

CONTACT US



<https://www.collins-connect.com>



collinsconnect.2018@gmail.com



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

 collinsconnect.2018@gmail.com

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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.

The Collins Connect Annual (Online) Event was held on Sunday, 31st October 2021.

Unfortunately due to Melbourne Covid restrictions, the event was not able to be held face-to-face. This gave us another opportunity to meet our Collins families online from around the globe.

At the 2021 Annual Event a total of 53 participants, of which 4 family members attended for the first time. A big welcome to Richard O'Connor, Nicola (O'Connor) Mammen, Rebecca (Bex) (Dubier) Conaghan and Mary (Collins) Dumenil. To our faithful followers ... always a pleasure to see you online!

Taking onboard previous feedback, the Collins Connect team put together a short sharp program with the majority of the time allocated for chit-chatting. However, no time was enough for the group as people were keen to reintroduce themselves, discover the connections and a quick social chat.

This was my 1st time and I managed to see everyone that was there. Definitely feels good to learn about our older generation and keep in touch with them. Thanks for the effort.

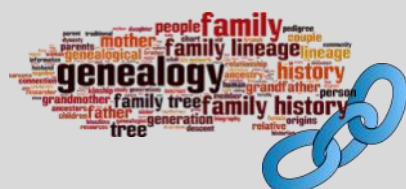
- Mary Dumenil, Canada

It was lovely to be with the Collins Connect and it was nice to see so many relatives who were very friendly. Even though we were seeing some of them for the first time it was still great to make the connection.

- Ainslie & Anne Collins, Melbourne, Australia

In every meeting that takes place in the Collins Connect we come to know someone new, someone who we did not know all these years. Congratulations to you all. Its also a pride to your parents, grandparents, uncles, aunties and cousins. To know about the family tree and come to know each and every cousin of ours which were not thought of all these years. Great job to you all. Keep it up... can't wait for the big reunion!

- Hubert Collins, India



To our beloved COLLINS CONNECT families, immediate and extended, locally and overseas,
CONGRATULATIONS on another successful COLLINS CONNECT 2021 zoom reunion milestone.

WELL DONE & our sincere thanks and appreciation to COLLINS CONNECT COMMITTEE, Conchita,
Karen, Elvis, Gary, Lizzie, Jarryd, Charis, Drayton, Lauren, Corrine and Lorraine

Our spirit of love, prayers and sincere wishes, fellowship and reunion via zoom just as good as in
person. Well done, keep up the good COLLINS CONNECTION !

