

# New Plymouth Genealogy Society Incorporated Newsletter



Number 36

March 2025

**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

## TATATM

In February, we visited the Taranaki Aviation Technology and Transport Museum.

It has lots of artifacts from a bygone era, like this manual telephone switchboard.

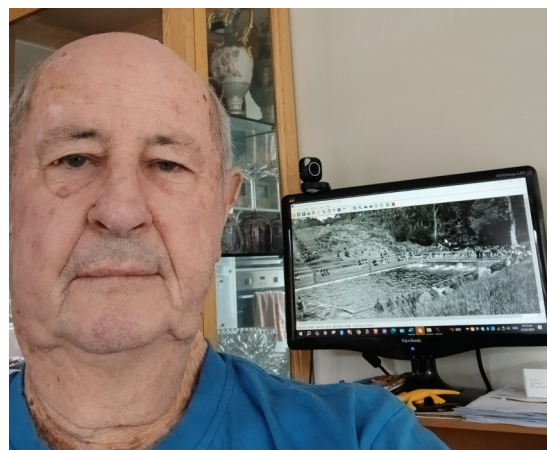


Next meeting: 7:30pm Tuesday 4 Mar 2025

## Old Photographs

At our March meeting, Allan Meads will show us a selection from his collection of old New Plymouth photographs.

Allan's interest in historic photos began when he inherited his family's old photos. He scanned and restored these, acquiring software and skills in the process. Since then, his collection has expanded to other old photos, recording memories of New Plymouth's past.



**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](mailto:newplymouthgenealogy@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.genealogynp.com](http://www.genealogynp.com)

## Last month: TATATM

Our first event for 2025 was a visit to the Taranaki Aviation Technology and Transport Museum on Kent Road, just south of New Plymouth.

TATATM preserves Taranaki's past for the enjoyment of future generations. We had a guided tour through the various buildings on site, packed with thousands of historic objects; agricultural machinery, dairy equipment, broadcast radio, printing presses, aircraft, household items and many more.



## Chairperson's Report

Well, folks, I can't believe it, it is the end of February already. Kinda scary, don't you think?

It's been a busy start to the year. The trip to the Taranaki Aviation Transport Technology Museum in Kent Road, for our February outing was fabulous. We had a great turnout, and I'm sure everyone had some great long-lost memories turn up again. Mind you the old dentist chairs didn't bring back nice memories! The weather was beautiful, and the volunteers that showed us around were friendly and knowledgeable. If you haven't been for a long time or have never been, it is well worth the \$7 door fee. They are also looking for more volunteers to help out so if you are a keen mechanic, radio buff, or general handy man with some spare time on your hands, give them a call. I'm sure they'd jump at any help you are willing to give them.

This month's meeting is a photo show. The speaker is Allan Meads showing photos of the old New Plymouth area, and maybe some of wider Taranaki. I'm really looking forward to it, so I hope to see you all there.

I am also restarting my Beginners' Genealogy Classes this coming Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March and they will continue weekly for about 6 weeks. Every member is welcome to come. There is a \$2 door charge per lesson. It is in conjunction with the U3A classes.

Gail Tanner  
Society Chairperson





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## Summer BBQ

Members of our society are invited to the Heritage Taranaki summer BBQ and pot luck lunch.

Date: Saturday 22 March 2025

Time: 11:30am

Where: 47 Cumming Street, Okato

RSVP by 5pm Wednesday 12 March

RSVP to [secretary@heritagetaranaki.com](mailto:secretary@heritagetaranaki.com)

This is an amazing opportunity for us all to get together, share ideas and discuss the heritage of our great region Taranaki.



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## Better Genealogy Research

Your genealogy can be much more productive and enjoyable when you know how to research your family history, where to find useful information and how to best organise all this stuff.

We are running another series of genealogy classes, starting Wednesday 5 March.

This is open to all society members and visitors, for just the \$2 door charge.

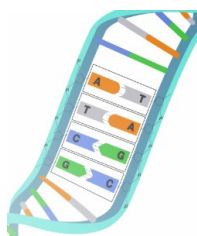
For further information, and to register for the classes, please contact Gail or email us at [newplymouthgenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:newplymouthgenealogy@gmail.com).

