



NZSG New Plymouth Branch
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NZSG
 New Plymouth
 Branch

NUMBER 207

November 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@info.gen.net.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:

November 6th AGM and Fun Quiz night.

We have some important decisions to make this year, so come along and have your say. It's not too late to put yourself forward for the committee too. A few new members are needed.

The AGM will be followed by a Genealogy Quiz. Prizes for the smartest teams!

Coming up:

December 4th Xmas function at the RSA restaurant to round off a busy year. Please let Annette know ASAP if you would like to come.

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



October meeting:

Bill Irving gave a talk about his experience with 'DNA testing'. As we all know, there is a growing interest in DNA testing to help people find their ancestors and learn more about their origins. As genealogists, this seems like an exciting next step for many of us.

Bill explained what DNA is, how it shows connections between people and what is involved in testing. The main aim for genealogists is to find an ancestor that you share in common with other people around the world. Your test reveals markers that you can compare with other peoples' results.



In Bill's case he found others with the same markers as him which lead to finding an ancestor hundreds of years ago in Scotland. This was further back than he had been able to trace in other ways. He also found out interesting things like a link back to Spain, so he now knows some of his ancestors came from there. This confirmed a family story of Spanish origins.

There are many companies now offering this service. Their services and reliability vary. In Bill's case his tests were proved to be pretty good because they fitted what he already knew about his family origins. He was happy with the company he chose but advised caution in choosing one to do your testing.

There are plenty of websites offering information and services. There is some good information on this one. <http://www.familytreedna.com/dna101.html> if you want to learn more.

Projects

Its been a busy year with projects. BDM's are continuously being added to the TBI.

NP Boys High School records up until 1960 will be completed within the next couple of weeks and will also be added to the TBI.

NP Girls High School records are still being indexed.



A big thankyou to the members that have been helping with projects during the year.

Marilyn Reid

Birth Certificate

A woman angrily stomped into the town hall with a copy of her birth certificate which she had just received. She emphatically declared, "My birth certificate arrived today and it is wrong." The clerk trying to be helpful,, kindly asked her, "Show me what is wrong with it." She abruptly pointed to the name on the certificate and with frustration declared, "This is my maiden name!"

From October 2007, Palmerston North newsletter.

Library News

Twenty four items have been added to the library over the year. Many of these were donated. Thank you to all those who have contributed to our valuable resource.



Recent Additions

Within and Beyond the Gates: New Plymouth Boys High School and its old boys
(There are plans to add names from this publication to the TBI)

We have also received a DVD on National Archives which was donated by Syd Beale.

We will also have a copy of the recent publication from the Fitzroy School celebrations.

There are some small changes to the arrangement of the magazines. The favourites, *Family Tree Magazine* and *Practical Family History* have been moved across one bay.

Marilyn Armitstead, Librarian

FAMILY HISTORY CENTRE

322 Mangorei Rd, New Plymouth

Phone 06 758 9646

Open **Tuesdays** 12.30 pm to 3pm and **Thursdays** 12.30pm to 3pm.

Weekends: ring Joy Okey on 7534831 to arrange a time, so that she can open up for you.



Useful websites

New updates at www.findmypast.com

City of London Burials index, 75 parishes added to make a total of over 120 parishes, many pre-dating civil registration.

Passenger lists leaving UK now cover 1890-1929 with new decades being added every month and will eventually reach 1960.

For cemeteries in other parts of London try www.londoncemeteries.co.uk

National Archives Australia has recently digitized and placed on line all records relating to persons who served in Australian forces during World War 1.

These may be accessed through www.naa.gov.au

RESEARCH QUERY

While trawling through my father's file I found a letter dated 1936 from a

Miss D. Heal
Massey St
New Plymouth

enquiring regarding his then address.

I should be pleased if you would arrange for this to be mentioned in your journal, requesting that anyone who has knowledge of Miss Heal should contact me at the address given below, or by email at rebwert@iimetro.com.au

Thank you, in anticipation

R.A. Levy
224 Dryandra St
O'Connor
A.C.T. 2062
AUSTRALIA

ELTHAM & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The EHS was formed in 1972 when a group of enthusiastic Eltham residents called a meeting in the Town Hall. They undertook the task of creating an Eltham archive in preparation for Eltham's Centennial, which was only a few years away.

Since then the Society's collection of old photos and documents pertaining to the Eltham district's history, has continued to grow.

A safe storage space for the old Eltham Argus newspapers was the members' first concern and the Society's first home was located above the Municipal Chambers in Stanners St.

In September 1999 the Society moved into its new home at the old Bank of New South Wales, thanks to a generous grant from the Taranaki Electricity Trust.

Their resource library holds many valuable research resources including:

Cemetery transcriptions, directories, files on local businesses and clubs, family trees, photo collections and files, school histories, military information for WW1 & WW2.

They also have a large collection of newspapers, some of which are indexed.

Research services are available.

The society rooms are at the corner of York and Bridge streets.
Opening hours are: Thursday 1-3.30 pm & Friday 1-3.30pm or by arrangement.