

New Plymouth Genealogy Society Incorporated Newsletter



Number 11

November 2022

Branch Library: Open free to members. A small charge to visitors.

Opening Hours: Monday: 10 am to 12:30 pm
Saturday: 10 am to 12 noon

Christmas Raffle

The society 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 meeting.

Raffle tickets will be on sale at the society meeting, \$5 for 3 tickets. The raffle will be drawn at the Christmas lunch on Saturday 3 December.



Next meeting: 7:30pm Tuesday 1 Nov 2022

Genealogy on Facebook

Come and hear some of the things you can do and learn from Facebook. Yes it might have started with cat videos and pictures of peoples meals at restaurants but it is so much more now. It's filled with wonderful helpful pages for genealogists and could help you learn so much to help you with your research.

Pages full of information related to the county in England you are researching, help for those tricky questions related to your Irish research, people with knowledge of the Polish or German language that can help you decipher words in a document. It uses the power of the community to help with those queries you have, someone always seems to know something related to your query. Plus it's there 24/7 so no matter what time of the day or night you post a query someone is awake and will respond! Plus it's a great way to keep in touch with your family and friends around the world.



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

New Plymouth Genealogy Society Inc
c/- Gail Tanner
122 Wairau Road
New Plymouth 4314

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

October Meeting – Online Research

The internet is very helpful for genealogists. There are [thousands](#) and [thousands](#) of websites to choose from, providing many different types of information, and covering a wide range of geographic locations. But these online resources are not all created equal. At our October meeting, Gail Tanner showed us some of the more useful websites for overseas research, particularly for the UK.

Cyndi's List has over 300,000 links to websites about genealogy, sorted into lots of different categories. <https://www.cyndislist.com>

FreeReg, UK parish registers transcribed by volunteers <https://www.freereg.org.uk>

FreeBMD, UK births, marriages and deaths <https://www.freebmd.org.uk>

FreeCen, UK census records <https://www.freecen.org.uk>

Find A Grave, community sourced cemetery info and photos from around the world <https://www.findagrave.com>

Gravestone Photos, more cemetery info and photos <https://www.gravestonephotos.com>

Workhouses, information about the workhouses for the poor in Victorian England, <https://www.workhouses.org.uk>

British newspaper archives, a pay to use website with scans of British newspapers from the 1700s <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>

National Archives UK, archives of UK records, also pay to use <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>

British history online, documents relating to British and Irish history, pay to use <https://www.british-history.ac.uk>

Vision of Britain through time, historical maps of the UK <https://visionofbritain.org.uk>

Also check out the Google maps street view for a good look at streets and buildings in many countries.

All these links, and more, are on the society links page; <https://genealogynp.com/links.html>



Convenor's Report

Wow, it's nearly Christmas again! This year we are holding a potluck Christmas Lunch for all our members, on Saturday the 3rd December – this will be instead of our normal meeting, so this will also be the final get together before for the Christmas break. Bring along your favourite Christmas goodies to be shared with everyone. Please nothing that needs cooking – we don't have an oven, but we do have a microwave.

We are also running a Christmas raffle this year. Donations can be dropped off at the rooms or contact myself and I can pick them up. We will draw it at the Christmas Lunch.

Next time you visit our rooms you'll notice some changes. We have moved our screen from the side wall to the back of the long room, so when seated more people will be able to see comfortably. With this in mind, we are also getting new tables – so the wooden ones that were donated some time ago, are up for sale. You can see a photo in the separate advert, but there are four and you can have one or more of them for a donation to the group. They are 6 feet long by about 2 feet wide.

The biggest news we have is that we have secured Donna Rutherford, a well-known expert on DNA for Genealogy, to talk at Sharyn's DNA meeting on Sunday 20 November. Donna is a local New Plymouth girl now living in the UK and as she is in New Plymouth to visit family, she has offered to give us a talk. We are very excited to have this opportunity to hear her speak.

Our meeting this week is headlined by Sharyn Guthrie giving us a talk on how useful Facebook can be for Genealogy. There are many pages on Facebook to explore and join if they have something you think you can use in your research.

Have a great November – keep up with the Christmas Shopping – don't leave it till the last minute.

Gail Tanner
Society Convenor

Christmas Lunch

This year, our end of year event is a Christmas lunch on Saturday 3 December.

This is a pot luck lunch, so please bring along a dish of food. Also, please BYO cutlery and plates.

If you have any questions, please ask any committee member, or [send us an email](#).



Undesirable Settlers

Was your ancestor deemed to be an undesirable settler? Well, who would know and who would decide? I'm not going to be able to answer that question but I will explain why the question is posed.

In our quest to ensure all documents held in our genealogy library are catalogued and shelved, I found a box labelled "miscellaneous shipping information". It has probably been in said box for twenty years or more. However it did not just include shipping stuff, it was a hodge podge of bits and pieces, all of which have now been sorted.

One of the sets of paper intrigued me. It is a photocopy of a hand written list of emigrants taken in the Government Brig *Victoria* from New Plymouth to Auckland on January 2nd 1845. It lists their names, occupations, in which ship they arrived in New Plymouth (from England) and age group of the children. It is mentioned that 3 men whose wives were on the ship had previously walked to Auckland from New Plymouth. Passengers totalled 57.

Page 2 of this document is what interested me as it is a photocopy of a letter to Colonel William Wakefield from J T Wickstead, Resident Agent for New Plymouth, which said:

"I enclose a list of those emigrants removed to Auckland in the Government Brig. With one or two exceptions, they are very undesirable settlers."

Surnames mentioned are: Goninan, Harper, Williams, Harvey, Polkinghorne, Collins, Gribble, Millstead, Rogers, George, Knuckey, Lukies, Argle, Pascoe.

So that letter is why I wonder who decides whether a person is an undesirable emigrant or not.

