



NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 357

August 2021

Unite against COVID-19

Reduce risk – keep safe

New Zealand Government

Branch events have resumed at alert level 1
Branch rooms are open: Monday and Saturday

LEVEL 1 New Zealand is currently at Alert Level 1.

Family History Month

August is family history month across New Zealand and Australia. These are some of the events in New Zealand.

Auckland, 13 – 15 August, Fickling Convention Centre, for more info [click here](#).

Christchurch,

Christchurch, 20 – 22 August, Turanga Library, for more info [click here](#).

Wellington, 7 August, Johnsonville Community Centre, email kilbirnie@genealogy.org.nz.



Next meeting: 7:30pm Tuesday 3 August 2021

Dating Old Photos

Historic photographs can provide a marvellous addition to your family history. But sometimes, it is difficult to work out who is in the photo, or to confirm the assigned name.

One way to analyse the photograph is to put a date on it. Come along to the August meeting to hear Sharyn Guthrie explain some tips to dating old photographs, and what the details are that you need to look for.



Convenor: Gail Tanner 027 376 0630
Secretary: Jackie Sewell
Treasurer: Sharyn Guthrie

Committee: Lorraine Austin
Lea Bellini
Karen Crowe
Graeme Jury
Annette Larsen

New Plymouth Branch
c/- Gail Tanner
122 Wairau Road
New Plymouth 4314

Meetings: 7:30 pm, first Tuesday each month
at branch rooms, Moturoa Shopping Centre
access is off the Whiteley Street car park

Email: newplymouth@genealogy.org.nz
Website: www.genealogynp.com

Last month: Organising Your Files

At the July branch meeting, Graeme Jury explained his system for organising family history files on his computer.

Over time, family history research can generate lots of pieces of information, such as old photos, certificates, news clippings, etc. It is helpful to have these organised in a systematic way so they can be easily retrieved and worked on.

Graeme's system uses the Ahnentafel system to allocate numbers to direct ancestors. There is a folder for each set of parents, and if necessary, sub-folders for siblings families.

This is not the only way to organise folders, but whichever method you choose, write it down and be sure to follow it consistently.

Graeme also explained how he uses [Tomboy notes](#) to record all notes in one file, which is searchable. He records notes verbally using a dictaphone app on his phone, then voice to text software to make text files for records.



Taranaki Biographical Index

The Taranaki Biographical Index (also known as [TBI](#)) is an index of a vast range of historical records and documents, mostly relating to the New Plymouth and Taranaki area.

The index was started by Ann Evans and for the last 20 years, Bruce Bellini has been TBI librarian. The TBI currently has over 800,000 records, transcribed over the years by many branch members.

This month, Bruce Bellini is standing down as TBI librarian. On behalf of the branch, the committee expresses great thanks and gratitude to Bruce for his care of the TBI, collating all those individual files from the transcribers and processing them for input to the TBI.

The indexing and transcribing projects are continuing, and there is room for anyone to help. No special computer skills needed. Just talk to Lorraine Austin, or any committee member.

Convenor's Report

Hello everyone. We are over half way through the year and winter has well set in. This weekend I am off to the meeting of the Lower North Island branches to catch up on what each has been doing and also to find out about the financial struggles the NZSG finds itself in at the moment. If you are a financial member of NZSG you would have received the email from Mary Shadbolt and also the Kit newsletter outlining what is happening.

In another couple of weeks a few of us are heading up to Auckland for the Family History Expo – this is being hosted by the Auckland Libraries and the Genealogical Computing Group. It runs over three days starting on the 13th Aug with an opening night event costing \$22, and then two days of FREE seminars with some of the top experts on DNA and family history. To find out more [click here](#). It should be a great learning experience. And it could be an opportunity for you to visit the NZSG Research Rooms on Level 1, 159 Queens Road, Panmure, Auckland 1741.

Our sincere thanks go to Bruce Bellini for his work on the TBI and related projects. Bruce is standing down after many years looking after the TBI, when it has become an important asset for the branch.

This Tuesday at our monthly meeting our own presenter Sharyn Guthrie will be giving us the low down on how to date those old family photos hiding in the attic. By using hair styles, photography types, clothing etc, it is possible to narrow down when the photo was taken (approx) which can help in identifying the subject is Great Grandma or Great Grandmother.

Hope to see you on Tuesday night....

Gail Tanner
Branch Convenor

Facebook: NP Genealogy Branch Group

We have 86 members currently on our Facebook group – these people come from all over the world as our group is open to others interested in genealogy, not just our branch members. You are welcome to post questions to help you in your research or anything that you have seen or learnt from your own genealogy that you think others will be interested in.

