



NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 306

November 2016

Branch Library: Open free to members. A small charge to visitors.
Opening Hours: Monday: 10 am to 12:30 pm
 Wednesday: 12 noon to 3 pm
 Saturday: 10 am to 12 noon

Christmas Raffle

The branch is running the popular Christmas hamper raffle again this year. Members are asked to bring along a donation of non-perishable goods to the next monthly branch meeting.

\$1 raffle tickets will be on sale at the branch meeting. The raffle will be drawn at the Christmas dinner in December.



Next meeting: 7:30 pm Tuesday 1 Nov 2016

Taranaki Biographical Index

The Taranaki Biographical Index (TBI) is a massive index of historical records for the Taranaki area. At our November meeting, Bruce Bellini will describe the TBI and give a practical demonstration of how useful this index can be in locating information on the people you are researching.

This demonstration will highlight the depth and extent of the resources in our branch library.

Convenor: Bruce Bellini 758 0130
Secretary: Jackie Sewell
Treasurer: Neville Richards 753 5051

Committee: Lorraine Austin
 John Berntsen
 Jill Jackson
 Annette Larsen
 Charles Le Breton
 Ailsa McCrone
 Bev Mulqueen

New Plymouth Branch
 c/- John Berntsen
 31 Budleigh Street
 New Plymouth 4310

Meetings: 7:30 pm, first Tuesday each month at branch rooms, Moturoa Shopping Centre access off Whiteley Street carpark
Email: newplymouth@genealogy.org.nz
Website: www.genealogynp.com

Last Event: Battle of Waireka

At the October branch meeting, Len Jury spoke about the Battle of Waireka in 1860. This was a major event in the early history of the New Plymouth settlement and one of the first major battles of the New Zealand Land Wars.

The talk included detailed maps of the Omata area, and Len explained the movements of the various troops involved.

Battle of Waireka – the book

Graham Kenyon has produced a second and expanded edition of his book of records and documents from the Battle of Waireka. There may be some copies available. If you would like one, get in touch with Bruce or Peter.

Next Meeting: 7 February 2017

Our first meeting for 2017 will be on Tuesday 7 February 2017. This will be a visit to St Mary's church, to view restoration of headstones there with John Pickering.

Christmas / New Year Break

The branch rooms will be closed over the Christmas / New Year period.

Last day for 2016 Saturday 10 December 2016

First day for 2017 Monday 16 January 2017

Christmas Cake Raffle

A Christmas cake will be raffled this year to help raise funds for our branch. The cake has been baked and generously donated by Neville and Faith Richards. Tickets are \$1 each and will be on sale at the November branch meeting. The raffle will be drawn at the Christmas dinner.

This is in addition to the Christmas hamper raffle, which is also \$1 a ticket and will be drawn at the Christmas dinner.

Convenor's Report

Charles LeBreton recently stood down from the position of Branch Secretary, but is remaining as a committee member. Jackie Sewell, a member of our Committee, has agreed to take on the task of Branch Secretary and I thank her for that and welcome her to the position.

I would like to thank Charles for all the good work that he has done whilst Secretary, especially for all the time he spent completing the Charity Services return requirements.

You will see details of our Branch end of year Christmas function in this newsletter and if you are intending to attend, please make sure that you register and make payment before the cut off date.

Bruce Bellini
Branch Convenor

Branch Christmas Dinner 2016

The branch Christmas dinner is on Sunday 11 December at the Fitzroy Golf Club. Catering by Le Dejeuner Caterers. Meet at 6:00pm for drinks with dinner at 6:30pm.

This will be a buffet dinner, and the cost is \$35.

Please book at the November branch meeting, and please pay by 21 November. You can pay at the rooms during normal opening times, or by bank transfer (arrange with Neville).

Legacy Help

The next in Marilyn's series of Legacy sessions will be on Sunday 6 November 2016 at 1:30pm in the Branch Rooms. This will cover the range of reports that are available in Legacy.

