



# NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 354

May 2021

**Unite against COVID-19**

**Reduce risk – 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.

## 2021 Branch AGM

The branch Annual General Meeting will be on Tuesday 4 May. The formal notice of meeting was distributed to branch members with the April newsletter.

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 2020 AGM) will be distributed to members with this newsletter.

# AGM

Next meeting: 7:30pm Tuesday 4 May 2021

## Pukekura Park

Pukekura Park is a famous park and recreation area near the centre of New Plymouth. It has a long and interesting history, involving many people who were prominent in New Plymouth about a century ago.

Following the branch AGM, Alan Metcalf will talk about his research into the history of Pukekura Park. So come along and hear about some of our local history.



<b>Convenor:</b>	Gail Tanner	027 376 0630
<b>Secretary:</b>	Jackie Sewell	
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Sharyn Guthrie	
<b>Committee:</b>	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)



the questions was for any topics that people could suggest we could cover and we had many useful suggestions that we will be following up. Most people who answered had done their DNA, though a lot didn't really understand the results. When asked "How are we doing?" There were no negative answers, and most said great. So thank you to those that took the time to do the survey for us. We intend to put out a full report on the survey findings, once the AGM is over.

My Convenor's AGM report is to be distributed with this newsletter.

Gail Tanner  
Branch Convenor

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### Anzac Day: We will remember them

F/O John William Purcivall DFC RNZAF (401031)

In my role as research officer, I get many unusual requests such as this one. The enquirer was Ian, a retired Lt Col who lives in North Yorkshire. His question was "I don't suppose that there is now any possibility that F/O John William Purcivall DFC is still remembered there (meaning New Plymouth)?"

An unusual question, so intriguing so a-hunting I did go. I was yet to find out why Ian wanted to know. However F/O John William Purcivall lives on in many local and national records. For instance his name is in the NPBHS book *The First Hundred Years* which our branch holds. In another NPBHS book *Lest We Forget* there are two pages detailing F/O Purcivall's early life and flying career. This book is also held by our branch. His name is on the Roll of Honour which was (and maybe still is?) in the NPBHS memorial hall.

I am currently indexing a folder called Taranaki Memorials and Monuments. One section of this relates to the crosses held by the RSA with the names of the fallen.

There is one for F/O J W Purcivall and this was on display in the memorial garden by the cenotaph on Anzac Day. Bruce & I visited the garden that day and photographed the crosses. We noted that someone had place a flower on F/O Purcivall's cross.



Of course, F/O Purcivall's name is on [the online centotaph](#) on the Auckland Museum webpage. I placed a virtual poppy there.

I had the pleasure of contacting Ian, the enquirer to say, yes this young airman who, at the age of 30, was killed in a flying accident in Tadcaster, North Yorkshire in 1942 was indeed remembered.

Why did Ian want to know? Well, his grandmother had "adopted" the grave of another airman, the rear gunner, Reginald George Cox from NSW who was also killed in the same plane accident. She visited and placed flowers on Reginald's grave twice a year. I understand that people in England were encouraged to visit the graves of overseas servicemen who were buried there in lieu of their own families who lived so far away. Every time she visited Reginald, who is buried at the [Stonefall Cemetery](#) in Harrogate, North Yorkshire, she also visited the grave of F/O Purcivall as she was aware he was the pilot of the plane.

Ian had come across a bible that Reginald Cox's mother had given him and as Anzac Day was approaching he began to think of this crew and all those who lost their lives.

He wanted to know "Were they remembered? Why do the brave die young". So I answered one question - were they remembered, but as to the second - there is no answer to that.

Lea Bellini

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### 1891 Taranaki Jubilee Committee

A photo of the 1891 Jubilee Committee has been offered, surplus from Puke Ariki. The people in the photo are A Standish, R H MacDiarmid, F Webster, R Cock, A Goldwater, J Bellringer, W Skinner, E Humphries, R Banehope, J Dempsey, J T Davis. If you are interested in this photograph, please contact a branch committee member.



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## Library Roster: May

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

Sat 1 Annette Larsen  
Mon 3 Charles Le Breton  
Sat 8 Gail Tanner  
Mon 10 Marilyn Armitstead  
Sat 15 Karen Crowe  
Mon 17 Annette Larsen  
Sat 22 Lea Bellini  
Mon 24 Jill Jackson  
Sat 29 Sharyn Guthrie  
Mon 31 Lea Bellini

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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, 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.



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## Wanted: Schools' Annual Magazines

For our library, we are seeking any copies of the annual magazines for the following high schools: Sacred Heart, New Plymouth Girls' High School, Francis Douglas, Opunake High School. Okato High School and Inglewood High School.

NOTE: We already have full sets of NPBHS and Spotswood. These are also available on the internet.

If anyone has any of these and are happy to donate them, please bring them to the rooms or contact us for collection.

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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 Maker (May)

Who Do You Think You Are (Feb)



Newsletters received;

Canterbury, Gore, Hawke's Bay, Hutt Valley, Nelson, Otaki, Palmerston North, Porirua, Riccarton, Southland, Wairarapa, Wellington

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).

