

New Plymouth Genealogy Society Incorporated

Newsletter



Number 8

August 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

Genealogy Basics

We are planning on running a series of beginning genealogy classes, presented by Gail Tanner.

This is in response to the interest that has been shown so far. Some people want an introduction to genealogy, so they start off on the right foot, others are keen on a refresher.

There is a lot to know about how to everything in relation to genealogy. Such as research techniques, citing sources, recording information, managing collected documents, publishing & presenting your findings.

Dates and other details are yet to be confirmed. So if you are interested, please contact Gail Tanner at 027 376 0630 or gailjt@outlook.com.



Next meeting: 7:30pm Tuesday 5 July 2022

Online Trees

There are several websites that host a collaborative family tree than users can contribute to. These include [Wikitree](https://www.wikitree.com/), [FamilySearch](https://www.familysearch.org/), [TribalPages](https://www.tribalpages.com/) and others.

There are advantages and disadvantages to using an online tree. This month, Bill Irving will show us what can be done with online trees, and how to use them to help your research.

But wait, there's more; Bill has prepared two documents explaining online trees and WikiTree. These will be attached to the newsletter sent out to members.



WikiTree
Where genealogists collaborate

Convenor: Gail Tanner 027 376 0630
Secretary: Jackie Sewell
Treasurer: Sharyn Guthrie
Committee: Lorraine Austin
Lea Bellini
Karen Crowe
Graeme Jury
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

July Meeting - Using Ancestry.com

At our July meeting, Sharyn Guthrie showed us some features of [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com). This is a major genealogy website, with lots and lots of features. You can have a free account, or pay a subscription to get access to their vast collection of records. Sometimes, they offer discounts on subs, so look out for those.

Be sure to set up your profile with information so that other genealogists can contact you. Link your profile to you in your tree.

Set the privacy level for your tree.

- public tree, others can find it through searches, but living people are not visible
- private tree, not visible to others unless shared with them. Can opt to exclude from search results

Ancestry has lots of records. Download any that are of interest to you, as they may not always be available on line.

The search function has lots of settings and features. Sharyn explained how to use these. Check all the options to improve your searches.

Though you need to have a subscription to search on Ancestry at home, you can access it at Puke Ariki for free.



DNA Interest Group

The DNA Interest group's next meeting is Saturday 20 August at 1330hrs. Please send Sharyn – sharynjguthrie@gmail.com – any queries to do with DNA that you would like help with.

Sharyn Guthrie

Convenor's Report

Hello again everyone. I can't believe we are over halfway through the year already. And Winter has well and truly shown himself recently. But it is great weather to stay inside and carry on your researching efforts.

This coming meeting, we have our member Bill Irving going to give us a demonstration of "Collective Family Trees within the Internet: How to use Wikitree."

I personally have never used Wikitree, so I am looking forward to finding out a bit more about it. So come along and learn with me.

Last Thursday I began another term of Beginners Genealogy for U3A members, and it has been suggested that maybe I should run the class for our own members. Even if you are already doing your research, there is always something new to learn. So, if you think this could be for you, please contact me to register your interest. It would be held during the week, in the daytime, for about 1 ½ hours a time, and it would be held monthly. My phone number is on the bottom of the page.

Shortly I will be sending out invitations to our valued volunteers, to an afternoon tea to thank them for all their hard work. Without volunteers no indexing would be done, nothing would be loaded onto our systems, and no research resources would be available for you to use. You just need to look around our rooms to see how much has been achieved by those few who give up a bit of their time, so you are able to easily find the information you are looking for.

Don't forget to let me know if you would like to be part of a Beginners Genealogy class, in the next few months.

Keep safe

Gail Tanner
Society Convenor

Book Fair: 11 - 13 August 2022

The Salvation Army book fair is on this month.

Thursday 11 August: 9:00am to 7:00pm

Friday 12 August: 9:00am to 6:00pm

Saturday 13 August: 9:00am to 2:00pm

Venue: corner of Powderham and Dawson Streets, New Plymouth.

Maps in Our library

I thought I would share the use of another part of the library – the stuff in the map drawer. It is probably a bit of a mystery to most of you as to what those drawers hold but there are things of interest in them such cemetery plans, family trees, plans of NP prison, old street maps, old newspapers and so on.

My story starts with a research enquiry I received. The person who contacted us wanted to know the whereabouts of a property called *Airedale* on Junction Road near Inglewood.

I was given the name of the man and the fact he lived on Junction Road 1 mile from Inglewood in 1882.

