

New Plymouth Genealogy

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Total Membership 123

October 2026 In this Issue

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Taranaki's Biographical index explained



If you didn't get to last month's Meeting you missed a fascinating talk.

Graeme gave us a great rundown of the Taranaki Biographical Index and all it contains.

Graeme has updated this and continues to work on improving how it works as well as the information it gives us.

He demonstrated the new version that is now on our computers and showed the versatility of searching that it now has.

When you are at the rooms next time have a search for one or more of the names in your research. You may be surprised at what we have in the rooms related to your family.

Hi everyone,

I hope you are all getting on with your research. As the Research Officer, I've been busy today catching up on the research requests the New Plymouth group get through the mail. So all caught up now.

We get some very interesting research requests. Today, I have researched a family in the UK that moved to New Zealand in the 19th Century. Searched for some whakapapa information. And had question as to the possibility we might have a spare particular book that we could sell them. All from different people of course. But the variety keeps the brain working and the interest up.

You also get some strange requests – like we think she could have Maori blood? Her parents were born in England and had never left, she was born in England, and no I don't think she would have, But you never know, DNA might tell a completely different story.

I also had one recently where a child was apparently born in New Plymouth, New Zealand. Stated on her marriage certificate that she was born in New Plymouth. Her mother stated she was born in New Plymouth. But she was never registered, as I can't find the information anywhere in New Zealand. She had a brother born in New Zealand who was registered and the rest of the umpteen children were born in New South Wales. It's never a dull moment with the Research requests.

This next meeting you have to put up with one of my presentations again. I'm going to talk about the Crown Grants scheme. If you've never heard of it, it was a government scheme where land was handed out to the early settlers and soldiers - they may have fought in the wars, or worked for the Government. But I'll explain all that to you on Tuesday night.

See you then.

Gail



Great News ! Taranaki Daily News 1946 – 1953 is now available on-line—details on page 8



Society Library: Open free to members. A \$5 charge to visitors. Opening Hours:
Every Monday and Saturday: 10 am to 12 Noon Other Times by appointment
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

Tongaporutu 1924 and Today



THIS MONTH'S MEETING

Gail Tanner



what they were, who got them
and how to research them

7.30pm Tuesday October 6 NP Genealogy Rooms Moturoa



Chairperson: Gail Tanner 027 376 0630

Secretary: Sally Morch

Treasurer: Lois Lovell

**Committee: Lorraine Austin Peter Hewett
Sharyn Guthrie Glenys Krutz Russell Smith**

Newsletter Editor: Hamish Guthrie

Sub Editor and contributor Sharyn Guthrie



Raffle winner—last meeting:

Malcolm Potts



A great genealogist is a time unraveler.

Incase you hadn't heard.....



Nearly 4m records of enslaved people in 20 former British colonies now searchable online



***If you are an Ancestry member you
will have access to these
records on line***

Nearly 4m records documenting the lives of enslaved people across 20 former British colonies have been made searchable online for the first time.

The records have been digitised and indexed by the genealogy company Ancestry, which has partnered with the Centre for the Study of the Legacies of British Slavery at University College London.

The global collection offers millions of descendants across the African-Caribbean and wider African diasporas access to one of the most extensive surviving archives of British enslavement, potentially helping them uncover family histories.

The collection, known as the Former British Colonies Enslavement Registers, contains about 300,000 pages recording enslaved people across former British colonial dependencies between 1813 and 1840, including the Bahamas, Barbados, the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa, Jamaica, Mauritius and Trinidad.

NEXT DNA MEETING FOR OUR SOCIETY



Sunday Oct 18th at 1.30pm at our rooms. All welcome no matter your level of experience. As always it is a place you can come with your questions, or if you just want some pointers to help you understand more about your DNA. I do have an email list I so if you do not get an email from me it means you are not on my list - sharynjguthrie@gmail.com to be added

Library Duty



Sat 3 Oct Karen Crowe
Mon 5 Oct Charles Le Breton
Sat 10 Oct Liz and Graham B
Mon 12 Oct Lorraine Austin
Sat 17 Oct Russell Smith
Mon 19 Oct Annette Larsen
Sat 24 Oct Jeff Grange
Mon 26 Graeme Jury
Sat 31 Oct Lea Bellini
Mon 2 Nov Karen Crowe



Where there is a will, you'll find a genealogist!

