

# NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 247

July 2011

<p><b>Convenor:</b></p> <p><b>Secretary:</b> Fay Eaton 751 1045</p> <p><b>Treasurer:</b> John Berntsen 753 9188</p> <p><b>Committee:</b> Judy Berntsen Anne Brophy Charles Le Breton Ailsa McCrone Bev Mulqueen</p>	<p>New Plymouth Branch PO Box 429 New Plymouth 4340</p> <p><b>Meetings:</b> 7:30 pm, first Tuesday each month at branch rooms, Moturoa Shopping Centre access off Whiteley Street carpark</p> <p><b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:newplymouth@genealogy.org.nz">newplymouth@genealogy.org.nz</a> <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.genealogynp.com">www.genealogynp.com</a></p>
<p><b>Branch Library:</b> Open free to members. A small charge to visitors.</p> <p><b>Opening Hours:</b> Monday: 10am to 3pm: Wednesday: 12 noon to 3pm Saturday: 10am to 12 noon</p> <p><b>Computer Group:</b> every third Sunday every 2nd month at 1:30pm at the Branch Rooms Open to everyone - \$2 door charge. Convenor – Bruce Bellini</p>	

## Family History Month

August is family history month and NZSG is running a variety of promotions, including

- an essay competition with cash prizes
- free postage on library borrowing
- NZSG joining fee waived for anyone who joins at the Family History Fair
- posters for branches available.

If you would like to borrow library books from the NZSG library during August and take advantage of the free postage, please contact John Berntsen by 5 July (branch meeting).

Next meeting: 7:30pm Tues 5 July 2011

## Heirlooms & Treasures

This month, our branch is holding a show or tell evening.

Please bring along something of interest, anything relating to genealogy will do. You can either talk about it, or place it on the display table with a explanatory note.



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**Last Meeting – Tuesday 7 June 2011**

At the June meeting Mike Merrick gave us a look into what is involved in being on the Hospice Biography team. This is a small group of volunteers. The biographer interviews a patient using a dictaphone, types up the biography onto the computer, gets it proof read and presents it to the hospice for binding into booklet form. Sometimes the work is not a chronological biography, but is on a specific subject, or is poetry or letters.

Confidentiality is a very important rule for the biography team. It is very important to remember it is the patient's biography and if possible should not be altered or censored.

The biographer is helping the patient leave a legacy for his family. Everyone has a story to tell. The biography process can take a patient to a happier time, giving him/her something to think about and it can also lift a patient's mood and self-esteem.

Mike said that the work was rewarding, interesting and challenging. Flexibility was necessary, as was empathy with the patient. The Taranaki Hospice team are at present short of biographers. Training is given. Firstly though, a police check is done on the applicant. New members of the team are given a mentor and once a month the team meet to raise any issues that may have cropped up. Confidentiality here is also adhered to and specific people are not named. Thank you, Mike, for the work you do and for giving us a glimpse into what it involves.

(Speak to Mike if you think you could be interested in this work, or get in touch with the coordinator, Jenny Blyde, at the Taranaki Hospice.)

Annette Larsen.

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**Branch Subs are now due!**

Thank you to everyone who has already paid their subscriptions for the 2011/12 year.

Subscriptions are unchanged;

single	\$30
household	\$40
associate	\$20 (living outside Taranaki)

Membership forms are available at the branch rooms or from our website.

Subs should be paid by 30 June 2011 and can be paid by cheque, cash or direct credit. Details are on the subscription form.

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**NZ Family History Fair 2011**

The 2011 Family History Fair will be held on Friday 26 and Saturday 27 August 2011, at the Claudeland Events Centre at Hamilton.

Keynote speaker will be Judy Jones, an experienced genealogist and a senior British Research Consultant at the Family History Centre in Salt Lake City.

[www.nzfamilyhistoryfair.org.nz](http://www.nzfamilyhistoryfair.org.nz)



## Papers Past

If you have Auckland research, you will be delighted to hear that the Auckland Star (1870 – 1903) is now on Paperspast. Also released with it is the Rodney and Otamatea Times, Waitemata and Kaipara Gazette (1901 – 1945). Both are well worth a look.

Recently I spent a cold rainy afternoon trawling through a number of newspaper articles from the Auckland Star. What exciting things I found!

One tip: if you have trouble finding information under the names of married females, look under the husband's name, and you'll be surprised what you find. Married women of that earlier period were pretty much anonymous.

Below is a sample of what I found. What a lot of family history info in that one article!

