



# Stratford Branch

*New Zealand Society of Genealogists.*

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

February 2017

Stratford Community House.

52 Juliet Street

Stratford 4332

PO Box 402

Stratford. 4352.

Phone. 06 765 0913 ext. 4.

Branch Contact-

Carol Spragg.



## Convener's Comment

Welcome back to genealogy for 2017. Thanks to those who have already been busy at the Rooms.

During the holiday break I had several research enquiries and was able to assist them due to our depth of resources. Helen and Marie are continuing to index Stratford Primary records. I have completed the local death records from the Anderson indexes and have started the local BDMs from "Daily News", starting at 1986.

In the past few years our February meeting has been at Stratford Pioneer, Kopuatama or Old Midhirst Cemeteries. These have been very successful, with a number of pioneering locals profiled. This year, we will be returning to the Old Midhirst Cemetery for our **March** meeting. If you have family buried there and would like to tell us about them, please contact me.

Carol



## Inside this issue:

**Page 2:**  
Websites; New Zealand Cross awards

**Page 3:**  
Snippets; Historic New Zealand

**Page 4:** Chinese in early New Zealand/Stratford

**Editor:**  
Maureen Armstrong  
**Email:**  
[mearmstrong@kinect.co.nz](mailto:mearmstrong@kinect.co.nz)  
**Phone:** 06 762 8837 or  
027 630 9099

**Next Branch Meeting—Wednesday February 8th at 7.30pm. Rooms open at 7pm for research.**

**This will be a Special General Meeting to decide the future of our group. Would all members please make an effort to attend.**

**Meeting will be followed by an activity.**

## 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

<http://homepages.ihug.co.nz/~ashleigh/Gravestone.Photos/Lyttelton.Anglican.inscriptions.html>  
— Lyttelton Anglican Cemetery gravestones have been photographed. Email for any photograph. Please quote the number of the photograph.

<http://medals.nzdf.mil.nz/category/f/f2.html> **Stuart Park-Kerikeri, New Zealandspark@xtra.co.nz**—to find details of military Awards as described on the article below.

<http://www.aucklandmuseum.com/whats-on/exhibitions/being-chinese-in-aotearoa-a-photographic-journey>—an exhibition of photography and other artworks showcasing the past and present of Chinese people in New Zealand. See articles on page 4.

[Www.gravestonephotos.com](http://www.gravestonephotos.com)—main focus seems to be England, but not exclusively. Also offered the ability to contact others requesting the same photos as they may be related.



### **Early New Zealand: 1814 First mission**

Reverend Samuel Marsden of the Church Missionary Society preached the first sermon in New Zealand, on Christmas Day 1814. Three lay missionaries, William Hall, Thomas Kendall and John King, helped him set up the first mission in New Zealand, at Rangihoua. The local chief, Ruatara, who had met Marsden on a ship returning to Australia from England, interpreted the sermon for Māori.

### **1831 Māori petition the British government**

Growing lawlessness among Europeans in New Zealand and fears of a French annexation of the country led 13 northern chiefs to ask King William IV for his protection. Missionary William Yate helped the chiefs draft the letter to the King. The Crown acknowledged the petition and promised protection.

### **1833 British Resident arrives**

To protect Māori, the growing number of British settlers and its own trade interest, the British government appointed James Busby as its official British Resident – a type of junior consular representative with little power. He arrived in May 1833 and built a house on land he bought at Waitangi.

### **1835 Declaration of Independence**

He Wakaputanga o te Rangatiratanga o Nu Tirene (the Declaration of Independence of New Zealand) was drawn up by British Resident James Busby without authorisation from his superiors. It asserted the independence of New Zealand, with all sovereign power and authority resting with the hereditary chiefs and tribes. By 1839 the declaration had been signed by 52 Māori chiefs.

### **1837 Britain decides to establish a colony**

In December 1837 the British government decided in principle to intervene in New Zealand to ensure that colonisation was regulated and that land transactions that defrauded Māori were stopped. The government had initially tried to avoid assuming responsibility. Instead it had attempted to influence the interaction of Māori and British settlers through the missionaries and by sending British Resident James

### **The New Zealand Memorial Cross—**

is awarded to the next of kin of all New Zealand servicemen and women who were killed while on war service or operational service overseas, or who subsequently died of wounds received while on war service or operational service overseas, since the commencement of the Second World War.

Two versions of the New Zealand Memorial Cross have been struck: one during the reign of King George VI, and one during the reign of Queen Elizabeth II. The King George VI cross is worn from a thin purple-coloured ribbon suspended around the neck, while the Queen Elizabeth II cross is worn as a brooch. The King George VI New Zealand Memorial Cross has been awarded to the families of the more than 11,000 personnel who died while serving in the New Zealand Armed Forces during the Second World War. The Queen Elizabeth II New Zealand Memorial Cross has been awarded to the families of the 136 New Zealand military personnel who have died while on operational service since 3 September 1945.

Up to two New Zealand Memorial Crosses are issued to the family of each individual. For deaths during the Second World War the first cross was awarded in the late 1940s or the 1950s to the mother. If the mother was deceased the first cross was awarded to the father, or if he was also deceased to the eldest sister, or the eldest brother if the military service person had no living sisters. A second cross was awarded to the widow, eldest daughter or eldest son (in that order of precedence). If the deceased military service person was not married and had no children only one Memorial Cross was issued.

## Snippets



### Legacy User Group Meetings for 2017

Hello Everyone

I will continue to hold Legacy User Group meetings this year, but only every second month.

