



# NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 349

November 2020

**Unite against COVID-19**

**Be prepared – keep safe**

New Zealand Government

**Branch events have resumed at alert level 1**  
**Branch rooms are open: Monday and Saturday**

**LEVEL 1** New Zealand is currently at Alert Level 1.

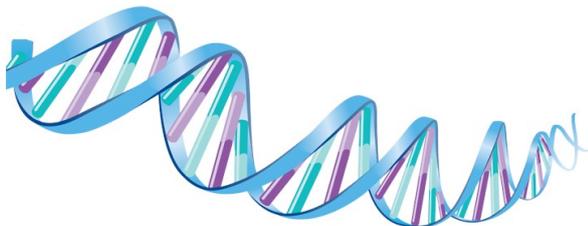
Meeting: 1:30 pm Sunday 15 November 2020

## DNA Leeds Method

What do you do with those dozens of DNA matches? The Leeds method is a colourful way of sorting these out into the various branches of your tree that they belong to.

This session was planned for September, but had to be postponed due to COVID level 2. Now we can do it, and it is on this month.

So come along, and Sharyn Guthrie will explain how the Leeds method works, and show us how we can use it to get our DNA matches organised.



Next meeting: 7:30 pm Tuesday 3 Nov 2020

## Our Branch Library

Our branch library has an extensive range of electronic and printed resources to help you with your genealogy research. The focus is on New Plymouth and Taranaki historical records, but we also have lots of material from New Zealand, the UK, and other locations.

Come along and find out how your genealogy research can from more our branch resources.



**Convenor:** Gail Tanner 027 0376 0630  
**Secretary:** Jackie Sewell  
**Treasurer:** Sharyn Guthrie

**Committee:** Bruce Bellini  
 Lea Bellini  
 Karen Crowe  
 Annette Larsen

New Plymouth Branch  
 c/- Gail Tanner  
 122 Wairau Road  
 New Plymouth 4314

**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)

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## Last month: Why Genealogy is good for you

At the October branch meeting, Peter Hewett talked about how active participation in your local genealogy branch can really be beneficial for your overall well being.

Modern life is full of stresses, but our minds aren't actually very well designed to cope with this. For example, our minds tend to think in relative terms, by comparing our experience to others. Social media can provide lots of unrealistic reference points, undermining our well being.

But there is lots we can do, and there is a whole field of science that has researched this. The talk looked at five areas to focus on. Each of these has been shown to maintain or improve your well-being.

- 1) Give: being kind and generous (e.g. volunteering your time, helping others)
- 2) Be active: get enough exercise and sleep
- 3) Keep learning: be curious, gain new skills, solve puzzles
- 4) Social connections: be with other people
- 5) Be mindful: gratitude, reflection, meditation

Being actively involved in our genealogy branch is a great way to do something in these focus areas. But you have to actually participate in branch activities, staying at home on your computer doesn't provide the same benefits. So, do yourself a favour and be active in your branch, with things like:

- Come along to branch events
- Take part in projects, such as headstone transcribing, or records indexing
- Help on the library duty roster
- Volunteer for branch committee or an office

If you would like to see the slides again, [click here](#).



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## Convenor's Report

I'm sorry to have missed last month's meeting, I had a bit of a family emergency, but all is settled down again. I would have loved to hear Peter talk about why genealogy is good for you. Any new reason (or excuse) to do your family history is helpful when your current family is demanding your attention, and you'd rather be with your ancestors.

We have added opening times for the Library. It is now open on a Monday morning again, from 10am to 12pm due to popular demand, and of course we are still open on Saturday morning 10am to 12pm.

We are always looking for volunteers to help man the library for us. If you are interested, please talk to one of the committee. The meeting this month is about How to use our Library, so there's no need to worry if you don't think you have the knowledge – other people do and you would be trained. I know that people can feel a bit vulnerable in the library on their own. If we had more volunteers available we could do a buddy system, so that no-one had to do the duty alone.

Most of the subs are now in, and our membership numbers are not down too much on previous years which is good news. Covid has of course impacted on us this year with fewer meetings, but we are happy that people still think it is worthwhile being a member of the branch.

I still intend to survey our members asking what we can do better and what would you like to see us do. That will be sent out before the end of November, and I'd appreciate as many replies as we can get to help us get a feel for where we need to be concentrating our efforts.

