



# In Search of... DNA Connections

Friday 24 and Saturday 25 November 2023

## ONLINE CONFERENCE PROGRAM

(The below program is subject to amendments)

SESSIONS	Session time Sydney (AEDT)	Time in New Zealand (NZDT)	Time in Canada (EDT)	Time in UK (GMT)	Time in QLD (AEST)	Time in WA (AWST)
<b>Friday 24 November</b>						
<b>Welcome &amp; introduction</b> – Melissa Hulbert & Vanessa Cassin	<b>7:55pm-8:00pm</b>	9.55pm-10:00pm	3:55am-4:00am	8:55am-9:00am	6:55pm-7:00pm	4:45pm-5:00pm
<b>OPENING PRESENTATION</b> – Martin McDowell Why Y-DNA?	<b>8:00pm-9:00pm</b>	10:00pm-11:00pm	4:00am-5:00am	9:00am-10:00am	7:00pm-8:00pm	5:00pm-6:00pm
<b>Close</b> – Melissa Hulbert	<b>9:00pm-9:05pm</b>	11:00pm-11:05pm	5:00am-5:05am	10:00am-10:05am	8:00pm-8:05pm	6:00pm-6:05pm
<b>Saturday 25 November</b>						
<b>Welcome, Introduction &amp; Housekeeping</b> – Melissa Hulbert/Louise Coakley or Vanessa Cassin	<b>9:45am-10:00am</b>	11.45am-12:00pm	5:45pm-6:00pm (on Friday 24 Nov)	10:45pm-11:00pm (on Friday 24 Nov)	8:45am-9:00am	6:45am-7:00am
<b>Fiona Brooker</b> Leeds Method Workshop	<b>10:00am-12:00pm</b>	12:00pm-2:00pm	6:00pm-8:00pm	11:00pm-1:00am	9:00am-11:00am	7:00am-9:00am
<b>BREAK</b>	<b>12:00pm-12:15pm</b>	<b>2:00pm-2:15pm</b>	<b>8:00pm-8:15pm</b>	<b>1:00am-1:15am</b>	<b>11:00am-11:15am</b>	<b>9:00am-9:15am</b>
<b>Mags Gaulden</b> Using MtDNA in Your Family History Research	<b>12:15pm-1:15pm</b>	2:15pm-3:15pm	8:15pm-9:15pm	1:15am-2:15am	11:15am-12:15pm	9:15am-10:15am
<b>LUNCH</b>	<b>1:15pm-2:00pm</b>	<b>3:15pm-4:00pm</b>	<b>9:15pm-10:00pm</b>	<b>2:15am-3:00am</b>	<b>12:15pm-1:00pm</b>	<b>10:15am-11:00am</b>
<b>Louise Coakley</b> From Family Histories to Community Mysteries	<b>2:00pm-3:00pm</b>	4:00pm-5:00pm	10:00pm-11:00pm	3:00am-4:00am	1:00pm-2:00pm	11:00am-12:00pm
<b>BREAK</b>	<b>3:00pm-3:15pm</b>	<b>5:00pm-5:15pm</b>	<b>11:00pm-11:15pm</b>	<b>4:00am-4:15am</b>	<b>2:00pm-2:15pm</b>	<b>12:00pm-12:15pm</b>
<b>Genetic Genealogy Quiz</b>	<b>3:15pm-3:45pm</b>	5:15pm-5:45pm	11:15pm-11:45pm	4:15am-4:45am	2:15pm-2:45pm	12:15pm-12:45pm
<b>Panel: Looking Towards the Future</b> – Featuring Ruth Graham, Louise Coakley, Danielle Lautrec and Tasman Grant	<b>3:45pm-4:15pm</b>	5:45pm-6:15pm	11:45pm-12:15am	4:45am-5:15am	2:45pm-3:15pm	12:45pm-1:15pm
<b>Close of event</b> - Melissa Hulbert/Louise Coakley or Vanessa Cassin	<b>4:15pm-4:30pm</b>	6:15pm-6:30pm	12:15am-12:30am	5:15am-5:30am	3:15pm-3:30pm	1:15pm-1:30pm



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## Speaker Biographies

**Martin McDowell** is the education officer of the North of Ireland Family History Society and an admin of the North of Ireland DNA Project. He helps organise and deliver an annual DNA Summer school (which attracts attendees from all around the world) and has recently joined the executive committee of the Family History Federation as DNA Officer.

