



# WANAKA GENEALOGY GROUP NEWSLETTER

## MAY 2016

Hello All

### **MAY SOCIAL MEETING – DNA**

There is a lot of information on this topic and it is rapidly changing. I will attempt to summarise some of the things that were mentioned on Friday and give details of websites and books which you can use to make your own decisions.

#### Why do I want a DNA test?

There is no right or wrong way to go, but what became obvious is that it is important to understand **why** you are considering a DNA test. What are you hoping to learn? Some of these reasons could be health (risk factors for hereditary diseases), discovering “possible” common ancestors, or an interest in the ancient migrations of people. Your reasons will impact on the type of test you take.

#### What kind of tests are there?

- Y-chromosome - Only for males. Often done through a surname study.
- Mitochondrial – males and females can take the test. It is inherited only down the female line i.e. your mother’s matrilineal line.
- Autosomal – for males and females Looks at your entire genetic make-up and searches for family across all lines.

Of course this is very simplified.

For more information see: DNA for Genealogists by Kerry Farmer. She also has a website <http://familyhistoryresearch.com.au/> and the book can be downloaded as an e-book.

Gail Riddell is the NZ volunteer representative of Family Tree DNA in the USA who have the largest database of DNA results/matches in the world. She has written some very informative articles on DNA. To sign up for the free newsletter to access these please go to: <http://www.famnet.net.nz/>

#### Which company to use?

The International Society of Genealogy’s Wiki shows a comparison of what services the various companies offer and what is available. [www.isogg.org](http://www.isogg.org)

For the comparison chart of Autosomal DNA testing for genetic genealogy purposes for the following five companies: 23andMe, AncestryDNA, BritainsDNA, Family Tree DNA and the Genographic Project see:

[http://isogg.org/wiki/Autosomal\\_DNA\\_testing\\_comparison\\_chart](http://isogg.org/wiki/Autosomal_DNA_testing_comparison_chart)

Oxford Ancestors: <http://www.oxfordancestors.com/>

Founded by University genealogist Professor Bryan Sykes. You can test for maternal or paternal individually or both for a slight discount. The emphasis is on ancient genealogies.

Now, to summarise our own experiences.

### Ancestry

We first watched a couple of YouTube videos.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vnn\\_0qx43k&o\\_xid=70907&o\\_lid=70907&o\\_sch=Email+-+Campaigns](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vnn_0qx43k&o_xid=70907&o_lid=70907&o_sch=Email+-+Campaigns)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cu86iUV8uc8>

After watching these Ancestry seemed like a good option however, a couple of people who have taken the test advise caution. It is US biased and has only just started to add other countries. You do need a subscription to ancestry and if this lapses you can no longer access the matches so there is a continuing cost.

Results have been disappointing with matched people not responding to attempts to contact them.

Kay Seyb has kindly made some notes on her experience of Ancestry DNA. She will be happy to email you a copy. You can contact her at [breina48@yahoo.com](mailto:breina48@yahoo.com)

### FamilyTreeDNA

This US based firm is the biggest DNA-testing company and hosts the majority of the surname projects conducted.

The kit is sent from the USA and takes about 10 days to arrive. All instructions are included with the kit. There are different prices for different levels. It takes about 6 weeks for the first report to arrive which includes names of people with similar DNA but they provide updates in between so you know what is happening. Matches are still being sent even though the test was done 3 years ago.

### The Genographic Project

<https://genographic.nationalgeographic.com/>

Since its launch in 2005, National Geographic's Genographic Project has used advanced DNA analysis and worked with indigenous communities to help answer fundamental questions about where humans originated and how we came to populate the Earth. This test will not give you individual matches. It maps groups of people based on their DNA so if you are more interested in the ancient migrations this is the one for you.

**A number of us are considering having a DNA test so I suggest we have a follow up session, perhaps in February 2017 to see if anyone has tried another company and we can compare our experiences and findings.**

Finally – Take a look at...

