

New Plymouth Genealogy Society Incorporated Newsletter



Number 34

December 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

Merry Christmas !

The society committee would like to wish all our members and their families a very Merry Christmas and all the very best for 2025!

The society rooms will be closed over the Christmas/ New Year period.

Last day for 2024 Saturday 14 December

First day for 2025 Monday 13 January



Next meeting: noon Saturday 14 Dec 2024

Christmas Lunch

Our last event for 2024 is the Christmas lunch at noon on Saturday 14 December at the rooms. Bring a plate for a shared lunch.

We will also be drawing the raffle for the Christmas hamper. This has lots of goodies and the proceeds will support our society, so be sure to get your tickets: \$5 for 3 tickets, \$7 for 5 tickets.



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: War Graves

At our November meeting, Russell Smith took us through his research into the military career of NZ RAF Sgt Harrison. Russell told us the story of his mission to find the grave in the Commonwealth War Cemetery at Ismailia, Egypt.

Russell also described other parts of the trip, including the Great Giza Plateau, Egyptian Museum, Nile cruise and several other adventures in Egypt.

Here are some of the websites that Russell used in his research:

[Wartime Memories](#)

[Aircrew Remembered](#)

[Canadian Aircraft Serials](#)

[RAF Commands](#)

[Warbird Tails](#)

[Auckland Museum online cenotaph](#)

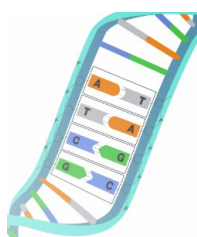


Ismailia War Memorial Cemetery

DNA Interest Group

We held the last DNA interest group meeting for 2024 on Sunday 10 November.

The next DNA session will be on Sunday 9 February 2025. Look for details in the February newsletter.



Sharyn Guthrie

Chairperson's Report

I can't believe it is almost Christmas. This year has just flown by for me. I guess that's what happens when you are busy all the time.

As you probably already know Sharyn, her husband Hamish, and I are off on the 30th to Auckland and on to Sydney to catch a genealogy cruise on Sunday 1st December. I can't wait and I know Sharyn and Hamish are also looking forward to it. It's 10 days, with stops in Hobart, Kangaroo Island, Adelaide and Melbourne and back to Sydney. While at sea there is a genealogy conference to attend, with renown speakers to listen to and learn from. It's also been sold as a winery cruise with visits to those places should you wish. As I'm not into wine, I will be doing the tourist things around the places we visit, as apart from Sydney I've never been to the cities we will visit. I will also be catching up with my step daughter and her family before we come home. I'm very excited about that, as I haven't seen them for almost 2 years.

Sharyn and I will be sharing the story of our trip with you in the New Year.

But back to December and Christmas time. We are holding a pot luck lunch on Saturday 14 December instead of the nightly meeting. The details are in this newsletter. And don't forget the raffle will be drawn.

If I don't see you again this year, I hope you have a lovely Christmas, a great holiday time, and greet the New Year refreshed and motivate to continue with your family history.

Gail Tanner
Society Chairperson

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.



100 years ago

In December 1924, the government brought in a centralised motor vehicle registration system for the whole of New Zealand, administered by the Post Office. The new law required all motor vehicles to be registered. Prior to this, vehicle registration was done by those local authorities that had populations of more than 5,000. In some areas, only commercial vehicles were registered.

The first motor vehicles were imported to New Zealand about 1900, and by 1929, there were more than 150,000 on the road.



Gibsons Motors was a pioneering inter-city and regional bus and coach operator, established by George Gibson in 1914. The company was based at 32 Queen Street, New Plymouth, serving the Taranaki region and with scheduled coaches to Hamilton, Auckland, Wellington and Napier.

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.

Inglewood 150 Year Jubilee

The Inglewood [150 year jubilee](#) is being celebrated from 20 to 26 January 2025, with a street parade on Saturday 25 January.

Spreadsheets for Genealogy

Spreadsheets can be a useful way to organise and analyse data for genealogy. For example, historical data can be tabulated and sorted by name or location or whatever. Sometimes, data is available as a csv file and a spreadsheet can be a good tool to read and analyse this.

The spreadsheet from [Libre Office](#) is a good choice for genealogy because it can properly handle dates prior to 1900. This means you can work with those old dates, such as sort data or calculate time between dates.

Libre Office is free to download, and is available for Windows, Mac and Linux.

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).

Library Roster: December 2024

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

Mon 2 Dec Charles Le Breton
Sat 7 Dec Karen Crowe
Mon 9 Dec Lorraine Austin
Sat 14 Dec Jeff Grange
closed over Christmas / New Year
Mon 13 Jan Lorraine Austin
Sat 18 Jan Lea Bellini
Mon 20 Jan Annette Larsen
Sat 25 Jan Jeff Grange
Mon 27 Jan Graeme Jury
Sat 1 Feb Karen Crowe
Mon 3 Feb Charles Le Breton

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.



Internet Connection

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



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

Library News

Magazines

Family Tree (Nov)

Newsletters received;

Canterbury, Feilding, Hamilton, Hutt Valley, Matamata, Nelson, Otaki, Palmerston North, Papakura, Papamoa, Porirua, Riccarton, Rotorua, 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.