



NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 351

February 2021

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.

Happy New Year!

I hope you had a restful Christmas break, and are looking forward to some new and exciting genealogy discoveries in 2021.

The branch committee is putting together the branch programme for 2021, and we would like to include topics that are of interest or of use to our members.

Some great topics are being lined up, but there is still some space available. If you have any suggestions or requests, please contact any committee member.



Next meeting: 7:00 pm Tuesday 2 Feb 2021

Te Henui Cemetery

Our first branch event for 2021 is a visit to the Te Henui cemetery. This cemetery opened in 1861, and is the original public cemetery for New Plymouth. This means it is an important resource for anyone researching the New Plymouth settlement of the 19th century.

Please meet at 7:00pm at the main gates, corner of Watson and Lemon Streets.



Convenor:	Gail Tanner	027 376 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: Taranaki Pioneer Village

For our last meeting of 2020, we watched a video on the Taranaki Pioneer Village. This is a 2016 documentary, produced locally.

The documentary covered the origins of the village at Ngaere in the 1970s, and then the move to the current site near Stratford. It included detailed look at features in the village, such as the old printing press, banking, blacksmith, train and track and the hospital museum. It showed interviews with people who worked in these buildings when they were still in use.

To learn more about the Taranaki Pioneer Village, you can visit their website:

www.pioneervillage.co.nz



Next month: Dating Old Photos

The next branch meeting is on Tuesday 2 March 2021. We will be looking at how to date and analyse old photographs.

If you have any examples that you have worked with, or any ideas or experience with dating old photos, please contact Sharyn.

Roots Tech 2021 is online and free

The RootsTech genealogy conference 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



Books for sale

These old books are offered for sale by Jill Carr:

- Diary of Charles Burgess (of Burgess Park fame) 1926.
- A notebook relating to Bernard Aris, approx. 1968.

Prices are negotiable. Contact Jill Carr 06 757 5392

Convenor's Report

Welcome, everybody, to the year 2021. May it be infinitely better for everyone than 2020 was. As I write this, there is the concern over the Covid Case in Northland, but with any luck, here in Taranaki any impact will be small.

Hopefully over the Christmas and New Year Period you have caught up on all your research, unlike me, and now can't wait to get back into our meetings. Our first gathering this year is a cemetery visit. It's become a bit of a tradition to visit a cemetery on the night of the first meeting of the year. This year we are meeting at Te Henui Cemetery. Be at the Lemon Street gate/car park at 7pm, 2 February, for a wander around our oldest cemetery. It was first used in 1861, and though there are no longer plots available for purchase people are still being buried there. The gardens are worth the visit too.

For our March meeting we will be having a session on how to date your old photographs. Bring some along, and we'll try and figure out the date after the talk. Dating a photograph by the style of clothing, hair styles etc, is a helpful way to help figure out which generation the sitter is from, enabling surer identification.

In April, I am going to be doing a talk on Useful Websites for Genealogy. Apart from the obvious ones like Ancestry and Family Search, there are many others that can offer tidbits (or even huge bits) of information to help in your research, without costing anything.

Also in April we will have a stand at the Home Show on the weekend of 16 – 18 April. If you are planning on visiting the Home Show, call at our stand and say hi. Our table is in the foyer, so you won't be able to miss us.

The May meeting is our Annual General Meeting. We have a couple of people standing down from the committee, so if you would like to be more involved please approach me. It's really not too onerous, and we do have a bit of fun at the committee meetings. The more the merrier, the less the work. After the AGM official bit we will have a fun talk on old occupations and their weird names. If you have an occupation of an ancestor and have no idea what it is, let me know in advance and I'll do some research on it.

See you on Tuesday, at the Cemetery.

Gail Tanner

Branch Convenor



DNA Interest Group

This starts in February on the third Sunday of the month – 21 February at 13:30hrs at our Branch Rooms for the first meeting. These are planned to be monthly on the third Sunday of the month, though occasionally I may have to move it due to other commitments.

