New Plymouth Genealogy

ISSUE No 51 Total Membership 131

July 2026 - In This Issue : The Barrett St Hospital as it was - "Memories in a Suitcase" - "In case you hadn't heard" - DNA and Facebook news - The Taranaki Dairy Company that put gold sovereigns in its cheese - From the Archives - Library duty roster - For your information - New Members - "The Back Page"

Despite an indifferent night weatherwise we got a good roll-up to watch the Taranaki Media Archive's presentation with documentaries featuring the Kibby Carillon and the Tatatm technology museum. I know a group of us had a tour of Tatatm not that long ago, but after seeing those exhibits explained more fully it makes you want to go again and have another look—there is just so much to see, you could probably spend a whole day out there and still not cover everything.

The documentary on the Carillon was very interesting. Christopher Luke did a great job explaining the operation—what a treasure we have here in New Plymouth. There is only one other working Carillon in New Zealand, and that's in Wellington.

Its such a shame that it isn't played more often.

The raffle produced a bumper turnover with the winners going home clutching their ice cream packs and looking forward to trying a few new flavours that you wouldn't normally find in an ice cream shop.

Alas we have no new members this month—do tell your friends about us and bring them along to a meeting—better still—encourage them to visit us on our big Open day in August—all the details below.

Hi everyone

Welcome to July! What beautiful days we are having!

This month's meeting, we are having a visit from the team from Memories in a Suitcase!

We have had a visit from them a few years ago, and it was very interesting to see what they brought to show us and the memories the items brought back.

For those who don't know about this – it is a team attached to the Museum, and they bring along all sorts of memorabilia, and ask the audience to reminisce about what they remember about any of the items.

It makes for an enjoyable and memorable evening walking down memory lane for a while.

At our last meeting, Hamish presented two new video documentaries commissioned by the Taranaki Media Archive. One on the New Plymouth Carillon and the other on the TATATM technology museum which we did a tour of not so long ago—both documentaries were fascinating .

As always, the committee likes to come up with ideas of subjects that our members (that's You!) would like to learn about! If there is a subject you would like us to cover, talk to anyone on the committee, so we can research it and present it at one of our meetings. If there is something you want to learn about, you won't be the only one who is interested, so don't be shy about approaching us.

Hope to see you at the next meeting and remember subscriptions are due now - GAIL

OPEN DAY—Genealogy Rooms Moturoa Saturday the 8th of August 10am to 4pm.

Open Day at our rooms. There will be several of us there with our computers and you will be able to ask for help with your genealogy. This is anything you would like some advice on - where do I research - what records are available, I want to write a story and need help - any questions on DNA. Use the library, see what resources we have and get lots of help!

Society Library: Open free to members. A $5 charge to visitors. Opening Hours: Every Monday and Saturday: 10 am to 12 Noon Other Times by appointment

Meetings: 7:30 pm, first Tuesday each month at society rooms, Moturoa Shopping Centre — Access is off the Whiteley Street car park.

Email: newplymouthgenealogy@gmail.com Website: www.genealogynp.com

Barrett Street Hospital as it used to be

Hospital

Nurses Home

These original photos have been re-coloured to give you an idea as to how the hospital and nurses home would have looked once upon a time. *Photo Credit Caleb Wyatt*

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

"Memories in a Suitcase"

Come along and let the Puke Ariki team open their suitcase full of memories and surprises. They're all guaranteed to rekindle some of those amazing recollections from your past. There maybe some that you'd forgotten you that you even had….?

There'll be laughter, smiles and thoughts about good times …..It should be a memorable night!!!

7.30 pm starts Tuesday July 7th NP Genealogy rooms Moturoa

Chairperson: Gail Tanner 027 376 0630
Secretary: Sally Morch
Treasurer: Lois Lovell
Committee: Lorraine Austin Peter Hewett Sharyn Guthrie Glenys Krutz Russell Smith
Newsletter Editor: Hamish Guthrie
Sub Editor and contributor Sharyn Guthrie

Raffle winners—last meeting:

Peter Harris Carolyn Ward Steve Batten Nancy Blackstock Lorraine Austin Maurice Le Prou

"I'm related to people I don't relate to"

In case you hadn't heard ……

Auckland Family History Expo 2026

Have you thought about heading up to Auckland for the Family History Expo. It's being held at the King's College, in Otahuhu from the 9th to 11th October 2025. Usually starts on the Friday night and then it's all day Saturday and Sunday.

Some of the exhibitors already confirmed include Ancestry, Chinese Poll Tax Heritage Trust, Family Search, National Army Museum, NZ Fencible Society, NZSG with various Interest Groups including Scottish, Māori, Irish, DNA, Pacific Islands and more. Wales NZ Family History Society, My Heritage, Family Tree Maker, Mentis and Auckland Libraries

Have you heard of Famnet – The Family History Network?

