



# Stratford Branch

*New Zealand Society of Genealogists.*

Stratford Community House.

52 Juliet Street

Stratford 4332

PO Box 402

Stratford. 4352.

Phone. 06 765 0913 ext. 4.

Branch Contact-

Carol Spragg.

c.spragg@xtra.co.nz

[www.stratfordgenealogy.homestead.com](http://www.stratfordgenealogy.homestead.com)

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## Convener's Comment

### A LOCAL OLYMPIARD

**Stanley ("Stan") Arthur Lay**, MBE (27 July 1906 – 12 May 2003) was a New Zealand track and field athlete who competed in javelin throwing the 1928 Olympic Games at Amsterdam, where he finished 7<sup>th</sup>. He also competed in the 1930 British Empire Games in Hamilton, Canada where he won a gold medal, the 1938 British Empire Games in Sydney where he won a silver medal, and the 1950 British Empire Games in Auckland where he finished 6<sup>th</sup>. At those Games he took the oath on behalf of all the competitors. He was born in New Plymouth. He was a sign writer at Stratford, living in Fenton St.

References: Wikipedia and <http://www.pukeariki.com/Research/TaranakiResearchCentre/TaranakiStories/TaranakiStory/id/653/title/stan-lay-flies-higher.aspx>

Carol

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Editor:

Maureen Armstrong

Email:

[armstrong21@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:armstrong21@slingshot.co.nz)

Phone: 06 762 8837 or 027

630 9099

### **Branch Meeting—Wednesday 8th August, starting at 7.30pm.**

This meeting will be an opportunity to find out more about obtaining information from New Zealand military records.

**N.B:** The Rooms will be closed Saturday 11 August. (except by prior arrangement) and Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> August (Taranaki Branches' Regional meeting)

### Branch Rooms

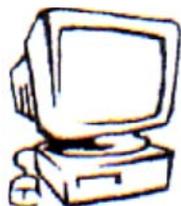
The Stratford Branch Rooms open

Tuesdays and Fridays from 10am – 3pm;

Saturdays 12 noon -2pm.

Our Branch Newsletter is now available each month  
on our web page-

[www.stratfordgenealogy.homestead.com](http://www.stratfordgenealogy.homestead.com)



## Web Sites

In celebration of the London 2012 Olympics starting this week, [FamilySearch](#) is pleased to announce a new online guide to tracing [London ancestors](#). The guide has been published in the FamilySearch Research Wiki.

<https://familysearch.org/blog/free-guide-london-ancestors/>

[www.familysearch.org](#) have uploaded approximately 350,000 additional New Zealand Immigration Passenger Lists records to their collection.

[www.thegenealogist.co.uk/tree](#)—their TreeView site is free for all to use, though you need to register for an account. It is possible to draw your own family tree; you can now print either the whole tree on one page or over several pages; also available, a relationship calculator

[www.uk-genealogy.org.uk](#)—has published transcriptions of over 500 towns' Parish registers across England, plus some bonus extra features.

### **Papers Past Wellington (9)**

[Evening Post \(Wellington, 1865-1945\)](#)

[Hutt News \(Wellington, 1927-1945\)](#)

[New Zealand Colonist and Port Nicholson Advertiser \(Wellington, 1842-1843\)](#)

[New Zealand Free Lance \(Wellington, 1900-1909\)](#)

[New Zealand Gazette and Wellington Spectator \(Wellington, 1839-1844\)](#)

[New Zealand Spectator and Cook's Strait Guardian \(Wellington, 1844-1865\)](#)

[Victoria Times \(Wellington, 1841\)](#)

[Wairarapa Daily Times \(Wellington, 1902-1919\)](#)

[Wellington Independent \(Wellington, 1845-1874\)](#)

**Do remember to save used printer Cartridges  
and hand them in to the group .**

**They provide an excellent fund raiser.**

**The sales of books on trademe are going well.**

**Thanks to Carol for her efforts .**

We have a collection of the NZ Genealogist Magazine from 1994 to 2008, mostly complete years with the Indexes. If anyone would like to browse through some of these, please contact Maureen. There are many interesting articles and items of interest in these magazines, and I have found a couple of family connections so far!

### **Congratulations**

to one of our members, Judy Shaw, whose service to the local community has recently been recognised with a Stratford Citizen's Award.

### **FEMALE CONVICTS RESEARCH CENTRE INC.**

The Female Convicts Research Centre (FCRC) conducts research into female convicts who lived in Van Diemen's Land / Tasmania.

Visit their website. <http://www.femaleconvicts.org.au/>

They are a not-for profit organisation and membership is free. Anyone can register as a member via their website. Registered members have access to their Female Convicts in Van Diemen's Land database. The FCRC's publishing arm, the Convict Women's Press (CWP), publishes books on female convicts with contributions from many of our members. The FCRC's most recent publication is "*Convict Lives at the Ross Female Factory.*" Copies of this book can be ordered directly from FCRC. (from *Canterbury Newsletter*)

### **ANCESTRY**

We have decided to keep our Ancestry membership going for another year, so PLEASE, Members, use this site.

The best time is to come on Tuesdays when there are usually 2 or 3 of us at the rooms to help.

You can also come on Saturdays when Carol and Lesley are here.

