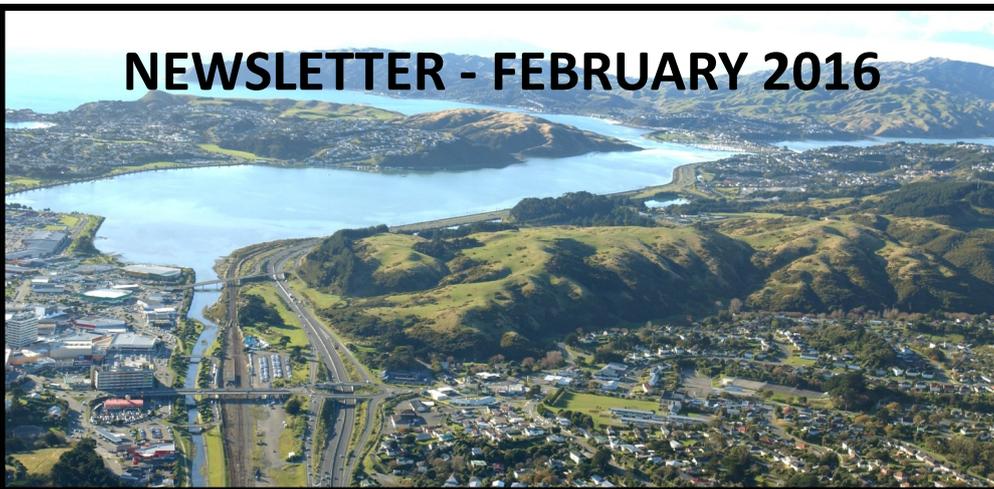




PORIRUA BRANCH

www.poriruagenealogy.org.nz

NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2016



Convenor's Comment

Hello Everyone.

I hope you have all enjoyed your summer break. I wonder if you managed to get any genealogical research done, or whether you simply had a lovely blob-out? Over the summer I have been reading a couple of books. One of them is Alison Light's book *Common People*. It describes the author's journey tracing her ancestors. I particularly like this quote:

"The 'family detective' in television programmes like the BBC's immensely popular

Who Do You Think You Are? has the resources instantly at her command: a budget from the TV company to pay professional genealogists or to ferry her across the country or even continents to pursue branches of her family; immediate access to librarians and archivists, who drop whatever they are doing for the film crews and put a finger straight away on the right document (the team of researchers fresh from university, who have already done the legwork, disappear from view); academic experts and local historians on call, who explain the context. In order to shape a story several possible 'leads' will have been discarded; months of searching concertina'd into a finely honed hour on air. But as most viewers know, family history, like all historical work, is messy and loose-ended, full of false starts, red herrings and wild goose chases, discoveries which are sheer serendipity and might so easily have been missed. Far from being dead ends or time-wasters, these detours are part of historical work. They reveal our misconceptions and dislodge our assumptions about the past."

[Light, Alison, *Common People*, London, Fig Tree, 2014] Available from Porirua Library's genealogy section.

The second book is Thomas MacEntee's *500 Best Genealogy and Family History Tips*, also available from Porirua Library's genealogy section. It does what it says on the tin, as the saying goes. There are all sorts of useful hints and suggestions, for everyone from beginners to old hands at genealogy.

For those of you who didn't see them on our Porirua Genealogy Facebook page, here are the links I used during the presentation about finding shipping records:

- Index Of Ships – part of NZ Electronic Text Centre

<http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-Bre02Whit-t1-back.html>

- Petone Settlers database – Hutt City website

<http://psm.huttcity.govt.nz/en/Leisure--Culture/Museums-and-galleries/Ourmuseums/Petone-Settler-DB/>

- New Zealand Yesteryears

<http://www.yesteryears.co.nz/>

- Passenger Lists, Denise & Peter

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ourstuff/OurPassengerLists.htm>

- Immigrant Ships to New Zealand

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~shipstonz/shipstonz.html>

- New Zealand Bound

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nzbound/siteindex.htm>

- Passenger Lists To New Zealand

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~sooty/Passenger%20Lists%20to%20NZFrame1Source1.htm>

- Early NZ Settlers

<http://shadowsoftime.co.nz/settlers.html>

- New Zealand Maritime Index – part of NZ Maritime Museum.

