

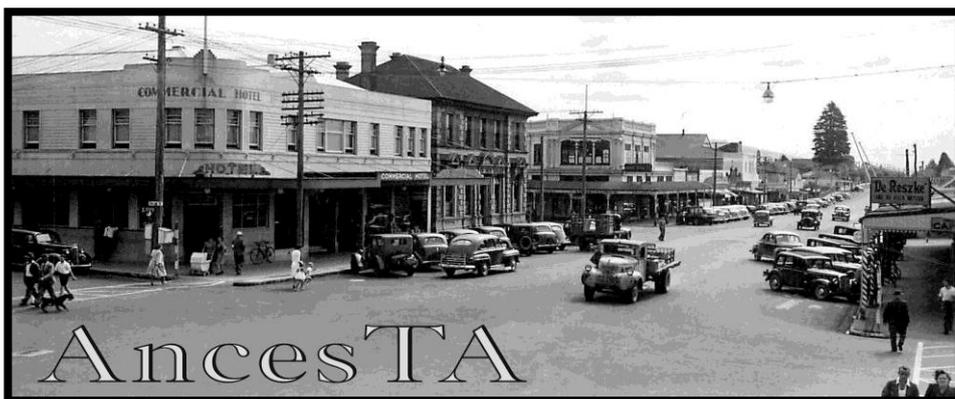
Newsletter



**Te Awamutu
Branch**

No. 283

June 2017



Te Awamutu Website: www.teawamutu.net/genealogy
New Zealand Society of Genealogists Inc:
www.genealogy.org.nz

Meetings are held at the **St John Ambulance Hall** on Palmer Street, Te Awamutu, at 7.30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month – February to December.

Visitors are most welcome. \$2 door charge for casual visitors.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 6th June. Ben Pick, lower northern Area Manager of Heritage NZ will be our guest speaker.

July Meeting: Tuesday 4th July. Mid-Winter Christmas Pot Luck tea and Quiz evening.

Convenor: Sandra Metclafe
Email: sandra@metcalfe.co.nz

Secretary: Christine Ball
Email: ash.chris@xtra.co.nz

Treasurer: Linda Howarth 871 7115
Email: blhowarth@xtra.co.nz

Newsletter: Robyn Taylor 871 7603
Email: robryntaylor@wwwweb.co.nz

Club News!

Welcome to the June 2017 newsletter.

Fortunately we were able to hold out AGM last month so thanks to those of you who braved the awful weather to attend what was to be the last of our club meetings to be held at the RSA as our venue has been changed for future meetings. Details below.

Sandra has been returned as convenor, Christine Ball as secretary, Linda Howarth as treasurer with Bev Simpson and Mary Gadsby making up the committee. Congratulations to all these wonderful ladies who will continue to work tirelessly behind the scenes.



Our June meeting will feature Ben Pick as our guest speaker – rescheduled from the May meeting.

Ben is an archaeologist and is the Heritage NZ Lower North Island Area Manager.

And just to remind you ~ recently Heritage NZ partnered in a research activity with the NZSG Northern Wairoa Branch to document the history of historical buildings in the main street of Dargaville. Mr Pick will explain the work of Heritage NZ and investigate the possibility of our branch initiating a similar research project on non-residential buildings and their owners in the Te Awamutu, Pirongia and Kihikihi areas.

Extraordinary General Meeting – June 6

At the start of our June meeting there needs to be a short Extraordinary General Meeting to adopt the recent changes made to the NZSG rules following the postal ballot. The motion is that “the Te Awamutu Branch of the NZ Society of Genealogists adopts and includes in its own rules the amendments of the NZSG rules registered on 15 February 2017.”

One of the recent rule changes has been quorum numbers. Sandra put the pressure on NZSG members to attend the AGM in May, but it has since been clarified that that the quorum applies to branch financial members, not just NZSG members of the branch. So we need a minimum of 10 financial **branch members** at the June meeting to adopt these changes. However, it was very pleasing to see 10 out of our 14 NZSG members attend the AGM! Thank you all for making the effort. It was great to see some faces we hadn't seen in a while.

