

Course Overview

“Starting to solve your DNA dilemmas!”

In January 2023, the Society of Australian Genealogists is again offering an intensive program for members who have tested at AncestryDNA and want to understand how to work with their results. The course will be presented on Zoom and will not be recorded.

There are four modules in the course-

1. Introduction to AncestryDNA,
2. Grouping your AncestryDNA matches,
3. Building research trees at *Ancestry* and
4. Using the “What are the Odds?” tool at *DNA Painter* to track your matches.

There will also be an **optional session** at 7.30pm on Sunday 6 January 2023 to overview the four types of DNA and testing companies. This is for those participants who want a refresh on how AncestryDNA testing fits into the genetic genealogy framework.

Commencing on Wednesday 11 January 2023, each module will open with a two hour presentation from 1.30pm to 3.30pm. This presentation will be repeated on the following Saturday at 10.00am, commencing on Saturday 14 January 2023. In addition, there will be five 90 minute discussion sessions from 7.30pm to 9.00pm on Wednesday evenings during the program.

The expectation is that participants will attend one presentation in each module. Participants can then attend as many or few of the presentations and follow up discussions as they're interested in. This allows maximum flexibility for participants. *The full timetable is attached.*

The presentations will include demonstrations using AncestryDNA and case studies. Combining presentations and follow up discussions will allow participants the maximum opportunity to apply the concepts to their own DNA dilemmas and have concepts clarified and questions answered. Key points from the presentations along with useful references and program activities are provided through the [Mossie's Musings](#) blog. Contact can be made with the program's presenters

through this blog. We'll also support the program with a dedicated, closed Facebook Group where we'll answer questions during the program.

The presentation team are volunteers for the Society and provide their time freely. They do their best to support participants through the program. The presentation team and participants in the program are expected to be respectful and courteous at all times. The presentation team and participants should operate within the Society's published guidelines for copyright, privacy and ethics which can be found on the Society's website.

Overview of sessions

We'll see how brick walls can come crashing down by using a three prong approach to solving DNA dilemmas at AncestryDNA - grouping your matches, building research trees at Ancestry and using the 'What are the odds?' tool at *DNA Painter*. When participants are comfortable with the approach, they can apply it to the other testing sites and *GEDmatch*.

Module 1 - Introduction to AncestryDNA

Work your way around AncestryDNA and learn what can be done with your AncestryDNA results - exploring ethnicity and DNA cousins. We'll also look at privacy settings, linking DNA tests to a family tree, sharing access to AncestryDNA tests, uploading a family tree and downloading "Raw DNA Data".

Module 2 - Grouping your AncestryDNA matches

Have you looked at your AncestryDNA matches and wondered how you're related to all those "cousins"? Dana Leeds introduced her method of grouping matches in 2018. Since then, many DNA enthusiasts have used the method with great success. We'll be using the features of AncestryDNA to group your "cousins" and see how that starts to break down those brick walls.

Module 3 - Building research trees at Ancestry

We'll explore using the power of *Ancestry's* hints to build trees to search for the common ancestors your genetic cousins share. We'll look at using traditional family history research with genetic genealogy to gather the evidence needed to prove relationships beyond reasonable doubt.

Module 4 - Using the “What are the Odds?”(WATO) tool

We'll start with looking at how to predict the relationship between your genetic cousins. This will lead onto tracking common ancestors between your DNA matches using WATO and predicting what the relationships might be between you and those DNA matches.

Does this program suit your needs?

To get the most out of this program, participants should have-

- tested at AncestryDNA,
- used Ancestry to build trees and research records and
- used traditional family history to develop their pedigree back four generations to identify as many of their great-grandparents as possible.

Participants should also have a subscription to Ancestry or access to the Ancestry Institutional Edition.

The maximum group size is 30.

One off cost of course-

Members	\$190
Non-members	\$279 including one year's standard membership to the Society of Australian Genealogists

If you withdraw prior to 16 December 2022, \$140 will be refunded. If you withdraw between 16 December 2022 and 27 January 2023, \$95 will be refunded. After that date, there will be no refund for withdrawals. Membership fees will not be refunded.

Presenter - Christine Woodlands

Panelists - Kathryn Barrett and Vicki Hails

Christine, Kathryn and Vicki are members of the Society of Australian Genealogists DNA Research Group. They describe themselves as enthusiastic amateur genetic genealogists and volunteer their time to the Society to run this program.

Family history was Christine’s retirement project, but the power of genetic genealogy has become her focus. Christine was a public servant and has qualifications in commerce and law. She lives in Sydney. Using genetic genealogy and traditional research, Christine has broken down brick walls in her own family and enjoys working with others to solve DNA dilemmas. She regularly presents both beginners and more advanced DNA sessions for the Society. In 2020, Christine presented a four webinars series covering the three-prong approach to solving DNA dilemmas with AncestryDNA. In Summer 2021, she presented this four module program for the first time. This is the fourth time the program has been run. Christine uses social media and blogs to share the stories of her family.

Date	Time	Session
Sunday 8 January 2023	7.30 to 9.00	Optional session: “4 types of DNA, 3 types of DNA tests”
Wednesday 11 January 2023	1.30 to 3.30	Presentation - Introduction to Ancestry DNA
Saturday 14 January 2023	10.00 to 12.00	Rerun of presentation - Introduction to AncestryDNA
Wednesday 18 January 2023	7.30 to 9.00	Discussion session
Wednesday 25 January 2023	1.30 to 3.30	Presentation - Grouping AncestryDNA matches
Saturday 28 January 2023	10.00 to 12.00	Rerun of presentation - Grouping AncestryDNA matches
Wednesday 8 February 2023	7.30 to 9.00	Discussion session
Wednesday 15 February 2023	1.30 to 3.30	Presentation - Building research trees at Ancestry
Saturday 18 February 2023	10.00 to 12.00	Rerun of presentation - Building research trees at Ancestry
Wednesday 22 February 2023	7.30 to 9.00	Discussion session
Wednesday 22 March 2023	1.30 to 3.30	Presentation - Using “What are the Odds” with AncestryDNA
Saturday 25 March 2023	10.00 to 12.00	Rerun of presentation - Using “What are the Odds” with AncestryDNA
Wednesday 29 March 2023	7.30 to 9.00	Discussion session
Wednesday 10 May 2023	7.30 to 9.00	Final discussion session