



Who's Your Mob – First Nations Family History

Newspapers

Newspapers can help you find materials to help flesh out your family history, and often contain information that is hard to find anywhere else.

These include births, deaths, funerals, obituaries, marriages, social events, sporting events, inquests, court cases, legal notices, land sales, advertisements and military service.

Newspapers are particularly useful also when families include both Indigenous and non-Indigenous members.

You may be able to find information about your family in online newspapers or magazines. You can search these websites:

- [Trove](#) - digitised Australian newspapers 1846-1954
- [Australian Indigenous Index](#) (INFOKOORI). This is an index to the *Koori Mail* fortnightly newspaper published in Lismore, New South Wales from May 1991 to July 2016. It is also a biographical index from several magazines, including *Our Aim* (1907-1961), *Dawn* (1952-1969), *New Dawn* (1970-1975) and *Identity* (1971-1982).
- [Koori Mail](#) (1991-2018) is available online at Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS)
- [Dawn](#) (1952-1969), published by the NSW Aborigines Welfare Board, is available online at Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS)
- [New Dawn](#) (1970-1975), published by the NSW Department of Child Welfare and Social Welfare, is available online at Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS)

Tips for searching newspapers in Trove

- Try searching by name (for example, “Lena French”), by place or by a station name (for example, “Tarameo station”)
- Try variations of names and spelling
- Try searching using a name and the term ‘Aboriginal’ or ‘Aborigine’ – for example, Tommy AND Aborigine
- Try searching using both the name of the place your family lived and the term ‘Aboriginal’ or ‘Aborigine’ – for example, Bega AND Aborigine. Many newspapers reported in general terms about Aboriginal people, rather than using names of individual people.

Remember that historical newspapers often reflect the racist attitudes of the non-Indigenous people who wrote and published them. You might find your ancestors described using words that are offensive, or you might find distressing personal details about your ancestors and their lives.

Need further information?

(07) 3840 7810 | <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/services/ask-librarian>

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