

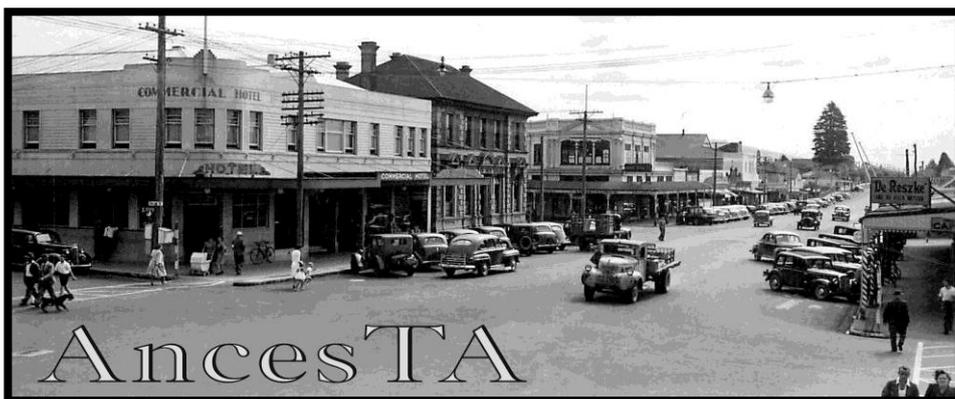
Newsletter



**Te Awamutu
Branch**

No. 293

May 2018



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 most welcome. There is a \$2 door charge for casual visitors.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 1st May. Our AGM followed by members' family treasures. Bring them along to share!

June Meeting: Tuesday 5th June. Exploring those FREE to view genealogy websites.

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Club News!

Welcome to the May, 2018 newsletter.

May Meeting

We all know it is our AGM on 1 May but in addition to that we have two other activities planned.

You are asked to bring one of your treasures to the meeting and to share it with the group. Let us know the story behind YOUR TREASURE.

John Graham has just returned from a trip on the Ghan, one of the world's great train journeys that runs from Adelaide to Darwin, right through the heart of Australia.

After retiring from a career in the health system, John now has a new career as a tour guide. He will be sharing his memories of this memorable journey with you.

June meeting:

We will again be exploring free to view websites, with a focus on the UK Genealogy sites (FreeBMD, FreeCen and FreeReg), the GRO, OPC and Scotland's Places. If there are any others you want to explore then let Christine know at our May meeting.

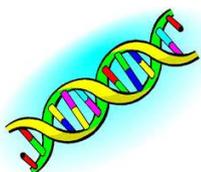


AGM

Don't let the AGM scare you away. It is a formality we need to go through every year, but it is also your opportunity to ensure your committee is providing you with the level of service you want. And if you are unhappy about anything, then the best way to change things is to BECOME INVOLVED and get yourself elected to the Committee.



DNA Support Group Meeting



Sunday afternoon, 10th June

Maurice Gleeson, International Genetic Genealogist, will be joining us for our next DNA support group meeting. It is noticeable that we have more outside people attending our support group meetings than from our own branch. Because these meetings attract at least 20 people every time, we are limited in the hands-on help we can give, so if you are floundering in understanding the analytical side of your DNA test results then let Sandra know.

If necessary, we can organise small at-home groups to bring you up to speed. As with anything new, the learning curve is steepest at the start. And as with most things in life, you will not be handed success on a plate. You do need to put the effort in if you want to taste success.

DNA Warning!

Beware of DNA tester kit scams. As DNA testing becomes more popular then scammers inevitably appear. If you are thinking about purchasing a DNA kit then do so only from a bona fide company. **Do NOT buy your kit through Amazon.** Instead use one of the following:

AncestryDNA (autosomal kits only). Highly recommended because Ancestry has the largest database therefore your chances of a successful match are that much higher. 9 million testers and counting!

MyHeritageDNA (autosomal kits only). Has the cheapest testing price but that is because they want to grow their database. 1.3 million and counting.

ftDNA (for autosomal, mitochondrial and YDNA kits)

23andMe (autosomal and medical history testing)

LivingDNA (good for identifying English counties but has the smallest database)

A couple of useful tips:

1. Buy an autosomal kit through Ancestry and when your results come through upload the raw data to MyHeritage, ftDNA and GedMatch. 23andMe have also just started accepting data from other testers. That way you cover ALL the main testing companies at no additional cost. You cannot upload your data to Ancestry from another company so always start with them.
2. Always start with an autosomal test. YDNA and mitochondrial DNA are best done once you have a bit of experience and are for your deep ancestry. You are unlikely to have any close matches with these two tests.

