

CROATIA TO AUSTRALIA

FAMILY ALBUM & TIMELINE 1900 to 2000

JOSIP BROZIČEVIĆ
MARA (MARICA) SURJAN

START - FAMILY NAMES - BROZIČEVIĆ - SURJAN - LIFE IN AUSTRALIA

1900

1901

Josip Brozičević born in Crikvenica on the coast of what is now Croatia. This area was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

1902

The exact date of Josip's birthday is unknown however his birthday was celebrated on 19 March.

1903

1904



Franje Brozičević and Kata Katnić of Crikvenica had 11 children: **five sons and six daughters.**

All brothers migrated to Australia leaving behind six sisters.

1905

1906

Mara Milizin Surjan born on 9 September 1906 in Vela Luka, on the island of Korcula, Austro-Hungary.

1907

1908

1909

Mara's father was Nikola Milizin Surjan (b.1870 d.1918). He was married three times.

His first wife was Mara Padovan (b.1870 d.1902). She died in childbirth. They had two children, Nikola and Marija.

Nikola then married Jaka Žanetić from Blato (b.1869 d.1909 m.1903). They had two daughters: Mara born in 1906 and Jaka (b. 1908 d. 1993).

Nikola's third wife was Jaka Gugić (b.1877 d.1942). They had a son Ivan who later lived with Mara and her husband for a while in Australia.

Information supplied by Dorde Glad Surjan (Dubrovnik, Croatia). Dorde has done extensive research into the **Surjan Family in Dalmatia** including family trees dating back to 1644.

1910

1911

1912

Franjo Brozičević arrives in Fremantle, Western Australia in 1912 on a French ship.

1913

1914

Miro Brozičević arrives in Fremantle, Western Australia in 1914.

World War I breaks out. Austro-Hungary is allied with Germany.



Date unknown.
Josip Brozičević after joining the Austro-Hungarian navy during World War I.

1915

1916

1917

1918

1919

World War 1 ends.

Nikola Milizin Milizin dies tragically.

Yugoslavia founded – Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.



Date unknown.
Mara Milizin Surjan as a young girl in Korcula.

1920

1921

1922

Mara Milizin Surjan leaves Vela Luka to work in Split. She is 16 years old.

1923

1924

Josip Brozičević arrives in Fremantle, Western Australia on the 23 November 1924 on the 'Palermo' with his brother Stejpan.



1925. Split.
Mara as a young woman (19 years old) wearing the Dalmatian national costume.

1925

Miro Brozičević applies for naturalisation in 1925.

1926

1927

1928

1929

Franjo Brozičević applies for naturalisation in 1929.

FORESTRY WORK

Franjo, Miro and Josip all worked cutting railway sleepers in the south-west jarrah and karri forests. According to Josip's son Niksa the brothers walked from Fremantle to the south-west forests.

Following the forestry work took the brothers all over the south-west. This movement has been well documented in Franjo Brozičević's **Australian war records**.

There is now a 'Brozie Road' in the Boronup Forests, Western Australia, a marker of the brothers' time, and their contribution, as forestry workers. There is also a street named after the family in Crikvenica.



1930

1931

Anjelica (wife) and children, Maria and Franjo, join Franjo Brozičević in Fremantle.

1932

1933

1934



1930.
Mara Milizin Surjan. Photograph taken in Split.

1935

1936

1937

1938

1939

Mara Milizin Surjan travels to Fremantle, Western Australia on the 'Ormonde'. 26 April 1938.

Mara Milizin Surjan and Josip Brozičević meet in Fremantle and after a short engagement marry on 8 August 1939.

They make their home in Fremantle.

Ivan Brozičević arrives in Australia on 10 February 1939 on the 'Esquilino'.

World War II breaks out.



1939. Location unknown.
Josip and Mara on their wedding day.

1940

Josip Brozičević renounces Yugoslav nationality when he applies to become a naturalised British citizen.

1941

John Mack Brozicevich born 10 June 1940. Known as 'Joe'.

Josip Brozicevich becomes a naturalised British citizen in 1941.

1942

Surname spelling changes to Brozicevich.

Niksa Brozicevich born 25 January 1942.

1943

1944



1942. 26 Carnac Street Fremantle
Joe Brozicevich

1945

End of World War II. Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia formed. Josip Broz Tito becomes President.

1946

26 November 1946 Kathleen Brozicevich born to Josip and Mara. Stillborn.

1947

1948

Maria Brozicevich born 6 February 1948. Known as 'Marie'.

