



NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 314

August 2017

Branch Library: Open free to members. A small charge to visitors.
Opening Hours: Monday: 10 am to 12:30 pm
 Wednesday: 12 noon to 3 pm (closed 9 August – DNA presentation)
 Saturday: 10 am to 12 noon

Family History Month

August is family history month across New Zealand. And this year, NZSG is celebrating the 50 years since it started in 1967.

Dates for New Plymouth activities:

- Tue 1 Aug branch meeting
- Wed 9 Aug talk on DNA by Michelle Patient
- Sat 12 Aug open day
- Tue 15 Aug NZSG 50th anniversary lunch
- Sun 20 Aug Genealogy computer group



Next meeting: 7:30 pm Tuesday 1 Aug 2017

Genealogy Workshop

We start family history month with a genealogy workshop. We will have our branch resources available, and plenty of experienced genealogists to help you get the most out of them.

Bring along your genealogy research challenges, brick walls and difficult questions. Our branch experts will help you find useful information and solve those problems.



Convenor: Bruce Bellini 758 0130
Secretary: Jackie Sewell
Treasurer: Lea Bellini 758 0130
Committee: Lorraine Austin
 Judy Berntsen
 Jill Jackson
 Annette Larsen
 Charles Le Breton
 Bev Mulqueen
 Neville Richards

New Plymouth Branch
 c/- Bruce Bellini
 98a Queens Road
 New Plymouth 4312
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

Last Event: The Boneless Boy

At our July meeting, Ann Evans spoke to us about her great-grandmother's brother, Hugh Mattison (1855-1937), a colourful character. Hugh was born in Melbourne, came over to NZ at the age of 5, and died in Auckland, New Zealand. Hugh married in 1895.

He was known as the "Boneless Boy" because of his famous contortionist acts in Cook's circus and Wirth Bros' circus.

Ann found a wealth of information on two good sites: [paperspast](#) and [Trove](#), the Australian equivalent. In 1931 in the Auckland Star, there was an interview with Hugh which gave Ann plenty of avenues for further research. He was part of a whaling crew, saw Buffalo Bill in the USA, had a connection with Ned Kelly and his gang in Australia.

At 11 years of age, he ended up in Australia in the circus there, eventually running away from it because of bad treatment. He tramped through the Waikato and ended up in the Bay of Islands where he, a young boy, joined a whaling crew, crewing for one shilling a month. He talked about his close encounter with a whale. This whaling ship took him to America. From Massachusetts he worked his way to Quebec and on to San Francisco. These were the lawless days of early USA. In Chicago, he saw Buffalo Bill, a popular figure of the time. Hugh went back to Australia where gold had just been discovered.

An article in the Auckland Star put Hugh in NZ in 1889. This article told of him nearly drowning in Auckland.

Ann used [Victoria Outwards](#), the electoral rolls, postal directories, cemetery sites and newspapers in her quest for information on Hugh.

Thank you for a well-illustrated and interesting talk, Ann.

Annette Larsen

Convenor's Report

I am looking forward to the events that our Branch has organised for Family History Month in August, which are detailed elsewhere in this newsletter. I hope you are able to take the opportunity to attend the events that may be able to help you with your Family Research.

The Taranaki Biographical Index has just been updated with the addition of over 27,000 new records. Over 10,000 are death records, covering the period up until 1940. This index is a great finding aid, to assist local members and visiting researchers to locate records in our library, relating to the names they are researching.

We have a small group of keen people who do the data entry and checking of the records that are added to the Taranaki Biographical Index. There are still a large number of records in our Library that need indexing, and the more data that can be made available to researchers the more use our library will be, to yourself and visitors.

I am appealing to you all to consider helping with our Branch indexing project. All you need is a spare hour here and there to assist us enlarge our valuable asset. If you are able to use a computer keyboard, then typing in the data from paper records is for you. On the other hand if you do not have any typing skills, then checking only needs your eyesight and a pencil, as we can print out the newly inputted records and you can check them against the originals. If you think that you would like to help, please contact myself or Lorraine Austin, and we will be only too happy to explain how you can help.