<http://www.nzmaritimeindex.org.nz/>

- Passenger Lists Out of New Zealand

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nzbound/outward.htm>

- Shipping Lists Worldwide – part of Emigration to Canada website.

<https://personal.uwaterloo.ca/marj/genealogy/thevoyage.html>

Our first meeting this year is on 10 February at the usual place, Pataka, Porirua. We aim to have everyone seated by 7.25pm for a 7.30 start. If you need a ride, please contact Mary Beckett, our Secretary, and she will put you in touch with people who car-pool for our meetings.

On 18 February the “Unlock the Past” people are coming to Wellington to hold a genealogical exposition at the ASB Arena. It starts with registrations at 10.00am and runs through until 4.15pm. The cost is \$30 for a full day and \$20 for a half day. Here is the programme:

10.00am	Registration, exhibition, sales
10.25am	Welcome and seminar introduction
10.30am	ABCs of DNA - Judy Russell
11.15am	Break and exhibition
11.45am	No vitals? No problem! Building a family through circumstantial evidence - Judy Russell
12.30pm	Seminar sponsor presentation - to be advised
1.00pm	Lunch break and exhibition
2.10pm	Prize draw
2.15pm	Local partner promos
2.30pm	London genealogy: or the metropolitan nightmare - Paul Blake
3.15pm	Break and exhibition
3.30pm	Origins of your Irish ancestors - Paul Blake
4.15pm	Close.

If you'd like to register in advance, you can visit the website,

<http://www.unlockthepast.com.au/events/judy-russell-and-paul-blake-downunder/judy-russell-and-paul-blake-downunder-wellington>

where you will also find out more information about the day.

We have a good branch programme organised for this year, so we look forward to seeing you all along.

See you at the next meeting.

Jan

Welcome, New Member

We welcome Peter Lang as a new member to our branch.

Branch Meeting Programme

Our branch meets 7.25pm on the second Wednesday of the month, February to November inclusive.

10 February **guest speaker**
Sylvia Carlyle - Introduction to the family history section of Porirua Public Library

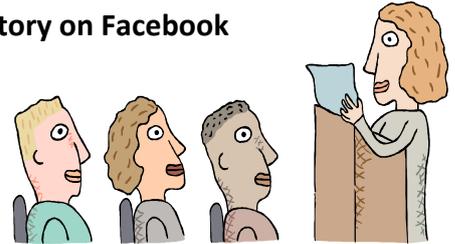
short talk
Jan Powell Gedcom - what, how, why
Fabulous finds over the holiday period

9 March **research evening at Porirua Public Library with Librarian Sylvia Carlyle**

13 April **guest speaker**
Jan Powell (standing in for Anita West) - Family History on Facebook

short talk
to be announced

11 May **Branch Annual General Meeting**
Panel Session (more detail to follow)



From the Editor's Desk

Upon my election to NZSG Council in mid-2014 I confirmed my commitment of a few weeks earlier to produce the Porirua branch newsletter.

However, the workload of Council has been heavier than I envisaged because over and above the day to day responsibilities of Council I readily volunteered to be involved in other areas. These included the rules review that has involved over 12 months work, the feasibility of printing the magazine offshore and, latterly, the task along with President Gay of updating the Society's policies and procedures manual. All have kept me very busy.

Every two months I have compiled and issued the branch newsletter, although it has been challenging at times due to my other commitments and the difficulty in finding suitable material.

In late 2015, upon deciding to seek re-election to Council for 2016-18, I advised our convenor Jan that if elected I would relinquish my position as editor of the Porirua branch newsletter beyond mid-2016. As it turns out there were insufficient nominations for an election by postal ballot to be necessary and I have been duly elected to NZSG Council for 2016-18. The results of the election are available on the Society's website.

So I am now giving notice to branch members that a new editor for the Porirua branch newsletter will be required. I have gleaned that many branches have a team of people working with their newsletter editor gathering and assembling material, and many of those newsletters run to 10 or more pages.