After being diagnosed with Hebephrenic (disordered) schizophrenia, Ivan Brozičević is deported to Yugoslavia on 2 March 1948. Date of death unknown.

1949



1948. 26 Carnac Street Fremantle
Family photograph on Maria's baptism day.
L to R: Niksa, Mara, Josip, Maria and Joe.

1950

Ivan 'Tušta' Milizin Surjan arrives in the 1950s and lives with Josip and Mara.

1951

1952

1953

1954



Date unknown. Adelaide Street, Fremantle
L to R: Maria and Mara.

1955

1956

1957

1958

1959



1950s.
Joe as a young boy.



1950s.
Niksa as a teenager.

1960

1961

1962

1963

1964



1961.

L to R: Joe (21 years old) and Niksa (19 years old)



Date unknown.

L to R: Joe, Niksa and Maria.

1965

1966

1967

1968

1969

Joe marries Susan (Sue) Ellis Davidson on 28 January 1967.

Stephanie Brozicevich is born on 29 November 1967.



1970.

L to R: Susan, Stephanie and Joe.

Stephanie and Bradley Felton Hollow had a daughter in 1996, Clare Brozicevich-Hollow.

Stephanie married Robert Alexander Douglas Marshall in 2002. They had a daughter in 2006, Rita Mary Brozicevich.

1970

Marica Brozicevich is born to Joe and Susan on 17 June 1970.

1971

1972

David Josip Brozicevich is born to Joe and Susan on 13 August 1972.

1973

Frank Broz dies in 1973 at the age of 80.

1974

Marica married Martin Mylotte in 2000. They had a son in 2002, Thomas (Tom) Josip Mylotte.



Date unknown.
Marica dressed up to go into town.

David married Elisabeth Ersinger in 2002. They had a son in 2012, Elliot Quinn Brozicevich. They live in Zurich, Switzerland.



Date unknown.
Josip and his grandson David.

1975

Miro Brozicevich dies in 1975 at the age of 77.

1976

Shenole Brozicevich is born to Niksa and Robyn Anderson on 12 January 1976.

1977

Josip Peter Brozicevich is born to Joe and Susan on 14 May 1976. Known as 'Peter'.

1978

Maria Brozicevich married Hugh Bradley in 1978. They divorced in 1983. Maria changed her name back to Brozicevich.

1979



Date unknown.
Shenole as a young child.

Shenole married Will Maxwell in 2010. They have two boys - Cory William (2013) and Jai Niksa (2014) and daughter Tahlia Emma (2016).

Peter married Aimee Louise Turner in 2008. They had two girls - Lucienne Ava (2008) and Sophie Emilia (2011).



Date unknown.
Peter helping Joe to fix the family car.

1980

President Josip Broz
Tito dies.

1981

1982

1983

1984



1977. Fremantle Fishermen's Harbour

Left photo: Joe and Peter.

Right photo: David, Niksa and Josip returning from fishing.



Josip drove his Chev
to go fishing with
the nets and catch.



Josip's boat,
the Bari.

1985

1986

1987

1988

1989

TRADITIONAL COOKING AND CRAFTS

Josip and Mara passed on their knowledge of Croatian traditional cooking and crafts to their family.

Every year in March, Josip would make red wine. He passed on the wine barrels to Joe, who in turn passed this knowledge on to his sons.

Mara taught her daughter, daughter-in-law, and granddaughters how to cook traditional meals and desserts.

Pušarata

This recipe does not include quantities as the method was originally passed on verbally.

They are delicious.

1. Beat together self-raising flour, mixed dried fruit, vanilla, sugar, butter, brandy, salt and water just off the boil until the mixture leaves the sides of the bowl.
2. Squeeze the batter and scoop off balls onto a spoon.
3. Drop batter balls into hot oil.
4. Toss in sugar.

1990

Josip Brozicevich passed away on 2 May 1990.

1991

Croatia secedes from the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and is established as an independent state.

1992

1993

1994



Date unknown. Josip on his fishing boat.

1995

1996

1997

1998

1999 +

Mara Brozicevich passed away on 17 August 2004.

Joe Brozicevich passed away on 28 October 2008.



2002. Stephanie and Alex's wedding.
Mara and Thomas Mylotte.

FAMILY NAMES

After Mara, Josip and his brothers arrived in Australia they either anglicised their names, changed the spelling or took on nicknames. Subsequent generations followed with their own versions. Original names are used as much as possible, To avoid confusion, where people share a name the original name in the senior generation is used.

