



NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 359

October 2021

**Unite
against
COVID-19**

Reduce risk – Stay safe

Branch events are cancelled at alert level 2
Branch rooms are open: Monday and Saturday

New Zealand Government

LEVEL 2

Taranaki is currently at Alert Level 2.

Covid-19

New Zealand remains at raised Covid alert levels while cases of Covid continue to be discovered in the community. The NZ alert level system has been very successful so far, meaning that the death rate here has been much lower than that suffered in many other countries.

Vaccination is a key way to protect yourself and your community, so get vaccinated!

Keep up to date with information on the pandemic, such as at these links.

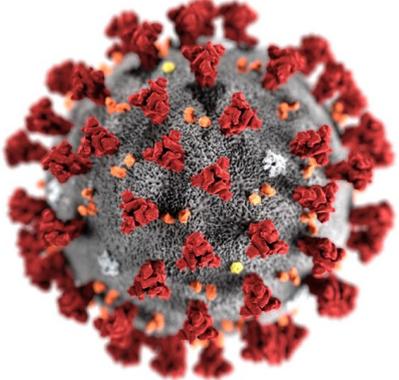
- covid19.govt.nz
- [Ministry of Health](https://www.health.govt.nz)
- [Radio NZ](https://www.radio.co.nz)
- [the Spinoff](https://www.thepinoff.com)

Next meeting: <to be advised>

Branch Activities

At Covid alert level 2, all branch meetings are cancelled. The branch rooms are open, with Covid rules applying.

Any updates will be advised to branch members via email and our website.



Convenor:	Gail Tanner	027 376 0630
Secretary:	Jackie Sewell	
Treasurer:	Sharyn Guthrie	
Committee:	Lorraine Austin	
	Lea Bellini	
	Karen Crowe	
	Graeme Jury	
	Annette Larsen	

New Plymouth Branch
c/- Gail Tanner
122 Wairau Road
New Plymouth 4314

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

Convenor's Report

Hello again everyone and welcome to the final quarter of 2021. What a year it has been. We of course have had to cancel Tuesday nights meeting again due to still being at Covid level 2. Hopefully we will be able to hold the November and December meetings.

Again I have had to postpone Graham Harris' talk, which is disappointing, but I promise I will book him in at some stage, probably in the new year now as Christmas will be upon us in a flash.

Keep up the great work with your research. Hopefully you've had plenty of aha! moments, and knocked down some of those brick walls.

Remember our committee is always available to talk to for advice, either at the branch rooms on a Saturday or Monday morning, or give one of us a phone call. We are only too happy to chat.

Happy hunting

Gail Tanner
Branch Convenor

NZSG Financial Situation

NZSG members will have received emails from the NZSG about the serious financial situation that the national body faces. NZSG has announced several measures to address this, including:

- The NZ Genealogist magazine will be online, with no print editions for the rest of this year.
- Paid staff hours in Auckland have been reduced, the Library Coordinator position has been discontinued and the accounts position is now being done by a volunteer.
- A rent reduction has been negotiated with the landlord for the Auckland premises.
- Member subscriptions have been increased (to \$100 per year for single member).
- Board meetings are online, to reduce travel.
- Levy of \$10 per year on every branch member who is not a NZSG member.

This situation presents serious risk to our branch, and our branch committee is working to protect and preserve our branch assets and services.

We want to hear from branch members, so please speak up with your questions and comments. Just contact any committee member, or email newplymouth@genealogy.org.nz.

Library News

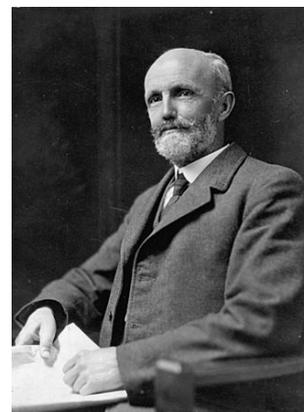
Today I thought I might mention a rather interesting document in our branch library which has been indexed and names from it will be in our Taranaki Biographical Index in the near future.

I had a research inquiry from a lady wanting to find the marriage of Caroline Julian to Emanuel Ambrose Simson in 1843. She thought it would be at St Mary's Church as Caroline was buried there. I did the usual searches such as Historical BDM on line, New Plymouth Courthouse marriage transcriptions and also various church records, including St Mary's Church. These resources are all held in our rooms. No joy.

Coincidentally Bruce and I were checking an electronic transcription of a document the branch has called "St Mary's Church New Plymouth Register of Male Population – 1842 – 1844". We were not sure where it came from and where the original was held these days. Anyway I thought I might just have a look and see if Emanuel was there. I was intrigued to find Emmanuel Hambro' Simpson listed. It showed that he was born in Oxford and married in Taranaki by Mrs Groube. Mmmmm I thought, I knew that Rev Horatio Groube was in New Plymouth but doubted that Mrs Groube would have conducted the marriage. I needed more. I googled the name of the document and found there was something at Puke Ariki in the William Henry Skinner collection.

William Henry Skinner (26 February 1857 – 24 October 1946) was a New Zealand surveyor, historian, and ethnographer.

