

# New Plymouth Genealogy Society Incorporated Newsletter



Number 29

July 2024

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

**Opening Hours:** Every Monday and Saturday: 10 am to 12 noon  
Other times available by appointment

## 2024/25 Subs

A reminder re your subscription for the New Plymouth Genealogy Society. If you have already paid, thank you. You should have received an acknowledgement from me to say that we have received your payment. If not, here are the details you need. Whether paying through internet banking or at the bank, the following information is required.

Our account name: NP Genealogy Society

Bank account no: 15-3942-0008448-000

Particulars: Your Surname

Code: First Name

Reference: Sub 2024

Society subscriptions for 2024/25:

\$35 single

\$45 double

\$25 living outside Taranaki

If you have not yet paid, the due date is 2 July 2024. Once you have paid, would you please email me at [sharynjguthrie@gmail.com](mailto:sharynjguthrie@gmail.com) to let me know. If you are not planning on renewing your subscription, please also let me know so I don't keep reminding you.

Next meeting: 7:30pm Tuesday 2 July 2024

## Websites for NZ Research

The internet is very helpful for genealogists. For just New Zealand, there are [hundreds](#) of websites to choose from. And new websites appear all the time, while others disappear or go out of date. So which ones are the most useful, and what information can we get from which websites?

Come along to our July meeting when Gail Tanner will provide tips on the best sites to use, and how to get the information that you are after.



**Chairperson:** Gail Tanner 027 376 0630

**Secretary:** Jackie Sewell

**Treasurer:** Sharyn Guthrie

**Committee:** Lorraine Austin

Jeff Grange

Peter Hewett

Graeme Jury

Glenys Krutz

Lois Lovell

Russell Smith

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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## A Case Study

At our June meeting, we watched the recording of a webinar presentation by Sandra Metcalfe. This was presented to the NZSG online DNA interest group.

Sandra Metcalfe has done an in depth case study of her research into the parents of her great grandfather. Historical records only seemed to go as far back as his marriage in New Zealand. There were some oral family histories, but these weren't entirely consistent.

In the presentation, Sandra outlined her research, including DNA. It turned out that he changed his name just after he arrived in New Zealand. But on his marriage certificate, he gave the real maiden name of his mother.

Some of the lessons from this study;

- avoid assumptions and confirmation bias
- use all available information
- patience, lots of patience
- weigh up available evidence
- to get value from DNA, you need to widely research the siblings of your ancestors, and their descendants.



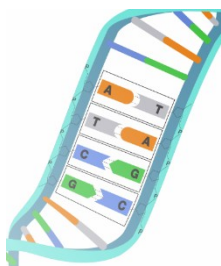
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## DNA Interest Group

This month's meeting will be on Sunday 14 July at 1:30pm at the society rooms.

I will show you the new Ancestry Pro Tools and look at the other changes.

If there's anything else you'd like covered please let me know.



Sharyn Guthrie

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## Chairperson's Report

It's the end of June already, less than six months to Christmas, where has this year flown to.

Our new committee is up and running, and it is great having new group members on the committee as it gives us long time genealogists a new aspect of what new members require, would like to see and learn. The different perspective makes us think more about what we should be teaching and what new members need to learn.

This meeting, I am giving a talk on NZ websites. Some of you may have seen these before, but as we have those new members who are also new to genealogy, the committee thought it would be a great subject to cover again. And even if you are familiar with most of them you are sure to learn something you didn't know or had forgotten about.

Over the next few months, we plan to have someone from the TSB give us a talk on scams and how to recognise them. We have also invited Susanne Rawson from Heritage Preservation to talk about conservation and preservation of articles of importance. We haven't had confirmation from her yet, but my fingers are crossed she will say yes.

We have also talked about having a fun research workshop like the first night of Fiona's organisation weekend, a talk about a journey to find and visit a Commonwealth war grave, and a "How to" to use our own library resources – showing just what treasures we have hiding on our shelves.

Please if there is something you would like to know more about talk to a committee member or email myself with your suggestions or questions.

See you Tuesday night.

