



NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 350

December 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.

Merry Christmas!

The branch committee would like to wish all our members and their families a very Merry Christmas and all the very best for 2021!

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

Last day for 2020 Saturday 19 December

First day for 2021 Monday 11 January



Next meeting: 7:30 pm Tuesday 1 Dec 2020

Christmas Special

Our last branch event of the year is an informal meeting, with a video of the history and development of the Taranaki Pioneer Village, at Stratford.

We will also be drawing the raffle for the Christmas hamper. This has lots of goodies and the proceeds will support our branch, so be sure to get your tickets (\$2 each or two for \$3).



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
Website: www.genealogynp.com

Last month: Our branch library

Ours is one of the few NZSG branches with our own rooms and library. As well as books, we have 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.

At the November meeting, Bruce Bellini outlined the records that we have in the library. Bruce also explained the Taranaki Biographical Index, with over 800,000 records indexing records relevant to Taranaki research. This was illustrated by way of an example, taking just a name and using the TBI to search out a range of relevant books and records. These included birth, death and marriage records, school admissions, newspaper clippings, land records and others.

Marilyn Armitstead explained the library contents, how these are organised, and how to use Athenaeum, the library database, to search for books.

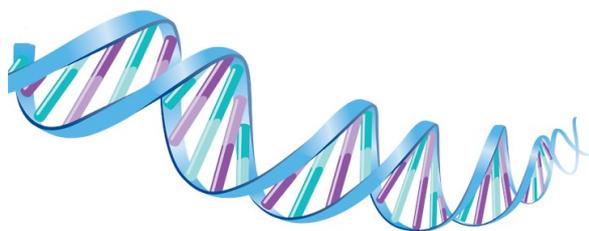


Last month: The Leeds Method for DNA

At our November afternoon meeting, Sharyn Guthrie explained the Leeds method for DNA matches. This session was planned for September, but had to be postponed due to COVID level 2.

The Leeds method is a colourful way of sorting all those DNA matches that you get, into the various branches of your tree where they belong.

The information from Sharyn's talk is summarised in this [quick guide to the Leeds method](#). There is lots of help available on DNA, including our branch Facebook page.



Convenor's Report

Hello fellow Genealogists. As we come up to the last meeting of the year, it is a good time to look back on the year and be glad it's (almost) finally over. 2020 has been a trying year for everyone. Groups like ours have struggled to provide the meetings and contacts that so many rely on, not only for their genealogy research, but for the contact with other people that the meetings bring.

In a separate email to this newsletter, you will finally be receiving instructions about the survey that I promised some time ago. We'd appreciate your feedback, so please answer the survey. If you don't do the survey, then we really don't know if we are doing the right things by our members, or if there is something we could add, or change. It's easy to do and shouldn't take longer than a few minutes to complete.

The final meeting of the year is on Tuesday 1 December, so will be a nice lead in to the holiday season. We will be showing an interesting video about Stratford Pioneer Village. It shows how the history of how it developed and grew, show the many aspects of the village and the people involved in starting and running it.

We will also have a lovely Christmas Hamper raffle – the tickets will be \$2 each or two for \$3. Supper will be provided as well. I look forward to seeing you at this meeting.

The library will be closed from Saturday 19 December and will reopen Monday 18 January, but can be accessed at other times. There are a couple of phone numbers on the sign to call, and you can always phone me.

Our first meeting of the New Year will be on Tuesday 2 February, and weather permitting we are hoping to do a tour of Te Henui Cemetery. If the weather doesn't co-operate we'll start the year off with one of my famous quiz nights instead.

I wish you and your families all a wonderful Christmas and New Year. May the year 2021 be a lot better for everyone than 2020 has been!

Gail Tanner
Branch Convenor



Next Month: 2 February 2021

Our first branch event for 2021 is a site visit to the Te Henui cemetery. This is planned to take advantage of the (hopefully) warm weather and longer daylight hours at that time of year.

This will be at 7:00pm on Tuesday 2 February 2021.

Te Henui is the oldest public cemetery in New Plymouth, so it is important for anyone researching families who lived here in the 19th and 20th centuries.

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.



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



Facebook

This is a reminder that we have a branch Facebook page.



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

More on DNA

In 2021, there will be monthly sessions on using DNA for genealogy. The plan is for these to be afternoon meetings, on the third Sunday of each month, starting with 21 February 2021.

Sharyn Guthrie will be leading these sessions, and they will include some workshops, so you can get help on your particular DNA research.

More details to follow, so keep an eye on the branch website and on the branch newsletters.



Library Roster: December - January

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

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

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 the roster usually means everyone does just one session a month each. This is a great way to meet people and be more involved in our branch. For further information, just talk with any committee member.



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

Library News

Magazines received;

Family Tree (Dec)

Who Do You Think You Are (Nov)

Newsletters received;

Canterbury, Feilding, Gore, Kapiti, Nelson, Otaki, Riccarton, 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



Newsletter

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

