TRANS-TASMAN TRAFFIC IN COLONIAL TIMES
By Pat Fearnley, Pastkeys

Since 1986, as Pastkeys, Aileen Trinder and I have been indexing NSW passenger arrivals and some lesser-known general immigrant records, often relating to the unemployed, from sources unfilmed at that time by State Records NSW and giving a ship of arrival or other useful information. We began with the *Immigration Deposit Journals (NSW) Index 1853-1900* and in 1994 we completed our second project, the *Unassisted Arrivals to NSW Index 1842-55*. In May 2006 we completed the year 1856 and this has now been incorporated into the original index and reissued on CD-ROM for the entire period 1842-56.

In the indexing of various records we have been involved with over the years, we came to realise just how much people travelled around in Colonial times, particularly to New Zealand and back. In the actual shipping records themselves the constant trans-Tasman traffic is very evident and the purpose of this article is to highlight to New Zealand researchers just how many thousands of individuals with NZ connections are to be found in these and other sources, easily searchable by using our indexes to access the records that are now available on film.

We have often suggested to Australian genealogists where someone has "gone missing" for a time the wisdom of considering whether that person might have gone to New Zealand and to search for them there, and there are many cases where the reverse might be worth exploring from the New Zealand point of view. A summary of the indexes that might be utilised follows, with examples of the type of information available in each.

Unassisted Arrivals (NSW) 1842-56
On average, there were 70 ships a year in 1847, increasing to 128 a year in 1855, arriving from New Zealand ports including Wellington, Auckland, Nelson, Wanganui, Port Lyttelton, Hokianga and others. The arrivals are compiled from three State Records NSW sources: *Reports of Vessels Arrived 1842-56*, *Passengers Arriving Sydney 1846* and *Shipping Master's Office (Passengers Arriving) 1854-56* supplemented by additional names from the *Sydney Morning Herald* Shipping Intelligence Columns. The list was then compared with the arrivals in the *Shipping Gazette and Sydney General Trade List*, a weekly publication reproducing shipping information as, on occasion, an arrival was omitted from one or other of the sources. All name variations were noted and, if sufficiently different, appear as separate entries with cross-referencing in the remarks column. If the SMH provided a full forename where the original record had only an initial, the full name has been placed in the index and not in the remarks column.

Drake/Duke	Butler/Rutter	Wheeler/Phieler
Whyhis/Hughes	Harvey/Hovey	Macey/Moey
Goudlin/Godling/Quodling	Forde/Strode/Hood	Lodgwick/Sedgewick
Fellows/Falcon	Jewell/Levell/Sevile	Tonks/Tucks/Toms
Crawley/Curley	Buckball/Bleckhall	Grenfell/Greenfield
Heffing/McHaffie/Caffe	Holdcroft/Allcroft	Northeline/Mathelm/Mathalin
Soy/Fay/Feny/Fry	Trafford/Stratford/Stafford	Olyque/Oligney/Ligney

Name variants are a perennial problem and, in fact, our index to the NSW Immigration Journals contains a separate listing of surname variants, many of them for Irish entries, that we encountered when working on those records and many people have found them useful, perhaps even more so now when so often it is possible to use "wildcard" searches in some databases. Although we never tire of emphasising the necessity for researchers to keep name variants in mind, after the numerous oddities we have recorded in our time, some of the ones we have noted in the unassisted arrivals series of records have been mind boggling! Some examples are shown above. So researchers can rest assured that we have done our best to cover all possibilities of them finding their person in our index. One undoubtedly New Zealand variant was William Hipango (a New Zealand Chief) and Mr Hokianga, New Zealand Chief.

Free Railway Passes (NSW) Index 1880-1892
Don't be misled by the date range of this index of 23,899 entries. One of the pieces of information which applicants were required to supply was *time in Colony* (i.e. New South Wales)*. Accordingly even though these records were created in the 1880s under a scheme operated by the Immigration Department whereby persons seeking work could apply for a free railway pass, applicants' arrivals are anything from 12 hours to 50 plus years previously, so some persons would have arrived in the Colony as early as the 1830s.

This index contains the names of 464 individuals whose native place was given as New Zealand. For example:

◇ S. Beetham, 24, single, could write, had arrived from Victoria 3 days previously and was granted a pass to Glen Innes
◇ Hy Austin, 32, single, could read and write, had been 24 years in the Colony. His entry notes: *Discharged from Hudsons, 3 years there*
◇ John Brennan or Burnum, 19, single, 5 days in the Colony. *Special case on account of father breaking leg.*

However there are many, many more arriving from NZ whose home is obviously there but who have been born elsewhere. Some examples:

◇ William Ashe, 46, labourer, a native of Ireland was granted a pass to go

to Murrumburrah. He is stated to have wife and 2 children in New Zealand, and had been but one day in the Colony. There is a somewhat cryptic note in his record: *want*[sic] *to leave family behind.*
◊ C. Anderson, 33, a native of Norway, could read and write, was granted a pass to travel to Albury, and *had been on relief works*
◊ R.J. Adams, 27, a native of Scotland, read and write, 1 day in the Colony, had been in New Zealand 12 months, *from England*

Unemployed Registers 1860 & 1884 Index
Although not numerous compared with other indexes, the entries are full of very precise detail, with current address (often a pub or boarding house) usually with ship of arrival, and other personal detail. For example from the year 1860:

◊ Richard Collins, 52, family: boy 12, girls 16,10,6, occupation, ship of arrival 6 weeks before, and address given. His entry notes: *To be in NZ and Melbourne. Has only one arm but would take stonebreaking rather than starve. Unemployed about 6 weeks. So destitute as now to be obliged to sell clothing for food*
◊ James Fleming 32, *Melbourne, New Zealand, Sydney, Tasmania. Arrived 1848*
◊ Edward Monaghan, 42, wife and family in NZ.
◊ John Patient, 34, married, wife in Gippsland. *Arrived on Friday, NZ 1850, Melbourne 1852, NZ 1857. To Newcastle*

Unclaimed Letters (Noting Ship of Arrival or Regiment) Index 1836–1852
This is an index of 2790 entries relating to unclaimed letters listed in the Government Gazette. Although we have only one entry in our index mentioning New Zealand, the regiment of the addressee is given. However, researchers should note that the Society of Australian Genealogist's Australasian Genealogical Computer Index – AGCI Volume 2 - contains 830,000 personal names indexed from the NSW Government Gazette from 1832 to 1863 which of course includes the names of persons to whom unclaimed letters were addressed. Obviously the letter writer believed the addressee to be in the Colony so it can be very useful in narrowing down a time of arrival if you are fortunate enough to find your person listed.
So if you have one of those restless ancestors who did a bit of travelling in their time, it could be worth your while to check out these various indexes. My own personal genealogical philosophy is: *Never miss an opportunity to look up just one more index!*

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