



## **Matamata Branch**

[matamata@genealogy.org.nz](mailto:matamata@genealogy.org.nz)

The *Firth Tower* was built in 1882 by Josiah Clifton Firth on his estate and was used as the Estate Office and as sleeping quarters for single men. It stands on rising ground commanding an extensive view of the surrounding countryside. Other historical buildings are in the reserve and the historical centre there houses the archives of the Matamata district.

## **September 2020**

Meetings held 7.30pm on the third Thursday of the month, Feb - Nov

All Saints Anglican Parish Lounge, Hohaia Street, Matamata

Research Afternoons are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays of the month at the Anglican Parish Lounge from 1.30 – 3.30pm. This is an excellent time to come and use our resources as well as get the one on one help and assistance that is often not available at the branch meetings because of time constraints etc. There is no charge for a financial member, but a visitor pays \$2.

## September 2020 to November 2020 Branch Programme

**Sept 11** - Friday Research 1.30 - 3.30pm - 'How to Get Started with Your Family History' Open Day

**Sept 17** - Branch meeting - 'Wills & Probates' - Maxine Viggers  
Surplus library books for sale for a gold coin donation.

**Sept 25** - Friday Research 1.30 - 3.30pm

**Oct 9** - Friday Research 1.30 - 3.30pm

**Oct 15** - Branch meeting. Speaker, Jo McKinnon, who has published various family history books using online providers

**Oct 17** - Regional Meeting in Waihi (To be Confirmed)

**Oct 23** - No Friday Research.

**Nov 13** - Friday Research 1.30 - 3.30pm

**Nov 19** - End of Year Branch Meeting. Speaker, Christine Clement who will be speaking about 'Ancestry'.

Everyone to bring a small plate for supper.

**Nov 27** - Last Friday Research for 2020 1.30 - 3.30pm

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### Convenors Report

Members will recall that when the country was affected by this second bout of Corona Virus that we immediately suspended all our Branch meetings. We adopted this cautious and conservative path with the single focus of protecting members from exposure to the virus. As things have evolved, we have had no cases within our community this time round.

Given that the government now have more tools at their disposal and that they appear to be dealing with only one cluster and its off shoots they have now introduced new settings for Level Two. These new settings enable us to meet as a group. The following is applicable to all our meetings: -

- Gatherings must have no more than 100 people in each defined space.
- If members are sick then stay home

- If members have COVID-19 symptoms they must not enter the venue
- Maintain hygiene standards. i.e. wash hands, use sanitizer, sneeze, or cough into elbow.
- Maintain contact tracing (attendance register) and display a QR code
- Consider wearing a face mask

Given this latest development your committee have decided to re-commence meetings.

Our first meeting will be the Open Day that was postponed from 14 August. This will now be held in conjunction with our next Research Afternoon on Friday 11 September. Our monthly meeting will be held on Thursday 17 September where we will have a presentation about Wills and Probate information.

This is all subject to us staying in Level Two or moving down to Level One at some date in the future. If we go up a level, you will hear about it in the news media, but we will send out an email to members to alert you to any more disruptions to our programme.

I look forward to catching up with you soon.

**MAXINE VIGGERS**  
**CONVENOR**

### **Auckland Family History Expo held 8 & 9 August 2020**

Seminar recordings are available to view!

Seminars of our international guest speakers and a couple of our sponsors were recorded and are now available on the [Auckland Family History Expo YouTube channel](#).

That is 15 educational and entertaining videos for you to watch at your leisure! What else is there to do right now?

- Jason Reeve, Ancestry
- Michael Higgins, Family Search
- John Grenham, author and professional genealogist, Ireland
- Myko Clelland, Findmypast
- Curt Witcher, Manager Special Collections and the Genealogy Centre, Allen County Library

Please note John Grenham's videos are only available temporarily (till 21 September 2020) for copyright reasons, so if you have Irish interests you need to listen to his first!

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYrlpP-4uBjv1Mxv1Oq8N8w/videos?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYrlpP-4uBjv1Mxv1Oq8N8w/videos?view_as=subscriber)

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### This Week in History

31 August 1841 - Wreck of *Sophia Pate*

1 September 1943 - Eleanor Roosevelt visits Auckland

2 September 1960 - Golden hour for Kiwi runners in Rome

3 September 1939 - New Zealand declares war on Germany

4 September 1863 - The wreck of the *Delaware*

5 September 1939 - Prime Minister declares New Zealand's support for Britain

6 September 1948 - New Zealand citizenship established

(<http://nzhistory.govt.nz/timeline/date>)

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### **Opportunity Shop**

This year our week in the shop is from October 27 to the 30th (week after Labour Weekend). A roster form is available for you to put your name on for when you can help. Please consider doing a shift or two during our week. This is a major fundraiser for the branch as some of these proceeds are going towards the digitisation of more of our local newspapers on Papers Past.

Also, donations of good quality items needed for sale.

Please contact Jennifer (888 7042) who is organising the roster.

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### **In House News**

- **CD Library** - The Branch has several CD's that are available for '**members only**' to borrow and are available at each meeting or research afternoon.

You just record which CD you have borrowed and when you have finished using, then return either at the next meeting or research afternoon.

- **Library Books** - The branch library has many books on various topics that are available for members to borrow. Please browse our collection when next in the Lounge. There could be one on a subject you are researching.
- **Ancestry.com** - this is available at the Public Library for members to use during opening hours.

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### **NZSG Research Service: Is a Little Guidance Needed?**

How many members have used our free NZSG Research Service? Perhaps it is time you sent in an enquiry to Elaine Bell and her team, for help in finding alternative sources for your family history research. Email:

[researchservice@genealogy.org.nz](mailto:researchservice@genealogy.org.nz)

You can begin by consulting the library catalogue for your names, places, and subjects of interest. The team will do lookups in items identified and will send scans of any relevant information to you.

The team receive requests for help on all manner of subjects and are happy to point people to the relevant resources. This often involves giving guidance on how to use, for example, Family Search, Archway or even the NZ BDM online indexes. A lot of requests involve obtaining further information on record sets published in the Kiwi Collection.

An example from the Pre-1856 Marriages database on Kiwi Collection: William SOUTHEE married Elizabeth (Betsy) DAYSH on the 22 February 1853, St James Church, Lower Hutt, Wellington, New Zealand.

What can we turn up about this couple after their marriage?

Resources not found elsewhere:

Griffis Illegitimacies database, Pre-1856 Marriages database, NZ births, deaths, and marriages indexes up to 1990 and New Zealand Government Gazette Archive database 1841-2005.

Gen guides are available for the Griffis Illegitimacies database and Pre-1856 Marriages database on our website at [http://www.genealogy.org.nz/gen-guides\\_54](http://www.genealogy.org.nz/gen-guides_54)

(NZSG Facebook page - 20 August 2020)

Are any members interested in contributing an article for future newsletters?  
Any topic with a genealogical theme would be appreciated.

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**Reminder any contributions to the newsletter would be gratefully accepted.**

**Please send to Maxine or Christine at [matamatagenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:matamatagenealogy@gmail.com)**

**Next newsletter - January 2021**

**The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views  
of the Branch or the New Zealand Society of Genealogists Inc.**