Today, I’m going to give a quick overview of what Trove is, and then talk about some zones of Trove that people are less familiar with, but may find useful for genealogical research.

I’ll also cover some searching tips, and how to piece together content from across different parts of Trove to gradually reveal stories about the lives of Australians.
When I talk about Trove, I’m not just talking about free digitised items you can access online like newspapers, books and pictures – although that’s a big part of what makes up Trove.

Besides the National Library of Australia’s own digitised collections, Trove contains collections from over 1,000 different Australian organisations – including libraries, galleries, museums, universities, historical societies and community groups.

As well as collections and records, we also have people who build things with Trove – whether that’s creating a local history walk from content in our newspapers, or building a database of all of the fiction published in serial form in Trove’s newspapers.

And finally, Trove is a community. We’re lucky to have an army of Trove enthusiasts who spend their own time editing our searchable newspaper text. If you don’t believe me when I use the word “army” – here’s my favourite statistic about our text correctors – in May 2017, we calculated they did work equivalent to 97 full-time Library staff members. You can imagine how grateful we are for these fantastic volunteers. People using Trove also enhance the collection by making public lists of related items, and adding tags and comments to items to share extra information – all to improve the quality of the content, and make items easier to find.
Our digitised newspapers are Trove’s most popular content. We currently have over 200 million newspaper pages online, from almost 1300 different titles. We also regularly add new titles so there’s always something new to discover.

Two titles we’ve digitised recently are Sydney’s *Daily Telegraph*, and Melbourne’s *The Herald* — tens of thousands of pages of both of these papers are in Trove now, with more available over the coming months. And we’re not just adding metropolitan titles — new regional titles recently online include *The Evening Echo* from Ballarat, Vic, *The Western Weekly News* from Port Lincoln, SA and *The Mount Barker and Denmark Record* from Albany, WA.
We find regional and rural newspaper titles are especially valuable for genealogists, given the level of detail they contain. These newspapers were a hub for community news and some information in them would be rarely covered by the newspapers of today – dinner parties, car purchases, holidays, and descriptions of local weddings and engagements right down to what material the bridesmaid’s dresses were made of, and what kind of finger sandwiches were served at the reception.

It’s the kind of information more likely found on somewhere like Facebook today – going beyond dates and names and telling you more about what people’s lives may have really been like at the time.
A common way to search newspapers is a simple keyword search - using the Trove search bar at the top of every page in Trove, but there’s also the newspaper browser, which I’m showing you here.

It can be accessed on the newspapers homepage, by choosing to browse by title, place, date, category or tag. This browser then opens and allows you to pinpoint particular years, issues, pages - right down to individual articles.
If you’ve spent time in newspapers, it’ll provide you with some know-how for our Government Gazettes zone. Gazettes are relatively new and like newspapers, are being digitised progressively, with new pages being added all the time.

I’ve put up the list of the current titles and date ranges we have – it spans 1832 to 2012, but some years have much more content than others. We have the full range of New South Wales Government Gazette titles, but are still digitising the Commonwealth titles. It’s worth checking back regularly if you’re looking for information that would have appeared in a Gazette, but isn’t online yet. Often, when Gazette issues are going through final quality checks, you’ll be able to see the article titles, with “coming soon” underneath. This means that it should only be a matter of days or weeks before you’ll be able to read the whole article in Trove.
Government business sounds like it might be pretty dry stuff, but there’s a wide variety of material in the Gazettes about Australians from all walks of life.

Information that we know is particularly useful, from conversations Trove has had with family historians, includes gold mining licences and convict Ticket Of Leave cancellations (both found in the NSW Government Gazettes). There’s also certificates of naturalisation, company registrations and unclaimed letter notices that can help place a particular individual in a certain city, at a certain time.

Notices ranges from sensational – like the notice on the left, which is a reward for information on bushranger Ben Hall and his gang, to the more personally significant, such as the notice on the right, which concerns my father’s promotion to Instructor Lieutenant in the Australian Navy back in 1977.
Many stories have begun in the Gazettes zone, including one recently written for the Trove blog by historian Kate Bagnall. The Gazette notice you can see here is an execution notice, for a man named In Chee, convicted of murder and sentenced to death in Goulburn in 1878.

