

Early Electoral Rolls of Australia

INTRODUCTION

Early Electoral Rolls of Australia has been compiled by the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies Inc. to assist researchers to locate their ancestors within Australia at the start of the twentieth century. It contains the enrolment details for approximately 1,800,000 electors, from a selection of Australian electoral rolls printed between 1901 and 1909. The rolls covered are the Commonwealth Electoral Rolls for Western Australia 1901, New South Wales (incorporating current ACT) 1903, Tasmania 1903, Victoria 1903 and Queensland 1903, and state rolls (see below) for South Australia 1909.

This publication is a re-release of the material previously published by the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies Inc. in two parts and titled *Early Australian Electoral Rolls*. All names are now in a single index, with searching enhanced by use of QFHSdatasearch.

The material represents the nearest Australian database to a Census at the start of the twentieth century. It covers the earliest complete surviving electoral roll microfilmed, and contains the names of both men and women voters. It will be of interest to historians, sociologists, behavioural scientists and other academics.

EERA DATABASE

The EERA database contains transcriptions of the Commonwealth Electoral Rolls for all states except South Australia, where a considerable amount of early electoral material appears to have not survived. The South Australian records are therefore transcribed from surviving State Electoral Rolls of 1909 since no complete Commonwealth Roll of a suitable date for South Australia is available. The Divisions of Torrens and Port Adelaide contain the rolls for the Lower House, similar in eligibility to rolls in other states. All other SA Division records are derived from the rolls for the Upper House which had a property ownership qualification for voter eligibility. No Upper or Lower House Rolls were available for the divisions of Flinders (including the Port Lincoln area and the current NT), Burra (town and district), Frome (Orroroo and district) and Newcastle (Port Augusta and district).

The database of names, addresses and occupations allows advanced searching on all fields. Typical searches would be: a search on name to find that missing ancestor who may have followed the 'Gold Rush'; a search on address to find out who neighbours were and who else lived in the same street; a search by name and occupation if a female's married name is not known; a social historian's search to see a 'snapshot' of an electoral area.

MAPS

As well as the EERA roll information, the DVD includes maps showing the divisional boundaries for all states except for South Australia, for which no maps of the 1909 boundaries could be found. The maps are linked to the search results and the appropriate map for a database entry can be displayed by clicking the View Details button in the results window

INFORMATION ON DIVISIONS AND SUBDIVISIONS

Detailed information on Divisions and Subdivisions can be accessed via the drop-down list on the search specification window. The Division table includes all divisions with their numbers of enrolled electors, while the Subdivision table also includes the subdivision names and their numbers of enrolled electors. Clicking the View Details button in the results window will display the relevant map.

NOTES ON *EARLY ELECTORAL ROLLS OF AUSTRALIA* DATA FIELDS

The EERA data fields are as recorded in the rolls, except as noted below. They cover

Surname	Surname of elector
First Names	Other names of elector
Sex	M or F
Address	Street or other first part of address (for Queensland includes town)
Town	Second part of address (for Queensland always blank)
Occupation	Occupation as recorded in roll
Roll Num	Sequence number within the roll for the subdivision; these have been included to assist in the location of the name in the original record
Subdivision	Subdivision, also known as Polling Place. Note that some names appear in several states and/or as divisions; e.g. Indi, Kensington.
Division	Electoral division
State	NSW, Qld, SA, Tas, Vic or WA; enrolments in the current ACT are included in NSW, and for NT would be in SA (however, see above).

Note. For consistency across the database, any diacritic characters in surnames have been entered without the special symbols or had them removed; for example MÖLLER will be recorded in the database as MOLLER. The same convention has been used for other fields. Any diacritic characters which were accidentally included may not display correctly.

LICENSING AND COPYRIGHT

The software and database are licensed for use by the purchaser at one site. The files on the DVD may be used on any computer at that site, and may be made available via networking to computers in that building.

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