	ORIGINAL NAME	NICKNAME	CHANGES	TIMELINE REFERENCE
GEN. 1	Franjo Brozičević	Frank	Brozicevich Upon applying for naturalisation, Franjo requested that his son's name be changed to Frank Broz.	Franjo
GEN. 1	Josip Brozičević	None	Brozicevich	Josip
GEN. 2	John Mack (Josip Mark) Brozicevich	Joe	Joe's name was meant to be Josip Mark. the story goes that when Josip and Marica registered their son's name the registrar misunderstood their accent and wrote down the wrong name.	Joe
GEN. 3	Josip Peter Brozicevich	Peter	Peter's middle name was used from birth.	Peter
GEN. 1	Mara Milizin Surjan	Marica	Brozicevich after marriage. Despite referring to herself as Marica, she never officially changed her name. Marica (GEN 3) was referred to as Mara as a small child; she was later called Marica.	Mara
GEN. 3	Marica Brozicevich	None		Marica
GEN. 1	Ivan Brozičević	None		Ivan
GEN. 1	Ivan Milizin Surjan	Tušta		Tušta
GEN. 2	Maria Brozicevich	Marie		Maria
GEN. 2	Niksa Brozicevich	Nik		Niksa



BROZIČEVIĆ FAMILY

THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS

FRANJO BROZIČEVIĆ IN AUSTRALIA WWI

THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS



Franjo
b. 1892
d. 1973



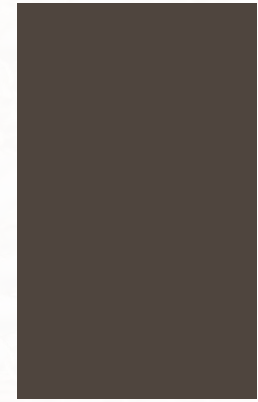
Stjepan
b. 1895
d. unknown



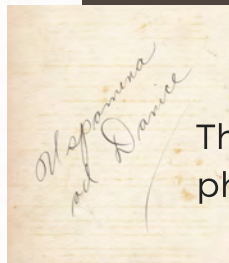
Miro
b. 1898
d. 1975



Josip
b. 1901
d. 1990



Ivan
b. 1906
d. unknown



There is little information about the sisters, however the woman in this photograph has been identified as one of the sisters who migrated to Canada.

FRANJO BROZIČEVIĆ IN AUSTRALIA WWI

Franjo was the first brother to arrive in Australia in 1912. As an Austrian citizen, during World War I he was considered an enemy alien. As forestry labour was in high demand he was not interned but instead had to report to the local police station every week and apply for a permit to change residence. Below is a summary of these movements during 1914 to 1915 taken from documents stored in the Australian National Archives. There are further records that stretch into 1919.

Date	Police station	Destination
Oct 1914	Busselton	Donnybrook
May 1915	Donnybrook	Bridgetown
Jun 1915	Bridgetown	Jarrahwood
Sep 1915	Jarrahwood	Bridgetown

7410 BROZICEVIC Franjo
*Left the Commonwealth
 Fremantle s.s. Bournda 2/10/1919*

This Card not to be folded or rolled.

Commonwealth of Australia.
 DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE.

Form A.
 20m-9/16.
 G.F., W.A.

15965-10m/1/18, G.F., W.A.
 Form E.

uplicate

The War Precaution (Aliens Registration) Regulations 1916.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO CHANGE PLACE OF ABODE

THE ALIENS REGISTRATION OFFICER, *Greenbushes*

KE NOTICE that I, *Franjo Brozicevic*

iding at (present place of abode) *Greenbushes*

aving landed from the s.s. *Greenbushes* on *28 March 1919*

Intend to change my place of abode to *Greenbushes*
 Have taken up my abode at *Greenbushes*

ew place of abode) *Greenbushes*

I intend to embark at (port of embarkation) *Greenbushes*
 for (port of destination) *Greenbushes* in s.s. *Greenbushes*
 about (date) *28 March 1919*

I am registered as an alien of *Austrian* nationality
 der the War Precautions (Aliens Registration) Regulations 1916, the number of the
 tificate issued to me at *Greenbushes* being *04410*

Signature of Alien *Franjo Brozicevic*
 (For Office use only)

Signature of A.R.O. at old place of abode *Fred Corah*
 te notice sent to A.R.O. at new place of abode *28 March 1919*

Signature of A.R.O. at new place of abode *Fred Corah*
 me of place *Greenbushes* Date alien reported *2-4-19*

* In case of person who has had no previous place of abode in Commonwealth.
 † In case of a person about to leave the Commonwealth.

