

Papamoa Branch

1st May
2016

NEWSLETTER



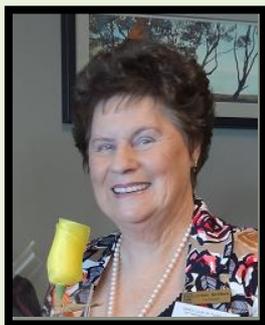
Photo taken from
the top of Mauao --

Or colloquially
'The Mount'

The Papamoa Branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists meets on the 2nd Monday of the Month in the Tohora Room at the Papamoa Community Centre, 10am- 2pm. The doors open at 9.30.
There is no entry charge for our May meeting.

The next meeting will be on Monday the 9th May, 2016

Programme: "A Genealogical Journey Stretching from Greytown, New Zealand to East Chinnock in Somerset, England." **Guest Speaker: Anne McEwen.** (See profile page 3.)
The May meeting is also our AGM.



Thank you to all members of the Papamoa Branch who have given me such great support and encouragement. A few years ago I knew nothing about computers and the only reason I became the Editor was because I had my Trade certificate in Typing. (A dubious achievement obtained many years ago at the age of 16. Now, if I can learn about computers at 70 +, anyone can. I do have to give credit to Senior Net without which I would have never got over the first hurdles. At first it was hard work but then I started to enjoy everything about computers, and now I get a great buzz out of being able to learn and retain skills that I once thought were beyond me. However if it wasn't for the Newsletter I would not have had a **purpose** for learning so much. I have also asked questions, one at a time, about what I needed to know. So, don't be shy --- ask!

The Editor: Lorrimer McAlister drawbridge@kinect.co.nz

Genealogy Friendly: meets on the 3rd Monday of the month, 1pm-3pm, in the Mako Room at the Papamoa Community Centre.

The next meeting will be on Monday 16th May 2016.

Contact: Daphne Friis Ph.575 4674 daphnefriis@kinect.co.nz



Valerie Ethel Ready
(Val)
NZSG 9785



8th December 1929 – 4th April 2016

Members of our Papamoa Branch attended the service for Val Ready held at St Mary's Anglican Church on Saturday 9th April 2016.

Val was a member of our Branch for many years and until last year was our Almoner.

We celebrate a life well lived and appreciate all her help and support.

The Convener's Comment



Our March Speaker Michelle Patient
with Convener Betty Atkinson

April 2016 Meeting Review Our April meeting opened with a brief business meeting followed by our traditional April recognition of Anzac Day with our member Bill Egerton reading of the Ode. Our Branch photographic history album was open at the pages which contain the names of our members' family members who fought and died in several wars.

We will remember them.

After morning tea the theme for the meeting was "It's Not All on the Internet". Well-known local author and Tauranga librarian Debbie McCauley spoke about the books and other helpful aids in the Tauranga Library including the New Zealand Research room. I followed her presentation with one about how to use the NZSG FRC Library for borrowing books as members. Members were then encouraged by our Branch Librarian Shirley Youens to browse our own branch library collection where there are many treasures to be found.

Research Assistance in the Papamoa Library

The Friday set aside for helping in the library for May is Friday 27th May between 10.00 am and 12.00 noon. See you there?

May Meeting:

May is our Branch AGM month. Some nominations have been received for committee positions and nomination forms will be available at the May meeting for any further nominations on that day. Please think about who you want on the committee to run the branch for 2016/2017.

Non-committee roles:

Jan Saxton has offered to take over the Raffle Co-ordinator duties for 2016/17 from Blue Hone and we thank Blue for her assistance with this to date. She will have a well-earned rest!

With Jan moving to this role we are looking for someone to assist Barbara Spratt who is available to continue with the Tea/Coffee making and serving duties. Elaine has indicated her willingness to continue as our Door hostess, thank you Elaine.

If anyone is interested in helping in other ways, do not forget the project that Helen Riddell is managing on behalf of our Branch, the transcription of the Mt Maunganui School Records. She will show you how you can help. Something you can do in the comfort of your own home.

It would also be helpful if someone would take over updating the Photographic History Album. You will be supplied with the materials needed. At present Shirley Youens takes photos at our meetings and I have been updating the album when I can find time.

Our Speaker for May

I look forward to Anne McEwen's presentation on how she traced her family from Carterton, New Zealand back to Somerset, England. We can all learn from presentations like these, the "How To" of Genealogy. I have had a sneak preview of the DVD she will use to conclude her talk in the afternoon and highly recommend it. There will be a pleasant surprise for the viewers along the way!

Yours in Genealogy

Betty Atkinson - NZSG 17053



Guest Speaker: Anne McEwen

Anne has been a member of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists since she began researching 15 years ago and she has been a member of local branches of the Society throughout that time.

