canterbury, Hutt Valley, Matamata, Nelson, Otaki, Palmerston North, Riccarton, Stratford, Wairarapa, Wellington, BRANT

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## Computer Group

The next computer group meeting is at 1:30 pm, Sunday 15 July 2012, at the branch rooms.]



## 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).

