The next meeting of the European Interest group will be on Friday 7 Dec 2018.

This year we will have an European themed dinner.

Non Members are very welcome.

We would love to everyone to come and share.

mundym7@gmail.com

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**Subs are now due**

Subscriptions are $10.00 per year

April 2018—March 2019

Once again you may pay direct to our bank account:

Bank BNZ: 02-0159-0375568-00

Please include NZSG No in “Particulars Field” and your name in the “Ref Field”

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**European Interest Group Timetable for 2017**

The European Group runs a research evening on the FIRST Friday of every month except Jan and Jun at the Family Research Centre in Panmure.

All NZSG researchers are welcome to join us. It is not just for European research.

We run the library from 4pm-10pm so bring your dinner, or join us in purchasing dinner from one of the many places in Panmure.

Research evenings 7 Dec 2018

1 Feb, 1 Mar, 5 Apr, 3 May 2019

(AGM?)

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**Dear Members,**

**The European Group’s monthly meeting,** held on the first Friday of the month, is a good place to get some Continental research done. Meetings are informal with people turning up any time after 4 pm and researching through to 10 pm. We stop for dinner and throughout the evening there is plenty of opportunity to discuss research problems and pick people’s brains. Most months someone new will turn up and we almost always can really set them on their way in their country of interest.

Our team to run the meetings has for some time included Margaret Mundy, Carsten Begunk, myself, and Anne Brady attending when she can. In the middle of the year Margaret made the move to Nelson and we are still adjusting to her departure. Margaret became active in the Group over nine years ago and has attended our meetings on a regular basis. In recent years she has been of huge assistance in the running of our meetings, indeed she even trained to become a volunteer at the FRC, in part so that she was au fait with the functioning of the rooms. Margaret’s research experience is also great, especially with Danish and Scandinavian research, but also with German and New Zealand research. She has been able to assist so many people at our meetings and has always been ready to tackle new areas of research. She is greatly missed!

More recently I was away for our September and October meetings and Carsten was also away in September. For these meetings we were very fortunate that Vivienne Parker was able to step in in September and Robyn Williams oversaw the October meeting.

At least two of our members are researching in Latvia. This has reminded me of a book I read a few years ago which was very relevant for anyone with family in Latvia in the mid 20th century, or the other Baltic states for that matter. The book was titled ‘Andris, where are you? : From Latvia to New Zealand : the family story of Andris Apse’ by Ron Crosby.

The book draws heavily on the pre-war diaries of his father as well as correspondence between his parents until they lost contact near the end of the war. Following 1990 Andris and his mother visited Latvia and it is then that we hear accounts of his relative’s experiences during the war and up to the departure of the Soviets. Their experiences are so poignant and far-reaching yet they must mirror the experiences of most other families for that place and time.

Convenors corner, cont on p2
A reminder that the FRC Library has a subscription for the Anglo-German Family History Society’s quarterly magazine ‘Mitteilungsblatt’ and it is borrowable by NZSG members. The magazine is really helpful for learning about German research and what is currently happening in that field of research. The magazine is published by a UK society, and so by nature is focused on Germans in Britain, but it also contains a great deal of material related to research in Germany as well as wonderful personal accounts of research there. For anyone doing German research any material on the subject, in English, is worth looking at and I highly recommend it.

I should mention that items can easily be borrowed from the FRC Library. Use the On-line Catalogue Search to find items you wish to borrow. So long as you are logged in (using your membership number and password) you can make your request online. Items can now be borrowed for four weeks at a time.

Kind regards Graham.

Christmas - Advent wreath (Adventskranz)

The tradition of Advent wreaths was started by German Lutherans in the 16th century, and today the wreath is still an icon of Christmas in Germany. The wreath consists of four candles in a bed of pine cones, berries, dried flowers and Christmas ornaments. Different families have different traditions when it comes to Adventskranz. Some will bring it out during the first week of December and burn one candle every Sunday in the lead up to Christmas. Others will display the advent wreath on the last Sunday before Christmas and have the entire family sit around it, munching on Christmas delicacies, singing Christmas songs and watching Christmas movies.

