



June 2023

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Group: Collins Connect

COLLINS CONNECT WEBSITE

Check out our new website at
www.collins-connect.com

Same website address with a new modern look and feel.

YOUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR

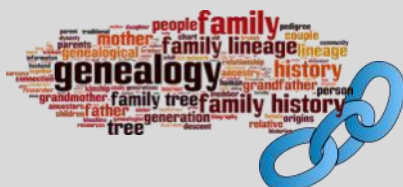


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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Collins Connect acknowledges the traditional owners of the land on which we live and pays its respect to the Elders past and present.



Welcome to the Australian winter edition of this newsletter. Like the bears, Collins Connect team members have been hibernating but that simply means there are less social activities during winter.



The modern family of busyness takes priority over extended family gatherings and social activities. Unlike our grandparents and forefathers, life in India to modern society is totally different. Families are reliant on each other to contribute to the household chores including child minding and school homework. There's no maids (or dare I refer to them as 'servants') to assist with the cooking, cleaning and school pick ups. Without the assistance of family members, life in the modern world is moving at a faster pace than before. Such is life in the 21st century.

SNAP VIEW OF HISTORY 20 YEARS AGO

1943 in India saw the worst Famine in Bengal



For those who remember 1943 saw the worst famine as a result of several failures by the ruling British Colony and leaders. The family was centred in the Bengal region where the death toll ranged from 1 to 3 million people.

Rice fields were destroyed and rice stocks confiscated with fear of Japan invading nearby Burma. This was deemed to be the catalyst for the famine during World War II

It was evident that Winston Churchill, the British Prime Minister at the time of World War II, was prioritizing Britain's war effort and not paying attention to the crisis in India. It wasn't until October 1943 that the British military took over the relief effort in the Bengal region and started the import of barley and wheat.

“You don’t choose your family. They are God’s gift to you, as you are to them.”

- Desmond Tutu

Wedding Celebrations

Collins **C**onnect send heartfelt congratulations to the beautiful couple, Meghan D'Souza and Daniel Fraillon who married on the 4th June 2023 at Melbourne, Australia. Meghan is doubly related to the Collins, being the daughter of proud parents Sallyann (Borthwick) and Gerard D'Souza.

This talented bride, Meghan organised her wedding around family and friends from the choir of Collins family members to the cake baked and decorated by none other than Meghan's grandmother Maureen Borthwick.

Meghan's music talent shone throughout the celebrations. The day started with heartfelt chosen songs for the ceremony including a beautiful rendition of 'Bless the broken road' by Rascal Flatts by the bride herself. Words with total meaning.....

*Every long lost dream led me to where you are
Others who broke my heart, they were like Northern stars
Pointing me on my way into your loving arms
This much I know is true
That God blessed the broken road
That led me straight to you
Yeah
And now I'm just a-rollin' home
Into my lover's arms
This much I know is true
That God blessed the broken road
That led me straight to you*

The celebrations continued at the San Remo Ballroom with lots of good food, family and friends uniting on this special occasion with music from another Collins, DJ Collins (Milton's grandson Liam Collins).



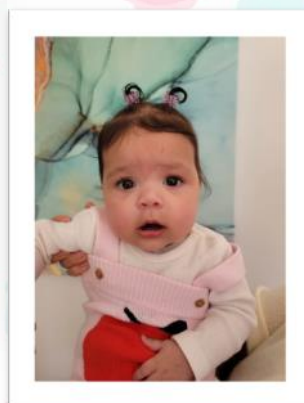
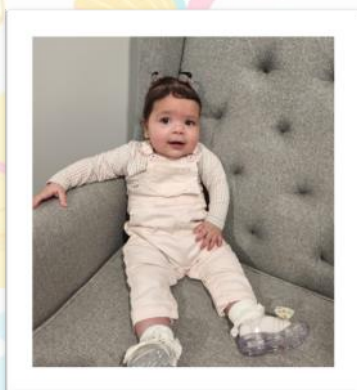
Lets not forget, Daniel is also a talent musician. Both Meghan and Daniel performed a special tribute at the ceremony that created very misty eyes to those witnessing this specular performance by the bridal couple. We welcome Daniel Fallion into the Collins Connect family.

COLLINS CONNECT FAMILY WISH MEGHAN AND DANIEL A LIFE LONG JOURNEY OF JOY, LOVE AND HAPPINESS AS YOU BEGIN YOUR NEW LIFE TOGETHER



Introducing ...

Valencia Rafferty, beautiful daughter to Melville Rafferty and Dayanna Torres and little sister to Orlando Rafferty. Born on the 21st December 2022, Valencia was truly a special Christmas gift to the Rafferty family. Number four grandchild for the happy grandparents Lauren and Grenville Rafferty. Milton and Stella Collins would have been so proud to see their grandson Melville, the doting father and family man he has become.



FAMILY RESEARCH ...

At a recent holiday, I was fortunate to attend a number of 'free' family research seminars conducted by **Brenda Wheeler**, Consultant and Lecturer with the National Institute for Genealogical. It was enlightening to observe and be reassured, that I have adhered to many of the ground rules of family research. Doing family research for Indian records is meant to be getting easier as more records are uploaded online. However, the authentication of these records are still reliant on actual facts of family data.

A common mistake that is known and published in Genealogy are the spellings of surnames. Often surnames are spelt as they sound or in some instances adopted from the region they were born, thereby changing the genealogy record.

- ◇ Family research can become very expensive with the purchase of certificates to validate the family lineage.
- ◇ Research is still dependant on family input. Reaching out to elderly family members for their knowledge is just as important.
- ◇ DNA records are now gathering interest with more data matching families.

If there are any Collins connections or history that you could share, I'd be keen to receive these and eventually have a Collins Family History chart to share.

Karen Collins