Lost? Misaid?

Has anyone seen our projector screen?

We think that the screen was at the March meeting but now we are not sure – but it certainly has disappeared. So can anyone remember seeing it at the March meeting – does anyone know what happened to it?

Please contact Linda if you can recall anything about the screen or know where it is.

blhowarth@xtra.co.nz

Road Trip ~ Family Research Centre, Auckland – Saturday, June 24

Seats are still available for the trip to the FRC in Panmure on Saturday, 24 June.

If you wish to see what Aladdin's Cave is like, then this is your opportunity. You do not need to be a member of the NZSG to go on this trip. If you are interested, talk to Sandra, Christine or Linda or email

teawamutu@genealogy.org.nz to book a seat. So far we have six confirmed. NZSG cost is \$5.00 for members and \$20.00 for non-members.



Projects

Over the winter months we want to focus on updating our school records. This project started nationally over 15 years ago and some of our checking back then wasn't as rigorous as it is now. So we want to double check what we have against the originals held

in the museum and at national archives. Once the weather warms up then we will get back out to the cemeteries.

If you are interested in helping in our project work then contact Bev Simpson bard@farmside.co.nz or phone 07 870 5245

Change of Venue

Our June, and subsequent meetings will now be held at the St John Ambulance rooms, Palmer St (opposite the Fire Station).

Sometimes you don't realise what you've lost until you no longer have it. The St John's Anglican Parish Lounge was our home for many years but lacked decent internet access so we moved to the RSA in February 2016. While the RSA has great internet access and is easily accessible, our library resources had to be stored outside in the back shed and we often competed against the noise level from other activities. We were unable to hold our bi-annual pot luck dinners and it was time consuming before and after meetings moving the heavy bar leaners around. What we missed most however, was the interaction that happened over a cup of tea and biscuits after our meetings.

The committee has been aware for several months that the fellowship aspect of our meetings was missing. We investigated the St John Ambulance rooms for a recent DNA support group meeting and decided that the new venue met all our needs.

So from our June meeting we will again have supper and access to our library cabinet and CD resources in the same room we hold our meetings. Parking is readily available in Walton, Redoubt and Palmer Streets, and at the rear of the building (accessed from the right of way to the right of the building).

Legacy Users' Group

Venue: 5 Toi Place, Rototuna, Hamilton
Contact: Bruce/Trish Cron. Email:
brucecron@gmail.com, ph. 021 407 478
Sunday, **August 6** from 1.30pm to 3.30pm

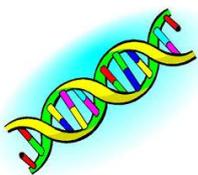
August Meeting

This meeting will focus on members' areas of geographic interest. Please see Bev to update your area this month.

June NZSG Magazine

There is going to be a technology survey in the June NZ Genealogist magazine, also sent out via Survey Monkey. All NZSG members are encouraged to respond.

DNA Support Group Meeting



The next meeting of the DNA support group will be in late August. Thirteen of us had our first "go-it-alone" session last weekend. This is a self-help group, each of us at the start of our DNA journey. If you think you might be interested in DNA as a tool to help your genealogy research – and you haven't yet had a test done – then order the kit now and you'll be ready to go for our next support group meeting in late August. If you want to know what sort of kit to order then contact Linda Howarth for clarification.

More FREE Genealogy Gateway Sites

As promised ~ here is a breakdown with links to the second group of sites the club was shown a couple of months ago

GRO

The **General Register Office** is part of **Her Majesty's Passport Office** and oversees civil registration in England and Wales. It maintains the national archive of all births, marriages and deaths dating back to 1837. Births and deaths can be searched and mother's maiden names are now able to be viewed. You need to register.

<https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>



FreeBMD is an ongoing project, the aim of which is to transcribe the Civil Registration index of births, marriages and deaths for England and Wales, and to provide free Internet access to the transcribed records.