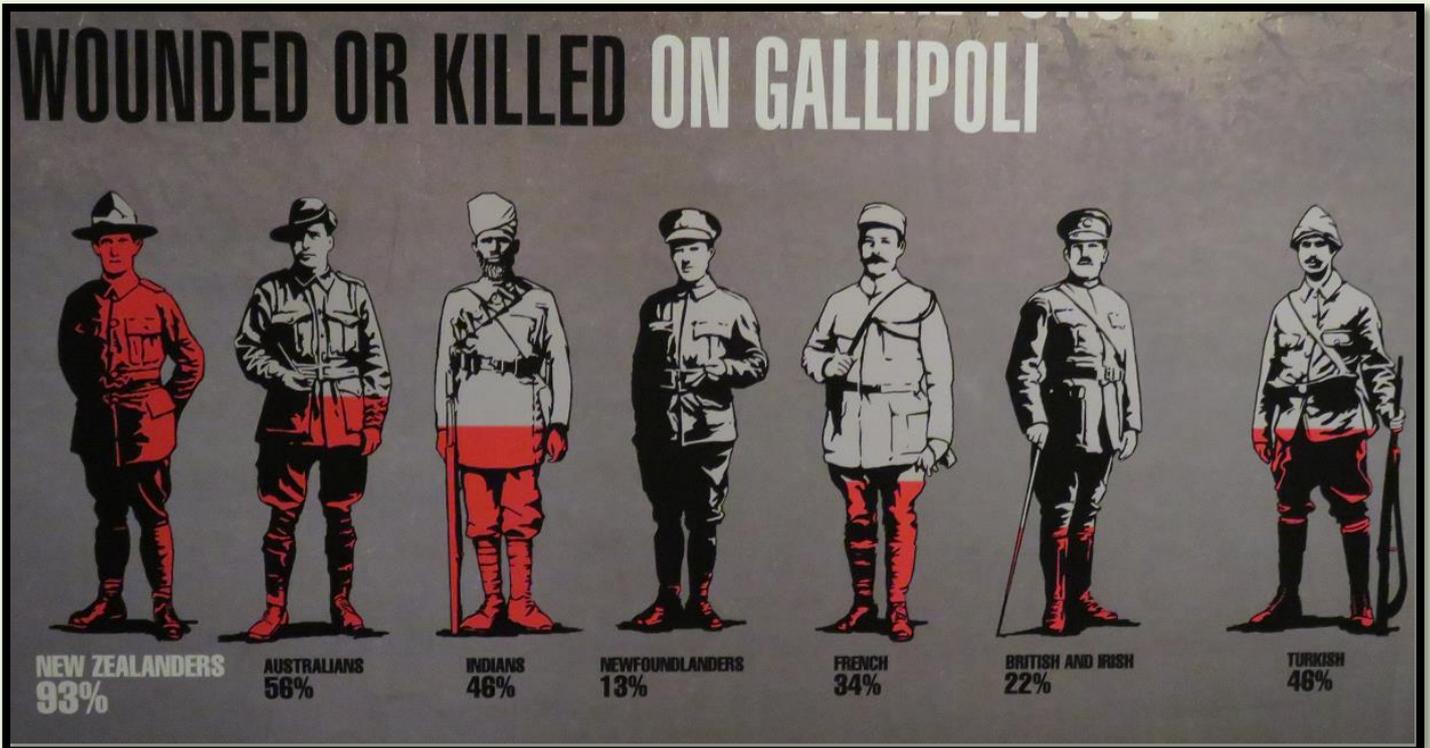
Anne will take us on a research trip from New Zealand back to Australia and back further to England. Her presentation promises to be an excellent “How to” in researching family history. Great for new comers to Genealogy and it will serve as a reminder or refresher course for those of us who have been researching for a while now.

In the afternoon we will conclude our meeting with viewing a DVD which highlights the place of Anne’s final research.



Almoner: Please notify Carole Bridge of sick or bereaved members.
Phone: 578 1144 Email: kenrole@xtra.co.nz

Have you been to the Gallipoli display at TePapa in Wellington? Here the red reflects the percentages of men wounded or killed from each country. New Zealand being the highest.



Do you have a Convict in your family?

About 40 years ago I found that my children had a Great Great Grandmother who was exported to Port Arthur, Tasmania, Australia from Dublin, Ireland when she was only 16 years old. This was of course before computers, so I wrote to The Archivist, Hobart, Tasmania.

Can you imagine my excitement when the following Convict List arrived in the mail-box?

