



NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 343

April 2020



Stay home – be kind

New Zealand Government

Branch rooms closed until further notice

LEVEL 4

New Zealand is currently at Alert Level 4. [More information on our alert level!](#)

COVID-19

Wow, that happened quickly, didn't it? New Zealand is now under a stay-at-home lockdown at COVID alert level 4.

In case you haven't heard this in the news, genealogy has **not** been classified as an essential service, so all branch activities have stopped. Branch meetings are cancelled and the branch rooms are closed until further notice.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a very serious threat, with the potential to result in thousands of deaths in New Zealand. Please stay home and be kind to others.

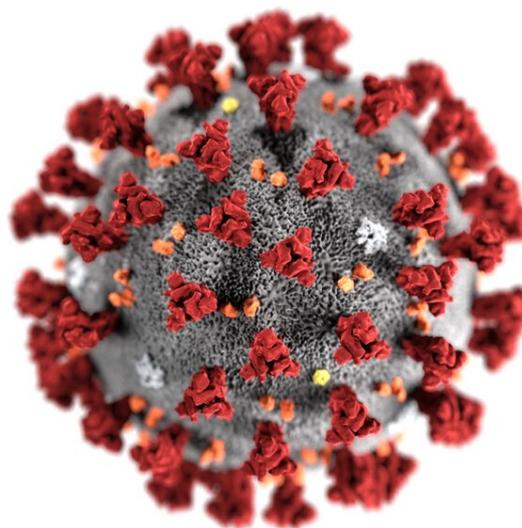
For more information, check these links

- [COVID19.govt.nz](https://www.covid19.govt.nz)
- [Ministry of Health](https://www.health.govt.nz)
- [Radio NZ](https://www.radio.co.nz)
- [NZSG](https://www.nzsg.org.nz)
- [Spinoff COVID-19 coverage](#)

Next meeting: <to be advised>

Branch Activities

All branch meetings are cancelled and the branch rooms are closed until further notice.



Convenor: Bruce Bellini 758 0130

Secretary: Jackie Sewell

Treasurer: Gail Tanner

Committee: Lorraine Austin
Lea Bellini
Graham Cowling
Jill Jackson
Annette Larsen
Neville Richards

New Plymouth Branch

c/- Bruce Bellini

98a Queens Road

New Plymouth 4312

Meetings: 7:30 pm, first Tuesday each month at branch rooms, Moturoa Shopping Centre access is off the Whiteley Street car park

Email: newplymouth@genealogy.org.nz

Website: www.genealogynp.com

Last Event: Computer Scams and Fraud

At our March meeting, Rachel Hooker from TSB gave us a lively and informative talk about fighting fraud and spotting scams when we are on the internet.

We use computers and the internet a lot these days, especially for genealogy research. But this brings some risk of fraud, scams or other criminal activity.

Rachel is fraud specialist at TSB, and was able to explain cyber security based on her experience with real events.

Scams are rising, and are becoming more elaborate and targeted. Reported incidents in 2018 were up 205% on 2017. Cases can be reported on the [police help website](#). You should also report any suspicious or fraudulent activity to your bank.

Rachel showed us some examples of phishing emails, that try to trick you into clicking a link that goes to a website that will steal your username and password. Some of these look very convincing, so you have to be careful clicking on links in emails.

If you use the same password for different accounts, this means that someone who steals it from one website can use it at other sites to get access to your other accounts. Find out if your email address has been involved in something like this at [havebeenpwned.com](#).

Phone scams are quite prevalent. This is where you get a phone call from someone claiming to be from [Spark](#), [Microsoft](#) or similar. They can be very convincing, especially if you happen to be expecting a call from Spark at the time. Be suspicious if they call you, especially if they ask you to install software on your computer.

Rachel showed us a short video of a scammer's call centre. You can see more of these at [Jim Browning's Youtube channel](#).

There are some notes on computer security on the branch website.

genealogynp.com/security.html

Convenor's Report

Well, hasn't our life changed since the last newsletter! The Government imposed "Lock Down" so far does seem to be having the desired effect of slowing down the spread of the COVID-19 virus, which will help save New Zealanders lives. But only if we all comply with the rules!

I am aware that the majority of our members are of the age group that would be most effected if they were to catch the virus, so it is important that we all protect ourselves by "STAYING HOME" and effectively remaining in our family bubble or in self isolation.

For the seventy years of age and over group, this time can be quite demanding, so if there are any of our members that are finding this period difficult, please contact me and I will see if we can help you through.

Our Branch Committee has recently held its monthly committee meeting via the Internet video meetings application Zoom, a first for some of us. It was nice to see the smiling faces of our committee and the meeting went very well. We will continue to hold our monthly meetings using this medium during the lock down.

It appears to me that we may have to postpone our Branch Annual General Meeting, which is usually held in May, until later in the year. Our current committee members have kindly agreed to continue with their committee responsibilities until the postponed A.G.M. This will enable our Branch to be ready to return to normal operations, when the lock down is lifted.

Bruce Bellini
Branch Convenor



Branch Committee Minutes 1970

On behalf of our branch committee, I wish to record our thanks to Rod Austin, committee member Lorraine Austin's husband, for the work he has done over recent months scanning all our branch committee minute books.

