

In Search of...My Scottish Ancestors

Saturday 19 June 12.30pm-6.30pm AEST

PROGRAM

(The below program is subject to amendments with session times all in Australian Eastern Standard Time)

In addition, SAG members are invited to attend the following events: the Friday Hang Out with SAG on Friday 25 June 4pm topic will be "My Scottish Discoveries" see <https://www.sag.org.au/hangout> and the "Let's Talk About..." topic on Monday 28 June will be also be on Scottish Research – register at <https://saq.org.au/event-4345860>

All delegates will be emailed the pre-recorded session from keynote speaker **Michelle Leonard**:
Using DNA for Scottish family history research, to view in advance.

12.30pm-12.45pm	Introduction to the day and the Society's Scottish holdings – Vanessa Cassin and Ruth Graham
12.45pm-1.30pm	Keynote Speaker – Dr Bruce Durie (pre-recorded): 1. Who are the Scots and why is Scottish DNA complicated? 2. Scottish Heraldry for the Genealogist
1.30pm-1.45pm	BREAK
1.45pm-2.30pm	Scotland 101, an introduction to Scottish research – Cathie Sherwood
2.30pm-3.15pm	Scottish Immigration to Australia – Kerry Farmer
3.15pm-3.30pm	BREAK
3.30pm-4.00pm	Findmypast Scottish collections - Myko Clelland
4.00pm-4.30pm	Ancestry Scottish collections - Kirsty Wilkinson
4.30pm-4.45pm	BREAK
4.45pm-5.30pm	Scottish Witch trials and family history – Ruth Graham in conversation with Sheila Gaul, Chairperson of @scottishwitches
5.30pm-6.30pm	Scottish research panel: Bruce Durie & Michelle Leonard Host: Cathie Sherwood, SAG Education Committee Closing address: SAG Director Kerry Farmer

In addition to the above sessions on the 19 June, recordings will be provided following the event featuring:

Dr Ben Wilkie, Latrobe University – searching for Scottish convicts in the family;

Claire Mitchell QC & Zoe Venditozzi, Witches of Scotland campaign;

Visit Scotland – preparing research trips to Scotland; Sydney Society for Scottish History

Key note speakers:



Dr Bruce Durie is considered one of Scotland's top genealogists, with an international reputation. He is perhaps best known for his eight-year BBC radio series, "Digging Up Your Roots" and "A House with A Past", and he has authored over 30 books, including the best-selling "Scottish Genealogy" now in its 4th edition. His background is in medicine and neuropharmacology, as well as holding a doctoral degree in history and education. Bruce founded, delivered and ran the much-acclaimed Postgraduate Program in Genealogical Studies at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, including a full-time, online, one-year Masters Genealogical Studies programme. He now teaches courses on Genealogy, Documents and Heraldry as a Teaching Fellow at the University of Edinburgh.



Michelle Leonard is a Scottish professional genealogist, DNA detective, freelance researcher, speaker, author and historian. She runs her own genealogy and DNA consultancy business, Genes & Genealogy. She is a regular speaker at events such as RootsTech, The Genealogy Show, Family Tree Live, Back To Our Past and Who Do You Think You Are? Live as well as a co-author of "[Tracing Your Ancestors Using DNA: A Guide For Family Historians](#)" which was published in June 2019. Michelle spent several years working on the ground-breaking Fromelles Genealogy Project tracking down appropriate DNA donors to identify WWI soldiers buried in a mass grave in France and served as Genealogical Consultant on the official [Fromelles documentary](#). Michelle holds an M.A. in English and Modern History from the University of St Andrews and a PgCert in Genealogical, Palaeographic and Heraldic Studies from the University of Strathclyde. She is a member of the [Association of Professional Genealogists](#) (APG), the [Scottish Genealogy Network](#) (SGN), the [Society of Genealogists](#) (SOG) and the [International Society of Genetic Genealogy](#) (ISOGG).