Please contact Marilyn Armitstead for further information or if you have any questions. Phone: 757 2599 or email g.armitstead@xtra.co.nz



Medway Ancestors

If you are researching ancestors in Kent, I have found a wonderful site called Cityark at Medway Ancestors. The web site address is cityark.medway.gov.uk.

Medway Ancestors was Medway Council's project to publish images of the original parish registers in its custody on the Medway Archives archive database CityArk. The registers are held on deposit from the local parish churches and cover the Rochester Archdeaconry area, which extends from Dartford and Gravesend in the west to Rainham in the east. This is in Kent around Gravesend, Rochester, Chatham and by the river Medway.

I think there about 92 parishes with registers online. There is a varying degree of coverage. Some only have baptisms, some have marriage and burials. Each page has been scanned separately and is not indexed as far as I can see. So it is a matter of looking at each page – rather like reading films as LDS as we did in the past. By picking parishes I think relate to my ancestors (Cobham, Milton, Gravesend, and Northfleet) and then searching, page by page, I have found ancestors I was not aware of. Mainly because the children have been born and died between census. I have also been able to confirm information I previously had, including marriages, birth dates, and so on. I have downloaded – well I'm not sure – maybe 20 – 30 scans of original parish registers for my Harris, Roberts, Copelin, Russell families. So it has been a fantastic haul.

And best of all – THE SITE IS FREE

So that I know where I have looked – and don't do the same parish twice – I have created myself a wee spreadsheet with the parish name, the church, the event type and what period I have searched.

If you have access to Ancestry, and search on "[Great Britain, Atlas and Index of Parish Registers](#)" you can find a map of Kent parishes which is handy to look at when wanting to see where the parishes mentioned on Cityark are located.

So – have a look and happy hunting.

Lea Bellini

The Many Benefits of NZSG Membership

There are many reasons why people join the NZSG. Here is a list of benefits based on mailing list posting by Michelle Patient.

1) The NZSG Library is one of the few genealogy society libraries in the world that allows postal borrowing to those living within NZ, because past decision-makers were well aware that we can't all get to the physical library (even lots of Auckland members).

2) FREE research service. Volunteers who are regulars at the Family Research Centre (FRC) offer to look up ALL the resources held by the NZSG on behalf of any member, at not cost. They also offer research advice when you are stuck. When commercially available, genealogists charge at least \$50 per hour - it doesn't take much to recover your \$87 sub.

3) Your subscription contributes to the Society being able to pay for online database access to the Gale Newspapers (UK, USA) and the National Archives (UK) Discovery service - so to individual members there is no cost to view and download these resources (and will cost 3pds 50p each normally).
www.genealogy.org.nz/online_newspapers_400.aspx
www.genealogy.org.nz/discovery_593

4) The Certificates Collection - volunteers offer this service from their Northland homes - you don't need to order too many copies to pay for your subscription each year as it only costs you the return postage.
www.genealogy.org.nz/nzsg-certificates_238

5) The Digital Family History Archive - an online backup service.
www.genealogy.org.nz/digital-archive-for-family-history_397

6) The remote film reader - so you can order microfilm and have them delivered to the FRC where a volunteer will load it into the internet connected film reader and you can view the film from the comfort of your home / office / study / couch / bed / holiday house.
www.genealogy.org.nz/remote-film-reader_580

7) Magazine - six per year - the only genealogy-based magazine produced in New Zealand.

8) \$72 off the annual findmypast.com.au world subscription.

9) Lookups at Archives NZ - members in the



mailing list will do this for those who ask.

10) Land Research Service (again run out of a members home in the Far North). www.genealogy.org.nz/new-zealand-land-research_549

11) Free Genealogy Guides online www.genealogy.org.nz/guides-to-genealogy_850

12) Worldwide, free promotion of your research interests via the Members Interest Section of the website. www.genealogy.org.nz/members_interests_23

Charles Le Breton

International Classification of Diseases

I found an interesting article in the magazine *Internet Genealogy* – August/September 2016. I am not aware this coding system has been or is used in New Zealand (Jackie would know) but it certainly has in the UK and USA from as early as 1860.