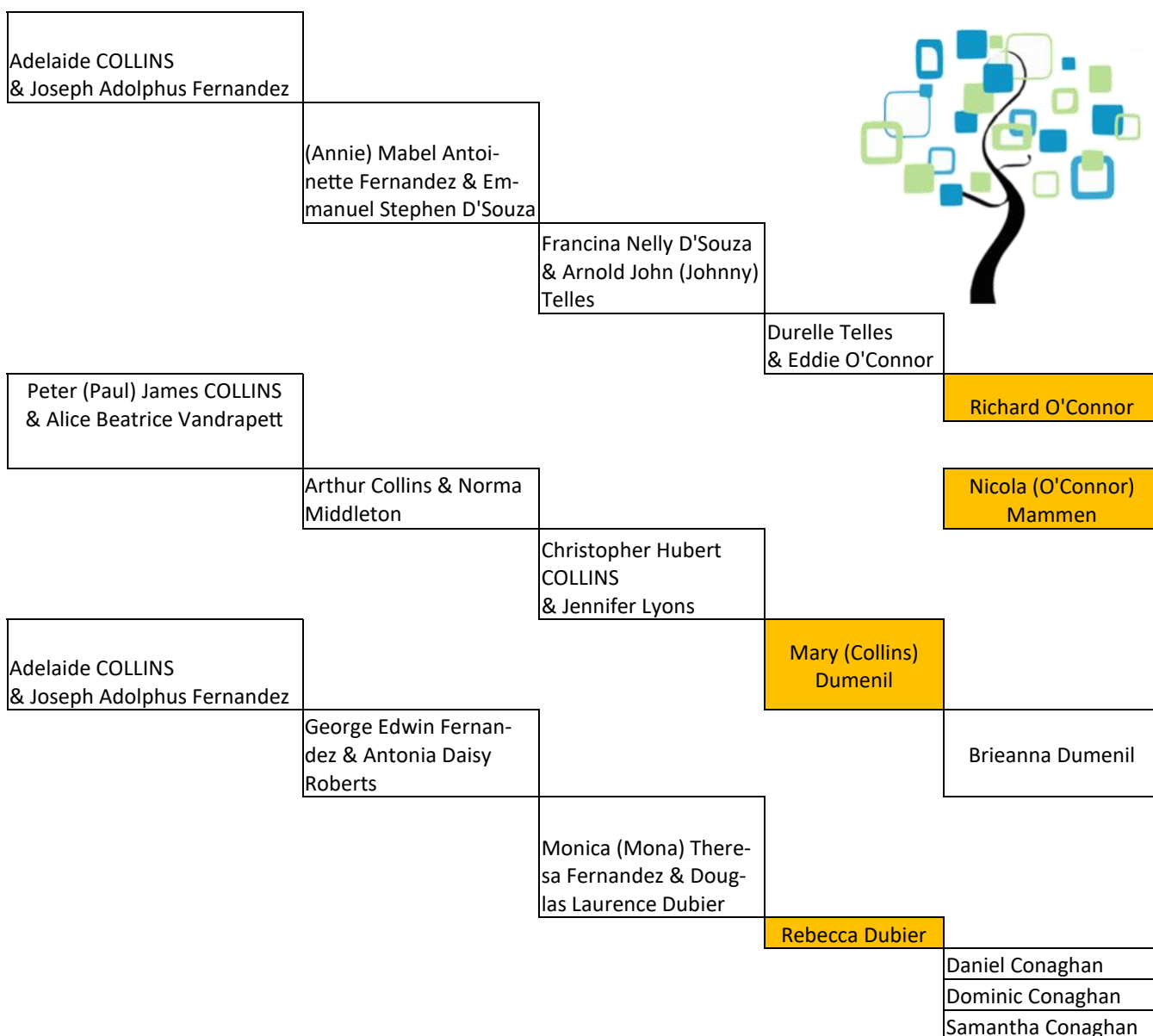
- *Fletchers, New Zealand*



*Thank
You*

to those who took the time to send a special note of appreciation.

FOR THE BENEFIT OF OTHERS... FAMILY TREE FOR OUR FIRST TIME ATTENDEES





STATISTICS OF ATTENDEES

Australia	37
India	10
New Zealand	3
Canada	2
United Kingdom	1

Adelaide Collins married Joseph Fernandez	10
Joseph Collins Catherine Brett	1
Peter Collins married Alice Vanderpett	13
Victor Collins married Carmelina D'Silva	29



- Job well done just waiting to see everyone in person and have a bash of a time, long due 🍷👍. Well done to all that took the time and effort to make this zoom catch up so much fun since we were in all different countries.
- To connect to more chat rooms. Not long enough time given.
- Some drama or singing
- Suitable time for all countries
- Some entertainment to be included next time.
- Longer time in the Chat Room to catch up with some of the families that we don't get a chance to talk to at all. Continue to have the Zoom Meets at least twice a year to enable us to see, catch up and keep in touch with the other families overseas.

ANNUAL EVENT 2022

OOPS... forgot to mention the date at the Annual Event.



EDITOR—Karen Collins

CO-EDITOR—Corrine Collins

Want to help?

If you would like to contribute to the Collins Connect newsletters, we encourage you to get in contact with any team member.