Christmas Markets (Weihnachtsmärkte)

During Advent season the historic city centers of every major German city light up with Christmas markets, known as Weihnachtsmärkte. Holiday lights and decorations captivate locals and tourists alike, and entice them to stroll among the vendors of local arts and crafts and also plenty of food! The Christmas market tradition dates back to the 15th century. Today there are over 2,500 Christmas markets across Germany that invite visitors to enter the festive mood. Markets commonly feature a nativity scene, and vendors offer a wide variety of gifts, including many that are still handcrafted. You can also find a mouthwatering array of foods like grilled sausages, fried fish on a fresh bread roll (Backfisch), and sautéed mushrooms. For dessert there is an unending variety of specialty sweets, confections and baked goods.

Glühwein – German Mulled Wine

Glühwein, literally “glow wine” or German mulled wine, is served at special stands at Christkindl markets throughout Germany and Austria. Mulled wine is a traditional warm beverage combined with different spices, red wine, citrus fruits and sugar.

EUROPEAN INTEREST GROUP CONTACTS

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Subscriptions: Bank BNZ: 02-0159-0375568-00 – please include your name in the ref field
This year I moved from South Auckland to Nelson to be closer to my family. When I heard that the above reunion was being held over Labour Weekend, I decided to attend, even though I have no links to this area.

**Background**

In Dec 1842 the “St Pauli”, a barque of 388 tons, built in Hamburg, Germany the previous year, left Hamburg for New Zealand. It was a three-mast ship-of-war, which had been converted for the lucrative emigrant business. In 1842 most of the emigration from Germany was to the Americas, but there was also a trickle of emigration to Australia (mainly South Australia), South Africa, Samoa and now New Zealand.

This trickle became a flood as economic and political conditions in the European homelands forced people off the land. The German emigrants of the “St Pauli” had intended to settle on the Chatham Island, but were unable to legally secure the sale of land. The New Zealand Company then proposed Nelson.

Aboard the “St Pauli” were 123 Passengers, 24 married couples/families, 26 single men, 7 single women. Not all were German. Instead of sailing around Cape Horn, the “St Pauli” sailed to Bahai, (now Salvador), where it stayed for 24 days.

A transcription of the embarkation register can be found at [http://www.lynly.gen.nz/SPAppendixV2.pdf](http://www.lynly.gen.nz/SPAppendixV2.pdf)

The following year the Danish Barque “Skioedt” arrived in Nelson in Sep 1844. It also sailed from Hamburg via South America, where it stopped for 7 days. The German emigrants aboard were 6 cabin and 102 steerage passengers out of a total of 141.

A list of the German passengers can be found at [http://lynly.gen.nz/SPAppendixA1.pdf](http://lynly.gen.nz/SPAppendixA1.pdf)

The weekend was to celebrate the arrival of these German emigrants, including those that arrived on later ships, and settled in the Moutere and Ranzau (now Hope), areas of Nelson.

The weekend was well attended and was held at the Moutere Hills Community Centre which was lovely modern venue, well suited to the occasion. Many descendants still live in the Nelson region and they supplied the many artefacts which were arranged around the large hall. Long tables with family books and photos were available for people to search through.

In a display cabinet was the original church register of the local church.

One of the skills the emigrants bought with them was the growing of hops for brewing beer, and on display, was a bushel bucket, a poke and a wooden rake used for turning hops while they were drying.
The organisers of the weekend, had arranged for the Ranzau Lutheran Church, and the Siggelkow Cob Cottage to be open and manned on the Saturday morning. I took the opportunity to visit both. Siggelkow Cottage was built by an early German settler, which has been restored and it now used as an artist studio and guest accommodation. It is set in beautiful landscaped gardens, to the rear of the owner’s house.

During the afternoon, there were speeches, German folk songs, and talks on where the emigrants had come from, and the conditions when they arrived in Nelson. There was the opportunity to peruse the many photos, artifacts and family histories available in the main hall.

The dinner was accompanied by German background music, with musical items interspersing between courses. Followed by a quiz to check how much we had remembered from the afternoon’s talks. A group gave a demonstration of a German folk dance, and encouraged people to get up and try it for themselves.

On Sunday, there was a packed service at St Pauls Lutheran Community Church, which included a humorous skit by puppets from the pulpit.
The Neudorf Valley (Nelson NZ)
Pub 2016  222 pages  Softback
This book contains extracts from newspapers, published and unpublished works, diaries, photos and memoirs. It is an attempt to record the history of a small settlement in Nelson. There was no running water. A candle, a copper for the laundry and a long drop or jerry under the bed.

Their attire was also as restrictive, even in the heat of summer, everything went to the ankles (because it was unseemly to show a bit of Leg!), and “stripping off” was only ever to the waistcoat.