These meetings are aimed at helping you understand your DNA results and encouraging you to learn how to utilise your DNA matches to advance your family history. There may be a small talk at the beginning on one aspect, but generally the plan is to help you with your own DNA matches and for us all to help each other.

If you come, please bring along your laptop (preferably), or tablet if you have one, if not please bring your login details to the DNA website/s that you have results at.

Could you also please send me an email – sharynjuthrie@gmail.com to let me know if you are planning on coming or possibly coming. If you could also tell me if you have a laptop you will be bringing, and any specific questions you have or aspects you would like help with. This is to help me plan how to make it work best for us all. Thanks.

Sharyn Guthrie



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, loss of smell or taste, 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.
- Record your name in the attendance book.



Library News

Work is continuing at our branch library. We are currently doing an inventory of books at the library as it has been a while since this was done. We are also taking the opportunity to update the library catalogue to show which books have been added to the Taranaki Biographical Index (TBI) and also noting the books themselves to indicate that they are on the TBI. Remember to use the TBI when you are researching in our library for Taranaki ancestors. With over 800,000 names, it is a powerful finding aid.

In the course of our work, Marilyn found an old red scrapbook called *Newspaper Cuttings*. At first we thought it was just a miscellaneous collection of old photos and newspaper clippings, in the late 1800s. However on closer inspection it turns out to be all about one man. This book contains about 30 photos and around 80 newspaper clippings.

The first newspaper clipping is undated but says:

Mr Tilson Smith, the well-known and popular dentist of Onehunga, was a passenger by the *Ngapuhi* for the South last Sunday afternoon. We understand his destination was the pretty little town of Marton, and his visit was not altogether unconnected with an interesting ceremony that took place there last Wednesday. We sincerely wish him and Mrs Tilson Smith all happiness, and hope to be amongst the first to bid them "welcome home" on Tuesday.

Further research shows that this was a second marriage for Tilson in 1901 to Euphemia Maxwell Moyes. Tilson died in 1906 in Auckland. He does not appear to have had any children. It has taken a lot of researching to discover a Taranaki connection, which we were looking for as this book was at our library. It seems Tilson had a sister, Emily, who married Ralph Drayton Colson and lived in New Plymouth. We have found out further information about the descendants of Emily & Ralph.

Our next step is to locate living relatives to let them know about this book, so if you are aware of family of Emily & Ralph, please let Marilyn Armitstead or myself know.

It is amazing just what there is in the library of ours, that we sometimes don't know exists.

Lea Bellini



Library Roster: February - March

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

Mon 1 Feb Neville Richards
Sat 6 Feb Gail Tanner
Mon 8 Feb Sharyn Guthrie
Sat 13 Feb Sharyn Guthrie
Mon 15 Feb Charles Le Breton
Sat 20 Feb Gail Tanner
Mon 22 Feb Jill Jackson
Sat 27 Feb Karen Crowe
Mon 1 Mar Neville Richards
Sat 6 Mar Gail Tanner
Mon 8 Mar Charles Le Breton
Sat 13 Mar Bruce & Lea Bellini
Mon 15 Mar Lea Bellini
Sat 20 Mar Sharyn Guthrie
Mon 22 Mar Jill Jackson
Sat 27 Mar Karen Crowe
Mon 29 Mar Sharyn Guthrie

Facebook

We now have 67 members in our Facebook group which is really great. The members come from around the world with some as far afield as the UK and Canada. Membership is not restricted to our local branch members only as many around the world have Taranaki roots or families connected to here.



It's a great place to join in and ask any questions you may have. It's also a place to keep up with genealogy news and events that we post about.

The Facebook group is private, and you need to answer two questions 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

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

Christchurch Family History Expo 2021

This event is on 20-22 August 2021 at the Christchurch central library. Expressions of interest are invited from anyone who wants to exhibit, speak or sponsor at this event. For more information, check out [this page](#) and respond by 14 March 2021.

Library News

Magazines received;

Genealogist (Dec)

Newsletters received;

Balclutha, Dunedin, Gore, Hawke's Bay, Kapiti, Porirua, Riccarton, Southland, South Waikato, 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.

