

New Plymouth Genealogy Society Incorporated Newsletter



Number 13

February 2023

Branch Library: Open free to members. A small charge to visitors.

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

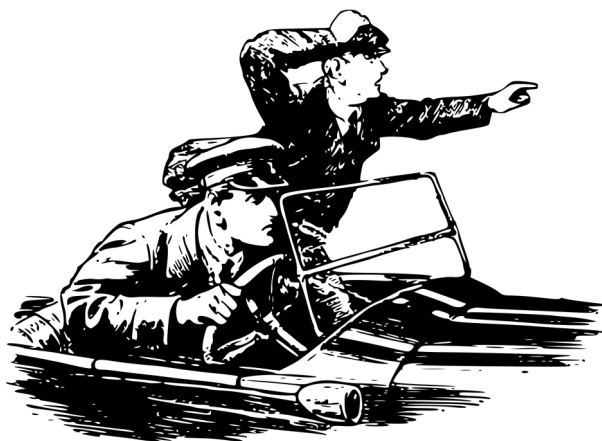
Happy New Year!

Welcome to the new year. This is our first newsletter for 2023.

The weather has been disruptive around the country, but hopefully you have had time over the Christmas period to catch up with family and friends.

The committee is lining up a great programme of events this year. If you have any ideas, suggestions or requests, please speak up. Just talk to any committee member, or [send us an email](#).

Let's get on with 2023!



Next meeting: 6:30pm Tuesday 7 Feb 2023

Bell Block Cemetery

Our February meeting is a site visit to the St Luke's Lawn Cemetery in Bell Block. This is an independent cemetery operated by the St Luke's church. The cemetery has been here for over 100 years, with records kept since 1908. The [headstone transcriptions](#) for this cemetery are on our society website.

Please meet at the cemetery in Murray Street, Bell Block at 6:30pm.



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 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

DNA Session January 2023

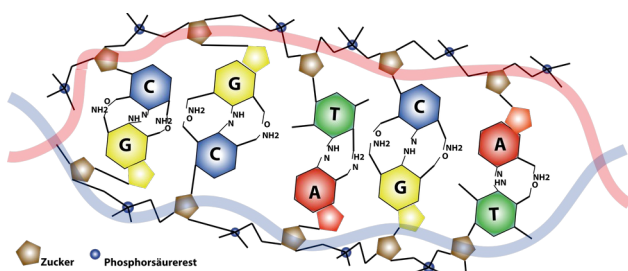
In January, we started the year with a DNA session. Sharyn Guthrie explained some techniques for using DNA results to help with genealogy.

Sharyn explained a way of organising matches in a spreadsheet, to better show the relationships to your known matches.

Sometimes, DNA can bring up unexpected results, such as a biological parent not being the person who we thought was the parent. We watched a [short YouTube video](#) in which actress Julia Roberts finds that her paternal surname isn't really Roberts, if you go back a couple of generations.

Sharon showed us the [WATO tool](#) from [dnainter.com](#). When you have a DNA match and want to work out where the person fits in the family tree, the WATO tool helps by calculating the probabilities that the person could be at certain places in the tree.

Sharyn also demonstrated the [shared cM project tool](#). For a given cM match, this tool shows the likely relationships, such as second or third cousin, etc.



Planned Events

Note these upcoming events in your diary.

DNA for Genealogy

Sunday 19 February, 1:30pm

Sharyn Guthrie will explain more about using DNA results to help your genealogy research. Bring along your DNA info and your questions.

Publishing your Family History

Tuesday 7 March, 7:30pm

Come along to see what can be done for publishing your family history. This puts your research in a form that others in your family can use and appreciate. This event will look at the different ways to do this, and what is involved to get there.

Convenor's Report

Welcome to the beginning of the New Year 2023. As I am writing this, I am getting ready for my first trip of the year – I'm flying out to Newcastle, NSW this Saturday to be with my gorgeous twin grandies for their third birthday. It's a lot simpler to prepare this time as the Covid restrictions have loosened, so it's not quite as stressful as last time I travelled to Australia.

Our Christmas potluck lunch was great, we had a lot of fun, and lot of delicious food. We drew our Christmas raffle and Elly Harrison was the lucky winner.

We have a busy year ahead of us again, as we continue with not only our normal monthly meetings, but the monthly DNA meetings run by DNA pro Sharyn and my genealogy classes that are ongoing.

Rootstech 2023 conference is on from 2 to 4 March in Salt Lake City Utah, and you can register for free for the virtual event where you can get access to 200+ on demand classes. Plus view the main stage presentations and keynote speakers. Well worth a look. You can register for free here: <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/event/rt2023>. Check out the website to see what else is available.