They had to “make do” and succeeded.

A wonderfully detailed look of the families who lived in the valley, and the interrelationships especially the first three generations. Maps and photos, even identify where the initial (cob) houses were built, before being replaced with wooden houses.

Main names are Alexander, Angus, Bensemann, Bergmann, Best, Beuke, Bockmann, Bosselmans, Bruning, Clouston, Drogemuller, Ducker, Eban, Eggers, Ewers, Hammerich, Hansen, Hartwig, Kelling, Krammer, Lange, Lankow, Loveridge, Mai, Nagel, Neumann, Perry, Rose, Schildhauer, Schroder, Schultz, Sigglekow, Sixtus, Teece, Tollemarche.

The Lutheran Churches in the Nelson District
No ISBN, as it is privately published of only 30 copies 152 pages, very good paper, hardback.

A local Nelson genealogist wondered where the first building that Lutheran Services were held in, was. This sparked a search for many years. She has identified each building used for Lutheran Services in the Nelson area and what happened to it. Demolished, sold, or burnt down. Who helped each church come into being, plus a bio of each of the pastors up to 2014.

This has been a labour of love, collated from maps, old newspapers (mainly before PapersPast), local published and privately held documents.

There is some info on some other Lutheran Churches in New Zealand, including a section on the Bells in the Christchurch Church, that were destroyed and melted down during WW1. Because of anti German feeling and the erroneous thought that they had been made out of French Gun metal. They had actually be made with proper Bell metal.

I am holding both these books at present, and in time they will be donated to FRC. If you would like me to look up a name, send an email to mundym7@gmail.com.
Useful Websites

Germany
An article for tracing German Ancestors. American based. I was particularly interesting I “Pitfall 4 Confusing dates” Can be found at [https://www.familytreemagazine.com/premium/tips-for-tracing-german-ancestors/](https://www.familytreemagazine.com/premium/tips-for-tracing-german-ancestors/)


Norway
An explanation about the different farmer groups, and what the occupation means, eg whether owning/renting and the potential of other records that may be available [http://www.borgos.nndata.no/leilend.htm](http://www.borgos.nndata.no/leilend.htm)

Sweden
Newish feature on DDSS, YouTube Clip showing the use of the new show button [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dUHr7bapflg&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dUHr7bapflg&feature=youtu.be) her website is cousinlinda.com and she has produced 9 podcasts since 2016

Netherlands
Do you have ancestors from The Netherlands? Not many cemeteries in the Netherlands can be found on international web sites like Find a Grave. Here's a great blog for finding graves in Holland. [http://www.dutchgenealogy.nl/online-cemeteries/](http://www.dutchgenealogy.nl/online-cemeteries/)

Open Archives has announced that they have reached the milestone of 200 million records online. Open Archives contains genealogical records from 86 different organizations. Most of the records cover the Netherlands, but due to borders changing over the decades, there are also a substantial number of Belgium records in their collection as well.

The span of records contained in Open Archives is extensive. It covers everything from birth records, baptism records, marriage records (both civil registration and church records), burial records, notarial deeds, military records and personnel legal records. Even the burial records contain other things such things as prayer cards, family messages and funeral cards, all of which can be very useful for genealogical research.

Open Archives is the largest single-source website for genealogical data from the Netherlands. For many people with Dutch ancestors, it should be the first stop on their research path.

The website gets over 200,000 visitors every month. Searches can be done by name and then filtered by type of document, place and year. Although access is by subscription, you only pay once for an Open Archives subscription. There are no monthly or annual recurring fees. [Open Archives]

Norwegian

Bygdebøker books.
This site lists sites with Bygdebøker books that are available online from outside Sweden. Those in the Norwegian National Library online collection are only available from Norwegian IP addresses. This site has listed those that are over 70 years old and are no longer subject to copyright.

[http://martinroe.com/blog/index.php/2017/01/31/bygdeboker-available-online/?fbclid=IwAR1j_doAu0xbSTE56KrW9fYzNizNOtT2ZmryfgBOCKDAu49vSfnBTwtd4xc](http://martinroe.com/blog/index.php/2017/01/31/bygdeboker-available-online/?fbclid=IwAR1j_doAu0xbSTE56KrW9fYzNizNOtT2ZmryfgBOCKDAu49vSfnBTwtd4xc)

Norwegian Dictionary and Causes of Death are also available on this site.