



# NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 346

July 2020

Unite  
against  
COVID-19

Play it safe – be kind

New Zealand Government

Branch events are resuming  
Branch rooms are open; Saturday 10 to noon

LEVEL 1

New Zealand is currently at Alert Level 2.

## 2020 Branch AGM

The branch AGM will be held on 7 July 2020. The formal notice of meeting was distributed to members with the June newsletter, with notice of motion about a rules change.

Nominations are open for committee members. Please have a think about how you can help your branch. Several committee members are standing down and new people with fresh new ideas are most welcome to our committee. Please help!

Documents for the AGM (such as financial report and minutes of the 2019 AGM) will be distributed with this newsletter.

# AGM

Next meeting: 7:30pm Tues 7 July 2020

## History as News

At our July meeting, local historian and journalist Jim Tucker will talk about his newspaper column. Jim has written many articles about historical events around New Plymouth and Taranaki.

Also, Jim and his wife Lyn will talk about the family books that they compile for people. You can check out more of Jim's work on his website: [jimtucker.media](http://jimtucker.media) .



**Convenor:** Bruce Bellini 758 0130  
**Secretary:** Jackie Sewell  
**Treasurer:** Gail Tanner  
**Committee:** Lorraine Austin  
Lea Bellini  
Graham Cowling  
Jill Jackson  
Annette Larsen  
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](mailto:newplymouth@genealogy.org.nz)

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

---

## Convenor's Report

Our meeting on Tuesday, 7 July, will be our first branch meeting since the Covid 19 lock down. It's hard to believe that it has been 4 months since we last met. It will be great to catch up with you all once again.

This will be my last Convenor's report. After filling the position for 4 years, I am standing down as it is time for a new person and new ideas. Gail Tanner has agreed to pick up the Convenor role and I am sure that the branch will progress under her guidance. I would like to thank all those people who have supported me during my term in this role. Four of our committee are also standing down, Neville, Jill, Graham and Lorraine, your support has been appreciated. To the rest of the committee who are remaining - thank you. Being a committee member is not an onerous job and we would love to have new members join us. It is also a good way to learn more about our library and our branch members. If you are interested please feel free to give me a call (758 0130) and have a chat before our AGM.

On a lighter note, I have had, for some time, an interest in Dr Elizabeth Alexander (Frances Elizabeth Somerville Alexander (née Caldwell; 13 December 1908 – 15 October 1958) who was a British geologist, academic, and physicist, whose wartime work with radar and radio led to early developments in radio astronomy and whose post-war work on the geology of Singapore is considered a significant foundation to contemporary research. Dr Alexander earned her PhD from Newnham College, Cambridge and worked in Radio Direction Finding at Singapore Naval Base from 1938 to 1941. In January 1941, unable to return to Singapore from New Zealand, she became Head of Operations Research in New Zealand's Radio Development Lab, Wellington. In the 1970s, I worked in the same building as Dr Alexander had, and heard tales of how radar had been developed in New Zealand. Together with my interest in the history of radio, I had two reasons to be interested in her. My excitement in lock down was to find out that her husband was the great-uncle of my daughter-in-law. I now have a letter that Dr Alexander's daughter has written to my daughter-in-law's mother, so I am claiming a very tenuous link to a lady of fame – who's fame has never been well documented, such is the

secrecy of war and lack of acknowledgement of the efforts women made in earlier days.

Over and out.

Bruce Bellini  
Branch Convenor

---

## Next meeting: 7 August 2020

Our next branch event is a site visit to Eagers Funerals. The plan is to meet at 7:00pm at their office near the gates to Te Henui cemetery. More details to follow in the next newsletter.

---

## Found Photograph

This photo is from a film strip that was found in our branch library. If it belongs to you, please contact Bruce Bellini and he will return it to you.



---

## Puke Ariki Resources

The Puke Ariki library has library access to ancestry.com and this is available as part of their digital subscriptions. You just need to put in your library card number and pin. Click on "Digital Library", then click on "online research resources", then "search ancestry". It will then ask for your library details.