DNA CORNER



The next DNA Interest Group meeting is on Sunday the 18th of October, 2026 at 1.30pm in our rooms.

Helping Yourself with your Genealogy and DNA Matches

When trying to work out how you match the people who appear in your DNA match list from the various companies, one of the best things you can do to help yourself is to build your own Family Tree. Here you need to put as many of your relatives on it that you can. Your DNA matches come to you through your ancestors and their siblings and children, and children's children etc. If your family tree has your aunts, uncles, cousins, great aunts and uncles and their children going up each generation then you are building what is known as a bushy tree. This then will be full of names and connections for you that will help you when looking at the many different surnames and nicknames of your DNA matches.



Two of the very helpful tools that My Heritage and Ancestry have - "Theory of Family Relativity" from My Heritage and "ThruLines" from Ancestry, are aimed at helping you try and work out the family line that you may share DNA on, including the relationship that you may have with your DNA match.

Be very aware though that these are 'HINTS' not facts, as their accuracy depends on the quality of the information in both your tree and others.

Sharyn

FACEBOOK

I have just read some very sad news on Facebook - a favourite author of mine, Peter May, has died suddenly. Peter wrote a trilogy called "The Lewis Trilogy" which is a series of books set on the Isle of Lewis where I have ancestry. My husband and I travelled there for the first time in 2012 and we were given a copy of "The Black-house", the first book to read. I remember we both read it avidly and his next books as well. Such sad news.

Sharyn



Betty Vickers (Elizabeth Mary Vickers) 1927 - 2026

Sadly, one of our earlier members – Betty Vickers – died peacefully recently. Betty was aged 99 and had enjoyed doing Family History through her lifetime. Her funeral was held on Thursday the 1st October at Vosper's.

Greetings from Levin

I would like to make contact with descendants of Bertie and Annie Saunders from the Taranaki & Whanganui area. Bertie Saunders and Annie Blake were married in Waverley in 1920. They had four children, Lorraine, Marianne, Jim and George. Bertie passed away in 1960 and Annie in 1985. Both are buried in the Aromoho Cemetery in Whanganui. Bertie and my Nana Jessie May were both informally adopted by George and Flora Saunders, farmers in Waverley, and treated as siblings but not genetically related I wonder if there's anyone in your Branch who may be interested in this family? If so I would welcome contact with them.

Thank you, Stewart. Stewart Dixon 200 Roslyn Road, Levin 5510 06 367 3410 text 021 708 788 plumaday@gmail.com

THERE ARE STILL A FEWS SUBS OVERDUE !!!

Taranaki's World Record Shearer



Percy Albert de Malmanche (1902-1968) was a champion shearer who set a world record for machine-shearing at Pihama 18 December 1934. He sheared 409 sheep in nine hours.

Percy farmed at Stratford and Opunake before moving to Waikato about 1940.

William (Bill) Sheat supplied a copy of Percy's certificate of record in 2012, and a copy of a brochure for the Wolseley Champion No. 10 Handset used by de Malmanche to break the record, with the following information:

The handwritten part at the bottom of the page [certificate] reads "Mr Malmanche caught his own sheep from the pen". The reason for adding this was that some would-be record holders cheated by having a shed hand waiting with the next sheep thereby saving precious seconds. Philip Sebastian Riley was the storekeeper in Pihama. He was also the Secretary of the Opunake Racing Club whose course was closer to Pihama than it was to Opunake. I can verify his signature and writing as he, [being] Postmaster, handwrote incoming telegrams. As my father was an M.P. he got lots of those telegrams.

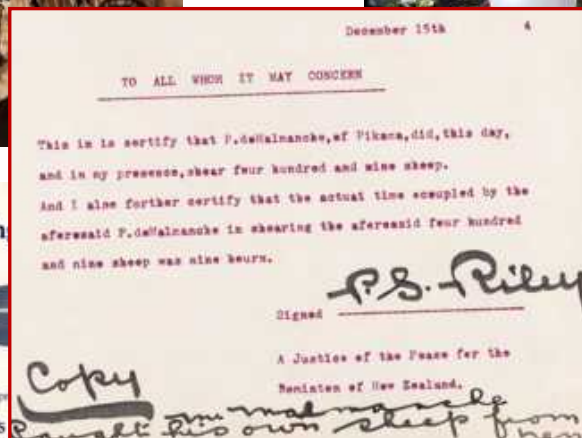
The shed where the record was established remained there for many years although no longer used as a woolshed. Jim Barr who lived on the property until recent years told me that occasionally people would turn up to see the place where that record was made. It was the world record until Godfrey Bowen broke it in the mid 1950s.



