



NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 332

April 2019

Branch Library: Open free to members. A small charge to visitors.
Opening Hours: Monday: 10 am to 12:30 pm (closed 22 April: Easter Monday)
Wednesday: 12 noon to 3 pm
Saturday: 10 am to 12 noon

2019 Branch AGM

The branch AGM will be on Tuesday 7 May. The formal notice of meeting will be distributed to branch members with this newsletter, along with a notice of motion regarding a rule change.

Nominations are open for committee members.

The branch relies on volunteers to keep things running. We just need a few more people to join the committee. Please talk with any current committee member if you can help or have any questions.

Documents for the AGM (such as financial report and minutes of the 2018 AGM) will be distributed with the May newsletter.

AGM

Next meeting: 7:30 pm Tuesday 2 Apr 2019

Heritage Buildings

Our guest speaker this month is Ivan Bruce, a leading Taranaki archaeologist. Ivan has been involved with many projects on the history of Taranaki.

This talk will focus on historic buildings in New Plymouth. A recent example is the [Fishleigh Cottage](#) on Aubrey St, which was recently rescued from planned demolition.



Convenor: Bruce Bellini 758 0130
Secretary: Jackie Sewell
Treasurer: Lea Bellini 758 0130
Committee: Lorraine Austin
Jill Jackson
Annette Larsen
Bev Mulqueen
Neville Richards

New Plymouth Branch
c/- Bruce Bellini
98a Queens Road
New Plymouth 4312

Meetings: 7:30 pm, first Tuesday each month at branch rooms, Moturoa Shopping Centre access is off the Whiteley Street car park
Email: newplymouth@genealogy.org.nz
Website: www.genealogynp.com

Last Event: Writing your story

Our March meeting was a special event with a talk by famous New Zealand author David Hill.

David Hill MNZM is a full time author and journalist. He has received writing awards in NZ, Germany, Australia, the UK and USA. His books have been translated into French, German, Danish, Dutch, Chinese, Slovenian, Japanese and Korean. Best known for children's stories, he has also written fiction and non-fiction for adults, as well as columns for *NZ Listener*, *NZ Herald*, *Christchurch Press* and other publications.

David has just finished a book on [Joan Wiffen](#), who first was the first to discover dinosaurs in New Zealand. When researching the book, David had difficulty finding the date of death of Joan's husband Pont Wiffen. Branch member Lorraine Austin used her genealogy resources and skill to identify the date, with several items of supporting evidence. The book is due out in August this year.

David explained the importance of telling a story when writing your family history, and he gave us some advice on how to achieve this. Use dialogue, make up what they would have said. Don't be too formal, write with your speaking voice. Avoid pages full of text with one big paragraph after the other. Break things up with photographs, diagrams and extracts from documents.



Computer Group Meeting

The branch genealogy computer group meeting was held on Sunday 24 March 2019. We talked about current projects at Inglewood cemetery, and to scan PhotoNews. We also looked at the find and search functions for pdf files, including how to search over several pdf files in one go.



Convenor's Report

I have just finished adding 27,957 records to the Taranaki Biographical Index which now has a total of 808,433 records. This index has become a very useful tool for those researchers who come to our Branch Library and rooms, by pointing them to the records which our branch holds. Our records include newspaper birth, deaths, and marriages, school attendance registers, funeral directors' records, land records or books that could include information on the families that they are researching.

I wish to thank the small group of people who spend many hours generating these indexes from the original source documents. If you have some spare time and you would like to help our branch by assisting with indexing, please let Lorraine Austin or myself know.

Thank you.

Bruce Bellini
Branch Convenor

Legacy Users Group

The next meeting will be on Sunday 7 April 2019 at the Branch Rooms from 1.30pm. These sessions are hosted by Marilyn Armitstead and this month the focus is on the reports available with Legacy.

The 2019 meetings are planned for 9 June, 11 August and 6 October. Please contact Marilyn Armitstead for further information or if you have any questions. Phone: 757 2599 or email g.armitstead@xtra.co.nz

Branch 50th Anniversary

We are celebrating the 50th anniversary of our branch on Saturday 23 November 2019, so keep that date free.



Book Reviews

As a followup to David Hill's talk, I read the books, *Enemy Camp*, *Duet*, and *Finding*. I particularly enjoyed *Finding* as it followed the lives of seven generations of a family that came to New Zealand from Scotland in 1886. The story is told through the 'voices' of the young members of each generation and some historical events and other 'threads' are used as a device to tie the story together. I thought it was a good method of writing a family history. Of course David Hill makes it look easy.

Also I would also like to recommend a very good book on writing your family history that we have in our branch genealogy library. The book *Writing your family history : a NZ guide* written by Joan Rosier-Jones, covers all aspects of writing and publishing a family history from research to publishing.