And a last word on the John Channing Buckland books that I wrote about earlier in the year. I have made contact with a member of John Channing's descendants who will hopefully be happy to receive the books back into the fold.

If you have any concerns about anything please feel free to contact me. My phone number is on the front page of the newsletter.

Gail Tanner  
Branch Convenor



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## Next Month: 1 December 2020

Our last branch event of the year is an informal meeting, with

- video of Taranaki Pioneer Village
- fun genealogy quiz
- Christmas hamper raffle

The hamper raffle is a fund raiser. Please bring along some non-perishable items to donate to the hamper.

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## COVID Alert Level 1

Please observe the 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.
- Use the COVID-19 app with the QR code.
- Ensure your name is recorded in the attendance book.

Our branch rooms are open:

Monday mornings, from 10am to 12:30pm

Saturday mornings, from 10am to 12 noon.



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## Roots Tech 2021 is online and free

RootsTech is a big genealogy conference, conducted annually in the USA. It is attended by thousands and is famous for all the genealogy experts, know-how and new products on show. For 2021, it is online and free to attend.

The dates are 25 - 27 February 2021.

For more information visit their website, where you can register to attend.

[www.rootstech.org](http://www.rootstech.org)



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## Facebook

We now have a Facebook page for our branch.



This is set up as a private group which means that membership is controlled. To join, you must answer a couple of genealogy related questions. This is to reduce any chance of spammers or false members.

One of the aims of this Facebook group is to keep our members up to date with branch happenings and other genealogy/ family history events happening.

Another aim is to encourage members to share ideas and help for queries that may arise.

We are also hoping to attract new members so you may see some unfamiliar names.

Please tell your fellow members and friends about it and ask them if they want to join. Please DO NOT use the 'Invite' button, as this bypasses the verification process that we want to use. Unfortunately it is a Facebook feature that we cannot disable.

Here is a link to the Facebook page

[www.facebook.com/groups/949196718907560](https://www.facebook.com/groups/949196718907560)

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## Perils & Pleasures of Historical Biography

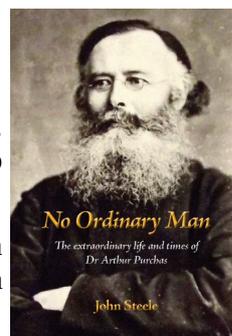
When: 6:30 pm 13 November 2020

Where: NZSG FHC Auckland

Cost: \$15

An evening with John Steele, author of five books relating to history and biography.

Purchase tickets at FHC reception or by email from [membership@genealogy.org.nz](mailto:membership@genealogy.org.nz).



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## Help with library duty

Can you help by volunteering for our library roster? We need a few more people so that we can open the rooms on more days. Training is provided, and it is typically just one session a month. This is a great way to meet people and be more involved in our branch. For further information, just talk with any committee member.



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## Library Roster: November - December

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

Mon 2 Nov Neville Richards  
Sat 7 Nov Karen Crowe  
Mon 9 Nov Charles Le Breton  
Sat 14 Nov Bruce & Lea Bellini  
Mon 16 Nov Annette Larsen  
Sat 21 Nov Annette Larsen  
Mon 23 Nov Jill Jackson  
Sat 28 Nov Gail Tanner  
Mon 30 Nov Sharyn Guthrie  
Sat 5 Dec Gail Tanner  
Mon 7 Dec Jill Jackson  
Sat 12 Dec Karen Crowe  
Mon 14 Dec Charles Le Breton  
Sat 19 Dec Bruce & Lea Bellini

January 2021

Mon 18 Jan Charles Le Breton  
Sat 23 Jan Neville Richards  
Mon 25 Jan Jill Jackson  
Sat 30 Jan Sharyn Guthrie

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## Christmas Break

The branch rooms will be closed over the Christmas / New Year period.

last day for 2020: Saturday 19 December

first day for 2021: Monday 18 January

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## Internet Connection

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

Based right here in Taranaki, Primo provides internet connections and ISP services for residential and business customers. As well as the usual fibre and ADSL connections, Primo 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.



Please consider Primo for your internet service. 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 (Nov)

Who Do You Think You Are (Oct)

Newsletters received;

Canterbury, Dunedin, Feilding, Gore, Hawkes Bay, Nelson, Otaki, Palmerston North, Porirua, Riccarton, Southland, South Waikato, Wairarapa

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)



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## 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).