ELIZA BURKE

1. Eliza Burke was tried at Dublin City on 5th August 1842 and sentenced to seven years transportation for stealing Calico.
2. Eliza arrived per **Waverley** on 15th December 1842.
3. Gaol Report, very quiet, single, stated this offence, shoplifting and once for a handkerchief and calico, 3 months, Surgeons report, exceedingly well behaved.
4. Offences and sentences in the Colony.
30th October, 1843 Fitzgerald / absent without leave - 21 days hard labour House of Correction.
6th March, 1844 Levy / Absent without leave - 4 days solitary confinement.
23rd May, 1844 Le Comte / Out after hours – reprimand discharged.
28th January, 1845 Ticket of Leave.
18th April, 1845 Le Comte / Absent from her authorized residence. 1 month hard labour House of Correction. Ticket of Leave suspended.
17th March, 1846 Recommended for a Conditional Pardon – approved 21 September, 1847.

The 'Waverley' above is the ship she was transported on.

5. Description

Trade: Housemaid
Height: 5ft 1in
Age: 17
Complexion: Fresh
Head: Medium
Hair: Light brown sandy
Visage: Medium
Forehead: Large
Eyebrows: Scanty, Light brown
Eyes: Blue
Nose: Rather large
Mouth: Rather large
Chin: Medium
Native Place: Dublin
Remarks: J H on right arm
Roman Catholic

Following the birth of the first 2 children, David and Eliza LeComte came to New Zealand. They first settled in Wellington where David being a cabinet maker and joiner had an undertakers business on the corner of Willis & Manners streets. The earthquakes of 1851 so unnerved them that they shifted down to Akaroa, where Eliza was a midwife. Family stories say that she rowed a boat around the Bays to help deliver babies in the Banks Peninsula area.

Of course there are hundreds of people descended from Eliza in New Zealand. I wonder how many of them know her interesting story.

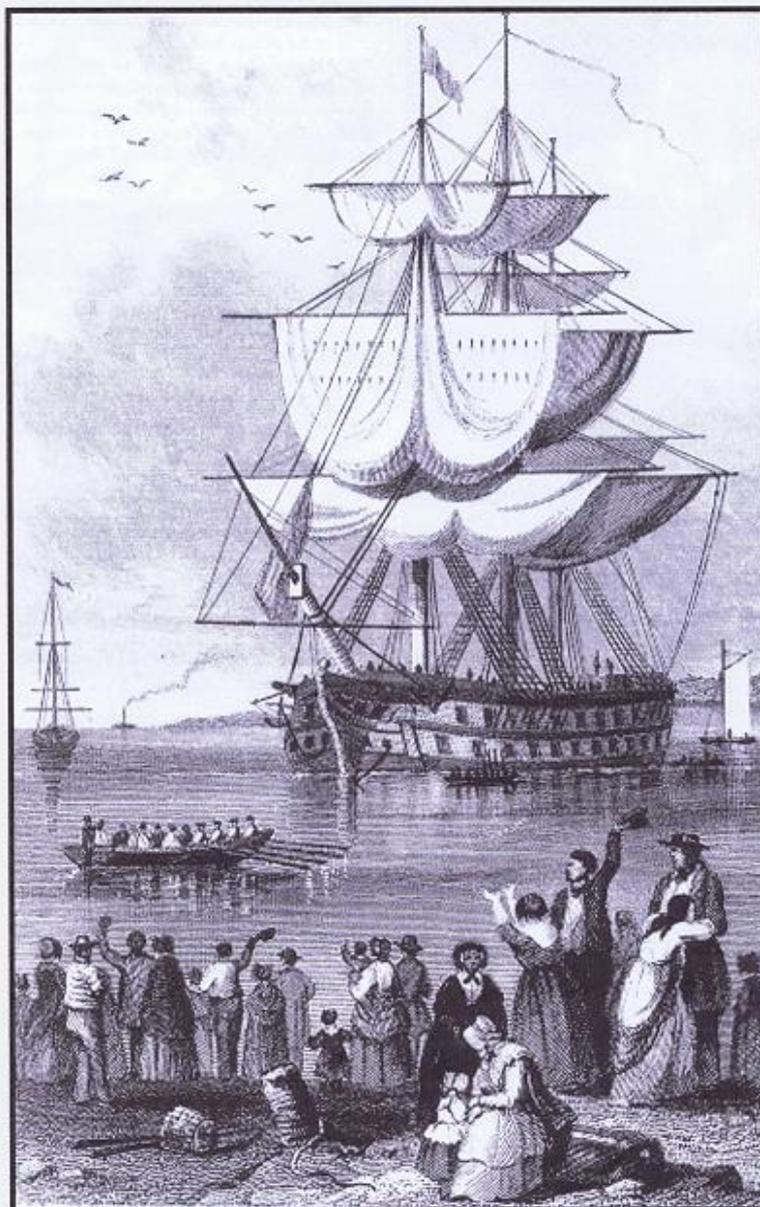
6. Eliza Burke aged 21 per Waverley, married David Le Comte, aged 28, cabinet maker at St Davids on 8th April, 1844.
They had the following children baptized at St Davids.
David, born 25th September, 1846, baptized 29th November, 1846.
Mary Jane, born 29th April, 1848, baptized 14th May 1848.

