

New Plymouth Genealogy Society Incorporated Newsletter



Number 33

November 2024

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

Opening Hours: Every Monday and Saturday: 10 am to 12 noon
Other times available by appointment

Christmas Raffle

The popular Christmas hamper raffle is being run again this year. Members are asked to donate non-perishable items for the raffle. Proceeds will be used to fund society activities. Please bring along donated items to the rooms.

Raffle tickets will be on sale at society meetings.

The raffle will be drawn at our end of year lunch on Saturday 14 December.



Next meeting: 7:30pm Tuesday 5 Nov 2024

War Graves

At our November meeting, Russell Smith will take us through his research about NZ RAF Sgt Harrison and the mission to find his grave in the Commonwealth War Cemetery at Ismailia, Egypt.

Russell's trip also included the Great Giza Plateau, Mediterranean coast and several other parts of Egypt. Come along to hear a tale of exploration, history, pleasure with a few genealogy research websites thrown in.



Chairperson: Gail Tanner 027 376 0630

Secretary: Jackie Sewell

Treasurer: Sharyn Guthrie

Committee: Lorraine Austin
Jeff Grange
Peter Hewett
Graeme Jury
Glenys Krutz
Lois Lovell
Russell Smith

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

Last month: Preserving Heirlooms

At our October meeting, Dr Susanne Rawson gave a marvellous presentation about preserving historical artifacts. Dr Rawson is senior conservator at [Heritage Preservation Field Support Services](#). She is also the current president of [New Zealand Conservators of Cultural Materials](#).

HPFS provides specialist services to restore and preserve physical objects of historical and cultural importance, including artworks, documents, photographs, clothing and other taonga.

Dr Rawson explained lots of practical tips for looking after our heirlooms, including old photographs, negatives, slides, fabrics, silverware and others. When cleaning objects, it is important to only use cleaning methods and substances that won't cause damage. She also explained what to look for in packaging materials, so that our precious objects won't deteriorate in storage.

With lots of examples and practical techniques, this was a fascinating and useful talk.



Chairperson's Report

I've just noticed it is the 1st of November. I can't believe how fast this year has gone. Sadly, we've lost a couple of well-known members lately.

George Mason ONZM passed on the 13th September 2024. He was a great philanthropist, artist, scientist, and loved the outdoors. Of late he hadn't come to many meetings but I was privileged to bring him to our meeting where we looked at publishing your family history. He died in his 95th year. Though he never married and had children of his own, his extended family was very important to him.

The other loss is that of Shirley Thomson who passed away on the 29th Sept 2024, after a long battle with MS. I first met Shirley when I joined the Genealogy Society in the late 90s. She would pick me up and take me to the meetings. Even as her MS got worse, she still was a genealogy research addict and didn't let the fact that she ended up in a

wheelchair stop her from doing what she loved. We were on many committees together, nothing was a problem for her to do, and she was always smiling. Though I hadn't seen her much over the last few years, whenever we ran into each other, she was always delighted to see me and I her. I will miss her, and I know she will be sorely missed by everyone who knew her.

So, our next couple of meetings are the last of the year. On Tuesday, Russell Smith will be giving us a talk on the journey he and his wife took finding a Commonwealth War Grave. I think it will be an interesting talk.

In December we will forgo the usual Tuesday night meeting and will have a Christmas Luncheon, at the rooms on Saturday 14 December. It's BYO food and everyone is welcome to come, partners included.

Don't forget to donate to our Christmas Raffle!! It's been a huge success the last couple of years, and we want to continue that this year.

Sharyn and I are going to be away from the 1st Dec to the 10th on the 18th Unlock the Past cruise. Sailing from Sydney we call at Hobart, Kangaroo Island, Adelaide and Melbourne, then back to Sydney. While at sea the genealogy conference is full on, with speakers from England, Australia, Scotland, and New Zealand. I can't wait to get there. And we will be giving a talk about the cruise at the March meeting.

In April we want to hear your Anzac stories. Almost every family has a story to tell about the boys that went to war. If you don't like to speak, just write the story and we can hopefully publish them all together at some stage.

We've had a busy year and it's almost over, but we are well on our way to organising 2025 to be just as busy. If you have any suggestions for topics you'd like to hear about or even speakers you would like us to invite, please let a committee member know. We are always looking for new people and subjects to hear about at our meetings. We try and make them as interesting as possible, so please if you have an idea, let us know.

See you Tuesday night.

Gail Tanner
Society Chairperson

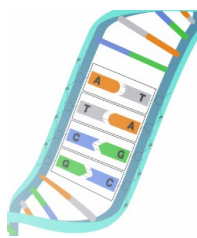
DNA Interest Group

Last meeting of the year – Sunday 1 November 2024

I've given the DNA Interest Group members a choice of 3 different things for me to go over and it so far it is looking like the SmartArt Relationship diagrams is the front runner. I'll send out an email to confirm with you if you are on my email list, if you want to be included please email me at sharyndna@gmail.com to be added to our group.

See you at the meeting.

Sharyn Guthrie



Next month: End of year lunch

Our final event for 2024 is Christmas lunch at the rooms on Saturday 14 December.

It is bring your own / pot luck lunch.