A MAN named Edwin Quick has lately dropped into what he would no doubt term "a bit of hard luck." It appears that he is a married man with a family of seven. He left his wife at Drury over two years ago and went to Sydney. In May, 1886, Mrs Quick applied for assistance, and was allowed 30s per week by the Relieving Officer, Mr John Graham. Lately the husband returned to New Zealand, and wanted to take his two oldest daughters with him to Sydney, of course being willing to leave his wife and younger children still a cost on the country. Fortunately, Mrs Quick took prompt action, and obtained a maintenance order from the Court. Her husband was bound down in one surety of £50, and himself in a similar sum, to pay his wife £2 per month, or in default six months' imprisonment. This was rather a shock, but even here his troubles were not ended, for yesterday Mr H. N. Garland, on behalf of the Auckland Hospital and Charitable Aids Board, laid a further information against Quick to recover the sum of £33 previously advanced by the Relieving Officer to Mrs Quick. The case was heard yesterday morning in the District Judge's room, before the Resident Magistrate, Mr H. G. Seth Smith, who ordered the payment of the money forthwith, or in default two months' imprisonment.

PapersPast also has historic newspapers from other New Zealand towns.

<http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz>

Annette Larsen

## Branch Projects

Several branch members are working on indexing local school records.

- NP Girls High is nearly completed up to 1990
- Spotswood College is completed up to 2011

Under the Privacy Act, access is restricted to records that are at least 60 years old. This can be accessed in the TBI at the branch rooms.

More assistance with this work is always welcome. If you are able to volunteer an hour or two on a project, please contact Marilyn Reid.

## NZSG Free Postage for August

August is Family History month, and to recognise this, NZSG will not be charging for postage on library books for the month.

The branch will order some that will be available at the rooms during that month, so if there is anything that members are interested in, please let us know in advance so we can order them.

## Track your stolen laptop

For some years, MacBook and iPhone users have had access to a built-in feature that can track down their hardware if it is stolen.

[Backblaze](#) is now offering this feature for Windows based laptops.

[www.backblaze.com/lost\\_computer.html](http://www.backblaze.com/lost_computer.html)

## Analyse Your Genealogy Data

GenDetective is software designed to analyse your data and filter by parameters such as year, location, or family line.

GenDetective takes a gedcom file from your existing genealogy programme. It costs US\$32.95 and can be downloaded from the website.

[www.rumblesoftinc.com](http://www.rumblesoftinc.com)

Alternatively, research your existing genealogy software to see what facilities it has to filter and analyse your data.



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### Scottish Cemetery Transcriptions

The Scottish Monumental Inscriptions group has compiled photographs and transcriptions of burial grounds across Scotland. The information is compiled on CDs, which are fully searchable and contain the transcription and photo of the gravestone.

[www.scottish-monumental-inscriptions.com](http://www.scottish-monumental-inscriptions.com)

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### Irish Church Records

More records have recently been added to the government funded Irish genealogy website. This provides free access to Irish church records, with document images also being available.

[www.irishgenealogy.ie](http://www.irishgenealogy.ie)

And if you have Irish ancestors, check out the Irish page at National Museum of Australia.

[www.nma.gov.au/irish/](http://www.nma.gov.au/irish/)

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### MyHeritage.com acquires Bliscy.pl

In June, the Israeli online genealogy company MyHeritage.com purchased Bliscy.pl, Poland's largest genealogy website.

MyHeritage.com is one of the world's largest genealogy communities, and this move brings it up to 2.6 million Polish users. Worldwide, it has over 56 million users and operates in 32 languages.

[www.myheritage.com](http://www.myheritage.com)

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### Upgrade to Cyndi's List Website

At over 15 years old, Cyndi's list is probably the largest and oldest collection of genealogy web links around. The website was started by Cyndi Howells in 1996, and now has over 300,000 links in 186 categories.

As well as changes to appearance and navigation, the upgrade includes changes to the underlying database and administration interface.

[www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com)

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### Nelson Photo News

The Nelson Photo News was a monthly magazine published by Logan Publishing between 1960 and 1974. The magazine is now available online.

The website provides full text archive and is searchable.

<http://photonews.org.nz/nelson/>

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### Findmypast adds Military Records

Family history website, [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk) has published the records of over half a million men who served in the British militia, the precursor to the UK's Territorial Army. The Militia Service Records, covering 1806 to 1915, have been made available online to coincide with British Armed Forces Day on 25 June 2011.

The records portray what the individuals of the British militia looked like, detailing the height, weight, chest size, complexion, eye colour, hair colour and distinctive marks of each recruit. Arthur Wilson's distinguishing marks included an acrobat and dots tattooed on his left forearm. Similarly, Albert Smith, born in India, was recorded as having teeth that were "defective but enough for mastication".

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### Library News

Magazines received;  
Family Tree July



Newsletters received;

Blenheim, Canterbury, Hutt Valley, South Canterbury, Stratford, Wairarapa, Waitara, Wellington, Whakatane

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### Computer Group

The next computer group meeting is at 1:30 pm, Sunday 17 July 2011, at the branch rooms.



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### 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).

