



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

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Convener's Comment

STOP PRESS!!!

NZSG COUNCIL ELECTIONS - RESULTS

We have a new President, Michelle Patient, who was elected with a convincing majority. The previous President did not stand. The new Councillors are: Roger Washbourn, Barbara Wyley, Gay Williams, Owen Ormsby, Clive Palmer, Ruth Rye and Diane Wilson.

There are a number of new faces on Council. The future of the Society rests on their shoulders. They have the opportunity to make important changes which will determine the long-term fate of the Society.

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Story Competition

Editor:

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

co.nz
Phone: 06 762 8837 or 027

Our own election results from our AGM last month are as follows:

Convener—	Carol Spragg
Deputy Convener—	Lesley White
Secretary/Treasurer—	Kate Payne
Minutes Secretary—	Maureen Armstrong
Newsletter Editor—	Maureen Armstrong
Librarian—	Marie Walker
Committee—	Helen Love, Gordon Campbell

NB: Branch Meeting—Wednesday 13th June, starting at 7.00pm.
Note the earlier time. Guest speaker will be Philip brown from NP who is a military expert. Bring along any photos etc that you would like identified .

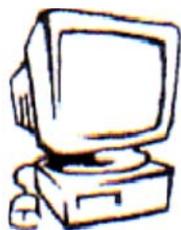
NB 2: Stratford Rooms will be closed, Saturday 16th and 23rd June

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



Web Sites

Www.findagrave.com—now contains 72 million records.

Www.onlineparishclerks.org.uk—great for parish register transcriptions and they sometimes have other items like overseers' records, wills and directories.

Www.mundia.com/gb—if you use Ancestry.co.uk then you can log into this site with your same information and search trees and profiles for free!

Www.francisfrith.com—Has an enormous collection of photos chronicling the changing streetscape of places all over Britain, which can be searched and viewed at no cost.

Www.theclergydatabase.org.uk/index.html—has lists of clergymen between 1540 and 1835, complete with information on their career, their parishes or institutions, and their patrons. Also contains information about school and schoolteachers.

Www.portcities.org.uk—reveals the communities that thrived in the great British ports, with illustrations of docks and ships.

Papers Past

Bay of Plenty (1)

[Bay Of Plenty Times \(Bay Of Plenty, 1875-1920\)](#)

Waikato (4)

[Ohinemuri Gazette \(Waikato, 1891-1921\)](#)

[Te Aroha News \(Waikato, 1883-1889\)](#)

[Thames Star \(Waikato, 1874-1920\)](#)

[Waikato Times \(Waikato, 1873-1886\)](#)

Gisborne (1)

[Poverty Bay Herald \(Gisborne, 1879-1920\)](#)

***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.

(762 8837, or armstrong21@slingshot.co.nz)

100 Years Ago—1912 (from the Hawera Star)

A bachelor's ball was held on Wednesday night at Te Kiri. Music was supplied by Miss Parkes, who left nothing to be desired!!

Wanted: first-class blacksmith, one used to shoeing and coach-smithing; wages 11s a day.

The Hawera Borough Council will go ahead with the lake in the park with 50 ponds so generously promised by Mr Macklam.

50 Years Ago—1962

At the movies: Regent Theatre—'Blue Hawaii' starring Elvis Presley; Opera House—'Cage of Evil'; Civic, Mania—'Olympia 1960'; Civic, Eltham—'A Touch of Larceny'.