The Christmas hamper raffle will be drawn at this lunch.



RootsTech 2025

This is the biggest genealogy conference in the world, held annually at Salt Lake City, USA and available online.

RootsTech has presentations from some of the world's top genealogists and family history experts, as well as exhibits from the leading vendors. Three days of great genealogy presentations, which you can watch from your own home for free.

Next year, it is on from 6 to 8 March 2025.

You can [register](#) for the free online conference.



Christmas / New Year

As usual, our library roster will be taking a break over the summer holiday period.



Last day for 2024

Saturday 14 December

First day for 2025

Monday 13 January

If you want to get access to the rooms during this period, please contact us and we will arrange a time when a volunteer is available. Send an email to us at newplymouthgenealogy@gmail.com.

Library Volunteers

We need a few more members to help with the library roster. This is an easy task, just mind the library when it is open. This is typically a 2 hour session about once a month.

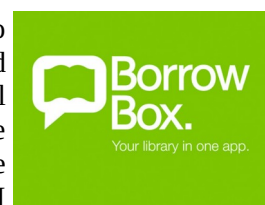
Training and support is provided. This is a great way to get a bit more expertise and knowledge for your own genealogy research, as well as helping others in our society.

If you would like to help, or have any questions, please contact Jeff Grange (or any committee member).

Puke Ariki Access

A couple of days ago I came across an amazing discovery related to the *Who Do You Think You Are* magazine that can save us all money, and give access to everyone who has a Puke Ariki Library membership, and probably any library in NZ.

I use BorrowBox to listen to audio books mostly and occasionally to read a digital copy of a book. However, the other day I pressed the 'ePress' tab and found that I could access 'Who Do You Think You Are' plus I have now also subscribed (this is a FREE feature) to Irish roots and BBC History and I haven't explored much more just yet.



Sharyn Guthrie

Library Roster: November 2024

Monday 10 am to 12 noon
Saturday 10 am to 12 noon

Sat 2 Nov Karen Crowe
Mon 4 Nov Charles Le Breton
Sat 9 Nov Annette Larsen
Mon 11 Nov Lorraine Austin
Sat 16 Nov Lea Bellini
Mon 18 Nov Lorraine Austin
Sat 23 Nov Jeff Grange
Mon 25 Nov Graeme Jury
Sat 30 Nov Russell Smith
Mon 2 Dec Charles Le Breton
Sat 7 Dec Karen Crowe
Mon 9 Dec Lorraine Austin
Sat 14 Dec Jeff Grange

Facebook

Did you see Paul Ashton's post about his family from Devon who came here via Australia? It was a great story to read about.

I also try to put up interesting titbits related to genealogy, sites to view, people whose newsletters you too could receive and all sorts of different items. Come along and join in, as a question, are you stuck on some aspect in your research. We're all there to help one another.

Sharyn Guthrie

Internet Connection

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



Primo has supported us with internet connectivity since 2017. Please consider Primo for your internet service and for mobile phone plans. Ring them on 0800 123 774 or visit their website:

primo.nz

Raffle

The November meeting raffle is our regular \$20 voucher prize. It's \$2 for one ticket or \$5 for three, so bring along your loose change or \$5 notes!

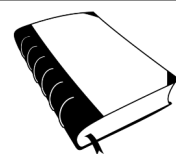


Library News

Newsletters received;

Canterbury, Dunedin, Feilding, Hawke's Bay, Hutt Valley, Kapiti, Matamata, Mosgiel, Nelson, Otaki, Palmerston North, Papakura, Papamoa, Porirua, Riccarton, Rotorua, South Canterbury, South Waikato, Wellington, Whanganui

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.

SHIRLEY THOMSON (1944 – 2024)



Sadly, we have to acknowledge the passing of long time member Shirley Thomson. I think it was the early 1990s when Shirley and David came to live in New Plymouth from Feilding.

Shirley loved her genealogy and was an active member of the club. She was an inaugural member of the NP Genealogical Computing Club that was started by Ann & Murray EVANS on 18th Oct 1992 so was always involved with computers from early days.

There was a big contingent of us that went up to Hamilton for the 1994 Conference which holds great memories for us all and there are many other memories of times with Shirley that we all enjoyed.

Sadly, a few years later Shirley found out that she had Multiple Sclerosis. This slowly reduced her mobility and ability to move around but she continued till the end to be very actively involved in the world of genealogy. She learnt about DNA and how to use it in her research and was always learning and expanding her knowledge.

By the last stage of her life, she had lost so much movement in her body, that she had an amazing head device that she used to continue working on her computer with her genealogy. She also controlled her electric wheelchair with it. She would come along to the DNA Interest Group and selected meetings, always with a smile on her face and taking part in the event.

I never heard her complain or bemoan her decline in her health, and she still faced life with joy every day as evidenced by those who cared for her and spoke at her funeral. She has been an inspiration to me and I will miss her.

Sharyn Guthrie



Heather HALL, Beryl SPENCE, Betty LARK, Shirley THOMSON, Karen CROWE & Noreen POTTS

May 1994, Hamilton



Shirley & David THOMSON

with unknown, Kim ELGAR, Peter HEWETT & Noel REED

Oct 2002, NP Genealogy Computing 10 yr anniversary