

New Plymouth Genealogy Society Incorporated Newsletter



Number 20

September 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

Genealogy Basics

There can be a lot to learn about how to do genealogy. Using the correct techniques and practices can make your research much easier and more effective.

Gail is planning to run the series of beginner classes for members soon. This will cover how to organise your research, which software programmes to use, where to find historical information and much more.

If you would like to learn about genealogy methods, or just brush up your techniques, please contact her to register interest or to ask any questions.

Genealogy Basics

Next meeting: 7:30pm Tuesday 5 Sep 2023

Family History Expo

New Zealand's largest genealogy convention is the Auckland family history expo, and was held in August this year. It was sponsored by Auckland council libraries and the Genealogical Computer Group, and it included exhibitions by many of the leading genealogy companies.

Gail, Sharyn and Karen attended the event this year. At our September meeting, they will tell us what they learned and saw at the expo.

Come along to the September meeting to hear what was on show at the expo!



**Auckland Council
Libraries**

Ngā Pātaka Kōrero o Tāmaki Makaurau

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

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

Who Do You Think You Are?

At our August meeting, we saw a special screening of the latest episode of the Australian TV series of *Who Do You Think You Are?* This episode featured Derryn Hinch, the controversial Australian journalist, politician and media personality who happened to grow up in Taranaki. The episode is due to screen on NZ TV in 2024.



Wikipedia CC BY-SA 2.0

The film crew visited Wairarapa, Waiouru, Wellington, Christchurch and Taranaki to record the show. The investigation into Derryn's family history included DNA, consulting military historians and research of lots of historical documents. This uncovered lots of new information about Derryn's ancestors, including the identity of his previously unknown maternal grandfather.

NP society members Gail and Sharyn both appear in this episode, talking about the Taranaki parts of the story. It was great to hear from them about some of what went on behind the scenes when they were making the show.

We are thinking of running a second showing for anyone who missed this meeting, or who would just like to see it again. This will be a daytime session, for those who can't make it to an evening session. Please let us know if you are interested.

DNA for Genealogy

Be there on Sunday 17 September 2023 at 13:30hrs for the next DNA session at our rooms.

Join us to see the follow up to the Leeds Method that was demonstrated last month – what do you do with your chart now? Learn about clustering and auto clusters with My Heritage. It doesn't matter if you could come last month, you'll learn something new and see how to move on with your results.

Come along with any questions as well and for any help wanted. \$2 door entry and bring your laptop, tablet and something to write notes in. Any question, please email me at sharyndna@gmail.com.

Sharyn



Convenor's Report

We've reached September already and spring is well and truly in the air. Hasn't the weather been stunning over the last couple of weeks. At the last committee meeting, we were discussing ideas for our meetings and the December meeting came into the discussion. I can't believe how fast this year has gone.

As members have now paid their subs, we can confirm that our membership has grown, which hopefully is a sign that we are doing something right.

Our August meeting showing Sharyn Guthrie and I in the *Who Do You Think You Are* program for Derryn Hinch was a great success, with perhaps one of the biggest turnouts we've seen since before Covid. Thank you all for your support – Sharyn and I both had a great time being involved in the filming, and Derryn is a lovely man, as were the small crew that were with him.

A couple of months ago I got the meeting programme wrong – my excuse is that everything is a bit fluid – I've said a couple of times that our meeting would be about FreeBMDs but again it's not to be this time. Sharyn, Karen and I spent a weekend in Auckland a couple of weeks ago at the Family History Expo, hosted by the Auckland Library, where we were able to catch up with friends, and learn some new things, or just watch interesting talks. So, this week we plan to tell you all about it. It's worth the trip up and a great way to immerse yourself in all things genealogy.

I am also planning to begin my beginners' classes again in the next few weeks. We have had 40 new members over the last couple of years, which means we must be doing something right. I will let you know when that will happen closer to the start date. You can contact me with your expressions of interest in attending before then.

On the 15th September, Sharyn and I are running another Help day – you can read the details elsewhere in this newsletter. Just email Sharyn at sharyndna@gmail.com to make an appointment, there are 10 one-hour spots. It doesn't just have to be about DNA – it can be anything genealogical.