In Search of...My Scottish Ancestors

Saturday 19 June 12.30pm-6.30pm AEST

Selected biographies:



Cathie Sherwood has been investigating her ancestors for over 40 years and would describe herself as someone who is passionate about history and addicted to family history. She is a great believer in the value of family history education and regularly attends and presents at conferences, seminars and institutes in Australia and overseas. Cathie was one of only two Australians selected to present at the inaugural RootsTech London in 2019, she was featured in an episode of the Australian version of Who Do You Think You Are 2020 and recently presented at RootsTech 2021 and Family History Down Under 2021. Cathie is a member of the SAG Education Committee and is a Global Ambassador the Friends of Findmypast program.



Kerry Farmer is a researcher, presenter and teacher in genealogical studies. She is on the Board of the Society of Australian Genealogists and convenor of our Education Committee. She is Director of Australian Studies for the National Institute for Genealogical Studies, developing their Australian Records courses. Kerry authored DNA for Genealogists (4th edn, 2017), Arrivals in Australia from 1788 (2015) as well as various genealogical Handy Guides for Unlock the Past.



Myko Clelland is the British based genealogist, spokesperson & regional licensing manager for Findmypast, he is regularly seen discussing family history on television, radio, online & in print. He holds a Masters degree in genealogy (distinction) and is a qualified adult education teacher with over 500 worldwide teaching and speaking appearances.



Kirsty Wilkinson is a professional genealogist, based in Edinburgh. She holds an MSc in Genealogical, Palaeographical and Heraldic Studies from the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, and is an accredited member of the Association of Scottish Genealogists and Researchers in Archives (ASGRA). After successfully running her own family history business for over ten years, Kirsty joined the AncestryProGenealogists(R) research team in 2017, where she specializes in Scottish research. She has a passion for solving complex family history problems and for helping others discover their own family stories. She is the author of 'Finding Your Scottish Ancestors: Techniques for Solving Genealogy Problems'.



Dr Ben Wilkie is a historian and an Honorary Associate in La Trobe University's College of Arts, Social Science and Commerce and the Centre for the Study of the Inland. He has broad experience in Australian and Victorian history, particularly the history of the Scots in Australia and the history of the Western District of Victoria. He has also worked on projects in the area of business and economic history. His first book was The Scots in Australia, 1788-1938 (Boydell Press 2017). Ben's most recent book is Gariwerd: An Environmental History of the Grampians (CSIRO Publishing 2020), which won the Local History Small Publication Award in the 2020 Victorian Community History Awards. He can be found at: <https://bvwilkie.github.io/> and <https://thescottishaustralian.wordpress.com/>



Sheila Gaul is the Chairperson of campaign group @scottishwitches, Remembering the Accused Witches of Scotland (RAWS). Sheila has a background in nursing and social work was instrumental in starting the Remembering the Accused Witches of Scotland, a small but growing group of social justice campaigners, historians and passionate community members who would like to raise awareness of the forgotten victims of Scotland's witch trials.



Claire Mitchell QC and **Zoe Venditozzi** run the Witches of Scotland campaign www.witchesofscotland.com which is demanding "Justice for people accused and convicted under the Witchcraft Act 1563-1736". Claire is a Queen's Council working out of the Compass Chambers in Edinburgh and has built up a strong Appeal Court practice, with an emphasis on constitutional, human rights and sentencing questions. Zoe is a writer from Dundee and her novel "Anywhere's Better Than Here" was published in October 2012 and she contributed to the "24 Stories: of Hope for Survivors of the Grenfell Tower Fire" collection in 2018 amongst other works.

Your hosts for the day:



Vanessa Cassin has recently joined the staff of the Society as Education Manager. Vanessa has a professional background in education and training gained from the university sector and public service, including time at the office of NSW Trustee & Guardian. Vanessa's Scottish family hails from counties Roxburgh, Angus, Fife, Moray, Lothian and the Orkney Islands.



Ruth Graham has been the Society's Chief Executive Officer since mid-2020 and prior to that, in tertiary education roles across medical, business, ICT and humanities disciplines in the UK and Australia. Ruth's paternal grandfather immigrated to Australia on the *Euripides* in 1925 and she actively researches his Scottish origins and other family from Lanarkshire, Perthshire, Dumfries, Glasgow and Edinburgh.