



NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 307

December 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 / New Year Break

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

Last day for 2016 Saturday 10 December
 First day for 2017 Monday 16 January



Next meeting: 7:30 pm Tuesday 7 Feb 2017

Merry Christmas

The branch committee would like to wish all members and their families a very Merry Christmas and all the very best for 2017!



Please note that there is no branch meeting in December.

The next branch meeting will be held at 7:30 pm on Tuesday 7 February 2017.

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: Taranaki Biographical Index

At our November meeting, Bruce Bellini gave a very informative presentation about the Taranaki Biographical index database, the TBI contains over 700,000 entries mainly involving Taranaki people.

In the first part of Bruce's presentation, he showed how to open the Taranaki Biographical Index database and search for names, doing both single name searches and multiple name searches and showed how to print out the search results.

The second part was a practical demonstration, shown on the overhead projector, and was based on a typical TBI enquiry letter received from a person researching her grandparents, Henry and Nell Boswell, and also giving her parents names of Henry and Amy Boswell.

Bruce demonstrated searching the TBI for those names and showed examples of the different types of records that were found. From those records the names of other family members were obtained and going back and doing another TBI search found even more records for those family members.

Assembling all the information found and entering it into a genealogy computer program produced a four generation family tree, containing twenty-three people with nine marriages based on the fifty-four different sources found in our branch library records.

This demonstration showed how helpful the TBI has become in assisting researchers with finding information in our branch library records, and I am sure that all those present gained some useful tips on using this extensive database.

Jackie Sewell

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.

Convenor's Report

Here we are again with Christmas almost upon us, and our end of year dinner and social get together is only a few days away.

The success of our Branch depends on the time and efforts that our members are prepared to give and I wish to thank all of you that have given time over the past year to make it the success that it has been.

Your Committee is now focussed on next year's programme and we are always grateful for any suggestions.

Lea and I wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and our best wishes for 2017. Take care on the roads if you are travelling and we look forward to seeing you all in 2017.

Happy researching!

Bruce Bellini
Branch Convenor

Branch Christmas Dinner 2016

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

This will be a buffet dinner, catered by Le Dejeuner Caterers.

Christmas Raffles

The branch is running some Christmas raffles to raise funds for our branch.

- Christmas hamper
- Christmas cake

All tickets are \$1 each, and the raffles will be drawn at the Christmas dinner on 11 December.

Legacy Help

The next in Marilyn's series of Legacy sessions will be on Sunday 12 February 2017 at 1:30pm in the Branch Rooms.

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



Exciting News from the English GRO

A new index to English Births and deaths has been released, and whilst it may not be completely error free, at least they will be different errors from the ones contained in the existing indexes at FreeBMD, or Ancestry, or FindMyPast. This has allowed many people to break down their brick walls. The website is found at

www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/default.asp

There are also changes in the details included in the indexes, which makes identification of the correct entry much more certain. Full Christian names are provided for all entries, not just initials for certain periods as at present.

Age at death is now included for all deaths, not just the late ones. A warning though: it appears that for infants aged a few months, weeks or days they may show as if that was their age in years, so be cautious and seek verification from a birth entry.

Mother's maiden name is now shown for all births, not just the more recent ones.

It is not the easiest website to use though. You do need to register, but there is no charge to view the indexes. You need to read and follow the instructions carefully.

Sex has to be specified for birth entries, so do separate searches for males and females.

You have to do separate searches for each small group of years.

If the name is very common you may need to search a single registration district to avoid exceeding the maximum numbers of results allowed.

Marriage indexes have not been replaced.

A full guide to using the new website is available in the Lost Cousins newsletter at:

lostcousins.com/newsletter2/nov16_news.htm

(Source: Palmerston North NZSG newsletter)

Annette Larsen added this extra info. -

You can order online with this pilot project a PDF of a certificate for 6 British pounds. NB: Phase 1 of the pilot is due to close on 30 November, or when 45,000 PDFs have been ordered, whichever comes soonest.

Births (England and Wales):1837- 1915 and

deaths (England and Wales):1837-1957.

You can search the death index using age at death all the way back to 1837.

Another gravestone photographic resource

This free service is worth a look. It is run by volunteers and its main coverage seems to be England but not exclusively. I was sent very promptly an enlarged photo of my great-great grandfather's grave in Sussex. Also offered on the site as an optional extra is the ability to connect with anybody who has ordered the same photo, as that person could be related to you.

www.gravestonephotos.com

Have a look at the site. You never know. You could strike gold!

Annette Larsen

Some other sites for graves and headstones:

www.findagrave.com

billiongraves.com

[the war graves project](http://the-war-graves-project)

[Commonwealth war graves](http://Commonwealth-war-graves)

ArkivDigital (Swedish) database

I am still learning to use this but if anybody would like me to do a search for them please get in touch – ph 7512879 or charlesx@xtra.co.nz .

Please note my subscription is only for another 2-3 weeks so you will need to be quick. Alternatively if you are interested in taking out your own subscription 1 week is about NZ\$20, 1 month about \$50 or others up to a year. There are about 6-7 Swedish Kronor (SEK) to NZ\$.

DNA Research

I am no expert but if anybody would like to put their heads together or learn some basic facts, please get in touch - ph 7512879 or charlesx@xtra.co.nz . I currently have tests done with FTdna and AncestryDNA.

Charles Le Breton



Library Roster: December / January

Monday 10 am to 12:30 pm
Wednesday 12 noon to 3 pm
Saturday 10 am to 12 noon

December

Sat 3 Karen Crowe
Mon 5 Charles Le Breton
Wed 7 Judy Berntsen
Sat 10 Jill Jackson
Sun 11 Christmas Dinner at Fitzroy Golf Club – Drinks 6pm. Dinner 6:30pm.
Closed until 2017

January

Mon 16 Ailsa McCrone
Wed 18 Neville Richards
Sat 21 Lea and / or Bruce Bellini
Mon 23 Lorraine Austin
Wed 25 Elly Harrison
Sat 28 Marilyn Armistead
Mon 30 Anne Brophy
Tues 31 First committee meeting of year

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.

Palmerston North NZSG Open Day 2017

Date: Saturday 11 March 2017
Time: 9:30am to 4:00 pm
Cost: \$15

Palmerston North Branch of NZSG is holding an Open Day with presentations by Linley Robinson, Prof Margaret Tennant and Mary Shadbolt. Lots of local resources will be available. For further information, please contact roseanddavid.rohde@gmail.com.

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;
Memories (Dec/Jan)
Family Tree (Dec)
Who Do You Think You Are (Nov)



Newsletters received;
Canterbury, Dunedin, Fielding, Hutt Valley, Nelson, Otaki, Palmerston North, Papakura, Papamoa, Riccarton, South Waikato, Stratford, Te Awamutu, Wairarapa, 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.

