

## FAMILY HISTORY

Bette Maiuto has provided the following pages to assist people beginning their family history research.

### HOW WILL A CERTIFICATE HELP MY FAMILY RESEARCH?

A VICTORIAN BIRTH CERTIFICATE will tell you :

- the exact date of birth
- place of birth, which in earlier times would be the family home
- full name of child
- name, age and occupation of father
- his place of birth
- date and place of marriage to mother of child
- name and age of all previous children of the marriage
- name, age and maiden name of mother
- her place of birth
- signature and residence of the person giving the information
- when and where registered.

A MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE will tell you :

- exact date of marriage
- place, usually a church, and religious denomination of the parties
- full name of each of the parties
- place of birth of each person
- whether either party was previously married and if so details of death of previous spouse and any children of that marriage
- rank or profession of each party
- usual address of each party
- full name of father of each person and his profession
- full name and maiden name of mother and profession
- signatures of both parties being married
- signatures of two witnesses, usually family or good friends.

A VICTORIAN DEATH CERTIFICATE will tell you :

- date and place of death
- age, full name and profession
- cause of death, name of doctor and duration of last illness
- full name of both parents including maiden name of mother
- signature of person giving the information and relationship
- date and place of burial and name of witnesses
- religion of minister in attendance
- place of birth and how long the person resided in Australia, which in the case of certificates in the 1800's gives a clue to the year the person arrived in Australia
- place, age and date when married
- name of spouse
- names of all children in order of birth and giving their ages at the time of death of the deceased

## HOW DO I APPLY FOR A CERTIFICATE ?

Application for Birth, Death or Marriage Certificates in Victoria are made at the Registry of Birth, Death and Marriages at 290 Queens Street, Melbourne.

Application forms are available at all Post Offices and are free of charge, you can apply in person or by mail. There is a recorded information service on (03) 603 5888 which explains the different types of certificates which are available and the charge for each one. For family research it is best to apply for full certificates and although they cost more, you can save money by doing a little research yourself.

Most Libraries now have Birth, Death and Marriage records on microfiche and will book the machines for an hour at a time to the public. They are easy to use and by looking for the Registration Number of the certificate you require, you will be able to acquire it for half price, which is at present \$ 11,50 instead of \$ 23,00.

My own Nunawading Library also has records from all other Australian States, as well as the Assisted Migrants 1839-1873 (Anglo-Saxon), so in some cases you may even locate the particular ship which brought your ancestors here, without having to go further than your local library.

Some libraries have the Registration Records from other Australian States also, which will help if your family entered Australia in another State before settling in Victoria.

## INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE BOOKS

TELECOM AUSTRALIA has a Telephone Book Library at 190 Queen St, Melbourne, which is open to the public during working hours on weekdays. They provide a library of telephone books from all over Australia as well as all countries of the world. You are free to browse as much as you wish and there is a photocopy machine available so that you may copy the particular pages you require.

Italian telephone books are divided into Regions then Provinces, when you find the particular book which you require, you will find the system a little different from our Australian indexing. The cities, towns, villages etc. are listed alphabetically with the subscribers immediately following the name of their town. So if your family came from a small town, it is likely that the subscriber listing is only two or three pages long. It would be a good idea to make use of the photocopier, so that you would then have quite a lot of information about the area.

For example, addresses of :

the Comune where all births etc. are registered;  
the Church is also a good source of baptisms, marriages, burials;  
the accomodation available should you wish to visit.

Most importantly, look for Family Surnames remembering that Italian women retain their maiden name, so take note of any name which looks familiar. The number of subscribers and their profession will give you an idea of the size of the place and the main industries, etc.