From research on line I found the following:

- In 1882 James Kidd was building a double roofed house about 1 mile out of town on Junction Road (Taranaki Herald 19/07/1882)
- According to the electoral roll 1885, James Kidd had a residential property & was a farmer. Land at 104 & 105 Tarurutangi.
- In January 1886 he lived at *Airedale* (newspaper article 12 Jan 1886).
- In 1891 he owned & occupied section 104 & 105. He also occupied 102, owned by Frank Douglas Kidd (Land Transfer Act notice in Taranaki Herald 25/08/1891)
- He died in 1894 at his residence *Airedale* Inglewood (Taranaki Herald 18/07/1894)
- In 1910 *Airedale* Inglewood is mentioned as a house to let. It had 6 rooms and 12 acres of land (Taranaki Herald 15/01/1910).

I remembered the maps in the map drawers. I looked at the catalogue that resides on the top of the drawers in our rooms. Yes, we had maps of Tarurutangi and Inglewood. I looked at those maps and found the Lands & Survey Cadastral map of 1963. This showed that Sections Pt 104 & PT 105 Tarurutangi District were on Junction Road (which is the main road between Egmont Village). It was on the corner of Junction Road and Lepper Road Lower. That is approx 1.8 miles from the centre of Inglewood. So I am reasonably sure that this is where *Airedale* was.

I then looked at the current details of the property from the Council web site. The property had changed since 1963. The land was probably subdivided, as the property now only comprises 5.5 acres and I can see that the house built by James

Kidd is no longer there.

I am so glad that I was able to use the maps in our library to help locate a property. It is amazing what information we hold.

Lea Belini

It pays to be cheeky ...

On a recent trip to Whanganui where my Great-Grandparents settled in 1875, I walked along the banks of the river toward the railway bridge, thinking that I might also walk along the Eastown Rd to see the house that they had owned, from where my Grandad and most of his siblings went to school at Aramoho primary across the river and from where Great-Grandad and almost all his children went to work at the Eastown Railway workshops. The house was across the road from the railway line and workshops, and I stood on the railway embankment looking at the house where my grandfather and his eight siblings were brought up. The front door was open, so I guessed someone was at home.

In a moment of impulse, I crossed the road and knocked on the door. When I explained why I was there, I was invited into what would have been the front sitting room, had a cup of tea and an interesting discussion with the current owners who brought out a copy of the current title dated May 1926. It seems that about that time Whanganui had updated all the property titles, but it was definitely the house that had been my Great-Grandparents before their deaths in 1912 and 1914. The 1926 title was in the names of two of the sons (my Great-Uncles) as trustees and then changed when one of the sons bought the house outright. We crouched on the floor looking at the title deeds and other documents that the owners held. I took photos and shared with them my ancestors' early days in the house.

I was shown through the house, the front sitting room, three bedrooms off the central hallway, one for parents, one for the girls and one for the boys. At the rear of the house was a very small kitchen and a separate breakfast room. A small porch off the back door and then a path to the long-drop toilet. Very few changes had been made. In a concession to modern living, what had been the parent's bedroom was now the inside toilet and bathroom.

In all my research into family, I have yet to come across anyone who has not been prepared to talk about the past, even, as in this case, my hosts were totally unrelated.

Peter Keegan

Library Roster: July

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

Sat 30 July Sharyn Guthrie
Mon 1 Aug Charles Le Breton
Sat 6 Aug Karen Crowe
Mon 8 Aug Lorraine Austin
Sat 13 Aug Gail Tanner
Mon 15 Aug Annette Larsen
Sat 20 Aug Sharyn Guthrie
Mon 22 Aug Graeme Jury
Sat 27 Aug Lea Bellini
Mon 29 Aug Jill Jackson
Sat 3 Sep Karen Crowe
Mon 5 Sep Charles Le Breton

Facebook Group

Remember the New Plymouth genealogy Facebook group. This now has over 120 members, and is a great place to find help and learn from others researching our part of the world. On Facebook, search for New Plymouth Genealogy Society.

West Surrey Booklets

Grace Thrush is decluttering and has a set of the West Surrey booklets, 1990 - 2000. These are free to a good home. If you are interested, please contact Grace Thrush at 06 752 3589.

TBI Update

The Taranaki Biological Index is a comprehensive index to the records that our society has. The TBI is being continually updated and now has over 880,000 records. The TBI is available on the computers at the rooms, and by email request to our research officer.

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

Covid-19 Protection Framework

Covid-19 is still about and causing illness. Please follow the rules and keep everyone healthy.

- Stay home if you have any symptoms (dry cough, short of breath, loss of smell, etc).
- Wear a face mask when at the society rooms.
- Get vaccinated, but a vaccine pass isn't required.



There is more information at covid19.govt.nz.

Library News

Newsletters received;

Ashburton, Dunedin, Feilding, Hawera, Hutt Valley, Kapiti, Matamata, Nelson, Otaki, Palmerston North, Papakura, Papamoa, Porirua, South Waikato, Stratford, 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.