

New Plymouth Genealogy Society Incorporated

Newsletter



Number 16

May 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

2023 Society AGM

The second annual general meeting of our society will be on Tuesday 2 May. The formal notice of meeting was distributed with the April newsletter.

Nominations are open for committee members.

Our society relies on volunteers to keep things running. There are lots of different ways that you can help. Please talk with any current committee member if you can help or have any questions.

Documents for the AGM (such as annual report and financial statement) are distributed to members with this newsletter.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Next meeting: 7:30pm Tuesday 2 May 2023

Should I get a DNA test?

There is a lot of discussion and excitement about getting a DNA test done to help with your family history research. But there are lots of options, it costs a bit and what are the downsides?

Following on after the AGM this month, Graeme Jury will discuss some of the factors that you can consider when you are thinking about getting a DNA test.



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

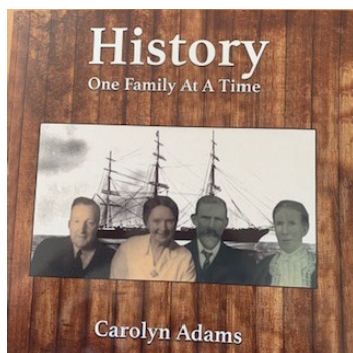
New Plymouth Genealogy Society Inc
c/- Gail Tanner
122 Wairau Road
New Plymouth 4314
Meetings: 7:30 pm, first Tuesday each month
at society rooms, Moturoa Shopping Centre
access is off the Whiteley Street car park
Email: newplymouthgenealogy@gmail.com
Website: www.genealogynp.com

History: One Family at a Time

At our April meeting, Carolyn Adams told us about her family research. This included the research that she did in the UK and in Taranaki for her book *History: One Family At A Time*. In 2021, NZSG awarded Carolyn the Kevin McAnulty award for the best published family history.

Carolyn now lives in Wellington, but she grew up in Taranaki and much of her family history is here. She explained some of the more useful sources of information, such as old wills and land ownership records in the UK. It is also important to understand the context for your ancestors, and why they did what they did (like migrate to New Zealand). Check out the local history books written about the places where your family lived.

The historic land records for Taranaki are now held by Archives NZ in Wellington.



DNA for Genealogy

Sunday 21 May, 1:30pm

This month at the meeting on Sunday 21 May at 13:30hrs I'm going to go over ethnicity as shown in your DNA test. I'll do an introductory talk on it and am planning on sending out some questions for those who are on my DNA Interest Group Meeting email list to look at on their own tests before the meeting.

This is to encourage discussion following my talk about your ethnicity results, and how you feel they reflect what you know of your heritage. If you are not receiving my emails then you may not be on my list. Email me at sharyndna@gmail.com if you would like to be added.

Sharyn

Convenor's Report

This year we've completed our first year as the New Plymouth Genealogy Society Inc. And it's been great. Our membership has grown, our profile on Facebook has grown, and it's onwards and upwards from here.

We've had a busy year, with regular DNA classes every month, and I have been taking two sets of beginners classes, that have just finished for the time being.

Covid had less impact this last year, though it is still around, so we all must still be vigilant.

So now we move into the next year, and may it be as successful and enjoyable as the one we are leaving.

If you have read my report that was sent with the AGM papers, you will see how we have had a vast range of different talks over the past year. Most to do with genealogy but a couple that were general interest such as Graeme Harris' talk about his demolition days.

We also were very lucky to have a talk given by international DNA Expert Donna Rutherford. She has family in New Plymouth and offered to give us the talk while visiting. It was very well attended, and we celebrated her birthday with her with a cake provided by Len Jury.

Hopefully we will see you at the AGM. Graeme Jury is giving a talk about having your DNA done. It will be from a different perspective than Sharyn's talks, so should be worth listening to I think.

So, roll on Tuesday night and into the new year for New Plymouth Genealogy Society.

Gail Tanner
Society Convenor

Library Resources

The society library collects funeral sheets from our area. Please drop them off at the library if you have any of these from a local funeral.

We are also requesting donations of A4 sized envelopes, new or used. These are for organising our paper records. So, don't throw out those A4 sized envelopes, leave them at the library so we can put them to good use.

