

TOP 5 TIPS FOR NAMING YOUR HOME



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1. CHECK IF IT ALREADY HAD A NAME

Using a previous house name is a great way to pay tribute to its history. Not all houses had names, but you can check these sources:

- Old suburb maps and plans. These vary from place to place, but for Brisbane, the "Detail Plans" often listed house names. You can view them online via the Brisbane City Archives website [here](#).
- Post Office Directories for your state (e.g. Sands/Wise Directories). Some states are available online, but for Queensland, digitalised, text-searchable copies are held at the [Queensland State Library](#) and [Brisbane City Archives](#). They list the residents of a street in order of the houses, as well as alphabetically by surname and sometimes include a house name.
- Search Electoral Rolls for previous owners/residents. This is easiest via a family history website. Most offer free trials, or you can access Ancestry and Find my Past for free at some libraries, including Brisbane City Council Libraries.
- Search for your address and previous owner's/resident's names in digitised newspapers at [Trove](#). House names were often included in birth, death and marriage notices as well as articles and advertising.

2. CREATE A PERSONALISED FAMILY NAME

In the past, a popular way to create a house name was by combining the owner's first or surname(s) and adding another word after it, such as "Villa", "Cottage", "Lodge" or a suffix, such as -ton, -ville etc.

- For example, if your surname is Smith, you might choose *Smith Villa*, *Smith Cottage*, *Smithton*, or *Smithville*. Or if your family have multiple surnames, say *Brown* and *Smith*, it may become *Brownsmith Lodge* or *Brownsmithton*.
- It was also common to use first names in a similar way to the above examples, such as *Evelyn Villa*, *Claireville*, *Normanlea*, *Craigston*, or combining both owner's names, such as Louise and Carl becoming *Locarlton*.
- Combinations of initials of family members were also popular, for example if your children's initials are M, A and E, you could choose *Maeville* or *Mae Cottage*. Or Kate and Simon may become *Kaston*.
- Alternatively, if you know the name of the family that built your house, you could use that in some form, to pay tribute to its origins.

3. USE A PLACE IMPORTANT TO YOUR FAMILY

Many people used to name their home after a place that was significant to themselves or their family.

- For example, you could use the name of the town or suburb you were born in or grew up in, either on its own, or with one of the endings mentioned above, e.g. *Killarney, Auckland Cottage, Sherwood Villa, or Essexlea.*
- You could also use the place you went to school, met or married your partner, graduated from university, or any other place with happy memories or importance to you.
- If you know some of your family history, you could use the name of a town, village or suburb your ancestors lived in.
- If you or your family arrived in Australia by boat, it was also very common in the past to name your house after the vessel that carried you to your new life in Australia.

4. USE A NAME THAT REFLECTS THE HOUSE

Another popular source of house names were terms that described the house or its location.

- Grand homes were sometimes named after well-known mansions from overseas, particularly English ones such as *Chatswood*, *Stowe House*, *Blenheim*.
- Other popular names included those that reflected the location or position of the house, e.g. *Riverview*, *Fairview*, *Hillview*, *Sunnyside*, *Mountview*.
- These types of names in other languages were also often chosen. For example, *Bellavista* (Spanish for beautiful view), *Byn Mawr* (Welsh for large hill) and *Bellissima Casa* (Italian for beautiful house).

5. USE A POPULAR HOUSE NAME FROM THE PAST

There were some house names that were popular throughout Australia, which were based on various themes. This included:

- Australian flora and fauna, e.g. *Waratah Cottage*, *Acacia*, *Gumnut Grove*, *Cockatoo Lodge*.
- Major international or Australian events. For example, some homes were named after important battles from WW1 or WW2. e.g. *Passchendaele*, *El Alamein*.
- Words from First Nations' languages, e.g. their name for the local area, or other words such as *Miegunyah*, which is said to mean "my home".
- *Emoh Ruo*, was a particularly popular name. It sounds exotic, but is simply "Our Home" spelt backwards!
- Other popular Australian house names include *Kia Ora* (hello in Māori), *Inglenook*, *Glen Eden*, *The Laurels*, *Rosemount* and *Ferndale*.

TOO HARD TO FIND A PREVIOUS NAME
YOURSELF?

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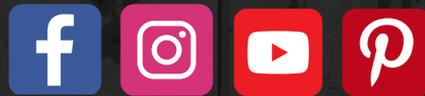
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