(Another 10 children were born after they came to New Zealand.)

In the computer research of today, press Google, and you can type in Eliza Burke convict, and hey presto up comes all sorts of information. I feel so fortunate to live in this age where I have experienced both aspects of research. I really believe that both should be used and are complementary. Even the littlest details can help to pad out the whole story. However the most important and urgent details come from the elderly.

Many times we have theories about various family members, only to find out from elderly relations or friends that that is not what happened. So before they pass on, make sure you take this imperative step to interview and record these people. We must also think about what knowledge we have and what will be lost if we haven't recorded this properly so that future generations can understand it.

Editor.



A sad farewell scene as this convict ship prepares to set sail for Australia.

Letters to the Editor



Dear Lorrimer,

You probably know about this free on-line course on genealogy but there may be members of your group who might be interested. I've found out heaps about my maternal great great grandfather from the papers past site set up by the National Library. I was able to track his movements from the ads he put in the newspapers about his boot shop, plus his bankruptcy, the failed gold company he invested in and their house burning down! I was also delighted to read that my great great grandmother's second husband was fined for drinking in a pub on a Sunday as her second family looked down on us as being descended from a drunkard!

Cousin, Janette Gerritson

Genealogy: Researching Your Family Tree

University of Strathclyde

Develop your understanding of genealogy – how to research your family tree and write a meaningful family history.

This course is too late for us as it started in March, however maybe a future one may be worth considering.

The Editor.



First Christmas Card

Ever wondered what the first Christmas card looked like? Below is what is thought to be the first ever Christmas card from 1843. Today, people still send some 750 million Christmas cards each year.



The first commercial Christmas cards began in the Victorian era (not counting religious-themed prints that go back to the Middle Ages). The idea of a specialty Christmas card began with John Callcott Horsley, who designed and sold 1,000 specially printed Xmas cards in London in 1843, as shown above. Notice in the image the engraver has snuck in a child drinking wine (in the middle, just above the coat of arms).

- See more at: <http://www.genealogyintime.com/genealogy-news.html#sthash.V0Tu9hyc.dpuf>

OTAMARAKAU PRIMARY SCHOOL CENTENNIAL 1916 – 2016

The school celebrates its 100 years of development on Queen's Birthday Weekend, June 3 – 5.

On Friday, there will be a mix- and - mingle in the Otamarakau Hall, followed on Saturday by the official part of the celebrations.

On Saturday night, there is a centennial dinner. The school children will be presenting a few items throughout the celebrations as well.

All past staff, parents and pupils are welcome to come and join the celebrations to renew acquaintances, recall school-day memories and view the classroom and pupils of today.

Spend the weekend going back in time and looking forward into the future.

- Please either go on the school website. Email office@otamarakau.school.nz or phone (07) 533 3783

For more information. Registration forms will be sent out on request. Contact details will be Available from the Otamarakau School office.

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## Wednesday 30th March 2016, Ngareta Payn from Papamoa Library wrote:

Hi Betty,

I would like to invite members to our birthday celebrations Monday 13 June, 2016. We will be having speeches by the mayor and our library manager Jill Best.

Then I would like you to join us for cake tea and coffee and perhaps you would like to view our photo gallery of Papamoa Library over the last 10 years.

Ngareta Payn

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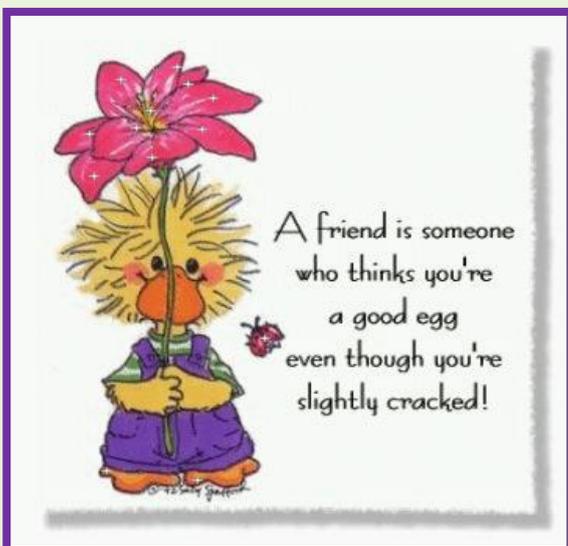
Why pay money to have your family tree traced; go into politics and your opponents will do it for you.

~Author unknown~

Thank you to Graham Black via Mark McKinney.

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**“History is a set of lies agreed upon”  
- Napoleon Bonaparte**



Stories & information in the Newsletter are sourced from various publications & the Internet. While every care has been taken, their accuracy cannot always be guaranteed.

**The Editor: Lorrimer McAlister (my 42<sup>nd</sup> issue)  
NZSG 1091**