Gail Tanner  
Society Chairperson

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## Raffle

Remember our raffle is now a \$20 voucher at each monthly meeting.

It's \$2 for one ticket or \$5 for three, so bring along your loose change or \$5 notes!



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## Society Events and Topics

Our committee has lots of great events lined up for 2024, but we also want to know if there are any other topics that our members would like covered.

What info on resources or methods would help you with your research? What parts of genealogy are you puzzling with? What is your current brick wall?

If you have any genealogy subjects that you would like to have covered, or that you think would be of interest to other members, please let us know. Just talk to any committee member with your requests or suggestions.

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## Old Maps of Scotland

The National Library of Scotland [maps website](#) has over 250,000 maps, dating from 1560 to 1790. These are primarily maps of Scotland, plus some maps of England, Wales and other places.

The website offers several ways of searching the maps. For a given location, the website can provide maps from different times in history. It can also do a side by side view, to compare different maps of the same location.

<https://maps.nls.uk>

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## More Historical Records from Scotland

Scotlands People, 4000 volumes of records from the Church of Scotland have been uploaded to the [Scotlands People website](#).

Covering almost 350 years of Scottish history, from the 1560s to 1900, digital images include minute books, accounts and cash books, communion rolls, seat rents, poor relief and education records, as well as a wide variety of other records created by church courts. All of these can be searched and viewed for free.

[www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk)



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## New Plymouth a century ago



The first stage of the Devonport Flats was completed in 1924. These were called Waldie's Flats, after the developer, A B Waldie.

The building was extended with two further stages of flats added in 1924 and 1925.

Taranaki Daily News > 13 May 1925 > Page 6

### BUILDING PROGRESS.

#### NEW BLOCK OF FLATS.

Erected at an approximate cost of £32,000, Mr. A. B. Waldie's fine new block of 32 fully equipped flats in St. Aubyn Street is now completed. The block is of artistic design and it makes an imposing addition to the town's buildings.

This is the third lot of flats Mr. Waldie has built, and with the first two blocks, there are now fifty flats completed, eight in the first, ten in the second and 32 in the new block. In the new block each flat contains three rooms, a kitchenette, bathroom and a large area of balcony, which in some cases can be converted into a sun porch. Every convenience is provided in the bathrooms and kitchenettes. The walls of every room are beautifully plastered and painted to represent wall paper of a pleasing design. The walls can be washed with soap and water without danger of the paint being removed. The skirting, which is of cement, is also painted to represent boards and is of the same colour as the doors and window frames. At the first glance it is impossible to tell the difference between the ordinary boards. Throughout the block there are 125 electric heating points and 320 electric lights. Every four flats are provided with a wash-house, and here again every convenience to minimise the work of the house-keeper is provided. Ample drying spaces for clothes are provided on the roof of the flats, and in the large concrete yard at the rear.

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## Library Roster: July 2024

Monday 10 am to 12 noon  
Saturday 10 am to 12 noon

Sat 29 Jun Graeme Jury  
Mon 1 Jul Charles Le Breton  
Sat 6 Jul Karen Crowe  
Mon 8 Jul Lorraine Austin  
Sat 13 Jul Gail Tanner  
Mon 15 Jul Annette Larsen  
Sat 20 Jul Lea Bellini  
Mon 22 Jul Graeme Jury  
Sat 27 Jul Jeff Grange  
Mon 29 Jul Graeme Jury  
Sat 3 Aug Karen Crowe  
Mon 5 Aug Charles Le Breton

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## Facebook

We've now got 237 members in our Facebook group. We've had some interesting queries and information shared. Remember to look at it every few days.

If you can help someone please do.



New Plymouth Genealogy Society

Sharyn Guthrie

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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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## Library News

Magazines received;

Family Tree (July)

Who Do You Think You Are (April)



Newsletters received;

Canterbury, Hamilton, Hawke's Bay, Horowhenua, Hutt Valley, Matamata, Mosgiel, Nelson, Otaki, Palmerston North, Papakura, Porirua, Riccarton, Southland, South Waikato, 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).