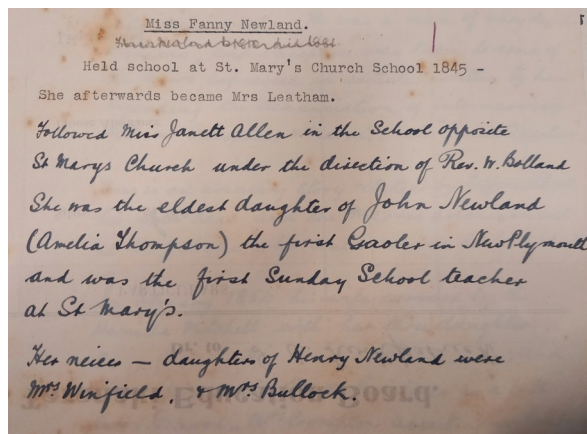
To join just search for New Plymouth genealogy branch NZSG group, answer the two simple questions, these are to ensure you are genuine!

Sharyn



Taranaki Teachers

I had an enquiry from a genealogist who was researching a Fanny Newland. Looking at the Taranaki Biographical Index, I found that name as being in an electronic database we have on our branch computer. This is under the icon *Full NP databases* and is named *Teachers in early N.P.Schools*. This data base was compiled by the late Michael Butler from records he found at Puke Ariki. The collection is called *The Insull Collection*. I decided to go to Puke Ariki and look at what they had for Fanny. Well, I was not expecting 22 boxes of material! Fortunately I knew what box this particular record was in and I found it quite easily. What a mine of information. The collection includes manuscript material written by H W Insull, extracts from his diaries personal notes on teachers, schools etc etc. Below is one record that I found.



Lea Bellini

The Ryerson Index

I came across this by accident the other day and remembered from our very early computer group days that it was originally called *The Dead Persons Society*. It has been renamed as the Ryerson Index which is a free index to death notices appearing in Australian newspapers. The date range covered extends from the *Sydney Gazette* of 1803 up to newspapers published within the last week or so. The Index also includes many funeral notices, and some probate notices and obituaries. Because the index was started by Sydney Dead Persons Society, it has a large proportion of notices from NSW papers - including in excess of two million notices from the Sydney Morning Herald alone. The index itself cannot by definition be considered a primary source of data, but is purely a research aid to direct the researcher to the original source of a notice. Have a look at it! www.ryersonindex.org

Lea Bellini

DNA Interest Group

At the last DNA Interest Group Meeting on Sunday 18 July, I covered some basic concepts related to your DNA, including types of DNA tests for Genealogy, some information related to chromosomes and how the amounts of DNA shared help you work out your possible relationship. Understanding your individual inheritance of your DNA from your ancestors was another concept covered. I followed this by demonstrating Thru Lines on Ancestry and how it can help you.

Come along to the next meeting on Sunday 22 August, bring your laptop or tablet and any queries you have.

Sharyn



DNA another Genealogy Query Help Day

Recently I spent a day at the branch rooms giving an hour to 5 different people to give them individual help with their DNA or any other genealogy queries.

This was very successful so I'm planning to do this again on Wednesday 18 August. If you would like some help with your DNA or another aspect of genealogy, come and spend an hour with me. If I can't help you myself, I will hopefully be able to give you some guidance as to your next step.

Email me if you would like a time slot – sharynjguthrie@gmail.com

A donation to our branch of \$5 per person would be appreciated.

Sharyn.



Library Roster: August

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

Mon 2 Charles Le breton
Sat 7 Sharyn Guthrie
Mon 9 Lorraine Austin
Sat 14 Lea Bellini
Mon 16 Annette Larsen
Sat 21 Gail Tanner
Mon 23 Jill Jackson
Sat 28 Karen Crowe
Mon 30 Lorraine Austin

Covid Alert Level 1

Please observe the COVID-19 rules at the branch rooms.

- Please don't come to the rooms if you have any symptoms (cough, fever, loss of smell or taste, recent overseas travel).
- Wash your hands and any surfaces you touch.
- Bring your own pen, paper, laptop, etc.
- Use the COVID-19 app with the QR code.
- Record your name in the attendance book.



Salvation Army Book Fair 2021

The third Salvation Army book fair is in August, with more books for all ages. EFTPOS will be available and you can swap a can of food for a kids book.

Thursday 12 August 9:00am – 7:00pm
Friday 13 August 9:00am – 6:00pm
Saturday 14 August 9:00am – 2:00pm

At the Salvation Army Church Hall, corner of Powderham and Dawson Streets, New Plymouth.

Internet Connection

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



Please consider Primo for your internet service. Ring them on 0800 123 774 or visit their website:

primo.nz

Wellington Family History Day

Johnsonville Community Centre
28 Moorefield Road, Wellington

When: 10am to 4pm, 7 August 2021

Cost: \$5 entry

Library News

Magazines received;

Family Tree (Aug)

Who Do You Think You Are (June)



Newsletters received;

Canterbury, Feilding, Gore, Hawkes Bay, Hutt Valley, Nelson, Otaki, Palmerston North, Riccarton, 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.