It is a Kiwi website started by Robert Barnes and Tony Cairns for New Zealanders. On their website their aim says "To provide Internet services to Kiwis wishing to record their family history. Our goal is the be the site where Kiwis go first to find their family and tell their stories." There are monthly newsletters with an editorial from Peter Nash and other interesting articles in them.

Here is the link to the June 2026 newsletter -

https://www.famnet.org.nz/newsletters/FamNet/June_2026/newsletter.htm

Library Duty

Sat 4 July Karen Crowe

Mon 6 July Charles Le Breton

Sat 11 July Rusell Smith

Mon 13 July Lorraine Austin

Sat 18 July Lea Bellini

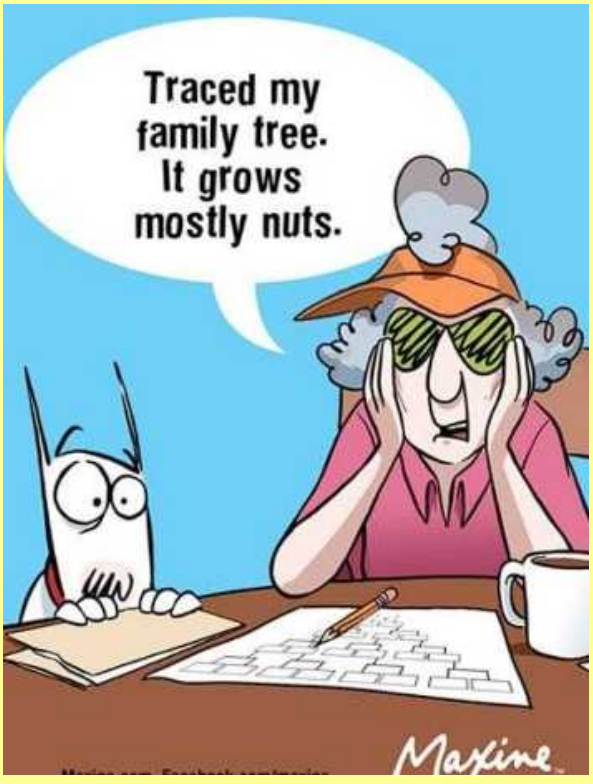
Mon 20 July Annette Larsen

Sat 25 July Jeff Grange

Mon 27 July Graeme Jury

Sat 1 August Karen Crowe

Mon 3 August Charles Le Breton



Genealogy is like a magic mirror, look into it, and pretty soon, interesting faces appear.

DNA CORNER

This month at the DNA Interest Group Meeting on Sunday the 19th of July we will go over how to link your DNA match to your tree, editing relationships and other features from Ancestry.

Plus, as always any help or questions that anyone might have. Bring your laptop or tablet along with you.

Please come along if you want to learn more about DNA or have questions of your own.

Email: sharynjguthrie@gmail.com Sharyn

FACEBOOK

Facebook continues to be a wonderful source of information for me for my Genealogy research and could be for you. There is so much to learn and look at and so many sites to see.

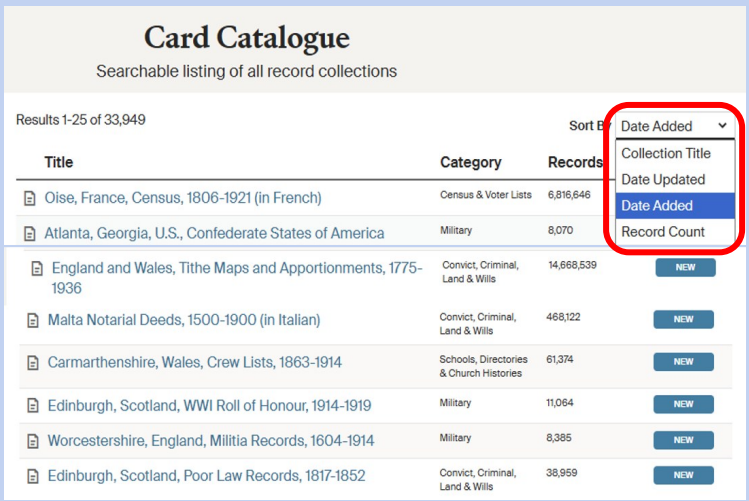
I have just put up a post for our NP Genealogy Society page about a webinar I watched this morning on Legacy Family Tree Webinars. This is one that I would recommend to everyone, regardless of your computer skills. Andrew goes over some essential pointers that will help you using your computer.

https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/10-essential-digital-skills-for-family-historians Sharyn

NEW FILES ON ANCESTRY

Did you know that when you look in the Card Catalogue on Ancestry (found under the Search menu) you can see a list of new and updated databases on Ancestry.