Registered changes of abode on back hereof.

SURJAN FAMILY

THE SURJAN FAMILY ORIGINS

NIKOLA MILIZIN SURJAN

MARA IN SPLIT

IVAN 'TUSTA' MILIZIN SURJAN

TRAVELLING TO AUSTRALIA

MARA AND FRIENDS

THE SURJAN FAMILY ORIGINS

Dorde Glad Surjan in Dubrovnik has done extensive research on the Surjan family tree dating back to 1644 - 15 generations and more than 1100 people.

The origin of the Surjan surname comes from the Middle East, specifically from the old Armenian state which occupied the territory between the Turkish-Syrian border in the south all the way to the Black Sea. Throughout history, the Armenians were persecuted by the Turks because they were Christians. Our earliest ancestors fled from the Turks. The surname Surjan is mentioned in Italy, Venice in the 11th century. Our earliest ancestor Ivan Surjan moved to the island of Korcula, Blato at the beginning of the 17th Century.

People with the same name and same surname were given nicknames that reflected their character or an event. There are six branches of this Surjan family tree.

Donko - nickname 'mili sin' or Milizin - dear son - this was Mara's ancestor.

Ivan - nickname Trofo - distorted Italian which mean tro filio, a third son.

Jure - nickname Glad (hunger) - as a little boy he said he was hungry alot.

Kuzma - nickname Bunba (bomb) - he was a very quiet boy, but very temperamental and explosive.

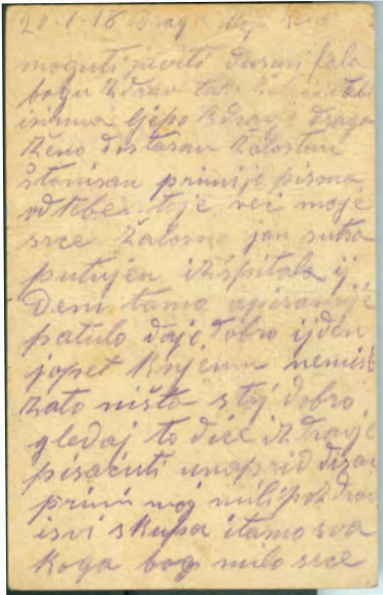
Ivan - nickname Barufa - very temperamental, prone to quarrels and arguments.

Anthony - Kindrica - meaning unknown.

Our ancestors in Vela Luka lived mainly from fishing and farming. Grapevines were one of the main sources of income and agrarian life. At the beginning of the 20th century the disease (phyloxera) destroyed a large amount of vineyards. During this period, many young people emigrated from Dalmatia around the world in search of a better life. Many moved to the USA, Australia, Canada, Brazil, Argentina, Chile and Italy.

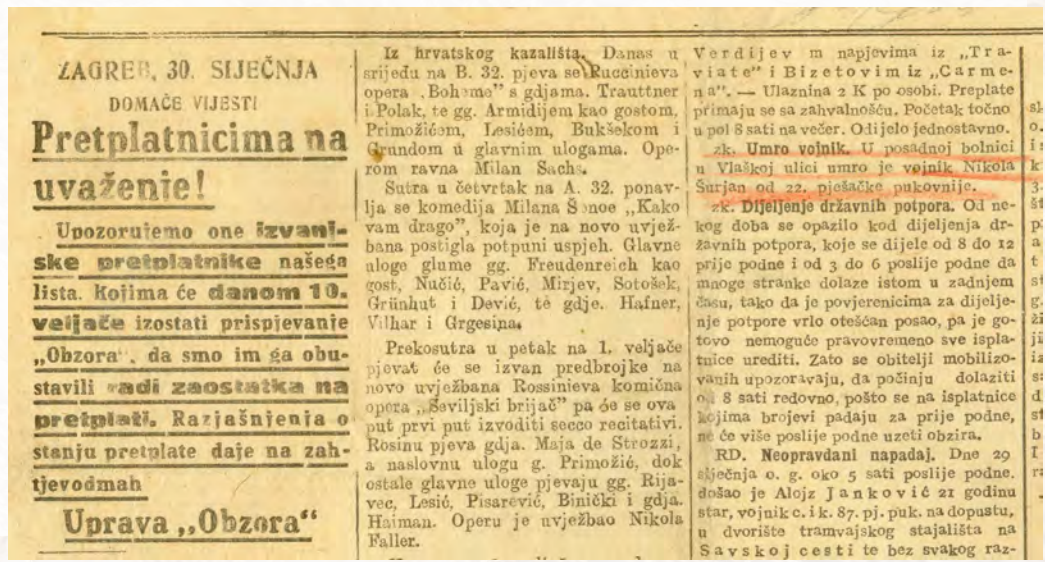
NIKOLA MILIZIN SURJAN

Nikola Milizin Surjan joined the Austrian army during WWI and was wounded in Tyrol, Austria. He recuperated in the hospital and just before his release he wrote this postcard on 20 January 1918. Dorde Glad Surjan (Dubrovnik, Croatia) has provided translations of the postcard Nikola sent to Vela Luka and the newspaper article about Nikola's death.



