

New Plymouth Genealogy Society Incorporated

Newsletter



Number 38

May 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

2025 AGM

The fourth annual general meeting of our society will be held at 7:30 pm on Tuesday 6 May. The formal notice of meeting was distributed to members with the April newsletter.

Nominations are open for committee members and for secretary.

Our society relies on volunteers to keep things running. There are lots of different ways that you can help. Please talk with any current committee member if you can help or have any questions.

Documents for the AGM (such as annual report and financial statement) are distributed to members with this newsletter.



Next meeting: 7:30pm Tuesday 6 May 2025

Genealogy Cruise

Going on an ocean cruise and doing genealogy on the way combines the best of both worlds. Days of lectures by genealogy specialists, expert help for your research, and meeting lots other keen genealogists all make this a unique experience.

At our May meeting, Sharyn and Gail will tell us about the genealogy cruise that they went on recently, complete with photos and videos.

Come along to the May meeting to hear what really happens on a genealogy cruise!



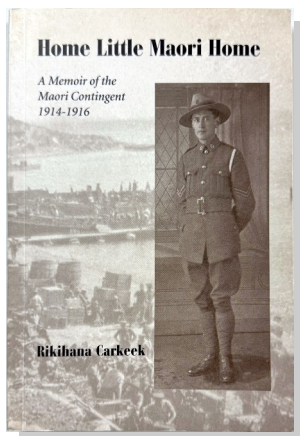
Chairperson: Gail Tanner 027 376 0630
Secretary: Jackie Sewell
Treasurer: Sharyn Guthrie
Committee: Lorraine Austin
Jeff Grange
Peter Hewett
Graeme Jury
Glenys Krutz
Lois Lovell
Russell Smith

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: Anzac stories

At our April meeting, members shared stories, photographs and heirlooms of their wartime ancestors.

The stories gave us an insight into life on the troop ships and in the trenches. Members brought along items from that era, including a watch, letters, photos and clothing.



We also discussed some online resources for military history. A wealth of information is available at the Auckland Museum [online cenotaph](#). There is also the [NZ History website](#) and the [Navy Museum](#).

The [National Library](#) has historic documents, including the history of New Zealand in [World War 1](#) and [World War 2](#). There are histories of regiments, compiled by officers of those regiments;

- [Auckland regiment](#)
- [Wellington regiment](#)
- [Canterbury regiment](#)
- [Otago regiment](#)

Also check out the [Commonwealth War Graves Commission](#) and other military links on our society [links page](#).

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 two 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).

Chairperson's Report

May is upon us and with it our AGM. Hopefully, you are all coming to cast your votes.

We have a couple of committee members standing down this time, which is a bit sad, but it gives new people the opportunity to be more involved in the running of our group and have a positive impact on the direction we are moving in.

I would like to thank both Graeme Jury and Jackie Sewell for what has been a long-term commitment to our group. Both have been on the Committee since before we split from the NZSG. I know Jackie has been trying to stand down for at least the last 5 years, so we'll finally let her go.

This means that we are looking for a Secretary. Though still called the Secretary the position is more of a minute taker. In the past, the Secretary position handled all the correspondence, but in this email and computer age, this is no longer the case.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will see an advert asking for anyone who may have found some papers in the rooms, to contact me. I've managed to lose something very precious, and am desperately trying to find it again, so I can give it back to the owner.

We are also looking for volunteers to help with some of the projects we are undertaking at the moment. We currently have a system where volunteers cut out, record and glue the Births Deaths & Marriages from the newspaper. We are looking for someone who is happy to take over the gluing part. You would, of course, be trained on what is necessary to help you. If you are unsure of what that may mean, talk to Lorraine (our project leader) or myself. The end product is on the shelves in the rooms, where you can look up a year's worth of BDMs all in the same place. The names are also entered in the Taranaki Biographical Index to make them easy to search.

Please come along to the AGM. After the official part is done, we are having a video and talk on the Genealogy Cruise that Sharyn, Hamish and I went on at the beginning of December. It should be fun – I'll also be talking about some of my mishaps on the trip – so hopefully you'll get a good laugh at my expense.

Gail Tanner
Society Chairperson

Hawera Book Fair

The Hawera Genealogy & Local History Group is holding a book fair on Saturday and Sunday, 3 & 4 May 2025.

Time: 9:30am to 6pm

Venue: Hawera Genealogy Building,
48 Union Street, Hawera

A huge new selection of speciality books not previously available. This includes a big New Zealand section: fiction, biographies, history, sport, travel. Jigsaws, DVDs, CDs, records, sheet music, magazines.

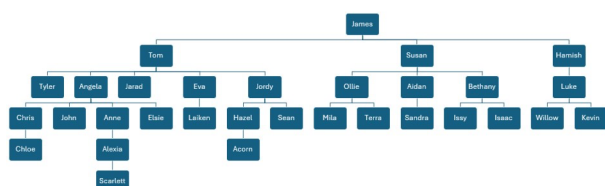
Payment by cash or online banking.



DNA Interest Group

Next meeting: Sunday 11 May 2025, 1:30pm at the rooms.

