

Hello there DiNAs,

On Monday 22nd March, our DNA Support group meeting was broadcast using Zoom. Below is an outline of the topics we covered.

Last Meeting's Topics

- Our Facebook Page;
- Changes to Ancestry Shared Matches Page;
- MyHeritage Clusters;
- Next Meeting.

Our group has a closed [Facebook](#) page which can only be accessed by invitation. We find it the easiest way of offering items from the DNA world to each other. One of the great benefits is that anyone in the group can post articles of interest or ask or answer questions.

If you are on Facebook and wish to join us, then simply make a request on the [home page](#). It is a private place to ask questions as well as to read about the latest happenings in DNA genealogy. This newsletter starts as usual by discussing items from our Facebook page and include some links you may find useful.

Our Facebook Page: From February 22nd

- There were a number of on-line webinars during February and March, some of which were free to join.
- I finished reading a forensic genealogy novel by Nathan Dylan Goodwin called *The Chester Creek Murders* which is the first in a new series by him. The book is



loosely based on the real-life role of Barbara Rae-Venter (a genetic genealogist and retired patent attorney) best known for her ground-breaking work helping police and investigators identify a suspect in the Golden State Killer case.

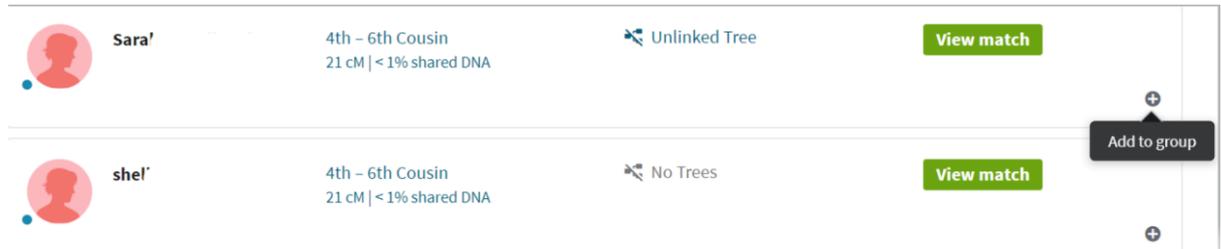
- If you are a member of this Facebook page you would have noticed that for about a week MyHeritage allowed us to upload our DNA to their site and receive FREE access to all their DNA features – usual cost is US\$29. N.B. MyHeritage later extended this offer to 7th March.
- RootsTech was on everyone’s mind, leading up to and during the event. It started at 3pm our time with the first speaker on Thursday 25th February. There were hundreds of presenters at [RootsTech](#) many of whom are well-known to us in Australia. Speakers’ presentations are free and available for us to view until February 2022.
 - Pauline Every suggested watching [Using DNA Ethnicity Estimates in Your Research](#), from Diana Eldera. It’s a short presentation which gave Pauline a few things to check out.
 - MyHeritage is using [artificial intelligence](#) (AI) to animate photographs – life is getting closer to imitating art (or Harry Potter movies) by the day. Can be a bit creepy though...
- St Patrick’s Day encouraged some of the testing companies to offer kits at sale prices.
- Lin Panisset shared a link whereby [DNA on an old stamp identified a girl’s murderer](#).
- And from the same Journal, [Why the Welsh may be the first true Brits](#).
- Pauline asks: “Looking for a [new tee shirt](#) (these are from the US). Just check the spelling as a couple have spelling mistakes. I like “Genealogy, it’s all relative”, what’s your favourite?”
- A virtual book – which I have yet to read – once again comes from the pen (word processor?) of Nathan Dylan Goodwin called [Morton in Lockdown](#). The author advises: “Take the story and the research where you want to, by simply clicking on the various blue-hyperlinked options, as you go. Can you reach Part Six?” Best viewed on a desktop or laptop computer.
- The Legal Genealogist (Judy Russell) poses the question: “How far back might that ancestor be?” The answer appears to be “it depends” but [read more here](#).
- Jonny Perl has been very busy [adding new tools to DNAPainter](#).
- And finally – for those of us interested in ancient DNA, [Archaeologists Uncover a 1,300-Year-Old Skeleton of a Maya Diplomat](#)

