



Stratford Branch

New Zealand Society of Genealogists.

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editor's edition

I thought I would give members a run-down on what we do at

the Rooms, apart from being there to help with research! Some of you may not be aware that indexing of records is an ongoing task

for all Genealogy Groups—it never ends!

Here at Stratford we are currently indexing school and church records from the area. At the moment, Helen is working on the Midhirst School records every Tuesday; Marie has just completed the Eltham Primary School Records; and I have recently begun processing the marriage records from Holy Trinity Anglican Church. Carol and Lesley mainly work from home, answering requests for research from all sorts of people and places. Last year Lesley finished (as far as any genealogy project is finished) a large research project for an enquirer from Poland, which was connected to many of the Polish families in the Taranaki area. This took over twelve months to complete. Carol does a lot of research into military records, particularly WWI. She also does most of the photocopying of newly received records.

For those who are not sure what 'indexing' is—this entails, first photocopying the original records from the schools, churches, etc, which has been carried out ever since this Group began. We have hard copy files from almost all of the little schools that inhabited the region. Then an indexer begins entering the details from these files onto the computer. The school files include student's name, date of birth, name of parent/guardian, address, date of enrolment, previous school, next school.

Marriage records include bride's & groom's names, both sets of parents' names including mothers' maiden names, names of witnesses, and place of marriage eg: church, family home, etc. We have already completed indexing Methodist & Presbyterian marriage records for Stratford.

We also have a team of members helping to keep the envelope files up to date—ask at the rooms what this is! If anyone would like to help with these tasks please ask any of us.

Maureen

Inside this issue:

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Websites; details of
NP Open Day

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Snippets; Quiz; Guide
to breaking the brick
Walls.

Page 4:
ERA, Wellington, with
a description of who
and what ERA is.

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Branch Meeting—Wednesday 10th October, starting at 7.30pm.
October meeting theme-share your brick wall with us. We might be able to help

you.

November meeting- tell us about a Christmas tradition in your family.

NB: THE ROOMS WILL BE CLOSED ON SAT 6TH OCT & SAT 13th OCT

Branch Rooms

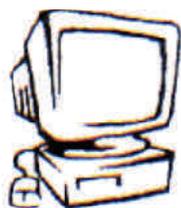
The Stratford Branch Rooms open

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.portstories.co.nz - This is an interesting account by people of Port Ahuriri in Napier – its history, people, etc. 'Voices of Ahuriri' online can be heard on this website.

From the Hawkes Bay Twig, Aug 2012

www.evacuees.org.uk—this site is for those researching evacuees from the cities during WW2. (see back page)

<http://sites.google.com/site/freenewzealandancestry/> New Zealand Free Ancestry. Also other sites for free British, Irish, Scottish, Australian, etc. Just change the country name in the website address.

[Www.teara.govt.nz](http://www.teara.govt.nz)— Te Ara, the Encyclopedia of New Zealand. A comprehensive guide to the peoples, environment, history, culture, economy and society.

**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!
(Phone 762 8837, or email armstrong21@slingshot.co.nz)

ANCESTRY

The best time to use the Ancestry site if you want help with it, 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. Ancestry are adding new files all the time, so just because you could not find something a year ago does not mean it's not there now!

New Plymouth Branch Open Day, Saturday 27th October

(Information from: <http://www.genealogynp.com/>)

This is open to the public and the presentations have been chosen to be useful for beginners and for experienced genealogists. The entry fee is just \$5 for the day.

The guest speaker is Jan Gow, a well-known and very respected genealogist.

Venue: NP Genealogy Rooms, Breakwater Rd, Moturoa (see <http://www.genealogynp.com/> for map)

- 9.00 am** Branch rooms open, mix and mingle and enjoy morning tea with friends
- 9.50 am** Welcome and introductions: John Berntsen
- 10.00 am** First Catch Your Hare! But what DOES come first?, a guide for beginners presented by Jan Gow.
- 11.00 am** A look at Genealogy Computer Programmes – Legacy, presented by Sharyn Guthrie
- 12 noon** Lunch. Tea, coffee etc provided but you will need to bring your own lunch.
- 1 pm** Genealogy resources at Puke Ariki, our local museum and library, presented by Michael Butler
- 2 pm** Sight, Cite, Site, looking at records, documenting, recording and searching, with Jan Gow
- 3 pm** Question time, with the panel: Jan, Sharyn and Michael
- 3.30 pm** Complete the day with afternoon tea and a chat

The open day is being run in conjunction with the twentieth anniversary of the New Plymouth Genealogy Computer Group the same weekend. Murray Evans is to be a speaker at the computer group anniversary and we look forward to seeing both Murray and Ann back in Taranaki – if only briefly!

If anyone would like to attend this day and needs a ride, please contact Carol. Ph. 765 0465

Snippets



Fazed by that Brick Wall??