When reading the list of names of men present at the execution, Kate noticed the name George Ah Len, the sole Chinese name on the list. He didn’t appear to be a relative of In Chee, a police officer, or attached to the staff of Goulburn jail. So who was George Ah Len?
Amongst Trove’s gazettes, newspapers and pictures, Kate followed George Ah Len from the Victorian goldfields of the late 1860s to his death in Sydney in 1889.

Newspaper articles described George’s baptism as an adult in Maryborough, and his training as a Presbyterian evangelist in Melbourne. Originally named Ah Lin, he took the name George Graham Mackie Ah Len as a mark of respect to the Reverend George Mackie, pictured on the right here, who was Convener of the Presbyterian Mission to Aboriginal and Chinese people at the time. Other articles detailed George Ah Len’s missionary work in the Chinese-Australian community in Victoria. An unclaimed letter notice places him in Sydney in the early 1970s, and shipping intelligence covers the arrival of George’s wife and children in Sydney from China at the same time.

Court reports covering In Chee’s sensational murder trial involving describe his consent to visits from a missionary, and that George Ah Len was sent from Sydney to minister to In Chee after his arrest and during his trial. This involved In Chee’s conversion to Christianity just days before his execution. Information was also found on George Ah Len’s Sydney congregation, and the illustration in the centre here is of a cross-street close to where George lived with his family at the time.

It seems remarkable that from that single Gazette notice, a story covering most of an adult life could be found.
Now for some practical information about Gazettes. Like newspapers, Gazettes also has a browser, as well as the usual keyword search function.

It’s almost identical to the newspapers browser, again indexed right down to the article level. There’s not quite as much information here, compared to the newspapers browser, as there’s a smaller number of Gazette titles overall, but it still allows you to search by place, title, year, date, page and article.
If you’re keyword searching in Gazettes or Newspapers, you’ll notice some filters on the left-hand side under “Category”. The page I’m showing you now is displaying search results, after using the search bar in the Gazettes zone to search for a particular word or phrase.

Gazette and newspapers articles are categorised by subject when they’re being digitised, and selecting one of these filters can help to further narrow down your searches. The newspaper filters include literature, advertising, obituaries, puzzles, family notices and weather. The Gazettes have their own set of customised subject filters which you can see here – including tenders and contracts, appointments and employment and private notices. Once you’ve done a keyword search, you can select these filters to further narrow your search.
On the left-hand side of this slide I’ve listed a few types of Gazette notices that might prove useful as a starting point for genealogists. On the right-hand side is the name of the subject filter category where you’re most likely to find these notices.

As I mentioned before, gold mining licences and information on convict Tickets Of Leave are more likely to be found in the NSW Government Gazettes, given when these notices were issued, so it’s better to narrow those down by choosing to filter by state instead of subject.
Journals are one of our fastest-growing content types in Trove. A huge range of journals were digitised last year through partnerships with State Libraries, government organisations and even private donors.

Here, I’m showing a few covers from popular titles that have recently been added, including the *Australian Woman’s Mirror* – an early competitor to the *Australian Women’s Weekly* – which is full of fashion, recipes, literature and (maybe surprisingly) home improvement tips and legal advice. There’s also *Building* magazine, full of gorgeous mid-century architecture and one of the first journals to write extensively about all the people involved in the construction industry from architects and designers to engineers and electricians.

Many people think of literary journals when they think of this zone, but we have journals from all kinds of organisations, full of information on all types of people.

For example, the Mt. Isa mining publication *Mimag* was digitised in partnership with the Mt. Isa Public Library, with a grant from the State Library of Queensland. It was originally produced by Mt. Isa Mines employees, and contained social news from the area. A former employee of Mt. Isa Mines even contributed a few issues from his personal collection for the digitisation project, to fill gaps in the set held by the public library. He described the magazine as “the Facebook of its day” noting many people in the community had articles written about them. Another recent addition to journals is school magazines from Bamaga State High School in the Cape York region, full of photographs of past students and staff, and plenty of contributions written by the students themselves. This was another digitisation project where issues for digitisation were contributed by the local community.