Sharyn



The Taranaki Dairy Company that put gold sovereigns in it's cheese

In 1888, thirty farmers set up a butter packing company at the bottom of Climie Road, managed by Mr. Taylor. This enterprise started out confidently – with Mr. Charles West writing "we each churn our own butter to the granulated state and then take it to the factory fresh from the churn, where it is all blended together, kegged and sent to England in the cooling chambers. As their winter is our summer we get a good price."

Despite this, the venture failed. The chairman resigned, and there were complaints about the quality of the butter. Shareholders refused co-operating with other factories, and so operations ceased by June 1890, with the company winding up a year later.

The Ngaere settlers then held a meeting and it was decided that making cheese would give a better profit. Consequently, the Ngaere Creamery was formed in late 1892, with great success getting up to 1200 gallons of milk per week.

The original factory was wooden, and was built at the bottom of Finnerty Road. It was opened inJanuary 1894 with 39 suppliers and 49 shareholders. 81 tons of cheese was made during this season, and sold in London for a total of £3,362. In this year, figures show that Taranaki was producing over three quarters of all the butter leaving New Zealand, and the Ngaere, Cardiff, Eltham and Stratford companies had produced over half the cheese from the North Island.

Ngaere was a very successful company. During its first eight years, the company took 35 prizes for cheese suitable for export

Due to the ongoing thriving nature of the company, it was decided that a new building was required. As a result, in 1914 a concrete 12-vet factory was built, costing approximately £6,000. It was renamed "Triumph Dairy Factory" after its own brand of cheese, also called Triumph.

Ngaere also introduced "big cheese"- making cheese containing up to 15 pounds worth of coins, including gold sovereigns. These became a feature at Palmerston North and Dunedin shows, and were cut up and sold in slices. The Dominion Dairy Control Board asked Ngaere to make some of this cheese for the New Zealand display at the Wembley Exhibition in England, April 1924. Ngaere obliged, making four cheeses each weighing a ton for the exhibition. Large signs in London at the time proclaimed that this was the "Largest Cheese in the World".

Milk was delivered to the Ngaere factory in horse-drawn carts – with the farmers often calling into the butchery, the store and the blacksmiths before going home for breakfast.

In 1966, Ngaere and Lowgarth companies amalgamated, with the Lowgarth factory closing. A few Ngaere people felt sad, however, amalgamation did have the advantage of diversification, and it meant that the 96 suppliers could produce up to 2,565 tons of fat-reduced cheese.

On September 25 1973, Ngaere suppliers received proposals for amalgamation with the Taranaki Dairy Company. These proposals were accepted and shareholders merged to construct a multi-million dollar milk powder plant at Midhirst. The Triumph (Ngaere) factory continued as a branch factory until December 1977.

The factory has been put to many uses since its closure – first becoming a grocery warehouse, then a clothing factory, indoor cricket arena, rave dance hall and saw mill. The factory housing was sold and turned into an Alcohol and Drugs Rehabilitation Centre. *Credit: Puke Ariki and The Heritage Press*

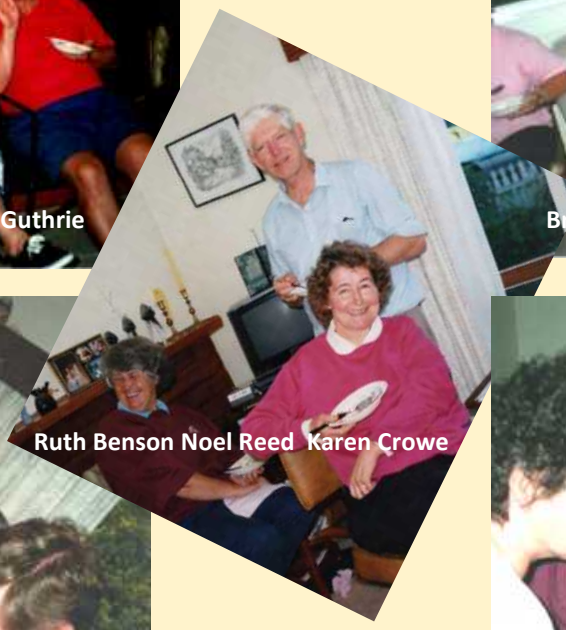
PRIMO

Primo supports us with a free internet connection—why not support them?
Great plans - and a friendly Taranaki person answers their helpline!
Call them on 0800 123 774 www.primo.nz

