

New Plymouth Genealogy Society Incorporated Newsletter



Number 39

June 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 was held on Tuesday 6 May. The main outcomes are:

Convenor: Gail Tanner

Treasurer: Sharyn Guthrie

Secretary: no nominations

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

The annual subscription remains unchanged. The amended constitution of our society was approved.



Next meeting: 7:30pm Tuesday 3 June 2025

Spelling Variations

Sometimes our previous generations were not as precise with the spelling of names and places. Perhaps the person was illiterate or the person writing the record misheard what was said. Or maybe it was just a typo. But it happens.

This is important for genealogy research. You can't just search on the exact spelling of your ancestor's name.

Come along to our June meeting to learn how to handle different spelling so that you can be more effective with your genealogy research.

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Chairperson: Gail Tanner 027 376 0630
Secretary:
Treasurer: Sharyn Guthrie
Committee: Lorraine Austin
Jeff Grange
Peter Hewett
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: Genealogy Cruise

After the AGM at our May meeting, Sharyn and Gail told us about the genealogy cruise that they went on last summer.

This was a ten day cruise from Sydney, to Hobart, Adelaide, Melbourne and back to Sydney. As well as fun visiting port cities along the way, there were lectures every day by genealogy specialists. The cruise also had expert help for research, and lots other keen genealogists to compare notes with and learn from.

Hamish produced a video of the trip. This gave us a great insight into life on this massive cruise ship, and the places that they visited.



DNA Interest Group

Next meeting: Sunday 15 June 2025, 1:30pm at the rooms.

This is going to be aimed at beginners to DNA and understanding their results. I'm planning on doing a talk and going over DNA inheritance, shared matching and other facets of DNA.

Come along with your laptop if you have one, or tablet and any questions you would like answered.

\$2 entry fee.

Sharyn Guthrie



Chairperson's Report

I'm writing this on the 1st June. The year is racing onwards and it's hard to keep up. I thought when I gave up working, time would slow down, but if anything, it seems to have sped up.

A big thank you to all those members who made it to our AGM this year. I hope Sharyn and my talk about our cruise was interesting for you all. I had a comment that we didn't talk much about the actual genealogy part, but there was so much, that it was hard to boil it down to what we learnt. A lot of it was networking, meeting new people and catching up with old friends.

This meeting I am giving a talk on the importance of not getting hung up on the spelling of your ancestors' names. Being open minded and remembering that many people couldn't read or write prior to the 19th century. I'll be showing examples of how this can disrupt your research if you don't think outside the square sometimes.

The new/old committee has met and made some plans for the next few months.

We are looking at getting some new books for the library – up to date "How To" books, for beginners and others. Russell Smith is working his way through the list and will bring recommendations to the committee at the next meeting.

We are planning to move the small hand basin on to the wall and get some warm water to it for handwashing. As well as warm water to the sink.

We are also looking at getting rid of the hot water boiler on the wall and just having a special tap that supplies boiling and cold water. That way we won't have a noisy thing heating up while we are having our meeting. We are just waiting on the plumber for a quote.

Last but not least – though we didn't get a minute taker voted in at the AGM, we had an offer from Sally Morch to step in and help out for the meetings, which is greatly appreciated.

See you Tuesday night.

Gail Tanner
Society Chairperson

2025/26 Subscriptions

The society subscriptions were set at the AGM and these remain the same as previous years. The annual subscriptions are due by 1 July 2025.

\$35 for single subscriptions

\$45 for joint (two people living at the same address)

\$25 for members living outside Taranaki

Our society runs on a small budget, but we really do need the money we can get, so that we can fund our operations. Please pay your subscription to help the ongoing work. Thank you to everyone who has paid their subscription already.

An email has been sent to members with details on how to pay. Please let us know if you didn't get this email (or if it has got lost).

If you aren't sure if you have paid, please don't pay again! Just send an email Sharyn at sharynjguthrie@gmail.com. Please don't pay twice!

If you prefer to pay by cash, then bring it to the rooms on a library day or at a society meeting. Put it in an envelope with your name and details inside so Sharyn knows who has paid.

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.