Do you have Irish Ancestry? Check out https://www.johngrenham.com/browse/county_index.php#counties Use the interactive map to select your county then check out the records that are available and where they are kept.

In addition to that, there is also a closed Facebook group called New Zealanders of Irish Descent. Do a search and log on to join. The only criteria is to prove you do have Irish ancestry (i.e. name and where they came from)



Just a friendly reminder that your club membership fees for the 2018/2019 year are due from the 1st April and will receive a *prompt payment discount* if paid by the end of next week's meeting

The FEES are:

**Single subscription - \$40 with a prompt payment discount of \$5
Couples subscription - \$50 per couple with a prompt payment discount of \$5**



Family History Q&A

(adapted from January 2018 Family History magazine)

Part 3: Getting organised

1. How will a family history software program help me?
 - A. With family history research you inevitably accumulate a lot of information. A family history software program will help keep your discoveries organised, record evidence, cross-reference and tag ancestors with sources, share your research and make it easier to back up. Because a lot of your information may be sensitive and involve living persons, using online programs is not always the best option to store this information. Desktop programs are available with options to synch with your online tree.
2. What software programs are available?
 - A. Current popular programs include Legacy Family Tree; Family Historian; Family Tree Maker; Rootsmagic; Ancestral Quest and TreeView. Specific software is also available for Apple computers. Free, basic versions are generally available for you to try out. You can then purchase the upgrade version with all the "bells and whistles".
3. I have heard of Gedcom. Do I need this?
 - A. GEDCOM is a file format that is compatible across all common family history software programs. It allows data to be copied from one program to another and is a very efficient way of sharing research. It is very easy to use. In your family history software program go to File/Export and select GEDCOM as the format. Then follow the onscreen instructions and how much of your research you'd like to export.
4. I have not backed up my research. Will I be okay?
 - A. You might be ok, but you are also taking a big risk of losing all your hard work if you don't regularly back up. Back-up in as many ways as you realistically can: think CD, cloud, external storage, paper copies of select records. It can be a good idea to make a regular date for this; eg once a week or the 1st of the month etc.

5. I have boxes of files and papers all over my computer. What advice can you give me to get organised?

A. There are many different ways of being organised so establish a system that works for you.

If you have a computer then go digital, leaving in paper format only historic records and the notes you are currently working on.

Set up a common folder / sub-folder format on your computer and use it across all your family lines.

Have precisely named files that follow a set format eg "surname/first name/record type/year/date/source". This avoids duplicate copies when you it comes to filing things.

Make a pledge to yourself that from this moment forward you will become organised. Experiment with a system on some of your records, and if it works then apply it retrospectively to all your past records.

Set aside 30 minutes a day to get started. In the process, you will rediscover information you had forgotten about.

6. I have inherited boxes of family history papers. How can I archive them?

A. From a climate point of view, store photos at a consistent temperature in a dust-free environment and out of direct sunlight. Package them to prevent scratching, creasing etc.

From an organisational perspective, proceed with caution. The context of the records will provide clues, so take care not to disorder even an apparently disorganised system until you have got to grips with the archive

Digitising the papers will help to back them up and share with family. Depending on the value of the papers, you may wish to judiciously discard some of them

Create an index and catalogue system so that you, and others, can understand what the archives contain and easily find what you are after

7. When I sit down to do my research, I sometimes cannot remember where I got up to. How can I stop getting myself in a muddle?

A. Get into the habit of writing a note to yourself. This could be a summary of your discoveries and steps taken that session and could include notes of what you need to do next time

Most software family history programs will have Research Manager and To Do functions. Use them. Print them off and keep them handy in a research folder to keep yourself organised.

8. How do I cite my sources and why should I?

A. "Genealogy without sources is mythology". You need to source where you found information in case you need to go back to it, and for verifying your research if sharing or collaborating with others.

Global source citing expert, Elizabeth Shown Mills has useful source citation examples at www.evidenceexplained.com

Your family history software will provide prompts, as will digital FamilySearch Family Tree

Basic source citation details to include are: the archive reference; date and name of collection – including volume and page numbers for easier future reference. Web addresses are fine to include but it is advisory to back up with other details about the record in case the web link changes.

“Done! Everything in the family tree has been found and is completely organised!” ~ said NO genealogist. Ever!

