

# NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 239

October 2010

**Convenor:** Annette Larsen 758 3320  
**Secretary:** Fay Eaton 751 1045  
**Treasurer:** John Berntsen 753 9188

**Committee:** Judy Berntsen  
Bev Mulqueen  
Charles Le Breton

New Plymouth Branch  
PO Box 429  
New Plymouth 4340

**Meetings:** 7:30 pm, first Tuesday each month  
at branch rooms, Moturoa Shopping Centre  
access off Whiteley Street carpark

**Email:** [newplymouth@genealogy.org.nz](mailto:newplymouth@genealogy.org.nz)  
**Website:** [www.genealogynp.com](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:** every third Sunday every 2nd month at 1:30pm at the Branch Rooms  
Open to anyone - \$2 door charge. Convenor – Bruce Bellini

## Christmas 2010



This year, our branch  
Christmas celebrations will  
be a pot luck dinner at the  
branch rooms.

BYO plates, cutlery, drinks.

**Date:** Sunday 5 December 2010

**Time:** 6:00 for 6:30 pm.

**Next Meeting:** 7:30pm Tuesday 5 Oct 2010

## Treasures from Old Newspapers

Indexes are fine but contemporary  
newspapers can add real colour and  
interesting information to your family history.

This month, Annette Larsen will explain how  
to get the best out of the new online  
resources that are becoming available. This  
will be illustrated with the story of Leslie Athol  
Norman, a man with 2 lives!



## **Last Meeting** – Tuesday 7 September 2010

### Recording oral history

At the September Branch meeting, Hamish Guthrie spoke to us about oral history. His talk looked at how to record someone's story, necessary equipment, how to put the recording on to computer, and how to edit, as well as tips on interviewing.

Hamish said how much richer than the written record such an oral record could be for future generations and Generation X and Y.

This richness was illustrated by our enjoyment when we were treated to a recording of 1950's radio sounds. -Aunt Daisy, "Dr Paul "and evening programmes like "Life with Dexter" and "Dad and Dave". Hamish also included some memorable old commercials in this recording. These sounds from the past are powerful as we connect with them.

### The Interview:

This needs good preparation by writing down some questions beforehand and also asking people who know the interviewee for ideas for questions. Give the interviewee some warning that you would like to record their story and encourage them to have thought about it beforehand and to have made some notes. What questions: start with earliest memories and progress from there. Ask them about people they had contact with. Memories of international / national events. Notable things that happened in their lifetime. A picture of life in NZ at that time.

If the interviewee goes off on a tangent, don't drag them back immediately as you may miss something important. Do ask open-ended questions- how? Why? Etc. Hear what they have to say. You want to know what THEY know. The recorded programme is about THEM. So don't talk too much!

It is important to make the interviewee relaxed. Have a cuppa and a friendly chat first before turning on the tape recorder. Ease into the interview. You can play a bit of the preliminary chat back just to test the sound. It is important to sit where you have eye contact with the interviewee. That way you can just nod or smile rather than verbally acknowledging everything.

If the person is relaxed enough you may later be able to ask some more personal things/ family scandals /whatever.

Ask: "Is there anything else you want to talk about?" Something extra may just come out of the blue.

The interview should be protected for posterity on a good quality CD. (Make two copies.)

### Editing:

Eliminate all the ums and ahs and ramblings. Put the story into chronological order. The reason for editing the tape is that you want to portray that person in the best possible light.

Hamish encouraged us to try an oral recording by starting small. He reminded us again that reading a person's story is not as satisfactory or entertaining as listening to a recording. The talk concluded with an amusing recording - an anecdote about someone giving mouth to mouth resuscitation to a pig!

Annette Larsen.

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## **NZSG Taranaki Regional Meeting**

The Taranaki Regional meeting was held at Waitara on 18 September. I attended and found there was a really good feeling at this meeting and those present appreciated Joseph Gillard's input and presence. He has just been assigned to look after the Taranaki region.

- The newly formed NZSG Council are to hold an extra two meetings per year.
- Barbara Wylie, Vice President, NZSG, is working on improving the rules, actions etc. Old ways of thinking need to be reviewed.
- NZSG Version Six Index –it is hoped this will be ready for distribution prior to Xmas 2010.

Annette Larsen

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## **NZ BDM Fees Increase**

The NZ Department of Internal Affairs has announced fee increases in line with GST change from 12½% to 15%, effective from 1 October 2010.