**The Resilience Project** <http://resilienceproject.com/>

This project aims to discover hidden factors that protect people from disease. Led by the Icahn Institute for Genomics at Mount Sinai, in collaboration with Sage Bionetworks and others worldwide, they are searching for people who, according to medical textbooks, should be sick but have somehow escaped typical signs and symptoms of disease.

These people are “resilient,” protected by undiscovered genetic or environmental factors. Finding and studying these resilient individuals could pave the way to disease prevention and new treatments.

Go to the website and sign up for updates about this project.

**Lost Cousins** <http://www.lostcousins.com/> is free to join and has some good articles on DNA in the newsletter.

## **INTEREST GROUPS**

The Interest Groups are continuing to work well. The following contain a short summary of what we have been doing and a glimpse of what is coming up. Don't forget you can go along to any group that you are interested in. You don't need to attend every session. If you have something to offer on the topic then all the better.

### **LOCAL HISTORY EXPLORERS**

#### **Next meeting**

**Wednesday 17 August**

When: 11am  
Where: Wanaka Library  
Project: The History of Fork Farm  
Jo Wilton 443 8123  
[wiltonnz@hotmail.com](mailto:wiltonnz@hotmail.com)

Our first topic chosen was the history of the first ferryman's cottage currently situated at 4 Arklow Street, Albert Town and now owned by Marie Lewis.

We have been busy gathering information on the people who used to live in the cottage. Marie has conducted some interviews with local families with a view to creating a photo book.

The group expressed an interest in learning more about the old properties in the district. Our next project will be the History of Fork Farm and we will gather information to start with. Watch this space – maybe another publication is looming!!

### **SCOTTISH GROUP**

#### **Next Meeting**

**Friday 20 May**

When: 2pm  
Where: 36 Riverbank Road  
Neal Brown 443 1044  
[brown.hawea@actrix.co.nz](mailto:brown.hawea@actrix.co.nz)

The group meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of every 2<sup>nd</sup> month.

The next meeting is on 20 May at 2 pm at 105 Aubrey Road The topic will be Margaret Thomlinson talking about, "Solving the Cook's Family Problem"

A varied and interesting program has been put forward.

Friday 15 July – Herbs and Healers

Friday 16 September – Battles of Scotland

### **IRISH GROUP**

#### **Next Meeting**

**Wednesday 13 July**

When: 2pm  
Where: 86 Kings Drive Wanaka  
Topic: Griffiths Valuation  
**Matt Primrose** 443 8977  
[mprimrose@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mprimrose@xtra.co.nz)

Irish Group will be taking a small break and there will be no meeting in June.

We have looked at various websites, concentrating on <http://www.rootsireland.ie/> and [www.irishgenealogy.ie](http://www.irishgenealogy.ie) A very satisfactory result

when one of our number found some information she didn't have before. The whole group was excited! Our next session will attempt to unravel the mysteries of Griffiths Valuation.

Bring your computer/tablet if you have one and a name/family to search for

Future topics will include Irish history and social aspects of the times our ancestors lived in.

## COMPUTER USE IN GENEALOGY

### Next Meeting Thursday 21 July

When: 5.00 pm

Where: Wanaka Library

Topic: Adding Photos to your software

Louise Primrose\_443 8977



[loup.lp76@gmail.com](mailto:loup.lp76@gmail.com)

Computer Group will be taking a small break and there will be no meeting in June.

We have been meeting every other week on a Thursday evening in the library. We have tried to keep things as practical as possible and as the core members of the group liked the free version of Family Tree Builder (MyHeritage) we have downloaded this software plus the User Guide.

In our sessions we have been learning how to import a GEDCOM and generally familiarise ourselves with how to use the software. In our last session we looked at adding sources. Our next session will cover how to add photos to your genealogy software.

We try to have a general question time at the end. It gives us ideas for other topics if we can't answer the query easily.

