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Lookups for Non-Members – there is no lookup service available to non-members for this collection.

Lookups for Members - before you ask for a lookup please remember that if a displayed field is **BLANK** it means that there is no further information available for that field in that database. You can request one of our researchers to research further for you which may/may not produce further information. For this service you will need to ask for a research request - [click here](#)

1. Introduction

This document describes the Newspaper - Births (NP-Births) dataset.

2. Newspaper - Births

2.1 Summary

This database contains records representing a birth notice in a newspaper. This includes notices in the category of Birthdays and Birthday Memoriams.

2.2 Coverage

Overall record coverage is from July 1852 to December 2024 with varying degrees of coverage as detailed below.

- Good coverage: January 1929 through to 30 August 2018.
- Sparse coverage: 1852 through to December 1928 and all of 1951.

Notices for around 30 month/year combinations between June 1939 and July 2024 are yet to be added to this dataset. Genealogy SA holds these notices and is the process of converting this data into a format suitable for inclusion into this database. They will be included in future updates as they become available.

2.3 Source

From The Advertiser, Sunday Mail, and various country newspapers. Includes early publications from the Blair Card Index (see below).

Records from the Blair Card Index (compiled by Robert Blair) contain only a limited amount of information.

The Ian Shillabeer Western Australia newspaper index (compiled by Ian Shillabeer) are transcriptions of notices (Births and Birthdays) published in the West Australian newspaper.

Except where otherwise indicated these collections were transcribed and composed by Genealogy SA volunteers, with special mention of individual collection efforts by Neville Bottger, Ian Shillabeer and Dulcie Love.

2.4 Volume

There are 1,376,128 records in this dataset version, up from 980,714 [20251114].

2.5 Additional information

All information provided in the notice is transcribed as stated into the relevant fields. Genealogy SA is aware there are some records from the years 1929 to 1954 that are incomplete and volunteers are working to re-transcribe those updated records can be made available in future dataset updates.

Fields

- *Other Surnames* recorded where available. Includes alternate surnames, maiden and previously known as names.
- *Location* is the hospital and/or town of the birth.
- *Event Date* is the date of birth.
- *Publication Date* is the date the newspaper was published.
- *Source* is the name of the newspaper at the time of publication.
- *Notes* contains other information taken from the notice, eg age, photo was published, alternate names, etc.

Notes

- A record appears for each time a notice of any type was published in the newspaper. Sometimes this can be multiple days in a row.
- Birthdate for Birthday records is sometimes calculated from the age in the Birthday notice and in these cases, only the year is given.
- Donated Certificates that were previously part of this dataset have been removed and will appear in a separate dataset.

3. Versions

This is the latest of several updates to the Newspaper – Births dataset since it was first created in 2016. The updates are outlined below, and the action taken, where available, is provided for each update.

1. 30/11/2016: Original conversion and amalgamation of various sources.
2. 03/02/2017: Standardisation of names. Repair of interchanged Given Names and Parents.
3. 10/06/2017: Added 1951 births, Feedback correction. Standardising format of data.
4. 09/11/2017: Added records from various papers. Feedback corrections.
5. 23/06/2018: Correction to 4 records based on user feedback. Addition of birth notices from 1953, from city and country newspapers. Addition of the Blair Card Index notices.
6. 30/07/2018: Addition of Advertiser birth notices 1953-59.
7. 30/10/2018: Births Jun2013-Aug2018, Birthdays Jan2015-Aug2018.
8. 02/12/2018: Add Southern Cross Birth notices 1899-1954.
9. 05/05/2019: Addition of records from country newspapers. Feedback corrections. Standardisation of abbreviated fields.
10. 15/06/2020: Minor feedback corrections. Add Donated Certificates for Births & Baptisms.
11. 08/05/2025: Added records for missing years 1961 through to 1964. Feedback corrections. Removed Donated Certificates.

12. 09/10/2025: Updated records in years 1965, 1966, 1969, 1971 & 1972. Removed duplicate records. Feedback corrections.
13. 14/11/2025: Added records from the Ian Shillabeer collection covering notices published from 1880 to 1915.
14. 18/05/2026: Updates to Neville Bottger records; Added 393,574 new records from city and country newspapers for various years.

3.1 Version M-20161130

Original conversion from Excel Master files, Neville Bottger 'early births', original Births (in Access) and original Birthdays (in Access).

3.2 Version M-20170203

Removal/replacement of special characters in names. Repair of 1253 records which had GivenNames and Parents interchanged.

3.3 Version M-20170610

Added 1951 births. 5 corrections from user feedback. Correction to existing DB for double spaces and special chars (~55).

3.4 Version M-20171109

Added records as follows: Sunday Mail Births 2005-2012 (Ian Shillabeer), Country Newspapers Birthdays 1984-2006 (Ian Shillabeer), Advertiser Birthdays 1970-1999 (Ian Shillabeer), Various papers Births 1952 (Neville Bottger), Chronicle Births 1852, Gladstone Area Express 1877-1901. Changes to 5 existing records based on user feedback.

3.5 Version M-20180623

Addition of birth notices from 1953, from city and country newspapers. Addition of the Blair Card Index notices. Correction to 4 records based on user feedback.

3.6 Version M-20180730

Addition of Advertiser birth notices 1953-59.

3.7 Version M-20181030

Added Births Jun2013-Aug2018 and Birthdays Jan2015-Aug2018. Cosmetic change to dataset info for Blair cards.

3.8 Version M-20181202

Added Southern Cross Birth notices 1899-1954.

3.9 Version M-20190505

Major correction for fields incorrectly including "Sunday Mail" instead of "sm". Minor feedback corrections. Added notices as follows: Border Chronicle 1984, Border Times 1995-97, Flinders News 1988, 1994-98, Gawler Bunyip 1923-25, 2001. Mount Barker Courier 1999-2001, Murray pioneer 1995-98, 2001, Northern Argus 1981, 83, 86, Plains Producer 2001, Southern Argus 1925-26, 33, 36, 38, 41-43, 81, 83, 96-98, Victor Harbour Times 1996, 1998, 2000, Yorke Peninsular Country Times 1984-93.

3.10 Version M-20200615

Added Donated Certificates for Births & Baptisms. Minor feedback corrections.

3.11 Version M-20250508

Added missing years 1961 to 1964. Removed Donated Certificates for Births & Baptisms. Minor feedback corrections.

3.12 Version M-20251009

Updated records for the years 1965, 1966, 1969, 1971 and 1972 adding missing information from the original notice. Removed duplicate records. Minor feedback corrections.

3.13 Version M-20251114

Added records from the Ian Shillabeer collection covering notices published in the West Australian newspaper from 1880 to 1915.

3.14 Version M-20260518

Replaced Neville Bottger records with updated versions plus added a few new records previously not included. Added 393,574 new records from city and country newspapers for various years.