Our meeting on Feb 7th is our annual visit to a cemetery. This year we've chosen to go to the Bell Block Cemetery, which holds the graves of many early settlers. You can get there via Murray Street, and there is plenty of parking. We've made the time 6:30, to make the most of the daylight. There are other cemeteries in Bell Block, but this one is the largest.

I hope to see you there – and pray the weather gods bless us with a lovely evening.

Happy New Year

Gail Tanner
Society Convenor

Claude Vincent / William Burgess

Are you researching families of Claude Hayden Vincent (1891 - 1930) also known as William Hagen Burgess? He was born in Ashburton to parents George and Jane (nee Turton) Vincent. After serving in WW1, he returned to New Plymouth and is buried at Te Henui cemetery. At the time, he had relatives in Eltham.

Rosie is a descendant who currently lives in the UK. She has done a lot of research to unravel the family history. She is visiting New Plymouth in February and has arranged to come to our rooms.

If you are researching this families, this would be a great chance to share information and meet a relative. Please [send us an email](#).

Esau and Sarah Marsh

Esau Marsh (1838 – 1929) and Sarah (nee Stockman, 1849 – 1929) had a large family in north Taranaki, with over 130 grandchildren. So they have lots of descendants!

Are you researching this family? We have been contacted by a descendant currently living in Australia, who is planning to visit in November. If you would like to meet with them or share information, please contact Lea Bellini or Peter Hewett, or [send us an email](#).

Waitara Area Research

Local historian Graeme Duckett has generously offered access to his historical resources. He specialises in the Waitara to Awakino area, and lots of Taranaki families have history around there. You can contact Graeme by email at fantailkiwi54@gmail.com

RootsTech 2 – 4 March 2023

The largest family history conference in the world is free and online. This massive conference has all the biggest names in genealogy presenting the latest and greatest information, techniques and gadgets.

Click the link below to find out more and to register.

www.familysearch.org/rootstech



Library news

The Waitara Districts History & Families Research Group has closed and it's resources dispersed amongst private individuals. After these distributions, the group contacted us to say that they had a lot of family records that they could not rehouse and invited us to look at them to see if we wanted them.

Lorraine and I visited Rose Cottage in Waitara just before Christmas and uplifted about ten or so banana boxes of family histories which range from a 1 page family tree to bound books. Most of these histories are spiral bound though. We just could not let them go off to be destroyed which was what would have happened. Marilyn and I have unpacked the boxes and stored the books on the shelves at the back of our rooms next to the white cupboard. The next step is for the two of us to process them. That is to check if we have them already, then label them and add to our library catalogue. It is a big job but we will work through them bit by bit. We are not sure how we are going about it yet but we do ask that none of these books are taken or moved. It might confuse our system – when we have one!

Hopefully you will find Marilyn and I at the library most Tuesday mornings working on this project.

Lea Bellini

Christmas Lunch 2022

The last event for 2022 was a pot luck BYO Christmas lunch at our rooms on 3 December.

As well as a great lunch, we had a fun quiz (some questions were linked to genealogy) and the official draw of the Christmas raffle. The raffle was a Christmas hamper, which was won by Elly Harrison. Congratulations Elly!



Library Roster: February

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

Sat 4 Feb Karen Crowe
Mon 6 Feb Jill Jackson
Sat 11 Feb Gail Tanner
Mon 13 Feb Lorraine Austin
Sat 18 Feb Lea Bellini
Mon 20 Feb Annette Larsen
Sat 25 Feb Annette Larsen
Mon 27 Feb Jill Jackson
Sat 4 Mar Karen Crowe
Mon 6 Mar Charles Le Breton

Trove: Australian Newspaper History Online

Trove is an online archive for Australian newspapers, documents, images and other items. It is rather like our [PapersPast](#), and is a great resource for historians and genealogists.

Trove is operated by the National Library of Australia which is funded by federal government. But funding runs out in July 2023 and the service is to be shut down. You can read more at [the conversation](#) and the [SMH](#).

Please sign the petition at [change.org](#) to support preservation of this historical resource.



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 (flu, dry cough, short of breath, loss of smell, etc).
- You can wear a face mask at the society rooms.



There is more information at covid19.govt.nz.

Library News

Newsletters received;

Canterbury, Dunedin, Hawke's Bay, Hutt Valley, Kapiti, Papakura, Riccarton, South Canterbury, Southland, South Waikato, Wairarapa, Whanganui

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.