RootsFinder

The New Generation of Family Tree Software Programs (eogn.com Feb 2018)



At recent meetings we have touched on the value of family tree programs and the importance of being organised and focused with your research. While providers such as Ancestry.com, FindMyPast, MyHeritage etc have online trees and are invaluable in providing hints to their own data content, they also come with the risk of your research being copied by others without your knowledge. While these trees are great as “fishing lines” they can never replace a stand-alone family tree software program. For privacy reasons, online public trees should never contain information about living persons.

The other type of family tree software program that has been mentioned is the more traditional desktop version, such as Legacy, FamilyTree Maker, Ancestral Quest etc. With these programs you have more control over the level of online access, and can include unlimited data on living persons, digital files, photos, audio etc. However, these programs are limited in how you share your information with others.

Some of the greatest benefits of the internet age are the opportunities provided by collaborative research. Now there is a new generation of family tree software programs, specially designed to engage new comers and bridge the gap between online and desktop family tree programs. One of these newcomers is **RootsFinder** (www.rootsfinder.com) designed by tech savvy genies for genies.

RootsFinder.com is a free, online family tree that provides hints and research suggestions to multiple websites such as FamilySearch, FindMyPast, Billion Graves, FindAGrave, Ancestry, MyHeritage and more. In addition there is a seamless sync with FamilySearch, evidence analysis, embedded research logs and DNA tools (coming soon). RootsFinder has also developed two Chrome Browser Extensions which make research and recording information faster and more accurate.

1. WebClipper – copies records and source citations quickly and automatically into your family tree from major genealogy websites such as Ancestry and FamilySearch etc. It adds records to entire families at once.
2. ToDo Creator – save research ideas for later by attaching action items to specific people on your family tree, adding them to research logs and marking them complete when done

RootsFinder also has tools that make it easy to share your genealogy with your family safely and securely. You can:

- Invite others to your tree but you control who edits
- Ancestor reports with stories and pictures that can be turned into family history books
- Videos and photo mosaics created from your media
- Fan and wall charts
- Pinterest-like media wall for scrolling through pictures

Two pricing plans are available: an ad-supported free-forever plan, and a US\$35/year Pro Plan that removes ads and includes additional storage and advanced features. Check out the video on www.rootsfinder.com

This is a program to seriously consider if you want to engage others, especially your grandchildren!

A Genealogical Puzzle ~ Answers revealed

Frederick Charles MURDOCK

Your task was to confirm:

1. Frederick's birth record information – when and where he was born
2. The names of Frederick's parents including his mother's maiden name

Frederick Charles MURDOCK was born Frederick Charles **MUTTICK** in Hoxne, Suffolk, England. His birth was registered in the July ¼ of 1876 and his parents were Jonah **MUTTICK** and Elizabeth **ALLUM**

August Family History Month:

We have some exciting events planned for August.

1. There will be a public display at the library, between 28 July – 4 August, for which we will need volunteers. The focus will be on Getting Started.
2. On Wednesday 1 August, we also have a public showing of the film For King and Country, NZ's First World War. The film begins in pre-war NZ and ends with the opening of the New Zealand Memorial at Messines Ridge in 1924.
3. At our monthly meeting on 7 August we have Lyn Williams talking about Land Records and how to access original titles etc. Start looking for those legal descriptions that are probably among your papers (Lot number, DP number etc)
4. On the weekend of 17-19 August, the Auckland libraries have their annual Family History Expo. This event is well worth going to, especially the seminars. The key international speaker this year will be Dianne Loosle, from FamilySearch in Salt Lake City. Some of you may have heard Diane speak at the 2013 Family History Fair.

Organising your family history

Last month we looked at different ways of storing genealogical information to make it easily retrievable. Here are the youtube clips that we viewed as well as others not yet seen. Take a look!

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| Dick Eastman on Cloud Computing (59 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jifMYTzX2ZM | Tips for organising your family history records (20 mins) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UpPX4aMaT9g |
| Organise your family history.com (6 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LhfZcv1Eu_o | Organisation and Storage Tips (6 mins) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E04ZvDZc3po |
| Organising & Preserving your Family Papers (1hr 13 mins) http://www.amyjohnsoncrow.com/organize-genealogy-tips/ | The Best Way to Manage Files and Folders (ABC Method) (6 mins) Good https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uSnpAnhV2Jo |
| Digital Image and Folder Naming & Organisation Strategy (6 mins) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_rhH73HE61M | How to organise your files and folders (11 mins) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=thhm4AOujW4 |
| Organising Genealogy Files by James Tanner (15 mins) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FTXTFIL912s | Wacky Wednesday – Organise your genealogy files (1 hr 6 mins) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ELNYHUTZ25E |
| How to organise digital files (8 mins) terrible accent!!! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ed9U_F9r7wk | |