As we said before, this is a full membership, not the limited one that you can use at the Public Library.

At \$2.00 per hour to use, it's a very cheap source of valuable information.

## Snippets



### COMING EVENTS

Community House Tenants' meeting Monday 6 Aug at 1pm  
(lasts about 1 hr)

Wed 8 Aug 4pm Annual Meeting of Community House.  
Members are invited to both of the above meetings.

Wed 8 Aug from 7pm - Our Branch monthly meeting.

Sat 25 Aug Taranaki Branches NZSG Regional meeting. The  
Rooms will be closed that day.

### THE WAY IT WAS

(written by Miss IRVINE who became Mrs J McCLUGGAGE)

It was mid-Winter 1896 that I was appointed to Huiakama School. The road from Toko to Huiakama was not metalled in those days and was a sea of mud in the Winter. My father accompanied me on my first ride to take up my position as teacher at Huiakama. We started from Stratford at nine in the morning and arrived at Huiakama at 5 o'clock. I have vivid memories of that ride all day through deep mud.

When Mr and Mrs FRANK arrived at Huiakama they found it necessary to fell the bush and build their own home. Goods from town cost £30 a ton to have transported and Mr Frank would walk to Stratford to attend to business. Mrs Frank did not visit town for 8 years and had to rely on the good judgement of her husband to do the necessary shopping. In spite of the difficulties of bringing up 16 healthy children in pioneering conditions, Mr and Mrs Frank lived to a great age.

(from Huiakama Golden Jubilee book).

We receive copies of branch newsletters from all over New Zealand. If anyone would like to see those we have at the moment, please email Maureen and I will send them on to you. If you don't have email let me know and I will get a copy printed for you.

### The Month of July in NZ History:

On July 28th, 1893 a third petition urging the extension of franchise to women was presented to NZ's Parliament. This one had about 32,000 signatures. The earlier petitions had 9,000 signatures (1891) and 20,000 signatures (1892).

Both Houses of Parliament voted in support of women's franchise in 1893.

Premier Richard Seddon was not in favour!

### Quiz: (answers next month)

1. **Who can name the first 3 New Zealand Premiers/Prime Ministers?**
2. **Who was the first New Zealand-born Prime Minister?**
3. **Who of these served the longest term in office?**
4. **Where was Sir Joseph Ward born?**

### NEWSFLASH:

On the 26th June 2012 at the Society of Genealogists AGM in London, NZSG Life member, Jan GOW QSM was awarded Fellowship of the Society of Genealogists. 2012 will no doubt be a memorable year for Jan, already a Life Member of the NZSG, she was awarded the Queens Service Medal and can now add the letters FSG to QSM after her name.

### There are still some copies of the "Family History Notebook"

Available at the rooms. Cost \$7.00 each.

Please have a look at this book—it's a very useful one to have handy when doing your research. If necessary we can order more.

## Story Writing Competition 2012



A fabric family tree

### 'The Most Interesting Item I Have Found'

Fact or fiction, relating to Genealogy.

**Come on Folks, where are your entries???? We are running out of time! Only one more month!**

### One hundred years ago

the Vth Olympiad was held in Stockholm and three New Zealanders competed as part of an Australasian team. How interested were our forebears in these Olympics or did they have other things to think about? On 13<sup>th</sup> May 1912 the Wairarapa Times announced that Tony Wilding, perhaps New Zealand's greatest ever sportsman had won a bronze medal in the Men's Singles Tennis competition.

**WILDING HAS A WIN  
STOCKHOLM, Sunday**  
Wilding won his match against  
Lowe in the Men's Singles by three  
sets to one, and secures a bronze  
medal.

And that was it. No five dedicated channels, no blanket coverage in the sports pages, just 4 lines. A modest tribute in an age when modesty was 'in'. Wilding, a Cantabrian, was Wimbledon singles champion in 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913; and doubles champion in 1907, 1908, 1910 and 1914. He won the Australian Open in 1906 and 1909 and the French Open in 1913 and 1914. He played cricket for Canterbury and qualified as a barrister at the Supreme Court of New Zealand. In 1908 he won a reliability trial motor race from Land's End to John O'Groats. He was engaged to be married to American Broadway star Maxine Elliott.

If Tony Wilding was alive today he would never be off the front or back pages, not to mention the women's magazines. But 100 years ago it may be that our ancestors were barely aware of his existence.

*Tony Wilding was killed in action at the battle of Aubers Ridge on 9<sup>th</sup> May 1915.*

*(From Wairarapa Branch Newsletter—'Arboretum')*

**Members' Queries:** Do you have any brick walls with which you need help? Don't know where else to look? Well, come along to the Rooms at Stratford Community House, Juliet street, next to the Anglican Church. We are there on Tuesdays and Fridays from 10am to 3pm, and Saturdays 12 noon to 2pm. We'll do our best to help you find answers. We have a lot of local school, Church and cemetery records available, also Electoral Rolls for several years.

#### New Zealand in 1909:

Regular express services begin on North Island main trunk railway.

*Penguin* wrecked in Cook Strait with the loss of 75 lives.

NZ offers UK a battleship.

Prospector finds Hon. Roddy nugget (2807gms) at Donnellys Creek.

First ascent of Mt Aspiring.