### **ABSOLUTE COMPLETE BEGINNERS SESSION PLANNED!**

Would you like to have your family tree in some sort of genealogy software program, be able to print out charts and reports easily, but don't know where to start? I can take you through step-by-step from downloading it to learning how to add your family and printing out a chart. **Contact me and register your interest.**

## RECORD KEEPING & WRITING

### Record Keeping & Writing Monday 18 July

When: 2.00 pm

Where: Wanaka Library

Topic: Telling Our Own Stories

Louise Primrose\_443 8977

[loup.lp76@gmail.com](mailto:loup.lp76@gmail.com)

We will be taking a small break and there will be no meeting in June.

We usually meet on the first Monday of the month although the meeting in July is later as I am away. Our catchphrase is "Make a start" as there is never an ideal time to do this and we are all so busy! This works for writing as well as record keeping. Paper mountains have started to disappear and plans are being made.

### **TELLING OUR OWN STORIES**

Ken brought a sample of his writing to the last group and challenged us to write our own stories as these are so often forgotten about in our haste to write about everybody else. He captured our imagination with his ABC. Find out all about it and come along to the next meeting.

Future Topics include "Making a Plan" ; Creating a Timeline;

## RESEARCH MEETINGS

When: Last Friday of the month 2pm

Where: Wanaka Library

These sessions are proving very popular. They are for anyone actively researching an ancestor/family. Bring a name and any information you have. You can use the library computers or bring your own tablet/laptop. This is a good idea as sometimes the library computers are very busy.

Books and magazines may be borrowed from the Genealogy Group library cupboard. The library also has a selection of genealogy books.

There will be people to help you!

If you are not researching but feel able to help others search, please do come along.



## SOCIAL MEETINGS

When: **First Friday in February, May, August and December 2pm**

All are welcome. Bring a friend.



### Friday 5 August 2016 – Family History Month

Where: Meeting Room, Wanaka Hotel, 71 Ardmore Street, Wanaka

Time: 2 pm

Topic: TIPS FOR TRIPS

Have you visited an archive either in New Zealand or abroad? Come along and share your experiences with others and help us make the most of our collective experience.

Can you answer questions such as: Do I need to book in advance? Can I use a pen or is only pencil allowed? Do I need proof of address and identity? Where is the nearest parking? And so on...

Tea and Coffee available

### Friday 2 December 2016 – Christmas Get together

Where: Meeting Room, Wanaka Hotel, 71 Ardmore Street, Wanaka

Time: 2 pm

Topic: WHERE IN THE WORLD DO ALL OUR FAMILIES COME FROM?

The Interest Groups will provide some entertainment!

### Committee

President	Louise Primrose	mobile. 021 266 6975	<a href="mailto:wanareilly@xtra.co.nz">wanareilly@xtra.co.nz</a>
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## SUMMARY OF DATES FOR YOUR DIARY JUNE TO AUGUST 2016

Date	Group	Place	Time	Topic
<b>MAY</b>				
Friday 20 May	Scottish Group	36 Riverbank Road	2 pm	Talk: "Solving the Cook's Family Problem"
Friday 27 May	General Research	Wanaka Library	2pm	Bring the name of an ancestor to research
<b>JUNE</b>				
Friday 24 June	General Research	Wanaka Library	2pm	Bring the name of an ancestor to research
<b>JULY</b>				
Wednesday 13 July	Irish Group	86 Kings Drive	2pm	Working Group – Griffiths Valuation
Friday 15 July	Scottish Group	Wanaka Library	2 pm	Herbs and Healers
Monday 18 July	Record Keeping & Writing	Wanaka Library	2 pm	Our own stories
Thursday 21 July	Using Computers in Genealogy	Wanaka Library	5.00 pm	Adding Photos to Genealogy software
Friday 29 July	General Research	Wanaka Library	2pm	Bring the name of an ancestor to research
<b>AUGUST – FAMILY HISTORY MONTH</b>				
Friday 5 August	Social Meeting: All Welcome (Bring a Friend)	Meeting Room Wanaka Hotel Ardmore Street	2pm	Tips for Trips
Wednesday 17 August	Local History Explorers	Wanaka Library	11am	Project: The History of Fork Farm

**Friday 2 December Christmas Social Get Together in the Meeting Room Wanaka Hotel at 2pm**  
**Topic: Where in the World do our families come from? Interest Group Presentations**