We visited Puke Ariki to look at the Skinner collection. It is rather large and could be really interesting if you have the time to browse through it all. It would be of particular interest to those researching in Taranaki. What Skinner had done was also transcribe the St Mary's male population. However he may have a slightly more accurate job as I did find that Emmanuel was married in Taranaki by the Rev H Groube, which makes more sense. Rev Groube was an Independent Methodist Minister with an interesting history. I believe he would not have had his own church. I don't know if there is any record of marriages performed by him.



I also ascertained that St Mary's archives are held at the John Kinder Theological Library and they have the original of the Male Population Register but were unable to send us a copy of it – I had hoped we could check our electronic version against the original but it is their policy not to release full copies to third parties.

Have a look at the branch's copy of this document. It is a wee snapshot of the males in New Plymouth between 1842 and 1844. Information attached to each person's name could include when born, where baptised, where married, where confirmed where married and an occasional comment.

Another topic – misplaced books. While doing our stock-take we have found the following books are missing. If you happen to have them, please drop them in to the library. If you have a copy of your own that you are happy to donate to the branch we would be very grateful. The books are:

- Cobwebs and Gables by Bartlett & Edwards
- NP Central School jubilee celebrations 1934
- Spotswood College year books 1992, 1993, 1995 & 1996

Lea Bellini

Facebook: NP Genealogy Branch Group



It's been great to have some others contribute to our Facebook page. It's a great place to share your finds and to ask questions of the many people on the page.

If you are unsure about using Facebook talk to others using it. It's a valuable resource for learning more about genealogy and DNA plus other interests you may have.

Sharyn

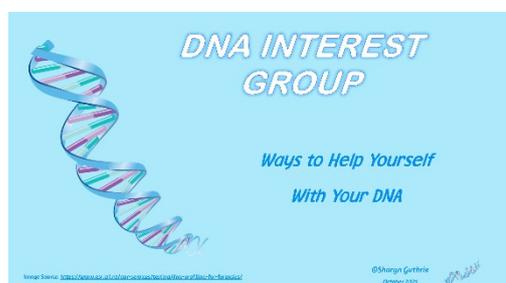
www.facebook.com/groups/949196718907560

DNA Interest Group

Still no meeting date yet due to Covid, but let's hope it will happen this month. If it works out to be alert level 1, then we'll be able to meet again on Sunday 17 Oct 2021, 13:30hrs. I'll be doing an introductory talk about 'Ways to Help Yourself with your DNA'. Following that we can look at any help or questions that anyone has.

Meanwhile have you had a look at the updated Ancestry Ethnicity on your DNA, and/or the estimated relationship chart that is now on My Heritage? Keep looking at the sites your DNA is at – they introduce new features at different times plus it pays to keep watching your new matches plus going over matches you have looked at before. Check out who might now have turned up as a shared match helping you work out another line maybe.

Sharyn



Papers Past

[Papers Past](#) is the project by the National Library to digitise historical New Zealand newspapers. More content is being added all the time, so be sure to go back and see if there is something relevant to your family history.

Recent additions to Papers Past include:

- Kaikoura Star, misc issues 1880-1950
- Kawhia Settler and Raglan Advertiser 1905-1933
- Christchurch Press 1946-1961
- Taranaki Central Press 1936-1937

paperspast.natlib.govt.nz

William Black & Jane Veale

The branch has received an enquiry from someone who is researching William Black and Jane Veale (she arrived on the *Amelia Thompson* in 1841), and their descendants Alexander Black and Wilfred Black. If you are researching this family, or you are a descendant or know someone who is family, please contact Lea Bellini (or send an email to newplymouth@genealogy.org.nz).



Library Roster: October

This roster will apply when we are at level 2 and 1. The branch rooms will be closed if we are at Covid alert level 3 or 4.

Sat 2 Oct	Karen Crowe
Mon 4 Oct	Charles Le Breton
Sat 9 Oct	Sharyn Guthrie
Mon 11 Oct	Lorraine Austin
Sat 16 Oct	Gail Tanner
Mon 18 Oct	Annette Larsen
Sat 23 Oct	Lea Bellini
Mon 25 Oct	Jill Jackson
Sat 30 Oct	Marilyn Armitstead
Mon 1 Nov	Charles Le Breton

Covid Alert Level 2

Please observe the COVID-19 rules at the alert level applying at the time. The branch rooms are open at level 2, so please follow the applicable rules.

- Stay home if you have any symptoms (dry cough, short of breath, loss of smell, etc).
- Wash your hands and any surfaces you touch.
- Wear a face mask when at the branch rooms.
- Use the COVID-19 app with the QR code and record your name in the attendance book.
- Keep at least 1m distance from anyone else at the rooms.
- Bring your own pen, paper, laptop, etc.



There is more information on Covid alert levels at the [level 3](#) and [level 2](#).

Internet Connection

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



Please consider Primo for your internet service. Ring them on 0800 123 774 or visit their website:

primo.nz

A4 Envelopes, Please

Do you have any used A4 sized envelopes that you can donate to our library? We recycle A4 envelopes for storing various documents, but we are starting to run short. If you can spare any of these large envelopes, please contact Lorraine, or any committee member.

Library News

Magazines received;

Family Tree (Sept)

Who Do You Think You Are (Aug)

Newsletters received;

Canterbury, Fielding, Hutt Valley, Nelson, Otaki, Palmerston North, Porirua, Riccarton, Wairarapa, Wellington

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.

