



# NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 360

November 2021

**Unite against COVID-19**

**Reduce risk – Stay safe**

New Zealand Government

**Branch events are under Covid rules for alert level 2**  
**Branch rooms are open: Monday and Saturday**

**LEVEL 2** Taranaki is currently at Alert Level 2.

## Branch matters

There are about 60 branches and special interest groups associated with the NZSG. The branches are regionally based across New Zealand, and the interest groups focus on particular topics. These operate under the NZSG rules, which specify the types of membership and the rules for branches. NZSG services are mainly provided directly to members, rather than to branches and SIGs.

Our branch operates as a stand alone entity, with our own bank account and funding. Our branch is registered as a charity CC33804, and is run by our own branch committee and office holders. NZSG provides the branch email, some public liability insurance and rights to use the NZSG logo, but does not provide any funding or material support to the branch.

Next meeting: 7:30pm Tuesday 2 Nov 2021

## Branch EGM

An Extraordinary General Meeting of our branch will be held at 7:30 pm on Tuesday 2 November 2021.

This EGM is for our branch to decide how to respond to the financial issues that the national body of NZSG is facing.

The formal notice of this EGM was sent to members on 3 October. Emails with further information have been sent to members, and drop in sessions were held at the rooms early in October.

Since Taranaki is at Covid alert level 2, the corresponding rules will apply to the EGM. Please sign in with the Covid app and observe 1m spacing at the rooms. Please don't attend if you have Covid symptoms, or have been in contact with someone who may have Covid.

<b>Convenor:</b>	Gail Tanner	027 376 0630	New Plymouth Branch c/- Gail Tanner 122 Wairau Road New Plymouth 4314
<b>Secretary:</b>	Jackie Sewell		
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Sharyn Guthrie		<b>Meetings:</b> 7:30 pm, first Tuesday each month at branch rooms, Moturoa Shopping Centre access is off the Whiteley Street car park <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:newplymouth@genealogy.org.nz">newplymouth@genealogy.org.nz</a> <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.genealogynp.com">www.genealogynp.com</a>
<b>Committee:</b>	Lorraine Austin		
	Lea Bellini		
	Karen Crowe		
	Graeme Jury		
	Annette Larsen		

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## Convenor's Report

Hello Branch members

As you hopefully know by now, we are holding an Extraordinary General Meeting on this coming Tuesday, 2 November at 7:30pm. The committee and I would love to see a good turnout of members, even though we are still in level 2. We will of course be following the Level 2 Rules of 1 metre social distancing – we will have the chairs set out for you. And masks are voluntary.

We are about to take an important step to ensure the security of our group's assets, resources and funds, and are hoping that the majority of you are behind this move. The feedback we have had during the process leading up to this meeting has certainly been supportive.

You will get an opportunity to speak to the motion, if you would like to, before it is put to the vote. Please come along and have your say.

After the vote has been decided and the EGM has been closed, we will then have an informal meeting when I will be happy to give an explanation of the process necessary for our branch to become independent of the NZSG. An interim committee will need to be formed to set up the new group and hopefully a new name will be decided.

Gail Tanner  
Branch Convenor

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## Bev Mulqueen

With sadness and regret, we note that Bev Mulqueen passed away in October. Bev has been a branch member for many years, and has been a member of the branch committee. Bev has made a great contribution to our branch in many ways, including the library magazines, publicity, displays at Puke Ariki and lots more.

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## NZSG – What you can do

It is in everybody's interests to have a national body for genealogists, because it can coordinate research and archiving efforts, provide economies of scale for services, and lobby for our interests at government level. This is all good for both present and future genealogists.

The NZSG is currently in financial difficulties, and needs more funds to stay viable. The NZSG is also reducing costs through various means – like making the magazine online only.

If you aren't already a member, please consider joining. The benefits and services available to members are listed on the [NZSG website](#) and the annual subscription is \$100 for single membership.

And if you are a member, consider supporting NZSG by buying products like the Kiwi index online, or making a donation.



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## NZSG – Branch Levy

NZSG is proposing to levy branches for each branch member who is not a NZSG member (also known as a local member). This levy is proposed as \$5 per person for 2021 and \$10 in 2022.

Under the NZSG rules, you can be a NZSG member, or a branch member, or both. Across New Zealand, about ¼ of NZSG members belong to a branch, and less than half of the branch members are NZSG members.

This levy is to assist with funding of NZSG national office. The payment of this levy does not mean any additional services to branches or to local members.



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## NZSG and Our Branch

There has been a lot of discussion about the financial difficulties that the NZSG is facing. At the national level, it has seen steadily declining membership and has run at a loss each year for the last few years. Earlier this year, NZSG advised that their cashflow may run out before the end of 2021. A lot of effort has been put into raising funds and reducing costs, and they now advise that funds are sufficient until 2022.

