

They Lived Down Under

Tracing your family in Australia and New Zealand

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There have been Jews in Australia since the first European settlement in 1788, and in New Zealand since 1829. If you have lost a branch (or twig) of your family's tree, they may have washed up *Down Under* – in Australia or New Zealand.

This hand-out is a guide to what is kept and where. It is not exhaustive – there are new resources every other day, and not all resources are as yet online. It does point you to the most readily accessible resources, and for the most part they are free. These resources and many others will be explored in more detail in the conference talk.

AUSTRALIA

Australia has 6 States: New South Wales (NSW); Victoria (VIC); Queensland (QLD); Western Australia (WA); South Australia (SA); and Tasmania (TAS). It also has two Territories: Australian Capital Territory (ACT) and Northern Territory (NT). Some records are kept by national institutions such as the National Archives of Australia, and the Australian War Memorial; others are kept by State institutions such as NSW State Records, and the Queensland Department of Justice and Attorney-General.

Vital Records – Births, Marriages and Deaths

These are State-based records. Both availability, and the information contained in the records, varies by location and date. There is no charge to search the indexes. If you find registrations of interest, you will need to pay for copies or transcripts of the records. Most states have an online order facility.

State	Availability			URL
	Births	Marriages	Deaths	
NSW	1788-1917	1788-1967	1788-1987	https://familyhistory.bdm.nsw.gov.au/lifelink/familyhistory/search
VIC	1836-1917	1836-1950	1836-1988	https://online.justice.vic.gov.au/bdm/indexsearch.doj
QLD	1829-1918	1829-1943	1829-1988	https://www.qld.gov.au/law/births-deaths-marriages-and-divorces/family-history-research/
WA	1841-1932	1841-1936	1841-1971	http://www.bdm.dotag.wa.gov.au/_apps/pioneersindex/default.aspx
SA	1842-1928	1842-1937	1842-1972	http://www.genealogysa.org.au/resources/online-databases.html
TAS	1803-19?? ¹			https://libraries.tas.gov.au/family-history/Pages/Birth-Death-Marriage.aspx and https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2125029
ACT	NA ²	1930-1943	1930-1988	http://tinyurl.com/bmdact - click on Public Registers Tab
NT	No online indexes ³			

Notes

1. These indexes are incomplete and much of the data is derived from secondary sources i.e. birth date imputed from age at marriage
2. Prior to 1930, ACT births, marriages and deaths were registered in NSW.
3. 1856-1863 registered in NSW; 1863-1870 registered in SA. 1870- to date are held by the NT Department of the Attorney-General and Justice – you would need to request a lookup.

Other resources for finding death details

- * *The Ryerson Index* contains over 5 million death notices from 310 different Australian newspapers. It is particularly useful for finding deaths which have occurred since 1985 <http://ryersonindex.org/search.php>
- * *Obituaries Australia* is a digital collection of obituaries of people who have made a contribution to Australian life. These 8000 obituaries were published in newspapers, journals, magazines and bulletins. It is continuously expanding, so check back regularly. <http://oa.anu.edu.au/>

Burials

There is no single place to search Australian burials.

Specific Jewish burial indexes

- * The *Beverly Davis Burial Database* (the BD-BD) is the most comprehensive Jewish burial database for Australia and New Zealand. It has information about Jewish burials at all cemeteries within Australasia and Oceania plus Australian War Graves. It is not complete as it sometimes lacks information for burials where there is no headstone, it lacks recent burials for many cemeteries, and some sections in some cemeteries (e.g. Karrakatta in WA) seem to have been overlooked. <http://ajhs.info/cemetery/>
- * The *Jewish Cemetery Rookwood* has a searchable index to the burials in Sydney's largest Jewish cemetery at Rookwood. <http://www.rookwoodjewishcemetery.com.au/>
- * The *Melbourne Chevra Kadisha* has its records online, though more details are contained in what they have placed on the JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR). Inexplicably, a search produces different results between the two databases, so check both. <http://www.mck.org.au/search>
- * JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR) – the bulk of the Australian entries in this database are those from the Melbourne Chevra Kadisha but it also contains details of Broken Hill cemetery and many of the small regional cemeteries with just one or two Jewish burials. <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Cemetery/index.asp>

General burial indexes that link to Australian cemeteries or other online databases

- * <http://www.australiancemeteries.com/>
- * <http://austcemindex.com/>

Online indexes for cemeteries with Jewish sections (not exhaustive)

NSW

- * Eastern Suburbs Memorial Park: <http://www.easternsuburbsmemorialpark.com.au/finding-loved-ones>
- * Frenchs Forest: <http://northerncemeteries.com.au/frenchs-forest/deceased-search/>
- * Macquarie Park: <https://northerncemeteries.com.au/macquarie-park/deceased-search/>
- * Sandgate Cemetery (Newcastle area): <https://northerncemeteries.com.au/sandgate/deceased-search/>
- * Woronora Cemetery: <http://www.woronoracemetery.org.au/finding-loved-ones>

VIC

- * Fawkner Cemetery <http://www.gmct.com.au/deceased-search.aspx>
- * Geelong Cemetery <http://www.gct.net.au/deceased-search/>
- * Springvale & St Kilda cemeteries: <http://sbc.smct.org.au/deceasedsearch>

WA

- * Perth and Fremantle cemeteries: <http://www2.mcb.wa.gov.au/NameSearch/search.php>

SA

- * Centennial Park cemetery: <http://www.centennialpark.org/memorial-search/>
- * West Terrace and Cheltenham cemeteries: <http://www.aca.sa.gov.au/Records>

QLD

- * Brisbane metropolitan cemeteries: <http://tinyurl.com/brisgraves>

Archives

Archives hold a wealth of information including immigration and naturalisation records, applications to sponsor family members and friends, defence service records, security files, court cases, probate records etc.

