

New Plymouth Genealogy Society Incorporated Newsletter



Number 40

July 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

2025/26 Subs

Thank you to everyone who has paid their subscription for the current year. We try to keep the subs low, but our society does need some funds to operate.

If you have already paid, you should have received an email from Sharyn to confirm this. If you are in the 25% who haven't paid yet, here are the details you need.

Our account name: NP Genealogy Society

Bank account no: 15-3942-0008448-000

Particulars: Your surname

Code: First name

Reference: Sub 2025

Society subscriptions for 2025/26:

\$35 single

\$45 double

\$25 living outside Taranaki

The due date for payment is 1 July 2025. Once you have paid, would you please email Sharyn at sharynjguthrie@gmail.com to let her know. If you are not planning on renewing your subscription, please also let her know so she don't keep reminding you.

Next meeting: 7:30pm Tuesday 1 July 2025

DNA the great revealer

DNA is a great tool for genealogy. It can find and confirm family relationships across many generations.

But sometimes, the DNA results do not match the expected relationships.

Come along to the July meeting to hear what happened when our member Lyn Humphreys opened the door, turning her and her siblings' lives upside down.



Chairperson: Gail Tanner 027 376 0630
Secretary: Sally Morch
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: Spelling Variations

At our June meeting, Gail explained about different spelling of names, and how this is important for genealogy.

If you go back more than a couple of generations, many people were not literate, and rarely needed to write their name. And when necessary, it was usually written by a priest or lawyer for them, so they probably didn't care how it was spelt.

On top of that, there can be misunderstandings and typos, strong accents and errors interpreting handwriting. Also, sometimes people deliberately changed the spelling.

This is important for genealogy research. You can't just search on the exact spelling of your ancestor's name. Gail showed us some of the ways to do more flexible searches, using wild cards, soundex, phonetics and other methods. Be sure to explore what is available from the search functions of the website or app that you are using.

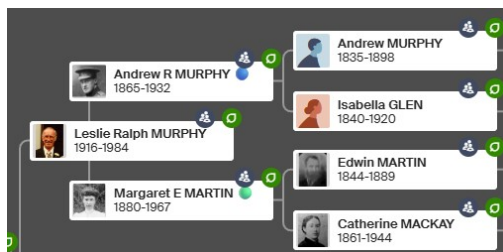
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DNA Interest Group

Next meeting: Sunday 20 July 2025, 1:30pm at the rooms.

I'll be demonstrating Ancestry especially the DNA side of using this website. There will also be some tips and tricks to getting the best from Ancestry itself as well, especially to do with your family tree on here.



Remember genealogy is the key to working out your DNA matches and building a large and wide tree is the best way to help yourself and others.

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

We have some great things coming up in the near future, that I want to tell you about.

In August we have Family History Month – celebrated around the country by groups and people like us – the family history fanatics.

We are having an Open Weekend on 2 and 3 August, at the Bridge Club rooms. Spread the word – everyone is welcome– it's open to the public and we will have lots of resources and help available.

In October is Taranaki Heritage Month and we are going to do the same and have an open day on the 4th – again at the Bridge Club rooms.

And next year in March we are planning to have a stand at the New Zealand Pipe Band Championships to be held in Inglewood.

Meanwhile, the regular monthly meetings and DNA classes continue. Come along this Tuesday night and find out about Lyn Humphries' DNA journey.

The next two Tuesdays (1 & 8 July) training is being held for our library volunteers. Beginning at 10am, our librarians Lea and Marilyn will give us some direction on how to use the library to its best, where and how to find things, and what to do with donations, etc. If you'd like to come to the session on the 8th (they will cover the same things) send me an email and I'll put you on the list. The 1st is looking full. We are always happy to have people volunteer to do library duty – the more the better.

Come along, get involved, learn more and get to know more people.

Gail Tanner
Society Chairperson

NZSG Online DNA Interest Group

Are you a member of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists? Do you realize that there is a free to members Online DNA Interest Group (ODIG) that has monthly presentations. These are recorded and can be viewed at any time.

The one last Wednesday was 'The Challenge of Polynesian DNA', the first of two aimed at helping with Māori and Polynesian ancestors. Alan Cobcroft took us through a method to sort your DNA matches. It was well researched and presented. The archive now has 19 presentations that are viewable by ODIG members.

I am on the ODIG committee and highly recommend being an NZSG member and part of this group.

Sharyn

Open Day: New Plymouth Genealogy

On the weekend of 2 and 3 August, a Saturday and Sunday, we will be holding two Open Days at the New Plymouth Bridge Club in Hobson Street. Planning is underway for this event, and we will be asking for help from our members.

We will have several stands there from our Society including our computers as well as photocopying and scanning opportunities. We have invited Stratford and Hawera Genealogy to be there as well.