Some NZSG officers have expressed the opinion that the national body and the branches are all in this together, and that administration or liquidation of the national body could see demands on the branches. There is nothing in the rules to support this, and our branch operates as a separate entity. However, any demands like this, or the legal costs to resist them could be seriously detrimental to our branch.

Our New Plymouth branch has stable membership, and although our funds are modest, we typically manage a surplus each year. Our branch has accumulated a valuable collection of local records and documents, and has compiled several databases of transcriptions and indices of historical records. These provide a valuable resource for our members and for people researching their family history in our area.

The branch committee is focused on maintaining and enhancing our resources and services. The prospect of financial issues with the NZSG could be a serious threat to our branch. Options to address this have been considered, and the committee has identified that the best available option is to disaffiliate from the NZSG. This would enable our branch activities and assets to continue as at present, but without the risk from external events, such as financial issues at NZSG.

This is an important decision for our branch, and is the subject of the EGM to be held on 2 November 2021. Please come along if you can.

Whatever the branch does, anyone can still be a member of NZSG, and we encourage you to become or continue to subscribe to NZSG.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact any of the committee members, or send an email to the branch at [newplymouth@genealogy.org.nz](mailto:newplymouth@genealogy.org.nz).

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## FamNet's Long Term Data Storage

FamNet is the New Zealand online genealogy service, providing somewhere that you can store your family history data, and search info that others have uploaded (unless they made it private).

The FamNet developer, Robert Barnes, is working on a plan for the long term preservation of all this data by moving it to the Family Search databases. Long term here means past our lifetimes. If you have data with FamNet (aka [NZGDB](#)) let them know your views on how to handle your data long term. You can contact Robert via the FamNet website.

By the way, the [monthly newsletter](#) is free and has some great articles on genealogy for New Zealanders.

[www.famnet.org.nz](http://www.famnet.org.nz)



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## DNA Interest Group

This year, our popular DNA sessions have been disrupted by Covid, but we might fit one in before the end of 2021. Please observe the rules for Covid:

- 1m spacing when at the rooms
- scan the QR code with the tracer app
- mask wearing recommended, and voluntary
- only fully vaccinated people please, for everyone's safety.

It is understandable if some people are reluctant to come along because of the pandemic. But if there is enough interest, a session will go ahead on Sunday 21 Nov 2021, at 13:30hrs. I can do a talk about 'Ways to Help Yourself with your DNA'. Following that we can look at any help or questions that anyone has.

So please let me know if you are interested in attending this session. I plan to email those who usually attend to gauge interest.

Sharyn



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## Library Roster: November / December

This roster will apply when we are at level 2 and 1. The branch rooms will be closed if we are at Covid alert level 3 or 4.

Mon 1	Charles Le Breton
Sat 6	Karen Crowe
Mon 8	Lorraine Austin
Sat 13	Gail Tanner
Mon 15	Annette Larsen
Sat 20	Graeme Jury
Mon 22	Jill Jackson
Sat 27	Sharyn Guthrie
Mon 29	Lea Bellini
Sat 4 Dec	Karen Crowe
Mon 6 Dec	Charles Le Breton
Sat 11 Dec	Gail Tanner
Mon 13 Dec	Lorraine Austin
Sat 18 Dec	Lea Bellini

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## Covid Alert Level 2

Please observe the COVID-19 rules at the alert level applying at the time. The branch rooms are open at level 2, so please follow the applicable rules.

- Stay home if you have any symptoms (dry cough, short of breath, loss of smell, etc).
- Wash your hands and any surfaces you touch.
- Wear a face mask when at the branch rooms.
- Use the COVID-19 app with the QR code and record your name in the attendance book.
- Keep at least 1m distance from anyone else at the rooms.
- Bring your own pen, paper, laptop, etc.
- Please get vaccinated.



There is more information on the Covid response at the official website [covid19.govt.nz](https://www.covid19.govt.nz).

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## 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](https://www.primo.nz)

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## Christmas New Year Break

As usual, the branch rooms will not be open over the Christmas / New Year period.

Last day for 2021                      Saturday 18 December

First day for 2022                      Monday 10 January

Access to the rooms can be arranged by appointment.

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## Library News

Magazines received;

Family Tree (Nov)

Who Do You Think You Are (Sept)



Newsletters received;

Canterbury, Dunedin, Gore, Hawkes Bay, Hutt Valley, Kapiti, Nelson, Otaki, Palmerston North, Porirua, Riccarton, Southland, 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](https://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](mailto:peter.hewett@gmail.com).