Library Roster: May

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

Mon 1 May Lorraine Austin
Sat 6 May Karen Crowe
Mon 8 May Charles Le Breton
Sat 13 May Gail Tanner
Mon 15 May Graeme Jury
Sat 20 May Lea Bellini
Mon 22 May Lorraine Austin
Sat 27 May Sharyn Guthrie
Mon 29 May Jill Jackson
Sat 3 Jun Karen Crowe
Mon 5 Jun Charles Le Breton

NP Genealogy Facebook Group

Our Facebook membership continues to grow steadily, and we are now up to 165 members. Have a look at it and see some of the latest posts, I've posted about my husband's article in the *Daily News* related to the Taranaki Media Archive www.taranakimediaarchive.co.nz. Paul Ashton has posted commemorating one of the early ships arrivals and has some interesting feedback from this. Robert Hall has posted some amazing old photos from around Taranaki. It's a great way to interact with others interested in our area and genealogy.

For best security on your Facebook account check that you have your privacy settings so that only 'Friends' can see your posts.



New Plymouth Genealogy Society

Sharyn Guthrie

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

Magazines received;

Who Do You Think You Are (May)



Newsletters received;

Balclutha, Canterbury, Dunedin, Feilding, Hawkes Bay, Hutt Valley, Matamata, Mosgiel, Nelson, Otaki, Palmerston North, Papakura, South Canterbury, Southland, 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.

The Plymouth Ships

by Elsie Andrews, 1947

This is a poem about the first six English ships of migrants to New Plymouth, arriving in the 1840s.

I picture *William Bryan* as a sober Puritan,
A decorous, reserved, and somewhat ponderous young man,
With fustian breeches, broadcloth coat, and sombre black cravat,
With metal buckles on his shoon, and wide-brimmed beaver hat;
I see him in his counting house, or standing on the Hoe
With salt-caked master mariners, these many years ago;
What need had he of chick or child, to carry on his name
with gallant vessel to ensure his everlasting fame?

I think *Amelia Thompson* was a rather pert young miss,
Responsive to a sly caress or a surreptitious kiss.
The captain's daughter, was she? Or the quartermaster's niece?
A most seductive charmer! Oh, a most engaging piece!
She trips the deck in crinoline and gaily coloured shawl,
(The wonder is the sailor-lads to any work at all!)
But Miss Amelia steps ashore before the boat sets sail,
She likes the deep-sea life in port, away from storm and gale.

The *Oriental* calls up thoughts of a very different kind,
And Arab dhows and Chinese junks go floating through my mind,
And Indian traders beating up across the tropic bay
With bales of silken merchandise and jade from far Cathay.
Old Marco Polo struts the stage with tales of fabled Ind,
And music from soft temple-bells comes whispering down the wind,
While leagues away, through sunny seas, she sails serenely on,
The ship whose name can conjure up the court of Babylon.

The fourth of Plymouth ships I sing the good *Timandra*'s praise,
Despite her past of ill-repute in old Hellenic days.
The mistress she, so Shakespeare says, of Alcibiades.
No better than she should have been! But now upon the seas,
She expiates her scarlet sin by bringing safe to shore
My grandsire and my grandam. (And several hundred more.)
My own ancestral bark. On this alone can rest her claim
To honoured mention evermore on Neptune's scroll of fame.

No martial boat the *Blenheim* for an emigrant is board,
In piping days of peace, with neither pistol, gun, or sword;
The ghost of Marlborough, soldier-like when Stuart Anne was queen,
Would look askance to find himself in such a tranquil scene.
No cannon on the quarter-deck, no muskets for the men
To fight his famous battles o'er and win them once again!
The *Blenheim* dips her ensign. No, she carries none of these;
She's outward bound with men of peace, for homes in southern seas.

The *Essex* bears a fine old name of ancient Saxon ring,
Full fifteen hundred years ago a Saxon there was king;
The wild boars roamed the wooded heights where oak and beech-tree rose,
And sturdy bowmen loosed their shafts against the intruding foes;
Here Norman knights with tossing plumes and shining coats-of-mail
A-riding on their chargers came, along the bosky vale.
In all the drama of our past has Essex had proud share,
And *Essex* is a goodly name for English boat to bear.

These were our ships – the Plymouth ships. They sailed from Plymouth town
A hundred years ago, small cockleshells tossed up and down
Through weary months by wind and wave. But brave and staunch they bore
Their precious freight from well-loved homes to this far-distant shore.
And while a drop of English blood within our veins shall flow
We'll keep in cherished memory those names of long ago;
Nor mighty dreadnought, giant tramp, nor ocean greyhound fleet
For glory or for honour will with our famed ships compete.