



NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 227

September 2009

Convenor: Annette Larsen Ph 758 3320
Treasurer: John Berntsen Ph 753 9188
Secretary: John Pickering Ph 758 4952

New Plymouth Branch
P.O. Box 429,
New Plymouth 4340

Committee: Lea Bellini, Judy Berntsen,
 Michael Butler,
 Elly Harrison, Charles Le Breton,
 Marjorie McMahon, Bev Mulqueen,
 Marilyn Reid, Peter Wicky

Meetings: 1st Tuesday each month at
 Branch Rooms 7.30pm, Moturoa
 Shopping Centre
 access off Whiteley Street Carpark
Email: newplymouth@genealogy.org.nz
Website:
<http://www.genealogynp.com>

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

Opening Hours: Monday: 10am to 3pm; **Wednesday:** 12 noon to 3pm
Friday & Saturday: 10am to 12 noon

Computer Group: meets every 3rd Sunday every second month at 1.30pm in Branch Rms except December and January. Open to anyone - \$2 door charge. **Convenor** – Bruce Bellini: **Treasurer** - Lea Bellini.

Branch News

Last Meeting 4th August

Branch Committee member, Charles Le Breton, was the night's guest speaker. Charles used a power point presentation to outline useful and less adequate features he had found in an assessment of the RootsMagic *Family Atlas Programme*. The programme, produced in 2006, is stand-alone and not dependent upon access to the internet. It is capable of importing many types of data files including Gedcom, Legacy, Family Treemaker, Roots-Magic and PAF5. With a database of 3.5 million place names the programme can produce maps to show family migration paths from continent to continent.

The graphics are fairly basic compared to topographical maps and do not show features such as roads and railways. Maps however can be enhanced with text bubbles and photos.

The programme has a comprehensive gazetteer function although Charles found that there appeared to be some omissions and errors. For example the Christchurch suburb of Addington is shown on an area map but not the city itself. However it is possible to place in memory, the name of place and its map co-ordinates.

United Kingdom County boundaries are those post 1974 and therefore of limited use to family historians.

Charles found a further limiting feature was that family data once imported into the programme, could not be up-dated. However for a modest outlay, the programme does provide an alternative and useful means of adding graphics to family data family data.

NOTE. The Branch Library will be closed on Saturday 21st November

For Your Information

Next Branch Meeting:
September 1st 2009 at
7.30pm

Members' Forum Evening.
The focus will be on experiences and successes members may have had in using the Genes Re-united website in your family research.

Coming Meetings

Tuesday October 6th

A visit by the Education Officer from the Waiouru Army Museum in which repositories and resources held there will be outlined.

Tuesday 3rd November

To be arranged.

Family History Centre

Opening Hours

1st and 3rd Thursdays

1.30pm to 4.30pm

2nd and 4th Thursdays

2.30pm to 5pm

The contact person is Lois Smith at 751 2750

Responsibilities of new Committee Members

Bev Mulqueen and Charles Le Breton, two new Members of the Committee this year, have taken on the role of Library Liaison.

This involves assisting the Librarian Marilyn Armitstead in the Branch library and advising the Committee of library development and needs.

A reminder for members who have not paid membership subs to date - these are now overdue.

WELCOME to our new members Adrienne Night-ingale, Denise & Steven Hodson, Jenny Burnham

Recent donations to the Library

Thanks to the following for their generous donations of books:
Bruce Bellini and the Scout Historical Committee - *Scouting in New Plymouth & Taranaki - 100 Years of Scouting Memories.*

Marilyn Reid - *'Moturoa' Tigertown 2008*

Bev Mulqueen - *Taranaki's First Railway* and two copies of the Auckland Weekly *Those were the Days.*

Mike Merrick - *Family History of the Gibson Family*

Charles Le Breton - *The White Family of Merton*

On the Library Shelves

The September issue of Family Tree and the August issue of Practical Family History magazines have these items of interest:

Family Tree:

- Evacuees - Operation Pied Piper
- Top websites for WW2
- Discovering documents: WW2 Army Book
- Ordinary lives on the Home Front
- Caring for your photographs

Practical Family History:

- The Parish & the Law
- Web resources for RAF ancestors
- Family History Societies
- Advanced sources- *Dade registers*
- Swiss peaks & Irish roots

Newsletters received recently from other NZSG Branches

Newsletters are filed according to branch of origin in folders in the Branch Library.

Newsletters have been received this month from Canterbury, Hamilton, Matamata, Motueka, Palmerston North, Hutt Valley, Wairarapa, Wanganui, Wellington and Midlands and Northern England Interest Group.

Update on the Branch's 40th Anniversary Celebrations this year.

This is scheduled for the weekend of the 21st and 22nd of November this year and planning for it is being undertaken by an Organising Sub-committee comprising Annette Larsen, Lea and Bruce Bellini, Jill Jackson, Marjorie McMahon, Charles Le Breton and Peter Wicky.

The weekend programme is being organised to include the following:

Saturday 21st November

At the Anglican Hall in Vivian Street:

- Exhibitors and displays of genealogy material by Taranaki NZSG branches.
- Help desks and advice available for interested members and the general public.
- Guest speakers on genealogy topics including well known genealogist Jan Gow.

At Barracks Restaurant at the RSA Centre

- 40th Anniversary dinner.

Anniversary Weekend Programme cont'd

Sunday 22nd November

At the New Plymouth Branch Rooms

- Library open
- Guest speaker on genealogy topic.

* If present NP Branch members know of former members of the Branch from earlier years it would be appreciated if you would let them know of the Anniversary celebrations and pass their names on to a member of the Organizing Sub-committee.