This is aimed at the general public, and we are hoping to attract some new members as well. So, pencil it in your diaries and come along to help or just have a huge chance to do some research and have other members available for help.

Society Offices and Roles

Some of the society officers and roles were confirmed or appointed at the June committee meeting.

Secretary:	Sally
Projects:	Lorraine
Raffles:	Glenys
Supper:	Glenys
Membership:	Sharyn
Research:	Gail
TBI:	Graeme
Computers:	Graeme
Newsletter:	Peter
Website:	Peter
Library:	Lea & Marilyn (committee liaison: Gail)
Roster:	Jeff
Publicity:	Russell
Door:	Lois

Volunteer Award

Our cemetery project team recently received a volunteer award from NPDC.

The team includes Pat George, Noreen Potts, Karen Crowe, Lorraine Austin and many more. They have spent decades transcribing and photographing headstones in cemeteries of the New Plymouth area.

There are thousands and thousands of headstones across dozens of cemeteries. The project started in the 1980s. In the last decade, the main cemeteries have been redone to update the information.

Transcriptions are available [on our website](#). These are valuable to people who are searching for their ancestors and extended family. Some headstones contain names and information that are not in the official council record. Sometimes, headstones are lost, in which case this transcription might be the only record that the family has left.

Library Training

In July, we are conducting some training sessions on how to use our library. This is for our library volunteers, to refresh and update everybody's knowledge. It is also open to anyone who would like to consider being a library volunteer, or just wants to know more about how to use the resources we have.

This will include what is on the computers and how to access the information. What to do if someone donates something to the library (yes, there is a process to be followed). And an update on what is actually in the library and if it can be borrowed.

These sessions are at 10am on Tuesday 1 and 8 July. You can come to either session, but please let Gail know you are coming.

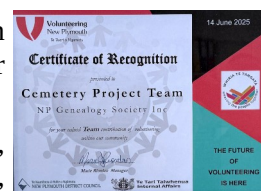
Papers Past additions

The [PapersPast website](#) has scans of historic New Zealand newspapers. This is produced by the National Library and is a great resource for genealogists. More newspapers are being added. Recent additions include:

- Marlborough Express 1921 – 1952

Also check out the [magazines and journals](#). Recent additions include:

- Radio Record 1927 – 1939
- New Zealand Listener 1939 – 1959



Library Roster: July 2025

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

Sat 28 Jun Lea Bellini
Mon 30 Jun Sally Morch
Sat 5 Jul Karen Crowe
Mon 7 Jul Charles Le Breton
Sat 12 Jul Russell Smith
Mon 14 Jul Lorraine Austin
Sat 19 Jul Lea Bellini
Mon 21 Jul Annette Larsen
Sat 26 Jul Jeff Grange
Mon 28 Jul Graeme Jury
Sat 2 Aug (closed for open day)
Mon 4 Aug Charles Le Breton

Facebook Group

We now have 277 members in our Facebook group which is really great as they come from all over NZ and from further afield. It's a great place for people to ask questions and to keep up to date with some of the latest tools and stories related to genealogy.

I have advertised our Open Day on there today as well as the fact that Chris Paton, an Irish and Scottish Research expert is coming to the Auckland Expo being held in August as well as being flown to Christchurch.

Sharyn Guthrie



Scottish GENES Blog
24 June at 23:48 · 🌐

So a wee update on my Kiwi bound journey in a few weeks. The original plan was I would do the Christchurch Family History Expo online 2 and 3 August, and the Auckland Family History Expo 8-10 August in person. Sadly we have had to make a minor change - so I will now be speaking in person at BOTH EVENTS!!!! Kia Ora New Zealand, and may the Lord have mercy on yer souls - see you all soon, I'm looking forward to it....!!! 🍷
Now to get back to our wee anniversary dander...!

Internet Connection

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



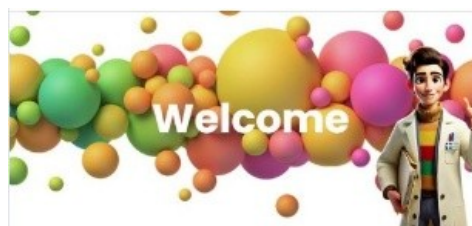
Primo has supported us with internet connectivity since 2017. Please consider Primo for your internet service and for mobile phone plans. Ring them on 0800 123 774 or visit their website:

primo.nz

Welcome to New Members

A very warm welcome to our new members Journie Kendrick and Ian Miller.

Please watch out for these people coming to the library or a meeting and make sure you make them feel welcome.



Library News

Magazines received;

Family Tree (June)

Newsletters received;

Canterbury, Feilding, Hamilton, Hutt Valley, Kapiti, Matamata, Nelson, Otaki, Palmerston North, Papakura, Porirua, Riccarton, South Canterbury, Southland, 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 the editor (Peter Hewett) at newplymouthgenealogy@gmail.com.