

Hello there DiNAs,

On Monday 28th June, our DNA Support group meeting was broadcast using Zoom, returning to our old time of 1pm. Below is an outline of the topics we covered.

Last Meeting's Topics

-  Our Facebook Page;
-  The Ancestry Dots Tutorial;
-  What's new on Ancestry;
-  SBS Insite programme;
-  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 and 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.

We start as usual by discussing items from our Facebook page and include some links you may find useful.

Our Facebook Page: *From May 24th*

 **On the hunt for platypus DNA in Australia's waterways.** An article from the 22nd May 2021 New Scientist:



EnviroDNA, is a company that detects DNA from environmental samples in order to monitor animal populations. In partnership with Odonata, a biodiversity non-profit, the team is hoping to map the whereabouts of platypuses in Victorian waterways.

Group members have volunteered their Saturday morning to join the search. Environmental DNA (eDNA) moves with the flow of water, travelling between 100 metres and 1 kilometre. If any sample tests positive, it means there are platypuses upstream.

Platypuses have home ranges of 1 to 2 kilometres and tend to be solitary animals, meaning that population surveys have historically been hard to carry out. In the last 30 years 200,000 square kilometres of platypus habitat have been lost.

 Roberta Estest blog: [New Genetic Groups Filter at MyHeritage](#)



 The DNA Geek's (biologist Leah Larkin) – blog: [What's in Your Toolbox? – DNA Painter's cM Estimator](#).

There's no secret that DNA Painter is my favorite third-party site for DNA analysis. Its tools for chromosome mapping, relationship prediction, and hypothesis testing are widely acclaimed and have been used by hundreds of thousands of genealogists around the world.

There are also hidden gems at DNA Painter that are less widely known. One of them is the recently-released cM Estimator.

 An article from MyHeritage blog, a User Story written by Esther dated June 10th 2021: [My Brother Vanished at Age 3. MyHeritage Helped Me Find Him 32 Years Later](#)

One autumn day in 1988, two little boys were playing together in their garden in Bogota, Colombia while their older brother watched from a second-story window. A family friend approached them and asked one of them, Jhonatan, to come with him, offering to buy him some candy.

His family didn't see Jhonatan again for 32 years.

 An article from NPR – a non-profit media organisation whose mission it is “to create a more informed public” – written by Sharon Pruitt-Young titled: [Detectives Just Used DNA To Solve A 1956 Double Homicide. They May Have Made History.](#)

-  GEDmatch has put together a page of videos that are categorised as Beginner; Intermediate or Advanced. Watch them [here](#):
-  Listen to an interview between Blaine Bettinger and Kim Wolf Price from law firm Bond, Schoeneck & King on [Investigative Genetic Genealogy](#) – (about 35 minutes);
-  The Smithsonian Magazine tells us that [Scientists Are on the Cusp of Finally Deciphering the Entire Human Genome](#)
-  Lots of sales for various DNA kits – for the best current prices, see our link below;
-  From Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter: [Florida Man Charged With Rape After Entering His Own DNA Into Genealogy Database](#);
-  And finally – another update to DNA Painter shared cM Tool by Jonny Perl on how to [Generate a tree from the Shared cM Tool](#). You can now view the potential relationships for a specific number of centimorgans (cM) shared in a tree format;

The Ancestry Dots Tutorial



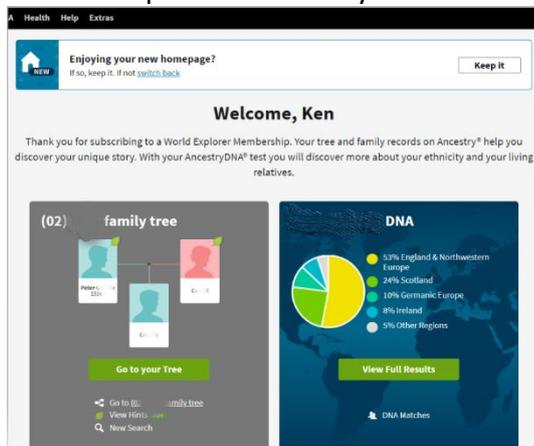
Pauline Every and I recently held the first 1½ hour Ancestry Dots tutorial. 3 members attended in our FHS room at the library and learnt how to use the Ancestry coloured dots to identify their matches.

Unfortunately the current COVID shutdown has meant the second tutorial is cancelled until sometime in the future.