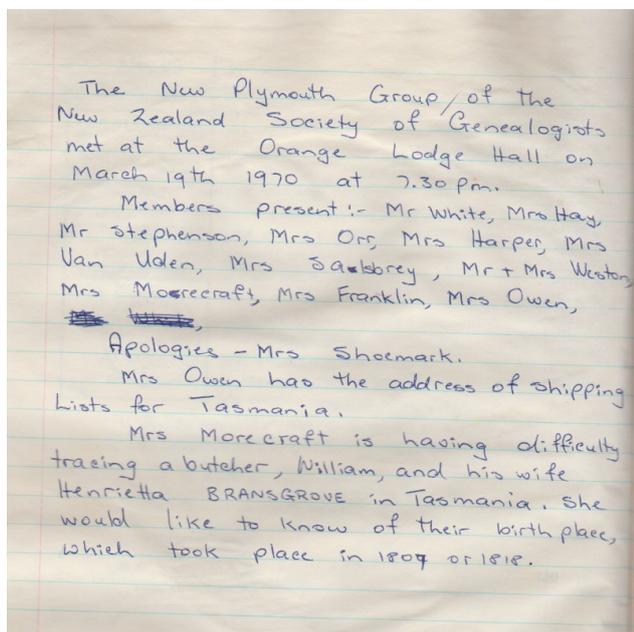
Rod has taken home the books, one at a time, to scan them from our very first meeting in 1969, right up to 2009. I have received a memory stick from Rod with all the files on, but unfortunately did not get time to transfer them to the branch computer at our library before the lock down. I will do this as soon as we are able to get out and about again.

I am sure that these digital records will be of interest to future members of the branch, so a very big thank you to Rod for all the time he has devoted to completing this project.

Thank you Rod!

Bruce Bellini

Here is an example of early hand written committee meeting minutes:-



Library Update

Thank you to all who have donated items to our library and a special thank you to the estate of the late Ron Stretton who passed away in February. Ron was a member of NZSG but not the New Plymouth branch, although his sister-in-law was some years ago. We had a call from Ron's brother-in-law with the offer of some genealogical research material. We managed to pick this up and get it to our rooms just before lock-down. We still need to sort, catalogue and dispose of duplicates, which we will do as soon as we can access the rooms.

To whet your appetite, here is an indication of the material received:

One full microfiche cabinet. I would say something like 10,000 fiche. Some of duplicates here I think, but it does have the NZ BDM indexes for births, deaths and marriages up to 1980 (we only have them until 1940), the IGIs for 1984 and 1988 (some we do not already hold).

Also 21 books for various families including Rayner, Daysh, Fraser, Kempton, King, Francis, Radford, Hawke, Judd, Jackson, Kempton, Sampson, Zimmerman (Taranaki), Berntsen, Rasmussen, Cottle, Issac Fisher, Christoffel, McKay.

Plus ringbinders of various shipping lists, early settlers.

There were other books at Ron's house we fancied but we will have to wait until family have a look at them first. However we may have missed out on these because of the four week lock-down for COVID-19.

It will take a time to process these when we can, but they will be done.

The other news is that NZSG are disposing of surplus books and we have put a bid in for 13. About half of these relate to Taranaki. Hopefully we may succeed in getting all or some.

Marilyn and Lea



Legacy Users Group

The meeting planned for 5 April has been cancelled. The dates planned for the rest of 2020 are 7 June, 9 August and 4 October. Each is on a Sunday afternoon at 1:30pm. Door charge \$2.

These sessions cover how to use the Legacy family tree software, including how to use features, troubleshooting, tips and tricks. They are held at the branch rooms, and are run by Marilyn Armitstead.

Library Roster

The branch rooms are closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. They will remain closed until further notice.

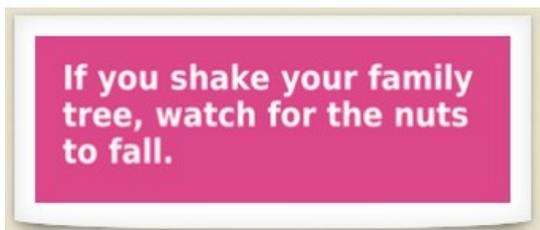
Branch Emails

For the last decade or two, the emails to branch members have been sent as bcc from gmail. But since early March, Google has blocked these, so we have been looking for an alternative that will work for us.

A group was set up at [Google groups](#), and everyone should have received an invitation email to join this. This doesn't seem to have worked for many members, so Mailchimp is being trialled for sending newsletters and messages to branch members.

The newsletters are also available on the branch website:

genealogynp.com/newsletter.html



Internet Connection

The internet connection for our branch rooms is generously sponsored by Primowireless.

Based right here in Taranaki, Primowireless provides internet connections and ISP services for residential and business customers. As well as the usual ADSL and fibre connections, Primowireless also provides broadband internet over a wireless link for customers who are not in an area served by the other types of internet. This is just great for people who live outside the main centres.



PRIMO WIRELESS

CONNECTING TARANAKI

Please consider Primowireless for your ISP. Ring them on 0800 123 774 or visit the website:

primowireless.co.nz

Library News

Magazines received;

Family Tree (April)

Who Do You Think You Are (April)

Newsletters received;

Canterbury, Feilding, Gore, Hutt Valley, Nelson, Otaki, Palmerston North, Papamoa, Riccarton, South Waikato, Wairarapa, Whanganui

If you would like an email copy of newsletters from another branch, please contact Peter Hewett. 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.

