Note: this assumes you have already researched your person's Service Record and other war service documents.

What about my person's life before and after the war?

You know some of your person's pre-war life already: where they were born, their next of kin, their occupation, where they lived. That's a good starting point for researching their life before the war and, if they came home, afterwards as well.
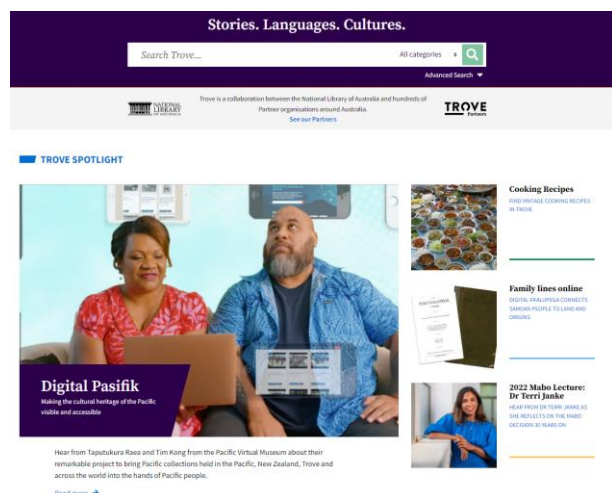
Trove (https://trove.nla.gov.au/) is the best way to find information on your person's life in Australia, especially the "Newspapers and Gazettes" search. Many local newspapers published articles about the men and women who went to war.

Select "Newspapers and Gazettes" from the dropdown menu in the search bar or select it from the *Advanced Search* option under the search bar and refine your search to your serviceperson's home state.

Search with different with different variations of your serviceperson's name and initials enclosed in inverted commas. Try their first and last name; use their initials only with their last name and try including their rank. For example: "Private Hewitt Henry Bell", or "H. H. Bell" or "H. Williams", or "Pte Hewitt Henry Bell", or "Pte H.H. Williams", or "Pte H. Williams".

Click on ⓘ to find the reference details to use in your reference list and the page identifier URL to load to your person's VWMA profile.

See the Appendix at the end of this file for more about Trove.

Refer to the model searches on the following pages, to show you practical ways to find information.

Example 1: Stanley Quicke 6574, 10th Battalion AIF (World War 1)

We know from the Embarkation Roll and the Attestation Paper that Stanley was born in Hamilton SA, lived in Magill SA, and was a labourer when he enlisted in August 1916. He was 23, single, and gave his Next of Kin as his mother Charlotte Quicke of St Bernards Rd, Magill:

Here are the searches and some possible results:

"Stanley Hubert Quicke". *The Advertiser*, 17 Sep 1907, Stanley's results in the Public Service Examination. Hmm, he would have been 13 at the time – too young to be taking that exam. This is probably another person of the same name, maybe an uncle or cousin.

"Stanley Quicke". This produces many results with "quick" which are no good, but also this: *Barrier Miner*, 21 Apr 1923. A reference to the death of "Stanley H. Quicke (late 10th Battalion)". That's him – so he died in 1923. But hang on – that says "Mrs W.J. Quicke" and we know his mother's name was Charlotte. What's going on? Answer: in 1923 the

social custom was for married women to be referred to by their husband's name, e.g. "Mr and Mrs Thomas Jones". So W.J. are Stanley's father's initials.

"S.H. Quicke", "Stan Quicke". Some useful ones from during the war: references to him entering camp (15 Aug 1916), being wounded (10 Sep 1918) and being about to return home (24 Jul 1919). An unexpected gem: a notice he put in the paper for a "dear friend" who died in France (6 Mar 1918).

That's probably as much as we can get from his name. Other combinations: quicke magill; quicke Hamilton; "charlotte quicke" "w.j. quicke". Again, "quick" annoyingly complicates the results, but we learn the father was William James and he died in 1920.

Example 2: Donald Zadow S61014/SX35345 (World War 2)

Donald served within Australia from late 1941 onwards. We know from the Service Record he was born in Mannum SA and lived at Bakara SA as a farmer. His original Next of Kin was his father Gustav Reinhold Zadow, but he married Eveline Alberta Zadow during the war; she was living at Bondi Beach in Sydney.

Searches for "Donald Lyle Zadow" and "Donald Zadow" show he was allocated 493 acres at Mt Burr as a war service lease (*The South Eastern Times*, 30 May 1952) and that he underwent a spinal operation (*The South Eastern Times*, 12 Oct 1954). The second article says he lived at a property called "Wavalie", Mount McIntyre, which is very close to Mt Burr; presumably this was the land he was granted. But this is the point at which Trove cuts out, so we won't learn much further about that property.

"D.L. Zadow" is quite fruitful: we learn of Donald's land allocation and that he worked with the Land Development executive after 1947 (*The Pennant*,. 12 Oct 1950), and that he was selling his dairy cows "because of his health" (*The South Eastern Times*, 28 Jul 1953). However, because this last piece is an advertisment it is even less trustworthy than anything else you would find in a newspaper.

"Gustav Zadow" Bakara. This brings up his father's death notice (*The Advertiser*, 30 Mar 1954), which gives a lot more family information. You could search for these family members if you wanted. There is a good chance some of them also served.

"Eveline Zadow" and "Eveline Alberta" (because we don't know her maiden name) produce nothing of use.

Other possible searches: "zadow mannum", "zadow bakara", "don zadow".

Appendix: What is Trove?

Trove (trove.nla.gov.au) is a digital database of historical resources from Australia, maintained by the National Library in Canberra. It is especially useful because of its collection of *digitised newspapers* from all over Australia, from as long ago as we had newspapers. It has all the major city papers and many of the country ones, and it has their complete runs: every page of every day.

It's a fantastically useful resource for Australian history, but there are two downsides:

1. Most newspapers only go up until 1954 for copyright reasons.
2. The basis of Trove is images of newspaper pages. This is turned into machine-readable (and -searchable) text by a process called Optical Character Recognition (OCR). OCR is pretty accurate, but works on the Garbage In, Garbage Out principle: if the original image is blurry, it won't produce accurate text. Volunteers often correct the OCR'd text as they go (and you can volunteer too!)

All this means that you can search Trove's newspaper collection for information about your person, but you probably won't find anything after 1954 and you will miss some references because the OCR hasn't recognised their name correctly. But it's still pretty good.

For more practical help in using Trove, view this help video (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aykJojiO3Vk&t=10s) and refer to this guide from the State Library (www.slsa.sa.gov.au/searching-trove).

And remember you are dealing with newspapers; they aren't always going to tell the truth.