

# New Plymouth Genealogy Society Incorporated Newsletter



Number 41

August 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

## Family History Month

August is family history month in New Zealand. There are lots of events happening across our country with a focus on discovering our family histories.

In New Plymouth, we are holding open days on Saturday and Sunday, 2 and 3 August. This is from 10am to 4pm at the New Plymouth Bridge Club in Hobson Street. This is open to the public at no charge.



Next meeting: 7:30pm Tuesday 5 Aug 2025

## Member's Interests

Across all our members, there is lots of good research happening. Sometimes we find someone else is researching the same families as we are, or they have some historical information or resources that are also useful to our research. At our August meeting, we are sharing our research areas to learn from each other and maybe find some useful info.

So, this month, come and tell us where your families are from and what names you are researching.



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

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

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## Last month: DNA the Great Revealer

At our July meeting, member Lyn Humphreys told us her story of discovery that DNA results brought to her family.

It all started when an unknown visitor came to their home, and claimed to be her nephew. He said that according to DNA tests, the man he grew up believing to be his father was not, and instead it was Lyn's brother.

This led to a lot more DNA tests of Lyn's family to verify this connection. But the results were not straightforward, and took a long time to unravel.

The family has now sorted out the DNA links, with some more instances where the child's parentage was not quite what they were brought up to believe.



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## DNA Interest Group

Next meeting: Sunday 17 August 2025, 1:30pm at the rooms.

This month, our focus is on the new ProTools at Ancestry. Come along to see what these are, how useful they can be and whether they are worth the extra cost.

Bring your laptop if you have one, or tablet and any questions that you would like answered.

\$2 entry fee.

Sharyn Guthrie

The Society of Australian Genealogists is running a series of two webinars on DNA titled Introduction to Working with Segments and Chromosome Painting. This series is presented by Donna Rutherford and costs A\$85. The webinars are on 6 and 20 August. You can get more information and register [on the SAG website](#).

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## Chairperson's Report

This Weekend is a special time for us. In honour of August being Family History Month, for the first time in quite a few years, we are running an Open Weekend. We have hired the New Plymouth Bridge Club for the weekend so you can come and have a look at some of our resources, get help with your questions, and see what information we hold for your local ancestors.

We are open from 10am till 4pm Saturday (today) and Sunday. There will be DNA help, research help, our very own Taranaki Biographical Index to check out, and a selection of research tools available to check out and its free entry.

You can also take a look at the Taranaki Media Archive videos. We'd love to see you all there.

Winter is a great time to get stuck into some serious research. I hope you are all eagerly working on your family trees. I've been checking my trees on Ancestry using ProTools, which (though not free) is worthwhile having even for a short time to help tidy up your tree. It would probably amaze you how much information you have in your tree that is not complete (or not correct).

So come and see our friendly faces at the Bridge Club this weekend and see how we can help you move ahead with your research.

Entry is free. We'd love to see you.

Gail Tanner  
Society Chairperson

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## 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.

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, come along to help or just to have a huge chance to do some research with other members available for help.

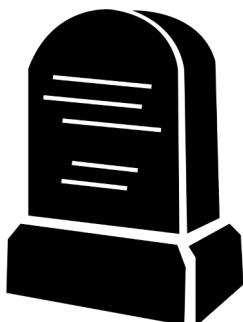
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## Please help our projects

Can you spare a few hours to read through transcriptions to check them, or to type in some old records?

Our society has built up a great collection of indices and transcriptions over the years. These provide a valuable resource for anyone researching family history in our area.

The cemeteries project team is transcribing headstones of the cemeteries around New Plymouth. It would really help us if someone can do some checking of our transcriptions. This is quite a simple task; just read photos of headstones and check that our transcription is accurate. We'll provide what you need and explain how to do it.



The transcriptions done so far are on our website.

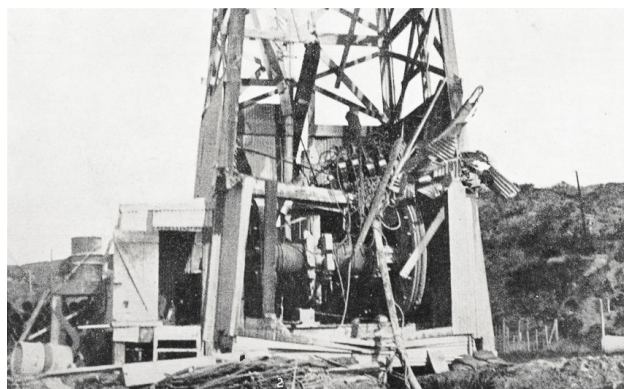
<https://genealogynp.com/cemeteries.html>

If you would like to know more, just contact Lorraine Austin or send an email to [newplymouthgenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:newplymouthgenealogy@gmail.com).

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## 100 Years Ago in New Plymouth

In June 1925, a blow out and explosion occurred at the oil boring plant operated by Taranaki Oil Fields Ltd. There was extensive damage to the plant and equipment, but no injuries.



*From Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections*

Taranaki Daily News > 4 June 1925 > Page 6

### **OIL WELL BLOW OUT.**

#### **EXPLOSION AT MOTUROA**

**BURST AT THE NEW BORE.**

**DEBRIS SCATTERED EVERYWHERE.**

**STONES THROWN IN HARBOUR.**

A powerful blow out of gas, heralded by a terrific roar, did damage to the oil boring plant at Moturoa and distributed mud, stones and parts of the derrick over a radius of some hundreds of yards at 6.30 last evening. The extent of the damage will not be known until to-day, but the blow out will cause drilling operations to be suspended for some days while repairs are being made to the plant. No one was injured.

People living in the neighbourhood of the bore are unable adequately to describe the noise which preceded the tossing into the air of stones and mud from the bottom of the bore, which is 1488 feet from the surface. The most definite description was that the roar was something like that made when overseas vessels in port blow off steam under pressure, but infinitely louder.

All were agreed that it was awe-inspiring and sufficient to cause the hearer to wonder what was happening. The roar lasted long enough to enable those who heard it to gain vantage points from which a view of the bore could be obtained.

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## Library Roster: August 2025

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

Sat 2 Aug (closed for open day)  
Mon 4 Aug Charles Le Breton  
Sat 9 Aug Karen Crowe  
Mon 11 Aug Lorraine Austin  
Sat 16 Aug Lea Bellini  
Mon 18 Aug Annette Larsen  
Sat 23 Aug Jeff Grange  
Mon 25 Aug Graeme Jury  
Sat 30 Aug Russell Smith  
Mon 1 Sep Charles Le Breton

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## Facebook Group



### New Plymouth Genealogy Society

■ Private group · 265 members

Our New Plymouth genealogy Facebook group is now up to 286 members. The group has lots of useful information and research tips. This is a great place to post any findings or queries that you 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 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

Magazines received;

Family Tree (July)

Newsletters received;

Balclutha, Canterbury, Feilding, Hawera, Hawkes Bay, Hutt Valley, Kapiti, 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 the editor (Peter Hewett) at [newplymouthgenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:newplymouthgenealogy@gmail.com).