Dial C for Collins

By Richard O'Connor

I first came across the Collins-Connect initiative three years ago, I am not sure how. I think it was the visual of the two flags of India and Australia gently coalescing into each other at the fly ends that caught my attention. I was then looking at the Anglo-Indian connection across the two countries, and was delighted to see that it was celebrated so strongly by one family: the Collins family, which had its roots in the city of Madras. I recall saving that visual on my Desktop with the intention of using it in a typescript of mine on the Anglo-Indian community. Little did I know then that I was an offspring of the same family.

All I was aware of was that my maternal great-grandmother was Mabel D'Souza, and that she was buried in the St. Patrick's Cemetery at St. Thomas Mount, behind the grave of her daughter, my grandmother Nelly Telles. As far as the *Collins* was concerned, it was a name I had always held in awe, because to me it denoted musical genius. I had read about Milton Collins and his band (which held sway in Madras during the 1940s-60s), I had heard Aileen Collins' mellifluous voice as she sang *altos* in the St. Patrick's Church choir along with my spouse-to-be, I have admired her son Alan D'Cruz's wizardry with the clarinet, and more recently, I have swooned each time Mary Collins (now a Dumenil) took to the stage, as she sang *Whisky Lullaby* or *No One Needs to Know*. I hadn't realized that she played the piano too. I had also watched online, along with my wife Zeena, the Christmas Carols session by the entire Collins clan in Melbourne last year and we were thrilled beyond measure to listen to some of the carols that sounded so graceful yet forgotten so fast by today's world. So it came as a shock to me when it was brought to my notice that my great grandma Mabel's mother Adelaide was a Collins, and that I should consider registering for the annual Collins Connect event to be held on the 31st of October 2021. I felt like the black sheep (as I couldn't differentiate a sharp from a flat in music), but I gladly did.

But there was no music on offer that day. Perhaps the vocal cords were being fine-tuned for the Christmas carol sessions scheduled for the 12th of December. Or perhaps there was just enough time for the sentimental chords to find expression. One Collins was just glad to see another on the 'virtual' platform, no matter if they were perched in Madras or Melbourne or London or Auckland or Toronto or if their surnames had changed somewhere down the line to Jeremiah or Biggs or Dubier or Jasmy. There was a great deal of bonhomie (and sometimes cacophony) as family members small-talked with one another, checked if their cousins were hale and sane and hearty, condoled the loss of loved ones, complimented those who got engaged or tied the knot or produced a baby Collins or celebrated a jubilee. Rebecca Conaghan updated everyone on the family news from London, including the fact that her mum Mona Dubier had recently turned 95 and was blessed with her 17th great grandchild. Maureen Borthwick spoke softly but got everyone's attention with her quip that her husband Gordon was camera-shy and hence couldn't join the jamboree.

I have a special fondness for Uncle Gordon and Aunty Maureen because it was they who took marriage counseling sessions for Zeena and me before we took the dive. We do not know if we may touch a diamond jubilee like them, but we've passed the silver thanks to their words of wisdom many moons ago. It was heartwarming to see that the Borthwicks had a Collins connection. Other pleasant surprises were in store. I used to frequent the Benham home in San Thome during my late teens, not knowing that they trace their lineage to Peter Collins. The Fletchers was a name I had heard of as being a prominent musical family of Pudupet, and it was nice meeting them on Collins-Connect. Then there was Miriam Collins, whom I recognized belatedly as the better half of Dominic Rosario who had handled the live-streaming of my mum's funeral service in September. A fine couple indeed! And lots of 'new' names and faces and even nationalities could be seen on the Meet that just added colour to the mélange called Collins-Connect. There was the fun quotient too with the camera spotting Sharlene with her plate of idlis and pork vindaloo, highlighting Dean Borthwick who masqueraded as a pirate with an education and of course catching the irrepressible Barry Collins off-guard while he was at Victoria Market, who for a few moments seemed to have forgotten himself as he kept using words like *kauchi* and *kosru* as though he was shopping at Jam Bazaar. When someone asked him what happened he replied in a daze that he was searching for Bernard as he wanted to serve up some cowheel at his housewarming. He switched off his phone with a wink after everyone had had a good laugh. Unfortunately, David Selvey wasn't around to take up the banter.