Hopefully I'll see you all at Tuesday night's meeting.

Gail Tanner
Society Convenor

Elusive Uncle Roy

Recently, I found out about a funeral of a 92 yr old "uncle". My sister wasn't sure how he fitted in to our family, so I spent some time on the sites to see what I could find out. He didn't appear in FamilySearch and the NZ DIA site didn't have his birth or marriage. This would indicate he wasn't born in NZ and didn't marry in NZ.

A story on FamilySearch said that he had "immigrated" from Southampton in 1953 aged 22 (so the dates matched). Unfortunately, if he was an actual uncle, this can't have been the case as all great-grandparents were in NZ by then. When relaying this to my sister, she remembered him having a wife and children so more work was needed.

I went to the rooms and the duty librarian repeated my search at DIA and a CD rom and confirmed my negative results from earlier. However, the TBI told me that he was born in New Plymouth to the correct parents and that he had attended four local schools. I confirmed this from the actual birth index and school cards.

During the funeral service, I discovered that he had actually departed to England in 1953 (ie not immigrated). He returned two years later but I hadn't seen records of that anywhere.

History came up in general conversation after the funeral service so I mentioned what I had been through. One of the cousins had also done considerable research and had been unable to secure a birth certificate through the appropriate channels.

All of which made things rather uncertain at the time of Roy's funeral. Later, his birth and death records have appeared in the historical search on the DIA BDM website. Historical records are births more than 100 years ago and deaths more than 50 years ago, but Roy didn't match either of these. DIA also count as historical, a birth more than 80 years ago of a deceased person, and a death of someone who was born more than 80 years ago. Roy is included under these criteria, but not until his records were updated by DIA.

Jeff Grange

Genealogy/ DNA Help Day

Another of the popular help days has been scheduled in September. Book a one hour appointment and get one on one help with any aspect of your genealogy or DNA research from our experts, Gail and Sharyn.

When: Friday 15 September

Where: NPGS rooms, Moturoa

There are five times, and there will be two appointments at each time period.

1000 – 1100 hrs (10am to 11am)

1100 – 1200 hrs (11am to 12midday)

1300 – 1400 hrs (1pm to 2pm)

1400 – 1500 hrs (2pm to 3pm)

1500 – 1600 hrs (3pm to 4pm)

The topic can be anything related to genealogy, such as using a genealogy programme or website, analysing DNA results, researching family history, whatever.

To book a time, please send an email to sharyndna@gmail.com .



New Members Afternoon Tea

Last Sunday, 27 August, we held an afternoon tea for our new members. There was an excellent turnout, and everyone had a great time, meeting new people and catching up with old friends. This is something I think we need to do from time to time to welcome our new members, as our group is growing. And it is good for the new members to meet other people whether also new members or long term.

I'd like to thank the committee for the food, it was delicious, and Karen makes a great cuppa.

Gail

Library Roster: September

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

Sat 2 Sep Karen Crowe
Mon 4 Sep Charles Le Breton
Sat 9 Sep Lea Bellini
Mon 11 Sep Lorraine Austin
Sat 16 Sep Jeff Grange & Peter Hewett
Mon 18 Sep Annette Larsen
Sat 23 Sep Gail Tanner
Mon 25 Sep Jill Jackson
Sat 30 Sep Sharyn Guthrie
Mon 2 Oct Charles Le Breton
Sat 7 Oct Karen Crowe

NP Genealogy Facebook Group

Have a look at our Facebook page and see some of the posts shared on here. It's a place to find out information and ask questions. Do you have a document you can't read? Just post a copy of it and see if others can help you read it.

There are many genealogy groups on Facebook, search for one related to one of the areas that you are researching e.g. Devon, Kent, Germany, Malta. You will be amazed at how many groups there are with people willing to help you.



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;

Family Tree (Sept)

Newsletters received;

Balclutha, Canterbury, Dunedin, Feilding, Hawkes Bay, Hutt Valley, Kapiti, Nelson, Otaki, Palmerston North, Papakura, Porirua, South Canterbury, South Waikato, Southland, Stratford, Wairarapa, Wellington, 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.