

Go to the New Zealand and Pacific Islands Zone – Genealogy Living Room, Second Floor, Central Library.

Read basic guides on how to start family history research, look for the call numbers **929.>** especially *New Zealand beginner's guide to family history research* by Anne Bromell. **929.1072 BRO**



Check research directories for the names of people who may also be researching your surnames. *Family Research Directory 2005* **929.102593FAM** and *Genealogical Research Directory* **929.1072GEN** both Reference only.

Research the indexes to New Zealand Births, Deaths and Marriages on Microfiche. Apply to the Department of Internal Affairs for a printout of the event to verify your ancestor and gain leads to the next generation.

If your family lived in the Manawatu:

- The Palmerston North City Library card and computer index to the local newspapers is a treasure-trove of information.
- Check the index to our local Photographic Collection.
- Check the computer catalogue for school magazines, school jubilee booklets, church histories and other local history publications relevant to the area where your family lived, as these may also provide you with further family information.



Cemetery record transcripts on microfiche are helpful for names and dates. Check online also as Palmerston North City Council, along with an increasing number of other councils, has listed its cemetery databases online.

Electoral Rolls, Wisers, New Zealand Post Office Directories and Stones Directories are good for establishing exactly where your ancestor lived and their occupations.



Browse our collection of Genealogy magazines. They have very helpful tips for all genealogists.

CONTACTS:

Central Library Hours

MON, TUES, THURS: 10am – 6pm
WED, FRI: 10am - 8pm
SAT 10am - 4pm SUN 1pm - 4pm
Phone 06 351 4100

Volunteers from the Palmerston North Genealogical Society are available for support and advice. FRI 10.30am – 1pm, SAT, SUN 1 – 4pm. Hours may vary over the summer holiday period.

Ian Matheson City Archives Hours

Ground floor, Central Library
MON-FRID 1pm – 5pm

Palmerston North Family History Centre.

29 Pitama Road at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Access at the rear door of the meeting house.
Phone 355 1677
Check Genealogy notice board, Central Library, for current opening hours.

**Palmerston North Branch,
New Zealand Society of Genealogists**
Post Box 1992 Palmerston North 4440
Convenor: Joan Bak phone 358 1275

New Zealand Birth, Death and Marriage Printouts and Certificates.

The Department of Internal Affairs

<http://www.bdm.govt.nz/>

Contact Centre

Freephone: 0800 22 52 52 (NZ only)

Phone: (04) 474-8150

Email: bdm.nz@dia.govt.nz

Opening hours: Monday to Thursday 8:00am - 7:00pm, Friday 9:00am - 7:00pm, Saturday 9:00am - 2:00pm

Top tips for the beginning genealogist




A starting point for Family History


RECORD OF ANCESTRY


1  YOURSELF

Starting with yourself, write down where and when you were born and if you ever married, where and when. Continue writing down where and when each Birth, Death and Marriage took place for any children you may have, your parents, grandparents, great grandparents and other members of your family until you can go no further. Don't forget to use maiden names for all the females.


2  PARENTS


Gather together everything you have in the way of family papers, photographs, notices from newspapers, cemetery inscriptions, documents, family bibles and heirlooms. Use these to look for clues to your family history.

3  **Talk to family members**, especially older relatives, about their memories of growing up. Ask for names, dates, places, stories and anything connected to your relatives and ancestors.


4  GRANDPARENTS

Draw up a simple Family Tree recording in pencil, all the information you have gathered. This is a *starting point* so it doesn't have to be perfect.

5  **Choose one side of the family** or an ancestor you are really interested in and start confirming the facts or information you have gathered. Record confirmed facts in ink on your Family Tree. Unusual surnames are always easier to research.


6  **Always begin with known facts** i.e. yourself and then work backwards towards your parents, grandparents etc. **VERIFY** everything with at least one original resource. Never assume or accept information without appropriate evidence as you may end up tracing someone else's family tree!

7 **You will need to obtain copies** of Birth, Death or Marriage certificates. They will help verify you are researching the right family and will have valuable information leading to the next and/or previous generation.

8  Gt GRANDPARENTS

Never believe everything on a Birth, Death or Marriage certificate – it is only as accurate as the person providing the information.

9 **Always check name variants** when researching, as often our ancestors were illiterate or the record could have been transcribed incorrectly.

10  **Use the resources of your local library**, become a member and enjoy extra access to both written and electronic material.

11 **Join a Genealogy Group** near where you live. Apart from learning how to research properly, you will also have access to more records for your research.

12 **Explore the internet.** An increasing number of transcripts, indexes and original records are becoming available for family historians.

13 **Think about controlling** all the documents and information you are gathering with a Genealogy software programme.

14 **Research more than names and dates.** Look at documents to find where your ancestors lived, what they did, what the conditions were like in their home town when they emigrated or shifted and what they died of.

15 **Create your own personal heritage** by visiting the places your ancestors lived. There is something deeply moving about walking the roads and villages of your ancestors.