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



CENTRAL TARANAKI AS IT USED TO BE

People today know that on the Opunake-Stratford Road, 1000ft above sea level, lies a small district called Makaka, 24kms west of Stratford. More than 100 years ago, Makaka was intended to be a rural service town. The friendly community, and a school, for 64 years, meant that although it never got to be a town, Makaka was still not a place to be forgotten. In the early 1890's the first families arrived to settle the district, and began the arduous task of clearing the bush for use as dairy farming land. By 1908 a school was needed, and it opened in 1909, with a roll of 18, from seven local families. The teachers boarded with local families and in the early years the school was used for church services. They also held euchre parties and dances in the school as a way of raising funds for the school. School picnics were an annual event, with popular places being Opunake Beach, Kaupokonui Beach, Te Ngutu Domain, and Ngaere Gardens and pupils travelled to these on the back of the Awatuna Factory lorry. It was a real credit to the pupils, parents and teacher, when Makaka school won the Tisch Shield twice, first in 1930, then 1949. The shield was presented each year for the previous year's best kept school grounds in Taranaki, according to the size of the school. Also in 1956, Makaka was judged the best of 19 schools in the area, when visited by board officials. Electricity coming to Makaka in 1925 made life a little easier, but the change was gradual. Some families only had a few light bulbs and no hot points to begin with. Milking became easier with electric motors as well. 1925 also saw the Opunake-Stratford Road get a metal surface. In 1930, two inches of snow fell. None of the children had experienced snow, so the most was made of the situation, and they had a snow fight at school. As a result of the floods, part of the Taungatara Factory got washed away and residents went down to salvage timber, mainly from the curing room. It was carted back to Makaka on the back of a truck, and used to build the hall. The hall was completed in 1939. It had an excellent dance floor, because the wax had dripped from the cheese, in the curing room, and onto the floor. This made it smooth. For about 10 years, during the 1940's and 50's, the Horgan family lived in the hall. It was partitioned into temporary bedrooms for the children, with a wood burner stove in the centre. Makaka had a tennis Club, which must have started around 1931-32, and a very popular table tennis Club for many years, until it finished in 1972, due to the lack of numbers. In 1960, the Makaka CWI was formed. Over its 64 years the school saw over 600 pupils pass through its doors. At the end of term 2, 1973, Makaka school closed. The main part of the school was taken to Stratford for use as a playcentre. The junior room was sold, and the schoolhouse was moved for use as a school house in Opunake. The seven pupils went to either Awatuna or Riverlea schools, which meant the end of Makaka as it's own little community.

From "Stratford Press" 5 Nov 2009. For further information, refer to "Stumps and Strainers, A Centennial history of Makaka and Riverlea." by Marlene Williamson.

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 (see back page) and I will send them on to you. At the moment I have Blenheim, Canterbury and Sth Canterbury, Gore, Hawkes Bay, Hutt Valley, New Plymouth, Wairarapa and Wanganui Newsletters. If you don't have email let me know and I will get a copy printed for you.

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.

The Elusive Evans's Part 2:

A couple of years ago, I wrote about my on-going research into the Evans's, my father's family. I called it 'The Elusive Evans's' because I was having a hard time finding the line. Well, now I have an even more elusive relation! In fact, she is so elusive she appears to have disappeared off the face of the earth!

Annie was my great grandmother's youngest sister, born in Hobart, Tasmania, in 1864. (I won't give her full name, or any other identifying details about her family as some of her descendants live in New Zealand.) She married in Hobart in 1885, and had 3 sons. The third son died at 1 month old in 1893.

Whereupon the whole family vanished!

My Tassie cousin, Kitty, who has been searching for Annie for a long time, tracked down her husband and 2 remaining sons living in New Zealand. He had married again in 1895, telling everyone that his first wife had died in 1892? Like a lot of my family, it appears he handled the truth carelessly! He had changed his name slightly, giving himself a second Christian name, and had also changed his sons' names slightly, making them not quite so easy to find. Their original names were quite distinctive. Eventually, the husband, his 2nd wife, and one of the sons they had together, returned to Australia, where Kitty has found their death and burial records.

However, of Annie there has so far been no sign. Kitty and I have tried all sorts of queries on all sorts of genealogy sites, newspaper records, ... you name it, Kitty has tried the lot.

My suggestion, a bit 'tongue in cheek' is that Annie ran off with the milkman and changed her name, too, just to be in the fashion. Kitty thought maybe hubby had 'bumped her off' and buried her in the back garden. Who knows, she might have sailed away into the sunset and lived a long and happy life far away. We just wish she had left a few pointers for us to find!

The Holocaust Centre of New Zealand is now open, situated at 80 Webb Street, Wellington, within the Wellington Jewish Community Centre. Opening hours are 10am-1pm daily except Saturdays and Jewish holidays. Contact phone number 04 801 9480

(From Wellington Branch May Newsletter)

Pioneers in Papers Past

For those with early settler ancestors, there are three very interesting lists on Papers Past.

- Auckland Pioneers (and some from Thames) in the "Auckland Star" 1 Dec 1898 page 13.
- 'Biographical Sketches of the Colonists of the First Decade' in the "Otago Witness" 17 Mar 1898 page 27.
- Early colonists who had arrived at Lyttleton on the first ships attended a large reunion in Dec 1900. See the "Press" 18 Dec 1900, page 8 for a list of those who attended the reunion. The names are listed under the names of the ships. Women's maiden names are included. This may be just where the women were 'maidens' at the time of their long journey.