The meetings will be held on Sundays at the New Plymouth Branch rooms at 1.30pm and will incur a \$2.00 door charge this year to cover the used of the rooms. The schedule will be : 05 Mar, 07 May, 09 Jul, 10 Sep and 12 Nov.

New students are welcome.

Please phone or email me at any time and I will be happy to help with any issues you have (If I can!)

I look forward to exploring Legacy with you again this year.

Marilyn Armitstead

### Digitalisation of provincial newspapers in Taranaki and Wanganui for the Papers Past website.

The current digitalisation period covered for the Taranaki and Wanganui newspapers is significantly behind that the New Zealand Herald, the Evening Post and the Auckland Star.

User demand plays a major role in the digitalisation priority programme for the National Library. It would be most useful therefore members were to contact Emerson Vandy at [Emerson.Vandy@dia.govt.nz](mailto:Emerson.Vandy@dia.govt.nz) and ask for priority to be given to the digitalisation of the Taranaki and Wanganui newspapers to at least 1945. Progress here on this would be most beneficial for our members, in their genealogical research.

### New records at Ancestry

Australia, Births and Baptisms, 1792-1981

New South Wales, Australia, Criminal Court Records, 1830-1945

New South Wales, Australia, Land Records, 1811-1870

Victoria, Australia, Selected Trial Brief and Correspondence Registers and Other Images, 1837-1993

New South Wales, Australia, Convict Registers of Conditional and Absolute Pardons, 1788-1870

New South Wales, Australia, Government Gazettes, 1853-1899

New South Wales, Census and Population Books, 1811-1825

**GRO updates:** note that the GRO has updated many of their records—birth records now include the mother's name, from 1837 onwards. Worth another trawl through the site. You might find new information that

### CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF THE NZSG

Conference and AGM to be held at Alexandra Park, Green Lane West, Auckland

Queen's Birthday Weekend 3-5 June 2017

Speakers: Ian Waller from England and Dick Eastman from USA

### Historic NZ events in February

3 February 1868—Killer storm sweeps the country. A cyclone swept south across the country from Saturday 1st. By the time it moved away on Tuesday 4th, more than 40 people had been killed.

5 February 1867—Opening of railway from Invercargill to Bluff.

2 February 1929—Welfare plan gets baptism of fire. A massive fire destroyed the nearly completed three-storey Social Security building.

3 February 1931—Hawke's Bay earthquake strikes—In terms of loss of life, it remains the worst civil disaster to have occurred in New Zealand.

6 February 1947—Liner *Wanganella* refloated off Barrett Reef. e trans-Tasman liner *Wanganella*, carrying 400 passengers from Sydney, struck Barrett Reef at the entrance to Wellington Harbour at 11.30 p.m. on 19 January 1947. Unlike the *Wahine* disaster, which happened in the same place 21 years later, the incident occurred in calm seas and everyone on board was safely evacuated.



### **Being Chinese in Aotearoa: A photographic journey.**

Auckland Museum are about to open a new exhibition celebrating Chinese life in New Zealand. This is an exhibition of photography and other artworks showcasing the past and present of Chinese people in New Zealand.

Auckland Museum has developed this exhibition in partnership with curator Dr Phoebe Li, artist Ant Sang and writer Helene Wong. All aspects of the exhibition will aim to acknowledge, respect and celebrate Chinese life in New Zealand. This will be the first exhibition at Auckland Museum to focus solely on telling stories about Chinese people in New Zealand. The show opens on Feb 10 and will run until March 2018; it is free with museum entry.

There are nearly 100 photographs in the exhibition, and three of them feature the Chew Chong family from Taranaki associated with the General Store and the Jubilee Diary Factory. We're keen to get in contact with any living descendants of this family to let them know about the show.

[Imoore@aucklandmuseum.com](mailto:Imoore@aucklandmuseum.com)

### **Chinese in Early Stratford:**

Early Stratford had many business opportunities that attracted Chinese settlers. In April 1883 Hen Wing Kee opened a drapery shop, and by 1894 On Kee had established a grocery and fruit store in the town. By 1898 Ching Kee & Co had established general stores in both Stratford and New Plymouth.

In September 1894 a fire destroyed Curtis Brothers store and spread to a number of other stores in Broadway, including On Kee's premises. A local resident vividly described the efforts made to quell the blaze, in the absence of a fire brigade. A would-be rescuer saw what he thought was a damsel in distress with long flowing black hair, rushing bravely through the smoke and haze. He seized the owner of the raven locks in his arms, only to find he was carrying On Kee, the long haired Chinese grocer, to a place of safety!

In October 1913 a visitor to Stratford reported that there were three Chinese laundries in the town—Wong Si, Jeung Yung Gwai, and Dung Dak. There was another—Lue Kee or Yee Kee ran a laundry from about 1911 to 1918, after buying a business in New Plymouth that was badly damaged by fire shortly afterwards. A fifth one was run by Gee Lee from about 1912 to 1918.

There being so many of them, there was considerable competition between the Chinese laundrymen before WW1. Several of them boycotted one man who was undercutting their prices. This was probably Sing Lee, who advertised his prices in the Stratford Post.

After WW1 several of the laundries closed, especially once the Depression began—people could no longer afford to have their laundry done. The longest surviving Chinese laundry in Stratford was operated by Jimmy Lee from about 1910 to 1934.

Another one was operated by Jimmy Kwing, who was in Stratford for about three years, from 1931 to 1933, possibly in conjunction with a tobacconists. In the mid- 1930s he moved to Wellington where he



### **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.