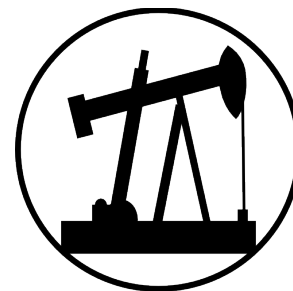




# NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 279

June 2014

**Branch Library:** Open free to members. A small charge to visitors.  
**Opening Hours:** Monday: 10am to 3pm (closed 2 June for Queen's Birthday holiday)  
 Wednesday: 12 noon to 3pm  
 Saturday: 10am to 12 noon

## AGM

The 2014 branch AGM was held on 6 May. The AGM determined to increase the branch subs by \$5, with a \$5 discount if paid by 31 July 2014.

The elected branch officers were;

Convenor: John Berntsen

Secretary: Fay Eaton

Treasurer: (not elected)

Committee: Judy Berntsen, Margaret Gregory, Charles Le Breton, Ailsa McCrone, Bev Mulqueen, Neville Richards.

Projects: Marilyn Reid

TBI: Bruce Bellini

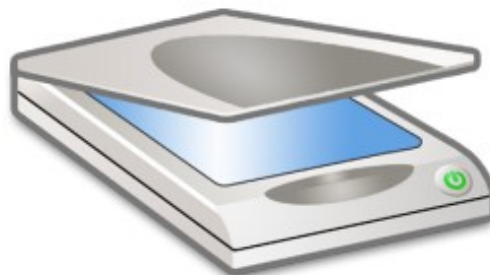
Newsletter: Peter Hewett

Next meeting: 7:30 pm Tuesday 3 June 2014

## The Value of Photographs in Genealogy

At the June branch meeting, Annette Larsen will demonstrate the use of her scanner for improving photos and the benefits of scanning photos.

Annette will also talk about dating old photos, looking after your photos and share one or two stories related to her photographs.



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

**Committee:** Judy Berntsen  
 Margaret Gregory  
 Charles Le Breton  
 Ailsa McCrone  
 Bev Mulqueen  
 Neville Richards

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)

## Last Event: Puke Ariki Building Records

Our guest speaker at the May meeting of our branch was Mike Gooch, Information Services Officer at the Research Centre, Puke Ariki. His topic was New Plymouth Buildings Resources at Puke Ariki for locating a house or business. Until we get speakers from Puke Ariki to inform us of the holdings there, we can be quite ignorant as to what is available for us as family historians. Hopefully now that our members know about these building records they will be better used.

The following material is from my notes taken on the night. See the helpful Research Centre staff for more information.

The Research Centre holds;

- Heritage Items – street indexes, maps, and also building registers (up to 1902).
- LINZ Electronic Survey Map Index.
- Directories – Stone's directories and Wise's directories. Some of these are recently purchased and are searchable by surname.
  - Stone's Directory for Wellington, Hawkes Bay and Taranaki. 1890 -1910 on CD.
  - Wise's Directory, 1866-1954, which is on the Ancestry Database.
- Fred Butler Street Indexes mainly for central New Plymouth plus Devon Rd. Approx. 1880s till early 1970s. These help with the history of sections, as well as tracking changing ownership. Mr Butler's scrapbooks list owners and significant developments such as fires, demolition etc. This archival collection is extraordinarily valuable for New Plymouth. The card index helps with cross referencing.
- New Plymouth Borough/City Council Building Inspector Registers, 1902-1984. All registers have an index, but they are sorted by surname for original applicant.
- March 1884 Map of New Plymouth – seven sets of plans covering the central city area. Identifies the name of the owner and has been digitised.
- LINZ Survey plans. (Cadastral Surveying) You need to know the deposited plan (DP) or Survey Office numbers. Not just local plans. They are not computer searchable. Can be

copied onto your flash drive.

- Fire and Accident Underwriters. (Insurance purposes) Block plans for some years and areas.
- Other resources – NPDC Property files (accessed through District Council – charges may apply).
- Heritage Inventories
- Ian Pritchard's book about Frank Messenger, the architect
- Puke Ariki photographic collection
- New Plymouth Kete (New Plymouth history basket)  
[ketenewplymouth.peoplesnetworknz.info](http://ketenewplymouth.peoplesnetworknz.info)
- Uncatalogued plans

Mike also advised that the Paperspast website had that day added scans of the [Taranaki Daily News](#) 1900-1920 to the website.

A big thank you to Mike for his informative, well-prepared talk!

Annette Larsen

A print out of Mike's slides from this presentation is available in the branch library.

## Convenor's Report

Welcome to Winter.

Things are progressing along slowly, we've got the grant in word only, but are still waiting for the actual cash. When we get that we can pick up our new computers.

By the time you read this, Judy and I will be in Wellington attending the AGM and Conference. I might give a brief talk on it in July as I will miss June's meeting due to our trip to Wellington.