Lea Bellini

20 Years at Moturoa

We have just passed the 20 year anniversary of our genealogy rooms at Moturoa. We are lucky to have our own space for our library, records, research and meetings.

Lea Bellini has compiled some information and photographs from when the rooms were established. This article is appended to this newsletter.

DNA Interest Group: Sunday 20 November

Donna Rutherford, from New Plymouth originally, and now living in the UK is a Genealogist specialising in genetic genealogy. Donna has agreed to give us a talk while she is in New Plymouth to visit her mother. Her talk is "Solving Genealogical Puzzles with DNA" and she is an engaging and knowledgeable speaker. It doesn't matter if you are a beginner or more experienced with using DNA or you haven't delved into DNA at all, come and listen, it will be worth it.

We rarely get speakers as experienced as Donna who is one of the top UK experts. She speaks at multiple conferences in the UK and at RootsTech as well. She also has a family history going back to early settlers in Taranaki so is very special. \$2 door charge as normal.

RootsTech 2 – 4 March 2023

The largest family history conference in the world is free and online. This massive conference has all the biggest names in genealogy presenting the latest and greatest information, techniques and gadgets.

Click the link below to find out more and to register.

www.familysearch.org/rootstech



Christmas Opening Hours

As usual, our library rooms will be closed over the Christmas/ New Year period.

Last day 2022

Saturday 17 December

First day 2023

Monday 16 January

Library Roster: November

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

Sat 5 Nov Karen Crowe
Mon 7 Nov Charles Le Breton
Sat 12 Nov Graeme Jury
Mon 14 Nov Lorraine Austin
Sat 19 Nov Lea Bellini
Mon 21 Nov Annette Larsen
Sat 26 Nov Sharyn Guthrie
Mon 28 Nov Jill Jackson
Sat 3 Dec Karen Crowe
Mon 5 Dec Charles Le Breton
Sat 10 Dec Gail Tanner
Mon 12 Dec Lorraine Austin
Sat 17 Dec Lea Bellini

Tables Available!

Four wooden tables from our rooms are available for a donation. Each approx 6 x 2 ft. If you are interested, please contact Gail or Sharyn, or send an email to newplymouthgenealogy@gmail.com.



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

Covid-19 Protection Framework

Covid-19 is still about and causing illness. Please follow the rules and keep everyone healthy.

- Stay home if you have any symptoms (flu, dry cough, short of breath, loss of smell, etc).
- You can wear a face mask at the society rooms.



There is more information at covid19.govt.nz.

Library News

Newsletters received;

Balclutha, Dunedin, Feilding, Hutt Valley, Kapiti, Matamata, Nelson, Otaki, Palmerston North, Papakura, Papamoa, Porirua, Riccarton, Southland, South Canterbury, South Waikato, Stratford, Wairarapa, Wellington



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

Newsletter

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

20 Years of Living in a Basement

On 19 October 2002, our new genealogy rooms were officially opened with a grand affair. Deputy Mayor, Lyn Bublitz represented the NPDC and opened the rooms. It is now 20 years later, and we are still here!



Lyn Bublitz and Michael Butler (Convenor)

As well as the celebrations of opening the new rooms, we also celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Computer Group. Among the guests from out of town were Ann & Murray Evans, Jan Gow, Heather Murdoch-Hall, Xavier Jones, Richard Hollier from NZSG and Elwin Goldsworthy from the NZSG Genealogical Computing Group. It was a 2-day weekend affair including dinner at The Plymouth Hotel.



Lyn Bublitz, Elwyn Goldsworthy, Jan Gow, Richard Hollier, Bruce Bellini

How did the need and acquisition of the basement arise? Well we had been in discussion with the New Plymouth library and museum when Puke Ariki was being planned and from that, our branch was given verbal understanding that our Family History research holdings would complement the Puke Ariki

holdings and we would be given room to house our research holdings in the new Puke Ariki building. However at a subsequent meeting with the new manager of Puke Ariki, we were advised there was no place for us in the new building. That was a bit of a shock.

Our records were held in a very small room (13 square metres) and walk in safe in the Kings Building and our meetings held at the Knox Church Hall. We had outgrown the Kings Building which only held our books, other resources being held in members houses.



Raewyn Evans and Adele Williams in our room at the Kings Building

So we went a-hunting. Merv Smith, our then treasurer at the time had a few contacts. He approached Willie Still (who owned the Kings Building). He in turn referred Merv to Ted Riddick. Well as luck would have it, Ted had a spare room for us in the Moturoa shopping Centre. It was in the basement where some years earlier, it was the repair room of the cycle shop that was upstairs back then.

Ted Riddick was very supportive of our genealogy branch and he provided us these rooms at a very reasonable rental which continues to be so to this day.



In the beginning: Bruce Bellini and John Berntsen



John & Bruce (and the mural that Midge Williams saved)

It required an extensive amount of work, including cleaning, building an internal wall, cupboards, computer and microfilm table, painting, carpeting. A large team of volunteers assisted Bruce and John Berntsen to complete this outfit. These volunteers did a fantastic job. The refit was financed by a grant from TSB, money that the branch had left over after the 2001 conference, and a large contribution from the New Plymouth Genealogy Computer Group.



Gib board being plastered



Newspapers going to Puke Ariki

Although Puke Ariki had no space for us, they helped immensely. The grey metal shelving now currently in our rooms was donated to us by them. In return our members helped with moving Puke Ariki's newspaper collection to their new premises and dismantling the shelving.



And ready for painting



Unpacking books at our new rooms

Looking at all the photos taken during that weekend while writing this article has brought back so many memories, including those who are no longer with us.



*Some of the attendees at the opening of our rooms 20 years ago.
Are you one of them?*

Lea Bellini
October 2022