

Picnics – food, glorious food enjoyed in the great outdoors

Family picnics feature in many of my family photos. For most of my childhood we went somewhere to a pretty (or not-so-pretty) picnic spot almost every Sunday afternoon when the weather was on our side. Here are just a few of the picnic photos in my collection.



This photo of the Hanning family having a picnic at Bennison, near Toora in Gippsland, was taken by my father Eric Griffin when he was a Methodist Home Missionary based at Toora.

The year is 1928, so it's over 90 years ago. The Hannings had travelled to their picnic spot by horse-drawn jinkers – no cars in their family. They brought with them their kettle, some tea pots and tea cups and plenty of food to enjoy. They were farmers and members of the local Methodist congregation, so it is likely this photo was taken on a Sunday afternoon.

This photo is of a picnic on the edge of the Big Desert when my family was living at Yanac in Victoria's Mallee country. If you didn't know it was so far inland (about 415 kilometres from Melbourne) you could almost believe they were sitting among sand dunes at the beach.





Another family picnic taken when we lived in Ballarat in the 1950s. As well as us, you see here two of our boarders, Richard and Teddy, who were always considered members of the family. They had come to Australia as part of the Colombo Plan and were studying at the Ballarat School of Mines (now part of Federation University).

There are many wonderful details in the photo, so perhaps you'd like to write a short piece describing the picnic. Or maybe you could imagine you are one of the people in the photo and write about what you are thinking.

Don't forget to send your writing to us at office@historyvictoria.org.au



You can always have your picnic at home. Here we are in our Coburg backyard in November 1966, all ready for some serious barbecue action.

And now it's your turn. We'd love to see some of your picnic photos and hear some of your stories.

You can email them to us at office@historyvictoria.org.au