Many Thanks,

Bruce Bellini
Branch Convenor

Legacy Help

The next in Marilyn's series of Legacy sessions will be on Sunday 10 September 2017 at 1:30pm in the Branch Rooms. Future meetings are planned for every second month, with the following session on 12 November. Please note that there is a \$2 door charge.

Please contact Marilyn Armitstead for further information or if you have any questions. Phone: 757 2599 or email g.armitstead@xtra.co.nz



Family History Month 2017

Our branch has several events happening in August. All events are at the branch rooms at the Moturoa shopping centre.

Tuesday 1 August 7:30 pm

Genealogy Workshop

Our branch meeting is a workshop with experienced genealogists available to help resolve your research challenges.

Wednesday 9 August 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

DNA and Family History



DNA is a great new technology that can really help with genealogy. Genealogist Michelle Patient will explain DNA research works and how to use it for genealogy. Cost is \$10. Tea and coffee provided, bring your own lunch.

Saturday 12 August 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Family History Open Day

The branch rooms will be open to the public, to enable people to get started with their family history. Lots of resources will be available and our experienced genealogists to help people make use of them. Cost is \$5. Tea and coffee provided, bring your own lunch.

Tuesday 15 August 12 noon

NZSG 50th Anniversary Lunch

This lunch is to celebrate 50 years since the NZSG began. It will include speeches broadcast by webinar from Auckland. Tea and coffee provided, bring your own lunch.

Computer Group Meeting

The next genealogy computer group meeting is scheduled for 1:30 pm on Sunday 20 August.



This month, we will be looking at some information on World War 1, life in the trenches. This meeting will also cover military records.

For any enquiries, please contact Peter Hewett or Bruce Bellini.

DNA with Ancestry

The DNA testing available from ancestry.com is heavily advertised, but it isn't always very clear that many of the features aren't available without an ongoing subscription.

If you've purchased a DNA test, these features will remain available without a subscription:

- Ethnicity estimate
- DNA matches
- Genetic Communities
- Automatic updates to your ethnicity estimate, DNA matches, and Genetic communities as updates are released and our database of users grows
- Shared matches
- Contacting matches

Without a subscription, these features won't be available:

- New Ancestry Discoveries
- DNA Circles
- Shared Ancestor Hints
- Viewing your matches' trees
- Lists of surnamed and birth locations that appear both your tree and your matches' trees

Charles Le Breton



Library Roster: August

Monday 10 am to 12:30 pm
Wednesday 12 noon to 3 pm
Saturday 10 am to 12 noon

Tue 1 Branch meeting
Wed 2 Ailsa McCrone
Sat 5 Karen Crowe
Mon 7 Charles Le Breton
Wed 9 DNA by Michelle Patient
\$10 per head – 10am to 4pm
Sat 12 Open Day – 10am to 4pm
Mon 14 Annette Larsen
Tue 15 NZSG 50th Anniversary, noon
Wed 16 Neville Richards
Sat 19 Lea / Bruce Bellini
Mon 21 Ann Brophy
Wed 23 Judy Berntsen
Sat 26 Mike Merrick
Mon 28 Lorraine Austin
Tue 29 Committee meeting
Wed 30 Jill Jackson

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.

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.



A4 Envelopes Please

If you have any used A4 envelopes, please consider donating these to the branch library. They are used for filing library materials.

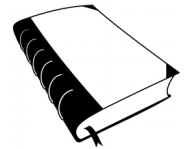
Library News

Magazines received;

Family Tree (Aug)

Memories (Jun/Jul)

Who do you think you are (Summer 2017)



Newsletters received;

Balclutha, Canterbury, Feilding, Gore, Hawkes Bay, Hutt Valley, Nelson, Palmerston North, Papakura, Papamoa, Riccarton, South Waikato, Stratford, Wairarapa, Wellington

If you would like an email copy of newsletters from another branch, please contact Peter Hewett. Many of the newsletters are also available from the NZSG website.

www.genealogy.org.nz/branches--area-contacts_55

Newsletter

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