<https://www.freebmd.org.uk/>



The aim of FreeReg is to provide free Internet searches of baptism, marriage and burial records which have been extracted from parish records, non-conformist records and other relevant sources in the UK. A must-go-to site.

https://www.freereg.org.uk/search_queries/new



Part of the same group as FreeBMD and FreeReg, FreeCEN aims to provide a "free to view" online searchable database of the 19th century UK census returns including census returns for Scotland.

<https://www.freecen.org.uk/cgi/search.pl>



This site provides links to more than 2500 online websites that offer transcriptions of UK, censuses, births, marriages and deaths. Indexes to other indexes and transcripts can be accessed via a menu on the left of the page.

<http://www.ukbmd.org.uk/>

OPC

The term OPC refers to **Online Parish Clerks** who are unpaid volunteers who are willing to help others with their genealogical research. They collect, collate and transcribe records for various parishes within their respective areas. Use the list at UKBMD or use Google to see if one exists in your place of interest.

http://www.ukbmd.org.uk/online_parish_clerk

Morbid mourning jewellery on display in Nelson antiques show

The National Antique Bottle and Collectables Show held recently at the Trafalgar Centre in Nelson attracted about 1500 people. And included in the display were some examples of mourning jewellery.

Richmond woman, Jill Galey describes how she was scrolling through auction website eBay when a piece of jewellery caught her eye. It was a golden brooch with a lock of woven hair encased inside it.

"I thought, 'that's interesting, that's got hair in it.' I had no idea why," she said.

"I actually bought it because I was so intrigued by it."

After doing some research online, Ms Galey learned that what she had bought was a piece of mourning jewellery.

Mourning jewellery was a common way of memorialising a deceased loved one during the Victorian period, before photography became mainstream. A lock of hair was taken and woven into a brooch, bracelet or ring to be worn by family members as a way of carrying a piece of their dearly departed with them.



Today Ms Galey has a collection of more than 100 pieces, many of which were on display at the National Antique Bottle and Collectables Show.

Ms Galey freely admits that her collection's a bit unusual.

"It is a bit of a weird and morbid thing. It freaks some people out and others are so intrigued by it they don't mind handling it, but others will not even touch it," she explained.

The self-confessed antique buff said she mostly bought the pieces from eBay and occasionally found them in New Zealand antique stores.

"A brooch usually costs \$100 plus while a bracelet could fetch more than \$1000," Ms Galey said.

The oldest piece she has was from the early 1700s but most were from the 1800s.

Ms Galey bought her first brooch 15 years ago.

Mourning jewellery has been around since at least the 16th century, but it is widely associated with the Victorian Era, when mass production made it affordable. The trend reached its high point after the death of Prince Albert in 1861, when Queen Victoria, as well as members of her court, wore black clothing and matching mourning jewelry for decades.

Some of the most interesting examples of mourning jewellery included hairwork. The hair was not necessarily from the deceased—in the middle of the 19th century, 50 tons of human hair a year was imported into England for use by the country's jewellers. To create a connection to a deceased loved one, their initials were often discreetly woven into the object.

What's on the Web?



Twile

Twile is designed for family historians who are passionate about learning more of their family history and want to share what they learn with the rest of the family.

Twile will make your family history more visual and engaging. Import your family history to automatically create a visual timeline to share privately with family and it's FREE

<https://twile.com/>

Remote Film Reader

This piece of technology needs to be used more by club members

Genealogy Latin Dictionary

Help navigate through those unfamiliar terms using this dictionary

<http://www.genealogyintime.com/dictionaries/genealogy-latin-dictionary-pageA.html>

Census – Missing Pieces

Thanks go to club member, Peter Green, who contacted me about this. For a variety of reasons the census returns for England and Wales 1841-1911 and the census returns for Scotland 1841-1901 are incomplete and have pieces missing. So if you are having trouble finding that elusive ancestor it may be because the parish is missing from the official records. Check out what's missing for FREE



<http://www.findmypast.com/articles/census-for-england-wales-and-scotland-missing-pieces>

Did you know that women can be searched in the NZ death index under either their married name or their maiden name?