

# New Plymouth Genealogy Society Incorporated Newsletter



Number 21

October 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

## Christmas Raffle

The popular Christmas hamper raffle is being run again this year. Members are asked to donate non-perishable items for the raffle. Proceeds will be used to fund society activities.

Please bring along donated items to the rooms.

Raffle tickets will be on sale at society meetings.



Next meeting: 7:30pm Tuesday 3 Oct 2023

## Free BDM

This project is transcribing the civil registration index of births, marriages and deaths for England and Wales. The transcribing is being done by volunteers and is available on the internet for free.

[FreeBMD](#) is associated with [FreeCen](#) (for census records) and [FreeReg](#) (for parish registers).

Come along to our October meeting to hear what is available in FreeBMD, and learn how you can use it for your UK research.



**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](mailto:newplymouthgenealogy@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.genealogynp.com](http://www.genealogynp.com)

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## Family History Expo 2023

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 told us about the expo and what they learned and saw there.



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## DNA Interest Group

On the third Sunday of the month, unless advised of a different date, I run the monthly DNA Interest Group meetings at our rooms. These meetings are aimed at our members and others joining with fellow genealogists who want to learn more about DNA, and how to use it in genealogy. I'm also aiming at encouraging all of us to share your knowledge and join in together on this learning curve.



Next month, at 1:30pm on Sunday 15 October, I plan to do a little quiz again to see how it is going for you, and to help me know what to cover for you in the future. It won't be hard so no need to be frightened! I am hoping from some of those answers will enable me to answer you on that Sunday or any other queries you might have.

If you are a New Zealand Society of Genealogists (NZSG) member, you might or might not be aware that I am involved in the new Online DNA Interest Group that we have started. This involves a monthly presentation and will be having an interactive element through Google Classrooms once this is up and running. Email me at [sharyndna@gmail.com](mailto:sharyndna@gmail.com) if you are interested in learning more about this.

Sharyn Guthrie

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## Convenor's Report

It's the end of September already and hasn't spring brought us plenty of inclement weather. Great weather for staying indoors and researching your family tree.

As we near the end of the year, we have a busy time coming up.

I intend to begin my beginners classes on Tuesday 10 October at 10am, and they will run for about six weeks. It is a very basic class for beginners but any one is welcome. There is a \$2 door charge each week to help us cover costs. The first class will cover how and where to begin and explain things like charts and research practice.

The talk at our October meeting on is about the FreeBMD, FreeReg and FreeCen group of websites that offer free research and a lot of information. Run by FreeUKGenealogy, it is a volunteer run charitable group that transcribes records and uploads them for everyone's use. Easy to use and understand, I will be giving the talk with slides to help. This is for UK research, with information from Scotland, England, Ireland and Wales all included. And it is an ongoing project with new records added regularly.

The November meeting will take a look at different Genealogy programmes to help (especially our new members) decide what programme is right for you.

Of course, after November is December and Christmas. Last year's Christmas raffle was a huge success, and we propose to do it again this year. Please bring along items to donate, the more we get the better the prizes will be. Our Christmas meeting will be our normal night meeting, on Tuesday 5 December and we will run a Christmas Quiz – with prizes, and a supper.

We close over January, so no meeting. The library hours will be on our website. In February, we usually have a visit to a cemetery, and this time we are looking at going out to Waitara Cemetery. It is quite a large cemetery with a lot of history attached. We will confirm this closer to the date.

So, keep dry and get stuck into your tree.

Gail Tanner  
Society Convenor

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## Library News

In the August newsletter, I mentioned that we had received quite a few donations over the last few months and as you will know Marilyn and I have been working on the Waitara collection which we received just before Christmas 2022.

I am pleased to say that we have now processed all of these and they are ready for you to look at. The Waitara collection comprises of 170 family histories and is held separately on the left hand side of the white cupboards on the far wall. They are all arranged in alphabetical order in grey boxes which are labelled. They are also on the library catalogue. So have a look, one might be your family.

The next job we have to do, is to list all of the duplicate family histories we received from Waitara and make these books available to our members.

Donations have been received recently from Robert Geyde, John & Craig Billing (Onagarue Railway accident in 1923 where 17 people died), Faye Kivell (two folders of Kivell research), Brent Fernandez, Jennifer Webster. Thank you.

We are also trying to tidy up the boxes of school admission records as they are currently in two series and rather untidy. It is a slow laborious job. Once that is done, we hope to tidy up the labelling of the drawers. Thank you Janice.

Lea Bellini

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## Next month: Genealogy Software

Some computer software is a must to manage all that genealogy data we gather in our research. But there are many different options available, including online and locally stored systems.

At our November meeting, we will be looking at the different options for storing and managing your genealogy data. This will cover some features and advantages of these options, and help you work out which is best for you.



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## Genealogy/ DNA Help Day

The genealogy help day was held on Friday 15 September.

Gail and I had a great day sharing an hour with individual members helping them with their genealogy queries. This was anything to do with using Excel in genealogy, software programmes and DNA help. Come along next time we have one with your queries, it's a great way to get one on one help for things you might be unsure about.



Sharyn Guthrie

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## NP Genealogy Facebook Group

Congratulations  
3 years on Facebook



Congratulations to ourselves! 29 September 2023 is the our anniversary day for launching our Facebook group 3 years ago.

We now have 194 members and it is continually growing. It's a great place to put any queries you might have related to reading a document or want help identifying a photo or any other query you may have. Any of our members can post an item they feel would interest others in the genealogy world so come and join in, post a query, post a photo, add something of interest to our page.

Sharyn Guthrie

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## Library Roster: October

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

Mon 2 Oct Jeff Grange  
Sat 7 Oct Karen Crowe  
Mon 9 Oct Lorraine Austin  
Sat 14 Oct Gail Tanner  
Mon 16 Oct Annette Larsen  
Sat 21 Oct Lea Bellini  
Mon 23 Oct Peter Hewett  
Sat 28 Oct Sharyn Guthrie  
Mon 30 Oct Jill Jackson  
Sat 4 Nov Karen Crowe  
Mon 6 Nov Charles Le Breton

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## RootsTech 2024

RootsTech is the largest genealogy expo in the world, and is available free online. You can also attend in person at Salt Lake City in USA.

Dates: 29 February to 2 March 2024

RootsTech has presentations by world leading genealogy experts and exhibitions by all the big genealogy organisations (like FamilySearch, Ancestry, FindMyPast, MyHeritage, and many more).

Register now at [www.rootstech.org](http://www.rootstech.org).



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## Internet Connection

The internet connection for our branch rooms is generously sponsored by Primo.



Primo has supported us with internet connectivity since 2017. Please consider Primo for your internet service. Ring them on 0800 123 774 or visit their website:

[primo.nz](http://primo.nz)

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## 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](http://covid19.govt.nz).

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## Library News



Newsletters received;

Canterbury, Dunedin, Feilding, Hutt Valley, Kapiti, Mosgiel, Nelson, Otaki, Palmerston North, Papakura, Porirua, South Waikato, 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](mailto:peter.hewett@gmail.com).