Changes to Ancestry Matches Page

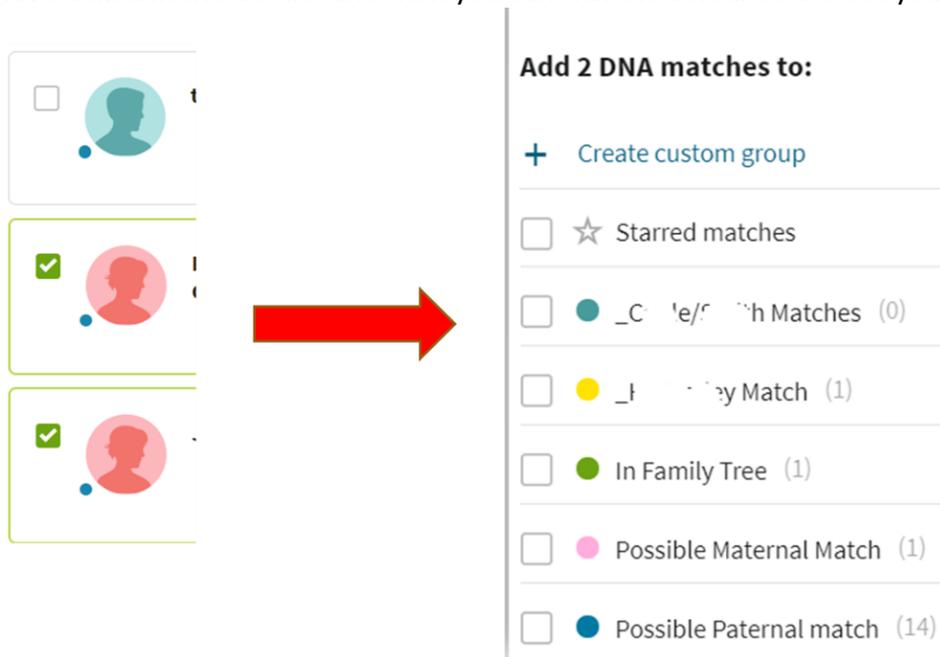
During March, Ancestry made a few changes to their shared matches pages. Following on from their introduction of coloured dots – and after a lot of pressure from the family history community (see, your feedback to Ancestry **does** work) – they have now included a tool to automatically group these dots. If you have phased your matches to show

which matches are on the paternal and maternal branches of your tree and have given them a coloured dot – say a pink dot for maternal and a blue for paternal – then anyone that shares a match with a person with a pink dot should, generally speaking, be a maternal shared match. In the past if you only had one or two people in your match list then it was easy enough to give them each a dot manually. But if you have dozens or more, adding dots could take a long time. Fast forward to the “plus” sign.

As can be seen in this graphic, Ancestry has provided a + sign to each shared match



called “Add to group”. Clicking on this opens another box with a list of the coloured dots and a tick box to the left of each match name. Ticking the boxes shows the number you have ticked in the dot list and then you can tick the colour of the dot you want – in this



case pink for a possible maternal match – and then save by clicking the green button “Add to group”. All the names you have identified will now have a pink dot thereby saving you a great deal of time. N.B. the small blue dot under each of the pink or blue graphics on the left denotes a new and unviewed match which has nothing to do whatsoever with the coloured dots on the right.

MyHeritage Clusters

Pauline Every gave a presentation about clustering using MyHeritage. I have attached her presentation as a separate pdf file.

Cheap Prices for DNA kits

It is worth joining the Facebook group [Using DNA for Genealogy - Australia & NZ](#) not only for its interesting DNA information but also to find the cheapest prices for DNA kits. The

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page is administered by the well-known Australian genetic genealogist Louise Coakley. As you are aware, the major DNA testing companies regularly reduce their prices for certain events such as Christmas, Easter, St. Patricks Day and – this weekend – DNA day. Under the banner of *Announcements* at the top of this page, is a graphic called “Discounts: DNA Tests and Subscriptions”. Whenever the group becomes aware of any discount links, they will share the cheapest. The regular price for an AncestryDNA kit in Australia is A\$129 + \$30 shipping. At the time of writing (24/4/21) the discount price shown for an AncestryDNA kit is A\$89 + \$30 shipping (shipping includes a return-paid satchel). It is worth looking regularly at this site as often the price can reduce to A\$85 plus postage or sometimes – by purchasing 4 kits – postage is free.

And Finally:

Don’t forget, if you find something of interest then let the rest of us know too, either by sending me an [email](#), bringing it up at the next meeting or posting it onto our [Facebook page](#). If you want us to discuss a particular DNA subject let me know and we can chat about it at one of our future meetings.

Next Meeting: Monday 26th April between 1030am – 1230pm on Zoom. For these meetings, our usual Zoom Meeting ID is 237 655 6960 and use the Passcode “Port”.

See you there and stay safe.