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## DNA Interest Group

Next meeting: Sunday 9 Mar 2025, 1:30pm at the rooms.

Next meeting I am away so Gail will be taking it. Please bring along your laptops or tablets or passwords and logins and sit down and do some of your DNA work. Gail will be there to help you and you can share your successes and queries with her and others.



Sharyn Guthrie

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## The trouble with names

The biggest problem with names is spelling. Everybody hears something different when told a name. And remember – a couple of hundred years ago very few people could write let alone spell!

As you've probably already discovered, many names can be spelt in many different ways.

My maiden name is Raynor – R A Y N O R

I have seen it spelt: Rainer, Rayner, Reyner, Raynar, Rayner, Reiner, Rainor, ...

I had a great example of where spelling can hurt you when I was researching Maher. I found it spelt as Maher, Mahar, Mayer, Meyer, Meyar. The birth I was looking for was spelt Meher, and the mother's name used was her middle name. (But that's another story.)

Also, recently I was asked to research someone called Lavert – this name had me stumped, nothing came up at all for this spelling. It was only when I looked at our Taranaki Biographical Index and found ONE entry spelt Lauert did I have any success. I was then able to find her birth, marriage, and her parents. It's a German name, and I guess the accent would make it difficult to understand.

Knowing and being aware that the spelling could be different to what you think will help you when you are researching.

Many people could not spell or write at all even in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. And spelling isn't a lot of people's forte. So, remember – the name is spelt how the clerk hears it. Accents, lips and ignorance didn't help. He couldn't ask how it was spelt because the person saying the name didn't know how it was spelt. So, he wrote down what he heard!

So, when you are researching and getting nowhere – remember to try every version of the name you can think of. You might be surprised what you can find!

Gail Tanner

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## Stories of Our Military Ancestors

Our April meeting will have an ANZAC theme. We are seeking members who can share a short story of an ancestor who was in the NZ military. This is just a few minutes, maybe with a photo or something.

Please contact Lois at a meeting or send us an email [newplymouthgenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:newplymouthgenealogy@gmail.com).



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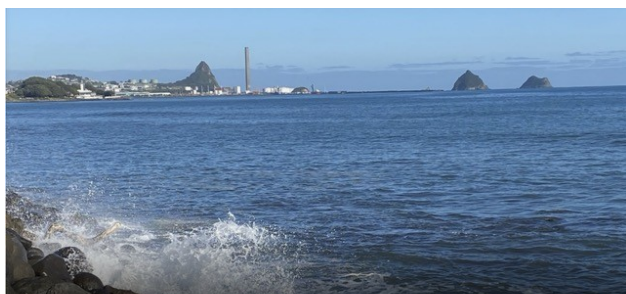
## Library Roster: March 2024

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

Sat 1 Mar Karen Crowe  
Mon 3 Mar Charles Le Breton  
Sat 8 Mar Jeff Grange  
Mon 10 Mar Lorraine Austin  
Sat 15 Mar Lea Bellini  
Mon 17 Mar Sally Morch  
Sat 22 Mar Jeff Grange  
Mon 24 Mar Graeme Jury  
Sat 29 Mar Annette Larsen  
Mon 31 Mar Gail Tanner  
Sat 5 Apr Karen Crowe  
Mon 7 Apr Charles Le Breton

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## Facebook Group



### New Plymouth Genealogy Society

■ Private group · 265 members

We are now up to 265 members in our Facebook group. It would be great if more people added a post and put on any queries they have. Perhaps you could write about a successful hunt for an ancestor or other stories.

Facebook is a great tool for learning and sharing.

Sharyn Guthrie

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## 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](http://primo.nz)

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## Library News



Newsletters received;

Canterbury, Feilding, Hamilton, Hawkes Bay, Hutt Valley, Kapiti, Matamata, Nelson, Otaki, Palmerston North, Papamoa, Porirua, Riccarton, South Canterbury, Southland, 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](mailto:peter.hewett@gmail.com).