Australia has both a National Archive and State Archives. There are also other organisations which have archival holdings including libraries, art galleries, corporations, hospitals, schools etc.

- * *The National Archives of Australia* not only has a digital catalogue, but many records have been digitised and are available online: <http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/search/index.aspx>.

They have also published *Safe Haven: Records of the Jewish Experience in Australia* which can be read online at <http://guides.naa.gov.au/safe-haven/>. Although many new records have been released since its publication in 1999, it remains a useful guide to records that may be relevant to your search.

State archives also have online catalogues and some digital records:

- * NSW: <http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/>
- * VIC: <http://prov.vic.gov.au/research>
- * QLD: <http://www.archivessearch.qld.gov.au/Search/BasicSearch.aspx>
- * WA: <https://archive.sro.wa.gov.au/>
- * SA: <http://www.archives.sa.gov.au/content/our-catalogue>
- * TAS: <http://search.archives.tas.gov.au/default.aspx?search=1>
- * NT: <https://navigator.nt.gov.au/t1tbmain.asp>

The Australian Jewish Historical Society has extensive archives in both Sydney and Melbourne and publishes a journal. An indication of what the archives hold is at <http://www.ajhs.info/arc/>. The cumulative index to the journal 1939-2010 is online at: <http://www.ajhs.info/journal/>.

Sydney University houses the *Archive of Australian Judaica*. A catalogue and some digital images are online at <http://judaica.library.usyd.edu.au/>

Newspapers, photos etc.

Trove is an electronic search engine which searches both Australian and international sources for books, pictures, photos, journals, articles, music, sound and video clips, maps, diaries, letters, archived websites (1996-now), people and organisations, lists and other objects, for any user defined search term. It also searches 18.5 million pages from more than 1000 Australian newspapers. In most cases, the newspapers are pre-1955. *The Hebrew Standard of Australasia* 1895-1953 and *The Jewish Herald* 1879-1920 are particularly useful for researching Jewish families.

The general Trove site is: <http://trove.nla.gov.au/>; if you just want to search the newspaper collection, the site is: <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/>

Convicts and other notable people

From 1787 to 1867, Britain transported around 160,000 convicts to Australia. They included over 1000 Jews. Australian convicts have been extensively documented and a good place to start is <http://www.convictrecords.com.au/>.

If the person you are researching made a contribution to Australian life they may have an entry in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*. As the entries often list other family members, it is worthwhile checking all entries with the same surname. <http://adb.anu.edu.au/>

Refugee information

- * **Jewish Welfare (now Jewish Care)**
NSW: firstcall@jewishcare.com.au
VIC: info@jewishcare.org.au
- * **JOINT – JDC Archives:** <http://archives.jdc.org/> – Jewish Refugees Arriving in Australia via Melbourne, 1946-1954

Australian Jewish Genealogical Societies

Email contacts and websites:

- * **ACT:** vkronenb@pcug.org.au
- * **NSW:** society@ajgs.org.au website: <http://www.ajgs.org.au/>
- * **VIC:** admin@ajgs-vic.org.au website: <http://www.ajgs-vic.org.au/>
- * **WA:** jhgs@iinet.net.au website: <http://jhgs.wa.org.au/>
- * **AJGen:** <http://au.groups.yahoo.com/group/AJGen/> post your queries about Australian Jewish genealogy

NEW ZEALAND

Vital Records – Births, Marriages and Deaths

Indexes to vital records from 1840 can be found at <https://www.bdmhistoricalrecords.dia.govt.nz/Home/>

Availability:

- * Births that occurred at least 100 years ago and Stillbirths that occurred at least 50 years ago
- * Marriages that occurred at least 80 years ago
- * Deaths that occurred at least 50 years ago or the deceased's date of birth was at least 80 years ago.

Burials

The *Beverley Davis Burial Database* remains the most comprehensive Jewish burial database for New Zealand <http://ajhs.info/cemetery/>

A very good guide to most New Zealand cemeteries and online indexes is at <http://christchurchcitylibraries.com/Resources/NewZealand/History/FamilyHistory/Cemeteries/>

Archives and museums

The main *Archives New Zealand* collection in Wellington includes immigration records, probates, coroners' reports, notices of intention to marry, and military service records up to 1920. Regional branches are in Auckland, Christchurch and Dunedin. Very few records have been digitised but you can order copies online: <http://archives.govt.nz/> or search the collections at: <https://www.archway.archives.govt.nz/>

The New Zealand Dictionary of Biography has been incorporated into the *Teara Encyclopedia of New Zealand* website <http://www.teara.govt.nz/en/biographies>. It has a biographies and photos of a number of prominent Jews.

The Auckland Museum has a virtual cenotaph <http://www.aucklandmuseum.com/war-memorial/online-cenotaph>. Online Cenotaph brings together information relating to individual service people from sources such as embarkation, military service and other government records and newspapers. Public contribution of additional material is welcomed.

Newspapers, photos etc.

DigitalNZ, like Trove, searches across more than 29 million digital items to discover New Zealand treasures such as photos, posters and memorabilia, newspaper clippings, artworks, and publications. <http://www.digitalnz.org/> or to search newspapers only: <http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/cgi-bin/paperspast>

The New Zealand Electronic Text Collection comprises significant New Zealand and Pacific Island texts and materials held by Victoria University of Wellington Library. <http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/>. The collection has a number of items of Jewish interest including the full digital text of Rabbi LM Goldman's *History of the Jews in New Zealand* <http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-GolHist.html>

Enjoy your search!