This is an opportunity for branch members to say what they want, or expect, in their newsletter. Should the newsletter be simply one page relating to the meeting programme? What about articles submitted by members covering a particular research interest of theirs, or instead generalised information on 'how to' research a specific topic?

Please pass your suggestions and opinions on to the branch committee.

Peter



Research Matters

WW100 photos and stories

www.poriruawarstories.com and [www.facebook.com/poriruawar stories](https://www.facebook.com/poriruawarstories)

Allan Dodson, a local war historian, is publishing stories of 26 men from the wider Porirua area who served in the Boer War. The website he has set up for this work also lists 200 men and women from this district who served in the First World War. At this stage all of the Boer war stories are loaded and approximately 60 from World War One. If you go to the alphabetical list all the people that are being researched are listed. The research will later move to World War Two servicemen and women.

If you know of any other WW1 service men and women from this area who should be included Allan is happy to research their stories.

Allan can be contacted at poriruawarstories@gmail.com

Websites to check out:

http://www.haine.org.uk/toms_wills/wills_data.php?parish=New Zealand

Gill Knox advised she came across this website by accident, when she was looking for NZ wills which were also recorded in England. This happened when there was property in both places. She thought it might be of interest because full addresses are given, and there are several hundred NZ wills in the index 1931-1939.

The 1931-1939 index covers UK Counties and towns, Northern Ireland, British Isles, and countries world-wide. It records surname and address, and under "details" you can ask for more information (year and full names) from the website owner. There is also a separate list of grantees which only covers 1933-1935 at the moment.

Family Tree Maker

Ancestry has announced that it will stop selling Family Tree Maker software at the end of 2015. It will support current owners of Family Tree Maker through to at least 1 January 2017. During this time, all features of the software, including TreeSync™ will continue to work, and member services will be available to assist with user questions. Ancestry will also address major software bugs that may occur, as well as compatibility updates.

If you use Family Tree Maker (FTM) in stand alone mode on your desktop computer, there is little reason to panic as desktop software doesn't stop working when a supplier stops supporting it. If you use FTM to synchronise with your online trees on Ancestry, however, the future of such synchronisation may be a little more problematic given how fond Ancestry is of changing its site. Regardless, should you continue using FTM the key will be to continue doing what you should already be doing, making regular backups.

If you wish to consider switching to supported programs, you may care to investigate the free trials for RootsMagic, Legacy or Family Historian. Both RootsMagic and Legacy free trials can continue being used indefinitely or be upgraded to use the additional, and useful, features from the paid version by simply paying the money involved to unlock them without losing your data. Family Historian's free trial is of a limited duration. RootsMagic and Legacy also may be integrated with Family Search's family tree and much more flexibly than FTM to Ancestry.

Dunedin Family History Group Newsletter

Branch Committee



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Treasurer

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Committee Members

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 (School Records)

Peter Gibson (04) 237 8657 p.d.gibsonfamily@xtra.co.nz
 (Newsletter, Publicity & Website; NZSG Councillor)

Elwyn Goldsbury (04) 239 8431 elwyng2@ihug.co.nz
 (Programme)

Gill Knox (04) 233 8863 keith.gillknox@xtra.co.nz
 (NZSG Councillor)

Helen Swiney (04) 233 9978 theswineys@slingshot.co.nz

Branch Noticeboard

Members' Surname Interests List

The branch members' interests list, maintained by Lorraine & Cliff Matthews, can be viewed at meetings. To list your own interests, please contact them on (04) 234 7241 or by email cliffandlorraine@gmail.com

Transport

If anyone is having difficulty getting to branch meetings and would like a ride, please contact one of the committee who will endeavour to find a member in your area to transport you to and from the meeting.

Branch Meeting Venue

Helen Smith Community Meeting Room, Pataka Museum of Arts and Cultures, cnr Norrie and Parumoana Streets, Porirua.
 (after-hours entrance off Norrie Street)

7.25pm on the second Wednesday of the month, February to November inclusive.

Not sure where to find things at branch meetings? Perhaps this floor plan will assist? →