Annette Larsen

---



---

## Library News

In our April newsletter, we mentioned the donation of microfiche and books on behalf of the late Ron Stretton. These donations received in March 2020 have now been catalogued and are now available for use at our branch rooms. We have also received additional books just last week that still need to be looked at and catalogued. One set of interest is volumes one and two of the Richmond Atkinson papers. These will be available to look at in due course. We also received 11 of the 13 books that we bid for from NZSG. Again, these are yet to be catalogued. They mostly relate to the Taranaki area.

Bruce mentioned in the June newsletter that we were in the process of rechecking the CDROMs to ensure that they were all working on the CDROM computer. This has been done and all but about 5 are usable again. The instructions have been updated in the CDROM folder.

The library has so many resources, so come down and have a browse. There are some very interesting books. I have just finished reading *A river rules my life* by Mona Anderson. I have no interest in the family but it was such a good read. It is the story of life on a high country sheep farm, Mt Algidus station, in the 1940s. Mt. Algidus lies in the fork of the Rakaia, Mathias, and Wilberforce rivers, and runs along the dividing range from the Mathias Pass to Browning's Pass. No power, no vehicle access, very isolated in those days. Even nowadays, access to the 53,000 acre cattle station on New Zealand's South Island, is isolated. The last few miles of a two-hour drive from Christchurch require a steady nerve and a 4x4, but even that track comes to an end at the banks of the mighty Wilberforce. To make the crossing to the station, you need to climb into a powerful tractor or perch in its trailer for the lurching journey across the pebble-strewn flats and the icy channels of the river. No popping down to the supermarket if you run out of milk!

Lea Bellini

---

## Additions to our Library

These new books have been added to our branch library.

- The King's England - Lancashire
- Central School Centenary 1884-1984
- Egmont National Park
- From Plymouth to New Plymouth
- Over the Wide & Trackless Sea - The pioneer women and girls of NZ – Inspiring tales of colonial life
- The King's England - Northumberland - England's Farthest North
- Uruti Supplement (Taranaki)
- Welbourn Carrington Schools 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee 1932-1982
- Yorkshire East Riding & York City
- Yorkshire North Riding

---

## Computer Group Meeting

The next genealogy computer group meeting will be held at 1:30pm on Sunday 19 July.



We will talk about some matters relating to computers and genealogy. And there will be some time to discuss questions and issues, so bring along any challenges or puzzles you have with computers and genealogy.



## Library Roster: July

Saturday 10 am to 12 noon

Sat 4 Jackie Sewell  
Sat 11 Neville Richards  
Sat 18 Bruce & Lea Bellini  
Sat 25 Annette Larsen

For those new to genealogy and/or want help knocking down those brick walls, this is an excellent time and place to have our experts help you. Our helpers can show you what is available in the library and how to go about finding what you are looking for.

## Microfiche

The branch library has a large number of microfiche records available to help your research. The catalogue has been updated for 2020 and is available on our website [click here](#).



Please observe these COVID-19 rules at the branch rooms.

- Please don't come to the rooms if you have any symptoms (dry cough, short of breath, fever, recent overseas travel).
- Wash your hands and any surfaces you touch.
- Bring your own pen, paper, laptop, etc.
- Ensure your name is recorded in the attendance book.

Our branch rooms are open for branch events and on Saturday mornings, 10am to noon.

## Internet Connection

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

Based right here in Taranaki, Primowireless provides internet connections and ISP services for residential and business customers. As well as the usual ADSL and fibre connections, Primowireless also provides broadband internet over a wireless link for customers who are not in an area served by the other types of internet. This is just great for people who live outside the main centres.



# PRIMO WIRELESS

CONNECTING TARANAKI

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

[primowireless.co.nz](http://primowireless.co.nz)

## Library News

Magazines received;

Family Tree (May, June)

Genealogist (June)

Irish Roots (Q1 2018 to Q4 2019)

Who do you think you are (May, June, July)

Newsletters received;

Balclutha, Canterbury, Dunedin, Feilding, Hutt Valley, Nelson, Otaki, Palmerston North, Papamoa, Porirua, Riccarton, South Waikato

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](http://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](mailto:peter.hewett@gmail.com).

