

Tools for searching for long-lost relatives

Ancestry.com.au: www.ancestry.com.au

Ancestry.com.au offers members access to one billion searchable Australian, New Zealand and United Kingdom family history records. On Ancestry you can search for your family's history using local and international records. Records include convict and free settler lists, passenger lists, Australian and New Zealand electoral rolls and military records, English, Welsh and Scottish censuses, birth, marriage and death records as well as user-contributed family trees. If you need to search in countries other than Australia, New Zealand or the United Kingdom try Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com) which covers the rest of the world.

Don't want to pay for a subscription? Visit the NSW State Library (in-person) for free access.

You might also want to consider a DNA test through Ancestry which may link you to biological family members.

Australian Electoral Roll: Ph: 13 23 26

https://www.aec.gov.au/Enrolling_to_vote/About_Electoral_Roll/

Search the Australian Electoral Roll for your relative/s. You need to visit your local ER office in person to search. For the address of your closest ER office visit the above link or phone the Australian Electoral Roll Commission. You can then go to "check enrolment" on the AEC website to verify found information.

NSW Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages:
<https://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au/Pages/family-history-research/family-history-search.aspx>

Conduct a Family History Search through NSW BDM which offers free access to records of:

- Births – over 100 years ago
- Deaths – over 30 years ago
- Marriages – over 50 years ago

If you need to locate BDM records for other Australian states/territories, you will need to search via google for the applicable state / territory as each one has its own registry.

The Ryerson Index:

<http://ryersonindex.org/search.php>

The Ryerson Index is a free online index to death notices appearing in Australia newspapers. The date range covered extends from 1803 up to newspapers published within the last week or so. The Index also includes many funeral notices, and some probate notices and obituaries.

Keep in mind that the Ryerson Index is an ongoing project run by a team of volunteers that transcribe records from newspapers into the online index. The Index does not cover every single death, funeral or probate notice in Australia but is in a constant state of being updated.

If you find a record relating to your relative you can then search for the full notice by visiting Trove or the specific newspaper's online website.

Cemindex: <https://austcemindex.com/>

Cemindex is a volunteer run website with an Index to Australian Cemeteries including headstone and plaque inscription records (some with photos).

Obits: <http://oa.anu.edu.au/>

Obituaries Australia is a digital repository for Australian Funeral, Death notices and Obituaries.

State Library of NSW: Ph: 02 9273 1414

<https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/>

The State Library of NSW contains guides on searching Family History. The guides are on Aboriginal Australians Family History, Births, Deaths, Marriages, Convicts bound for Australia, Convicts life in the colony, Passenger records and Shipping records. Visit this link to view the guides:

<https://guides.sl.nsw.gov.au/?b=s>

The library also runs regular face-to-face sessions on how to search for family.

The NSW State Library has an onsite subscription to both Ancestry.com and Find my Past. Visit the library in person to access these websites for free.

If you cannot visit the library, the library website has an 'Ask a Librarian' feature where you can submit an online enquiry and a librarian will spend up to an hour (max 5 times per year) conducting research for you.

ISS Australia Fact Sheet:

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Visit this link to submit an online enquiry:
[//www.sl.nsw.gov.au/research-and-collections/ask-librarian](http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/research-and-collections/ask-librarian)

Trove: www.trove.nla.gov.au

The Australian National Library's Trove website has holdings from many libraries in Australia including digitised newspapers up to 1954 (with a few newspapers even going up to 1990's).

The Trove database is freely available online and is very useful for finding Australian family notices such as obituaries and wedding announcements. It is recommended to use the 'Advanced Search' option on Trove for a more accurate search.

National Archives of Australia:

<http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/search/>

The NAA has a collection of Australian Government historical records. Try visiting the family history section (<http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/family-history/index.aspx>).

There are also research guides (<http://guides.naa.gov.au/>) on the website that may help with your search, on the website.

The Society of Australian Genealogists (SAG):

Ph: 02 9247 3953

<http://www.sag.org.au/search/our-collections/our-library-collection.html>.

SAG has search collections online and offers training in family history searching. To see the records that they hold in Sydney visit this link <http://www.sag.org.au/search/our-collections/our-library-collection.html>. SAG also has a library at their office in Sydney that you can visit to conduct searches.

SAG offers an Information leaflet to help with searching:

<https://www.sag.org.au/downloads/RULAUS2018.pdf>

Find and Connect:

<https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/>

This is a government website that contains history and information about Australian orphanages, children's homes and other institutions.

White pages: <https://www.whitepages.com.au/>

Search for an Australian Business, Government Department or Person using White Pages.

Conduct Internet searches of your relatives name on Google:

<https://www.google.com/>

Social media platforms:

Try searching for your relative on various social media platforms such as:

- Facebook
- Pinterest
- Flickr
- Tumblr
- WhatsApp
- Instagram
- Messenger (FB)
- Viber
- Twitter
- LinkedIn
- Snapchat

Visit this helpful article for more tips on searching online: <https://www.gizmodo.com.au/2018/07/how-to-find-anyone-online/>

Good luck with your searches!