[www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz)



## From the Convenor's Desk

- It is with sadness I report the death of Laurie Stevens, one of our members for many years and the auditor of our accounts for a number of years till he became too unwell to continue this. Our sympathy goes out to his family, on the loss of a lovely gentleman.
- We are very grateful for the donation to our Branch of a second-hand computer, a set of CD Roms of LDS Vital Records, plus a large number of microfiche (IGI) and a cabinet to store them in.
- Waitara Branch has purchased a number of CD Roms of the New Zealand Gazette, 1860 – 1891. These are very useful as they are searchable by surname etc. If you wish to visit Waitara's rooms to use their wonderful resources, check out their website to see opening hours etc. If you do go, a small donation for using the resources there is expected.
- Have you South Taranaki research? The Hawera Branch now has 41,975 names on its database. This includes a South Taranaki WW1 soldiers database. They are also doing a large amount of work on South Taranaki cemeteries.
- I did some research for someone at Puke Ariki Research Centre recently. I was impressed by the help I got. Don't hesitate to ask the staff there for help, if necessary. I enjoyed delving into the drawers containing the photos. Use the index card drawers first and if, like me, you do not find what you want in the index, be creative and think what other categories you could look under. Eg. I was looking for a photo of the old Masonic Hotel. "Masonic" hotel was not listed under "M", but was found under "hotels". Some books are not found on the Research Centre shelves but are locked up in the side room. Gary Bastin got out the 1926 Stone's Directory for me and a very old Wise's Directory, so that I could find the location of the Masonic Hotel and the Criterion Hotel and ascertain when these hotels were there.
- When did you last check out the NZSG website? There are some good resources there.

Annette Larsen

## Kapiti: Legacy Workshop

Saturday 27 November 2010

The Kapiti Legacy Users Group is holding a one day workshop with Jan Gow. Jan Gow is one of the leaders of the genealogy business in New Zealand. She hosts family history tours to UK and USA, lectures widely on genealogy and owns Beehive Books, selling software and books for genealogy.

Workshop sessions;

Morning 9:30 to 12:30 am

Afternoon 1:30 to 4:30 pm

Dinner 5:45 pm

Evening 7:00 to 8:30 pm

Cost: \$8 per session or \$20 for the day.

Dinner: \$18

Places are limited, so please book by 9 November 2010.

Email: [lindsay.olsen@xtra.co.nz](mailto:lindsay.olsen@xtra.co.nz)

## NZ Genealogy Blog

Auckland genealogist Lyn Dear has an active weblog on matters of interest to New Zealand genealogists. Check it out at

[genealogy-new-zealand.blogspot.com](http://genealogy-new-zealand.blogspot.com)

## Hawera 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

New Plymouth branch members are invited to the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hawera branch. This is on Sunday, 7 November 2010. Lunch is \$25 a head.



RSVP by 26 October, [heather@moorenz.com](mailto:heather@moorenz.com) or 06 278 4292.

Car pooling from New Plymouth is being organised. Please contact a committee member.



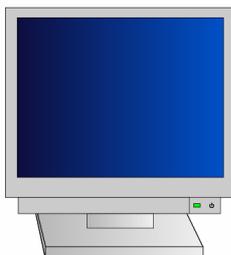
## Somerset Heritage Centre

Opened on 27 September 2010, the Somerset Heritage Centre provides state of the art storage for archive and museum collections, as well as enhanced study facilities. This consolidates facilities and records that had been scattered over 15 locations.

[www1.somerset.gov.uk/archives/SHC/Intro.htm](http://www1.somerset.gov.uk/archives/SHC/Intro.htm)

## Computer Monitor

A computer monitor is needed for our branch rooms. Does anyone have an unused / unwanted monitor that could be donated for branch use?



Please contact any member of the branch committee.

## Library News

Recent magazines (with CDs);  
Family Tree (Oct),  
Memories (Oct/Nov),  
Practical Family History (Sept & Oct).



Newsletters received;  
September: Blenheim, Hutt Valley, Wairarapa, Waitara, Wellington, Whakatane  
October: Stratford, Wanganui

## Computer Group

At the GCG meeting on 19 September, Bruce Bellini demonstrated audio editing. He showed how to record an oral interview and then use a computer to edit it to reorder content so it makes sense and flows nicely. Editing can also be used to remove all those ums and ahs.



