

New Plymouth Genealogy Society Incorporated Newsletter



Number 6

June 2022

Unite
against
COVID-19

Reduce risk – Stay safe

New Zealand Government

All events are under Covid-19 protection framework
Society rooms are open: Monday and Saturday

2022 Society AGM

The first annual general meeting of our society was held on Tuesday 3 May. The main outcomes from the AGM are:

Convenor: Gail Tanner
Treasurer: Sharyn Guthrie
Secretary: Jackie Sewell
Committee: Karen Crowe, Lea Bellini,
Annette Larsen, Lorraine Austin, Graeme Jury,
Peter Keegan

The society constitution was ratified. The annual subscription and door charge remain unchanged.

AGM

Next meeting: 7:30pm Tuesday 7 June 2022

Spreadsheets For Genealogy

Spreadsheets (like MS Excel) can be an invaluable tool for storing and analysing genealogy research information.

Come along to our June meeting to hear how Peter Keegan has used them extensively to gather large amounts of data which can then be sorted and filtered by dates, names, locality, anything that will help to clarify family links and events. This approach has even enabled him to break down some of those brick walls that we all come up against from time to time.

In this talk, Peter will present some of the worksheets that he has used and show how they work.

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Peter Keegan
Annette Larsen

New Plymouth Genealogy Society Inc
c/- Gail Tanner
122 Wairau Road
New Plymouth 4314
Meetings: 7:30 pm, first Tuesday each month
at society rooms, Moturoa Shopping Centre
access is off the Whiteley Street car park
Email: newplymouthgenealogy@gmail.com
Website: www.genealogynp.com

May Meeting

After the formalities of the AGM, Gail showed us a few ways that YouTube can help with genealogy.

YouTube is an enormous collection of videos, and some of them are interesting or useful. In particular, there are lots of videos about genealogy.

There are videos about how to do various types of research, how to record the information that you find and the experiences that other people have had researching their family history.

Gail showed us some of the videos that are available. These cover the usual topics, and some topics that are unusual. For example, foot shape genealogy, where the shape of your toes is used as a basis to tell you about your ancestry.



July Meeting

7:30pm Tuesday 5 July 2022

Sharyn will be covering some of the many features of the website Ancestry. She will demonstrate some of the ways to improve searching for that elusive ancestor and why it is advantageous to you to have a family tree on their site. Though you need to have a subscription to search on Ancestry at home, you can access it at Puke Ariki for free.

Hosting a tree on Ancestry is also free and it will remain there even if your subscription ends.

Swedish Research

Charles has a book on Swedish immigrants to New Zealand up to 1940. The book is *Swedes in New Zealand, Immigration up to 1940* by Sten Arinoff.

If you would like any lookups from this book, please contact Charles Le Breton, up until June.

Convenor's Report

Hello again. I'd like to thank everybody who turned out to our AGM. I think it was successful and it was nice to be able to have a cuppa afterwards again. Thanks go to Bruce Bellini for stepping in to run the elections. We actually managed to get someone new on to the committee (he even volunteered) so I'm happy to introduce Peter Keegan as our new committee member. He's learning the ropes but I'm sure will be a valuable addition to our team. We've been a stable committee for a few years now, and I think everyone has proven to be a valuable team member. I really want to thank the whole committee for their support of me. I know I can run meetings a bit loosely, but I like to think the meetings are fun to come to and not just boring old run of the mill, stick to the ancient rules, kind of meetings.

At our committee meeting last week, we were finally able to see our new sign, which will be put up outside over the next few weeks. It's fabulous and won't be missed by anyone looking to find us. You'll be able to see it at the meeting this week.

Our new committee member Peter Keegan has kindly agreed to do the talk this week, which will be on how to make use of spreadsheets for your family history, and how they can help your research. So come along and support him. I've been using spreadsheets for years, but as he was explaining some of the things he will discuss I realised there was an awful lot I still had to learn.

Winter is trying to show itself, but autumn just doesn't want to let go, so take care in this flu season, keep warm and look after yourselves.

Gail Tanner
Society Convenor

DNA Interest Group

The DNA Interest group's next meeting is Sunday 26 June at 1330hrs. Sharyn Guthrie will be talking on Cousin Terminology & the Shared cM Project and how they help you working out your DNA matches. Plus, also please send Sharyn – sharynjguthrie@gmail.com – any queries to do with DNA that you would like help with.

Sharyn Guthrie

Papers Past Video

This is a recording of a webinar hosted by Auckland Library. The talk was presented by Emerson Vandy from the National Library.