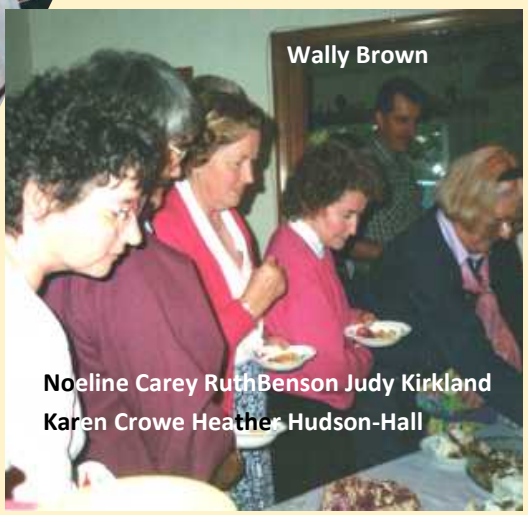
Pot Luck Dinner at Sharyn & Hamish Guthrie's Home at 50 Waimea St NP March 1995

Betty Lark Judy Kirkland Hamish Guthrie

Brenda Kendall Murray & Ann Evans


Ruth Benson Noel Reed Karen Crowe

Brenda Kendall, Bruce Bellini, Betty Lark and Murray Evans


Wally Brown

Noeline Carey RuthBenson Judy Kirkland Karen Crowe Heather Hudson-Hall

Sharyn Guthrie's DNA class

What a great group of happy faces plus a few puzzled expressions !

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE BY 7 JULY 2026

If unsure of amount or bank account, go to our website (www.genealogynp.com) and details are on the new member form

Taranaki Gazettes (1853-1861) – Len and Heather Jury

Puke Ariki is grateful to Len and Heather Jury, members of the New Plymouth Genealogical Society, for the generous donation that enabled us to digitise these valuable records of Taranaki's history.

This generous donation by Len and Heather means that these gazettes are now available digitally for Taranaki people whether home or abroad.

If your family was in Taranaki in this period you may find some information related to them. If not them individually, you will learn some of what Taranaki was like at that time.

The following is a link to the gazettes.
https://cms.terangiaoaonunui.pukeariki.com/story-collections/taranaki-stories/taranaki-gazettes-1853-1861/

NEW ZEALAND
GOVERNMENT GAZETTE
(PROVINCE OF TARANAKI).
Published by Authority.

You can also find it by searching on the Puke Ariki website under Home , Story Collections, Taranaki Stories, Taranaki Gazettes (1853 -1861)

Whats New at "Papers Past"

Hawera Star (1936-1950) Hutt News (1949-1960) Matamata County Mail (1953-1965) Matamata Record (1951, 1953-June 1954) Matiere Gazette (1920-1921, 1924-October 1936) Ohura Mail (July 1917-1921, 1924-October 1936) Waikato Times (1946-1950) Wairarapa Times-Age (July 1944-1950) Wanganui Herald (1921-1927)

Library News Magazines received: ***Who Do You Think You Are*** *(June)* ***Family Tree*** *(June)*

Newsletters received; Balclutha, Dunedin, Feilding, Hamilton, Hawkes Bay, Hutt Valley, Kapiti, Matamata, Mokau Museum, Mosgiel, Nelson, Palmerston North, Papakura, Papamoa, Porirua, Riccarton, South Waikato & Wellington

If you would like an email copy of newsletters from another genealogy society or branch, ***please contact Peter Hewett***
Email: newplymouthgenealogy@gmail.com

NO NEW MEMBERS THIS MONTH

The Back Page

Hello everyone—thank you to those who passed on appreciative thoughts regarding our new-look newsletter. It would seem that you didn't get too blinded by all the colour and generally liked the new lay-out and of course the funnies.

Following on from last month's meeting I would like to drop in a plug for the Taranaki Media Archive, if you haven't already visited the web site please do as it's well worth a look, there are well over 2000 files of sound and video recordings there covering our history from 1911 to the present day. It's very easy to navigate, there is a drop down menu in the top right hand corner that lets you select files by the Taranaki area, the towns or the sport—plus if you want to sort by date there is a further menu on the drop-down that lets you select our history by decade. Just google Taranaki Media Archive and you'll be taken to the web site –enjoy!

While we have a small stack of photos from the New Plymouth Genealogy's past there may be a few lurking in your collection that you would like to share? I would particularly like to find some photos from the era that Merla Bayliss was the president, and are there any photos around of the society's home when we were in the King st chambers?

Comments and suggestions are always welcome - my email is hamishg1@gmail.com or 027 608 3074

Till next time Hamish

"Only a genealogist views a step backwards as progress"