Last month saw only a handful of people and we all had a great time. Marilyn wanted a reminder of how to build a family tree using SmartArt in Word so that's one of the things we did. See below – this can help you work out relationships.



We also viewed the Cousin Finder, again a suggestion from Marilyn. This was magic and well worth investigating if you have a tree on My Heritage and additionally it can help with DNA matches too.

Come along to our next session with your queries and see what others are doing to with their DNA.

Sharyn Guthrie

Missing Documents

Gail has mislaid a very important and sentimental historical document.

After searching her home repeatedly without success, she is now reaching out to anyone who may have been in our library over the last few months and could have come across what is a diary of a voyage to New Zealand from the 1870s. It is four handwritten foolscap pages (brown with age).

If you have seen these pages at our rooms, and maybe put them somewhere safe, please contact Gail on 027 376 0630.

Papers Past

[PapersPast](#) is the online archive of historical New Zealand newspapers. This is a tremendous resource for genealogists and family historians. Recent additions include;

- Chronicle (Levin) (1946-1949)
- Levin Daily Chronicle (1940-1942, 1945-1946)
- Rotorua Morning Post (1931-1952)
- Tauranga Argus and Opoitiki Reporter (misc. issues 1866 - 1867)
- Tauranga Record and Bay of Plenty Examiner (misc. issues 1867 - Jun 1868)

Genealogy Help Day – Tuesday 13 May

Gail and Sharyn have put aside Tuesday 13 May as a help day for members.

If you would like to have an hour with either of them to help you with anything to do with your genealogy, please send an email to sharynjguthrie@gmail.com to book an hour with one of them.

Time slots that will be available are 10 to 11am, 11 to 12midday, 1 to 2pm, 2 to 3pm and 3 to 4 pm. Cost is \$5 for an hour.



Library Roster: May 2024

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

Sat 3 May Karen Crowe
Mon 5 May Charles Le Breton
Sat 10 May Sally Morch
Mon 12 May Lorraine Austin
Sat 17 May Lea Bellini
Mon 19 May Annette Larsen
Sat 24 May Jeff Grange
Mon 26 May Graeme Jury
Sat 31 May Sharyn Guthrie
Mon 2 Jun Charles Le Breton

Facebook Group

Our Facebook page has had links to the Taranaki Media Archive added sharing videos and audio of some returned servicemen. These are fascinating insights into our history and well worth listening and watching.

We have also had some members seeking help and other stories. Have a look and add any information you can to help others. Do you have a query that someone else could help with, a photo needing identification or seeking more information. Facebook can be incredibly helpful in researching for genealogy.



Hayden Mischefski posted this photo looking for more information about his family. Do you have know anything about the Mischefski family? Maybe you could help him or he you.

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

Library News

Magazines received;

Family Tree (April)

Newsletters received;

Canterbury, Feilding, Hamilton, Hawera, Hutt Valley, Matamata, Mosgiel, Nelson, 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.

My Heritage Cousin Finder – thanks to Marilyn Armitstead for showing us this feature.

Do you have a subscription and tree with My Heritage? Have you looked at the new tool called “Cousin Finder”? It gives you a lot of help in identifying cousins on their site. It does us other people’s trees as well as yours so if one of them is wrong you could have incorrect information displayed.

If you also have a DNA test on My Heritage, it adds this information in the link as well. All valuable information.

Where is it and what does it show you? Look on the menu under the ‘Discoveries’ tab and click on it.

Family treeDiscoveriesPhotos

Matches by people

Matches by source

Instant Discoveries™

Cousin Finder™

your

Cousin Finder™

Discover MyHeritage members who share common ancestors with you

Cousin Finder™ is searching for other MyHeritage members who are related to you through common ancestors.

Now it starts searching tree for cousins.

Cousin Finder™

Discover MyHeritage members who share common ancestors with you

130 relatives found

Tony

DNA MATCH

Age

Country

Member since

Last visit

Family tree

More details

New Zealand

January 6, 2024

10 days ago

47 individuals

2nd cousin's son

Father's mother's side

COMMON ANCESTOR

Catherine MACKAY

Your great-grandmother

Tony's great-great-grandmother

View relationship

Invite to site

View his tree

Contact Tony

It found 130 relatives for me. Some of the relationships are not handled well so be wary, especially half relationships.

Look through all the information shown here plus the additional information indicated by the little arrows.

Tony

DNA MATCH

Age

Country

Member since

Last visit

Family tree

Site name

Smart Matches

Less details

New Zealand

January 6, 2024

10 days ago

47 individuals

Web Site

8 pending

TONY'S RELATIONSHIP TO YOU:

2nd cousin's son

The diagram below was constructed from your family tree and the matching family tree

Catherine MACKAY

1861 - 1944

Brother

Margaret

1880 - 1967

Mother

Leslie

1916 - 1984

Father

Sharyn

Born:

Arthur

1900 - 1978

Son

Ian

1935 - 1985

Child

Nuttall

Son

Tony

Lots to explore – have a look at your own cousins.

Sharyn