The coding system (ICD) used numeric and later alpha-numeric codes assigned to causes of death. For example, The Plague 058 is broken down into Bubonic 058.0, Pneumonic 058.1 and other 058.2; Cancer is 45, C of the lips 45a, C of tongue 45b etc. The codes have been up-dated and extended over the years.

If you see some strange numbers on a death certificate it could be worth investigating. If you are really keen they could be an extra search aid for family sicknesses.

www.wolfbane.com/icd/index.html

Charles Le Breton

New Members

Welcome to our new members! We have had quite a few people join our branch recently.

Be sure to make good use of the branch resources. There are lots of different ways that we can help with your family research, so please ask.

More from PapersPast

In 1912, the Rodney and Otamatea Times warned of anthropogenic climate change. Unfortunately we still aren't doing much to remedy the problem.

**THE RODNEY AND OTAMATEA TIMES,
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14 1912.**

Science Notes and News.

COAL CONSUMPTION AFFECT-
ING CLIMATE.

The furnaces of the world are now burning about 2,000,000,000 tons of coal a year. When this is burned, uniting with oxygen, it adds about 7,000,000,000 tons of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere yearly. This tends to make the air a more effective blanket for the earth and to raise its temperature. The effect may be considerable in a few centuries.

Palmerston North NZSG Open Day 2017

Palmerston North Branch of NZSG is planning an Open Day with speakers and research on 11 March 2017. Further details to be advised later.

Funeral Service Sheets

Our branch maintains a collection of local funeral service sheets. If you have any of these, please consider donating them to our branch collection.

Christmas Cakes

If you would like a lovely cake for Christmas this year, there are just a few left. These have been baked by Neville's wife Faith. Only \$35 each, and \$5 of that is donated to our branch funds.

Please contact Neville at the branch meeting, or ring 753 5051.



Library Roster: November

Monday 10 am to 12:30 pm

Wednesday 12 noon to 3 pm

Saturday 10 am to 12 noon

Tue 1 Branch meeting – 7:30pm

Wed 2 Judy Berntsen

Sat 5 Charles Le Breton

Mon 7 Annette Larsen

Wed 9 Jill Jackson

Sat 12 Karen Crowe

Mon 14 Ailsa McCrone

Wed 16 Fay Eaton

Sat 19 Lea and/or Bruce Bellini

Mon 21 Lorraine Austin

Wed 23 Elly Harrison

Sat 26 Marilyn Armistead

Mon 28 Anne Brophy

Tue 29 Last committee meeting of year

Wed 30 Charles Le Breton

For those new to genealogy and/or want help knocking down those brick walls, this is an excellent time and place to have our experts help you. Our helpers can show you what is available in the library and how to go about finding what you are looking for.

Empty Printer Cartridges

Please bring your empty printer cartridges in to the branch rooms. These can be either ink jet or laser cartridges, but **we can only use HP or Canon types of cartridges.**

These will be recycled to generate some income for the branch.



A4 Envelopes Please

If you have any used A4 envelopes, please consider donating these to the branch library. They are used for filing library materials.

Library News

Magazines received;

Family Tree (Nov)

Genealogist (Oct)

Who Do You Think You Are (Oct)



Newsletters received;

Balclutha, Dunedin, Feilding, Hawke's Bay, Hutt Valley, Kapiti, Nelson, Otaki, Palmerston North, Papakura, Porirua, Riccarton, South Canterbury, South Waikato, Stratford, Wairarapa, Waimate, Wellington

Newsletters from some other branches are available in our branch library. Just look at the Eastlight folders down by the committee area.

If you would like an email copy of newsletters from another branch, please contact John Berntsen. Many of the newsletters are also available from the NZSG website.

www.genealogy.org.nz/branches--area-contacts_55

Newsletter

If you have any comments or suggestions for the newsletter, please contact Peter Hewett at peter.hewett@gmail.com.

