



NZSG New Plymouth Branch
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 Website <http://www.genealogynp.com>



NZSG
New Plymouth
Branch

NUMBER 200

April 2007

CONVENOR: Annette Larsen Ph 758 3320
TREASURER: Lea Bellini Ph 758 0130
SECRETARY: John Pickering Ph 758 4952
COMMITTEE: Marilyn Armitstead, John Berntsen, Marilyn Reid, Marjorie McMahon,
 Judy Berntsen, Peter Wicky, Karen Crowe, Michael Butler.
EDITOR: Janice Goldsworthy email janjon@infoegenet.nz

Meetings: 1st Tuesday each month at the branch rooms, *Moturoa Shopping Centre*.
 Access from the Whiteley St car park.

Branch Library is open free to all members and to visitors for a small charge.

Library Hours: Monday 10am to 3pm; Wednesday 12 noon to 3pm;
 Friday & Saturday 10am to 12 noon.

Next meeting:

April Tuesday 3rd April 7.30pm: *Research Night* at the branch rooms. Your chance to use the many resources in our library, especially those acquired over the last year.

Have you used the NZSG Burial Locator CD Rom or the NZ Marriages CD yet?
 (Committee members will be available to assist you.)

Saturday 28th An **extra special** meeting for this month for those with Scottish ancestry. *Margaret Pool* of the *Scottish Interest Group* of the NZSG will visit bringing resources for Scottish research and her expert help.

Margaret will speak about such things that pertain to researching in Scotland as maps and gazetteers, census records, old parish registers and the information you will find in them, Scottish certificates, poor law, testaments [wills] and sasines.



9:30am start. Break for lunch about 12 - 12:30pm.
 Afternoon session from approximately 1:30pm to about 3:30pm.

Door charge: \$5.
 Bring your lunch. Morning and afternoon tea and hot drinks will be provided.

Coming up:

May Tuesday 1st: ‘Ancestry.com’ and censuses.

June Sunday 10th: Post conference speaker, *Else Churchill*, from the Society of Genealogists in London.

July *Ron Lambert* from Puke Ariki will speak about ‘Dating Old Photos’.

News: Welcome to our new members this month: *Malcolm Potts, Graeme & Sheryl May, Valerie Laird* and *William Taylor*.

February and March have been busy months for our branch. The course for beginners in genealogy which began on 26th February was a success and we have several new members as a result. Those ‘old hands’ who attended learnt a lot too!

Thanks to Michael Butler who put in a lot of hard work writing and presenting the course. Another course is planned for later in the year. If you are interested in attending, please let Annette know at annette.ian.larsen@paradise.net.nz

Thanks also to all who helped or took a turn with the Family Exhibition at Puke Ariki.

February meeting: John Pickering & Michael Butler spoke about their recent trips to the UK.

John was following up his family in England - family he only knew about through photos he found in his father’s effects after he died. His trip followed the known places his family had come from, mainly Northern England and in his wife’s case, Wales.



One of the best finds they had was tracking down Sue’s grandfather, William Jones, in Wales. Remarkably, with a name like Jones, they found the bank he worked in and were given his employment records.

John spent many days visiting research centers of all kinds but recommended the small family history societies and record centers. The larger places, such as the British Library and Kew, he found not user friendly at all. The smaller places were still friendly and helpful and he did get to handle those original documents we all find so fascinating.

Michael and his wife, Heather, traveled to England, France and Italy. (Michael managed to fit in a visit to the NZSG library in Auckland, before embarking on his trip.)

In the UK, following some adventures with rental cars, they visited the parts Michael’s family came from, including the family churches in Oxfordshire. They were able to also visit the family farm Heather’s family came from – hundreds of years old but still operating.

Michael did have some advice about seeking out parish registers still held in the churches, based on his experience. Email first and try to make all the arrangements beforehand.

He then showed us mouth watering photos of their trips through Italy and France with an interesting commentary.

Research Day: On Saturday 24th: Peter Nash, Executive Officer of the NZSG, visited bringing the NZ Gazette again on his laptop. He also brought assorted CD Roms and microfiche etc from the NZSG resources. A keen crowd of members lined up to have Peter look up their families and make use of the other resources he brought along.

Sunday 25th: Our branch hosted the NZSG Regional Meeting while Peter was with us. The meeting was attended by representatives from all the Taranaki NZSG branches.

Projects

NP Boys High School records are still being indexed.
NP Girls High School records are now available from commencement up to 1964.

If anyone can help with indexing or checking, please contact:
Marilyn Reid Ph. 758 6930.



Computer Group

The Computer Group meets at the branch rooms on the **third Sunday of each month**, excluding December and January at 1.30pm. There is a \$2.00 door charge.
All welcome.

Convenor: John Berntsen; **Secretary:** Bruce Bellini



HAVE YOU PAID YOUR SUBS YET?

Download the renewal form from our website at <http://www.genealogynp.com>

FAMILY HISTORY CENTRE

322 Mangorei Rd,
Phone 06 758 9646

Anyone wanting to order films or do some research at the Family History Centre is asked to ring Joy Okey on 7534831 to arrange a time, so that she can open up for you. At present the Family History Centre is not open, but when films come in you will be rung and then you can arrange a time to read them.

Any queries please ring Judy Berntsen on 7539188



New NZSG website



Have you visited the Society's new website at www.genealogy.org.nz ?

It has a new colour scheme and looks very professional. There are full e-commerce facilities that allow you to purchase resources and renew your subscription, among other things.

The site is in two parts – one for the general public and one for members only. Put in your membership number and surname and you get a password.

The site is still being refined, so patience and understanding are required - and constructive feedback!

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A Very Important Lesson Learned!

When we are tracing our family history, don't take it for granted that we will find a marriage in the time frame we expect for the people we are researching.

For some time now I have been trying to find the marriage of my great grandparents, Edward James Nixey and Sarah Jane Nicholls in the Somerset area. Their first child was born in 1892, and some very kind and helpful people spent time and effort in checking the bmd images for me, all to no avail.

One person sent me the link to the Bath BMD website where he had found Sarah Jane Nicholls birth, and I decided to take a look at that website myself. I checked the marriage index for Edward and Sarah, but, I too found nothing during the 1890s. So I resigned myself to the fact that they just never married. **WRONG!!!!**

The only reason why I found them was because I decided to do a surname search, and see what other Nixey marriages had taken place. When I finally reached 1938, who did I find?

You guessed it! Edward James Nixey and Sarah Jane Nicholls! 1938!!!! At that time their ages would have been: Edward approx 75 and Sarah approx 71. So if you have been trying to find a marriage of an ancestor then don't stop looking until you have reached the time of their death!!! You may be as surprised as I was!

from the Sussex Mailing List, Rootsweb. Contributed by Judy Berntsen.



Reminder!! NZSG CONFERENCE Wellington - Queens Birthday Weekend 2007.

If you are not yet an NZSG member, you can still attend the conference.
Download the conference registration form on the website at www.genealogy.org.nz

Contributions from members are always welcome for this newsletter.
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