Marilyn Armitstead

Family History Expo: 1 – 6 April 2019

The Hawera Genealogy Group are holding a week long Family History Expo from 1 to 6 April 2019 at the Hawera Community Centre, which will be open between 9am and 3pm each day. It will comprise a variety of events culminating in a family and local history expo with representation from all of Taranaki.

During the week, there will be cemetery walks, presentations in local libraries and museums. In the Community Hall on Saturday, there will be a Women's Suffragette Display, talks or presentations, photos, memorabilia, family histories, a display of machinery on the forecourt, and anything to do with family and local history of Taranaki. The South Taranaki District Council is proposing a display on Aunt Daisy around this time.

On Saturday 6 April, our New Plymouth branch will be represented promoting our branch with our TBI and research information from our library, so come along and see what is there to help with your research.

Photo News and Spotlight Project

Since March 2018 one of our Branch members, Murray Evans, has been scanning the New Plymouth Photo News and Spotlight magazines. The Photo News magazines were published from 1957 to 1981 and the Spotlight magazines from 1959 to 1961. They contain an astounding collection of photographs of local people participating in every kind of sport event, special occasions such as weddings, reunions or dances and also includes photos of the demolition of old buildings and the construction of new buildings or roads. These magazines are a treasure trove for genealogists and historians.



Over the past year Murray has spent 721 hours scanning 288 books containing 37,362 pages which has produced pdf files totalling over 42GB. All these files have now been installed on our computers at the Branch library and are ready to be accessed by our members and visitors to the library. These magazines have also been indexed by our Indexing volunteers and all the names of people and places have been included in the Taranaki Biographical Index (TBI). So all you need to do is use the TBI to search for the name or names that you are researching and the TBI will return the Photo News edition, date of publication and page that your search name is on. You can then open the electronic magazine edition and find the picture of the person or place.

Missing Magazines!

Although Murray went to great lengths to find all the magazines that were published, there are a small number missing. If you know any one who would possibly have a copy that Murray could borrow to scan, please contact Murray by email at mjeret@xtra.co.nz. The missing copies are:-



North Taranaki Foto News: Two books in 1956.

Taranaki Spotlight: Books 2, 4, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 27 and 28.

Our branch would like to record our sincere thanks to Murray for this fine effort.



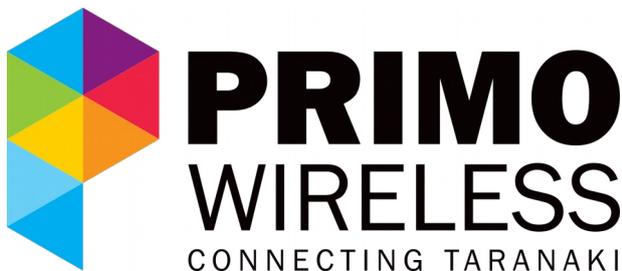
Library Roster: April

Monday 10 am to 12:30 pm
Wednesday 12 noon to 3 pm
Saturday 10 am to 12 noon

Mon 1 Charles Le Breton
Wed 3 Jill Jackson
Sat 6 Karen Crowe
Mon 8 Peter Winter
Wed 10 Pat Croad
Sat 13 Lea & Bruce Bellini
Mon 15 Annette Larsen
Wed 17 Ailsa McCrone
Sat 20 Lea & Bruce Bellini
Mon 22 Easter Monday
Wed 24 Neville Richards
Sat 27 Pat Croad
Mon 29 Lorraine Austin

Internet Connection

The internet connection for our branch rooms is generously sponsored by Primowireless.



Please consider Primowireless for your ISP. Ring them on 0800 123 774 or visit the website:

primowireless.co.nz

Empty Printer Cartridges

Please bring your empty printer cartridges in to the branch rooms. These can be either ink jet or laser cartridges, but **we can only use HP or Canon types of cartridges.**

These will be recycled to generate some income for the branch.



Cemetery Transcriptions

Three more cemeteries (Bell Block Mangati Road, Rahotu and Tikorangi) have been added to [our website](#) and on the computers at the branch rooms. Photos are available for most headstones.

This is part of our branch project to update transcriptions made in the 1980s.

Library News

Magazines received;

Family Tree (April)

Who do you think you are (April)

Newsletters received;

Canterbury, Dunedin, Feilding, Gore, Hutt Valley, Nelson, Palmerston North, Papamoa, Riccarton, South Waikato, Wairarapa, Wellington, Whanganui

If you would like an email copy of newsletters from another branch, please contact Peter Hewett. Many of the newsletters are also available from the NZSG website.

www.genealogy.org.nz/branches--area-contacts_55



Newsletter

If you have any comments or suggestions for the newsletter, please contact Peter Hewett at peter.hewett@gmail.com.