The Journals zone is also where you’ll find some big-hitters, like issues of *The Bulletin*, which are currently being added in stages. I often get asked when *The Bulletin* is coming to Trove, and the answer is that it’s already there – but people often miss it if they’re searching only in Newspapers.
Viewing a journal in Trove is a different experience to viewing newspapers or Gazettes. Since journals are scanned and published in book-type layout – as opposed to the flat pages of a broadsheet newspaper, pages are digitised so they can be flipped through and viewed side-by-side. You’ll also note, as you can see here, that many are available in colour. They’re still all fully text-searchable, and all journals are indexed at the article level, so keyword searches will return journal articles in the results.
So, how do you search journals?

Each journal title has a homepage, which you can access through its record in the catalogue. On this slide is part of the homepage for *The Home* journal – you can browse through and see each issue represented as a small picture thumbnail. Clicking on these thumbnails will open the issue in the journal viewer that I showed you on the last slide.

But if you’re looking for particular kinds of articles in a journal title or issue, or mentions of a name or phrase – you’ll need what’s called the OBJ number. This is a unique number assigned to each journal issue and journal title as it is digitised. Under each thumbnail picture you can see here, highlighted in yellow, is the OBJ number for the issue. You’ll need to use this number in your search, to get the best results.
After searching for journal articles, this is where you’ll end up – in Trove search results.

This particular search I’m showing contains an OBJ number, in quotes, for the Art In Australia journal, and outside the quotes, an extra keyword search for the word “floral”. So it’s searching across the whole Art in Australia journal for any articles in any issue mentioning the word floral. Putting the OBJ number in quotes is important, to separate it from the other search terms.
The final zone I’m going to talk about is our People & Organisations zone – which provides short-form biographies from a range of sources including the Australian Dictionary of Biography, the Australian Women’s Register, AusStage, and the Encyclopedia of Australian Science.

From the name, you might have guessed it contains biographical records for notable Australians and Australian organisations, covering a wide range of disciplines. Each entry also has a list of links to content in Trove that is either about, or created by, that particular person or organisation.
Trove staff have found the People & Organisations zone useful as a starting point for our Trove Story videos.

These are short videos we’ve made, to tell stories about the lives of interesting Australians. The videos were created using only material we could find in Trove, and we think they’re an excellent demonstration of the kind of detail you can get when you piece together information from across different Trove zones.

We’ve done two videos so far - one on academic trailblazer and world explorer Jessie Stobo Watson Webb, and another on camel trader, herbalist and philanthropist Mohamed Allum.
Using the example of Jessie Webb, we started by finding her record in the People & Organisations zone, and managed to track down over 127 items in Trove about or by Jessie Webb.

These included items from the National Library’s collection, as well as other universities, state libraries and Australian museums. We found photographs, newspaper articles, books, diaries, organisation records and even a sketch of the property where Jessie spent some of her childhood. We also used contextual information - photographs, illustrations and articles produced during Jessie’s life, but not necessarily about her, to help us design the appropriate settings and background for the video.

We also tried to give back to the Trove community, by gathering all of these items in a public Trove list, that you can access by searching for Jessie Webb in Trove. The Trove Story video we’ve created on Jessie Webb can be seen on our YouTube channel.
I think the main thing I’d like people to take away from today’s talk is some inspiration on widening your use of Trove, to help you discover more information on your own Jessie Webbs.

Whether that’s getting comfortable with using filters to narrow down searches, delving into Gazettes, learning how to search journals or exploring a completely new zone in Trove. I hope I’ve given you a few ideas on where you might like to go next with your searching.

Trove is only as good as the collections that are shared with us, and the main benefit you get from having all of these collections available in one place, is the context. Finding an illustration or photograph to accompany a newspaper article, or an interview in a journal to tell a story behind a Gazette notice. We think it gives the opportunity to add detail to the histories you’re all uncovering, and give a more rounded sense of how people lived at various times in our past.
Questions? Comments? Discoveries?