



## **Matamata Branch**

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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.

### **May 2021**

**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.

## May 2021 to July 2021 Branch Programme

**May 14** - Friday Research 1.30 - 3.30pm

**May 20** - Branch AGM followed by a speaker, Fiona Brooker, via ZOOM, 'Across the Ditch'

**May 28** - Friday Research 1.30 - 3.30pm

**June 11** - Friday Research 1.30 - 3.30pm

**June 17** - Branch meeting - Find & Tell (How you found an interesting fact about one of your family). If time allows the research resources will be available to use.

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

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

**July 15** - Branch meeting - 'Heirlooms' - bring an item along and tell the story that goes with it

**July 17<sup>th</sup>** - **Saturday** - Waikato/Bay of Plenty Regional Meeting - Matamata Branch are hosting the meeting which is to be held in the Church Hall starting at 10.30am. Volunteers are needed to help with morning and afternoon teas.

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### Convenors Report

A Committee Meeting was held at the conclusion of our last research afternoon and the Committee made decisions to progress our programme.

**Suppers:** We have decided to only have supper on special occasions, like after the AGM or when we have a guest speaker from outside our membership. Please bring a small plate to the next meeting. All other meetings will conclude with a time of fellowship and tea or coffee but with a modest packet of biscuits.

**Programme:** Elsewhere in this newsletter the programme for the next few months is outlined.

**Fieldtrip:** We are recommending a field trip in August to the Auckland Family History Fair run by the Auckland City Libraries. This will be held on 14/15 August and once the programme is out, we will determine which day to attend. Last time we went to Auckland we took a mini van. To do this again we will need a new van driver. It may be that private cars have to be used. We have decided however that whatever mode of transport we use that payment will be required to reserve a seat.

**Subscriptions:** Many of you have paid already, thank you. At the AGM we will be passing a resolution to keep the subs at \$25 single and \$35 joint. Subs become due on 1 April so any still unpaid are now overdue.

**Finances:** We are in a healthy financial position. We have all the funds in hand to pay for the digitisation of the Matamata Record if this is finalised before our Op Shop week profits roll in. When the financial statements are presented at the AGM it will be very evident that subs

do not cover the yearly costs of running the branch and that without the income generated from the Op Shop week subs would need to increase significantly.

**Op Shop Week.** The Op shop has moved across the road and are now settled into their new pre mises. We have again booked the week beginning Labour weekend. Please remember us when doing any spring cleaning. The financial return is a reflection on the goods we have to sell. This is our only fundraiser we do and the entire membership benefit from the subsidised membership fees and the speakers and technology we can also afford. Accordingly, we need all members to assist in this project.

**Cemetery Project:** This is progressing well, and we are currently about half-way through the work at the cemetery. There is further work in inputting the data into an accessible digital format.

**Research Afternoons:** How often do you come? Would once a month instead of twice a month affect you? The new Committee will have to decide if they have enough personnel to continue the same format.

**Friendship Circle:** The organisers have asked that we pass on their grateful thanks to our members for the 12 plates we provided.

**AGM:** This will last under 30 minutes maximum as at its conclusion we have a video connection to hook into. We have some committee nominations but none for Convenor. How will this affect meetings? After four years as Convenor, I am taking a rest from the leadership role but am happy to stay on the committee. The Committee meet 4 times a year and although we have in recent times met at the conclusion of a research afternoon the new committee will decide a time to suit themselves.

I look forward to seeing you all at the May meeting where we are trying a new form of presentation with a speaker by video link.

**MAXINE VIGGERS**

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### **Matamata Public Library - Ancestry Access**

This has been extended to library card holders until 30 June 2021.

Saves going into the library and waiting for a computer to become available.

Able to use when it suits you! Please support this service.

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### **NZ Salvation Army Adoption Records**

NZSG have been advised that the Salvation Family Tracing Service has been closed but will continue to assist adoptees who were born at Salvation Army Bethany Hospitals by emailing [bethanyrecords@salvationarmy.org.nz](mailto:bethanyrecords@salvationarmy.org.nz) or phone 04 382 0710 There were 6 maternity homes/hospitals between 1897 - 2011 located in Auckland, Napier, Gisborne, Wellington, Christchurch, and Dunedin. The Salvation Army hold the 'surviving' records for each hospital and will assist both adoptees and birth parents to reconnect.

## This Week in History

1 May 1893 - 'King Dick' Seddon becomes Premier

2 May 1964 - New Zealand's last electric tram trip (Wellington)

3 May 1897 - New Zealand's first woman doctor registered (Margaret Cruickshank)

4 May 1937 - Avalanche kills two workers at the Homer tunnel

5 May 1833 - James Busby arrives in the Bay of Islands

6 May 1869 - Colonial troops invade the Urewera

7 May 1888 - Anti-Chinese hysteria in Dunedin

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

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## Eating in New Zealand in the 1950's

- ❖ Pasta had not been invented.
- ❖ Curry was a surname.
- ❖ A takeaway was a mathematical problem.
- ❖ A pizza was something to do with a leaning tower.
- ❖ Rice was a milk pudding, and never, ever, part of our dinner.
- ❖ A Big Mac was what we wore when it was raining.
- ❖ Brown bread was something only poor people ate.
- ❖ Tea was made in a teapot using tea leaves and never green.
- ❖ Fish didn't have fingers in those days.
- ❖ None of us had ever heard of yoghurt.
- ❖ Healthy food consisted of anything edible.
- ❖ People who didn't peel potatoes were regarded as lazy.
- ❖ Indian restaurants were only found in India.
- ❖ Cooking outside was called camping.
- ❖ Seaweed was not a recognised food.
- ❖ Sugar enjoyed a good press in those days and was regarded as being white gold.
- ❖ Prunes were medicinal.
- ❖ Surprisingly, muesli was readily available, it was called cattle feed.
- ❖ Pineapples came in chunks in a tin; we had only ever seen a picture of a real one.
- ❖ Water came out of a tap, if someone had suggested bottling it and charging more than petrol for it, they would have become a laughingstock.
- ❖ The one thing that we never ever had at our table in the fifties.... were elbows!

## 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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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 - July 2021**

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