We also covered some of the online scams about these days. Notes on these scams are on the website.

[www.genealogynp.com/gcg/scams.html](http://www.genealogynp.com/gcg/scams.html)

The next computer group meeting is at 1:30 pm, Sunday 21 November, at the branch rooms.

## 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).



## WHAT DO I DO WITH ALL THIS STUFF?- by Ken Scannen

*(This material is from old NZ branch newsletters.)*

The old saying, “An Englishman’s Home is his Castle” applies equally in New Zealand. If you consider your house your castle then like a castle it should be impregnable! Likewise your precious treasures inside should be safe.

Is your ‘castle’ as safe as it can be from fire, flood, earthquake, burglary and feral relatives?

1. Take all the usual precautions re fire prevention, candles, cooking, etc.
  2. Make sure that you have smoke alarms fitted and that the batteries are not flat.
  3. Have fire extinguishers in your house and in the garage and make sure everyone in the family can operate them.
  4. If a fire is discovered and you are at home, what research material, family photos etc can you safely rescue? Are they stored together in one place for easy retrieval in case of fire or flood?
  5. In the event of flood do you have your research material, family photos etc up on a high shelf but easily retrievable in an emergency?
  6. As we are prone to earthquakes do you have Granny’s precious Meissen porcelain statue secured with quake wax or wires up on a high shelf and also away from rampant 3 year olds? The disadvantage of this of course is if items are on a high shelf and they fall, they are in more danger of breaking.
  7. Do you secure doors and windows and have a burglar alarm?
  8. Are your precious family heirloom e.g. rings, necklaces, watches, cameos, cameras and granddad’s war medals hidden in a safe place? The jewelery box on the dressing table is the first thing thieves will go for! How often do we hear of irreplaceable family heirlooms being stolen and not recovered? You can always buy a new DVD or stereo but not so your great grandmother’s wedding ring!
  9. Is your computer fully backed up on a portable hard drive or flash drive which is stored somewhere else off-site? This is not just for family history material but what if you are the main bill payer/on-line banker in your family?
- Wash and dry your hands thoroughly before handling material.
  - If you have clean white cotton gloves, wear them although be aware that gloves tend to lessen the sensitivity in your fingers and you can end up doing more damage by wearing gloves.
  - Do not eat and/or drink when handling heritage items.
  - Do not dog-ear books or other papers.
  - Use acid-free bookmarks to mark places.
  - Do not use biro or permanent markers anywhere near heritage items — use a soft pencil.
  - Do not use sellotape to repair torn or damaged items. A special corner of “Archives Hell” is reserved for sellotape users.
  - Do not try to remove foxing from documents using bleach of any sort.
  - Many early coated fax and photocopy papers are unstable and these should be recopied onto modern photocopy paper or acid-free paper.
  - Metal fasteners such as paperclips, staples and pins may rust over time. Remove

them and replace them with plastic coated paper clips.

- Rubber bands should be removed from around documents and as they go brittle over time and may stain the paper.
- Do not laminate important documents as it causes them damage over time. Having documents encapsulated can create the same protective effect.

## DOCUMENTS

### Types

There are many different types of documents. They can range from letters and postcards, through to legal documents e.g. birth, marriage and death certificates, educational qualifications plus dairies and registers, newspaper clippings and maps and plans.

Usually they are written or printed on paper, but they can be on parchment or vellum (which are types of animal skin). If stored properly paper can last for hundreds of years although some of the earlier rag papers last longer than some of the more recent wood-pulp papers. Parchment and vellum are particularly susceptible to heat and moisture. Do not be tempted to use an iron to flatten parchment and vellum or put water anywhere near them.

### Storage

The main enemies of documents of all types are direct sunlight, damp, mould, insects and rodents and perhaps worse of all, people! Do not store items on the floor or under water pipes.

Boxes are the best method of storage, preferably acid-free but wrapping the material in acid-free tissue can achieve the same purpose.

Maps, plans and architectural drawings should ideally be stored flat in map cabinets although these are generally impracticable for the average house. If they are not fragile, they can be stored in round cardboard tubes

### Display

If you are putting items on display in an exhibition, use prints made from digital copies rather than the originals.

In your own home, do not hang paintings in direct sunlight, particularly not watercolours. Avoid humid areas like bathrooms and kitchens for hanging works of art or original photographs. Exterior walls of a house are not good for hanging works of art or original photographs, as they are susceptible to heat and damp.