

NEWSLETTER-ROTORUA GENEALOGY BRANCH OF NZSG

Convener: Wayne Hall. Ph. 07345 3867 **Contacts** email: rotorua@genealogy.org.nz
Secretary: Mary Anne Cameron. Ph. 07 349 3388 Treasurer: Jan McFarlane Ph.3454260
Committee: Mary Page, Ron Penhale, Heather Sholl, Pauleen Wilkinson.
May-July 2019



Convenors Report

Hello everybody. I do hope many of you were able to attend the meeting when Alison and Trish from the Library presented on Armistice Day 1918 in Rotorua. Prime Minister William Massey went off to the Peace Treaty negotiations determined to get hold of the German phosphate islands in the Pacific. Good news for our farmers!

You may remember that we rescued the IGI microfiche from the Library last year when they were at risk of being thrown out. Ron is safely storing them, but lives at Rerewhakaaitu. Can any other member in Rotorua store them? If not, we can donate them to the Tauranga Public Library, who is keen to have them.

Our May meeting will begin with the AGM. Your committee would like to see at least a couple of new faces join them. People with fresh ideas are always welcome. Heather and Pauleen are leaving the committee, so we say a big thank you for all their years of service. Committee meetings are very user friendly – midweek at the Library about every six weeks and last about an hour and a half.

The research night in June is an opportunity for those members new to genealogy to get help from more experienced members on their research at the Library. Don't miss it! Also not to be missed are Morag's presentations in July and September on Scottish genealogy resources.

Recently I was in Melbourne and visited the Immigration Museum. I had the genealogy section all to myself for a little bit of research. I looked up by chance the Index to Children's Register of State Wards 1850 - 1893. The entry for Elizabeth Rose Mackin had underneath it Elizabeth Rose Parks born 1890 Victoria. My grandmother's birth is registered Elizabeth Rose Park born Sale, Victoria, 4/1/1890. Are they the same person? To confuse matters I find the Park surname in other records as Parke, Parks and Parkes. Genealogy is surely full of puzzles. Good luck with your research!
Wayne Hall

Obituary- Frances Meroiti

It is with heavy heart that I report the passing of our enthusiastic member and, my close friend Frances Meroiti. Frances passed away peacefully on 19th March, with some of her family by her side. A private funeral was held at her home at which I was invited to attend. We first met, in 2001, at Rotorua Writers' Group and found that we both shared many of the same interests; writing, family history, books, scrabble, movies and quiz's. Frances was a very good writer and I know she really enjoyed her time with our genealogy group; I will miss her friendship very much. **Pauleen Wilkinson**

What's ON 2019

Where: Te Aka a Mauri
Rotorua Library
Time 6pm-8pm

May
AGM Please come along
our speaker will be Heather
Doelman on the "Cos
Fitzpatrick". Immigrant ship.
(Annual Subs due)

June 20th Research night
at the library.

July 18th - Morag Hughson
from Tauranga presentation
will be about using the
Scotland's-People
website/databases.

Membership:
Individual \$25,
Couples \$35.
Student 12.50
AGM MAY & Annual subs are
due 1st May 2019

Door Charges of \$5.00
members \$10.00 non-members
for special events. \$5.00 non-
members monthly meetings

DNA support group

Meets at
Te Aka Mauri 2nd floor
1st Wednesday of the month
10-12pm
Jan McFarlane support person

Help desk

Every second Wednesday, of
the month.
(August every Wednesday)
Ron Penhale support person

AUGUST IS FAMILY HISTORY
MONTH

Book review by Pauleen Wilkinson.

My latest read. "VENTURER COURAGEOUS" GROUP CAPTAIN LEONARD TRENT, V.C. D.F.C. A biography by James Sanders

Some of you may not know that I live on what was once the Rotorua Airfield where Air force training took place and, that all the surrounding streets are named after decorated fighter pilots from the Second World War! Trent Place, just opposite me is named after Group Captain Leonard Trent. V.C. D.F.C.

I was really surprised to read that he was born in Nelson (14th April 1915) and attend Nelson College. He had a passion for golf and had even won the Nelson Golf Club Senior Championship. ... *the game was frowned upon as a sport for pupils as it did not foster the 'team spirit' and so young Trent's achievement did not rate a mention in the assemble hall or a mention in the college magazine.* Jumping ahead... On 3rd May 1943, Squadron Leader Leonard Trent was captured, having led a formation of twelve Lockheed Ventura bombers on a raid on the Amsterdam Power Station, which went horribly wrong. Technical problems and a *timing error took one of the Spitfire escort wings over Holland. Ahead of Schedule, gave an early warning to the German defences, and shortage of fuel caused them to return without providing air cover. (Out of eleven Ventura's, only one survived, thirty-one aircrew died and thirteen were taken prisoner.)* Captured, Len Trent was sent to Stalag Luft 111 and was the seventy-ninth prisoner to attempt the escape from tunnel 'Harry' better known as the 'Great Escape' Fifty of the escapers were shot in cold blood. By comparison Trent was lucky. He was sentenced to three weeks' solitary confinement in the punishment cells.

What's in that box ?

Ask a genealogist about family research and they will say, **start** with yourself and ask family members about their lives. Sharing memories helps to gather information to put together your family narrative. Be mindful everyone has their own unique impression or memory. Therefore one must ask; are the stories true and who holds information I have yet to find? Recently Rod Smith the author of the book "Guinness down under" spoke to our group on the 21st March 2019 about his book. Rod had a copy of a painting by Fredrick William Burton of three children (1843). They were Sarah Guinness the great-grandmother of his wife Sarah and her two siblings. Originally, the painting was in the ownership of Sarah's older sister's child who lived in Tasmania. All his life he believed he had no relatives and the painting went to Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery Hobart.

Ron Penhale shares his experience; When we were in England last year we visited our last stamping ground in West Wales. We had a farmhouse in a village called Rosemarket. Apart from having horses we used a couple of fields for potatoes and cabbages with help from a local agricultural contractor called Idris. Eventually, Idris went off to work in Saudi Arabia but our friendship continued. He returned and with savings bought himself a burnt out farmhouse with 80 acres and a load of outbuildings. He set to repair the latter before turning onto the shell. The earlier owners, a brother and sister had been murdered and then left in the house which the murderer had torched. On this trip we called on Idris and his wife. His first words were "to ask us if we remembered the purchaser of our Rosemarket property....John Cooper"? No we never had contact with him and perhaps fortunately so. He is now in prison for the murderer of his previous owners plus another couple. We returned to other friends where we were staying and by sheer chance we were offered a box of novels should we want any. I went through them and right at the bottom was a book by a retired police inspector on the "Pembrokeshire murders"! This contained many references to people we had known at that time.

"Ask that question, what have you got in that box and what can you tell me about my family"?

Our committee needs new people to join us, please consider how you could be that person. Come join us

NZSG News: FamilySearch and Alexander Turnbull Library: The Alexander Turnbull Reading room, on the first floor of the National Library in Molesworth Street, Wellington, is now open again on Saturdays, but only from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm. The FamilySearch service is back running also on Saturdays. Week days; from Tuesday to Friday. Time 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.