What’s new on Ancestry;

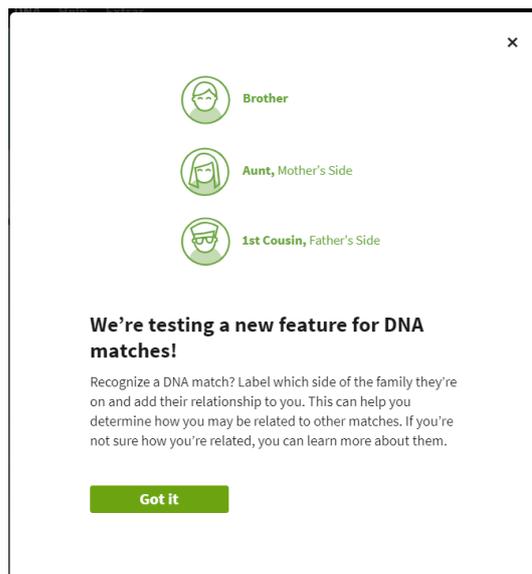
Ancestry has introduced a lot of changes over the past year or two, June was no different.

-  New Home Page is “coming” according to [Crista Cowan](#). Because I have a World Explorer subscription to Ancestry I can look at various Home Pages. The only



platform so far that has this new look is the USA home page (shown above);

-  *Updating Predicted Relationship/Assign match to parental line* is a new and very interesting feature. By now all of you should have it but if not, like the new look mentioned above, it’s on its way. The first time you get the feature this window will show:



According to Crista, the reason Ancestry included this feature is because they recognised that very few newly tested people (or even those who had tested some time ago) were using the DNA match list, the coloured dots, the notes or match sorting. The reason, they discovered, was because they don't know how to do these things. This new system was introduced in an attempt to be more interactive. It engages the user by asking the simple question "Do you recognize [the shared match]?" This, Ancestry hopes, will mean that more people will interact with the site and may in turn lead to improved collaboration with their newly found relations.

SBS Insight programme

[DNA & Crime](#): Season 2021 Episode 15.

DNA has revolutionised criminal investigations with many cases now solved through DNA evidence linking perpetrators to crimes. But how reliable is DNA evidence and do those in the justice system understand it enough? Pauline presented a part of this video which concerned the use of Investigative Genetic Genealogy to identify California's Golden State Killer. The complete Insight program is available to view through your tv or [online](#) at SBS OnDemand.

Looking for cheapest prices for Ancestry DNA kits?

As you are aware, the major DNA testing companies regularly reduce their prices for certain events such as Christmas, Easter, St. Patricks Day or simply because it's Tuesday. 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 site is administered by the well-known Australian genetic genealogist Louise Coakley. Clicking on the banner of *Announcements* at the top of their page, will open a graphic called "Discounts: DNA Tests & Subscriptions". Whenever the group becomes aware of a discount link,

they will share them here.

The regular price for an AncestryDNA kit in Australia is A\$129 + \$30 shipping. On this site the discount price for an AncestryDNA kit is often shown as A\$85 + \$30 shipping (shipping



includes a return-paid satchel). Looking for a bargain? It is certainly worth visiting this site regularly.

If you are a new subscriber to Ancestry [this link](#) shows a Worldwide annual subscription (with conditions) at £UK89.99 which is around \$AU165 – as against a [6 month price of \\$AU169.99](#).

Tips & Tricks

This month Jim Bartlett wrote a short blog on how to [Search on a Surname](#) in AncestryDNA. I used this technique to search for surnames and locations of “difficult” relations to try to get more information about that particular brick wall. Jim suggests firstly opening the list of DNA matches and clicking on *Search*. Then adding the name to the *Surname in matches’ trees* block and a location in *Birth location in matches’ trees*. In theory the list that comes up will match each other and yourself and show the surname coupled with the desired location. At this month’s DNA Support Group meeting, a few said that this does not always happen, so we should be cautious about accepting the information without first checking.

I entered a relatively unusual surname “Marwood” and the location “Yorkshire” and found 5 shared matches. Of those five, three had *Common Ancestors* which (with verification) enabled me to link them to my tree. The other two each have a *Public linked tree* showing Marwoods as coming from Yorkshire. Now I need to look at each of these matches in turn to identify our shared lineage. Unfortunately 4 of the 5 matches shared less than 20cM with me which meant Ancestry won’t show any of our shared matches.

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 or Pauline know and we can chat about it at one of our future meetings.

Next Meeting:

Pauline, Diane Gillespie and Ken will be convening our next DNA Support meeting on Monday 26th July between 1:00pm – 3:00pm via Zoom.

Our usual Zoom Meeting ID is [REDACTED] and the Passcode is [REDACTED]

See you then and stay safe.