



NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 325

August 2018

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
Saturday: 10 am to 12 noon

Women's Suffrage 125

This year, we are celebrating the 125th anniversary of women's suffrage. In 1893, New Zealand became the first country to give all women the right to vote.

There are lots of events being held around the country, and we are planning some for New Plymouth.

There were 13 separate petitions, the largest by Mary Carpenter is searchable on the [NZ History website](#).

Members of the public are invited to submit biographies of people on the petition. If your ancestor is there, please put some information together and submit it. Check out the [biography guide](#) for more information.



Next meeting: 7:30 pm Tuesday 7 Aug 2018

Brick Wall Smashed

Hear the story of how a 108 year old brick wall was smashed by DNA research.

Dora (1910-1994) was brought up in a foster home, told that her mother died in child-birth, her father died when she was 2, and she had no relations in NZ, so don't bother trying to find any. She and her children accepted this story until she was nearly 80 years old.

But the truth is different and remarkable, and it will be revealed at our August meeting.



Convenor: Bruce Bellini 758 0130
Secretary: Jackie Sewell
Treasurer: Lea Bellini 758 0130
Committee: Lorraine Austin
Judy Berntsen
Jill Jackson
Annette Larsen
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: Family History Detective

At our July meeting, our guest speaker was Dame Ann Hercus. She is well known as a Member of Parliament from 1978 to 1987 and as the first Minister of Woman's Affairs. She was also Ambassador to the United Nations and Head of Peacekeeping in Cyprus.

As well as all that, Ann and her husband John share a hobby of genealogy. Through this, they have shared lots of adventures and travels, and have published three books.

This presentation focused on the latest book *One Family Six Names*, which is a how to book for medieval research.

Genealogy research using birth, death and marriage records eventually hits a brick wall when there are simply no earlier records to be found. For many families, this is around 200 or 300 years ago. But research can be taken further using family names. Ann explained some of the methods they used, such as studying geographical spread of certain spelling of the surname.

More recently, DNA has become a valuable tool. Applied to the six different spellings of the Hercus surname, they established that all six were actually related.



Dame Ann Hercus and Annette Larsen

Next Meeting: 4 September 2018

As part of the Women's Suffrage 125 celebration, our speaker next month is Mary Perrott. She is a member of the New Plymouth organising committee for Women's Suffrage 125.

Convenor's Report

Firstly I must apologise to Peter our Newsletter Editor for my oversight last month in forgetting to send him a Convenor's report, and thank him for stepping in to cover my lapse.

Our Cemetery Projects Team is beavering away photographing the headstones and re-indexing the North Taranaki Cemeteries and the results of these are now starting to appear on our website. If you have not already done so, [click here](#), or check out our website and click on the word "Cemeteries" on the homepage and you will be taken to the page where you will see we have uploaded the complete headstone transcriptions for the [Te Henui](#), [Lepperton](#) and [Hurdon](#) Cemeteries. To find a headstone use the find function (Control F) to enter the name you want to find.

You can order a high resolution digital copy of the photograph of a headstone by sending an email to our branch address and making a small donation to our branch, and we have already had an enquiry from a genealogist in Auckland and we hope that we are able to assist many more out of town researchers with this service. Our team is intending to continue photographing the headstones in all of the North Taranaki cemeteries over the coming months, and they will be added to our web pages as they come to hand.

The inaugural meeting of our branch was held on 27 November 1969, which means that November next year will be our 50th anniversary! Our committee is looking at how we could celebrate this event and we would like to hear what your thoughts are. If you have any suggestions please talk to one of our committee members, who will bring your idea to one of our meetings for discussion.

Many Thanks,

Bruce Bellini
Branch Convenor

Open Day: Saturday 8 September 2018

A public open day will be held, with the branch rooms open from 10am to 3pm. Everyone is welcome to come along, learn how to research your family, including the branch resources available to help with this. The theme for the day is Women's Suffrage 125.



Computer Group Meeting

The genealogy computer group held a meeting on Sunday 15 July 2018.

As usual, a variety of topics were covered, many of them relating to computers and genealogy!



We had a look at the new UK probate online website. Previously these probates were available through subscription websites, and now these are available without charge. Check out the website at:

probatesearch.service.gov.uk

Legacy Users Group

The next meeting will be on Sunday 12 August 2018 at the Branch Rooms from 1.30pm.

These sessions are hosted by Marilyn Armitstead and are aimed at helping you to better use the Legacy genealogy software.

The next Legacy user group is planned for 7 October. There is no meeting in December.

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

Genealogy Presentation

The Taranaki Founders Society is hosting a luncheon, followed by a presentation by Donna Rutherford. Donna is an expert on genealogy, previously from New Plymouth and now resident in London.

Time: 12 noon

Date: Friday 24 August 2018

Venue: Polpetta, 170 Devon St E

Please RSVP to Orm Greensill at 758 5138 by 9 August.

Member's Interests

Would you like to get in touch with others who are researching the same ancestors as you? If you would like your research interests advertised in this branch newsletter, please send your info to Peter Hewett or to any branch committee member.

Women's Suffrage 125

It is 125 years since New Zealand became the first country to give women the vote. Our branch will be celebrating Suffrage 125 in September.

At our September meeting, Mary Perrott will be enlightening us on aspects of the petition and some of the women involved. In addition, the branch will run an open day on Saturday 8 September, with a focus on the women's vote.



We plan to have a collection of biographies available of suffrage petition signing women. Please contribute a short biography if you have any info on persons who signed the petition. If you have documents to attach to the bio, we would love to see them. This could be photos, newspaper articles, parish registers and so on. If you would like us to print your information, please send it to the branch email address newplymouth@genealogy.org.nz or bring a copy to us before 25 August 2018.

Visit our web page for more information:

www.genealogynp.com/suffrage.html

Internet Connection

The internet connection for our branch rooms is generously sponsored by Primowireless.



**PRIMO
WIRELESS**

CONNECTING TARANAKI

Please consider Primowireless for your ISP. Ring them on 0800 123 774 or visit the website:

primowireless.co.nz

Branch Subscriptions now due

Thank you to everyone who has paid their branch subs for the 2018-19 year. This is our main way of meeting branch costs.

If you haven't paid yet, please do so. Use the form you can download from the [branch website](#).



Library Roster: August

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

Wed 1 Judy Berntsen
Sat 4 Karen Crowe
Mon 6 Lorraine Austin
Wed 8 Ailsa McCrone
Sat 11 Neville Richards
Mon 13 Charles Le Breton
Wed 15 Fay Eaton
Sat 18 Lea & Bruce Bellini
Mon 20 Ailsa McCrone
Wed 22 Jill Jackson
Sat 25 Marilyn Armitstead
Mon 27 Lorraine Austin
Wed 29 Annette Larsen

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.

Envelope Collection and Funeral Sheets

If you bring any paper clippings or Funeral Sheets for the above collections, can you please put them in the Committee Tray which is on the right-hand shelf in the last bay at the rooms. These items need to be recorded before they are filed so they can go on the TBI.

The Taranaki Area News cabinet has been updated and now also has a new format which is easier to research. Everything in that cabinet has been inputted and is ready to go on the TBI when it is next updated. Your co-operation would be appreciated.

Thank you to the members who have been donating the funeral sheets. Our folders for these are slowly growing.

Lorraine Austin

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

Magazines received;

Family Tree (August)

Who do you think you are
(Summer special)



Newsletters received;

Canterbury, Dunedin, Feilding, Gore, Hawke's Bay, Hutt Valley, Kapiti, Nelson, Otaki, Palmerston North, Papamoa, Riccarton, South Waikato, Wairarapa

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.