Sheldon D'Silva did his best as emcee to channelize the energies of the assortment of Collins in attendance, and thanks to a quiz, a tête-à-tête between Liam Heldt and his mum Sharlene, a slide show of anniversaries and occasions in the family by Charis Rouse and chat room interactions, succeeded. There was not a dull moment, even when Jarryd Fernandez read out the accounts or Lizzie Thomas proposed the vote-of-thanks at the end. For me and my sister Nicola, it was our first Collins outing, and by the end of it, understood that our great-great grandmother Adelaide Fernandez was the third child of Joseph Collins and Cecilia Daly who had married in 1873. I looked up the family tree, so assiduously worked out by Karen Collins (daughter-in-law of Milton Collins), Corrine Collins (daughter of Henry Collins) and others on their team, to find that they had gone beyond their grandfather Victor Collins, to as far back as 1812, the year Joseph's father Paul was born. I also took a closer look at Mabel D'Souza's monument soon after All Soul's Day and found that she was buried in the same grave as her mum Adelaide Fernandez who left this world in 1948. I knew that the name Adelaide rang a bell. Just didn't know that she was a Collins, and therefore part of a truly kaleidoscopic heritage. Collins-Connect my dears, is not just about genealogy, but genealogy in colourful motion. **May the C-tribe increase!**



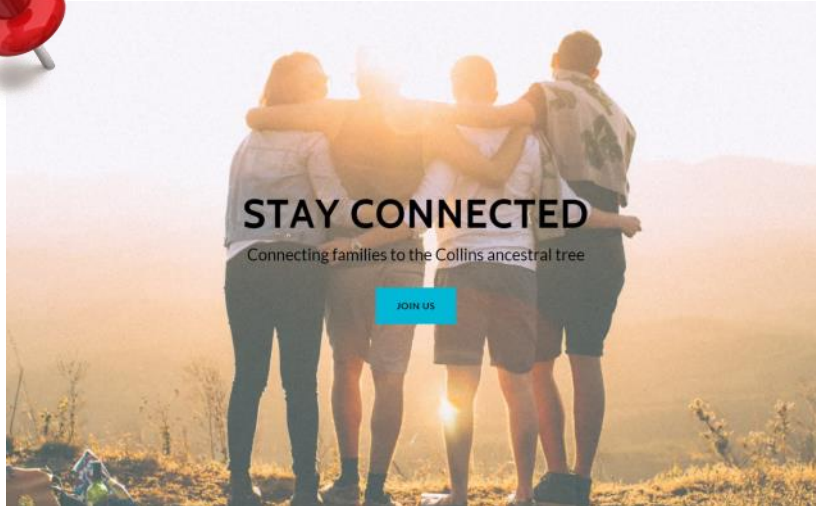
Mable D'Souza

Adelaide Fernandez



COLLINS CONNECT NEW WEBSITE

Same details... at www.collins-connect.com



Collins Connect has moved into a simplified modern website that you will enjoy browsing. If you are looking for certain information and can't find it, please contact us.

Don't forget to bookmark it for future access.

THANK YOU !

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

COLLINS CONNECT acknowledges **Richard O'Conner** and his contribution to this newsletter. "Dial C for Collins" It is lovely to read his observation of the Collins Connect Annual (online) Event and finally make the connection too ! Thank you Richard. A warm welcome to you and your family from Collins Connect.

NEXT EVENT: LIVE in Melbourne !!

We hope to put the past year behind us, time to catch up with family & friends. Lets join in the Carol singing sharing love, laughter and friendship.

If you are in Melbourne, this event is FREE and open to anyone, so why not bring your friends along.