(From Gore Sept Newsletter)

Then maybe a professional researcher might be the answer. *This simple guide should make finding, and getting the best from a professional researcher easy.*

Nine important Steps

1. Find details of professionals on the AGRA website
2. Contact two or three researchers and get quotes for a specific piece of work
3. Be clear about what you want done. A specific research objective is better than generalities.
4. Make sure the researcher has the skills and knowledge that you require. If they can't help they should suggest someone else.
5. Once you have found and decided on somebody, agree exactly what is required, the amount of hours, the cost of same, and timetable.
6. Also agree on the format in which you wish to receive the final research.
7. Supply the researcher with all the information you have, including copies of documents such as certificates, service records, shipping records and family information. Be prepared to answer any questions
8. Read the final report carefully. If there is anything you are unsure about, ask and query anything you think the researcher has missed out or is wrong.

9. PAY PROMPTLY

100 YEARS AGO—1912

(From the archives of the Hawera Star)

“Some motorists only recognise two classes of people, the quick and the dead,” was a statement made by Sub-Inspector Hendrey at the Auckland Police Court when prosecuting eight motorists whose zeal and machines had exceeded the speed limit on the day of the Ranfurly Shield match between Auckland and Wellington. Each offender was fined 20 shillings and costs of thirteen shillings and sixpence.

October Quiz: (answers next month)

1. **Who was the last full-blooded Mōriori, and when did he die?**
2. **Who was Te Puia Herangi?**
3. **Stratford was notable for something in 1901. What was it?**
4. **Which Wellington suburb was known as one of the most densely populated in the country between 1900-1910?**

LDS Family History Centre

If you are a recent user of Family Search you may have occasionally got the message “The original image is viewable at findmypast.co.uk. At findmypast.co.uk you can view, print and save the original image (fees may apply)”. And fees always apply!

However as part of the agreement between the Church of the Latter Day Saints, who run the FamilySearch website, you can actually view the records on FindmyPast for free if you are accessing them from an LDS Family History Centre.

Wairarapa Branch Newsletter

Answers to the September Quiz:

1. Four—Sir Joseph Ward—twice; W.F. Massey—three times; G.W. Forbes—twice; Sir Keith Holyoake—twice;
2. Four—Richard Seddon, 1906; William Massey, 1925; Michael Savage, 1940; Norman Kirk, 1974.
3. Walter Nash was 75 when he became Prime Minister.
4. No. The two-party system did not begin until 1909, when the Reform Party was formed by Massey as an alternative to the Liberal Party.

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. At the moment I have—Blenheim, Canterbury, Dunedin, Gore, Hutt Valley, Inglewood, Wairarapa, Wanganui, Wellington for September. We also get Christchurch, North Canterbury, Hawkes Bay, Matamata, and New Plymouth (which is available on their website.)

Story Writing Competition 2012—now closed.

**Any suggestions for next year's competition?
How about each a doing personal profile, including a brief out-
line of our family research up to the present???**

EVACUEES REUNION ASSOCIATION OF HV/WELLINGTON REGION - WHO WE ARE

The ERA is a branch of the UK organisation formed in 1996 to reunite those people who as children during World War II, were evacuated from the major cities in Britain to areas deemed safe from the effects of Hitler's bombing raids during the war. 3.5 million children were evacuated away from homes and family during World War II under a plan known as Pied Piper.

Children as young 3 yrs old were sent off to live with total strangers in areas deemed safe from the reach of the German planes. Some had happy experiences, others suffered severe trauma, forced to live with people who did not want them and who treated them as unpaid servants/farm workers.

There were two periods of evacuation – the first starting soon after war was declared in September 1939, when there was great fear of mass bombing and even the fear of invasion. This lasted probably around 12 months and was often known as 'The Phoney War' when the planes and bombs didn't eventuate. During this period many families decided their children would be happier back home and evacuees trickled back to home and family.

However, once France, Belgium and Holland were over-run, Germany established their air bases in these countries. Britain was now within easy reach of the bombers and the skies were soon full of planes coming over to bomb cities such as Manchester, Coventry, Liverpool and Glasgow as well as London. Anywhere there was industry or large civilian populations were deemed targets and suffered accordingly.

The second evacuation occurred around 1944 when Germany developed flying bombs, known as 'Doodle Bugs'. These were bombs with small wings and a motor set to fly for a set period of time. When that expired and the motor cut out, there was a period of silence as the bomb fell followed by the sounds of explosion. One can imagine the fear and panic as people saw and heard these evil things flying overhead, never knowing when they were going to drop. Children were once again hurriedly sent off to country areas, where many remained until the end of the war in May 1945.

In NZ there are 10 branches of the ERA made up of members who have come to live in NZ from the UK or else were evacuated directly to NZ under a scheme (CORB) whereby children were sent to Commonwealth countries such as NZ, Australia, Canada and South Africa.

Each year a national reunion is held and run by one of the branches. Our local group, started in February 2009 comprises members from Wairarapa through to the Kapiti Coast and is now the largest group in NZ with approx 85 members. In 2010 we hosted the annual Reunion over the weekend of Friday 27 August to Sun 29 August.

Our group meets on a regular basis with a Saturday lunch meeting , often at the Angus Inn in Lower Hutt . We often have an interesting speaker, show a short film relating to WWII and get one of our members to recount their wartime experiences.

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.