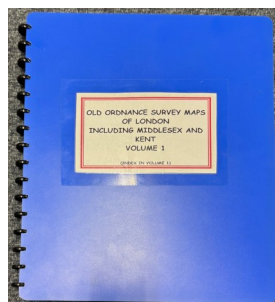
Training and support is provided. This is a great way to get a bit more expertise and knowledge for your own genealogy research, as well as helping others in our society.

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

Library News

More resources continue to be added to our library. Marilyn and Lea are organising these onto shelves, and they are in the library catalogue and the TBI. Recent additions include records of shipping, newspaper clippings and some biographies of Taranaki people.

We have some old ordnance survey maps of London and these are in folders on the shelf near the BDMs.



Searching Papers Past

This tip is from the Porirua branch newsletter.

Press > 11 April 1972 > Page 23

BIRTHS

ARNOTT—On April 9, 1972, at St George's Hospital, Christchurch, to Katrina and Peter Arnott—a daughter. Both well.

I recently encountered a problem searching [Papers Past](#) that you may possibly have encountered yourself.

I was searching for the birth notice on the right which I knew existed. I used the surname as the search term (Arnott) and filtered it to The Press newspaper on the date of publication, only to be told that there were 'No results found'.

I assumed the Optical Character Recognition (OCR) transcription must have been poor and have mangled the Arnott name, so I went to the births column on the specific date and found the birth notice. However, when I then checked the transcription I found that Arnott been transcribed correctly both times.

I couldn't see any reason for my search to fail so clicked on 'Contact Us' and sent off an email explaining what had happened. I got a very helpful email back the following day from Jason Murphy, the Service Manager of National Library Online. Jason had replicated my search and got the same 'No results found' outcome. Jason then wrote: "After a bit of experimentation, I figured out it was because of the 'em dash' (—) between the name and 'on'. It ends up treating it as a single word i.e. Arnott-on."

Unfortunately there are em dashes after both instances of Arnott which is why my search had failed. And em dashes are common in newspaper BDM announcements so this may affect many searches.

Jason advised to get around this by putting an asterisk after the name, e.g. Arnott*, which will return results for Arnott, but also instances where there are characters beyond that e.g. Arnott's, Arnott — etc. He has also noted this as something to consider fixing in the next system upgrade by getting the search to ignore em dashes, although such a fix could have unintended consequences.

Excellent service from the National Library and a reminder to give feedback when you encounter issues with websites rather than just cursing the computer!

Library Roster: June 2025

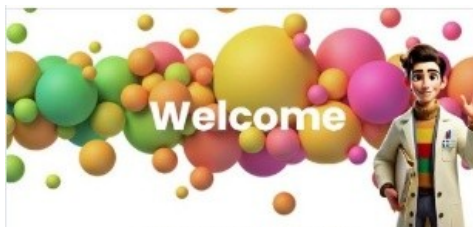
Monday 10 am to 12 noon
Saturday 10 am to 12 noon

Sat 31 May Sharyn Guthrie
Mon 2 Jun Charles Le Breton
Sat 7 Jun Karen Crowe
Mon 9 Jun Lorraine Austin
Sat 14 Jun Sharyn Guthrie
Mon 16 Jun Annette Larsen
Sat 21 Jun Jeff Grange
Mon 23 Jun Graeme Jury
Sat 28 Jun Lea Bellini
Mon 30 Jun Sally Morch

Facebook Group

Keep up to date with many announcements if you belong to our Facebook group. New posts by myself and others help show you many items that could be helpful to you in your genealogy journey. It's a great tool for genealogy especially if you join the many other genealogy help pages and groups.

Sharyn Guthrie



Welcome to New Members

We are starting a new section to welcome new members to our Genealogy Society. Watch out for these people coming to the Library or a Meeting and make sure you make them feel welcome.



Those who have joined this year are;

Aaron Rump, Christina Butler, Deborah Stewart, Philip Duke, Richard Trenberth, Tania Mitchell, Trevor & Janet Randall, Hamish Guthrie and lastly Nola & Grahame Hill this month!

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

Heater

We have a new heater at the rooms. If you are on library duty and want to turn it on, please read the instructions that are on a laminated sheet on the table where we sign in.

It's easy to use, so don't be afraid if it is cold to turn it on.

Library News

Magazines received;

Family Tree (May)

Newsletters received;

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