Thank God he's healthy, tomorrow leave hospital. He is sad, because he has not received a letter from the house. Greets his wife and children, recommended her to take care of them.

On travelling to home, he arrived by train from Austria in Zagreb. There was sporadic shooting on the railway station and he was shot in the head. He died in a military hospital in Zagreb 27 January 1918 and was buried in the cemetery Mirogoj in Zagreb, 29 January 1918.



MARA IN SPLIT

Mara Milizin Surjan left her home town Vela Luka in 1922 at the age of 16 to work as a domestic servant for a Jewish family in Split. The family name was Racic. The head of the family was Dr Racic, a very famous surgeon who was rewarded with a large jewelled ring by Emperor Franz-Josef for services to the Empire .

Mara stayed with the Racic family for 16 years until she migrated to Australia in 1938. The Racic family left Split at the same time as Mara to migrate to Melbourne, Australia.

Mara's son Niksa recalled that she adopted many Jewish customs from her time with the family most notably lighting candles for significant Jewish holidays such as Yom Kippur.



Date unknown. Second from left, back row. Mara Milizin Surjan as a young woman with friends in Split.

MARA AND FRIENDS

Mara spoke fondly of the good times she had with her friends in Korcula. Many of these photos have personal messages on the back. The exact dates are unknown however it is believed the photographs were taken in the 1930s. The people in the photographs are also unidentified, however there are notes, in Croatian, on the back of some of the photographs.

Milutin Jela Milica Perić



Dragoj Marici za
uspomenu putovanja
Dubice
Soubrodo

Korčula 24/11-1937



Ruzica Pavlic
Jela Jalic
Marija Tasoac
Milica Jurkovic
Katica Trivak
Katica Peric

IVAN MILIZIN SURJAN

Ivan Milizin Surjan, commonly known as Tušta, was Mara's half brother. He arrived in Australia in the 1950s where he lived with Mara and her family. Tušta returned to his family in Vela Luka, Croatia a few years later. His Milena remembers her father returning from Australia where he made enough money to build a new house and buy a car.

Mara's son Niksa recalls:

'Tušta was a giant of a man; very strong. His favourite party trick was to lift a table with his teeth. He also had a very happy outgoing personality and loved to burst out singing'.



Date unknown.

Tušta's daughter Milena Garoyan (nee Milizin Surjan) with her daughters. Milena lives in Arles, France.



Date unknown.

Tušta at a family picnic.

TRAVELLING TO AUSTRALIA

Mara travelled on the 'Ormonde' to Australia via the Suez Canal. The Ormonde was built by Orient Lines in 1917 as a troopship. She served the UK - Suez - Australia route between the wars.

These photographs are of **Mara and her friends** who she travelled with to Australia.

It unclear why Mara chose to emigrate to Western Australia, however it is likely that, like many people from her area, she was seeking a better life.



1938. Mara before she leaves for Australia.



1938. With friends before leaving for Australia. Mara is fourth from the left.



1938. En route to Australia. Mara is fourth from the left.



1938. On the Ormonde. Mara is fourth from the left.



LIFE IN AUSTRALIA

FISHING

SOCIAL LIFE

HOMES IN AUSTRALIA

FISHING

Franjo, his son Frank and Josip made their living from fishing the West Australian waters. They were commemorated for their efforts on a plaque at the Fremantle Fishermen's Wharf. Josip was the first fisherman fined for breaching the new fishing limits regulations in 1941.



1950s. Hilton Park, Western Australia.
Frank Broz and MARGARITA II.



Fishermen's Memorial,
Fremantle Fishermen's Wharf

A new amendment to the Fisheries Act which all lines, nets and other apparatus, excluding any boat, used to catch fish in closed waters are forfeited on conviction, was enforced for the first time in the Fremantle Police Court yesterday. The amendment came into force on December 29.