Our Branch's 40th Anniversary Dinner.

The dinner to celebrate the founding of the New Plymouth Branch of the NZSG, has been organized for Saturday 21st November 2009 as part of the Branch's weekend of Anniversary activities. The dinner will take the place of the usual Christmas function which the Branch holds each year.

It will be held in the Barracks Restaurant at the Returned Services Association Centre on Devon Street East.

Members and spouses are invited to gather there at 6.30pm for pre-dinner drinks. Dinner will follow at 7pm. The cost is \$30 per person. Seats are limited to 70 only (first come first served).

Booking will be by registration only and needs to be accompanied by payment. Look for a registration form which will be available for downloading on the Branch website: <http://www.genealogynp.com> soon.

NZSG Matters from August *Keeping in Touch* 'The Star'

Richard Stedman has taken over from Shirley Hay in producing the fortnightly *Tracing Family History* feature article in the "The Star" Newspaper in Dunedin.

You can access this feature through the Otago Daily Times website at <http://www.odt.co.nz> Scroll down the page and on the right hand side click on the link for "the Star"

Council Elections

Nominations for the Council will be called for in the September/October issue of New Zealand Genealogist. Nomination forms will be available for downloading at the NZSG website <http://www.genealogy.org>

NZSG Sales

The following publications will be available shortly:
2009 Cemetery Microfiche
Victoria Outwards Shipping CD-ROM

A first for New Zealand – a UK style Family History Fair!

The New Zealand Society of Genealogists will be breaking new ground when it opens a **Family History Fair 2010 – *Sharing Your Past for the Future*** in Hamilton over the 16/18 July in 2010.

This is a significant change from the traditional NZSG AGM and Conference hosted over previous years by NZSG Branches in different regions of New Zealand.

The AGM will take place on the Friday afternoon and the Saturday and Sunday will be given over to seminars, exhibitors, help desks, online access and research opportunities.

Recognizing the growing interest in Genealogy generated by television programmes such as 'Who Do You think You Are?', the Fair will be open to the public.

The formal Friday night Dinner will be followed by a 'Who Do You Think You Are/This Is Your Life' type of entertainment. The organizers have yet to finalise a name for this event and would welcome any catchy phrases from members. Email to familyhistoryfair@genealogy.org.nz

Further details of the Fair will be in the September/October issue of *NZ Genealogist*.

Of Interest

A useful research tip - contributed by Michael Butler.
How to find exact dates for births deaths or marriages on the BDM website:

<http://www.bdmhistoricalrecords.identityservices.govt.nz>

On the BDM website, first search for an individual using wide date delimiters to ascertain if the person you are interested in is present on the historical database.

Once you have found the year, then search by going from say 01/01/1900 to 31/12/1900.

Then narrow the search again down to 01/01/1900 to 30/06/1900. If a result shows up then you know it was in that six month period or if there was no result then it is in the following six months.

Next narrow the date range say 01/01/1900 to 31/03/1900 then continue down to a range of a month, then a fortnight, a week, and then to a day by day search in that week until you have the exact date for the birth death or marriage of the individual for whom you were searching.

Useful Websites

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/podcasts/default.htm>

At this site you are able to listen to many podcasts about Family History including:

- Emigration records
- Naturalisation and alien registration
- Irish Land Records
- Tracing Births at sea

More NZ Cemetery sites online

http://www.icc.govt.nz/icc/council/services/cemeteries/cemetery-search/cemetery-search_home.cfm (provided by Marjorie McMahon & Judy Berntsen). The Invercargill City Council has made records with 50,000 entries for the four Invercargill and Bluff cemeteries available online to researchers.

<http://cemeterysearch.southlandc.govt.nz> for cemeteries in rural Southland excluding Gore.

http://www.goredc.govt.nz/applications/Cemeteries/Cemetery_Search.asp for Gore and District

Online WW1 Diary

<http://www.wanganuilibrary.com/ww1> from Annette Larsen

On this site you are able to access and search what Wanganui Mayor Michael Laws, describes as a 'fascinating new online resource for historians, students and the community'- the Company Diary of the 7th Wellington West Coast Company serving with the Wellington Infantry Battalion in World War 1.

The archival material, once part of the Lovegrove Papers in the Wanganui Library, has been digitised in a project by the Library to make more of its archival material available to the community.

The diary covers the period August 1914 to April 1915 and was written by Major William Cunningham. It will hold interest for Taranaki researchers as many Taranaki men served in the same Battalion during WW1.



Lower

North Island Irish Interest Group

NZSG 'Irish' Education Day with NZSG Tutor Geraldene O'Reilly

Date: Saturday 3rd October 2009

Time: 9.30am to 4.00pm

Venue: Kilwinning Masonic Lodge Rooms.

Address: between Princess Street and the Square Palmerston North

Registration: \$30pp which includes lunch.

Registration closes 25th September.

Programme: Lectures on – *Griffith's Valuation & Tithe Applotment Survey Books.* (Both

valuable substitutes for the lack of early Irish census records.) Hands on workshops and question times. Microfiche and books from FRC available for research.

To register: Contact Jenny Martin. Phone 04 478 7621 or email: jenmartin@paradise.net.nz

Or write: 46 Middleton Rd Johnsonville WELLINGTON 6037

On the Lighter Side of Life

Michael Parkinson was dropped from the BBC genealogy series *Who Do You Think You Are?* because his family history was too boring. "They said, 'We always find something.'" said Michael, but six weeks later they phoned to apologise."

Contributions for this Newsletter are welcomed. Email these to: wicky.family@ihug.co.nz