Papers Past has been around for twenty years now, and over the last year has been making strides in delivering more recent material. This talk focused on different tools and features the website provides to support different research subjects and approaches. The talk covered ways to find what you need in this collection, and what Papers Past has got coming up.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/aucklandlibraries>

Recent additions to Papers Past:

- Gisborne Standard and Cook County Gazette (June 1887-1891)
- Grey River Argus (1921-1935)
- Hawke's Bay Tribune (1921-September 1936)
- Poverty Bay Independent (March 1885-1886)
- Poverty Bay Standard (October 1872-1876, 1881-1884)
- Waimate Daily Advertiser (1905-May 1906, 1920-1929)

The story of a bus

I like researching things, is that why I started genealogy or did I get that from doing genealogy or was it my old job? Who knows now. Anyway what I am writing about today is not the family history of people but what else you can use your family history research skills for.

My daughter bought an old bus that had been converted in to a house bus (it's engine died long ago and it's grave is known!). She will use it in the country. Well of course I thought "where did it come from, who used it and why". Just like we would want to know about our ancestors.

The internet is a wondrous thing. From that I found that it's chassis was "born" in Dunstable, Bedfordshire, England. This emigrated to New Zealand in 1954 and was clothed in Petone (the addition of a body). Shortly thereafter it was "adopted" by the New Zealand Railways Road Services where it lived happily for 18 years. It travelled extensively over that time, but as it didn't keep a diary like so many travellers did, we don't know it's movements. When it became 18 it's "family" decided it was time for it to leave it's home and so the bus moved to Cambridge.

Mr AJM Cresswell took said bus under his wing, in Cambridge and the bus's calling for the next 16 years was operating as a charter taking people to places and children to and from school. (Note that AJM Cresswell operated originally in Okato with it would seem 2 buses under Cresswell Motors Okato in the 1950s and died in New Plymouth in 2020 - I did actually do a bit of people research too!)

This bus was obviously a very social animal spending much time with people for it's early life. However by 1988, he took early retirement. He was no longer fit for purpose, but was saved from an early demise by a man who felt the bus still had a future. However, worn out by his constant contact with people young and old, he was in a very sad state. His new owner completely gutted him and turned him from a bus to a beautiful self contained mobile home with rimu panelling throughout.

It took three years for these life changing operations to be complete. He also had a name change from *Bedford Bus* to *Motley Cruiser*. I have been unable to confirm that this was done by deed poll. As we know so many names have been changed by choice and not legally, just to confuse us in our research, Bellini being one of them. The bus gave much joy to it's new owners and it welcomed the slow down in it's life style. It continued to travel here, there and everywhere but at a slower pace than in the past.

Then one day about 16 years ago, poor Motley Cruiser stopped never to go again (but the "old man" had not died). So there he sat in a backyard, cast on it's wheels, but never fear, he still had a use as a spare room. But then he too had to move on – his services were no longer required. However, all was not lost. Another person fell in love with Motley and took him away to live happily ever after in the country where he could provide a place for her to go to escape from the city, and the pair of them can gaze at the bush, the mountain and a small river. They will live happily ever after.

I hope you enjoyed this fun story of researching a bus!

Lea Bellini



Library Roster: June

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

Sat 4 June Karen Crowe
Mon 6 June closed
Sat 11 June Charles Le Breton
Mon 13 June Lorraine Austin
Sat 18 June Lea Bellini
Mon 20 June Annette Larsen
Sat 25 June Graeme Jury
Mon 27 June Jill Jackson
Sat 2 July Karen Crowe
Mon 4 July Charles Le Breton

Covid-19 Protection Framework

It has been a while, but Covid-19 is still about and is still capable of causing severe illness. The society is operating under the Covid-19 traffic light system. Please follow the applicable rules.

- Stay home if you have any symptoms (dry cough, short of breath, loss of smell, etc).
- Wear a face mask when at the branch rooms.
- Record your name in the attendance book.
- Keep at least 1m from anyone else at the rooms.
- Bring your own pen, paper, laptop, etc.
- Please get vaccinated. A vaccine pass is no longer required when you visit the rooms.



There is more information on the Covid response at the official website covid19.govt.nz.

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

Library News

Just an update on new acquisitions in the branch library. Recently we were fortunate enough to receive nine books from Puke Ariki which were duplicate copies of books they already held. Eight of these were in respect of school jubilees for Pihama, Otakeho, Te Roti, Tariki, Kaponga, Matapu and Auroa (2). The other book was *Polish settlers in Taranaki*. These books have been catalogued and shelved, so if you are interested in any of them, have a look next time you are at the rooms.



In our April newsletter, Sharyn Guthrie wrote of her cousin Richard Stowers and one of the books he had written. This book, *Bloody Gallipoli*, has been donated to the branch by Sharyn and is also catalogued and shelved. Thank you to Sharyn for this donation.

Lea Bellini

Magazines received;

Family Tree (May)

Who Do You Think You Are (April, May, June)

Newsletters received;

Feilding, Gore, Hutt Valley, Kapiti, Nelson, Palmerston North, Papakura, Porirua, South Waikato, Stratford, Wairarapa, Wellington

If you would like an email copy of newsletters from another genealogy society or branch, please contact Peter Hewett.

Newsletter

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