Joseph **Brozicevich** and Pils Jakos, Yugoslav fishermen, appeared before Mr. H. J. Craig, S.M., and Mesdames E. Mannion and B. Laidlaw, J's.P., charged with having used a fishing net in closed waters between the south mole and the fish market breakwater, Fremantle on January 31. They pleaded guilty and were fined £5, which is the minimum penalty under the amendment. Their net, which was valued at £12 by the Fisheries Department but which, it was explained, was worth about £25 as most of the material used in its construction is now unprocurable, was also forfeited.

"Parliament has made these penalties," said Mr. Craig to an interpreter, who explained that the loss of the net to the men, who were married, meant also the loss of their livelihood. He advised the men, if they wished to appeal, to approach the Minister for Justice (Mr. E. Nulsen).

1 March 1941, The West Australian

SOCIAL LIFE



Date and location unknown. Family gathering



Date unknown.
Yanchep, Western
Australia.

1946. Snake Gully, Western Australia.
L to R: Joško Brozicevich, Rudolph Brozicevich, Mira
Brozicevich, Marilyn Bacić, Dennis Bacić, Helena Bacić,
John Brozicevich, Rudi Brozicevich, Mara, Niksa, Joe



Date unknown. Fremantle Fisherman's
Cooperative Picnic.
Mara is in the middle with her arms crossed.
Her brother Tušta is immediately behind her
with Josip on the left holding a cup.



HOMES IN AUSTRALIA

Josip and Mara lived their whole married life in Fremantle, Western Australia and resided in three houses in close proximity.



30 Little Howard Street

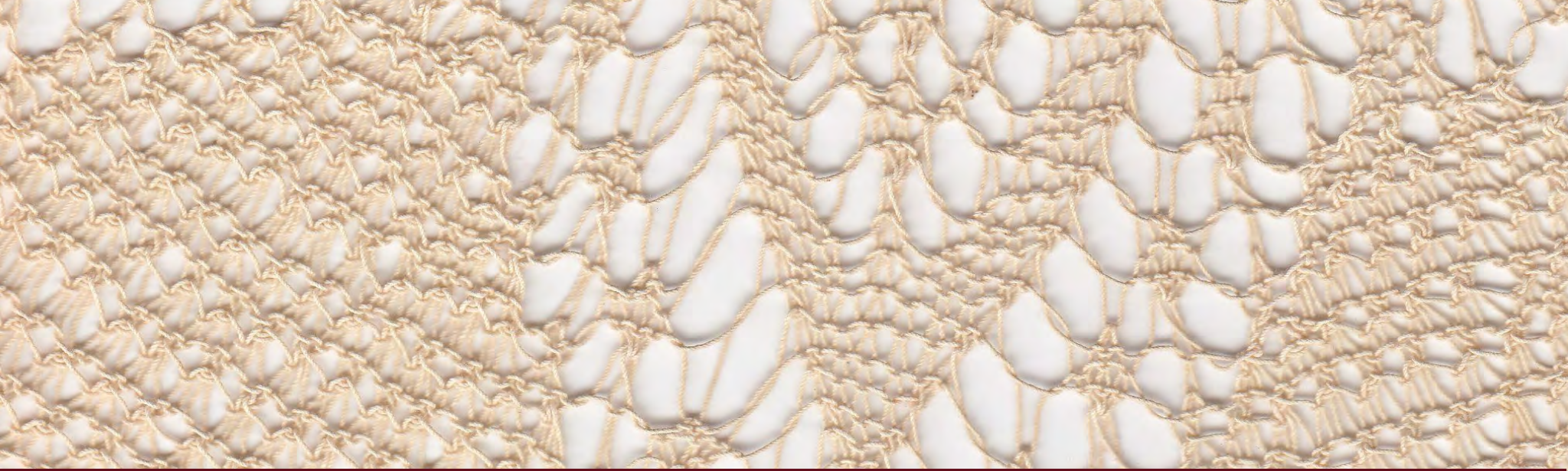


26 Carnac Street



1976.
Josip with David, Marica and Stephanie
in front of 44 Carnac Way - Golden Fish

Josip and Mara also accumulated a substantial property portfolio in the Fremantle area which they passed on to their children and grandsons.



Information and photos kindly shared by family and friends.

Arrival, naturalisation and security dates sourced from the Australian National Archives, Canberra.

Background image is a sample of Mara's crochet.

Information that could expand or improve this timeline are welcome. This includes corrections, photographs, stories about family members or identifying people in photograph captions.

New editions of this time line will be updated and published biannually.

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