**Fiona Brooker's** family history journey started over 40 years ago with two 19th century marriage certificates taking her research into New Zealand, Australia, North America and the United Kingdom. Now DNA, combined with research, is breaking down her brick walls and helping to make connections with new family members. While living in England, Fiona studied with the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies and obtained a Higher Certificate in Genealogy. She's a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists and has completed ProGen. She has served as both President and Treasurer of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists (NZSG) and convened the 2008 and 2018 national conferences. She was part of the team organising the Christchurch Family History Expo from 2020- 2022. Memories in Time ([www.memoriesintime.co.nz](http://www.memoriesintime.co.nz)) grew from her desire to help others trace their family history. As a professional genealogist she has helped others get started; get through road blocks; understand their DNA, get organised and find cousins and heirs to estates.

**Mags Gauden** is a genetic genealogist based in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. She has dedicated decades to researching family histories and exploring the role of genetics in genealogy. Born and raised in the United States, Mags developed an early interest in family history and genealogy. She started researching her own family tree, which led her to discover the power of genetic testing in genealogy. Mags is the founder of Grandma's Genes, a genealogy consultation firm in Ottawa, and mitoYDNA.org, a free and accessible Y and mitochondrial DNA database for the genealogy community that is a 501(c) 3 non-profit based in Maryland. Mags is also a leader at WikiTree, a collaborative, community-based genealogy website. She works with the DNA Integrators Project to further the DNA features of WikiTree and has been recognized for her contributions to the site with the prestigious Leader badge. As a sought-after international speaker and workshop coordinator, Mags has continued to share her expertise on a range of topics related to genetic genealogy and family history research. She is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists and the International Society of Genetic Genealogy, among other organizations. Her passion for family history, combined with her expertise in genetics and genealogy, has helped many people uncover their family histories and connect with their roots.

**Louise Coakley** is a professional genetic genealogist in Australia, specialising in investigative genetic genealogy. She has 26 years of genealogical research experience, and 12 years using DNA as a research tool. After five years specialising in using DNA to identify close biological relatives such as unknown parents and grandparents, in 2020 Louise started working in Investigative Genetic Genealogy (IGG/FIGG) – on the first unidentified human remains (UHR) case using IGG in Australia. Louise established one of the first DNA Interest Groups in Australia, and she created and leads the popular Facebook groups [Using DNA for Genealogy – Australia & NZ](#) and [Investigative Genetic Genealogy \(IGG\) in Australia & New Zealand](#). Her professional background was in corporate/business information systems and data analysis, and her professional qualifications include a Master of Business Administration (MBA), Bachelor of Business (BBus – Data Processing). Louise is a member of the Society of Australian Genealogists, the Association of Professional Genealogists, the International Society of Genetic Genealogists, and some regional family history groups.

**Tasman Grant** is currently studying geography and environmental science. He graduated with a Diploma of Family History in 2023 from the University of Tasmania. As a keen genealogist, he has been researching for clients since 2011 and has volunteered and contributed to several historical societies. Tasman has attended two Rootstech conferences abroad, numerous workshops and forums. He values the ways in which genetic genealogy enables us to unravel mysteries and brick walls, and to verify paper trail research. Other interests in this space include genetic anthropology, archaeogenetics, and contextualising our links to ancient populations and historic civilisations.



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**Danielle Lautrec** retired from her role as SAG Education/Archives Officer in 2020. She continues to play a vital role with the Society in the Archives and as a group lead and course presenter. Danielle's interests are the methodology of historical research, 18th and early 19th century Sydney and British Jamaican genealogy. She has degrees in history, archaeology, environmental studies and town planning. Danielle is the author of *The Good Genealogist* and blogs about research methodology and her genealogy journey at <http://www.generationsgenealogy.com.au/>

**Ruth Graham** has been the CEO of the SAG since early 2020 and prior to that, worked in tertiary education roles across medical, business, ICT and humanities disciplines in the UK and Australia. Ruth has been researching her own family history for many years, primarily in Ireland and Scotland.

## Your hosts for this event

**Melissa Hulbert** currently works as a public servant specialising in the fields of astronomy and education along with site, programs, and project coordination. She is also a casual instructor at Swinburne University for their online astronomy courses and a casual tutor at her local community college. Her interest in genealogy started at an early age and has grown over the years. She joined the SAG in 2000, the Board in 2015, and serves on the Education and the Governance, Risk & Compliance committees. She is a regular presenter at the SAG, on various topics, with a particular interest in DNA. DNA has helped unravel many mysteries including who her maternal grandfather was and has added new areas of research in the USA, Germany, and Switzerland.

**Vanessa Cassin** is the Education Manager of the Society of Australian Genealogists. She is a learning and development professional with extensive experience in providing training and assessment in the trustee industry, both as an in-house trainer for the NSW Trustee & Guardian and as an assessor for Western Sydney University the College's Registered Training Organisation. Vanessa is also a genealogist who has been researching her own family history for over 20 years.