Last Saturday we had a Regional Meeting at Stratford. Nothing to report, other than what you read in the NZSG E-Kit. Our branch will be holding the next meeting in August. More later.

The membership renewals are slowly coming in, so to beat the price rise of \$5.00 please pay ASAP. The funds from the membership subscriptions go towards the general running of the branch.

John Berntsen



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## Websites

Here are some more useful genealogy websites, contributed by Karen Crowe.

### UK National Archives

The UK government national archives has a large volume available on line. Recent additions include World War 1 unit diaries.

[nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://nationalarchives.gov.uk)

Online services are also provided by national libraries of Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

[genealogy.nationalarchives.ie](http://genealogy.nationalarchives.ie)

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

[www.nls.uk](http://www.nls.uk)

[www.llgc.org.uk](http://www.llgc.org.uk)

### Commonwealth War Graves

The CWGC website provides access to a database of 1.7 million people who died in the two world wars, and 23,000 cemeteries in 153 countries.

[www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)

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## Branch Subs Are Now Due!

The 2014/15 branch subscription is now due for payment. There is a \$5 discount if you pay before 31 July 2014.

Single: \$35 (or \$30 with discount)

Household: \$45 (or \$40 with discount)

Outside Taranaki: \$25 (or \$20 with discount)

Please make your payment with the subscription form available from the website or at the branch rooms.

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## Neville RICHARDS

An introduction to our newest branch committee member;

I was born seventy years ago in wartime Blenheim, but spent nearly all my life in Waitara. I attended Central School and then Waitara High School. Those were the days when kids spent their days barefoot and free, running around in swamps and paddocks and exploring the beach and river. After leaving school I worked for the Taranaki Daily News and lived at the Fire Station as a volunteer.

In the early 60s the big wide world beckoned but I only got as far as Sydney. I spent some years following different jobs including the Snowy Mountain Projects and mining at Iron Knob as well as seeking the sun in Queensland. I married and came home to Waitara to raise a family of three children and it was the eldest of those three who started me on my journey with genealogy. She came home from school one day and said "Dad, what do you know about our family?" My reply was "Not much", so I decided to do something about it.

With some help from Waitara Genealogy and the Library, I eventually became fascinated by the discovery that both sides of my immediate family came to New Zealand in 1842 aboard the foundation ships from Plymouth, Devon, UK. As and when I had time during the following years, I began to collect information and documents about the Richards and Oliver families. I took a few wrong turns along the way but now am confident about most of my knowledge.

A dream came true in 2013 when I finally made it onto Cornish soil and spent two wonderful weeks in "the land of my fathers".

Neville Richards

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## New Members

The branch warmly welcomes three new members; Julie Parker, Michelle Bell and Glenys Guild.



## Library Roster: June

Monday 10 am to 3 pm  
Wednesday 12 noon to 3 pm  
Saturday 10 am to 12 noon

Mon 2 Closed – Queens Birthday  
Tues 3 Branch meeting – 7:30 pm  
Wed 4 Jill Jackson  
Sat 7 Mike Merrick  
Mon 9 Charles Le Breton/Bev Mulqueen  
Wed 11 Margaret Gregory  
Sat 14 Annette Larsen  
Mon 16 Bev Mulqueen/Charles Le Breton  
Wed 18 Fay Eaton  
Sat 21 Lea/Bruce Bellini  
Mon 23 Lorraine Austin/Ailsa McCrone  
Tues 24 Committee meeting 7:00 pm  
Wed 25 Jill Harvey  
Sat 28 Marilyn Armitstead  
Mon 30 Peter Winter/Anne Brophy

For those new to genealogy and/or want help knocking down those brick walls, this is an excellent time and place to have our experts help you. Our helpers can show you what is available in the library and how to go about finding what you are looking for.

## Beginning Genealogy

The first of the learning sessions on genealogy was run by Marilyn Armitstead at the branch rooms, on Sunday 18 May.

This covered some aspect of starting work on your family tree, with examples using the Legacy software.

For further information, please contact Marilyn Armitstead.

## Empty Printer Cartridges

Please bring your empty printer cartridges in to the branch rooms. These can be either ink jet or laser cartridges, but **we can only use HP or Canon types of cartridges.**

These will be recycled to generate some income for the branch.



## Library News

Neville Richards has donated the book *Kawhia South the districts of Kinohaku, Te Anga, Marokoppa and Kiritehere*, compiled by Colleen Neal and Ken Shaw. The book has been compiled to record the arrival, trials, varied fortunes, personalities, aspirations, and achievements of the people of Kawhia South districts since 1900.



Magazines received;

Discover Your History (May, June)  
Family Tree (May)  
Memories (June/July)  
Who do you think you are (June)

Newsletters received;

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

## 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).