The Day the record was broken



Percy's grave at Fielding



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How well do you know Taranaki?



The year is 1893 — what were these people doing and what was so significant about it.



This Taranaki Sportsman won a commonwealth gold and silver Medal .. Who is this?

The editor will award a luxury Chocolate Fish to the first correct answer—all other correct answers will go into the draw for more chocolate fish. Email your answers to the editor at : hamishg1@gmail.com Entries close October 30 2026

Last month's answers



Inglewood



Jean Sandel



Congratulations

Vivienne Jones!!

September saw Just one winner but we know there will be more in October. Give it a try at the top of the page, then email answers to the editor. Winners will be announced next meeting.

Happy Fishing



East End Skating Rink, Nobs Line, East End Beach, New Plymouth

Most books are \$4, children's and teenagers' books are \$2. Plus Collectors Books individually priced.

Thursday & Friday 15th & 16 October 9am–6 pm Saturday 17th October 9 am–2 pm

So many ancestors - so little time.



New Plymouth Genealogy 40th Birthday



Karen Crowe Michael Butler Heather Hall
Annette Larsen Gail Tanner Anne Evans
Wally Brown



Peter Hewett



Jan Gow Annette Larsen ? Robyn Williams





Great Taranaki News from "Papers Past"

We have just been advised that the additional years (1946 – 1953) of the Taranaki Daily News that Len and Heather Jury helped fund are now available on Papers Past. "Google" Papers Past NZ. Enter Taranaki Daily News in the search engine, then select the dates that you want to research.

FUNERAL SHEETS

Lorraine Austin has asked us to remind members to save the Funeral Sheets from any funerals they go to and bring a copy to the rooms if they can. These can be for anyone anywhere in New Zealand as we all have family around the country and they give valuable information for Family History.

FAMILY SEARCH CENTRE IN NEW PLYMOUTH

Robyn Wilton who looks after our local Family Search Centre at 322 Mangorei Road, New Plymouth, has notified me that the Centre is no longer open every Thursday but will be open by arrangement now.

If you wish to arrange a visit please phone
022 351 4614 or 020 4016 7179.

Library News Magazines received:

Who Do You Think You Are (September) *Family Tree* ()

Newsletters received: Apologies for those we missed recording last month.

Ashburton, Balclutha, Canterbury, Feilding, Hamilton, Hawera, Hawkes Bay, Hutt Valley, Kapiti, Matamata, Mokau Museum, Mosgiel, Nelson, Palmerston North, Papakura, Papamoa, Porirua, Riccarton, South Waikato, Wellington & Whanganui

If you would like an email copy of newsletters from another genealogy society or branch, please contact Peter Hewett
Email: newplymouthgenealogy@gmail.com



The Back Page

Hi everyone . On page 6 you will see a picture of our first luxury Chocolate fish winner - Big Congratulations to Vivienne Jones who was the only person to correctly guess everything . This month there will be more winners as we received a nice collection of answers which you all managed to guess correctlyInglewood (Moaville) and of course the one and only Jean Sandel, I have an interesting feature on Jean which I hope to share with you in the next newsletter.

If you haven't had a shot at our quiz before do try this month's one on page 6. In the meantime, the lucky winners will be presented with their fish at this coming meeting.

You will notice some of the colouring in our newsletter is a lot lighter, so for those of you who print this out it shouldn't drain your colour tanks quite so much.

Next month the newsletter will have a different look as this will be the last time I'll be able to use MS Publisher and will have to use another program—oh the joys of changing technology ..grrr.

Don't forget the Taranaki Media Archives film presentation next Mon—Wed 2pm each day—Just \$10 for some great memories and a few laughs!!

Comments and suggestions are always welcome - my email is hamishg1@gmail.com or 027 608 3074
Till next time Hamish



Don't take life seriously. Every genealogist knows nobody gets out alive.